

Hash#tag

INDIA

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February 2023

V-DAY
GIFT
GUIDE

ICONIC
HOTELS
IN INDIA

MEET THE
tree man OF INDIA
UDAY KRISHNA

PRO PANJA LEAGUE
ARM WRESTLING
TOURNAMENT
IN INDIA

AI ROBOT
COMPANIONS



REVIEWS
TRAVEL
FASHION
& MORE

THE RISING STAR

Manushi Chhillar

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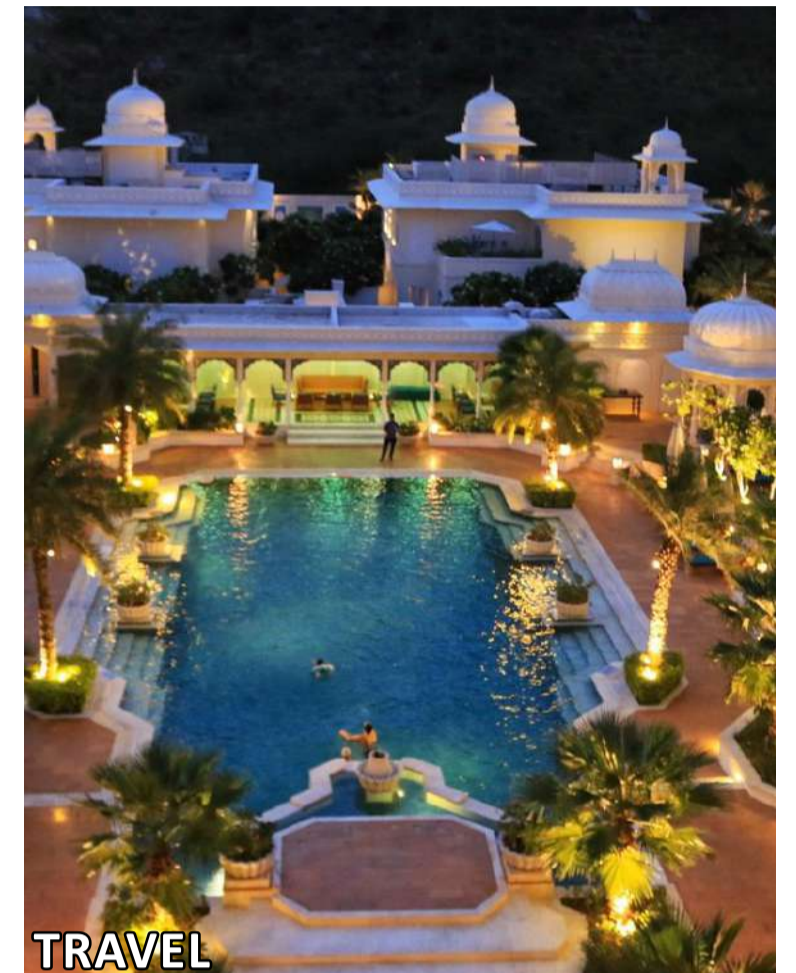
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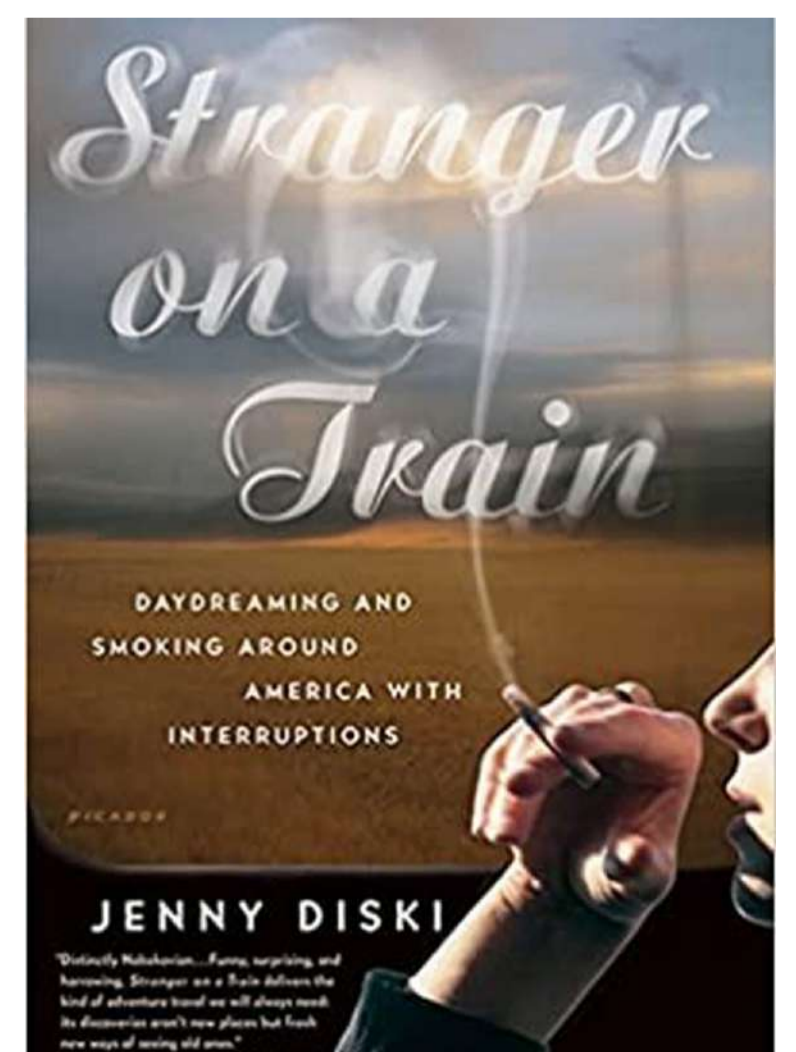
If you are a travel bug, this section is surely for you!



STREAMING NOW

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Books, music and movies, find the best recommendations here.



From the **E**EDITOR

Are we doing justice to our relationships?

“

Enter February, and all we begin to think about are relationships and love, lost friends, and heartache. But in today's fast-paced and busy world, finding the time and energy to focus on our relationships can be challenging. From work and career obligations to social media and technology to the never-ending list of activities and responsibilities that we must attend to, we are continuously bombarded with distractions and demands on our time.

As a result, many of us may neglect our relationships or struggle to maintain the same level of connection and intimacy we once had with our loved ones.

We are so busy trying to multitask, be socially active and lead the perfect life that we end up missing the small joys of life. We don't even have that ten minutes to sit and chat with our kids who get back home from school, and instead, we chase them off to the next activity or hobby class like their life depends on it. All your child probably wants to do is sit down and have a chat or even watch a mindless YouTube video at home. Partnering apart, we don't even have time for our parents anymore. We are so lost as individuals that we have forgotten how to prioritise. All it takes is a conscious effort to make time for what matters, be it relationships or even a set career, it's all in our hands, and all it requires is being intentional.

Moving on to the issue, we have none other than Manushi Chhillar, former Miss World and actress, gracing the cover. With a big lineup of films this 2023, she talks about how every aspect of her journey has been challenging. "Anything that you do in life or anything that you start needs a lot of work, a lot of patience, and a lot of effort," she shares.

In this issue, we've got a great lineup



of articles and interviews that we think you'll enjoy. We hope you enjoy our content curation, from entrepreneurial journeys, food discoveries, shopping picks, fashion ideas for the festive season, and many more.

As always, we value your feedback, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us with your thoughts and suggestions. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to connecting with you again in our next issue.

Happy reading!

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INDIA'S FIRST INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE

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CO**



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AND
CRUNCHY**

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2023

Comic Con India, Mumbai

Comic-Con is back in Mumbai, marking its 10th year. Thousands of fans from across the country come to this event to witness various elements of pop culture like comics, movies, anime, merch, cosplay, gaming, and more. If you are a fan of pop culture, then this is your chance to meet some celebrities and attend some amazing Marvel or DC shows to have the best weekend of the year.

Date: 11th February-12th February 2023.

Price: Rs 899/- onwards.

Venue: Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai.

11-12
Feb 2023



Mahashivaratri Celebrations 2023

Mahashivaratri is one of the most significant festivals in India. At Isha Foundation Coimbatore, Mahashivaratri is celebrated grandly with guided meditation exercises by Sadhguru and explosive musical performances by popular artists. Followed by traditional, martial arts performances, and Adiyogi Divya Darshanam which is a light show projected on the 112 feet Adiyogi statue.

Date: 18th February 2023(6PM-6AM)

Venue: Isha Yoga Center, Coimbatore

18
Feb 2023



Guru Randhawa India Tour

03
Feb 2023



The Moon India Tour by entertainer Guru Randhawa. The event is curated by Bollyboom India and it was launched on 29th December in Goa. Witness the music composer performing live on some amazing songs like Slowly Slowly, Dance Meri Rani, Naach Meri Rani, Suit Suit, and many others. Hurry up, and book your tickets now.

Date: 3rd February at 6 PM.

Price: Rs 499/- onwards..

Venue: Hyderabad

Mahindra Blues Festival

19
Nov 2022



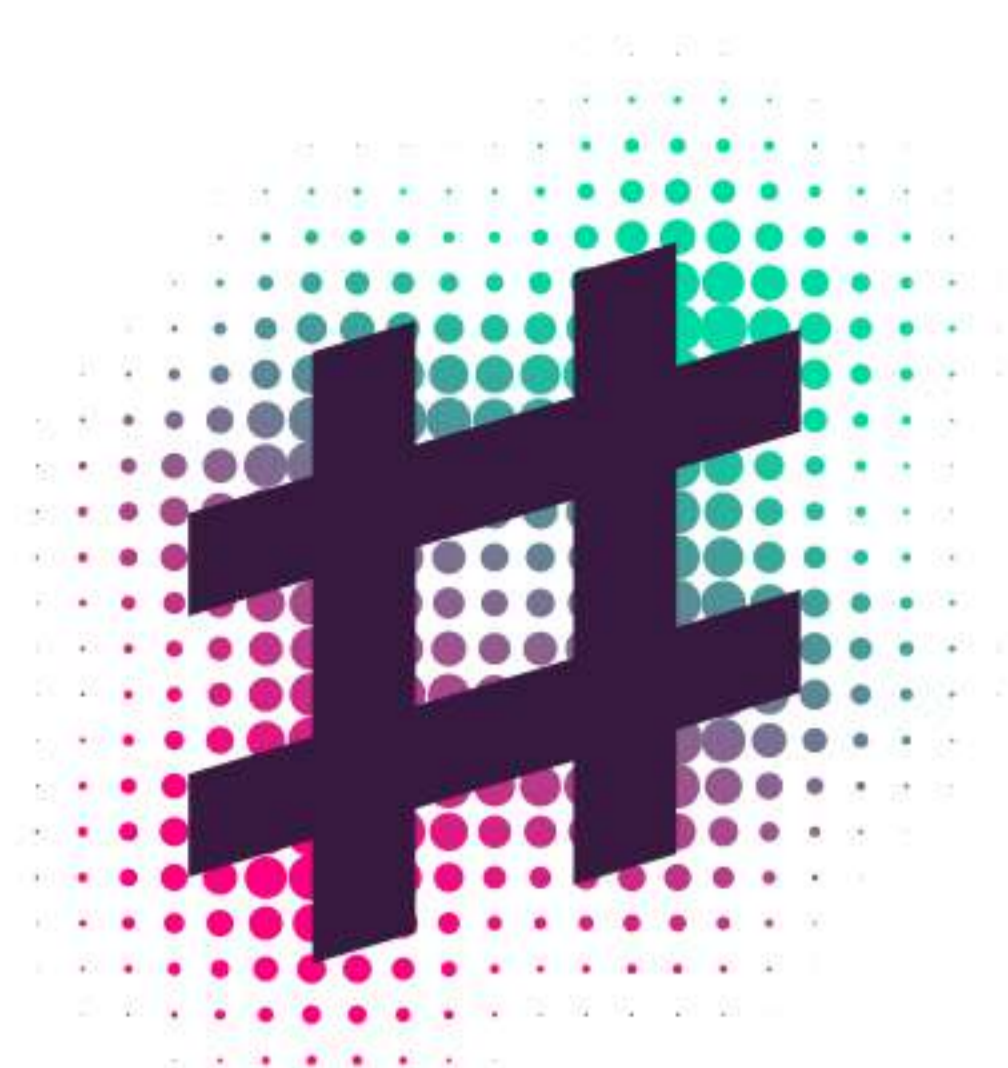
Mahindra Blues is not just a music festival but it is also a cultural movement that is celebrated every year on the second weekend of February. It is also one of the largest blues festivals in Asia. The community set up by Mahindra Blues has more than 200K followers. It is a grand celebration of 2 days in which world-renowned musical legends like Buddy Guy, Ivan Singh, Raj Mahal, and others perform live on the stage with their soulful tunes. Grab your tickets now.

Date: 11th February-12th February 2023.

Venue: Mehboob Studio, Bandra West.

Price: Rs 3,500/-

To get your events featured mail us at contact@hashtagmagazine.in



h a s h t a g

TRENDING NOW

ON A SIGNING SPREE

Manushi Chhillar

"I don't think anything about my entire journey has been easy," smiles **Manushi Chhillar** former Miss World 2017, who has today become the rising star of Bollywood. In spite of a dream cast and director, she may not have had the right debut with *Samrat Prithviraj* in 2022, but this 2023 she is going all guns blazing. With varied roles and challenging scripts and even few South Films, **Manushi Chhillar** talks about her journey in the film industry so far, her plans for this year and more in this exclusive with **Sinduri Vuppala**.



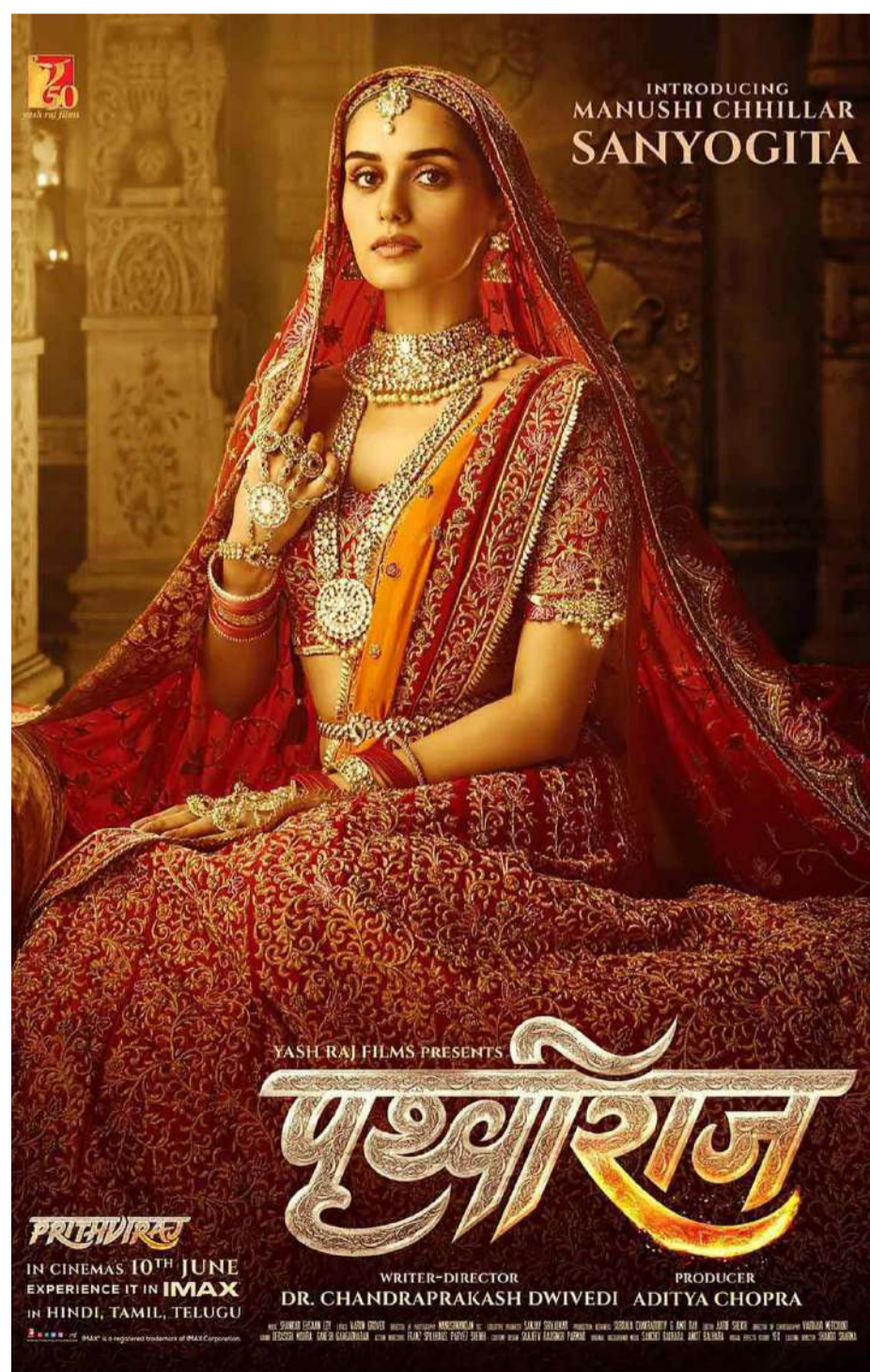
Post winning the Miss World Crown, was acting an obvious decision?

It wasn't an obvious decision, but more circumstantial. It was a choice expected of me because many past winners have taken this route. An international title such as Miss World gives you a platform, as an outsider. It creates a sense of curiosity about you, it makes you popular and it kind of helps you transition into an acting career, which adds a lot of value. Especially, for someone who had no access or any idea about how to go about the industry, Miss World came with a lot of opportunities.

You had the perfect Bollywood debut with *Samrat Prithviraj* – big names, Akshay Kumar and Yash Raj producing the movie. But things didn't work out as planned, how easy or difficult has the journey been for you?

I think I had a great debut, whether it was acting with Akshay Kumar, Yash Raj producing the movie or Chandraprakash Dwivedi directing it. It was a big, grand debut for me. Well, the movie did not do as well as everyone expected or planned it to, which is perfectly fine. From the conception of the idea to the release there are so many things that happen, you never know what way it might go.

I don't think anything about my entire journey has been easy, because it was something very new. My role wasn't easy for a newcomer, to portray and every stage of acting and shooting came with learning. Even from



prepping to shooting to the whole wait in our shoot schedule, we had a big delay due to the pandemic. The entire delay, having that patience and then finally getting those mixed reviews, all of it was not easy.

Anything that you do new in life, anything that you start and you really want to do, do it properly, you have to put in a lot of work, a lot of patience and a lot of effort. However, I think it was worth it and I could never imagine myself debuting in a better manner irrespective of what the result was. I think I am very very grateful that I got to debut in a film such as *Samrat Prithviraj*.



Your next film *Tehran*, an action drama with John Abraham is around the corner. Tell us a little about this film and your role.

Tehran, is something that I'm excited about. It was a very different experience, shooting an action drama with John Abraham. I don't think that I can officially speak about the film and the role yet but all I can say is that it's very unexpected, a different genre, a different time, and a very different character from what people have seen me portray.

It's everything that people have not seen me probably do in my first film. The whole experience of shooting *Tehran* has been really good and has taught me a lot every day, which is the best part of being an actor. When you do films, every day on set is like your first day. Every day is a new day, you're learning something new, you're doing something new, and there are new challenges.

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I am a newcomer, I think I want to explore the kind of cinema and scripts that help me diversify and learn something new.

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The promos have you sporting short hair and a tough look, will this movie bring out your action-hero avatar? What kind of preparation went into this role?

Well *Tehran* happened very quickly for me, I came on board much later, so I don't think I had as much time to prepare as I did with *Samrat Prithviraj*. It is a very exciting look, of course, first the short hair and the whole grungy feel of the character. I think it's, quite different and it will bring out a different avatar of mine.

In a film like *Tehran*, the plot, the storyline is bigger than any character and I think the preparation for me, was more about learning how the character would be and to be a character that plays the role in a larger scheme of things.

I had to learn how to handle guns while shooting the film, which was something very new, and since I got onboard much later, my preparation very much overlapped while we were shooting. So, whenever I had holidays or off days for shoot, I would be using those days in preparing for what I would be shooting next.





Being an outsider comes with its own set of challenges. I would say that anything that's worth it in life, never comes easy.



As an outsider, how easy or difficult is it to survive in this industry?

Being an outsider comes with its own set of challenges. Anything worth in life never comes easy and acting has come with certain level of difficulty, starting from the fact that this whole world is very new, quite different from the world I grew up in. Apart from acting, there are so many technicalities that go into films like the lighting, which you only understand once, you start working. Everything was very new for me; there was nothing that I was prepared for or nothing that I knew.

So far you have taken diverse roles, from playing a princess to an action spy to mainstream entertainment. How do you plan to take your movie career forward?

I've been fairly lucky because I have gotten the opportunity to take up roles that portray me differently. It's great because I'm someone who's just starting and still figuring out what my space in the industry is and choice allows me to explore and allows the audience to see me in different roles.

So far, I've enjoyed every role that I've played and I'm playing. My plan to take my movie career forward would be to work with different directors and do as many kinds of movies as I can. Every director brings something different and adds a different value to you as an actor.

At the end of the day, it is a skill and it's something you can never be prepared for. There is a lot to learn on the set and you only get better with each film, and each scene that you shoot. So, for me, gaining experience is a priority.



What kind of cinema and scripts are you looking forward to doing?

I'm looking at diversity. I am a newcomer; I want to be like a squirrel that's following her trail of nuts. Right now, I want to learn, explore, and grow as an actor. This is very new and very exciting. I think I want to explore the kind of cinema and scripts that help me diversify and learn something new.

2023 looks like a big year for you with some big releases lined up. Can you tell us more about these films? What's next for *Manushi*?

I believe the only one I can talk about is *Tehran*, which obviously will be released in 2023. And everything else hopefully with time, I'll be able to speak about. A lot of things have been in the making, and hopefully, I'll get to execute everything in 2023. I think this year looks like a big and an exciting one for me.

The Telugu industry is currently the most sought-after, are you open to doing southern films?

I have for the longest been quite open to do a Telugu film. It's just that I never could confirm any, because I was already shooting *Samrat Prithviraj* and then another, and then *Tehran*, which is why I could not take up any Telugu films earlier. Telugu film industry is making amazing films and language has never been a reservation for me and I'm always open to exploring. When I was a child, I remember watching a few Telugu films dubbed in Hindi, and I have always been an admirer of the films that are made down south.



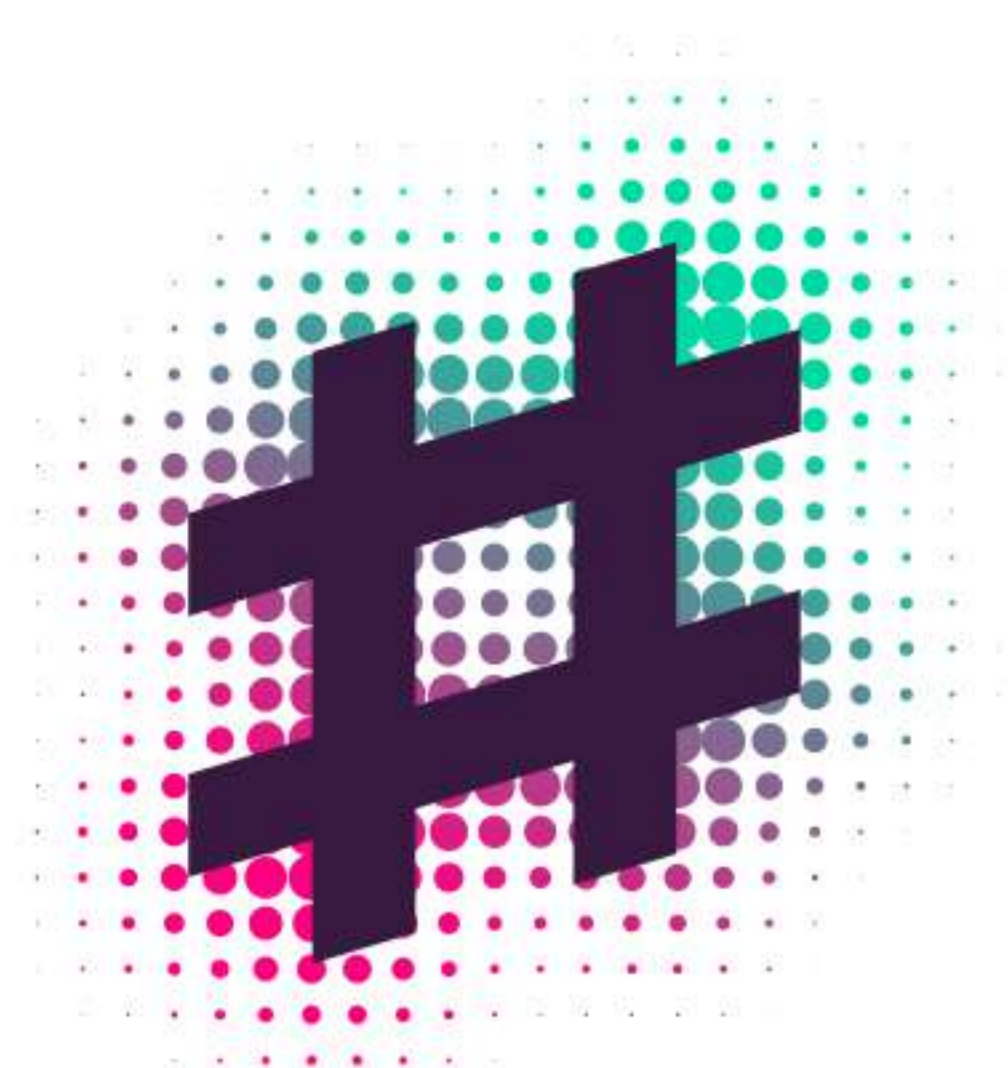
As a former Miss World you have associated with many philanthropic causes. Any cause that you want to take further and be a part of?

As a Miss World, I got to associate myself with many causes that I travelled the entire globe for. However, I think the cause that is the closest to my heart is menstrual hygiene, which will remain my pet project and I will continue working on it. Apart from that, there is a little of AIDS awareness that I have done and there are other things that I have been associated with, which I again want to take forward.



I believe anything that you do new in life, anything that you start out and you really wanna do it properly, you have to put in a lot of work, a lot of patience and a lot of effort.





h a s h t a g

START UPS



Pravin Dabas and Preeti Jhangian, two enthusiastic Bollywood stars with a few arm wrestlers, created a league to promote the sport of arm wrestling in India. The Pro Panja was designed to give arm wrestlers in India a platform to showcase their talents and compete professionally. The association has helped to raise the profile of arm wrestling in India and bring it into the mainstream of sports. Arm wrestling has been a popular sport in the US and Europe and has recently gained popularity in India through the Pro Panja League. India was also one of the four original countries to establish an arm wrestling federation. Surabhi Goel in conversation with Pravin Dabas and Preeti Jhangiani, who brought the Pro Panja league to the forefront.

Bringing Arm Wrestling to the Mainstream

PPL's Journey to Success

While talking about PPL, Pravin tells us, "The idea about Pro Panja league started in 2017 from starting the process, forming the teams, collaborating with Indian Arm Wrestling Federation to the launch. The formal launch happened on February 29, 2020, in Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Former Sports Minister Kiren Rijju and Olympic champion Vijender Singh, and it was a great success. Since then, PPL has continued to grow and expand."

Pravin mentions that the Pro Panja League (PPL) faced many challenges due to the lockdown that occurred soon after the league's launch. Despite this, the PPL was able to hold successful events in Mumbai at the Gateway of India and in Goa on a casino boat, but the lockdowns made it challenging to plan and schedule events. The uncertainty caused by the lockdowns was a significant challenge for PPL. Yet, they continued to strategize and adapt to the situation, recognizing that the world was dealing with a lot, and it was impossible to feel bad for themselves.



" The idea about Pro Panja league started in 2017 from starting the process, forming the teams, collaborating with Indian Arm Wrestling Federation to the launch."



Arm Wrestling gets a Makeover

The Professional Arm Wrestling League is a new league that takes a different approach to traditional arm wrestling tournaments. Instead of a two-month or three-month window, PPL is looking at a calendar year with multiple tournaments happening throughout the year. The league is starting with a ranking tournament with around 1,000 players. After that, the proper season will start with six teams for 17 days in Delhi, and there will be two to three tournaments every year. PPL has partnered with the Indian Arm Wrestling Federation to help organize and run the league. Thirty players will be chosen to represent the six teams, with ten weight categories - six for men, three for women, and one for the specially-abled. Each weight category will have three players per team.

From national to international fame

The Professional Arm Wrestling League (PPL) has gained popularity within the continent and a substantial international following. The tournament saw over 700 arm wrestlers register their names for the Pro Panja Ranking tournament. In 2022, Michael 'The Monster' Todd, one of the most accomplished arm wrestlers from the USA, came to inaugurate the tournament, which was held at Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIFE) in Gwalior. The finale was held in front of the Gwalior Fort, which was challenging to manage, but the event was a monumental success. PPL also has been hitting social media milestones as it continues to gain recognition and popularity.

Preeti said, "In addition to inaugurating the tournament, global arm wrestling icon Todd also provided special workshops for the PPL athletes, which was an amazing opportunity for us. The chance to receive wrestling tips and learn from Todd was never thought possible before the PPL made it happen. This is one of the unique features of PPL, which provided great opportunities for our athletes to learn and improve their skills from the best in the industry."



The PPL's Anti-Doping Measures

Pravin says, "Doping is a serious issue in many sports, and it is crucial to address it. The use of performance-enhancing drugs and steroids is detrimental to the integrity of sports and the health of athletes. In the recent Gwalior event, PPL took the initiative to conduct random dope tests on ten players. This will

be continued in all upcoming events to maintain the league's integrity and ensure fair competition. By taking these steps, PPL is committed to promoting clean and fair arm wrestling, which is good for the athletes and the sport overall."

Player's Perspective

PPL has provided many opportunities for athletes to showcase their skills and gain recognition for their achievements. One notable example is Chetna Sharma, who was previously in the police force and had a background in arm wrestling techniques. At an event held at IIT Mumbai, PPL organized an arm wrestling tournament where they offered significant prize money to any male who could defeat their female champion, Chetna Sharma. She beat all challengers using her techniques, which were covered by many news outlets and publications. This event was a great showcase of her skills and also helped her to gain fame and recognition.

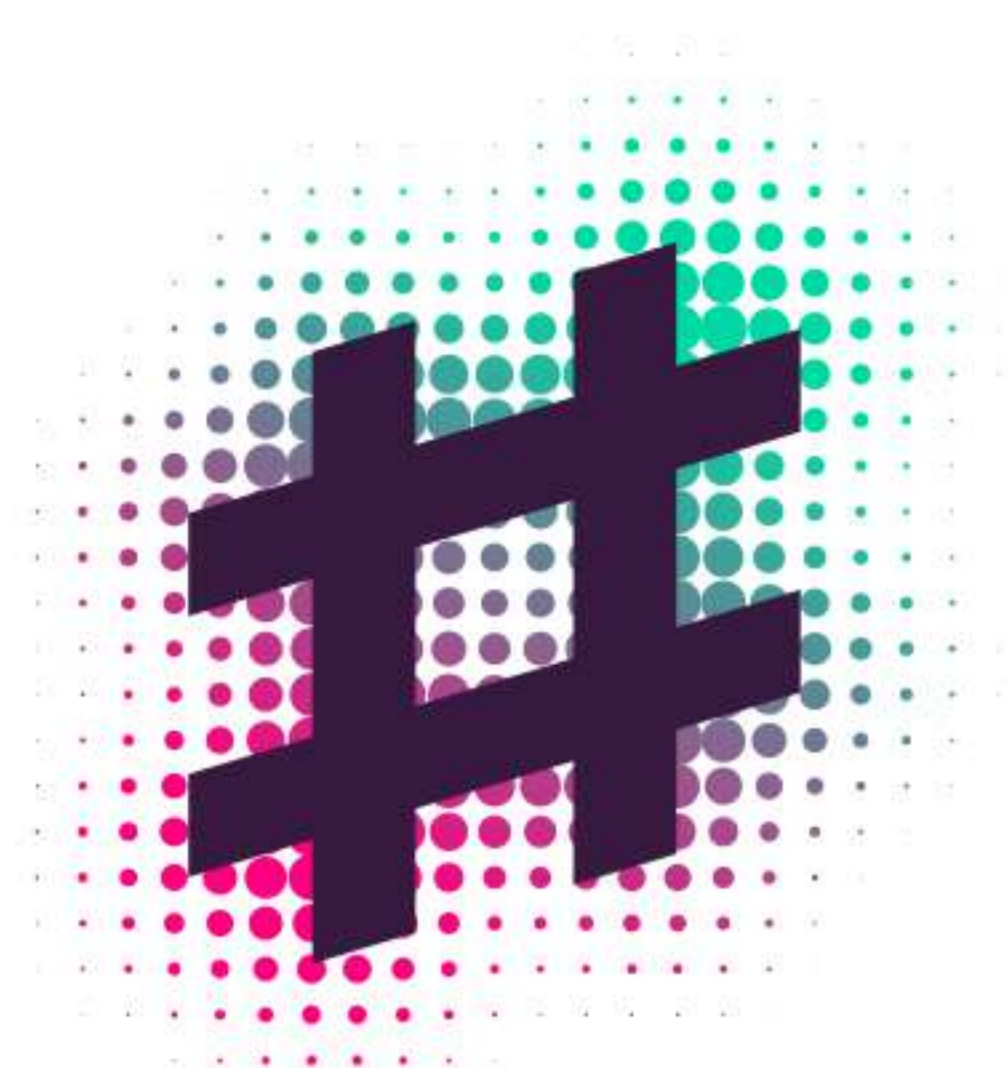
Women Participation

Pravin states, "It is true that there is a higher representation of men in arm wrestling compared to women. However, it is encouraging to hear that a significant number of women still participate in state-level championships. Nevertheless, the ratio is generally three-fourths of men than one-fourth of women, which is still huge in number. There are equal opportunities and prize money for men and women, which is very few in every sport."

Building a Stronger Future

Pravin has a clear vision and plans for the development of arm wrestling in India, intending to make India a top country in the world for arm wrestling. His focus is currently on the first season of the arm-wrestling league, but he also has plans to bring in foreign players and conduct matches abroad in the future. He threw some light by saying, "As you can't jump to the top of the ladder, it is important to take things step by step and be ambitious in achieving your goals."

Preeti Jhingiani seems confident that the first season of the Pro season league will be successful and attract a broad audience's attention.



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FOR A CAUSE

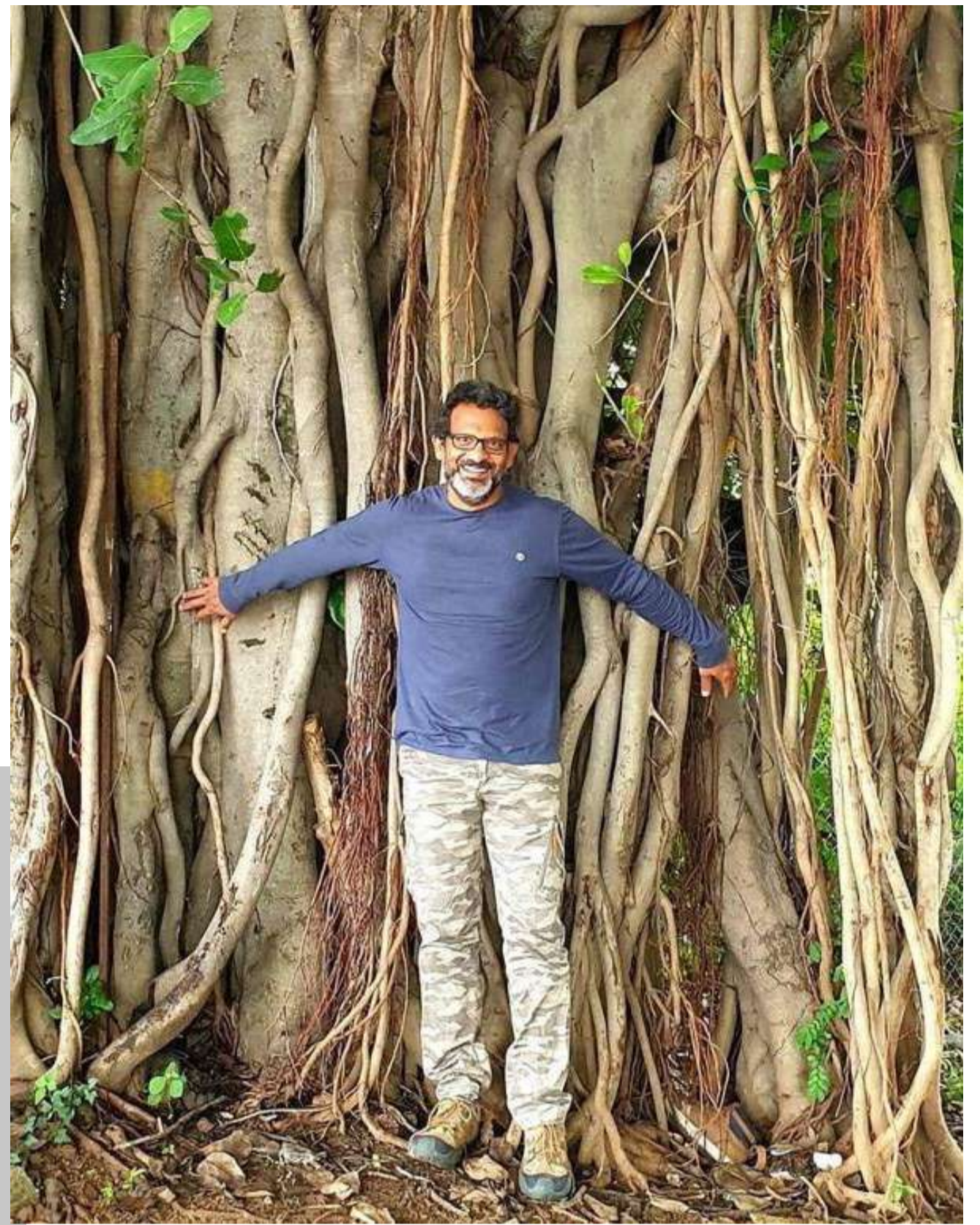
A tryst with the TREE MAN OF INDIA

Most people believe, especially Indians that “A penny saved is a penny earned.” Applying this to the broad subject of Nature Conservation, a tree saved is several lives earned. **Hashtag** brings to you the story of a believer and executioner of this mantra in this interview with **Uday Krishna Peddireddi**.

A Social Entrepreneur, adventure junkie, Conservationist, Photographer, Entrepreneur, and founder of VATA Foundation and FoxTail Eco-Retreat, Uday Krishna is aptly and deservedly called the ‘Tree Man of India’.

The roots of conservation, according to him, have been in his DNA. Uday has always held a deep connection with nature owing to his maternal native being in Nizamabad, a place close to the forests and his maternal uncle being the Forest Officer. He fondly reminisces the memories of spending his time in the jungle. His passion for nature grew with him. In his later years, with his hobbies of Wildlife and Nature Photography, Uday seeks to stay in touch with nature. He continued to keep his passion alive through his hobbies and took trips to jungles with his friends from 1993 to 2012.

With an education background of B.Com (Honours) and an MBA in marketing, Uday has experience working in defence manufacturing- a family business, outdoor advertising and even in the software field in the USA for four years. During his professional journey, he worked closely with GHMC in the construction business. During one such project, the seeds for the VATA Foundation were laid.



An executive action towards the founding of the VATA Foundation was laid during the building of a bridge for the GHMC. A row of trees was in the way of the planned construction route of the bridge. Being a nature lover intrinsically and having had the experience of cutting down trees during his previous project, Uday had taken an alternative solution of relocating the trees to clear the path. Out of the 16 trees relocated during this project, 13 have survived which became the sapling for the birth of the VATA Foundation.

VATA is the collective name for a family of fig trees which are known as the tree of life. The name in the Indus script became the logo of this foundation established in 2005 stating its vision straightforwardly i.e., “To bring life back by saving trees”.

The Birth of the VATA Foundation





Uday's work under Save The Tiger

Uday had always been clear to make an active contribution to this cause and not just join the bandwagon of the slogan "Save The Tiger". He then came up with the idea of adopting a jungle and offering support to improve the efficiency of the work of the relevant authorities like the Forest Authorities already in charge of protecting the jungle.

He thus came to adopt the Tripeshwar Jungle, a 148 sq km jungle approximately 350 Km from Hyderabad. He started his work by sampling donations to the jungle, providing safety equipment like jackets and shoes to the ground staff of the authority working in the jungle, and maintaining and creating saucers – a surface hole that accumulated groundwater from where the animals drink. Uday, through his foundation, maintains these saucers using solar-powered pumps during the dry times of the summer. Through his vastly acquired network, Uday also provides firefighting equipment like blowers to mitigate forest fires in the summer.

The three major goals that Uday wants to reach through his foundation:

- Saving trees through Relocation.
- Save the Tiger via an active role by providing support and ideation to the relevant departments.
- Building or saving the Tiger Corridors which is in progress.

intervention of commercial investors. He also strives to increase awareness on conservation through activities like crowdfunding and advertising on social media, digital, print and TV media.

He also encourages donations other than monetary that include land for relocating trees, equipment for relocation, or bearing the logistics and transportation costs. Uday is the perfect combination of responsibility and innovation for a social entrepreneur. Currently, the VATA foundation is certified to generate CSR funding, but Uday remains true to his initial commitment.



Uday's work in Tree Relocation

As the saying goes "Yatha Raja thatha Praja" meaning 'the subjects inculcate the personality of their leader', the Tree Relocation program under the VATA foundation is a standing example of this proverb. The personality and passion of Uday has seeped into the foundation and became the guidelines and principles for the volunteers and associates of the foundation.

All the work under the foundation happens without CSR or Investment funding. Uday has uncompromising principles that are necessary to carry on such work without the



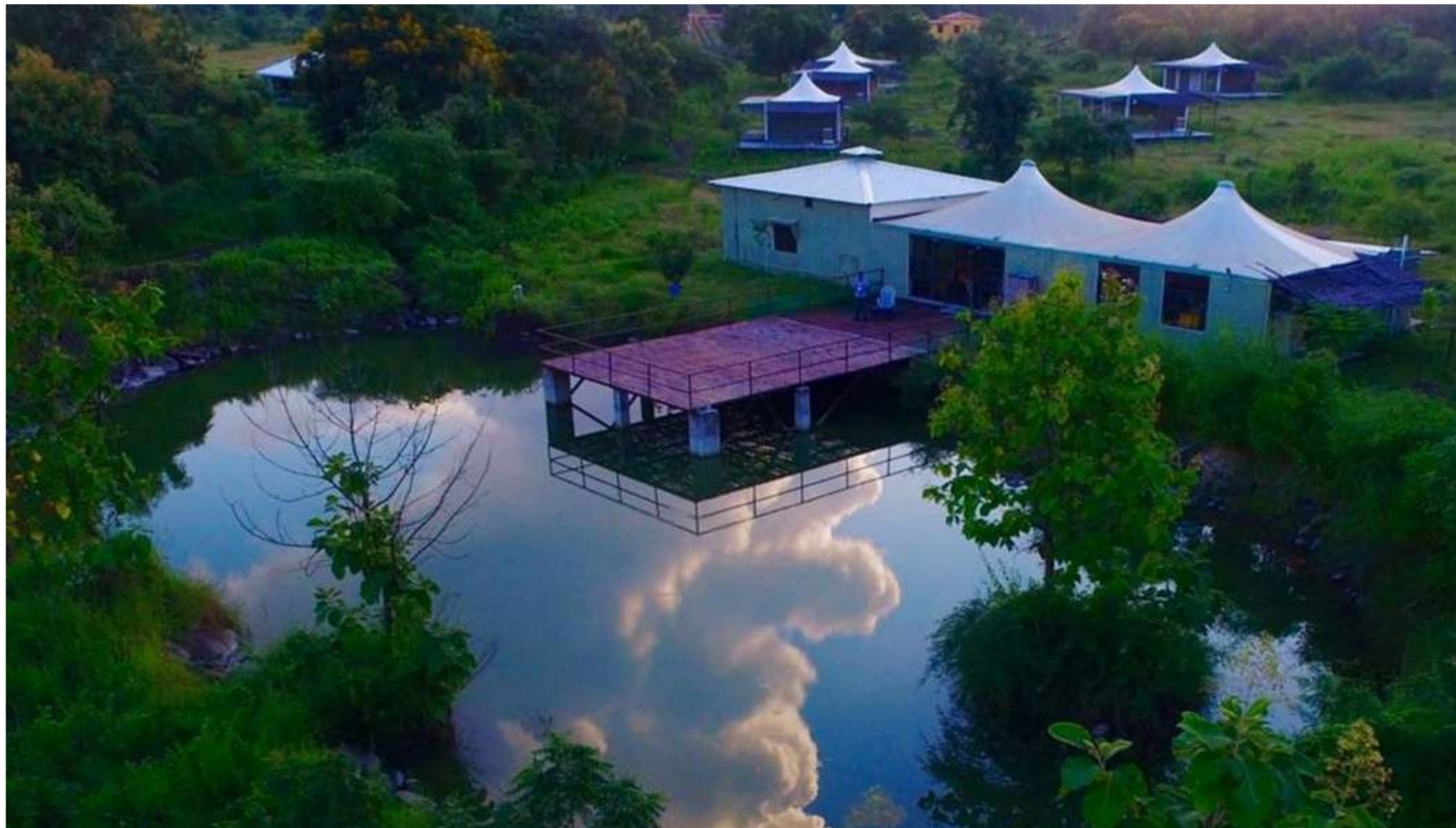
The work comes with its own set of challenges. Uday has managed to overcome the hurdles of commercialization and budget redundancy by getting approval for building two lakes and the Foxtail Eco Retreat in this forest.

Uday's vision for the Foxtail Eco Retreat is to provide an opportunity for people or nature lovers to experience an authentic environment. As a part of its execution, the retreat is devoid of TVs, shut down at 10:30 pm, no music, no room service and enjoy local food. He humorously mentions that in his previous website version, he included a witty line – If you are looking for Biryani you are better off in Hyderabad.

At the time when Uday adopted the jungle, there were two tigers. And after his innovative steps, the tiger population grew to 23 to 24 tigers out of which 14 were cubs. The jungle has also become home to leopards, bears, sambars, wild boars, deer, foxes, wolves and jackals. He also succeeded in creating many employment opportunities for the local people and improved the local economy of this remote area. He only regrets that he might have oversold the place which led to a real estate boom and price hike in the area.

He wishes to continue his entrepreneurship journey by developing tiger corridors in the future and adopting & bringing the idea of such retreats to the people who share his origin i.e., to bring the experience to the region/states he was born at.

Uday has closed the interview with a generous invitation to experience nature in its element at the Foxtail Retreat to all the wildlife and nature lovers out there.



A personal glimpse-

Greatest Achievement: Being the first person to be reached out for saving a tree (cutting down / falling down of trees)

Hobbies: Photography, Wildlife/ Nature Photography, Travelling, Biking.

Aspiration: Wishes to do much more for nature. Bring the enthusiasm & awareness of conservation in the form of Eco-retreat to the Telugu States.

Joyful memories: Jungle trips with his college mates, Travelling from Hyderabad to Morocco by road, Biking from Hyderabad to Bhutan and back.

Awards: Golden Heart Award, Pride of India Award 2022.

A small Anecdote from Foxtail Eco Retreat:

Uday had a senior IAS officer as a client in his retreat one time. It was the time of the IPL fever and the officer was a fan of cricket so he requested to let his team install a TV in his room. Uday politely refused the request and let him know that he would allocate him even if he comes after the season ends. But the officer has decided to continue with his schedule and compensated the TV with a tablet. While he was watching the game in the retreat, Uday delicately tapped his shoulder for which the officer expressed his frustration of stringent rules in the retreat. With patience, Uday had asked the officer to just give him a minute and come out with him. The tigers of the jungle had been on his side that day, and a loud roar could be heard. The officer listened to it, enchanted and appreciated Uday for this experience. He stayed abiding by the principles for the remaining of his stay at the retreat.



RETAIL THERAPY



BOUGAINVILLEA

- the home of natural and sustainable fabrics

In the present hustle culture, everyone craves comfort. If we are comfortable in our clothes, it is natural to be confident in how we present ourselves. We put comfort aside to present ourselves decently. The new store, Bougainvillea in Hyderabad, Banjara Hills, has a fashion statement, where comfort and style can co-exist. Shailya Bhandari, the owner of the store talks about her love for sustainable fabrics with Sharon Dasari.

Shailya Bhandari loves to travel, and this wanderer was able to get cotton western wear to Hyderabad when she was visiting Pune. She came across a store called Bougainvillea, which has clothes promoting natural and sustainable fabrics. And when she tried on those, she just loved the comfort the clothes offered. That's how Shailya's love for cotton gave her the thought to get the store to Hyderabad.

Bougainvillea, situated in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, promotes sustainable and natural fabrics. The fabric is homegrown, and the block printing on it is done by the karigars. The fabric is easy to wash, and the feel is comfortable, and in addition to that, the fabric is pre-shrunk.

The environmentally friendly organic fabric is natural from the start of the process to its end product. Such fabrics are useful for those with sensitive skin and those with an issue with certain fabrics. The store has various outfits, from strap dresses to co-ord sets and matching footwear alongside. There are neutral colours like beige and brown and dark tones



and colours such as red and green, all sizes from XXS to XXL are available in this outlet. The outlet is currently open to women's wear but will soon be launched with party and men's collections. "Everything is a natural fabric; chanderi used in the party collection is also homegrown. And men's line is already launched in the Pune branch which is soon to be launched in our Hyderabad outlet," says Shailya. The affordable prices are like the cherry on the cake; the outfits are pocket-friendly and environment-friendly.



Photo credit: Sahithi Sirikonda

Address: 8-2-403, B/2, Street No.4, Green Valley, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana 500034

Phone number : 090003 72726

Timings : 10:30 AM 8:30 PM



RugWeave

Encapsulating the grandeur of carpets!

From dabbling with data systems and applications to the warp & weft of aesthetic and vintage carpets, Zeeshan Tariq wants to reach the stars with his merchandise that entails carpets, rugs, dhurries and more. Chennai-born Zeeshan in a very candid conversation with **Canta Dadlaney**, shares his passion for carpets and what makes them an aesthetic ornament across spaces.

RugWeave is a family business established by Zeeshan's father. Zeeshan always found himself having many intriguing conversations with his dad and clients. He, however, pursued mechanical engineering and even worked for an *SAP* organization for some time. Once, when his Dad was on a business trip to Srinagar, Zeeshan had to manage the store for about 10 days and that was a turning point in his life. He never looked back and started acquiring in-depth knowledge about his family business through books. He learnt how to identify the nuances in design, structure and other factors associated with the world of carpets and the 3,000-year history of rug weaving.

Nestled in the of the busiest shopping neighbourhoods of Chennai, it's impossible to miss out on the 2,000 square feet store of RugWeave and its majestic range of carpets and rugs. Step into this store and you will be surprised to experience carpets that are as old as 150-200 years!

What are the various types of carpets/rugs available in your store?

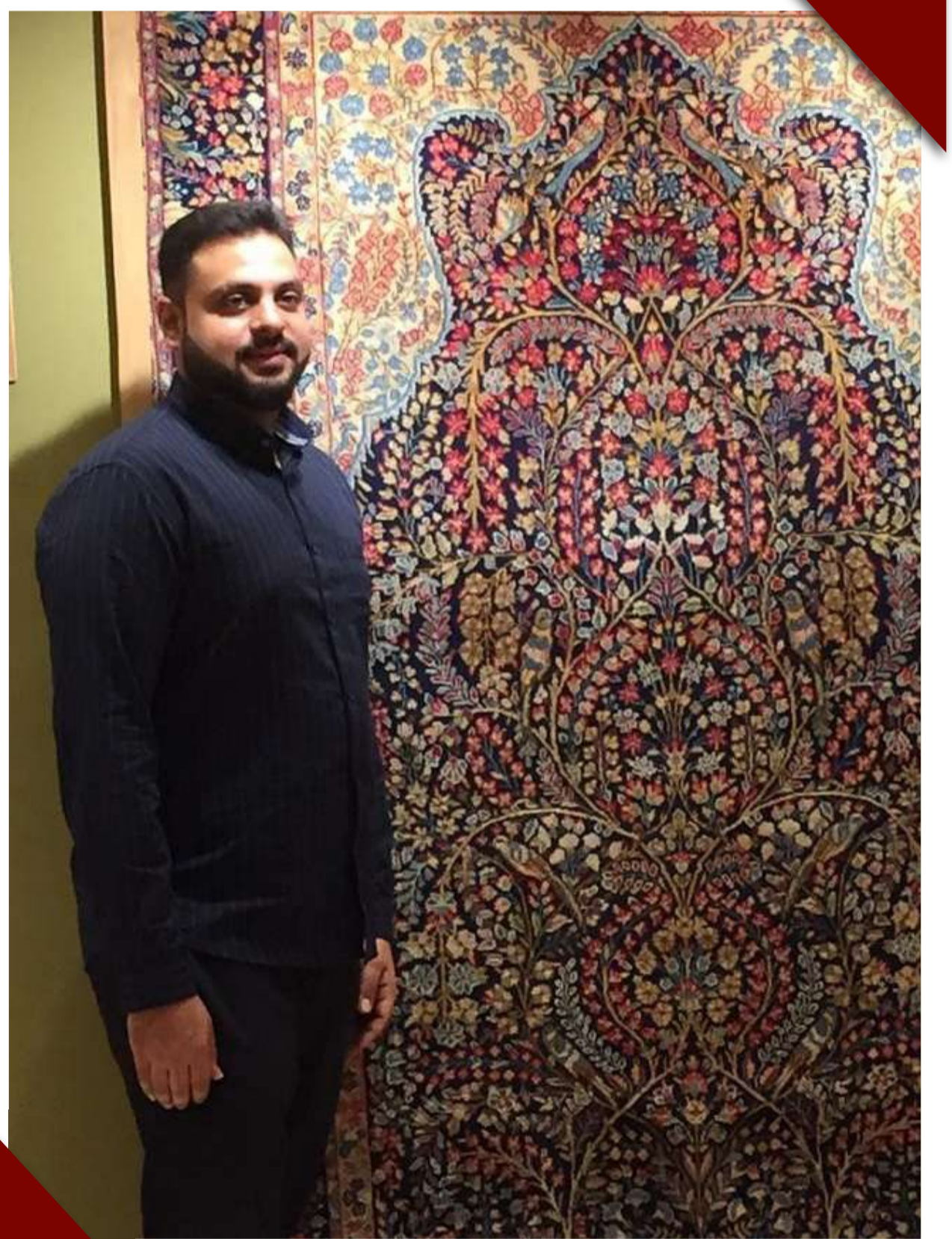
Our collection includes Carpets, Rugs, and Kilims (flat weaves) which are sourced from various geographical territories like Central Asia, Persia, Jaipur, Afghanistan, Turkey and Gwalior. We also have an impressive collection of Serafina and Haghghi rugs and Dhurries as well.

What's the difference between handmade carpets and machine-made carpets?

Handmade carpets have a uniqueness to them, are labour-intensive and stand the test of time for a long. The latter are synthetic, of a repetitive nature and don't last beyond a couple of years.

What type of clients patronize your store?

World-renowned architects & interior designers, celebrities, third-generation clients, private collectors from all over the world and homeowners from across the country.



How do you advise clients who walk into your store?

We are very transparent and first understand their requirements and their knowledge about the subject. We give them insight in accordance with their wants and empower them with information for them to become smart buyers. We assist them in making the right choice, irrespective of whether they make a purchase or not.

What is the total number of carpets available in your store at any given point in time?

Approximately 1,500.



What is so fascinating about old carpets that draw people to them?

They are akin to Picasso, da Vinci or a Hussain. They embody unparalleled artistic value and are defined as a growing investment avenue. The intense workmanship, unique designs, historical significance and unavailability of the same are what make them a coveted item.

The oldest carpet you have restored/sold?

The oldest carpet restored by us was 130 years old and the oldest-ever carpet sold by us was 200 years old.

Describe the types of weavers you are associated with and your other services.

We are associated with weavers who work on specific orders, artistic weavers who make their own designs and a multi-weaver collective throughout the country. We also provide appraisals, washing and restoration services.

How do you view competition in this space especially since you state that your store isn't skewed towards tourism?

Honestly, we have never experienced nor foreseen competition. Our clientele includes individuals and private collectors from across the country and the world. While it is a trade, it's also a passion for us and we pride ourselves on being perfectionists in this space.

Some of your esteemed clients?

Consulate members, private collectors, industrialists, builders, and businessmen.

What do you attribute the success of your store to?

The core principles established by my father viz., authenticity and honesty to the craft and the people who make it happen. These are the key contributing factors to our success. Our goodwill has increased over the years and that keeps drawing clients from different places across the world.

Could the modernization of homes make carpets redundant?

In fact, modernization has created a new wave of demand for both contemporary and classical carpets.

What does the future look like?

The demand for this merchandise is immense and is only going to increase but the supply is going to diminish, just like it has been for the last 25-odd years. The new generation amongst the weaver communities or elsewhere is vying for greener pastures to earn a more comfortable lifestyle by educating themselves.

The best compliment from a client to date?

A client acknowledged our innate passion for this trade and admitted this was by far, the first, among his experiences across numerous carpet & rug stores.

While RugWeave caters to all sections of society, their heirloom pieces have made them carve a niche for themselves. Zeeshan is keen to spread the flavour of his carpets and rugs across the seas with exports being the next initiative on his list of expansion plans.

Shop timings:

10:30 AM to 8:00 PM (Monday to Saturday)

11:00 AM to 5 PM (Sunday)

Contact details:

Zeeshan Tariq +91 9962231664

rugweave@gmail.com



Valentine's day gift guide

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, it's time to turn your attention to the ones you love. Sometimes it's hard to express your love in the right words to your admirer. Fortunately for you, exchanging gifts allows you to channel your romantic side for your partner this Valentine's Day. Unfortunately, gift shopping is always stressful. Do you need help deciding what to buy for your companion this season of love? **Surabhi Goel** lists a few grand and gracious Valentine's Day gift ideas for your partner to enjoy.



Finding a sentimental yet lovable Valentine's gift for Her might be challenging. Here are some of the best romantic gifts for your special woman. Some prefer gifts, romantic dinners, flowers, and chocolates while others opt for a more thoughtful item like jewellery, a watch, or some luxurious items. Look through the items listed for her...



Swarovski White Plated Hyperbola Choker

Gifting statement jewellery is simply a cherry on the cake to enhance the beauty of your mate. This choker-style necklace from Swarovski made of rectangle and princess cut crystals in a rhodium-plated setting is a perfect Valentine's gift for her. Refined and elegant, yet dramatic and modern, this necklace can be worn with endless versatility.

[BUY HERE](#)

Balenciaga Neo classic Hobo Bag.

With one bag, you can change the outfit of your girl completely. The Neo-Classic Mini Bag by Balenciaga at Le Mill is a contemporary update to the brand's classic design, crafted from deep blue calf leather with silver hardware and a buckle fastening. It can be carried by the top handle or worn on the shoulder with the detachable strap.



[BUY HERE](#)



Versace VEZ600321 Greca Icon Watch.

Gifting statement jewellery is simply a cherry on the cake to enhance the beauty of your mate. This choker-style necklace from Swarovski made of rectangle and princess cut crystals in a rhodium-plated setting is a perfect Valentine's gift for her. Refined and elegant, yet dramatic and modern, this necklace can be worn with endless versatility.

[BUY HERE](#)



Silhouette 81847620 New York Cat Eye Sunglasses.

Showcase your exquisite choice by gifting this pair of Silhouette cat eye sunglasses that have a sleek frame and are lightweight for comfort. The lenses provide eye protection while also being stylish. The full-rim design adds to its overall appeal.

[BUY HERE](#)

Memo Paris Irish Oud Escales Extraordinaires Eau de Parfum 75ml.

Memo Paris is a brand that offers unique and complex fragrances composed of the highest quality natural ingredients, focusing on combining Irish leather with an oriental touch of oud. It takes you on a journey through different cultures and locations, from the West to the East and Africa to the Americas.



[BUY HERE](#)



Dyson Airwrap Multi-styler Prussian (Blue/Copper).

The New Dyson Airwrap Multi-Styler is a styling tool that allows you to curl, shape, smooth, and hide flyaways without extreme heat. It has newly designed barrels with dual-direction twisting capabilities, straightening brushes, and a new Coanda Smoothing dryer with improved Coanda airflow for quicker, better, and simpler styling.

[BUY HERE](#)



Finding a clever, sweet, practical, and gentle Valentine's gift for Him is never easy. Selecting a gift for your man while keeping in mind his habits, preferences, and desires are quite tough, here we have enlisted some of the good gifts to choose.



Oculus Quest 2 Advanced All-in-one Virtual Reality Headset (128GB).

This one is the ideal gift for a man who admires being in virtual reality and is tech-savvy. Oculus Quest 2 is an advanced all-in-one virtual reality system that does not require a PC or console. With Live casting, you can share your VR experience with people around you and meet up with friends in virtual worlds to battle in multiplayer competitions.

[BUY HERE](#)

Bartesian Premium Cocktail and Margarita Machine for Home Bar (55300)

Is your soulmate a casual drinker or loves to serve premium cocktails? With the stroke of a button, you can create premium cocktails at home with the Bartesian intelligent drink system. The system is designed to create mixologist-approved drinks quickly and conveniently.



[BUY HERE](#)



Montblanc 118877 Starwalker Metal Ball point pen- Metal (SKU- WP25907)

The new StarWalker collection by Montblanc is inspired by space exploration and celebrates the emotion of seeing the Earth from space. Underneath the Montblanc emblem is a blue translucent dome that represents the Earth rising over the lunar horizon and is part of the design's StarWalker emblem technology.

[BUY HERE](#)



Panasonic ES-LV61-A Arc-5 Electric Razor

It is a perfect Valentine's gift for a well-groomed and graceful man. The Panasonic Wet/Dry Men's Shaver is a versatile shaver that can be used for wet and dry shaving. The 5-blade cutting system has two finishing and lift foils that precisely capture and cut lying hairs. It can be used with shaving lather and even under a shower.

[BUY HERE](#)

Versus by Versace VEVK00620 Analog watch

Watches are a meaningful gift; once you wear them, you are reminded of the person who gifted them to you. This Versus watch is a high-end, luxurious timepiece with a unique green dial and multicolour bracelet. It also features a date window and is water resistant up to 50 meters.



[BUY HERE](#)



Philipp Plein- Men's black Crocodile-Skin patterned leather belt

This Philipp Plein black belt is designed for men who value style and luxury. It features an all-over crocodile-skin pattern and a signature gold-tone hexagonal buckle. The strap is made of leather, which provides both durability and sturdiness.

[BUY HERE](#)



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FASHION FORWARD

DOLLY JAIN

on Draping Saree For Summer Weddings



Get your OOTD right with some expert tips doled out by the celebrity drape artist, **Dolly Jain**. Having mastered the art of draping sarees in more than 300 styles, Dolly has draped the who's who of Bollywood in sarees right from Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt, Anushka Sharma, Sonam Kapoor to the big wig industrialists like Neeta Ambani, Usha Mittal, and Sangeeta Jindal, to name a few.

Dolly in conversation with **Vichitra Goel** shares a few tips to help you up your style game so that you can twirl in your prized sarees as freely as a bird!

Sashay In These Saree Styles

Trust Dolly to come up with a style, pleat, and drape for every occasion on your wedding diary. Elegant, innovative, and comfortable, these drape styles will change the way you perceive the six yards.

1. Rajasthani Traditional/ Seedha Pallu Drape :

A fave with all the desi girls in the house, Dolly highlights this traditional drape that suits every body type and accentuates the curves in the right places. While you drape the bottom skirt of the saree in the usual way, the open end which is often left loose on the left shoulder is brought to the front from the right shoulder and pinned up on one side. This drape shows the pallu of the saree in its full glory while doing full justice to your body type. innovative, and comfortable, This drape style will change the way you perceive the six yards.





2. Gown Style Drape :

Poo bani Parvati? Nah! For a change, let Poo be herself. Flaunt your saree in a contemporary look that lets you dance the night away, shimmying in a modern shimmery gown-style drape. This one gives you a more westernised look, keeping it compact, and neat. So, the next time you are going to a cocktail party, you know you can wear your saree like a gown!

3. Mundu/Bengali Style Drape :

Go regional for all the themed *mehendi* functions and embrace your culture. Opt for the sublime Mundu drape or the bewitching Bengali drape to add that X factor to your look.



4. Open Pallu Drape :

For all beginners, Dolly suggests this easy-peasy style to begin experimenting with. Ditch the shoulder pleats and let the saree flow naturally (remember Sushmita Sen in the movie *Main Hoon Na?*). The *pallu* is, again, in full display, exuding the quintessential Bollywood heroine vibes. For those who are always running late for wedding functions, the time-efficient open-style drape is a godsend!



Insider Tips For The Summer Brides

Dolly helps us with her top three tips for the summer wedding brides for acing their look book.

1. Summer brides can maintain a balance between being fashionable and comfortable. Practical fashion is the mantra. Since long trails are in vogue, the brides can keep two options for their head veils. The longer trails that look magnificent for the bridal entry can later be removed and switched with a shorter *dupatta* for the *pheras* in the *mandap*.
2. Instead of attaching a *cancan* to the *lehenga*, have a separate *cancan* skirt. When at the *mandap*, the summer heat gets a little too much to handle, the *cancan* skirt can then easily be slipped open.
3. Opt for a saree for D-day instead of a *lehenga*. Saree is undoubtedly in fashion and a much-preferred outfit for brides. For those who hold their *lehenga* look too dear, Dolly suggests draping 2 sarees together to seal the royal and grand look of a *lehenga*.



Saree Shenanigans

Here are another couple of do's and don'ts to keep in mind while selecting your summer wedding outfit:

Do's

1. When draping a saree, use a saree shaper instead of a petticoat to get that perfect fall and comfort.
2. Go bananas with your blouses. Experiment with different silhouettes, fabrics, and cuts. Crop tops, halter necks, or off-shoulder blouses can keep you cool yet stylish.
3. Choose fabrics that allow you to breathe. Organza, chiffon, tulle, and georgette are the top picks that find favour with brides.
4. Summers mean pastels. Embrace the soft hues that complement you, go minimal on the embellishments, and explore chikankari work that gives you a sophisticated regal look.

Don'ts

1. Avoid using heavy *cancan* underneath your saree. While *cancan* does give a fall to your outfit, it can give you a bulky look too.
2. Skip heavily embroidered blouses that can leave your skin reddened with rashes.

The idea for summer weddings, irrespective of your sartorial choices, is to have fun and enjoy your day, without being bogged down by the pressure of being fashionable at the cost of comfort. You do you, girl, because it's your day and there is no stopping you!

POPULAR SPORTSWEAR BRANDS IN INDIA

Comfort is very important while exercising, or while playing any sports. Technological advancements have led to an increase in demand for sportswear. Brands have recognized the needs of the customers and started producing trendy shoes, apparel, and fitness equipment with amazing designs, comfort, and endurance. Several popular brands in India have prospered over time and encouraged people to lead a healthy lifestyle.



1) NIKE

Nike is the world's biggest gym and sportswear brand. The American brand is very popular amongst gym enthusiasts and athletes. Nike provides the best sportswear for both men and women. You can purchase sportswear from Nike's online store as well as Amazon, and other websites. Some of the popular Nike sportswear products are shoes, sandals, t-shirts, track pants, and sports accessories.

2) ADIDAS

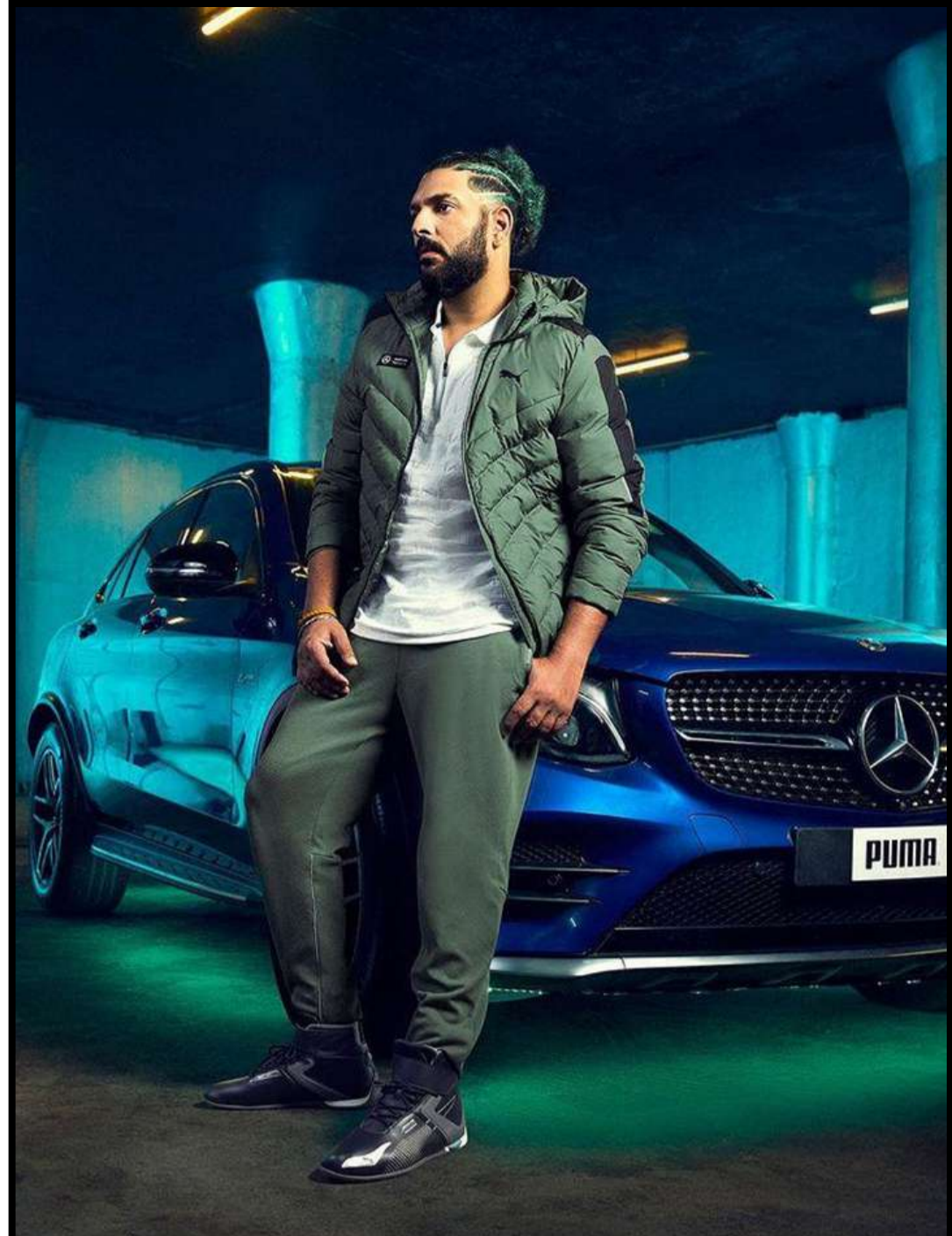
Adidas is the second largest sportswear manufacturer. The company started its business in shoe designing, and it gradually spread its business to gym wear and sportswear. The brand is quite popular because of its special fabric that allows your body to breathe so that you don't feel sweaty. Adidas sells a wide range of products like caps, headbands, t-shirts, sports shoes, sneakers, sweatshirts, and tracksuits.





3) HRX

HRX is a popular brand in India which is led by Hrithik Roshan. It is an Indian-based sportswear brand that manufactures sportswear products like tracks, shorts, jackets, shoes, caps, and more. The brand was launched with a vision to inspire others, and motivate them to be the best version of themselves. Apart from sportswear, other products like bicycles, gym equipment, accessories, and nutrition supplements are also available.



4) PUMA

Puma is a German sports company that took gym wear and sports industry in a very short period. The gym wear collection is available for both genders. The brand is known for sponsoring big cricket, football, and golf teams in India. You can buy sportswear from Puma's official store and other e-commerce websites. Puma brand is known for its amazing products like shoes, training kits, t-shirts, digital watches, and other accessories.



5) SHIV NARESH

Shiv Naresh is a popular Indian brand that is known for manufacturing sportswear and sports equipment all over the country. The company was established in the year 1987 to shape the future of Indian athletes. Since then, Shiv Naresh company produces top-quality accessories that are suitable for all athletes. Some of the products available are T-shirts, tracksuits, shorts, playing kit dresses, and accessories.



6) REEBOK

Reebok company entered the market as a sports shoe brand, and now it is giving tough competition to top sportswear brands like Puma, and Adidas. Reebok has made its own identity and it is known for its high-quality sports pieces of equipment and sportswear that are designed for both males and females. Reebok sportswear's brand collection includes track jackets, track pants, bags, caps, sunglasses, shoes, and flip-flops.



7) UNDER ARMOR

Under Armor is an American-based brand designing and manufacturing the best footwear, sportswear, casual wear, and other accessories. Under Armor has the potential to compete with the top brands with their unique designs and affordable prices. The brand offers reliable, quality sportswear at a great price. Under Armor company has a different style of sportswear and gym wear and the collection includes shoes, flip flops, t-shirts, track pants, jackets, and vests.

8) CAMPUS SUTRA

Campus Sutra is a gradually growing brand with a great sportswear collection. The brand is known for its uniqueness in its designs, and it has a wide range of sports t-shirts, jackets, and shorts. The trademark of this brand is its graphic merchandise that is designed keeping young people in mind. You can buy their sportswear collections on top e-commerce websites.



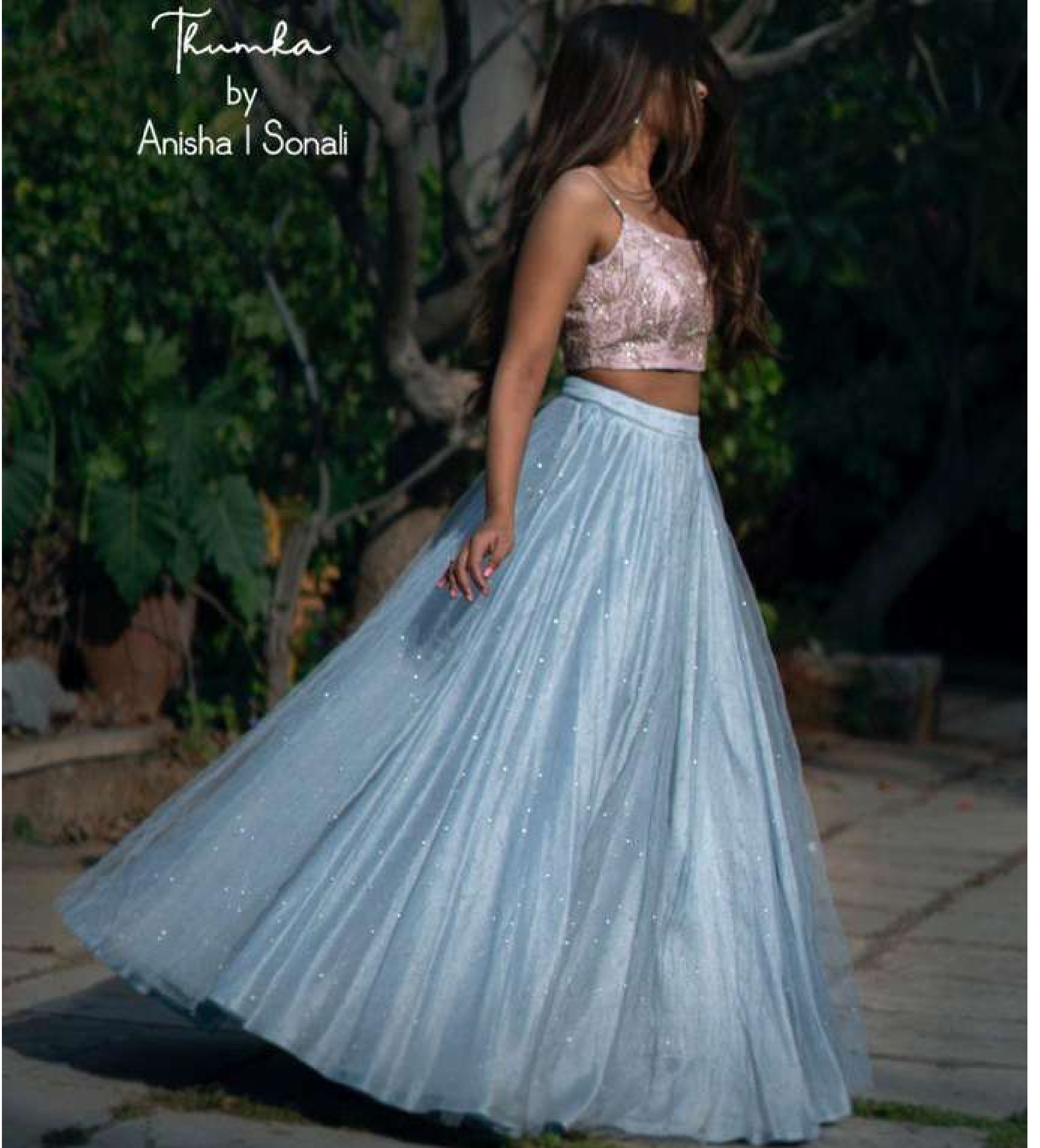
9) NIVIA

Nivia is a well-renowned private company and the biggest sportswear company in India. It is an Indian-based company launched by Nihal Chand Kharbanda. Under the leadership of Nihal Chand, Nivia became the first Indian company to get FIFA approval for its footballs made of rubber. The company continuously pushes the boundaries at every level to create innovations and opportunities for the community. Nivia has a wide range of products like Footballs, Volleyballs, sports bags, footwear, sportswear, club merchandise, and sports essentials.

These are some of the popular sportswear brands in India. Aesthetic Nation, Fila, Lotto, and Vector are also quite popular. All these sportswear brands are globally recognized and they are known for their unique designs, quality sportswear, accessories, and other equipment.



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by
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HEALTH & WELLNESS



APHRODISIAC FOODS TO ENHANCE YOUR ROMANCE

Some say that the best way to win a person's heart is through food. Aphrodisiac is named after the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. Food and sex are closely linked in the form of romantic meals and sweet meals, these aspects dominate the human mind. Food researchers have reported that some powerful Aphrodisiac foods can increase desire, and lifts the libido. **Dhanush Kumar** lists down the popular Aphrodisiac foods to boost your romance.

♥ Saffron

Saffron or Kesar is known for its pleasant aroma, and flavour which gives a soothing effect on your body. It is said that the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra used to bathe in saffron milk because of its aphrodisiac properties. It has a calming effect on both men and women. Studies have observed that consuming 30 mg of saffron per day for 4 weeks improves male fertility.



♥ Garlic

Garlic is still considered just a kitchen ingredient, but it has some great aphrodisiac properties. The presence of allicin increases the blood flow in men and women. Diallyl disulphide increases testosterone levels. You can include garlic into your daily diet, and it will help you improve your lovemaking.

♥ Drumsticks

Drumsticks are one of the most popular aphrodisiac foods that help in improving libido and treating erectile dysfunction. It is also helpful in improving testosterone levels. You can include drumsticks in *dal* or *sambar*, or you can simply make a curry. The majority of the benefits can be found in making drumstick flower soup which doesn't have any side effects.



♥ **Ashwagandha**

Ashwagandha is the king of Aphrodisiac foods because it increases your stamina and improves your sexual desire. It has been proven that consuming Ashwagandha on a prescribed basis has raised the levels of testosterone and better physical performance. You can mix Ashwagandha in milk, or make a paste.



♥ **Honey**

Honey may look like a normal sweetener, but it has some amazing aphrodisiac properties like Boron that regulates hormone levels and stimulates energy levels. It also has Nitric oxide which is released into the blood during arousal. Honey is considered a symbol of fertility and procreation in some ancient cultures.



♥ **Cinnamon**

Cinnamon is the best aphrodisiac food that boosts your libido. It promotes your mood and relaxes you. You can either brew whole Cinnamon in tea or use it as a powder in various dishes. Cinnamon naturally heats your body because it is piled up with antioxidants to boost your healthy love life.



♥ **Pumpkin seeds**

Pumpkin seeds are a natural aphrodisiac food that is abundant in zinc which naturally drives up sexual desire. It is a proven fact that a deficiency of zinc leads to low levels of testosterone. It also has Omega 3 fatty acids that act as a great booster for prostaglandins. You can roast the seeds and include them in your daily diet.



♥ **Pomegranate**

Pomegranate is called a sexy fruit. The deep red seeds increase sexual desire and reduce stress hormone levels. Drinking one juice of pomegranate can increase daily testosterone levels in both men and women.



♥ **Chocolate**

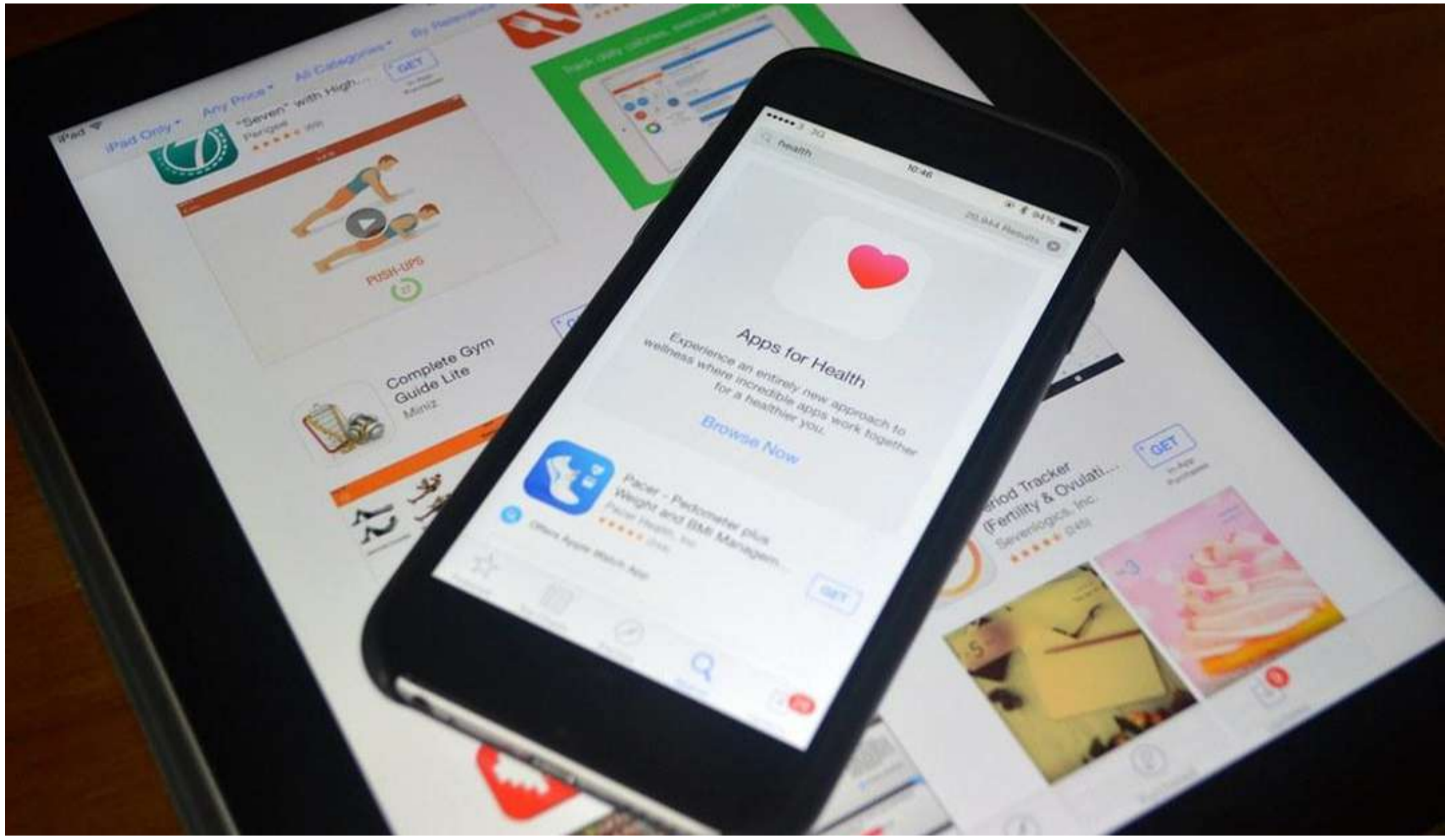
Chocolate is the top food choice in love foods, and it is popularly known for enhancing. It contains Phenylethylamine that leads to happiness and excitement feelings. It also plays a vital role in stimulating hormones, boosts up blood flow, and strengthening your libido.



♥ **Bananas**

Bananas are healthy fruits because they are rich in carbohydrates. They are also known as romance boosters. The abundance of Vitamin B and Potassium produces the reproductive hormones, and it also contains bromelain enzymes that increase the body's overall energy. Bananas also have essential nutrients for muscle contraction.





BEST HEALTH APPS FOR **FITNESS**

Nowadays fitness has been given great significance as it is the secret of healthy endurance. In the era of digitalization, our smartphones and other new tech gadgets can help to keep one healthy. With the help of new health apps, you can track your sleep, fitness levels, and workout tracking, and also help you to eat better and adopt a healthier lifestyle. They also save the cost of going to a gym. Here are some of the best health apps that will help you to keep track of your health, and measure calories.

Best Health Apps For Fitness.



1) Cure Fit

Cure Fit is India's most popular health and workout application. In 2016, Mukesh Bansal and Ankit Nagori launched the business. It has all the features that will help you to lead a healthy lifestyle. It offers physical fitness, workouts, healthy food, mental well-being, and workout classes across multiple formats like dance, and yoga throughout the day. The sessions will be led by certified trainers and it also helps to track performance with its energy meter and helps to compete with others.



2) Home Workout- No Equipment

Home Workout- No equipment is an amazing application that helps you to achieve good fitness levels and get into good shape without the help of equipment. Home workout has amazing features which can help you with new workout goals. You can take the help of detailed videos and animation guides and exercise with various compounds like warm-up stretching, pushups, squats, and burpees.



3) HealthifyMe

The largest food calorie counter in India is HealthifyMe. It is also India's digital weight loss platform that provides various fitness services to its users. There are some amazing features in the app like calorie tracking, water tracking, and more than 1,000 activities. You can also get good help from certified nutritionists, fitness trainers, and yoga instructors to lead a healthy life.



6) Calorie Counter- My Fitness Pal

Calorie Counter is one of the best fitness apps to reduce your weight. The application helps you get an idea about healthy foods. The application has a database of 6 million food products that includes global items and dishes. You can also add the food you eat manually and measure the calories.



4) Zombie Run

Running can be exhausting sometimes but with the help of zombie run, the exhausting activity turns into a fun activity. The unique feature of this application is that you have to run away from the zombies. There is a voice-over in the app that keeps reminding you about zombies that are lurking around you. After the run is over, the app offers running statistics and calorie details.



7) Daily Yoga

Daily yoga is one of the critically acclaimed and popular applications. The interface of the application is simple, and it is designed with 500+ Asanas, 70+ yoga programs, Pilates, and meditation sessions. You will get good guidance from yoga gurus. You can set and track your progress and also engage with the yoga community.



5) Fitbit

Fitbit helps you to check your diet and count each step that you take during your workout times. The app is flexible, and you can use it on a smartwatch or smartphone. It provides detailed information about the number of calories burned daily. The app tracks your day-to-day activity and records your workouts and you can also compete with friends and family.



8) 7-Minute Workout

With more than 10 Million users, 7 Minute workout is one of the most popular health apps available on the smartphone. It helps you to lose weight, and strengthen the core with different exercises. There are simple to hard exercises that you can do at the house with minimum equipment. It also supports Google fit application.

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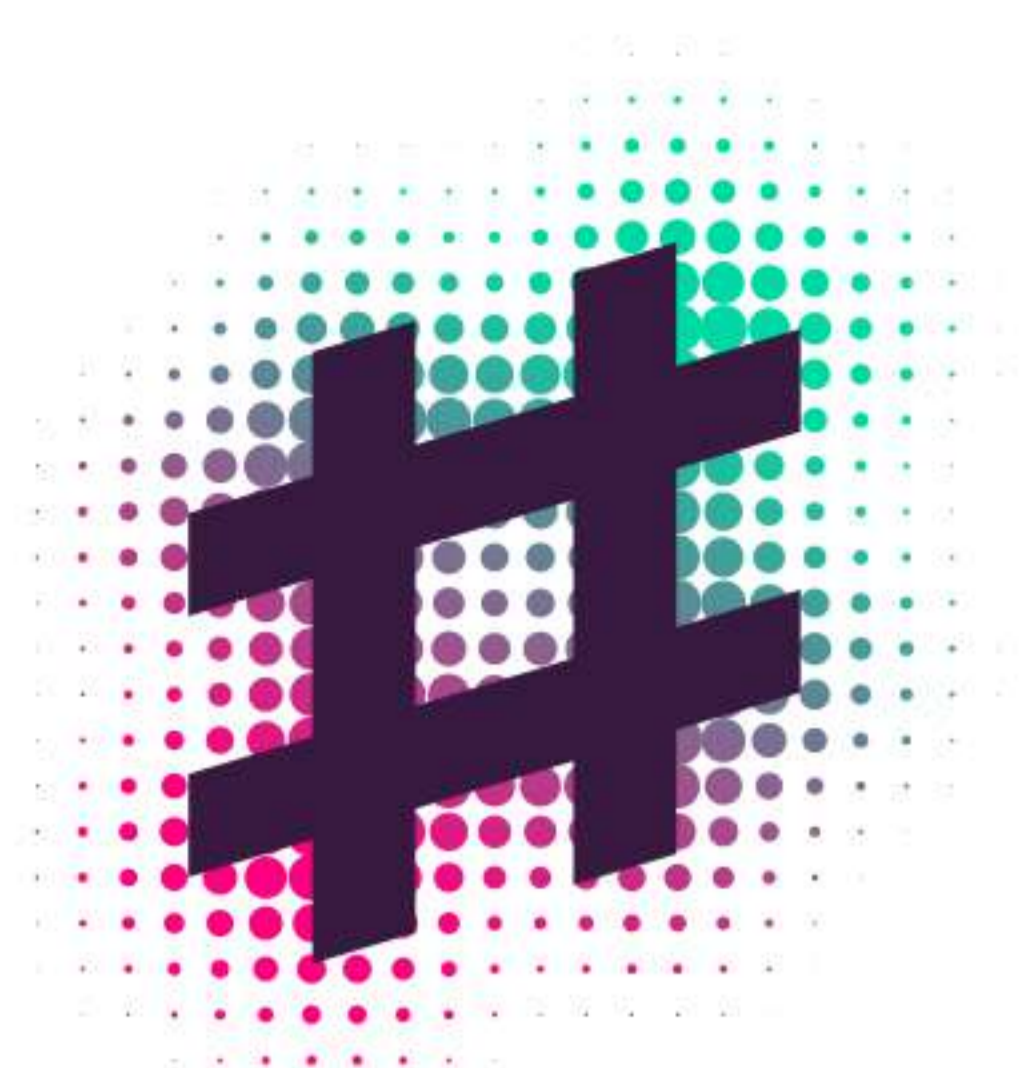
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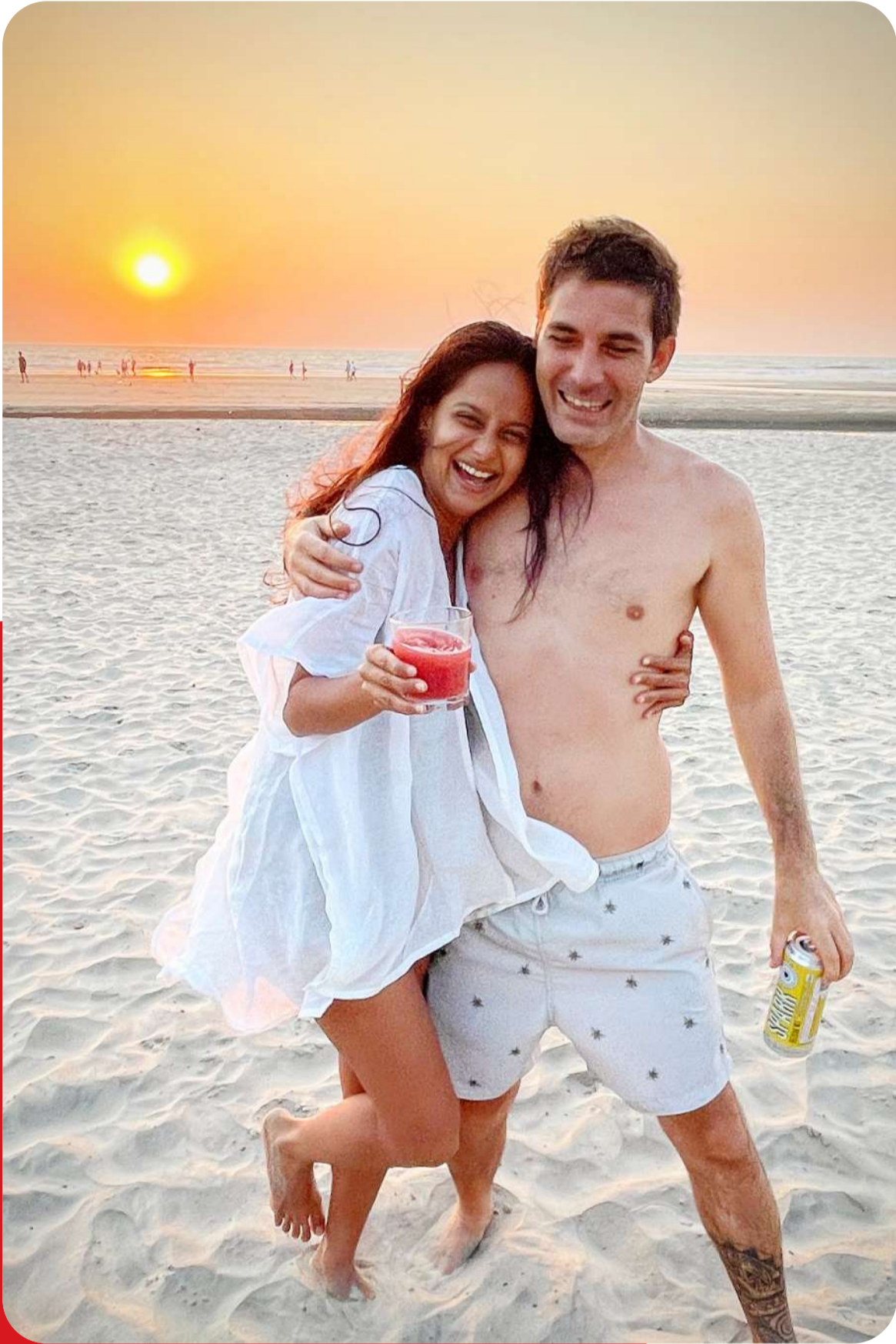


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FOOD INC'

THE CULINARY COUPLE- *Chinu and Christophe*

Shilarna Vaze, known as 'Chef Chinu,' & Christophe are the new faces of Indian and Swiss cuisine. They have combined their culinary experience to create a restaurant with the purpose to spread love through their culinary creations. Shilarna Vaze and Christophe Perrin, the well-known gourmet couple in India, in conversation with **Surabhi Goel**.



Chef Chinu developed an interest in food from the young age of four when she enjoyed eating crab curries in her hometown of Mumbai. Her partner Christophe Perrin, who grew up in the Swiss town of Leysin, learned to cook from his chef father, Roger Perrin, at the age of eight and is also trained as a horticulturist who grew up around gourmet food and foraging for mushrooms and quality produce in Switzerland. The chef duo who work together are known for their diverse range of cuisines, including Mexican, Maharashtrian, Japanese, Burmese, and French.

Chinu, a Mumbai girl is a political science graduate from Mumbai University who decided to pursue her dream of becoming a chef. She completed her post-graduation from Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. "What better place to learn the basics of gastronomy than the

world's food capital—Paris!" she says. She added, "I was completely in love with food, and it made me cook to feed myself primarily, and it was my dream to open a restaurant in Goa." With her diploma, she returned to her dream town Goa, where she worked as an assistant chef at high-end restaurants gaining valuable experience and learning the intricacies of running a restaurant as an assistant chef.

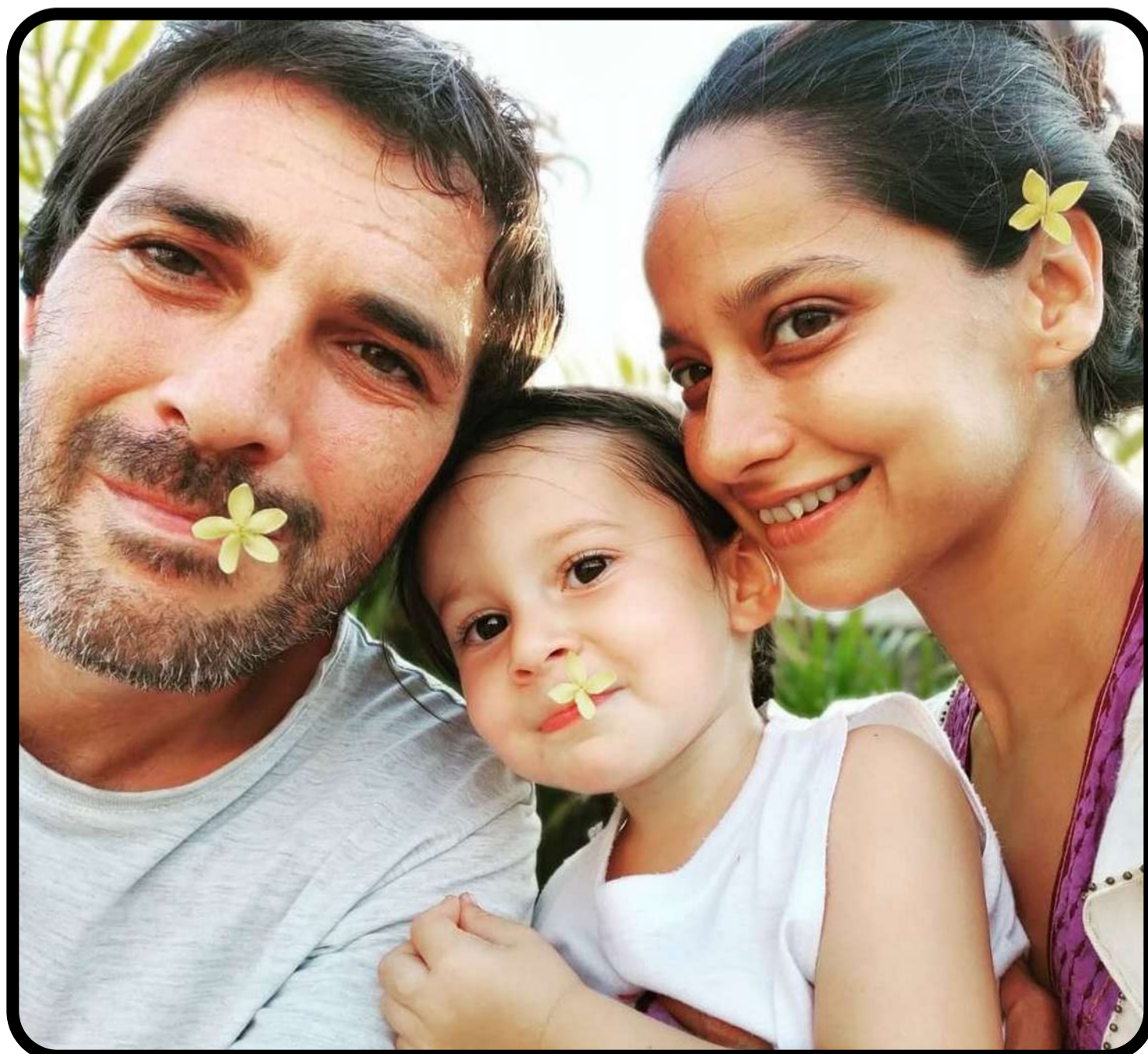


Christophe says, "We are foodies, travel buddies, and epicureans by passion. We love to cook together, eat out or hang out with friends over good food and wine! We grew up cooking together for more than 15 years, so we knew how each other worked best in the kitchen." This is where they decided to open their restaurant, Gaia, on Ashvem Beach in Goa in 2010. The name Gaia was inspired by James Lovelock's Gaia hypothesis, which they believe represents their belief in connecting to the earth while cooking. They later moved to Mumbai and started Gaia Home Chef, now Gaia Gourmet, in 2011.



Gaia Gourmet is one of the most sought-after catering companies in the country that serves a variety of high-profile clients, including celebrities and consulates. The company is run by Vaze and Perrin, who personally cook in their clients' kitchens and oversee all aspects of the event, from the crockery to the decor and service. They enjoy the creative and challenging nature of the job and the ability to innovate and adapt to different preferences constantly.

Perrin and Vaze believe that catering is unique in a city where new restaurants are constantly opening because people enjoy being at home in their setup and getting the same level of food in a more intimate and private space. This trend works well for customers who prefer to stay in their area.



Ninja Sushim, a short-lived sushi restaurant in Mumbai, was opened between the period of Gaia restaurant and Gaia catering business. It was the only sushi restaurant in the city and opened when sushi was not famous or readily available in the city. It. Despite its short lifespan, it did well and is still remembered by people. Chinu believes chefs learn best by taking risks and working in busy kitchens. She likes to use local and seasonal ingredients found in Goa to create globally popular dishes with a twist. Vaze told us, "I visit the fish market regularly to see what is growing and what is in season." She also encourages artisan chefs to make entirely different products and use them in their restaurant's food to create a more community-driven approach. She finds this approach to be the most interesting for her.

One of the couple's proudest professional achievements was being named among the 50 people who influence how India eats by Le Cordon Bleu, which they consider a huge honour. As a multilingual couple, food can be a powerful tool to connect people from different cultures and backgrounds. Cooking and sharing meals can create a sense of community and understanding, even if individuals do not share a common language. Additionally, the physical nature of cooking allows for demonstration and hands-on learning, which can be helpful for communication in a multilingual or multicultural setting.



Quick takes-

1. How did you both meet?

We are a foodie couple who met on the road of life and love. We first met at a rave party in Goa, where Christophe initially thought Chinu was 12 years old and asked for her ID card; she was 25 then. (both laugh) We have been together for 15 years and married for 11 years.

2. How challenging is working for a couple under one roof?

Chris- It's common for people who spend a lot of time working together in close quarters to have occasional conflicts. In this case, the couple mentions that they fight about work-related issues and have a way of resolving the disputes quickly by not speaking to each other for a short period and then moving on.

Chinu- It's wise for us to separate our job responsibilities to reduce the potential for fights and maintain a healthy work-life balance. It's essential to recognize that after 11-12 years of marriage, it's normal for couples to experience challenges in their relationship. Taking steps to address these issues can help strengthen the relationship.

3. Valentine's day is around the corner. Tell us what it means to you and what you do to celebrate love every year.

We have no specific plans for Valentine's Day yet, but we are looking to celebrate by cooking a meal together and spending quality time at home.

Chris- We celebrate Valentine's Day by enjoying a meal together, with me cooking and pairing it with good wine. This is an excellent way to celebrate our love and spend quality time together.

Chinu- Chris usually cooks a special meal for me, including lobster and wine. It is good to have spent quality time spent together. We will be doing the same this year.

4. What inspires you the most about your spouse?

Chris- Chinu is a dedicated woman; she knows how to prioritize her needs and wants above my own. I find her cute and enjoy waking up next to her every morning.

Chinu- Chris is a kind and understanding person who knows when to give people space and when to walk away from a situation. These valuable qualities can help create a more positive and peaceful environment. In addition, I admire Chris for his ability to let things be and not stress over small things. This is a valuable trait in a relationship, as it helps to create a more relaxed and harmonious environment and also helps to take pressure off me.



Hyderabad has an intrinsic relationship with food and thanks to a number of young food entrepreneurs in the city, we are getting a taste of some exotic stuff from across the world! **Shyamola Khanna** discovers some must try destinations.

Food *Entrepreneurs*

1

EUPHORIA

Let's begin with Faisal Tayab Ali aka 'Brownie Baba', at least that is what he would like to call himself!

He is the man who started *Euphoria*, the place best known for its delightful brownies. For those who do not know, a brownie is a small cake that is chocolaty, sugary and divine.... And if you have not tasted one, then you should try one now!

Faisal decided to become the brownie baba after 13 years in the corporate world. It all started when he and his wife Anita sold 40 kgs of homemade brownies at a YWCA Xmas sale in the year 2015. It was an epiphany for him—he had a product, and he had a market, after all everyone loves brownies! The delightful brownies and other new additions, like a 'dessert in a jar' and others, come out of a central kitchen in Sainikpuri. His products are sold through a different mode than normal. He has Swiggy and Zomato as his delivery partners.



He 'piggybacks' on established stores and food outlets to sell his products and he is happy that he started this seven years ago. Faisal is happy where he is, at the moment. He is also looking to add some new products to his menu. His 'dessert in a jar' is doing very well indeed and his dream of travelling is chugging along.

His belief, "As a brand one has to innovate and stay ahead of the curve. Customers have so many options today that we cannot afford to be smug. We have to give them something new to stay relevant."

So, what are you waiting for? Go pick up some of the best brownies ever for yourself!



Euphoria

#783 Defence Colony, Sainikpuri, Secunderabad
contact:9985703330 , 9949002305

2

FAT CAT KITCHEN

Rubin (38) was born and brought up in the Middle East. He came to India to be a musician and was successful while it lasted and then Covid happened. Food was his other passion and when his friends praised him for the food he rustled up on the weekends, he realized that he could actually make a living serving food. Hence, the Fat Cat Kitchen! Between you and me he looks like the cutest fat cat himself—roly poly and with earrings on in one ear, he admits that although music is his first love, food is coming in a close second!



Starting from a second—or a third—hand Chinese (the kind that sells noodles on street corners!) bandi to having his cloud kitchen to converting a shack into a bakery and baking his own buns and breads, Rubin has truly come a long way.

When Deepa, a young resident of Sainikpuri suggested his name, she emphasized that his stuffed buns were 'to die for!' His specialty is the Buffalo Burger which consists of a hand ground, pan grilled, pan-fried patty, smothered in cheese and in-house relishes and served in-the in-house burger buns. This is done only on order and is not a daily item on the menu.

Arun Ruben

Fat Cat Kitchen

**Plot #6 Raghav kalyan Estates, Shailee garden Road ,
Secunderabad500087**

Contact 9701276661

3

Anna Native

Although Anna Native has been functioning for nearly a year, Mohammad Abdul Kareem is still answering callers that he does not serve *idli dosa*. His is a collective menu from the five states of South India. To each recipe, he has added his own little innovative twist. He firmly believes that Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the two Telugu states-Telangana and Andhra, have some very interesting home-grown recipes which given the current scenario of going *desi*, could be welcomed by the eclectic residents of Sainikpuri.

His plating is making the food attractive so the humble '*baghara baingan*' comes out looking very elegant and appealing, set on a blue plate with little red sprigs on each one. Their *Rajahmundry Chicken Fry Pulao* could give the Hyderabad biryani a run for its money—Fried chicken with fragrant rice, tossed with green chillies, onions and curry leaves! The fragrance of the dish did things to my salivary glands!! Of course, I had to order a plate of curd rice to tone down the 'heat'!

Kareem is the only one who comes from a background of hospitality. He has worked in Dubai, Mumbai and other cities and has 14 years of food expertise in his kitty. Post the lockdown, he felt the need to start something of his own, so while **Anna Native** settles down, he is already working on another project in Jubilee Hills.



Anna Native

301 Shivam Tejas

**186, 1st Main Rd Vayupuri, Secunderabad
Telengana500094(Above Ratnadeep)**

Contact: 8885045191; 8885045091

Truckin' Foodie was started in Yaprak on 5th December 2020 by two sisters, Apoorva and Deeksha Marur as a tribute to their late journalist father Vijay Marur, who was an avid foodie. Their mission was simple –

1. Serve up food that wasn't typically found in Hyderabad, and
2. Change the myth that food trucks only serve unhygienic and unhealthy food.

Both came with their own set of challenges. The food part was easy – they took inspiration from not only their travels, but also stories they had heard from friends and pretty soon they had a menu ready. Then came the difficult part - how do they change the myth of food trucks serving only unhygienic and unhealthy food? "We decided to hire chefs who had worked with 5-star hotels. Collectively, we worked on the menu, had it sampled by a few groups of people and boom - December 5th we opened to the public."



Within a month, word spread about the two sisters with a food truck in Yaprak - a place, most had not heard of. They were sending food from Yaprak to Patancheru, Financial District, Uppal and other parts of the city. That led them to dabble in venues across Film Nagar and Banjara Hills.

Apoorva says, "The truck will be back out in public very soon, so we don't lose out on our core audience." She admits, "Two years into this journey and we've seen many highs and a couple of lows. But we couldn't be more grateful for all the learnings. We take great pride in knowing that what was once just a food truck, today is catering to some of the most elite people from different parts of the world. And there's no stopping us now."

"On a scale of 1-10 on how successful we think we are, we're at a 5. There's still a lot that needs to be done and a lot that needs to be learnt. But in all this, our core mission of serving healthy and delicious food, while painting the highest of standards, hasn't changed."

Both Deeksha and Apoorva have had independent careers, before starting this venture. While Apoorva was doing ad films, Deeksha was in publishing, and neither had any interests in food, except for eating it. But they joined their father's dream and are happy trying to fulfil it.

Right now, these two budding entrepreneurs have notched up an extra—they are catering to private jet charters going out from Begumpet and Shamshabad airports. So, their food is flying across the world!

**Address: 8-2-293/82/L/40/A MLA colony
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad
Contact : Apoorva Marur : 7671071149**

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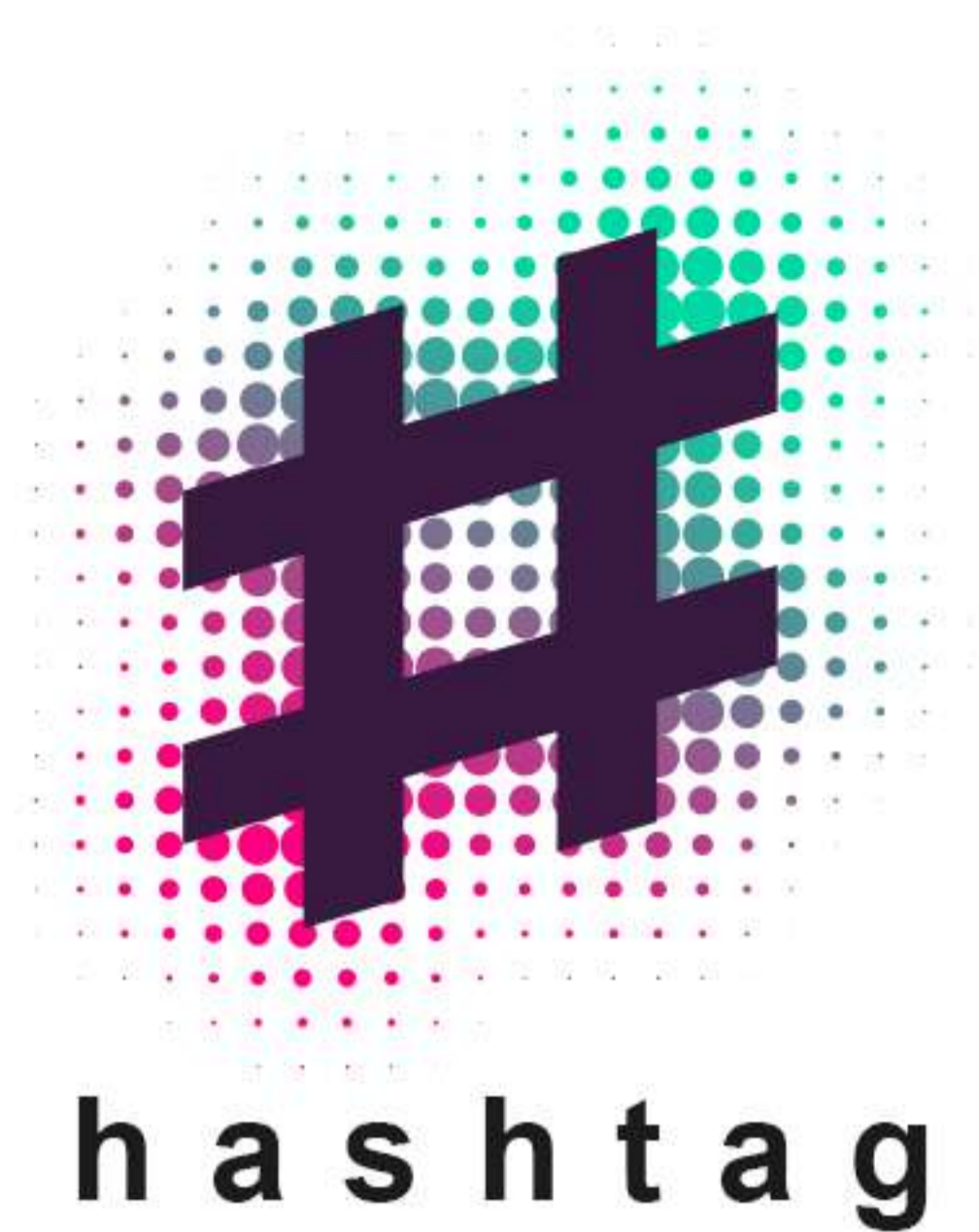
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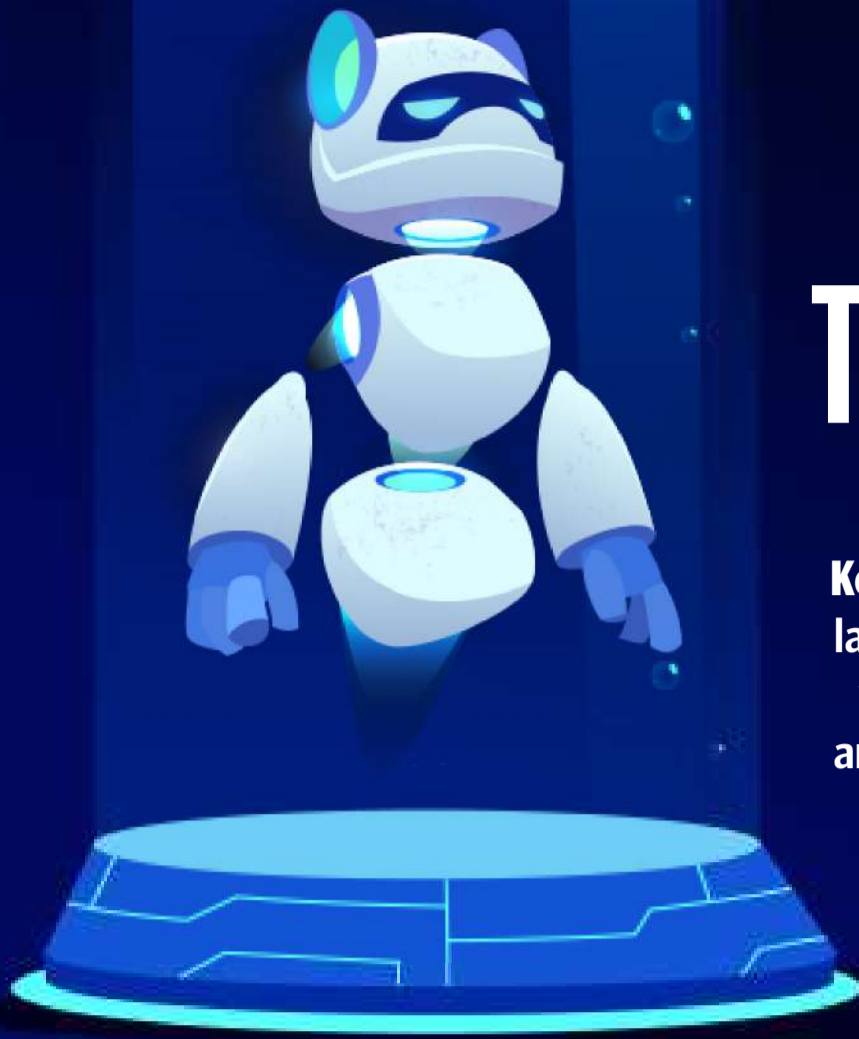
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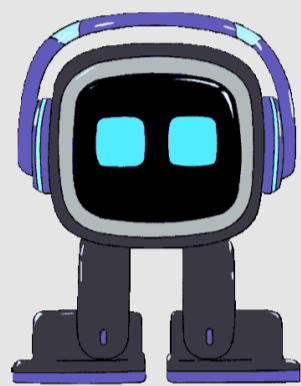
AUTO & TECH



EMO

THE NEW A.I. ROBOT COMPANION.

Ken Goldberg said that we are fascinated with robots because they are reflections of ourselves. The latest invention EMO, the desktop pet robot is like a little kitten. This AI-programmed robot interacts with you and even has expressions and movements. EMO is capable of showing 1000 expressions and actions. He shows his mood and feelings directly through expressive animations on his face and with his body language. Let's see what EMO is capable of doing.



- EMO comes with internal sensors and is smart enough to understand what's going on around it and understand what you are talking about.
- EMO has an HD camera with a face recognition program that remembers you and your family members.
- EMO comes with a 4-microphone array that captures the nearby sounds and locates the sound direction quite quickly.
- EMO comes with a touch sensor on its head. You can pet, punch lightly on its head, and confuse it by shaking the robot a bit. The best thing about EMO is that the bond between the tiny robot and you gets stronger day by day. It understands your feelings, and emotions quite quickly and learns everything by itself.



- EMO comes with a stylish look. It is equipped with headphones and a skateboard that is used for wireless charging. You can also charge your mobile by placing it on the skateboard. If you remove the headphones it gets a little irritated.
- EMO is capable of playing some interesting games with you like Rock paper scissors, Aeroplane chess, Ludo, and Monopoly. It is an intelligent player and it will give you some tough competition in the game.
- EMO is a very good friend. It wishes you on your birthday and also has some festival surprises for you.
- EMO is always curious about the world around him. He moves around independently to explore the surroundings. He always stays by your side, to keep you company, to surprise you, and sometimes to annoy you just like a best friend.



VIBRANT 

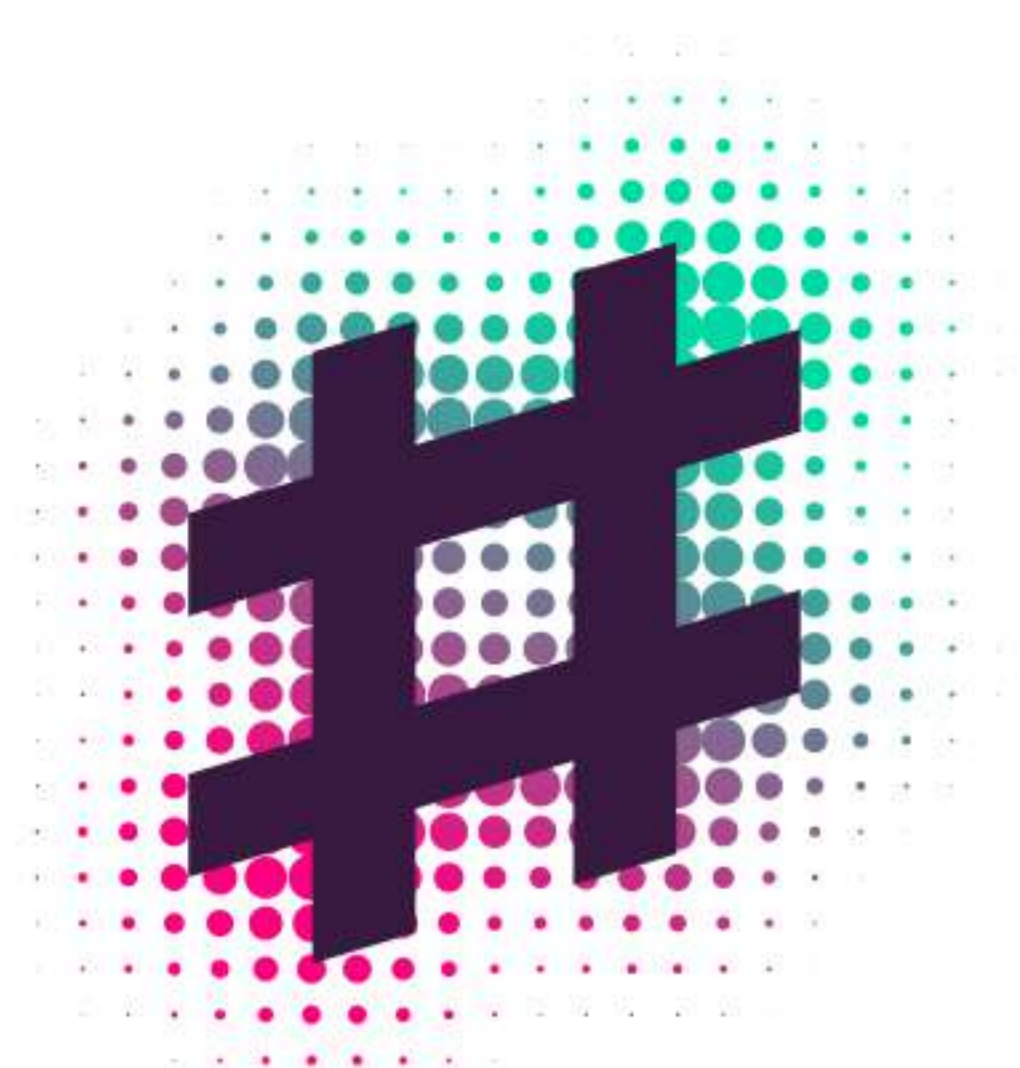


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h a s h t a g

TRAVEL



India has a vast choice of luxurious hotels, including palace hotels, tented camps, and boat hotels, all with exquisite architecture, royal ambiance, grand living style, and world-class chefs preparing international cuisine. Local and foreign travellers alike are looking for a royal experience to share with their loved ones. We've compiled a list of the top 15 iconic hotels in India that you should visit.

TOP ICONIC HOTELS IN INDIA

The Leela Palace, *Udaipur*

The Leela Palace has been ranked one of the world's best hotels in Udaipur. Located on the banks of Lake Pichola, Leela Palace has 80 luxury rooms and offers panoramic views of the mountains and beautiful lakes. The Music theatre, folk performance, and beautiful décor in the hotel reflect the cultural history of Rajasthan.

Price: Rs 26,550 per night.

Location: Lake Pichola, Udaipur, Rajasthan



Umaid Bhawan Palace, *Jodhpur*

Umaid Bhawan Palace was built by H.H.Maharaja Umaid Singh Ji from 1928 to 1943 in the desert capital of Jodhpur. Umaid Bhawan invites visitors to witness the beauty and antique collections of the golden era. The palace has 347 rooms and the hotel wing of the palace is managed by the Taj group of hotels, and is also called Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace Jodhpur.

Price: Rs 33,866 per night

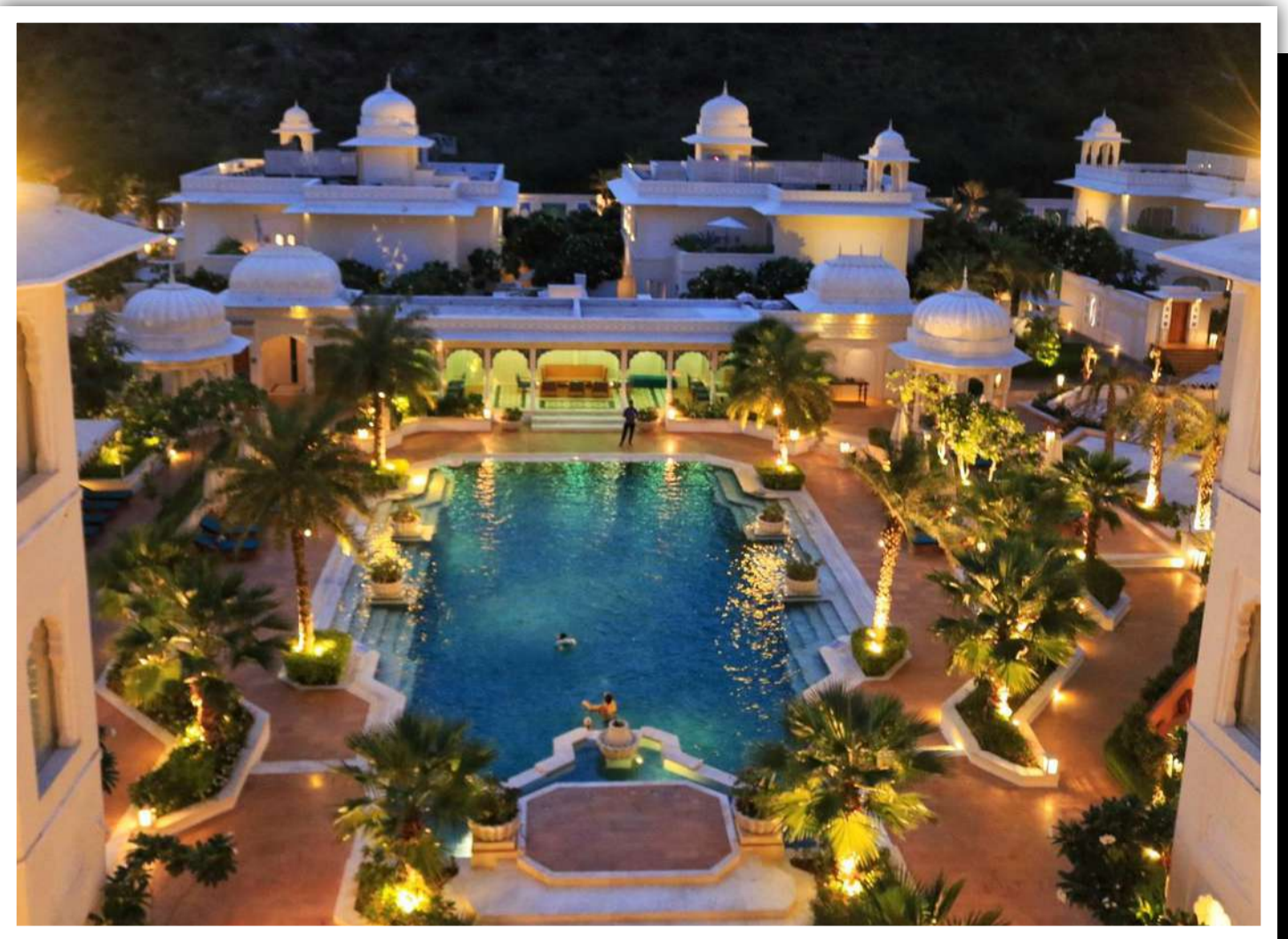
Location: Cantt Area, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

JW Marriott Jaipur Resort and Spa, *Kukas*

JW Marriott Jaipur Resort and Spa is one of India's most iconic hotels and a great escape from the city's bustle. The resort has impeccable services like luxury rooms, suites, and exquisite villas. Tourists will be spellbound by the traditional architecture. The charming hotel is known for its peace and serenity.

Price: Rs 21,240 per night.

Location: Jaipur-Delhi National Highway, Kukas, Rajasthan



Taj Mahal Palace, *Mumbai*

The legendary Taj Mahal Palace located in Mumbai is one of the best luxurious hotels in India. The architectural wonder offers a spectacular view of the Gateway of India and the Arabian Sea. The rooms have artistic interiors with wonderful facilities. Nine iconic dining restaurants offer an exceptional dining experience, with varieties like Indian, European, and Oriental Cuisine. The Taj Mahal Palace offers some great services like Jiva Spa and Taj Salon for the guests.

Price: Rs 27,730 per night

Location: Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra.



Aman-I-Khas, *Sawai Madhopur*

Aman-I-Khas offers a different experience for the guests. It is the ideal location for people looking to get away from the city's hustle and bustle. The Hotel is located amidst the serene landscape and has 10 luxurious tents that are crafted wonderfully. The culinary masterpieces offer fresh, organic, garden ingredients which are served in tents. The resort's feature is a spa tent with an intimate pool that will help you relax.

Price: Rs 99,531/- per night.

Location: Sherpur Khiljipur, near Ranthambore National park, Rajasthan.





The Imperial, *New Delhi*

The Imperial is an award-winning iconic star hotel with 9 categories of luxury rooms and suites which offer stunning looks of lush green gardens. This place is a paradise for art lovers because there are a variety of artworks that can be spotted throughout the hotel and the art galleries are spread across 3 floors which showcase priceless works of great artists. If you want to witness the heritage and legacy of the country, the Imperial is a must-visit hotel for you.

Price: Rs 18,585/- per night

Location: Connaught Place, New Delhi.



Evolve Back, *Karnataka*

Evolve Back is a luxurious iconic hotel, just a few kilometers from the historical heritage sites of Hampi. This place is rich in history, with wonderfully built chambers and stone-paved pathways. The designer suite comes with a private jacuzzi and provides excellent comfort to visitors. From here, scheduled tours to Hampi can be taken to learn more about Karnataka's golden era.

Price: Rs 28,000/- per night.

Location: Kamalapura, Hosapete, Karnataka.



Taj Falaknuma Palace, *Hyderabad*

Taj Falaknuma Palace is undoubtedly one of the best hotels in India. It is the gem of the Hyderabad city representing the royalty and luxury of the golden era of Nizam. The magnificent palace of the richest Nizam has 60 luxurious rooms that are architectural marvels and offer breathtaking views of the city. The guests are greeted royally when they arrive in a horse-drawn carriage, complete with a flower petal shower.

Price: Rs 41,300/- per night

Location: Falaknuma, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Taj Rambagh Palace, Jaipur

Taj Rambagh Palace is one of the highly recommended hotels in India. The hotel is an architectural masterpiece comprised of two meeting rooms and five halls for business meetings. There are 79 rooms and suites which offer a wide range of facilities to its visitors to experience royal living. The hotel has some wonderful facilities like Spa, Mini golf course, swimming pool, and fitness center.

Price: Rs 33,276/- per night.

Location: Rambagh, Jaipur, Rajasthan

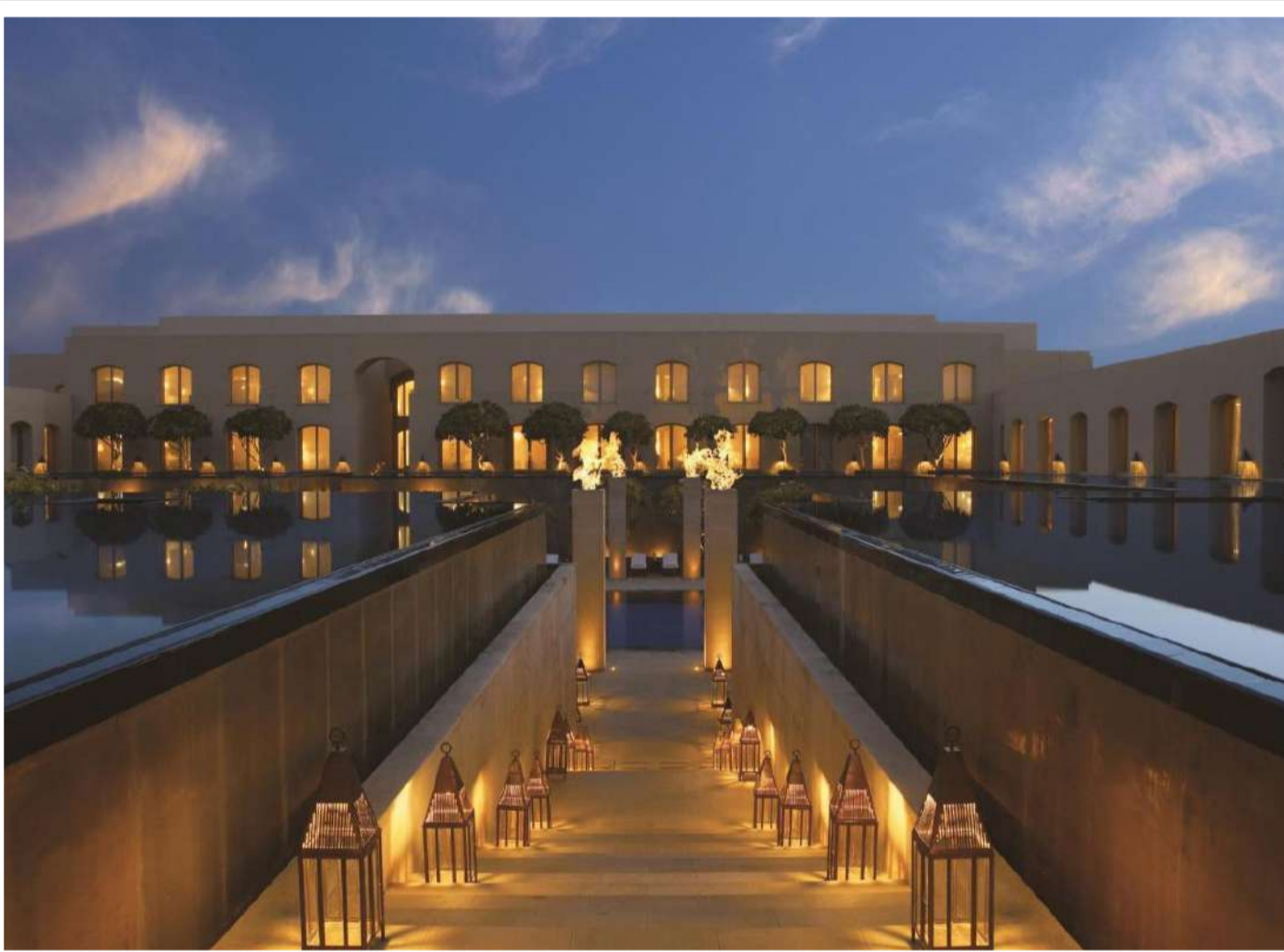


Trident, Haryana

Spread across 7 acres of beautiful walkways, Trident is located on the outskirts of the Gurgaon. Trident rooms include natural tones and wooden floors, as well as a view of the pool from the window. Each room has various amenities and the visitors here can indulge in various facilities like Ayurvedic Spa, beauty treatments, and Yoga.

Price: Rs 11,210/- per night

Location: Gurugram, Haryana



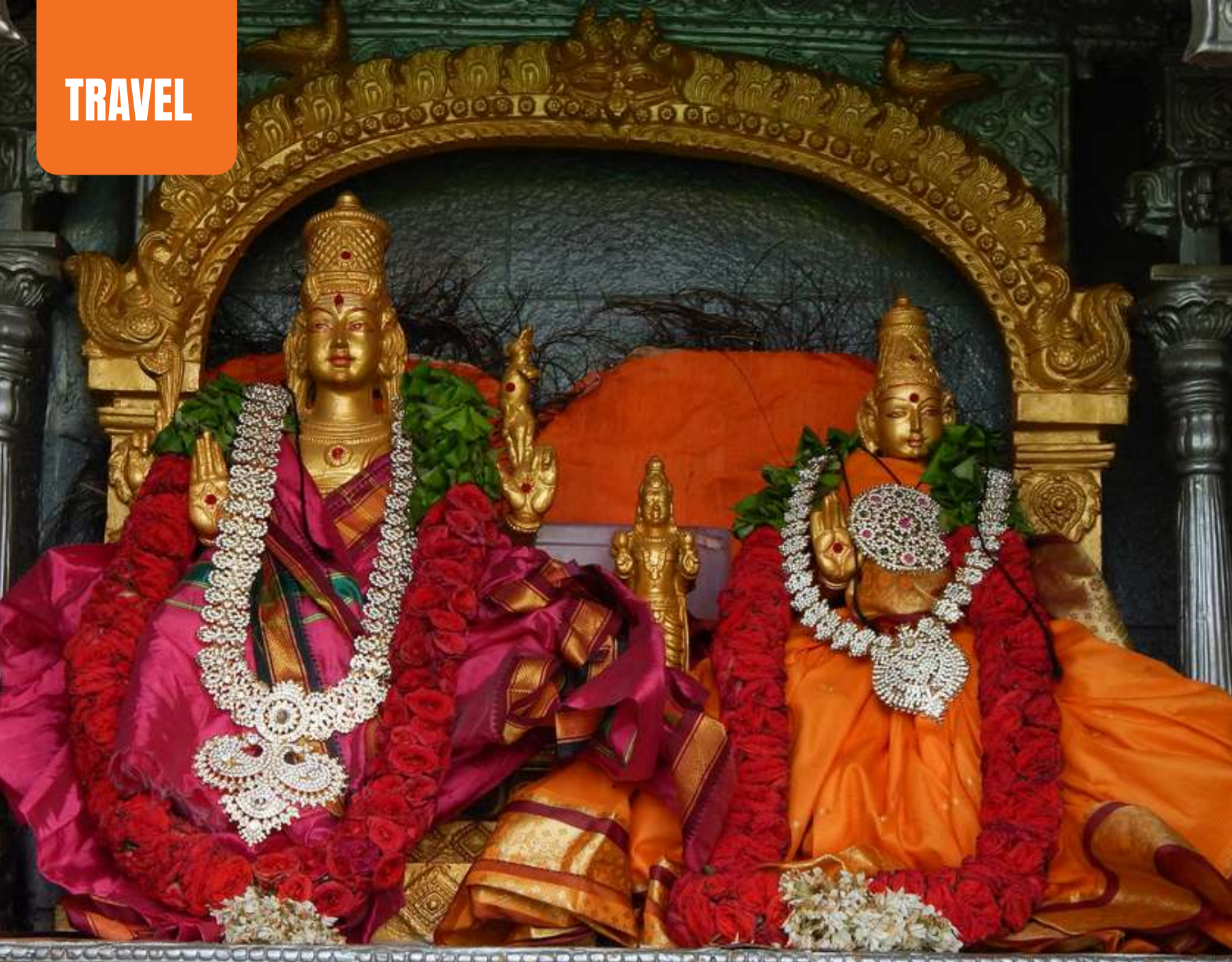
Sujan Sher Bagh, Rajasthan

Sujan Sher Bagh is a beautiful hotel that will take you a step closer to nature and wildlife. Located amid Ranthambore National Park where you can spot tigers in India. It has luxurious tents, and two suites with extraordinary experiences like Jungle cooking classes, special spa treatments and a breathtaking view of the wild nature. The tents are hand-stitched and adorned with luxurious furniture.

Price: Rs 61,360/- per night.

Location: Khiljipur, Rajasthan





India is different from the rest of the world because there are different cultures and religious beliefs, each having significant importance. Every God and Goddess have their shrine and there are many stories associated with them. In this highly religious country, Lord Shiva's wife, Goddess Sati has left a huge mark on history.

When Lord Shiva carried Goddess Sati's body and wandered, Lord Vishnu released his Sudarshan Chakra which made Sati's body divided into various parts. All these parts fell at various spots on the earth, and most of them are in India and outside of India as well. These sacred sites are called Shakthi Peethas. Here are the popular Shakthi Peethas that are outside India.

SHAKTHI PEETHAS OUTSIDE INDIA.



1. Sugandha Shakthi Peeth, Bangladesh

Sugandha Shakthi Peeth is dedicated to Goddess Sugandha or Devi Tara. It is located in the village of Shikapur. It is said that the nose of Sati fell here. Lord Shiva is worshipped as Traimbak. There is no proper information on who built this temple. This temple is famous for the Shiv Ratri festival. Thousands of devotees visit this temple every year to take blessings from the Devi Sugandha.

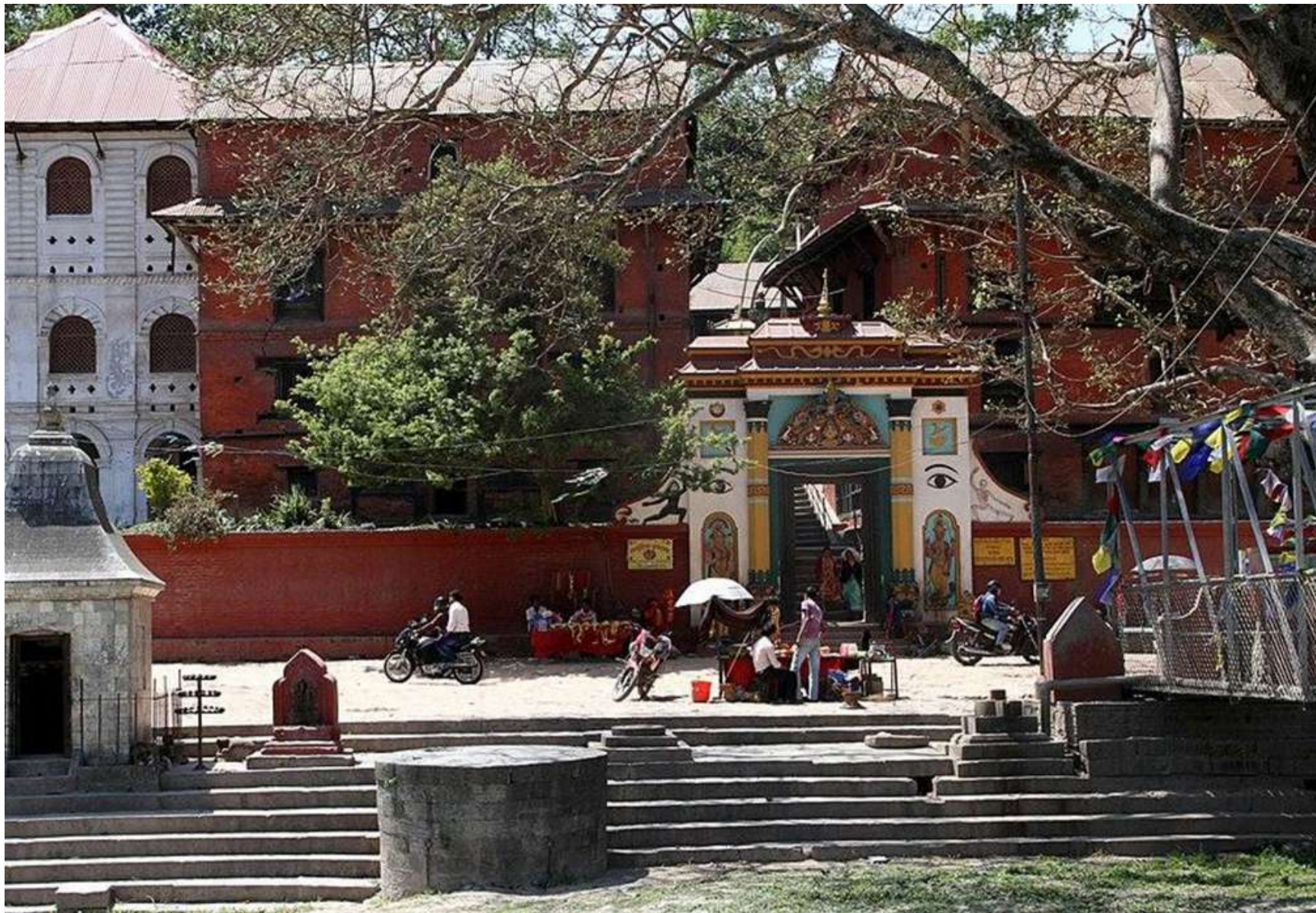
Temple Timings: 6 AM - 6 PM.

2. Hinglaj Devi, Pakistan

Over the past three decades, the Hinglaj Devi Temple has gained popularity and become a unifying point for Pakistan's Hindu communities. Hinglaj Yatra is the largest Hindu pilgrimage in Pakistan. Every year thousands of devotees take part in the yatra during the spring. It is believed that Devi Sati's head fell at this place. The shrine is inside a small natural cave. There is no manmade image of the goddess, there is a low mud altar that is smeared with sindoor.

Temple Timings: 5 AM - 10 PM.





3. Guhyeshwari Shakthi Peeth, Nepal

Guhyeshwari Temple is an important temple for Hindus and also for tantric worshippers. Guhyeshwari is a Shakthi Peetha where Devi Sati's knees have fallen. Here Goddess is worshipped as Mahamaya and Lord Shiva as Kapali. In the sacred texts of Kali Tantra and Shiva Tantra Rahasya, it is written that Guhyeshwari is an important place for gaining the power of the tantra.

Temple Timings: 7:30 AM - 7:30 PM

4. Manasa Shakthi Peeth, Tibet

Manasa Shakthi Peeth is located just beside the sacred water body known as Lake Manas Sarovar. Here, Goddess Mansa and Lord Amar are worshipped by the devotees. The right of Sati fell at this spot, and the goddess is also called Dakshayani. This is one of the purest and most religious spots in the world where people get their wishes fulfilled. During the journey to Mount Kailash, one can visit this temple and take the blessings of the Devi.

The best time to visit is May to Mid-October.



5. Shakthi Maha Lakshmi, Bangladesh

Mahalaxmi Shakthi Peeth located at Jaunpur Village is dedicated to the Goddess Mahalakshmi associated with the Bhairav form as Sambaranand. According to the belief, Devi Sati's neck fell at this place. Devotees believe that worshipping Goddess Mahalakshmi here will bring wealth and prosperity into their lives.

Temple Timings: 6 AM - 6 PM



6. Nainativu Nagapooshani Amman Temple, Sri Lanka

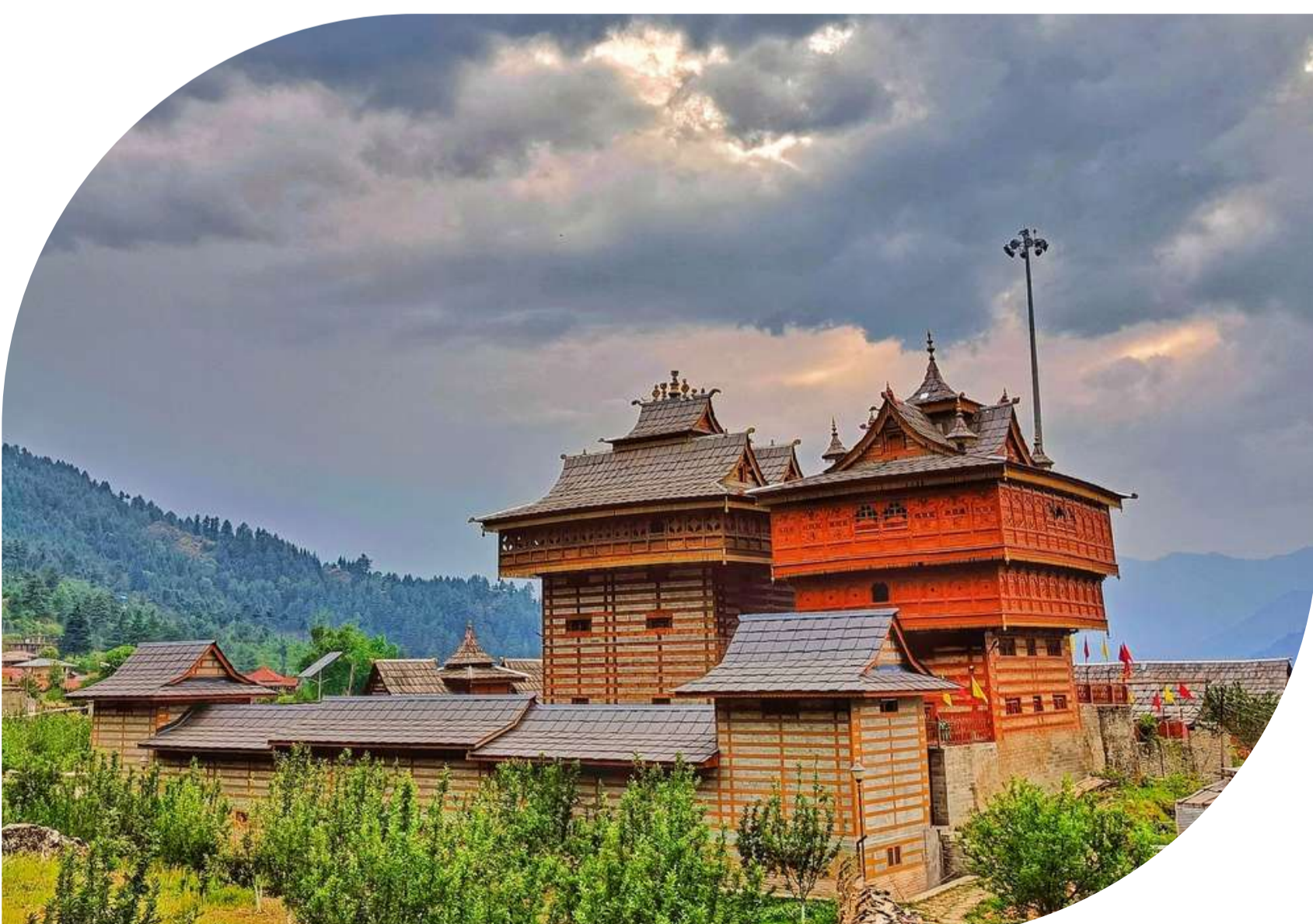
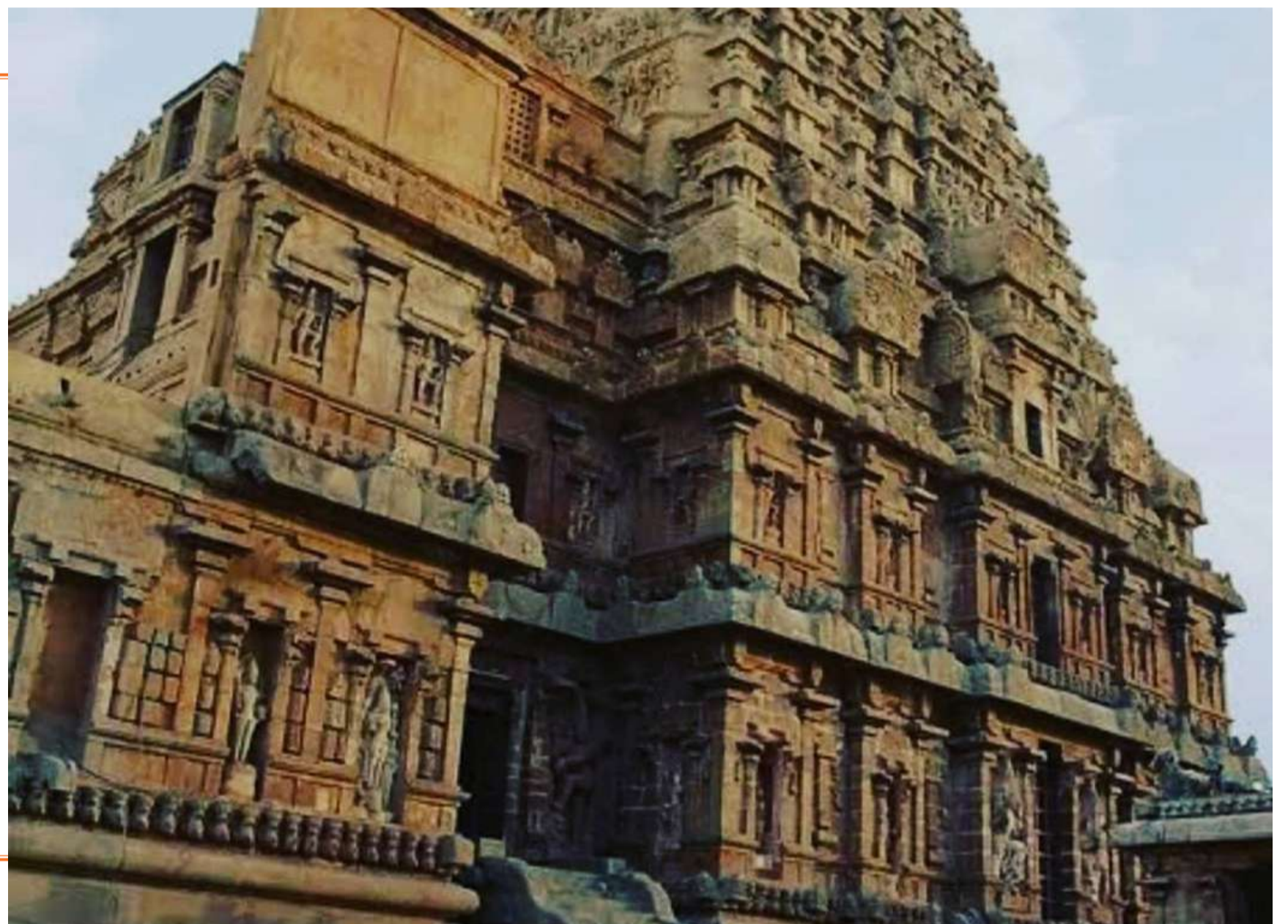
Near the capital of Jaffna, you will find the divine shrine of Goddess Sati where she resides in the form of Shakthi Indrakshi. It is believed that the anklets of Devi Sati fell at this spot and the temple is so popular because, during the Ramayana times, Ravana and Lord Rama used to worship Shakti Indrakshi here.

Temple Timings: 6 AM-1:30 PM, 4:30-6 PM

7. Shivaharkaray Shakthi Peeht, Pakistan

Located near the Parkai railway station in Karachi, Devi Sati is worshipped as Mahisha-Mardini (Slayer of the Demon Mahishasur). The temple is one of the two Shakthi Peethas in Pakistan. As per Hindu mythology, the three eyes of Devi Sati fell here. Lord Shiva is worshipped as Krodish (The angry form of the lord).

Temple Timings: 6 AM - 11:30 AM, 3 PM - 9 PM



These are some of the Shakthi Peethas located outside India. There are other places like Bhawani Shakthi Peeth and Jayanti Shakthi Peeth in Bangladesh. Devotees can visit these places without any problems and worship the goddess wholeheartedly.

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POPULAR V-DAY MOVIES TO WATCH

One of the best ways to spend some quality time with your loved one is by watching a good movie at home. There are so many types of romantic movies like epic romance, romcom, old school romance, modern-day love, and tearjerkers. **Dhanush Kumar** picks out some popular V-day movies to watch that are filled with emotions that will strike a chord in your heart.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Eternal Sunshine of the spotless mind is a favourite film from the 2000s. This film features an incredible performance by the duo Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet. The movie is about the hearts are connected, even though you don't remember your past. It is a unique love story that depicts the depths of love and if you are made for each other, then nothing can change it.

Cast: Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, Kirsten Dunst, Elijah Wood, Mark Ruffalo, and others

Director: Michel Gondry.



Sita Ramam

The latest sensation movie Sita Ramam has managed to win all the hearts of the audience with the innocence and purity of love. The movie has all the elements like joy and sadness, and sometimes you will blush while watching the movie. Dulquer Salmaan as Ram and Mrunal as Sita gave fantastic performances that have broken all the barriers of a typical romantic movie. Sita Ramam will stand out as a classic movie in Telugu cinema.

Cast: Dulquer Salmaan, Mrunal Thakur, Rashmika Mandanna, Sumanth, and others

Director: Hanu Raghavapudi.

La La Land

La La Land is a movie that makes the audience love every bit of it. The story, characters, acting, special effects, and music are the highlights of this fabulous movie. It captures the beautiful parts like helping one another to achieve their dreams and the difficulties and challenges during a relationship. The movie is wonderfully scripted, and it will leave you smiling at the end of the movie.

Cast: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, JK Simmons, John Legend, and others

Director: Damien Chazelle



Five Feet Apart

Five Feet Apart is a great movie with talented young actors. The movie is based on a novel written with the same name by Rachel Lippincott. The movie explores the problems faced by cystic fibrosis patients and how two youngsters fall in love with each other despite knowing that if they come closer than five feet to each other it can lead to cross-infection. It is realistic and so touching that it gets deep into your heart. .

Cast: Cole Sprouse, Haley Lu Richardson, Moises Arias, Emily Baldoni, and others

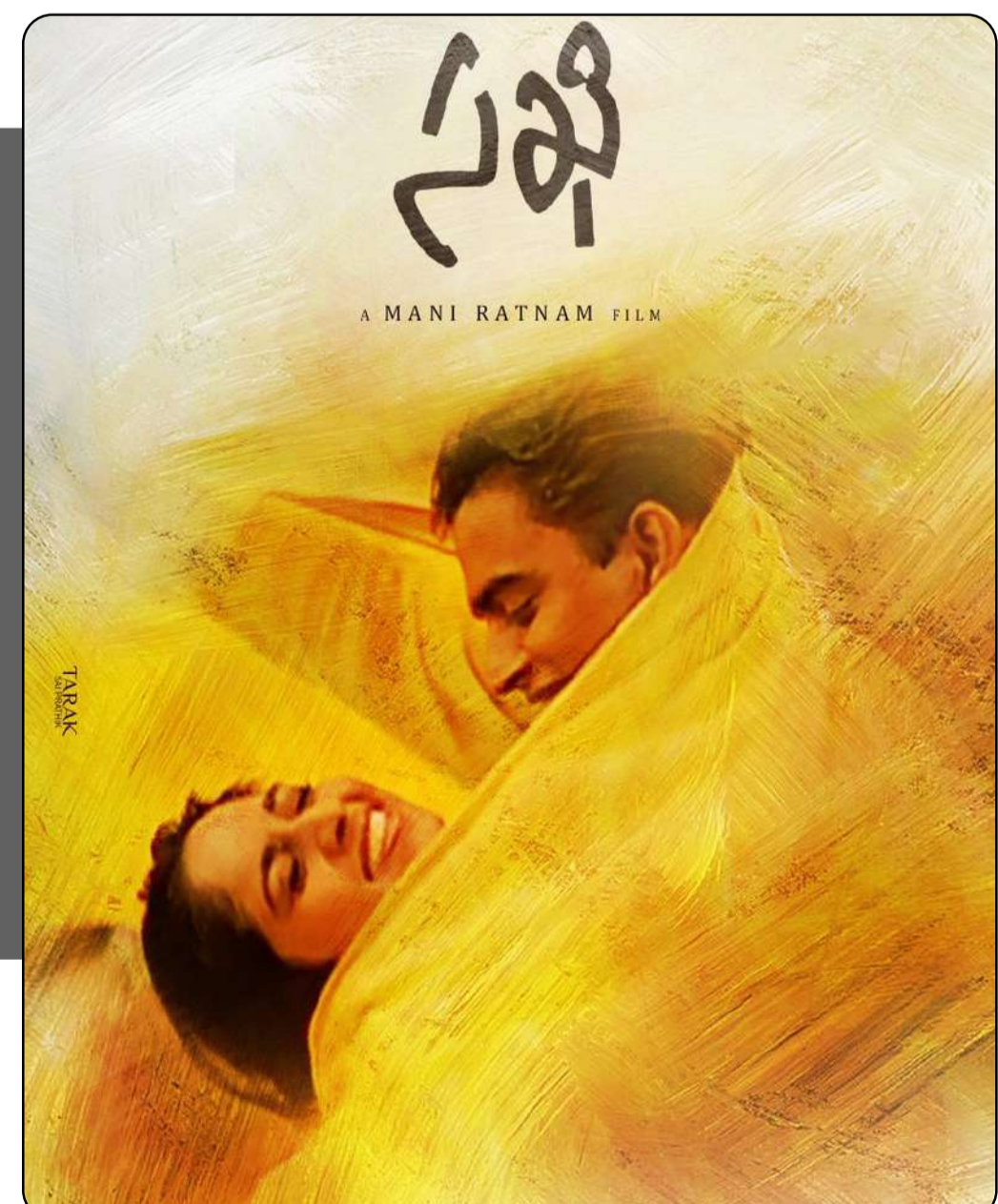
Director: Justin Baldoni

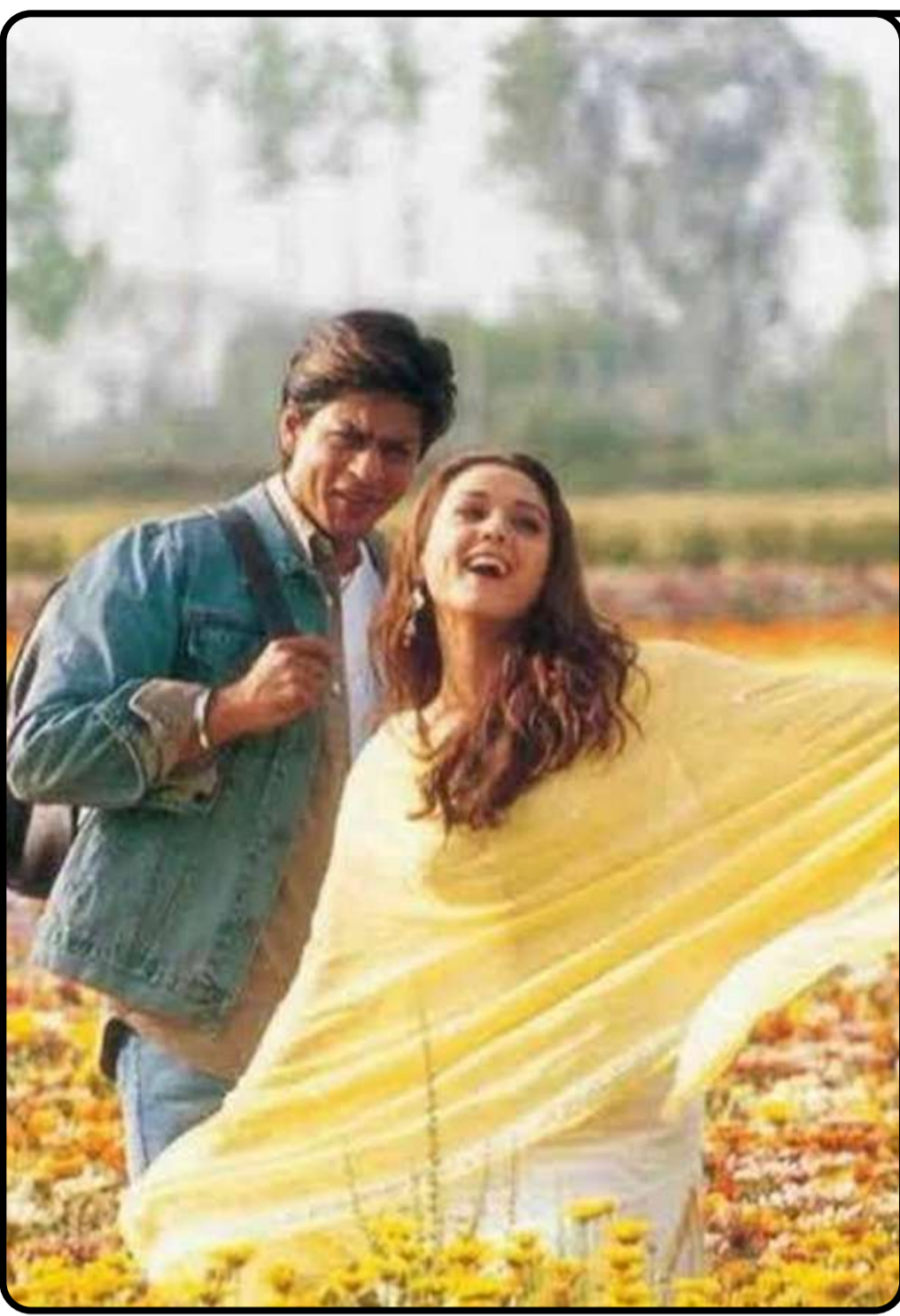
Sakhi

Mani Ratnam's classical love story Sakhi is one of the best love stories ever made. The movie revolves around a young couple who get married and how they fight against all the challenges and still stay together. A.R. Rahman's music and BGM are major highlights of the movie.

Cast: R. Madhavan, Shalini, Swarnamalya, Vivek, Jayasudha, and others

Director: Mani Ratnam.





Veer Zaara

Veer Zaara is a masterpiece movie that shows love doesn't have any boundaries or religion. The movie is backed by amazing performances of Shah Rukh Khan and Preity Zinta followed by soulful music. The movie touches on various themes like true love amid suffering and pain, the life of a prisoner, cultural diversity, and the unconditional nature of love.

Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta, Rani Mukherji, Amitabh Bachchan, Manoj Bajyapee, and others

Director: Yash Chopra

96

96 is a romantic movie that should be on your list. The movie is about two high school sweethearts who meet after 22 years at a school reunion. The performances by Vijay Sethupathi and Trisha are very natural and the director has managed to merge the beautiful memories of school times and the innocence of the first love that stays with us always.

Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Trisha Krishnan, Varsha Bollamma, Devadarshini, and others

Director: Prem Kumar



Fidaa

Fidaa is a heart-touching movie that is loaded with beautiful moments. The movie revolves around two completely different personalities and how they fall in love with each other. Sekhar Kammula has wonderfully directed a simple love story with good entertainment, and family values.

Cast: Varun Tej, Sai Pallavi, Sharnya Pradeep, Harshavardhan Rane, and others

Director: Sekhar Kammula



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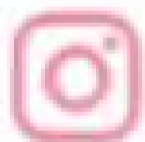


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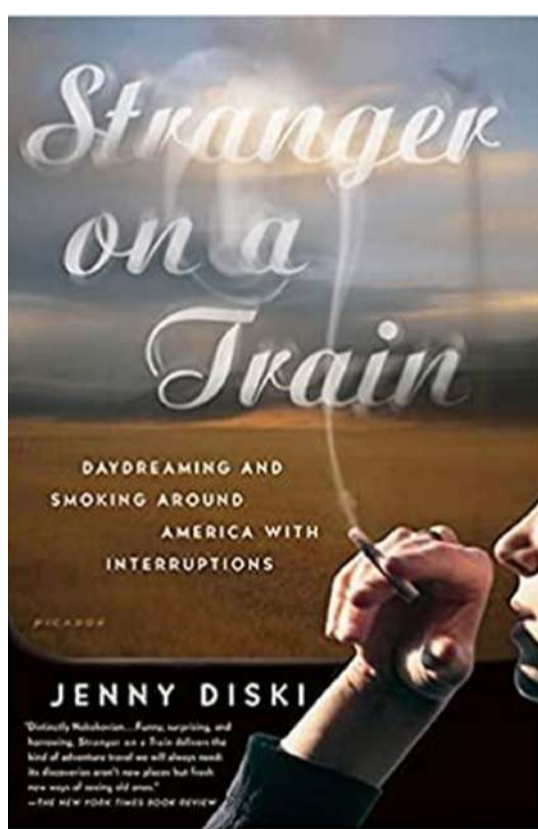


Best Travel Books To Read

Traveling is the best form of rewinding yourself. You can spend some quality time, and also get a chance to find yourself in the process. Books are also excellent travel companions. Over the past few years, travel books had an enormous influence on the way to venture out of the comfort zone and hit the road. If you can't travel, then you can also read the books of those who have traveled and found their life's purpose.

STRANGER ON A TRAIN

by Jenny Diski

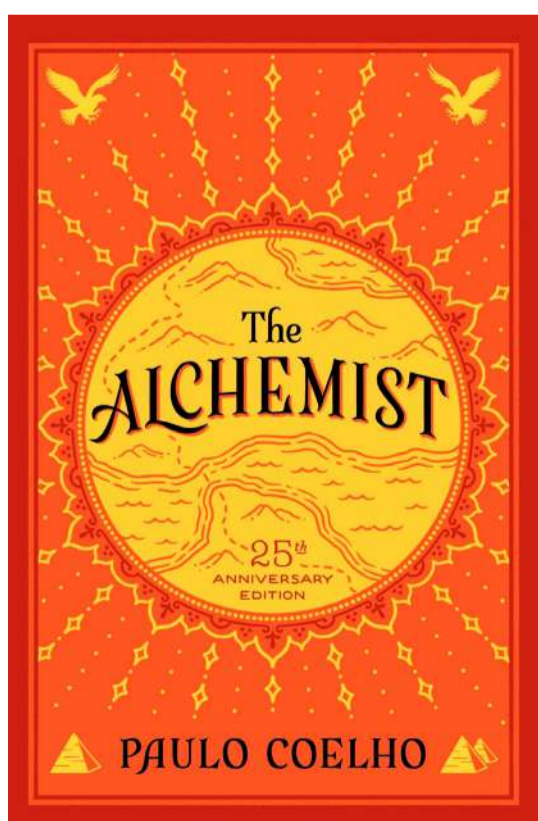


Stranger on a Train is one of the best travel books to read. It is a mix of a travel story and a biography. The British writer Jenny Diski connects the journey of two cross-country trips on Amtrak as her narrative. The book is much more than a travel story and she meets with a stranger during her travels that in turn would provoke a memory from her life. The novel is quite philosophical, and captivating, and has inspired many readers.

Price of the book: Rs 1,512/-

ALCHEMIST

by Paulo Coelho

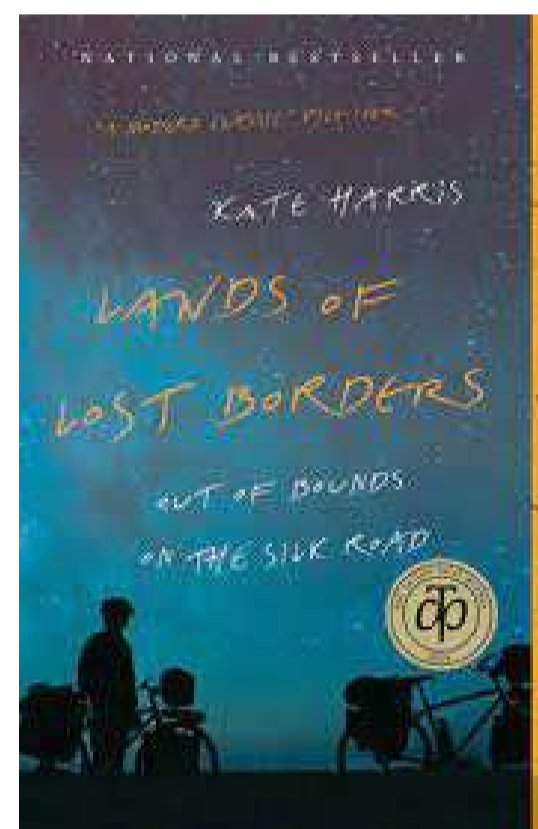


Paulo Coelho's enhancing novel Alchemist has inspired many readers around the world. The story is simple but it is filled with inspiring wisdom. In the book, Santiago, a shepherd boy from Mexico, journeys to Egypt's desert in search of a hidden treasure near the pyramids. The people he meets along the way teach him lessons that are far more valuable than any riches. The book will keep you hooked till the last page with a bit of suspense and fantasy.

Price of the book: Rs 228/-

LANDS OF LOST BORDERS

by Kate Harris

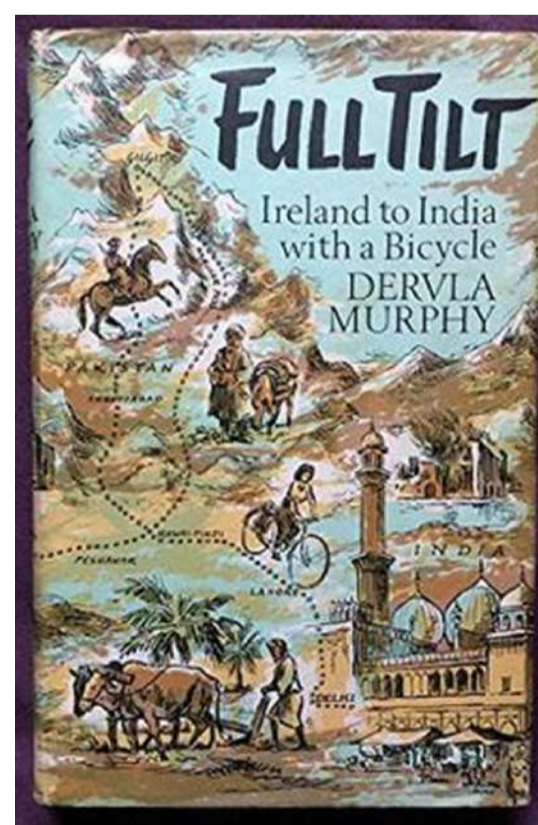


Lands of Lost Borders is a modern classic and it is the winner of the 2019 RBC Taylor Prize. With an intriguing travelogue and memoir about her bicycle trip along the Silk Road, Kate Harris makes her literary debut. The author describes the trials and tribulations of a bicycle trip into remote parts of the world. If you are looking for autobiographical adventure novels, this is the best book to read for your next trip.

Price of the book: Rs 839/-

FULL TILT: IRELAND TO INDIA WITH A BICYCLE

by Dervla Murphy

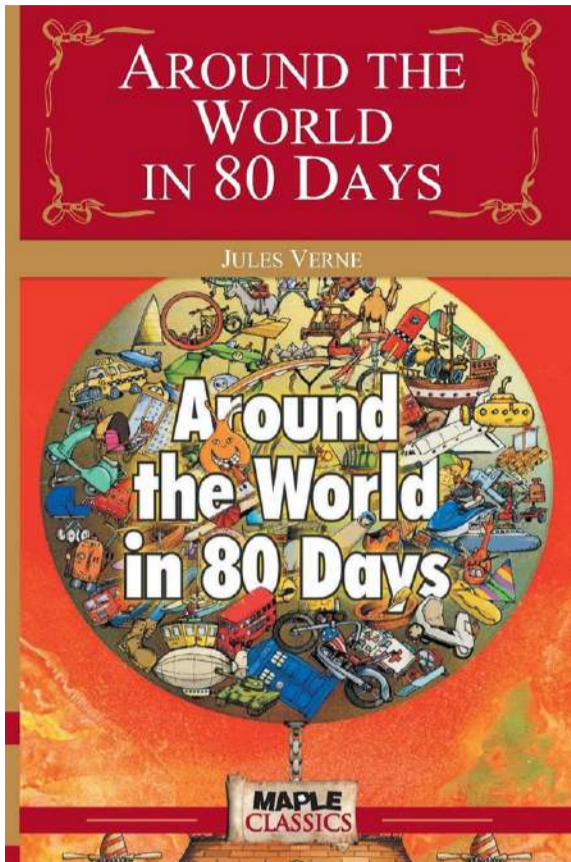


Dervla Murphy's travel journey is a highly recommended book. She secretly plans a trip to India. At the age of 31, in the year 1963, she sets off to India on a bicycle with an atlas. The amazing travel book is based on the daily diary that she kept while riding through the roads of Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The book is quite inspiring, and it will keep you awake until you finish it.

Price of the book: Rs 325/-

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

by Jules Verne

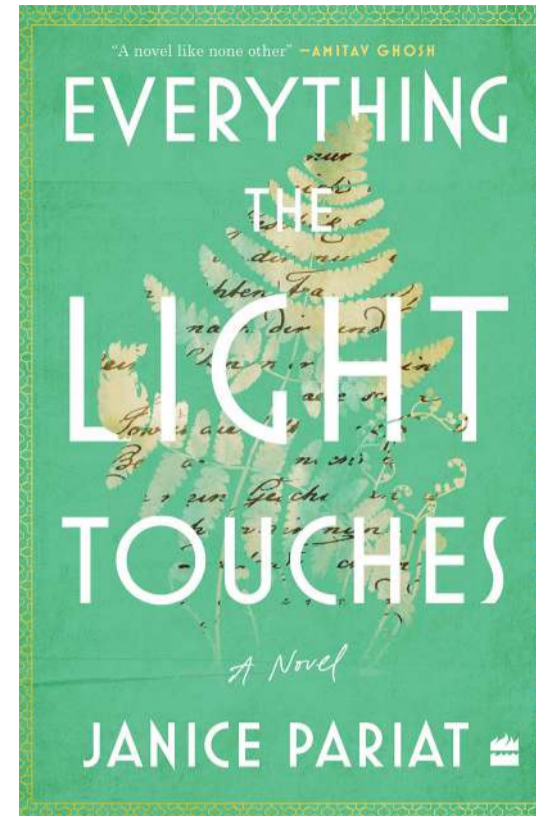


Price of the book: Rs 134/-

Around the World in 80 days is an excellent travel companion. It is an unforgettable classic travel story written by Jules Verne. The novel revolves around Phileas Fogg's bet, a thousand pounds that he will make the tour of the world in 80 days or less. Fogg travels across the four continents and different time zones on trains, steamers, and elephants. Even though there are worries and dilemmas thrown in his path, Phileas Fogg just keeps going completely focused on circumnavigating the globe in 80 days.

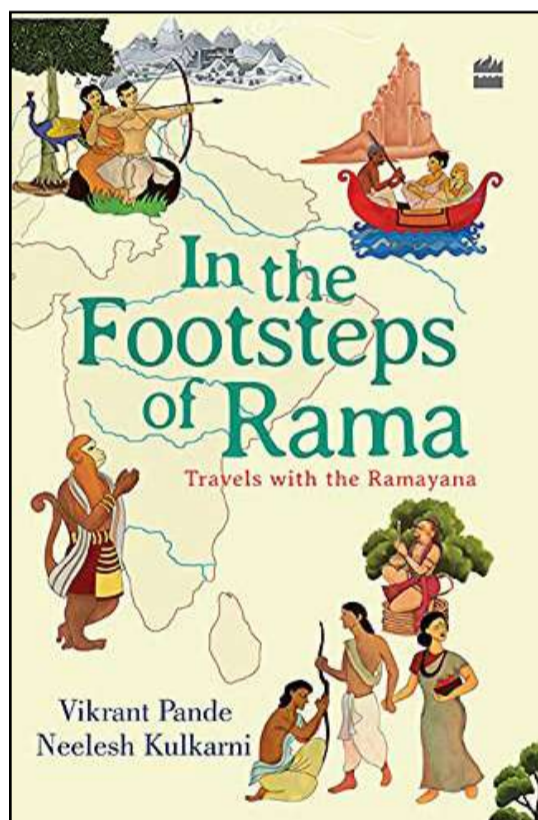
EVERYTHING THE LIGHT TOUCHES

by Janice Pariat



Price of the book: Rs 519/-

Everything the Light Touches by Janice Pariat is a magnificent story of travelers. The book is elegant and has philosophical values explained using the botany language. The story follows four people who are separated by time and place and share a love for traveling and ecology. The readers get utterly captivated by the poetic references, and the journeys of the four main characters which brings forth a sense of purpose.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF RAMA

by Vikrant Pande and Neelesh Kulkarni

In the footsteps of Rama is a fascinating book with stories sprinkled with folk tales. The book is written in a simple and engaging style. The book takes us on an amazing journey from Ayodhya to Sri Lanka identifying different places, landmarks, temples, rivers, and forests. This is an amazing book for travel readers to revisit the world of the Ramayana filled with epic tales and connectivity of the Ramayana story with local folklore.

Price of the book: Rs 470/-



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