

SEPTEMBER 2022

AN RP-SANJIV GOENKA GROUP PUBLICATION

HELLO



THE SUNBEATABLE

PARTH JINDAL

CHANGING THE GAME



omegawatches.com

CONSTELLATION COLLECTION

KAIA GERBER'S CHOICE

Surrounded by fashion from a very young age, Kaia Gerber is no stranger to the modelling world. While following her famous mother onto the most exclusive runways and photoshoots, she is now choosing to walk a unique path, bringing her own sense of style and personality to the role. It's a family passion, with a very bright future.



BOUTIQUES

New Delhi 41513255, 49991682 • Mumbai 9987958364,
9920202778 • Bangalore 40982106 • Chennai 28464092,
61910038 • Hyderabad 9169165656 • Kolkata 22870919
Pune 8180060755

www.omegawatches.com

KIARA ADVANI

With back-to-back successes, she's established herself as Bollywood's 'golden girl'. As HELLO! delves deep into her being, she shines in Anamika Khanna Couture, with the designer shedding light on her ever-evolving work



For the latest from the world of luxury and lifestyle, scan the QR code to check out our website and social media pages

12 ANUSHREE & PARTH JINDAL The school sweethearts, part of the multifaceted Jindal empire, share their enviable bond, alongside their personal journeys, at their modern Mumbai paradise

22 MASABA GUPTA HELLO! takes in the young designer-actor's mantra on leading life on her own terms — much like her fearless mum, Neena!

26 SHEFALI SHAH In a heart-to-heart, HELLO! discovers the talented actor's love for crime-thrillers from across the globe, as she animatedly talks about all things 'darling' to her

30 SUBHRAKANT PANDA One of the youngest incoming presidents of FICCI, the industrialist shares his vision for Odisha and the values that guided him to the top of the game

36 SAKSHI CHHABRA MITTAL Hailing from the illustrious Mittal family, this enterprising young lady joins HELLO! for a chat about everything from business to babies and how one really can have it all!

42 THE SISTERHOOD WORKBOOK Six sensational women from Mumbai, who enjoy a connect that transcends their flair for style and love of Prosecco, bond with HELLO! over some bubbly

64 CAMILLE VASQUEZ In an exclusive interview with HELLO!, the superstar lawyer shares her thoughts on making Johnny Depp smile again — and how she's dealing with 'overwhelming' newfound fame

68 KRUTIKA GHORPADE & AKSHAY BHANSALI In another HELLO! exclusive, the young royals share their delightful love story and what it's been like living in New York City post marriage

74 SOHA ALI KHAN The Pataudi princess talks motherhood, family, returning to acting after a long break and her 'retirement fund' with husband Kunal Kemmu

76 MADHUVANTI SINGH The brain behind Jaipur's newest heritage jewel, Surya Haveli, she takes HELLO! through her journey restoring the centuries-old structure into a luxury getaway

80 NACHIKET BARVE The designer celebrates his National Award win with HELLO!, while letting us in on the intricacies of costume designing and the experiences that shaped his fashion philosophy

90 DISHA PATANI Currently basking in the love coming her way for her latest movie, the nymph-like sensation lets her guard down — and HELLO! into her real world

104 A FLAVOURFUL AFFAIR HELLO! sets conversation ablaze with four grand dames of the Indian culinary scape — Amrita Raichand, Gauri Devidayal, Aditi Dugar and Shilarna Vaze

REGULARS

10	EDITOR'S LOUNGE	110	LUXE NEWS
33	INSIDE STORY	112	DIARY OF THE MONTH
52	BOOKMARK	113	NUMEROLOGY
82	GOOD LIVING	114	LAST WORD
89	HAUTE IN HELLO!		

“ We invite you to scan the QR codes embedded through the magazine, explore, peruse and revel in the delight. Until then, we hope you enjoy our September special! ”

AVARNA JAIN

Chairperson Editorial Board



As we herald in the festive season, HELLO! celebrates those who have carved out a niche for themselves in their unique, spectacular ways.

From ace couturiers Anamika Khanna and Tarun Tahiliani, to Bollywood's reigning queen Kiara Advani; from Anushree and Parth Jindal of the JSW Group to Sakshi Chhabra Mittal of the Bharti Airtel family; from the multi-phenate Masaba Gupta, who went from sought-after designer to sought-after OTT star, to the consummate Shefali Shah as well as National Award-winning designer Nachiket Barve...and many others. Each one of them has created a space that defines them and their work. Each one has sculpted their own identity. HELLO! is proud to bring you their stories.

With the pandemic behind us (we hope!), the one transition that it has forced upon us is the acceptance of technology and digitisation at a much faster rate than ever expected. Our website, in.hellomagazine.com, our Instagram handle, [@hellomagindia](https://www.instagram.com/hellomagindia), our YouTube channel, HELLO! India, and other social media platforms give you a deeper flavour of all that we cover. BTS videos, tête-à-têtes, exclusives and much more. We invite you to scan the QR codes embedded through the magazine, explore, peruse and revel in the delight. Until then, we hope you enjoy our September special!



To stay updated on everything from the world of fashion, beauty, business, luxury, lifestyle, weddings, culture, society and much more, scan the code!

Chairperson Editorial Board Avarna Jain

Editor Ruchika Mehta

ruchika.mehta@hello-india.co.in

Managing Editor Nayare Ali
Creative Director Avantikka Kilachand
Senior Fashion Editor Amber Tikari
Fashion Editor Sonam Poladia
Copy Chief Shraddha Chowdhury
Special Correspondent Vishwaveer Singh
Special Correspondent (Entertainment) Puja Talwar
Special Correspondent Neeva Jain
Junior stylist Anushree Sardesai

Head-Digital Aishwarya Dravid
Senior Features Writer Salva Mubarak
Junior Digital Writer Reisha Shetty
Social Media Manager Tanya Verma
SEO Manager Avaneesh Kumar

Senior Art Director Suresh Bhandary
Graphic Designer Dattatray Jadhav

Senior Production Manager Xavier Stanley Rosario

Editorial Contributors

Shobhaa De Celebrity columnist & author
Abu Jani & Sandeep Khosla Fashion designers
Rashmi Uday Singh Culinary expert & author
Dr Amin Jaffer Senior art curator
Roohi Jaikishan Fashion & lifestyle expert

Editorial

HELLO! India, Business Media Private Limited
(Corp Office: 1st Floor, Tower 3A,
DLF Corporate Park, DLF City, Phase III,
Gurugram, Haryana - 122 002
letterstoeditor@hello-india.co.in

Business Head Arun Singh

arun.singh@hello-india.co.in

National Head - Brand Solutions
Anita Anand
anita.anand@hello-india.co.in

Brand Solutions (West)
Atul Mehta
atul.mehta@hello-india.co.in

Brand Solutions (North)
Pooja Sharma
pooja.sharma@hello-india.co.in

Brand Solutions (East)
Bijoy Choudhury
bijoy.choudhury@hello-india.co.in

Brand Solutions (South)
Arun Vasudevan
arun.vasudevan@hello-india.co.in

Chief Manager - Marketing
Jaymin Dalal
jaymin.dalal@hello-india.co.in

Chief Manager - Marketing
Faarah Sarkari Patel
faarah.patel@hello-india.co.in

Digital Solutions
Pranav Kumar
pranav.kumar@hello-india.co.in

Circulation
Dhanpreet Zonal Head (North and South)
Amol Joshi Zonal Head (West and East)

Head Design - Advertising
Liju Varghese

Production
Nishant Sharma

Advertising
officeofbusinesshead@hello-india.co.in

Subscriptions

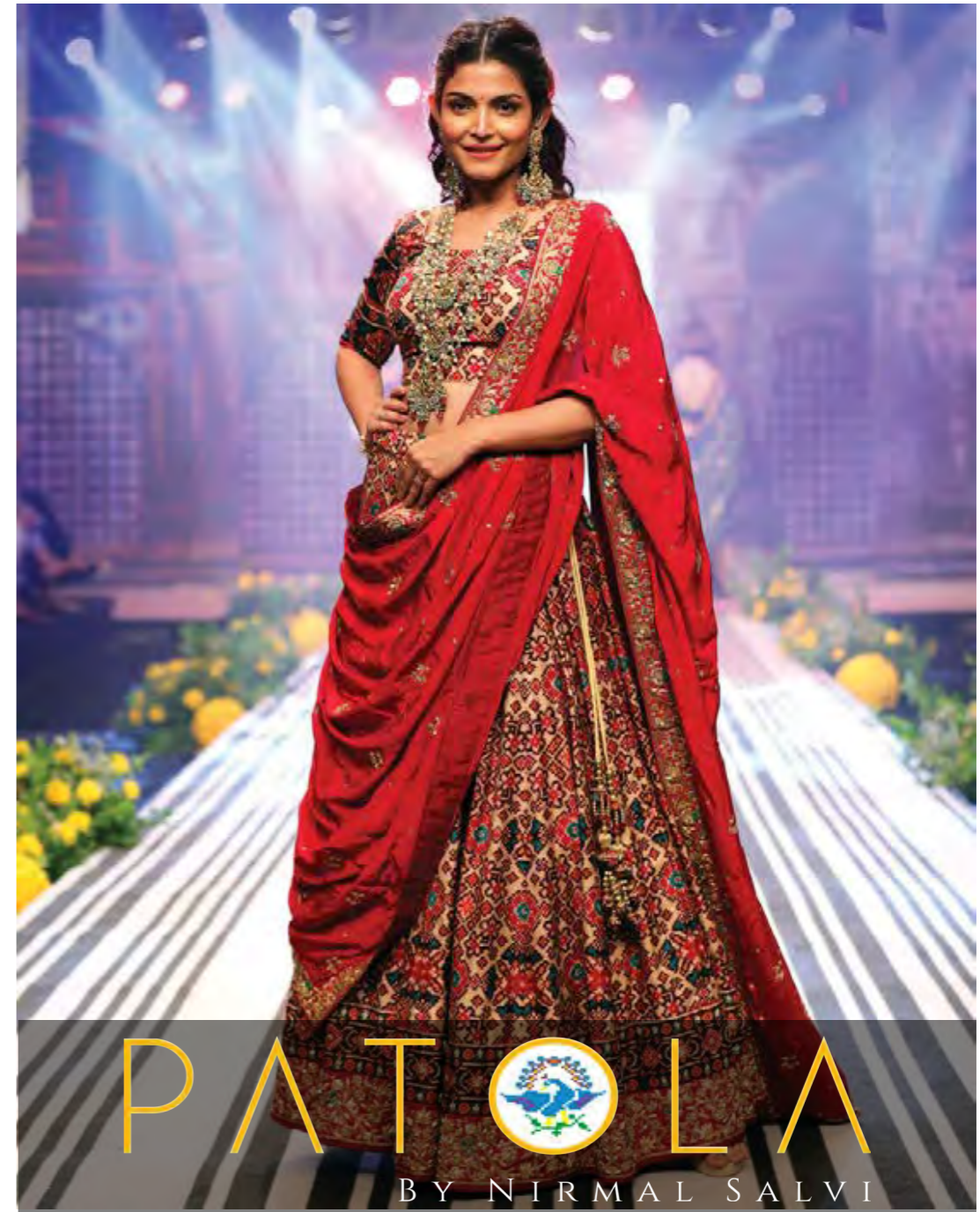
Customer Care, HELLO! India, Business Media Private Limited
1st Floor, Tower 3A, DLF Corporate Park, DLF City, Phase III, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 002
customer-care@hello-india.co.in



Volume 2, Issue 3, SEPTEMBER 2022 Monthly Published from Gurugram (Haryana) in English. Price: Rs 150 per copy
HELLO is a trademark of HOLA, S.L., Spain under license granted by HOLA, S.L., Calle Velázquez, 98, 28006 Madrid, Spain
RNI No: DELENG/2021/80708

© All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or part, in English or other languages prohibited. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage. Hello does not take responsibility for returning unsolicited publication material. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

Published and printed by Anil Bisht for and on behalf of Business Media Pvt. Ltd. Printed at Kala Jyothi Process Pvt Ltd, Plot No. CFC - 1&2, Survey No. 18, E-City, SEZ, General Industrial Park, Raviryal & Srinagar (Village), Maheswaram (M), Ranga Reddy District, TELANGANA - 501 359
Published at Business Media Pvt. Ltd., 1st Floor, Tower 3A, DLF Corporate Park, DLF City, Phase III, M.G. Road, Gurugram - 122 002. Editor: Ruchika Mehta



■ AHMEDABAD ■

A-104 Stellar,
Sindhu Bhavan Road, Bodakdev,
Ahmedabad - 380054
Ph. 97007 49000

■ MUMBAI ■

72, Bhulabhai Desai Marg,
Near Breach Candy Hospital,
Mumbai - 400026
Ph. 98199 28299

■ PATAN ■

Patolawala Farm House,
Outside Fatipal Gate
Patan - 384265

Original **GI 232 Certified** Patan Patola Sarees & Dupattas, Lehengas
Single Ikat Patola, Semi Patan Patola, Accessories, Menswear and Bandhani

☎ 98791 28888

📷 patola_bynirmalsalvi



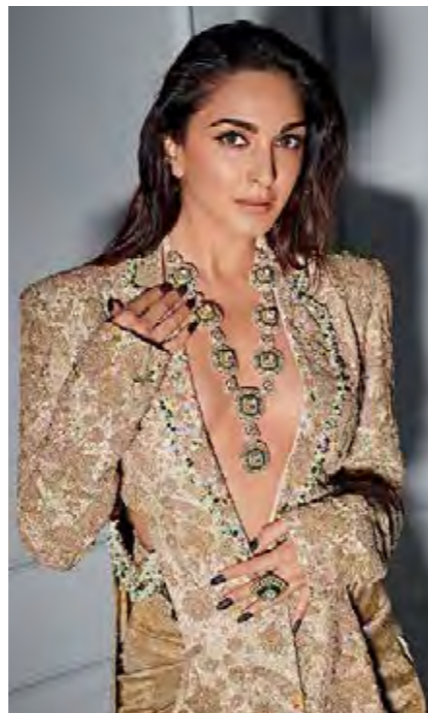
“As you get set for the festivities, HELLO!'s latest edition is here to help you with the best in all things haute and happening that'll make you look ravishing!”

Ruchika

RUCHIKA MEHTA
Editor

As the festive and wedding season sets in, fashion circles are buzzing. It's big business time for designers, with trend-watchers and forecasters also out with their yardsticks. Couture weeks are underway across the globe, while the one in India saw some fabulous new collections on display from the country's leading designers. With the latest trends taking centre stage for the next few months, we feature some of the best couturiers with their muses in HELLO!'s latest issue.

Our cover star is the beautiful and talented Kiara Advani playing muse to one of India's most coveted couturiers, Anamika Khanna. Kiara's the 'golden girl' of the moment, as she basks in the glory of back-to-back box office hits, at a time when Bollywood is reeling under consecutive poor performers. On top of her game, she has it all going for her — all while continuing to be the girl next door, with her coy smile and demure looks. As Kiara flaunts Anamika's stunning ensembles, she spills what's behind her success and why this is just the beginning of her golden road ahead.



Among our other fabulous features is an exclusive with Anushree and Parth Jindal, of the illustrious family behind the mammoth JSW Group. Parth's brainchild, Inspire Institute of Sport, has been honing some outstanding athletic talent like Olympic gold-winner Neeraj Chopra and freestyle wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik. Meanwhile, Anushree is on a quest to do something meaningful, lending financial support to women from rural India through her microfinance firm.

Also in our pages is the elusive Disha Patani, looking stunning in designer Tarun Tahiliani's latest collection, a perfect ode to the season. We also bring you insights into the fabulous lives of all those currently creating a buzz, including Masaba Gupta and Shefali Shah, besides the trends that emerged from the recently concluded India Couture Week. As you get set for the festivities, HELLO!'s latest edition is here to help you with the best in all things haute and happening that'll make you look ravishing!

Discover Unbridled Luxury At Our Flagship Boutique

Sir H.C. Dinshaw Building, 3rd Floor,
Opp. Horniman Circle Gardens, Fort, Mumbai.

Please call upon us to assist you
022 40028248



THAKORLAL HIRALAL

JEWELLERS OF DISTINCTION SINCE 1912

pranay@thakorlalthiralal.com | www.thakorlalthiralal.com

f /thakorlalthiralal | @thakorlalthiralal

The editor's choice for the best of the month in people, products, parties, places, fashion and style



JADE BY MONICA & KARISHMA UNVEILS NEW VEGAN LINE

Jade by Monica & Karishma, a conscious couture label that's known for its unique style featuring traditional Indian crafts in a contemporary format, has unveiled their first collection of vegan accessories, titled "Made For Love". The new edit is an exquisite offering from the heart that reflects a cross-cultural connect, a conversation between craft and consciousness, savoir-faire and style. Taking forward Jade's legacy of enduring and revolutionary craftsmanship, these accessories are nourished by Monica's vision of sustainable chic.



GIORGIO ARMANI'S SS23 SHOWCASE WAS A STARRY AFFAIR

Italian luxury fashion house Giorgio Armani recently showcased its SS23 Men's Fashion Show. The haute couture event was a starry affair, with renowned actors and artists making their glam presence felt as esteemed guests. The coveted list included such names as Mads Mikkelsen, the new face of the Armani Code Regé-Jean Page, Oscar-winning director Giuseppe Tornatore and many others who made this a much-talked-about, star-studded evening.

TIFFANY KNOT SEEKS INSPIRATION FROM NYC

A striking new collection joins Tiffany & Co's arsenal of iconic creations: Tiffany Knot. A nod of respect to Tiffany's hometown, the designs are inspired by the chain-link, an architectural symbol found in the streets of New York City. Transforming the familiar industrial shape into something that's modern and refined, Tiffany artistically infused the energy of the city into its new jewellery collection. An interplay of opposites, Tiffany Knot's offerings are a contrast of smooth organic forms, with striking jagged angles on bracelets, rings, pendants, necklaces and earrings.



AMINA MUADDI'S LATEST DROP IS AN ODE TO HER ROOTS

Amina Muaddi has honoured her Arab ancestry through a new campaign. Looking to her heritage as her main source for inspiration, the Jordanian-Romanian accessories designer calls this campaign an ode to her Arab heritage. The new Drop 2/22 campaign features supermodel Imaan Hammam, photographer Dexter Navy and stylist Jahleel Weaver. The campaign was shot in Cairo, enabling Muaddi to honour her cultural background and narrate a story of "what femininity means today".

KATE SPADE'S NEW TENNIS NOVELTY COLLECTION IS ONE FOR KEEPS

The Tennis Novelty Collection by Kate Spade New York is the perfect way to get your tennis style quotient in check — though its handbags and accessories can be worn for a variety of occasions! It's got statement pieces to match multiple looks this season, a playful ode to the favourite sport with a range of handbags, phone cases and shoes. Crafted with care, customers who swear by classy fashion will surely love this new sporty line!



The new
Sensation
in town

ENGAGE
L'AMANTE

CLICK AND BRUSH PERFUME PEN

Discover a refined new way to perfume yourself with Engage L'amante Click & Brush Perfume Pen. Paint the canvas of your body with a new fragrance.



CLICK
When using for the first time, click 5-10 times to soak your perfume brush with fragrance gel.

BRUSH
Apply it to your wrists, neck or back of the ears.

GO
An elegant and easy to carry accessory, ideal for fragrant touch ups throughout the day.

NOW AVAILABLE ON LEADING E-COM PLATFORMS

ANUSHREE & PARTH JINDAL

A MODERN MATCH WITH AN
OLD-SCHOOL LOVE STORY

THEY'RE THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE MULTIFACETED JINDAL EMPIRE. SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS, HE WAS A LOVE-STRUCK CORPORATE PRINCELING WHO FOUND HIS PRINCESS AT THE AGE OF 10 — THAT TOO AT HIS NANI'S HOUSE! OVER 14 YEARS, THEIR BOND HAS FLOWERED ALONGSIDE THEIR PERSONAL JOURNEYS. HELLO! MET THE HIGHLY RECLUSIVE COUPLE IN THEIR MODERN MUMBAI PARADISE

The new Jindal family home in South Mumbai is an unhurried ode to modern sensibilities. Its rarefied spaces whisper through a mise-en-scene of pastel rugs, quirky furniture, futuristic lighting and the truest of luxuries — floor-to-ceiling bay windows offering spectacular sea views. Each work of art feels alive in this muted design language, awash in natural light. As for the artists — what a riotous assembly! While there's an iconic Bharti Kher, there's also a rebellious outlay of the lesser seen Rana Begum, Astha Butail, Annie Morris, Idris Khan, Tanya Goel and Fred Eerdekens.

But then, let's not forget that the Jindals are planets apart from the nouveau riche galaxies sprawled around the city, clamouring for 'profitable' Progressives and Masters. As Anushree Jindal shares, "The art is mostly curated by us; my mother-in-law Sangita Jindal is always there to guide us. She told us, 'You choose what you like. Go for young, fun artwork. My collection of Masters is there for you to put up any time.'"

True enough, as we see two SH Razas in the audio-visual room where we chat.

One can't help noting the warmth, humility and approachability of Anushree and Parth Jindal. This is the third generation of an epic corporate family founded by a titan like OP Jindal, whose JSW Group,

The quintessential power couple, Anushree and Parth Jindal have been together for over 14 years! In their beautifully lit, sea-facing home in Mumbai, the couple are all smiles for the camera — Anushree in an Alaïa dress with a cut-out belt, teamed with heels from Christian Louboutin, and Parth in a Kiton shirt under a navy suit from Zegna and Tom Ford shoes

“What I really learned from my grandfather, OP Jindal, is to always lead by example. I never expect someone to do what I’m not comfortable doing”
– Parth Jindal



An avid traveller, Parth has scaled Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Mount Elbrus in Russia, Naya Kanga in Nepal and Mount McKinley in Alaska. He next wants to climb Aconcagua in Argentina. At ease in his Mumbai home, he looks smart in an Etro T-shirt, teamed with denims from DSquared, a Kiton jacket and sneakers from Harrys Shoes

“The proposal was such an emotional, sentimental moment. He had ‘Will you marry me’ erupt in flames. I was very overwhelmed!”
– Anushree Jindal

over time, became synonymous with businesses like JSW Energy, JSW Steel and, more recently, JSW Cement and JSW Paints, among other core manufacturing ventures.

Now, thanks to the globally exposed and marketing upskills of Parth Jindal, the JSW Group has not only seen resurrected brand power in older core ventures, but has also gained an appetite for “risk diversification”. One such venture is the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) by JSW, which sponsors and trains more than 120 sportspersons in different disciplines and has brought India much pride at the Olympics, with Neeraj Chopra winning a gold and freestyle wrestlers like Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik also adding to India’s medal counts.

“Over 20 athletes trained at IIS have won more than 15 medals for India in the Commonwealth Games. It’s helped the JSW brand in more ways than one,” shares Parth.

So here are the big questions: What has Parth’s evolutionary trajectory been like? As best friends, husband and wife, young parents — he’s a multiple award-winning business leader, and she’s an impassioned social entrepreneur — how do Anushree and Parth walk the Jindal talk? How deeply embedded are the values and patriotic sentiments of the late OP Jindal, and other paterfamilias, in this generation? We find out...

What were your formative influences, preceding your journey of carrying the Jindal legacy into such a disruptive world?

Parth Jindal: There’s a famous saying that goes, “The first generation creates, the second generation grows, and the third generation destroys.” I’m the third generation! (Laughs) Yes, one can easily become complacent, thanks to the achievements of our earlier generations. But it was at business school where I realised that if one rests on past laurels, one could easily become irrelevant. I completed my MBA at Harvard Business School, which prepared me for our world, disruptions notwithstanding. We were exposed to case studies of various businesses to understand strategy, globalisation, disruption as well as what worked and what failed. I grew up walking around our factories with my grandfather, OP Jindal, my father Sajjan Jindal and all my uncles. That particular generation was all about being entrepreneurs and building from scratch. After finishing B-school, since I was coming into an already established business, my role was not only about entrepreneurship, but also about good leadership, managing people and the expectations of our shareholders, employees and family, and understanding risk diversification.



Inspired by Muhammad Yunus’ work, Anushree hopes to help underprivileged Indian rural women through her microfinance business venture. Posing before a painting, she looks elegant in a top from Alexis paired with a Dries van Noten skirt and Christian Louboutin heels

“One could become complacent due to the achievements of the earlier generation. But it was at B-school where I realised that if we try to rest on past laurels, one could easily become irrelevant”
– Parth Jindal

Anushree Jindal: My father hails from a well-established diamond family, hugely influenced by Gandhiji who often stayed at our house with my great-grandfather, Nanalal Jasani, in the 40s, brainstorming politics and philanthropy. My mom’s family background was essentially industrial. My maternal grandfather, Nimjibhai Kapadia, owned Kohinoor Mills (until it got nationalised) and several other major companies.

Both sides of my family were strong influences in my life... Being surrounded by strong women like my mother, who’s a pivotal force in my life, inspired me at a personal level to want to do something meaningful. Growing up in India, I’ve seen so much inequality all around me; it troubled me. I wanted to do my bit to empower women and help bring them out of severe poverty.

When I was 18, my uncle — my mother’s late brother — gifted me this book on microfinance. This was the time when Muhammad Yunus’ work and Grameen Bank’s initiatives were gaining recognition. Since then, I dreamed of starting a microfinance company. In college, I organised a fundraiser to distribute solar lanterns in non-electrified parts of rural Maharashtra. I personally went on these distribution drives and met these women in their natural environment. They were so strong, hard-working and ambitious, even without formal education. They all had a fire in them. I knew then that I wanted to do something where I could help these women.

Thereafter, I went to the London School of Economics for my masters and learned about the best business practices, with a focus on what felt relevant to India. Before launching my business I also did a course on microfinance at Harvard Kennedy School, which enabled me to build my venture, Svamaan Financial Services, on a strong, purposeful foundation.

Tell us about some inspiring milestones from your journeys.

PJ: When I returned from Brown University, we had incurred losses in JSW Steel’s US operations. In India, we were recording losses at JSW Cement and in our IT business. I wanted to turn these sleeper businesses into galloping successes! My father asked me what I needed from them, to which I had said I’d get back to him. I joined the sales and marketing division of the group. After my father assigned me the task of finding out why Tata Steel could command such a large premium over JSW Steel, I undertook a detailed market study and realised that this was because of its sheer brand value. From the tea you drink, the salt you eat, the TV network you watch, the car you drive — everything has a Tata brand connect in India! I remember telling my Dad, “The brand is so powerful; people say we only build our house once, so we want to use Tata Steel.” We needed to rebrand JSW Steel. There



Cosy in their dining room, Anushree and Parth complement each other in their respective ensembles. She's pretty and poised in a top from Alexis, skirt from Dries van Noten and shoes from Christian Louboutin. He's dapper in Rag & Bone denims, paired with a Canali T-shirt, Brunello Cucinelli jacket and Zegna shoes

was also a lot of confusion regarding the Jindal tag; people wondered, “Which Jindal is it?” In the cement business, we competed with Birla, Ambuja and all the big brands. It was my strong belief that there was no better way to build our brand than through sports.

AJ: At Svamaan, we give rural women small-ticket loans. These are women with no credit rating or credit history, so no banks would really extend them any aid. If they went to money lenders, they’d get loans at high interest rates, which would ultimately become burdensome. These women are mostly mothers and wives, not women with formal vocational training. Some are wives of

autorickshaw owners, or drivers, or farmers who drink too much. Some are SME owners, like small *kiraana* shops, or tailors, with little income, but they still need financial backing. Hence, being an integral part of their journey is extremely special and fulfilling to me.

Another big milestone for me was building the two temples near JSW Cement factories in Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh, and Salboni in West Bengal. In both cases, we engaged with the local communities and found out which deity they believed in. The idea was to give them a pious place of worship, and I feel immense gratitude to have been able to facilitate this! In Andhra, we

built a Lord Balaji temple inspired by Tirupati, and in Bengal, we constructed a Maa Kali temple. In Nandyal, through the process of building the temple, we were also able to restore an untapped underground water resource that helped rejuvenate agricultural produce in the region.

Parth, does your sports institute also align with your family’s love of sport?

PJ: Yes, it does. Sports has always been close to our hearts. When I say ‘our’, I mean my *mama*, *chachas* and my dad. We’re a sports-loving family. I was troubled by the fact that a country of 1.3 billion wasn’t winning too many Olympic medals. That’s

why I wanted to build an institute that would groom India’s youth to compete at the Olympics. When we started these discussions in 2012, that’s what I really wanted to change. I felt people would start associating JSW with Olympic sports if we could contribute to India winning medals. I took this idea to the board at JSW Steel, which was finally approved in November 2014, and we started construction right away. The institute was launched in 2017. It’s done extremely well, if you consider our achievements since, and it’s definitely helped the JSW brand in more ways than one. Today, there’s no price difference between JSW Steel and Tata Steel across all our product portfolios! In fact,

we’re now larger than Tata Steel as a company! Once this happened, we felt it was time to get into the commercial aspect of sport. So next came our Bengaluru FC football team, followed by the Haryana Steelers, our pro-kabaddi team, and finally, IPL’s Delhi Capitals.

Your grandfather, OP Jindal, was a legend. What did you learn from him?

PJ: *Babaji* was one of the most inspirational people I’ve ever met. He was a farmer’s son. He wasn’t educated but went on to build steel plants and create one of India’s largest steel conglomerates. I learned from him to lead by example, and never

"Growing up in India, I've seen so much inequality all around me; it troubled me. I wanted to do my bit to empower women and help bring them out of severe poverty"
– Anushree Jindal

Ambitious and driven, Anushree's bucket list is an extensive yet purposeful list of hopes and dreams. She wishes to one day get a seat on the Virgin Galactic spaceflight, understand the *chakras*, watch the Northern Lights, become a certified skier, swim in a hot spring, learn French, go for a Coldplay concert, catch a volcano erupt and go camping with her kids. Here, she looks lovely in a gorgeous Zimmermann dress, teamed with heels from Mach & Mach

expect someone to do something I wasn't willing to do myself. One of the finest anecdotes I heard about him goes like this: We have a factory outside Mumbai in Vasind. In the 1980s, Datta Samant was a powerful politician and head of the trade union. There was a drive in our factory to get the workforce unionised. When my grandfather visited Vasind from Hisar, the workers told him he had to speak to their leader if he wanted to speak to them. But my grandfather told them, "We don't believe in unions, and this factory won't operate with a union." When the labourers threatened to not turn up for work the next day onwards, he literally closed the gates to the factory, went to Samant's house and said, "This is your factory now. You please run it. I'm not involved."

When he came home and narrated the incident

to my father, Dad was taken aback because we had invested so much in this unit. To this, he said, "If they can run it better than me, then let them run it! If they want me back, there will be no union." He told my father to give them seven days, and that if they returned the factory to him, we'd have nothing to worry about. Within four days, they came running back to him, saying "Sir, without you, we cannot run this!" So my father told them that there was no place for a union in any Jindal factory, and as long as they agreed, they could return to work. Since that day, there's never been any union at any of our plants.

Getting more personal... How did the two of you meet and recognise each other as soulmates?

Steering the JSW Group to new heights, Parth dreams of one day meeting Elon Musk – for 'he thinks 100 years ahead!' – and Donald Trump – 'I like the miles his journey has covered. From a businessman who went bankrupt thrice to becoming a successful businessman, a reality TV star and finally the President of the US!' Here, he's seen with their playful Goldendoodle, Skye

PJ: Anushree and I both studied at Cathedral and John Connon School in Mumbai. She was in my cousin's class. I'd see her at my *nani's* house, where she'd come over to meet my cousin, who she was good friends with. Our school organised a ski camp that we both attended when we were around 10 years old. We eventually got together when we were both 18. So we've known each other our entire life! (Laughs)

AJ: It's been 14 years! We've created beautiful memories while growing together as individuals. Every stage of our relationship has had its highlights. For instance, I remember when we were in a long-distance relationship — I was based in Mumbai and London, and he was in Boston — we'd try to meet in London. Those were really good, fun times. Things have evolved since then.



"I was troubled by the fact that a country of 1.3 billion wasn't winning too many Olympic medals. That's why I wanted to build an institute that'd groom India's youth to compete in the Olympics"
— Parth Jindal

Today, all our energy is focused on bringing up our kids. They are the fulcrum of our lives! So every stage of life has had its special moments.

How did you propose, and how did that moment feel?

PJ: Very dramatic! Extremely so. Our life is actually like a movie screenplay. I was at Harvard, and she was doing her masters from London. I knew her parents were visiting, and we had been dating for seven years by then. I felt the time was right to take our relationship to the next level. So I decided to visit her and had even asked her father for a drink in private. In his hotel lobby, we had a drink, and I told him, 'Uncle, I really love your daughter, and I want to propose to her. Are you ok with that?' He just laughed at the innocence of the entire matter and gave me the green light, 'OK, go ahead.' I told him I wanted to take Anushree to Courchevel to propose. Even though he agreed to the idea, he made sure I'd check with her mother first.

So the next day, we went to Courchevel. Anushree and I had never travelled alone together, so she had probably figured out why we were there. I wanted to do something memorable, which is how I got the idea to propose to her on a mountaintop! There was this one restaurant, below which there was a balcony of sorts. There, in wood, I wanted to have the words 'Will you marry me' carved and erupt in flames. We were supposed to go there after dinner, where I'd go down on one knee and pop the question. All of this was planned for the first night,



and we were to stay another before returning to London. But that night, there was a really strong blizzard, and I couldn't do anything!

Anushree was completely puzzled. So the next day, with better weather, we went skiing, returned, and I invited her to go snow-mobiling with me. I later took her up to the restaurant. We had dinner, I steered her to the balcony, the fire was started, the

music began to play, and I went down on one knee and proposed to her!

AJ: I had an inkling that something was going to happen, especially since we had never gone on a trip together before this! When we got there, he just wasn't popping the question! I was wondering what was going on. He actually proposed when I was least expecting it. We went to this restaurant, high up in the Alps, on a snowmobile in the middle of a snowstorm. I didn't cry when he proposed, but it was such an emotional, sentimental moment. He had 'Will you marry me' erupt in flames. I was very overwhelmed! It was truly magical.

The fairy-tale proposal has since been followed by six fairy-tale years, as Parth spread his wings in the family businesses and took the legacy forward by leading the diversification of the JSW Group. Anushree, on the other hand, fulfils her home responsibilities while running her microfinance business. She's busy being mom to their two children, Ayana, their three-year-old daughter, and six-month-old Vivaan, a pandemic baby! We see in them both the microcosm of a young nation propelling itself forward internally and on the world stage, while nurturing a fourth generation of industrious, visionary little Jindals! 🇮🇳

INTERVIEW: SANGEETA WADDHWANI
 PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN MARTIS
 CREATIVE DIRECTION: AVANTIKKA KILACHAND
 FASHION EDITOR: SONAM POLADIA
 JUNIOR STYLIST: ANUSHREE SARDESAI
 MAKEUP: PRIYA TODARWAL

Gioia is truly one of a kind. Made with love and care, its timeless styles lay emphasis on the brand's craftsmanship and make sure to resonate with a happy, bright and vibrant aesthetic.

The pandemic brought with it a number of challenges and learnings that provided Gioia its foundation, plying the team with insight into the need of the hour in the industry. Hit with the epiphany that customers immersed themselves too much into fast fashion and indulged in things they didn't need, they realised that the core of a good product lay in its quality.

With this, Gioia was born, etched with the principle of sustainability and the fabrication of timeless, classic pieces that don't need upgrades, so to speak, with the season.

"I strongly believe that women need to be independent and happy," says Diksha Bhatia, who co-founded the brand with son Vashisht Bhatia.

Stressing the importance of looking for happiness within rather than outside of ourselves, the mother-son duo followed this sentiment to co-found Gioia and conceptualise their first collection, the FW21 line, launched in November 2021.

Soon, the Bhatias realised that this immersive work with handbags under the Gioia banner is what made them happy.



A Handful of 'Joy'

The hottest new luxury handbag label on the block, Gioia stands for happiness all the way!

"Our brand is only about happiness all the way!" Diksha adds, alluding to the name of her label Gioia, which translates to 'joy' in Italian.

With a keen understanding of their consumers, as well as the nature of the social environment post pandemic, Gioia decided to enter the market with the most popular categories of handbags in their FW21 edit. This was followed by the Santa collection released just before Christmas and their next in Spring '22, which covered such categories as backpacks and phone crossbodies.

THE GIOIA USP

Gioia holds sustainability close to its core, with a style so classic that its designs are always in vogue, in a quality that supports its superior aesthetic. It procures its leather from LWG-certified tanneries, with an LWG audit that ensures that the tannery follows sustainable and appropriate environmental business practices. All packaging used is FSC-certified paper, as well.

Also essential to Gioia's collections are the vibrant hues they come in to match the exuberance they stand for! And as is reflective in its final products,



Gioia has come to be known for the great attention it pay to its designs, with regular, diligently followed quality checks at every stage.

Moreover, this home-grown luxury label strives to prove that it's on equal footing with any global fashion giant, wanting to change the wide perception that local brands are inferior to international ones.

LATEST MILESTONES

Fresh off the opening of its first store at Kolkata airport's domestic departure terminal, Gioia next plans to expand to stores at prominent locations in India's metros.

In the works is its upcoming collection, heavy in digital prints and studs as the primary style elements. This will soon be followed by brand new edits for men and children.

With the aim to provide customers with a product that stays with them through thick and thin — in addition to their eco credentials and high quality — Gioia is well on its way to becoming a market favourite, ready to be seen on the arms of many this coming season!

MASABA GUPTA

RIDING HIGH ON THE SUCCESS OF HER SHOWS, THIS DYNAMIC DESIGNER-ACTOR HAS ADDED ANOTHER FEATHER IN HER CAP – THAT OF A BEAUTY ENTREPRENEUR. HELLO! TAKES IN HER MANTRA ON LEADING LIFE ON HER OWN TERMS – MUCH LIKE HER FEARLESS MUM, NEENA!

Always up for a forthright chat and with her finger in multiple pies, there's never a dull moment when Masaba Gupta is around. A fashion designer-turned-actor-turned-beauty-entrepreneur, Masaba just treated fans to Season 2 of her part-real, part-fiction show, *Masaba Masaba*, once again delighting viewers with her wit, warmth and hysterical banter with mother Neena Gupta.

This time around, the show tackled sensitive subjects such as depression, premarital pregnancies as well as unhappy relationships, leaving fans of this curly-haired, caramel-skinned young lady even happier.

"It's been incredible!" she says, excitedly. "We are all in a bit of shock. It's hard to live up to a season that did so well. I was apprehensive about the response because this show is too close to me. I'm narrating it, shooting for it, designing costumes, putting together a team... So it was hard to say how it'd all culminate towards the end."

"When you are shooting, it's difficult to understand what the thread could look like. You never know how a scene could resonate with someone. All the issues pertaining to women that we tackled resonated with everyone! There were so many people stopping me wherever I travelled to give me positive feedback."

Beyond the series, the new season also enabled the actor to fight her own battles.

"I remember not finding closure when Wendell [Rodricks] sir passed away. I was busy. The world got enveloped in a pandemic. We had business problems. I had my health to deal with... I never got a chance to mourn him. So in the scene where I actually break down, I found closure. My director asked me whether I wanted glycerin or time, but it was all inside me. When the cameras began to roll, so did the tears."

"Another significant scene was when I was speaking with Gia Rytasha's character about her ongoing struggle with her mental health. I understood then there's no rule book to tackle depression. Through those conversations, I discovered how important it is to take care of your mental health," she confesses.

Those familiar with Masaba's journey will know she

"My director asked me whether I wanted glycerin or time... When the cameras began to roll, so did the tears"

always longed to be an actor. But this dream came to fruition only years after she found success in fashion. And now, she's on a roll! Earlier this year, Masaba drew praise for her earnest performance in the Netflix anthology, *Modern Love: Mumbai*. Turns out, it happened rather serendipitously.

"As I was wrapping up my shoot for Season 2 in 2021, I was hoping something good would come my way. And that's when Dhruv Sehgal approached me to play the role of Saiba. I don't know how he saw me as this simple girl from a simple city, but Dhruv said he felt I was right for this role after he saw a few of my interviews. I auditioned and took part in a couple of workshops before we shot the series. Initially, I could not relate to this character as I'm neither on a dating app, nor am I putting myself out there to find love. But it all just came together in a flash," she recollects.

Speaking of love, unlike her on-screen persona in *Masaba Masaba*, off screen, she's rather old-fashioned and has charming views on romance.

"Romance, to me, is a great deal of comfort, as cliché as it sounds. I've seen couples married for 15 to 20 years with discomfort between them that stemmed from an imbalance of power. For a truly great relationship to stand the test of time, you need to have companionship, balance of power and friendship that goes beyond chemistry and passion," says the 32-year-old old soul in a young body.

Finding love is a cakewalk for no one and is perhaps harder when you're a celebrity. But Masaba claims to be a good judge of character.

"I'm very good at judging myself," she laughs. "I have a weird sixth sense when it comes to people, not just men. There are times when people walk into the room and exchange pleasantries, and my reaction's been 'Wow, I don't like their energy.' For the longest time, I shut that voice down believing that I was being sensitive, judgmental, or emotional. But my gut is very on-point."

A flourishing eponymous label, a budding acting career and now a beauty brand, Lovechild, ironically inspired by her infamous sobriquet. To top it all off, Masaba sold 51 percent stake in House of Masaba to the Aditya Birla Group, freeing her to focus entirely on the creative side of the business.

"I'd recommend such a partnership to anyone! There are people who are able to manage both the business and creative aspects of their work — I'm not one of them! I like working with people who are good at their job, and I do mine. Hopefully that marriage will work. This gives me time to focus on the future of my brand and the kind of product extensions I want."

Lovechild, her latest baby — pun intended — stays true to this very philosophy.

"I named my beauty and wellness brand Lovechild because it's been a part of my narrative for so long. Owning a beauty, skincare and wellness brand has been a part of a larger dream. We worked on this for over a year, though I've had this



Catch Masaba Gupta at her candid best by scanning the code



"I do so much because I feel my time is running out. I'm already 32 and will soon turn 33, 34, 35... So I want to do everything today!"



concept on my mind for seven years. Unlike the House of Masaba, which is a luxury brand, Lovechild is an inexpensive, clean beauty label."

When asked about how driven she is, her response is near instantaneous: "I do so much because I feel my time is running out. I'm already 32 and will soon turn 33, 34, 35... So I want to do everything today!"

And while stress is an inevitable part of her life, given her voracious appetite for staying busy, Masaba knows the tricks to catch her breath.

"I adopted a peaceful lifestyle — no parties or mingling with people I don't know. I built a cocoon around me; once I'm done with work, I'm back in that cocoon. I lead a disciplined life on weekdays: I'm up by 5-5.30am for some yoga and in bed by 9.30-10pm," she shares, jocularly wondering out loud, "I wonder what people do when they stay up post 10pm. I get stressed when I'm invited for dinner at 8pm because I eat at 6pm! And if I'm too stressed at work, I take a break by browsing Net-A-Porter."

A true believer in the freeing effects of travel, Masaba uses it as a stress buster, to open up the mind.

"I was in Bologna in Italy for a work trip recently. I had three days off, and I went to Milan on my own. I find travelling alone supremely therapeutic. I walked around the city, ate by myself... It can be so liberating to spend time on your own and get to know yourself better."

Given how well she's been received in the OTT space, we wonder whether she has more projects in the offing.

"I won't do a big commercial film and play second fiddle to someone in Bollywood," comes her blunt response. "I'm not interested because I believe I'm talented and deserve better. OTT is huge and a better space for me. It allows me to flourish. If there's a role I want to play, I will produce it, too!" 📺

INTERVIEW: NAYARE ALI



GIFT TIMELESS MEMORIES WITH TIMELESS MASTERPIECES

GIFTS BY
arttdinox

www.arttdinox.com

Visit Our Stores:

Block - B, Bhisma Pitamah Marg, Defence Colony | Near Sultanpur Metro Station (Opp Pillar SP 33), MG Road
Franchise, Distributor, Corporate Order Enquiries Solicited

1800 114 585 | contact@jindallifestyle.com

SHEFALI SHAH

SHARP, WITTY AND A CLASS APART BOTH ON SCREEN AND OFF, SHEFALI SHAH IS AS TALENTED AS THEY COME. IN A HEART-TO-HEART, HELLO! DISCOVERS HER LOVE FOR CRIME-THRILLERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE, AS SHE ANIMATEDLY TALKS ABOUT THE EVOLVING CONTENT SPACE AND ALL THINGS 'DARLING' TO HER

Dressed in a cobalt blue power suit, hair slicked back in a pony and eyes wide as ever, she greets HELLO! with a warm smile, ready to dive deep into a project close to her heart — although her smile falters as she spots an injury on this writer's arm, proceeding to question her about her well-being, the brief time allotted for our chat on the backburner. That's Shefali Shah for you. Kind, empathetic, witty, sharp — and a powerhouse of talent who never fails to impress on screen. In a forthright chat, HELLO! unearths Shefali's views on the growing content space, "reaching her prime" in her 40s, women's representation in cinema and the kind of impact her character in *Delhi Crime* has had on her.

Season 2 of *Delhi Crime* just dropped, and — as expected — viewers love the nuanced writing and acting. When you read the script, did you think you'd be able to top the kind of acclaim Season 1 received? It'd be entirely unfair to compare the two seasons. *DC 1* and *DC 2* can't be in a race together! It's one entity, but there are two different identities. They were both made with a lot of love, passion, obsession and hard work, but it was never about topping one. It was about making an individual show that was as strong and as good. I can proudly say we managed to do that (smiles).

You believe that Vartika Chaturvedi and *Delhi Crime* changed the game for you... Well, the director decided to make me the lead in such a powerful show. I — touch wood — have always been lucky to receive appreciation, but it didn't translate into the kind of work I truly wanted. Who'd have thought that at the age of 40, an actor would reach her prime in the kind of work she gets? That's what happened with *Delhi Crime*. It put me in the spotlight. I led the show, and that changed people's perspective of me. A lot of work



"Who would have thought that at the age of 40, an actor would reach her prime in the kind of work she gets?"

came in; the kind of work I did last year, I hadn't done in my entire career! I worked on so many projects I'm proud of. The role was a complete game-changer.

It must have been incredible to win an Emmy. How did you react when you found out? My husband Vipul, my younger son and I were watching the live stream together. They were seated on my either side. When they announced *DC* as the winner of Best Drama Series, I started screaming. It was only after a while that I realised they had both put their hands out to hug me, but I was too overwhelmed to notice! I could only say, "Oh my god!" It was so well-deserved!

You're almost three decades into the industry now. Which was the most challenging character you've had to play? *Delhi Crime!* And Vartika! For a two-hour film, it's easier to remember elements of the script after reading it a couple of times. But when you're doing an eight-hour 'film', you have to revisit it a thousand times! With *DC*, I had to start from episode 1 whenever I got my scenes, even if it was episode 6 or 7. I had to go back to understand all she had gone through till that point. To maintain that consistency yet be unpredictable, to hold the audience's interest for that long... It's not easy. The learning curve that came with this character was my turning point.

In the context of the Emmys, do you think overseas audiences are opening up to foreign-language content, and that recognition of Indian talent is rising? Yes, I do, and it has a lot to do with OTT. We now have a library of such amazing art from all over the world in various languages. When we do something for OTT, it drops in 190 countries at one go. The reach is phenomenal! And as a student of cinema, as a viewer, I just want to lap up whatever's going on across the globe!

Onto *Darlings!* You, Alia Bhatt and Vijay Varma made such an incredible leading cast, and the movie was quite well-received... It was a fantastic script and a through-and-through good film. This dark comedy genre hasn't been explored a lot in Hindi films either. I don't mean to be preposterous when I say it's like *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron*, or *Parasite*, or *Fleabag*. But it's from that kind of a world. It's witty, it's wicked, it's funny, it's poignant. I perceived it as a mother-daughter film, but it could be any woman's story.

You've also moved behind the camera with a few short films. How did this transition happen? Any Bollywood direction plans? I've always wanted to direct but not had the guts to dive into it. During the lockdown, I thought, "Why not now?" I loved working on my two projects. I was completely consumed by them. I vanished! It took so long to prep for these films, which were just 14 to 20 minutes long. I don't know

"In the 70s, there were movies that were female-oriented. But unfortunately in the 90s, women were only accessories to films, with a shelf life of 18 to 22"





"If I could be a spot girl in a Meryl Streep film, I'd do that. I'd even hold a glass for her!"

"I think everybody's suddenly woken up and understood that women are really exciting, that they're individuals themselves with their own lives!"

how long I'd go off the grid for a full-fledged film! There's more to being behind the camera than just doing your job and going home. You're involved in every single aspect of the production, and it's addictive! I also thrive under high pressure. So altogether, it was great fun!

Given that your husband Vipul is a producer-director himself, do you like to discuss your projects with him? Of course, we discuss the films he's working on or projects I've been offered. We value each other's points of view. When Vipul writes a script or rough cuts a film, I'm the first person to read it or watch it. When I'm working on something, he's the first person I narrate to. Though when we share our opinions, it's not to change our perspectives. Whether we accept each other's views is our choice.

OTT appears to have changed the game for women. Would you agree? Absolutely! I think everybody's suddenly woken up and understood that women are really exciting, they have lives and aren't just known for their relationships to others; they're individuals themselves. It's also widened the scope of work for everyone. It's not all about 'stars' — and thank god for that!

Yet, in Bollywood, we continue to see the same heroes from decades ago still romancing women half their age, while women become mothers or aunts early on... There weren't roles written for women earlier. In the 70s, there were movies that were female-oriented, like *Aandhi*, *Ghar* or *Aradhana*. But unfortunately in the 90s, women were only accessories to films, with a shelf life of 18 to 22. But things are starting to change again with films being helmed by women — whether it's *Tumhari Sulu*, *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, or *Badhaai Ho*.

Which movie or show did you have the most fun shooting? Ah, I think *Ajeeb Daastaans* was a lot of fun. It was a fab crew. We were mental on set, cracking up and having a blast. *Darlings*, too. Shooting for *DC* was fun, but in a very different way. I loved that we were so obsessed with just one thing.

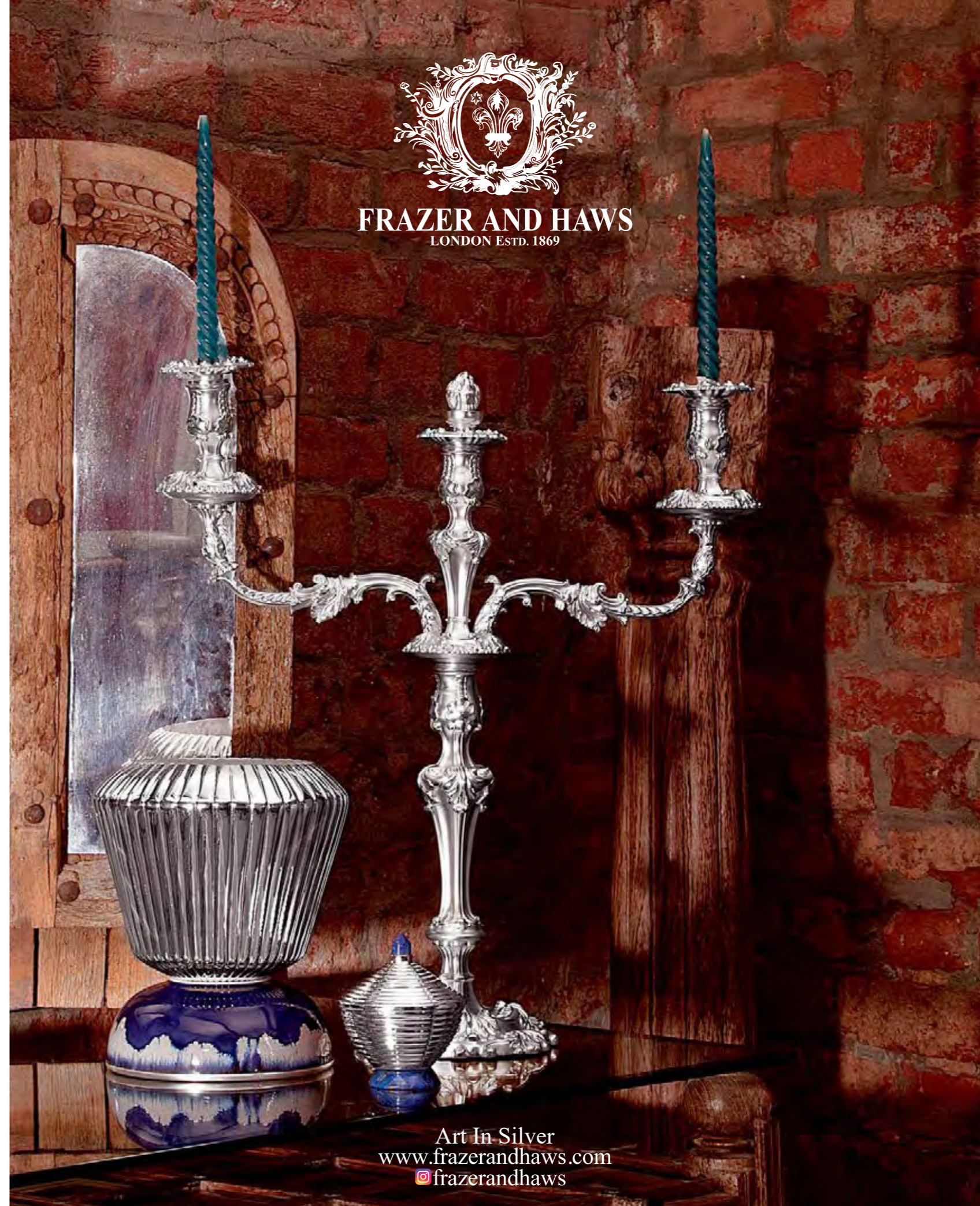
What else do you have coming up? So there's *Doctor G*. It's a really sensitive and funny movie. I loved the script so much that I agreed to the small part; it's a guest appearance. I also have *3 of Us* coming up with Jaideep Ahlawat. Another movie I absolutely love! It's a beautiful love story, so delicate, fragile and vulnerable. It'll release after a while because it's going to do the festival circuit first.

The filmmakers or actors on your to-work-with wishlist? Oh my god, so many! If I could be a spot girl in a Meryl Streep film, I'd do that. I'd even hold a glass for her! 🍷

INTERVIEW: SHRADDHA CHOWDHURY



FRAZER AND HAWS
LONDON ESTD. 1869



Art In Silver
www.frazerandhaws.com
@frazerandhaws



LEADERS WHO LEAD
by
Neeraj Jain

The country's most inspiring women and men who set an example for innovation and leadership in their fields

SUBHRAKANT PANDA

ONE OF THE YOUNGEST INCOMING PRESIDENTS OF FICCI AND THE FIRST FROM ODISHA TO HOLD SUCH A POSITION IN AN APEX CHAMBER, THE INDUSTRIALIST SHARES HIS GRAND VISION FOR THE STATE AND THE VALUES THAT GUIDED HIM TO THE TOP OF THE GAME



You hail from the small town of Bhubaneswar and at present, command a powerful narrative in Delhi as one of FICCI's youngest presidents. You've come a long way indeed! Please share your musings of success. I've very fond memories of growing up in Bhubaneswar, replete with a small circle of friends and a simple lifestyle. At the core, I'm still the same — happier spending time with family and close friends, and focussing on my work at Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys (IMFA) and now at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). I believe I got to where I am today by doing the right things and not choosing the easier path. I also believe in transparency and, most importantly, delivering on what I commit. Success to me means not just reaching the pinnacle but also being described as someone who was a reliable partner during the journey to the top.

Tell us how your early years in Bhubaneswar shaped you into the fine human of today. Growing up in a small city and, of course, my family values helped me remain grounded. That's my strength today — I don't easily get carried away and am conscious about not just what I say but also how I say it, as I believe it's important to be sensitive to what's going on in the lives of the people around you. I'm hard-nosed about getting things done, but believe in doing so with a light touch.

IMFA, founded in 1961, has grown exponentially in the past few decades. How were you able to scale up so phenomenally? IMFA was founded by my late parents, Dr Bansidhar Panda and Mrs Ila Panda, who wanted to contribute to Odisha's industrial landscape and generate employment. Today, we provide livelihood to more than 6,500 families and are India's leading, fully-integrated producer of ferrochrome and its largest exporter. Their vision

of adding value to locally available raw materials and living in harmony with the surrounding communities where we operate may sound simple but was ahead of its times.

I must also acknowledge the commitment and dedication of our workforce who are our greatest asset. We are now looking to expand our chrome ore raising and ferrochrome production with an outlay of Rs 2,000 crore over the next few years.

What were some of the challenges you faced along the way? Like all commodities, the ferrochrome market cycle, too, is fairly volatile and can be quite challenging at times. Paradoxically, the best time to expand capacity is during its low phase. My focus has been on growing the business, which is capital intensive, without taking undue risk. We've been quite successful in this regard as IMFA is debt free as of this year and perfectly positioned to embark upon the next phase of growth. Another challenge is to attract and retain talent. Here, too, we've been quite successful as our attrition rate is very low. On the personal front, work-life balance is an issue, given that I travel extensively — at least I did so before the pandemic!

Down time, family time, pleasure time... What defines that for you, in the manic world we reside in? New technology and gadgets fascinate me, and I'm also a voracious reader and news junkie! Downtime for me is a nice meal with family and friends, but a beach vacation is high on the list, too. I'm a foodie and am equally at ease in a sophisticated three-Michelin-star restaurant as with *dal-chawal* at home.

Your brother has been in the political arena. Any chances of you entering that domain? I am very happy being in the business world. Politics is not my cup of tea!

You and your wife Shaifalika share a splendid bond that's evident to all who know you. What's the secret recipe of this potent success? Shaifalika and I met at Boston University, and it was love at first sight! She's my rock, and the one I turn to for advice when I'm unsure. The secret recipe is love and

"Growing up in a small city and my family values helped me remain grounded... At the core, I'm still the same — happier spending time with family and close friends, and focussing on my work"

respect. We do have a difference of opinion at times, but nothing detracts from our commitment to each other and our family. I'd not have got to where I am today were it not for her love and support.

As a mentor to the young idealists you guide, what's the most important piece of advice you can share? There's no shortcut to success — it's a product of hard work, teamwork and faith. Do the right things, and the results will follow — this is my core philosophy.

What is your grand vision for Odisha as the leading family of the state? Odisha is rich in mineral resources, but for many decades, there was hardly any value addition within the state. Our business model is predicated on adding value to raw materials, thereby creating large-scale employment and also on giving back to society by way of both our charitable activities as well as sustainable initiatives through the Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation.

I strongly support the focus of the government to encourage domestic value addition and integrate India into global supply chains. Odisha has also made rapid strides in terms of increasing per capita income and is also investing in infrastructure to facilitate industrial development. I believe the state has immense potential and will contribute significantly as a manufacturing powerhouse, which is essential for India to become a US\$5 trillion economy.

How did the Covid era play out for your sector? How did you adapt to the so-called new world order? The challenging time for us was actually prior to Covid, as global trade disputes put immense pressure on our sector. We've been fortunate right through Covid, as pragmatic policies allowed continuous process industries like ours to operate, although we also played our part by taking extraordinary measures to ensure a safe working environment. We adapted quite well to the 'new normal' and, in fact, many of the



Subhrakant Panda strikes a pose in the foyer of his Delhi home, before a stunning work of art by Jitish Kallat, titled 'The Morning Analects'



One of FICCI's youngest presidents, Panda is relaxed at his Delhi home

“Success to me means not just reaching the pinnacle but also being described as someone who was a reliable partner during the journey to the top”

learnings during the pandemic period will have a lasting impact in terms of enhancing efficiency and reducing costs.

As the incoming president of FICCI, how do you plan to make an impact? It's indeed an honour to be part of the national leadership at FICCI, especially as I'm the first person from Odisha to hold such a position in an apex chamber. My priority will be to act as a bridge between key stakeholders in India's pursuit of a growth agenda that is both inclusive and sustainable.

India has a demographic advantage, but providing gainful employment is a challenge. There has to be a shift towards creating 200 million jobs in industry as well as services as it's simply not tenable that agriculture contributes 18 percent to 20 percent to the GDP but accounts for 45 percent of jobs.

Climate change is a reality, and moving towards decarbonisation is important. India has taken a bold stand by committing to reach 50 percent of total energy from renewable sources by 2030 and achieve 'net zero' status by 2070. The industrial value chain should do its bit, but wherewithal of MSMEs is limited. Therefore, I intend to make hand-holding them through this journey one of FICCI's key priorities.

Finally, the move towards digitisation and automation presents a significant business opportunity for Indian entrepreneurs, given our strong IT and ITES base, as well as the galloping startup ecosystem, which has seen many unicorns being created. FICCI will have to reorient itself to new age sectors if it's to continue being the voice of industry.

You represent the future breed of industrialists. Simplicity, modesty, intellect and maturity define you. Share five leadership values that you believe are priceless.

1. Lead from the front, but delegate.
2. Trust, but verify.
3. Command, don't demand, respect.
4. Empower people to be leaders.
5. Be compassionate. 🇮🇳

INTERVIEW: NEEVA JAIN
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANIL CHAWLA
CREATIVE DIRECTION & STYLING:
AMBER TIKARI

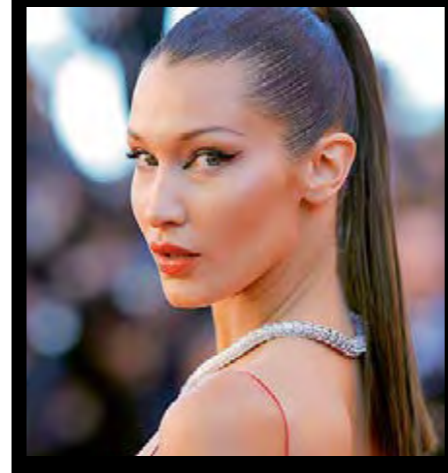
REESE WITHERSPOON'S DAUGHTER MAY STAR IN LEGALLY BLONDE 3

Reese Witherspoon is working hard to make sure the third instalment of *Legally Blonde* does justice to the iconic movie series. Though there might be another reason to get excited about this news! Mindy Kaling, who is producing and co-writing the third movie, has revealed she'd like Witherspoon's daughter, Ava Phillippe, to play her on-screen daughter in the movie. In a recent interview, Kaling revealed it all depends on the 22-year-old star kid herself.



BELLA HADID TO STAR IN RAMY'S 'WEIRDEST' EPISODE YET

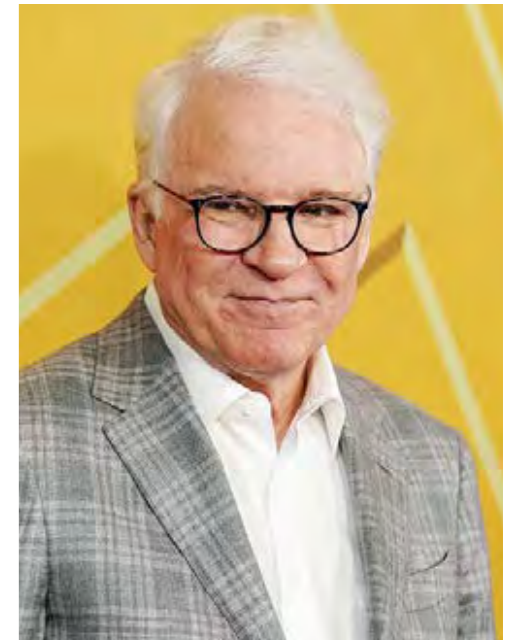
Supermodel Bella Hadid is all set to make her acting debut on Hulu's *Ramy*, which enters its third season this fall. Hadid is set to play Ramy Youssef's girlfriend, a character quite the opposite of her charming demeanour in reality. "It's probably one of the weirdest scripts we've ever written," Ramy said. "And that says a lot!" Bella will reportedly be playing a "weirdo", though she doesn't seem to care and is excited for people to see her debut, revealing that she agreed to the guest appearance almost immediately. 🇮🇳



JOHNNY DEPP SET FOR SECOND DIRECTORIAL VENTURE WITH AL PACINO

Twenty-five years after making his directorial debut with 1997 film *The Brave*, Johnny Depp is back with his second directorial venture. The actor will be directing a biopic on Italian painter and sculptor Amedeo Modigliani, who was known posthumously for his vivid creations. Depp is set to co-produce the film with Al Pacino and Barry Navidi.

STEVE MARTIN PLANS TO 'RETIRE' FROM ACTING



A Grammy, Emmy and Academy award winner, Steve Martin has announced his plans to retire from acting after *Only Murders In The Building*. The ace comedian said the show would be his last acting project. "I'm not going to seek other movies. I don't want to do cameos. This is, weirdly, it," he reportedly said. Martin, who's been in the entertainment industry since 1968, wants to prioritise life off screen. He has enjoyed a career spanning seven decades and will be remembered for his features especially on *Saturday Night Live*, *Three Amigos!*, *The Summer Brothers Smothers Show*, *The Pink Panther*, and more.

RANVEER SINGH WINS BIG AT INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE

Here's another one in the kitty for the superstar. Ranveer Singh won 'Best Actor of the Year' at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne for his portrayal of legendary cricketer Kapil Dev in *83*. On winning the award, he said: "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the jury members at IFFM for bestowing me with the 'Best Actor of the Year' award for my role as Kapil Dev. *83* is one of the most loved films of my career! It'll always be one of the most cherished films in my filmography." Congratulations, Ranveer!

TEXT: HARNOOR SINGH



An Ode to Indian Arts

Ready to take their knowledge of India's traditional jewellery and arts to the world, the founders of luxury jewellery brand Amrapali invite all to their museum in Jaipur, while co-founder Rajiv Arora shares the brand's inspiration, mission and way forward

It's a legacy that spans over 40 years, dating back to when two bright-eyed, ambitious young men bonded in a Jaipur college over a collective wish: to create handcrafted artefacts. In pursuit of their dreams, Rajiv Arora and Rajesh Ajmera interacted with other jewellery enthusiasts and expert silversmiths and discovered a demand in the market for a new-age approach to jewellery — and that's how was born brand Amrapali in 1978. Today, Amrapali has evolved into an international name, using the collections its founders gathered to inspire the modern offerings that are now its distinguishing features.

Not one to rest on their laurels, Rajiv and Rajesh felt ready to share their deep knowledge of India's traditional silver-jewelled arts with the world. Thus, they opened the Amrapali Museum in Jaipur in 2018. Rajiv shares the Amrapali tale and lets us in on their plans for the future of the brand.

Can you trace your journey with Amrapali for us? Rajesh and I studied together and shared a similar passion for history, art and culture, which further bloomed into a business. We discovered the lost art of Indian jewellery that deepened our belief in the rich heritage of India. We started with the handicrafts business and travelled together to various parts of India. That's when we decided we'd promote Indian heritage in whatever forms we can through our business.

Since the two of you had no prior experience besides a general love for arts and handicrafts, would you say this business was a brave decision at that time? Now that we look at it, it was a brave decision as we had no backup, no financial support. There was no technology; so very limited information was available; and everything had to be done on a trial-



Co-founders of Amrapali
Rajesh Ajmera and Rajiv Arora

and-error basis. It was done purely out of love and passion, with very limited resources. But as they say, no guts, no glory. So it's important to take risks in life and do what you believe in.

Are the responsibilities clearly defined between the two of you, or is it more fluid? I'd say both. It's quite defined yet fluid at the same time. We operate differently in different departments, yet work collaboratively to achieve the same goals and intervene whenever required. Rajesh looks after manufacturing more deeply, and I tend to spend more time on marketing and public relations.

How did you identify fine jewellery as your area of interest? We started as a silver jewellery business, and along the way, we experimented with gold jewellery, recreated some silver pieces in gold, made pieces with textured and hammered gold, and ones that were different and unconventional at the time. With fine jewellery, we wanted to usher in a new wave with experimental handcrafted pieces, fusion jewellery and bold pieces that were state of the art.

Who are your popular celebrity clients in India and overseas? Amrapali jewellery has been adorned by many celebrities, royalties and dignitaries like Kate Middleton, Melania Trump, Rihanna, Beyoncé, Madhuri Dixit and Sonam Kapoor Anuja. We were also the official jewellery partner for movies like *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion* and *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi*.

How did the idea of opening the Amrapali Museum come about? During our journey, as we interacted with other jewellery enthusiasts and expert silversmiths, we began to understand the value of their pursuit. We observed common pieces becoming rarer over the years. People were melting old designs, and with the rush of Westernisation and changing tastes, the appreciation for



indigenous design and craftsmanship was waning. That's how the idea of the museum came into being, as we wanted to share our collection with scholars, students, connoisseurs and other visitors to Jaipur, as well as highlight the traditional silver jewelled arts of India in what's arguably the country's capital of arts and crafts.

We held an exhibition on the theme of 'Thar' at The Crafts Museum in Delhi. We also showcased our collection at the 'Chandrika' exhibition in six different museums and art galleries, which paved the way for photographing and documenting objects for a future museum.

From where does the museum seek inspiration? The collection is inspired from the everyday life of the people of India. The museum also seeks to explore the enormous range of inspirations for design that were available to Indian craftsmen over time. Nature, religion, geometry or international trends, seen through both the jewellery and the range of silver objects

in the collection — from spittoons, rosewater sprinklers and *paan* sets, plates, tea sets and assortments of boxes in every shape, size and type of craftsmanship; to personal accessories as small as a toothpick, or elaborately made silver shoe covers; and the most extravagant item of all, a silver-covered chariot.

What does the road ahead look like for the brand? The future belongs to the youth! Akanksha and Tarang Arora are from the next generation and are the future of the brand. They've grown up learning, observing and falling in love with the affluence of Indian craftsmanship and further developed new ideas and ways of doing business. They are experimental in their ways and are not afraid to try something new.

They are planning to take Tribe Amrapali to newer heights, with plans to diversify its retail presence in other countries and cater to the youth. With Amrapali, we wish to give a one-of-a-kind shopping experience to our customers!



Tarang Arora, CEO - Amrapali
Jewels, and Akanksha Arora,
CEO - Tribe Amrapali

SAKSHI CHHABRA MITTAL

ATTEMPTING TO HEAL THE WORLD THROUGH FOOD, THE YOUNG DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS MITTAL FAMILY OF AIRTEL IS ONE TO WATCH OUT FOR. SHE JOINS HELLO! FOR A CHAT ABOUT EVERYTHING FROM BUSINESS TO BABIES AND HOW ONE REALLY CAN HAVE IT ALL!

Confident and charming, Sakshi Chhabra Mittal really does have it all. Investor and founder-CEO of UK-based subscription service FoodHak, she juggles the various roles in her life with enviable ease!

“I really lucked out with Shravin, first as a boyfriend and now as a husband. He has always been so secure in his own skin that he’s happy to push me to be a better version of myself”

“To look good, you need to feel good. I believe happiness is a big part of health. That’s what I’m working on. Our focus is on health, not just vanity,” proclaims Sakshi Chhabra Mittal.

One look at this svelte, confident and charming entrepreneur — also an investor and founder-CEO of UK-based ‘Food As Medicine’ subscription service FoodHak — is sufficient proof that she practices what she preaches.

As wife of entrepreneur Shravin Mittal and daughter-in-law of the founder of multibillion-dollar Bharti Enterprises, Sunil Bharti Mittal, Sakshi has an illustrious family name to live up to. Yet this intelligent and forward-thinking young woman does it with aplomb.

High school sweethearts, Sakshi and Shravin set up their home and enterprises in London, but their heart still resides in Delhi, where they were born and raised. This is evident when we meet her on a sultry monsoon afternoon at her in-laws’ residence in Central Delhi, where she’s on a short visit with Shravin and the children while schools are shut in the UK.

Even after many hours of shooting, Sakshi is the quintessential queen of cool. She doesn’t bat an eyelid as the conversation shifts from the technical jargon on the nitty-gritties of her food startup to her daily mommy schedule, which includes school drop-offs and bed-and-bath routines. Sakshi truly is an example of someone who has it all — not because of any proverbial silver spoon, but because she believes in her goals and works hard to achieve them.

In 2017, as she juggled her first pregnancy with her role as a successful corporate professional working with Japanese multinational SoftBank, Sakshi was diagnosed with a rare disease, obstetric cholestasis, which leads to the breakdown of the liver.

“It was a scary and stressful time for me, and my previously busy professional life, managing a large team and jet-setting across the world, came to a standstill as I had to care for my health. There was no known cure for this rare disease, so I put my degree in biotechnology from the University of Birmingham to good use and sifted through thousands of research papers seeking an answer.”

“I was astounded to find so much evidence of food being used as medicine, which wasn’t being talked about, especially by healthcare professionals. So I teamed up with doctors who advocated the use of lifestyle changes and alternative medicines, and we worked together to create a line of food that healed from within. Our meals are plant based, contain alkaline vegetables to increase the pH levels of your stomach, are gluten-free, dairy-free, anti-inflammatory and have low GI,” explains Sakshi.

As an experiment, Sakshi pushed a soft launch of these clean and healthy meal plans by serving them only to the patients of the doctors she had



partnered with. She rented a kitchen near her SoftBank office, curated clinically verified recipes, and woke up at 5am every weekday to give instructions to her part-time team before moving on to her regular day job.

A short while later, viewing the incredible demand for her meals, the rising popularity of the health and wellness market segment and the realities of the pandemic, she quit her job to take this concept to the next level. And thus was born FoodHak in 2021.

“Shravin supports me in subtle ways that make all the difference. So if I’m busy, he’ll happily fill in for me. Plus, he’s my biggest cheerleader... Without him I’d never have done even a quarter of the things I’ve done”

“It became evident to us that many people were suffering from serious health issues and looking for solutions, but there were also many people who did not have health issues, yet were striving to eat better simply by eating clean.”

The success of her venture in the short time since its launch has been nothing short of astounding. FoodHak meal plans are now available for next-day delivery across the UK. Their Instagram account has crossed the 50,000 mark and is growing stronger every day.

Sakshi certainly dons her entrepreneurial hat with

“If you focus on being yourself and pursue your happiness in the form of your profession, it doesn’t mean that you’re compromising on your family life or being a bad wife or mother”

poise, but FoodHak is merely one of many feathers in it. Despite graduating from university in 2008, smack in the middle of the international recession, she landed a sought-after internship at Pfizer, one of the world’s premier biopharmaceutical companies, through sheer gumption.

“I hustled to get the Pfizer internship. Back in the day, every Thursday, pharma C-suite executives would network at a place known as The Arts Club in London. I managed to make my way in as a young student, and noting my interest and knowledge, one of them offered me an internship. While researching for them, I came across the head of regulatory at Pfizer and convinced him to hire graduate-level interns to bring some youth into the business. And I became their first one!” she beams.

Having got the work experience she desired, Sakshi moved to The Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania for an MBA, a move that helped her make the switch to becoming an investor. Noting her skills, she was soon recruited by SoftBank, where she was designated the investment director for their vision fund.

She credits her tremendous professional growth to her tenacity and the support of her husband and parents.

“I really lucked out with Shravin, first as a boyfriend and now as a husband. He has always been so secure in his own skin that he’s happy to push me to be a better version of myself, especially in my career. Without him I’d never have done even a quarter of the things I’ve done, including being the first female investor at SoftBank in London. In fact, I was even the first pregnant person in the London office and never took maternity leave. They put a nursing room together for me for the first time ever!”

Refusing to compromise on being hands-on parents, both Sakshi and Shravin prioritise their children and divide their roles of rearing them equally.

“Shravin supports me in subtle ways that make all the difference. So if I’m busy, he’ll happily fill in for me. Plus, he’s my biggest cheerleader. When he launched his own fund, Unbound, he publicly declared his goal to have 50 percent women as investors — an astounding figure, considering currently, barely 10 percent of investors are female! He’s a confident man who doesn’t need a woman to be beneath him, and I really appreciate that.”

When they need time off from their busy lives, Sakshi and Shravin enjoy travelling. They are also movie buffs and ardent sports enthusiasts. In fact, their romance blossomed over their shared sports captaincy at the British School, New Delhi, in the early 2000s. Even now, they enjoy playing tennis and golf, as well as swimming and hiking together.

It’s refreshing to see one so young manage multiple roles with such composure. Smiling, Sakshi shares, “I was told you can’t have it all when you’re a mother. Though this may sound controversial, I disagree. You can have it all; you




Sakshi certainly dons her entrepreneurial hat with poise. Here, she’s seen looking relaxed in a Missoni skirt and a Zara tank top



Dressed in a Pinko suit by the poolside of her Delhi home, Sakshi is the quintessential queen of cool

"I was the first pregnant person in SoftBank's London office and never took maternity leave. They put a nursing room together for me for the first time ever!"

just have to keep trying harder till you find your balance. No parent or professional is right or wrong. If you focus on being yourself and pursue your happiness in the form of your profession, it doesn't mean that you're compromising on your family life or being a bad wife or mother. You can have it all. It takes some time, but when you get there, it's so worth it." 

INTERVIEW: NOOR ANAND CHAWLA
PHOTOGRAPHY: RAJU RAMAN
CREATIVE DIRECTION & STYLING:
AMBER TIKARI
HAIR: ALTAF SHAH
MAKEUP: MANJARI MALIK

A Chance To Shine

Promoting the development of marginalised urban slum communities in Delhi, Shine Foundation is making a compelling mark in the country's future



Delhi is one of India's major urban cities where marginalised communities are a ubiquitous social category. With the unfortunate reality of rampant poverty, illiteracy and unemployment in the country, migration towards urban cities like Delhi is on the rise. Due to this, an alarming segment of the population lives in slums, and resettlement and unauthorised colonies illegally, which take the form of marginalised urban slum communities. Shine Foundation works with — and for — these very communities, along with the government and voluntary sector, with a simple motto that is self-reliance.

Initiated in June 2006, Shine Foundation passionately contributes towards the upliftment and development of the marginalised urban slum communities of the Delhi-National Capital Region. Following a humble beginning with 70 children in an 'Alternative Education' programme, Shine today serves more than a thousand direct beneficiaries through 'Integrated

Community Development' initiatives. The focus areas of Shine's community services consist of the education of marginalised children via alternative modes, skill and entrepreneurship development, as well as counselling, psycho-social support and healthcare. The aim and end goal of Shine's endeavour is to empower its community to be socially responsible and economically self-reliant, where all members are given a fair opportunity for education and employment. To this end, the organisation has put together a roster of varied initiatives.

Early Childhood Care and Development & Pre-School Component (4-6-year-olds)

Supporting the objective of universal elementary education, Shine Foundation imparts children from marginalised urban slum communities with skills and necessary preparation for primary school. They also offer substitute care for siblings, thereby freeing older ones (especially girls) to go to school, and provide children with healthcare and nourishment (midday meals).

Accelerated Learning Centre (6-14-year-olds)

In such marginalised communities where access to quality education



Shine Foundation elevated the tablespace at the HELLO! India Art Awards with exquisite handmade paper floral arrangements

is either missing or unaffordable, the foundation has been providing quality education to at-risk children and bridging competency gaps in out-of-school or dropout cases. The main aim of the programme is to provide the child with basic literacy and numeric skills and relevant information on the child's social situation via primary education and a structured curriculum (classes run from 1 to 5). The ultimate objective is to mainstream the children into formal schools and protect them from exploitation and child labour.

Mainstreaming of Children

After completing their primary education till Class 4, children are mainstreamed in private and government schools, depending on

their academic performance history and parents' participation in school.


Skill Development Programme

Shine provides certified training courses to women and unemployed vulnerable youth in computers, dress designing and beauty culture, providing them opportunities for self-reliance. It's placement cell strives to provide employment to all trainees, with an 80 to 85 percent success rate.

Workplace English Programme

After placing their trainees in various vocations and sectors, Shine witnessed a lack of overall entrepreneurship development and limited knowledge of the English language. Their Workplace English programme was initiated in June 2009 to overcome this gap and provide basic knowledge of English to all students enrolled.

Training & Production

In their endeavour to support families in getting constant income, the foundation started a unit that aims to train women and girls from the community — who otherwise cannot go out to work due to family constraints, in developing products and marketing them — hence supplementing their family income. 

TEXT: JEENA J BILLIMORIA



THE SISTERHOOD WORKBOOK

BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL WOMAN ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL, UNDERSTANDING LADIES WHO HAVE HER BACK! AND HERE'S A GROUP THAT HOLDS THIS TO HEART. NAYNTARA THACKER, HINA OOMER-AHMED, ARPANA PUNJABI, JAYNA LAKHIANI, RUCHIKA KOTHARI AND TARA DASWANI HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF COLLABS, ENJOYING A CONNECT THAT TRANSCENDS THEIR FLAIR FOR STYLE AND LOVE OF PROSECCO AND PETIT FOURS. HELLO! BONDS WITH THE SENSATIONAL SIX OVER SOME BUBBLY

HELLO! gets together with six sensational women from Mumbai. From left: Tara Daswani, Ruchika Kothari, Nayntara Thacker, Jayna Lakhiani, Arpana Punjabi and Hina Oomer-Ahmed



Nayntara Thacker, Founder of By Tara, gets casual chic on point in a bomber jacket, teamed with a pair of denims

“We all believe women should promote women. When we come together to work, it allows us to put that into action”

– Nayntara Thacker

Outside, the incessant rains may have dampened spirits, but inside the restaurant, it's all wine and roses. Well, Prosecco and carnations to be precise. Music, laughter and casual banter are punctuated by the clinking of crystal flutes, besides the directions shouted out by the photographer and the queries of frantic assistants. Yet it seems only fitting that the energy in the room should match the effervescence of the golden-hued drink that's flowing like the River Pactolus of King Midas.

Remarkably though, through the chaos, none of the women facing the flashes miss a single cue. If anyone knows how to get work done while having a great time, it's this group: Nayntara Thacker, Founder of By Tara; Hina Oomer-Ahmed, Founder of Luxebox; Arpana Punjabi, Curator-in-Chief of food blog Whatmakesappyhappy; Ruchika Kothari, Founder of Shawlart; Tara Daswani, Founder of Tara Fine Jewellery; and Jayna Lakhiani, who has two luxury brands under her belt, 1976 The Clutch and Vintage Shades Cashmere.

A tête-à-tête with the ladies quickly reveals that all six fabulously successful makers of taste have much more in common than secured rungs on Mumbai's diamond-studded social ladder. HELLO! unveils how...

How did you find your calling? How has your work evolved over the years?

Nayntara Thacker: When I got married and moved to Mumbai, I recognised the demand for high-end linen here. So in 2007, I started importing linen from the House of Windsor, the brand my parents manufacture in Indonesia. Conversations with buyers helped me recognise the need for a curated shopping experience — a one-stop-shop for all of one's aesthetic needs. I started in 2018 with just a handful of brands that I loved; it's been my constant endeavour to discover exciting new brands and support NGOs like Jai Vakeel, Helping Hands, Akanksha and Seva... My upcoming show has 72 vendors. I'm also always trying to improve the shopper's experience. Last March, for instance, we provided a hands-free shopping service, wherein shoppers had dedicated valets carrying their bags.

Tara Daswani: I started my business two decades ago, but the exceedingly popular prêt line is just four years old. It started out with me wanting to create a special gift for a best friend. The entire line just grew from there.

Jayna Lakhiani: My love for fashion goes back to watching how brilliantly my mother Nishi would put her look together, when I was little. But it was a chance meeting with a boutique owner in Dubai, who loved my outfit, that led to my first collection in 2003 because I started supplying kaftans, coats and jackets to her store. When I moved to Mumbai about five years ago, I was approached to

“To me, it's less about what one wears and more about how they wear it. Confidence and the right attitude are important”

– Jayna Lakhiani

represent Vintage Shades, a brand of handcrafted cashmere apparel that I instantly loved. In January, I launched 1976 The Clutch, a line of clutches and handbags that I knit by hand myself. My sister Jaya Raheja and I learnt how to knit when we were very young. I always found it extremely calming.

Hina Oomer-Ahmed: While Jayna was drawn to fashion, I was a fashion stylist a few years ago. Though I wanted to apply my design aesthetic in some other creative way that also supported artisanal brands. On a whim, I put together 100 gift bags for Diwali 2016, and the idea was a hit from the get-go. For me, the best part was how much thought went into those packages. The personal touch — say, something that reflects the values of the individual giving or receiving the gift — is the difference between a good gift and an unforgettable one. A lot of clients are now mindful of ecology, as they should be, and we truly believe in gifting with purpose. So last Diwali, for instance, we introduced *beej patakas*, look-alike firecrackers embedded with seeds that grow into plants.

Ruchika Kothari: My family has been in the worsted yarn business for several decades. My father's legacy, which my two sisters and I now manage, spans across both the domestic and international markets. I started manufacturing shawls from our yarns around the time my daughter was born, in 2002. It was a natural extension of something I was familiar with, and it was exciting to actually see the finished product. Shawlart is constantly evolving. We've introduced home accessories like cushion covers and table linen, and in 2019, we launched 'Nunki', our first flagship store near Marine Lines, Mumbai. Recently, we developed an eco-friendly yarn and a line of sustainable products. We also convert wool waste into blankets, which philanthropists then donate to charitable causes.

Arpana Punjabi: My business is an extension of something I've always enjoyed. I love food, and I love talking about it! Bizarrely, people guard their discoveries; I could never understand why. So in August 2017, I decided to highlight the home chefs I felt deserved attention. And through the pandemic, I added hordes of what I call 'Covid babies' to my directory. It's a win-win: I introduce you to the best home chefs, and you get to treat your taste buds to something for which you'll thank me. What could be nicer?

What is it like to work with friends: fun or complicated?

NT: We all believe women should promote women. When we come together to work, it allows us to put that into action — we're all there for each other. In fact, Hina and I bounce ideas off each other all the time. It's all about information sharing and helping each other grow bigger and better.

HOA: Nayn and I are neighbours, and that friendship seamlessly grew into a working relationship when she launched By Tara. The



Jayna Lakhiani nails sporty chic in a pair of striped joggers and an iridescent jacket. She accessorises with a clutch from her brand, 1976 The Clutch

"My business is an extension of something I've always enjoyed. I love food, and I love talking about it!"

– Arpana Punjabi

night before her first event, we worked late, perfecting the lighting and setup. Appy's career graph has been inspiring. I love that she's become such an important part of the city's food scene, and I also love having this ready access to the best catering advice whenever I need it. I always reach out to her when I need advice on homegrown brands that I can include in Luxebox.

AP: You know the saying, 'Birds of a feather...' One tends to flock with likeminded people. All of us are meticulous about detail; we're all perfectionists. When you share the same work ethic, collaborating is a breeze.

What's your idea of a great holiday? Is there an outfit, an accessory or a lucky charm that you never travel without?

NT: My idea of the perfect holiday is somewhere sunny, with little connectivity, so I get to spend quality time with my husband and our kids, Naila, Naisha and Riaan. It's important to switch off and enjoy each other's company. My kids are my luckiest charms. They come to each and every show, and stand by me as my

pillars of strength. That said, anyone who knows me will tell you I never leave home without a denim jacket. It's embarrassing to think of how many I own! I have one in every colour, probably every brand available, and certainly every length.

TD: I spend summers in London with my husband Tanveer and our son Aarin. I have a fun memory of bumping into Nayn once in London. She was right outside Selfridges and had large rollers in her hair. She actually thought she'd, somehow, go unrecognised! We spotted each other and just cracked up. I'm thrilled to be going to Australia for my cousin's wedding later this month — that's my favourite place in the world! My girl gang also does one trip every year. If you're around people you can let your hair down with, any place makes for a great holiday!

JL: I couldn't agree more. An ideal holiday, for me, means uninterrupted time with my husband Prakash and daughters Mireesha and Maanya. The destination is less important. But yes, I do have my travel essentials: a Helmut Lang denim jacket and a little, lace Alexis black dress. And my gold knitting needles never leave my sight!



Arpana Punjabi, gourmet connoisseur and Curator-in-Chief of food blog Whatmakeshappyhappy, looks lovely in a bright, printed co-ord set



"Put your heart and soul into whatever you do. Don't hold back and wait for things to happen. Make them happen!"

– Ruchika Kothari



The elegant founder of Shawlart, Ruchika Kothari is stylish in a printed bomber jacket and a pair of classic jeans

So much so that on a recent trip to Bali, I realised I had my kit in my handbag when I was going through airport security. I had to give up the scissors, but I was so grateful they let me keep my trusted gold needles.

RK: I love travelling, be it for work or leisure. This year, I visited Sardinia; it was amazing. For me, the best holidays are about great food, nice hotels,

some lively entertainment, a little bit of sightseeing and shopping. After a bag-shopping spree in Rome a couple of years ago, I decided 'No more'. But then I spotted a D&G brown leather saddle bag in a little boutique near Via Condotti, and I had to have it! I carried it everywhere for the longest time. This is now our money bag at all our shows, and it's definitely a lucky charm. Shopping and



Hina Omer-Ahmed, the vibrant founder of Luxebox, looks stunning in a co-ord set, teamed with a handy clutch

“Design your own life. When you envision what elements your life should have, whether it’s the quality of your relationships or your career goals, your mind starts working towards realising those ambitions”
– Hina Omer-Ahmed

activities do perk up a holiday, but what makes a trip memorable is the people you’re with. My best holidays are with my son, Madhav. During the lockdown, it was so nice to see him attend online classes with a view of the sparkling Maldivian sea before him.

How would you describe your personal sense of style?

NT: I’m a blue ripped jeans and white tee kind of person. I love hoodies and caps, and I enjoy mixing high-street with a few cool brands. For instance, I might team a Massimo vest with a Zimmerman skirt and Zanotti flats, or throw a Balenciaga hoodie over a pair of Abercrombie jeans.

TD: Funky and playful. I love the sensibility of Sacai, Jacquemus, A.W.A.K.E Mode and Balenciaga. I’m not brand obsessed and prefer a ‘thrown together’ look. I love anything with a bit of personality.

JL: I’d say my style is edgy chic. To me, it’s less about what one wears and more about how they wear it. Confidence and the right attitude are important. Nothing makes me feel sexier or more feminine than a pair of wide-legged trousers teamed with a bodysuit or a white tee and my all-time favourite accessory: a jacket. I love Loewe and Chloé for their jackets, tees and trousers; Nadine Merabi’s gorgeous and glam wear; Valentino shoes; my own line of clutches; and just about everything at Massimo Dutti, Zara and Uterqüe. I love mixing it all up.

HOA: Classic, but with a touch of boho. Of late, I’ve been veering towards clean looks — a lot of



“If you’re around people you can let your hair down with, any place makes for a great holiday!”
– Tara Daswani



The brain behind the beautiful baubles of Tara Fine Jewellery, Tara Daswani strikes a pose for HELLO! in a stylish co-ord set



whites and monotonous with a pop of a bright colour. Less is definitely more!

RK: I'd pick comfort over style any day. I love to dress in natural fabrics, and I like the boho casual vibe. I'm not really devoted to any particular brand, but I love shopping everywhere I go. Whether it's trendy Platinum in Bangkok, or Porto Cervo in Sardinia, I love it all.

AP: I'm with Hina on this. I love the timeless appeal of classic silhouettes. But I've come a long way from being obsessed with black — I wear a lot of colour now, especially white and pink. I love Gucci and Dior RTW. Sandro and Zara are high-street faves. And when it comes to traditional wear, I'm an Abu-Sandeep and Tamanna Punjabi Kapoor loyalist.

The one piece of advice you would offer young female entrepreneurs.

NT: Work hard. Keep differentiating yourself by thinking and planning ahead. Let your heart and instinct be your guide.

TD: Success takes time, but it will come to you. Believe in your unique design ideology and create products that make you happy.

JL: Watch, listen, observe... And most importantly, be patient. It takes time to build a strong brand.

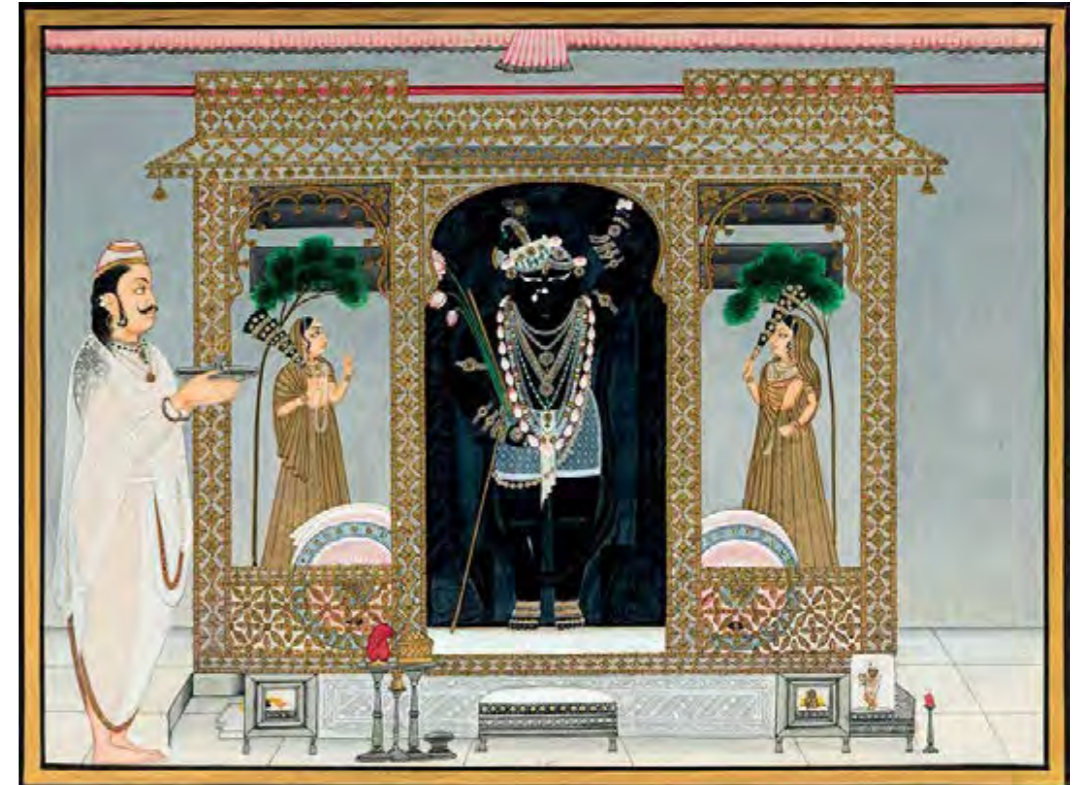
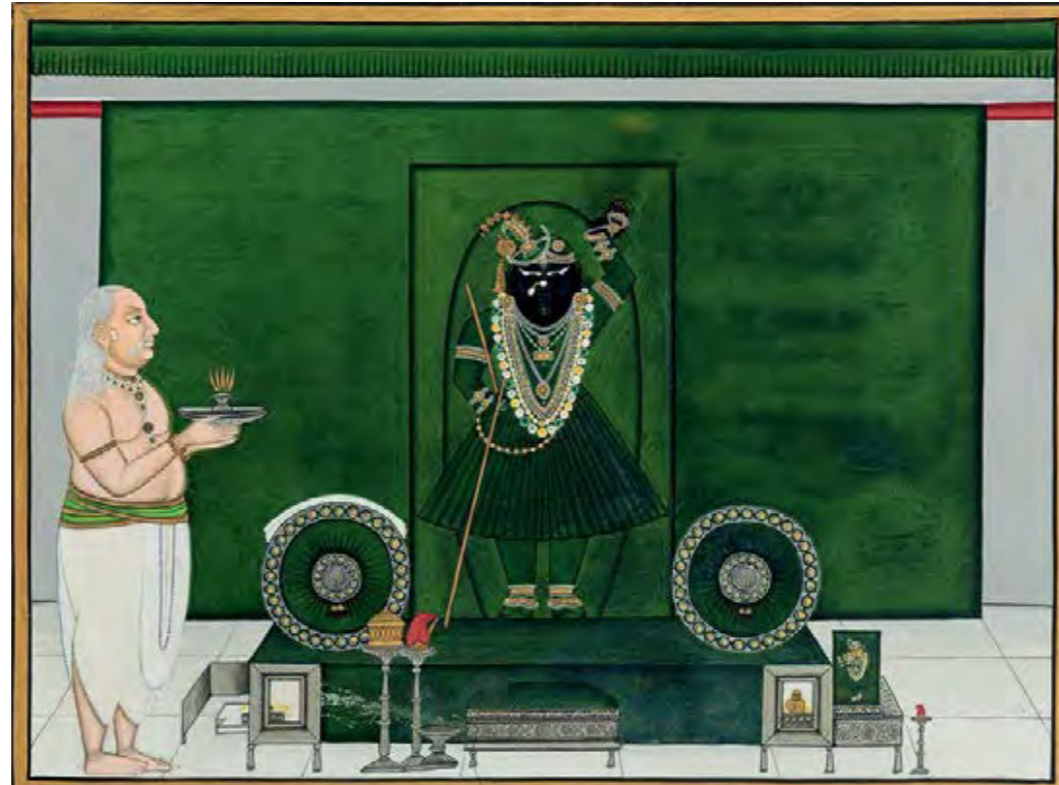
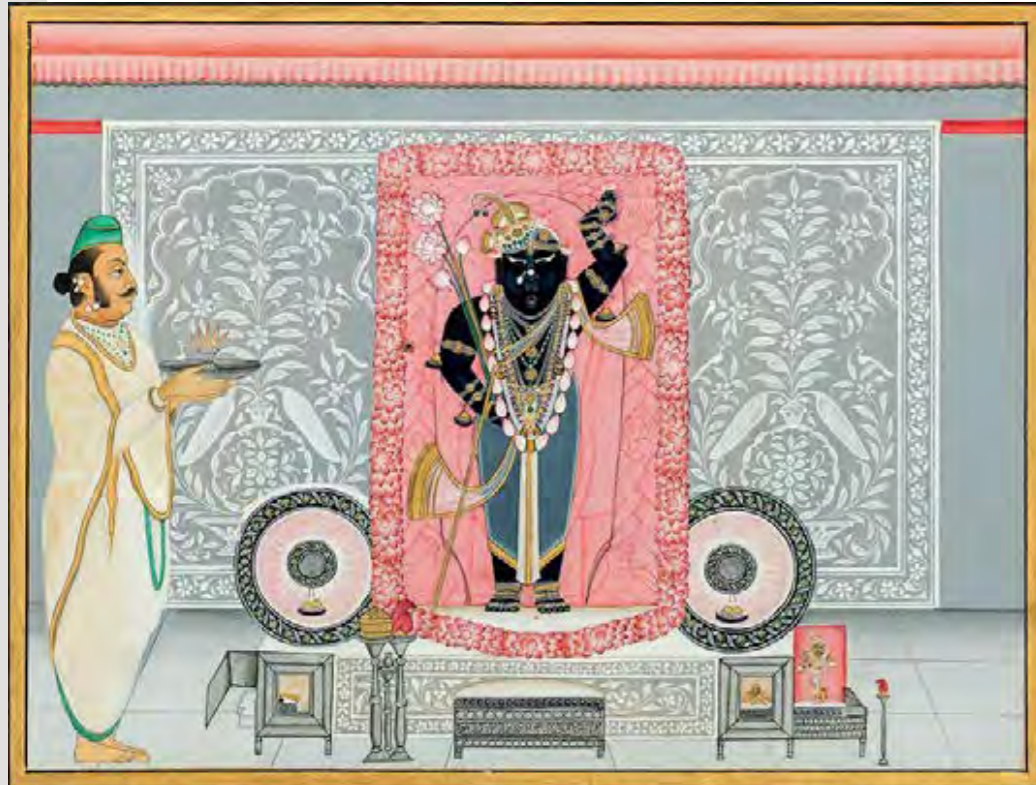
HOA: Design your own life. When you envision what elements your life should have, whether it's the quality of your relationships or your career goals, your mind starts working towards realising those ambitions.

RK: Put your heart and soul into whatever you

do. Don't hold back and wait for things to happen... Make them happen! Experience is a great teacher, but education is a powerful aid; if you can do a specialised course, do so; it'll help you stay ahead of the curve.

AP: Just be you! And stand up for what you truly believe in! 🍷

INTERVIEW: ANJANA VASWANI
PHOTOGRAPHY: ASHIMA MEHRA
REALISATION: AVANTIKA KILACHAND
FASHION EDITOR: SONAM POLADIA
JUNIOR STYLIST: ANUSHREE SARDESAI
WARDROBE COURTESY: REDEFINE
LOCATION COURTESY: NEUMA
FOOD CURATED BY: ARPANA PUNJABI
& PURPLE PISTACHOUX BAKERY



Ghata paintings, clockwise from above: Showcasing the adornment of Shrinathji in a cotton lace net with a garland of lotuses arranged in the form of a vase; with a green *pichvai* backdrop; with a black *pichvai* backdrop; displaying the use of a golden star motif on Sharad Purnima; with a black *pichvai* backdrop

SHRINGARA OF SHRINATHJI

PUT TOGETHER BY VIKRAM GOYAL AND AMIT AMBALAL, THIS SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION IS A STRIKING SHOWCASE OF 60 PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED MINIATURE NATHDWARA PAINTINGS

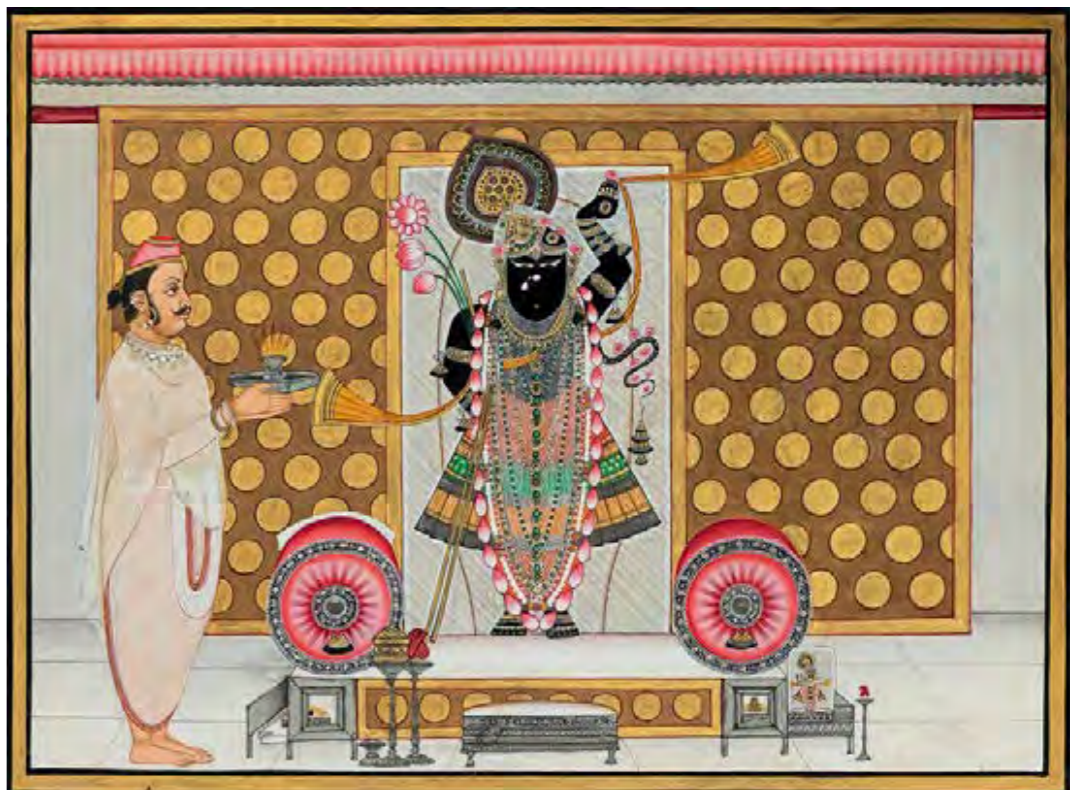
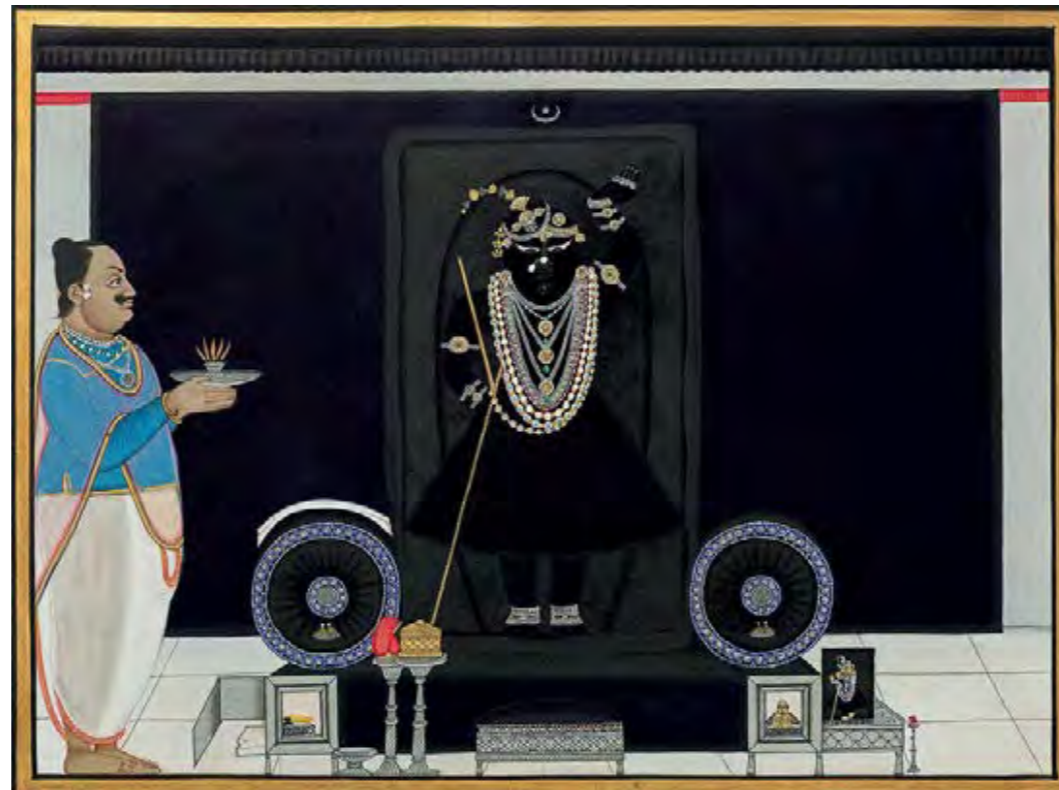
A limited-edition, one-of-a-kind collector's edition, *Shringara of Shrinathji* is a visual anthology of the Gokal Lal Mehta's family's collection of miniature Nathdwara paintings of the centuries-old Pushtimarg tradition. Authored by Amit Ambalal and conceptualised by Vikram Goyal, it catalogues 60 previously unpublished works that belonged to Goyal's grandfather, the late Gokal Lal Mehta.

"My grandfather had a great eye and a keen interest in art and architecture. He openly shared his knowledge and passion," says Goyal. "I have fond memories of him envisioning that this rare family collection of paintings would be published for the world to see. Rajasthan was a perfect canvas to soak it all in."

It was a serendipitous meeting with Bipin Shah of Mapin Publishers that fuelled the thought for this collector's item with the most eye-catching, arresting cover.

"A chance meeting with him led to this exploration and an opportunity to make my grandfather's dreams come true!"

The book is a celebration of the unique, imaginative adornments — or *Shringaras* — of Lord Shrinathji. For each of these paintings, Ambalal — "a renowned historian and authority on Nathdwara paintings," as Goyal says — meticulously highlighted the different aspects of the *shringaras*, including the season and day, the headdress, ornaments, dress, and the *pichvai* backdrop.



There's a fascinating history behind these paintings. In the 15th century, a time of artistic and spiritual renaissance, philosopher Vallabhacharya founded the Vaishnava sect of Pushtimarg. The community lays great emphasis on the worship of the Shrinathji deity through the joys of good living, which include performing kirtans, offering bhog to guests, adopting the process of shringara (dressing and ornamentation), and also decorating and

painting their homes. These paintings came to be identified as the Nathdwara school of art as the image of Shrinathji is enshrined in a temple in Nathdwara, Rajasthan.

Shringara of Shrinathji: From the Collection of the Late Gokal Lal Mehta encapsulates 60 splendid artwork that were executed during the dynamic stewardship of Tilkayat Govardhanlalji (1862–1934), a great patron of the arts. Under his

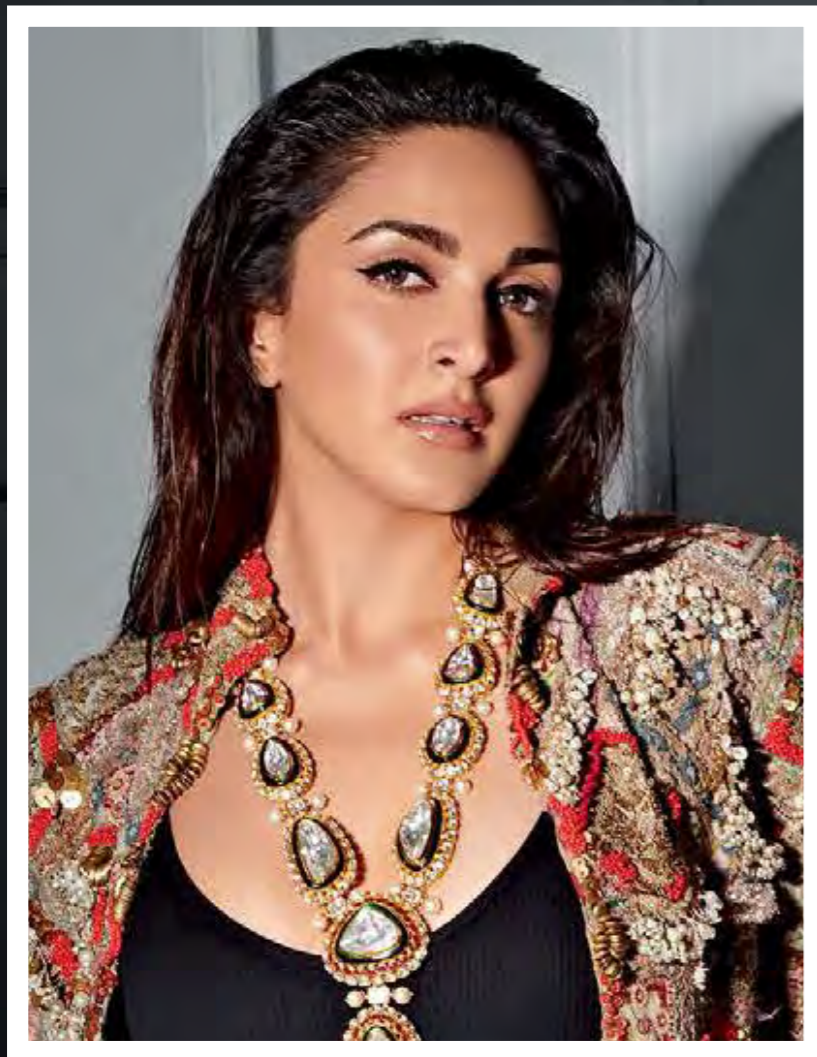
patronage, Nathdwara paintings reached their zenith. The high-quality workmanship of the collection make it likely that this set of Nathdwara miniatures were painted by Sukhdev Kishandas Gaur, the *mukhia* (chief artist) of the temple.

Documenting the high degree of skill in the draughtsmanship, portraiture and composition, Ambalal's expositions accompany the exceptional, high-quality photographic reproductions of these

beautiful works of art. Ask Vikram whether he has a favourite from this series, and he says, "Sharad Purnima pictured for its devotional significance, the contemporary graphics and the 'ghata' paintings that are sublime in their monochromatic minimalism." 📖

INTERVIEW: NAYARE ALI
PHOTO COURTESY: VIYA HOME

Kiara Advani THE GOLDEN GIRL



DELIVERING BACK-TO-BACK SUCCESSES IS NO EASY FEAT, GIVEN TODAY'S CLIMES. BUT KIARA ADVANI HAS ESTABLISHED HERSELF AS HINDI CINEMA'S 'GOLDEN GIRL'. UTTERLY RELATABLE AND DIPLOMATIC, SHE'S STEERING HER WAY THROUGH CHALLENGING ROLES, WITH LASER-SHARP FOCUS AND HER EYES ON THE PRIZE. AS HELLO! DELVES DEEP INTO HER BEING, KIARA SHINES IN ANAMIKA KHANNA COUTURE, WITH THE DESIGNER, TOO, SHEDDING LIGHT ON HER WORK, RESPLENDENT WITH THE CORNUCOPIA OF INDIAN CRAFTSMANSHIP AND A GAME OF CONSTANT REINVENTION



"The more relatable you are, the easier it is to find a connect with the audience. I'm fortunate that all the characters I've played until now have been likeable and relatable"

The 'golden girl' of Hindi cinema, Kiara Advani dons a handcrafted necklace of uncut diamonds (polki) and full-cut diamonds, embedded in 18kt gold, embellished with pearls and coloured stones from Manish Malhotra Jewellery by Raniwala 1881. She poses in a deconstructed floor-length tribal patchwork jacket, highlighted with coins and beads over a black bodysuit, teamed with matching shoes — all by Anamika Khanna Couture

Watch the magic unfold behind the scenes with our cover star by scanning the code



Kiara creates a buzz on the set, dressed in a 3D floral and pearl-embellished deconstructed jacket by Anamika Khanna Couture. She flaunts the open-neck jacket with a handcrafted necklace of uncut diamonds (polki) and full-cut diamonds, embedded in 18kt gold, embellished with pearls and coloured stones from Manish Malhotra Jewellery by Raniwala 1881. She accessorises the look with the brand's handcrafted uncut diamond (polki) ring embedded in 18kt gold, as well as embroidered heels by Anamika Khanna Couture

"There was a mystery around actors of the previous era. Today, social media makes us so accessible that there's no mystique... But my Instagram page is mostly photos from shoots. I'm quite a private person"

THE MUSE

It's one of those lovely monsoon evenings in Mumbai, when the reflection of the street lights glistens on the busy city roads, against the starkness of the cloudy skies. Kiara Advani is winding her way back home from a script reading session of her newest film, *Satyaprem Ki Katha* with Kartik Aaryan, to be directed by National Award-winner Sameer Vidwans.

"Fortunately, our pairing really worked well in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*," says Kiara. "We started off on such a great note. We've begun to prep for the film and will be shooting later this month together. I'm excited to be working with him once again! It's a love story, my favourite genre, where I play Katha, and he plays Satya. My last was *Kabir Singh*, which everyone loved!"

The Mumbai-born actor is really soaking up the sun (monsoon notwithstanding!) with the success of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, the highest grossing film of the year, and is now enjoying the success of *Jugjugg Jeeyo*, co-starring Varun Dhawan — literally back-to-back successes that have established Kiara as the new 'golden girl' of Hindi cinema. While she admits expectations of a sequel are always high, she says it was imperative that *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* have its own identity.

"It was just so overwhelming for the entire team. We worked on it for three years, even during the pandemic. Everyone was happy with the result. It was incredible to be a part of a family comedy that also has an element of horror and was part of a well-known franchise," she says, delighted that the film brought back audiences to theatres in large numbers. "This year's highest-grossing film has given the industry hope!"

Satyaprem Ki Katha has already creating a buzz in fan groups across social media. It's said to be filmed in Gujarat. And while it's the Ki-Ka pairing that's got everyone excited, Kiara maintains a laser-sharp focus on her role and her task ahead.

"I surrender completely to the director, the costume designer and their vision," she says. "In our readings, I get to understand the character — what she'd wear, how she'd feel — and then we see the final product. It's an interesting process, a part of preparing for my role."

And the beloved actor, who's known for her wholesome characters — she played former Indian skipper MS Dhoni's wife Sakshi Singh Rawat in *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story*, co-starring the late Sushant Singh Rajput — knows how to connect with the audience.

"The more relatable you are, the easier it is to find this connect," says Kiara. "I'm fortunate that all the characters I've played until now have been likeable and relatable (the adorable Monika Batra of *Good Newsz* fame opposite Diljit Dosanjh comes to mind). Even today, when I go out, a lot

"Everyone I've worked with, I'd call my friend. All my co-stars are special. We may not meet every day, but we are always in touch, whether it's Sid, Shahid, Varun, or Vicky. They all have a special place in my life"

of people come up to me and say, 'Preeti, Preeti!' remembering my character's name (in *Kabir Singh* with Shahid Kapoor)."

For Kiara, it's a gratifying experience to be remembered for certain characters.

"At the end of the day, it's what you're working for. It's rare for actors to get so much love for these characters. I took a lot of risks early on in my career, be it *Lust Stories* (a Karan Johar Netflix production), or Preeti's character. I've pushed boundaries as an actor, and my aim is to be as versatile as I can. But it should be relatable, and for that, my identifying with the character I play should be as organic as possible."

In *Lust Stories*, Kiara manages to pack in an up-close-and-personal role opposite Vicky Kaushal (who she's reuniting with in her forthcoming release *Govinda.Naam.Mera*), as his sexually dissatisfied wife Megha, who stands up for the right to feel pleasure within their relationship.

"This was a completely different format for me," says Kiara. "And when it was released, everyone noticed the performer in me! That's why I have a very special relationship with Karan. Being directed by him was a dream."

Kiara says she's learnt something from every director she's worked with.

"It's a treat to be directed by Karan — his process is entertaining, and he understands the actor's psychology, which brings out the best in you," she says. "I've worked with Raj Mehta in two films — *Good Newsz* and *Jugjugg Jeeyo* — both completely different."

The happy ending of *Jugjugg Jeeyo*, with the couples reconciling, brings "perspective and introspection, and is a great way to leave the cinema hall with a smile", she says. But would Kiara, the person, be able to forgive a partner who's been unfaithful?

"Right now, I'd say, 'No way,' but that's living in an ideal world. For a third party who's not experienced it, it's more black and white. I wouldn't give anyone a second chance. But when you're in that situation, it's a different



"I have a very special relationship with Karan Johar. It's a treat to be directed by him. His process is entertaining, and he understands the actor's psychology, which brings out the best in you"



Kiara wears a 3D floral and beadwork, floor-length cape with a *zardozi* and 3D floral inner, teamed with silver-embroidered, shredded pants. A set of bespoke brass cuffs and armlets complete the look — all by Anamika Khanna Couture. A pair of stunning earrings handcrafted with uncut diamonds (*polki*) and full-cut diamonds, all embedded in 18kt gold, from Manish Malhotra Jewellery by Raniwala 1881, complete the look



perspective. Relationships are complicated, and it depends on the couple and how they wish to work things through.”

Kiara feels lucky to have worked with veteran actors Neetu Kapoor and Anil Kapoor in this film, with whom she has “a great equation”.

“The better the actor in front of you, the better you are. And yes, they are punctual and highly professional. With Anil sir, I shared a great camaraderie on set; we did multiple rehearsals before actually going for the take, constant warm-ups, readings... That’s what he brings to the table.”

And is Varun Dhawan as crazy and fun as he

portrays to the world?

“What you see is what you get!” laughs Kiara.

In fact, she finds all her contemporaries — Varun Dhawan, Alia Bhatt, Sidharth Malhotra — highly spontaneous, much like Akshay Kumar or Anil Kapoor.

“Their approach is similar. They switch on and off in their approach to acting.”

But it’s social media that really sets this generation of actors apart from the earlier era, the pre-smartphone days of the 80s, 90s and the 2000s.

“There was a mystery around actors of that era,” says Kiara. “It was exciting when you didn’t

“I may dress up, or go glam and chic... Anamika Khanna is one of my favourite designers. This particular collection that we shot with is outstanding! Each piece is a work of art!”

hear from them or see them on screen. Today, social media makes us so accessible that there’s no mystique. One has to go with the times.”

However, Kiara doesn’t feel compelled to share everything on, say, Instagram.

“I’m not trying to work that side of the game. I came here to be an actor, and that’s what I want to focus on; the rest is a by-product. Social media, PR... I don’t want to spend all my time on that. My Instagram page is mostly photos from shoots, so it’s work related. I’m quite a private person.”

Kiara, who’s got acting in her lineage — with Ashok Kumar (her great-great-grandfather) and Saeed Jaffrey (her maternal great-uncle) — never got to meet these veteran actors.

“While they’re part of my family, I only got to know them through their films. My parents and grandparents would talk about them. I discovered their contribution to cinema during the release of my first film. I can only hope to grow into the best actor and make them proud!”

With the festive and wedding season right around the corner, Kiara says her go-to outfits are lehengas and sarees.

“Manish (Malhotra) is my fave, and Anamika (Khanna). This particular collection that we’ve shot with is outstanding! Each piece is a work of art!”

Her own personal style really depends on how she feels on a particular day.

“I may dress up, or go glam and chic. We Indians have a naturally tiny waist, so if I wear a gown or a dress, it can be off-shoulder, or even cinched at the waist, not necessarily figure hugging.”

Blessed with great genes, Kiara believes in yoga and kickboxing to keep fit and stays as disciplined as she can, working out with her trainer in the gym of her building. She loves sushi and South Indian food, but her tastes keep changing.

A beach baby, she’s loved holidaying in the Maldives (where else, given the last two years!), and is besotted with the ancient city of Rome, where she recently stayed at the Hotel de Russie, a stone’s throw from the city’s famed Spanish Steps.

“I’d love to return to this restored property. It’s dripping with history...”

And would she call her generation of actors her friends? — “Everyone I’ve worked with, I’d call my friend. All my co-stars are special. We may not meet every day, but we are always in touch, whether it’s Sid, Shahid, Varun, or Vicky. They all have a special place in my life.”

Kiara, who dreams of being directed one day by the magnificent Sanjay Leela Bhansali, is all set to resume shooting for her much-talked about film with S Shankar and Ram Charan of *RRR* fame.

“It’s been the best experience... I can’t speak much about it!” says Kiara, happy to be back on the sets along with the talented technicians and a cast that make up an S Shankar film.

As for learning her lines in Telugu, she laughs: “I’m just a good student!”

THE DESIGNER

Anamika Khanna is the queen of reinvention, who ventures into fresh territory, giving established forms and norms new meaning, forcing us to look at fashion in a brand-new way. The Kolkata-based designer reinvents and modernises to create something new out of the existing, a form of creativity that starts with an idea and pushes boundaries to almost subvert and turn it on its head.

Her latest collection, showcased at FDCI India Couture Week 2022, eschewed the traditional lehenga completely, which is *de rigueur* in an Indian bride’s trousseau. Instead, she opted to experiment with gowns, pants, skirts, and jackets, with peepholes, cutwork, lace, ivory and black creations with a hint of tribalism.

In a career that’s spanned two-and-a-half decades, Anamika — one of the first Indian designers to showcase at Paris Fashion Week in 2007 — has experimented with sarees, prints and embroidery (her forte) and been credited with fashioning the high-waisted dhoti pant, catapulting it to cult status in womenswear.

With an arsenal of the most intricate Indian craftsmanship and textile creations at her disposal, she’s played with saree-gowns worn with long jackets (as seen in the canary yellow jacketed combo worn by Katrina Kaif recently), cape jackets, muted ivories contrasted with black, delicate fabrics that have layer upon layer of embroidery, print and embellishment, a delicate yet strong balance as seen in lace versus metallics.

“Subtlety is what defines me,” she says. “Whites, ivories, the fluidity and ease of silhouettes and their shape, yet the edginess... I hate the idea of someone having had to struggle to get ready; the more effortless you are, the more sure you are of yourself. The quiet and the noise, all of it together — it’s the paradox that defines me.”

For the self-taught designer (she has no formal training), who wanted to be a dancer, it all started with a contest: “I sent in some sketches... There was a show, so I happened to stumble into this area. Once I tried my hand at making that first garment, I realised I was born for this.”

A constant learner, she admits she gets bored easily, hence the need to constantly keep at it.

“Every morning, I wake up dreaming of something new, to give it form. I’ve been obsessed with textiles, embroideries and crafts that exist in India and am lucky to have exposure to them. These are a constant source of inspiration and are used to modernise, reinvent, experiment with.”

Even when she designs a collection — whether it was an homage to Indian crafts during the digital FDCI India Couture Week, or a reinvention of nudes before that at Lakmé India Fashion Week — she feels the need to redo and revamp it a bit more.

“This pushes me as a designer,” Anamika says. “The world is not chaotic. For me, it’s beautiful. It’s up to us to find our place in it.”

For her, inspiration can strike at any time, not just from a tangible object like a flower or a butterfly.

“It could be a mood, a thought, a sentiment, or what I’m feeling, something a client said or wore... Before I embark on any line, I ask myself: who’s my client, what’s the season, what am I designing for, what is the occasion? It’s an emotional process.”



Living in Kolkata, besides giving her access to some of our country’s best embroiderers, gives her privacy, a “space to hide” and do her own thing. It’s about living with “simpler people with simpler lives”. There’s art in every gesture, like a friend sending her food in banana leaves, decorated with flowers.

“Kolkata has that influence on me,” smiles Anamika. “Where subtlety, intricacy, art and design influence me. I’m blessed to live here. Of course, the talent is here, but you have to bring them into your fold and teach them your way of looking at craft.”

An Anamika Khanna garment sample, I learn, stays in the maison’s archive forever, and is a source of inspiration. In her latest collection, she took a piece she created 15 years ago, bettered it, streamlined it, and made it more modern.

“It’s important for me to reflect upon what we did in the past. Sometimes you move on, and sometimes you take what you did and grow that forward,” says the designer.

Even when she reinvents the saree, she agrees it’s a sensitive issue.

“You have to respect the saree, but also bring it to a relevant, more modern context. I don’t



Soaking up the success of her back-to-back blockbusters, the stunning actor strikes a pose dressed in a silver and 3D pearl-embroidered cut-out long dress, with a floor-length jacket by Anamika Khanna Couture. She stacks up a pair of bangles handcrafted with Zambian emerald beads, with an amalgam of uncut diamonds (polki) and full-cut diamonds embedded in 18kt gold, a statement gem from Manish Malhotra Jewellery by Raniwala 1881. She adds the finishing touch with a brass cuff by Anamika Khanna Couture

“Kiara exudes elegance, beauty and a sense of power. She’s confident yet humble, and that shows. It feels as though she owns her looks”

- Anamika Khanna

want to fool around with it... Where on earth will you find a six-yard fabric that can be draped in so many ways and that stays on the body without a single stitch? I’m as fascinated with this idea as I am with the dhoti and lungi. But unless someone brings these things into the limelight, in the most modern, relevant, simple, stylish way, they will die out.”

She laughs when we ask her whether there’s anything she won’t deconstruct — case in point, the bridal veil whose identity she played with in her last show.

“I want to deconstruct everything that exists!” she says. “Indian wear doesn’t have to stay confined and limited. I’m ready to push the boundaries and say it’s possible. I’m ready to deconstruct anything.”

One of the first from India to retail at prestige stores like Harrods, whose international label Ana-Mika could be found at top stores abroad, the designer shies away from the word ‘success’. She’s a favourite of actors like Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, who wore an Anamika Khanna saree at Cannes (“My favourite moment!”). And on the retail front, things are moving into high gear. She’s tied up with Reliance Brands for a joint venture with her prêt label AK-OK, a “turning point in her career, targeting a cooler, younger, more loungey” audience.

“It’s not relevant to me if I’m at the top or not. ‘Success, to me, is relative. I’m not defined by it. You’re as good as your last collection; you’re as good as how much you’re able to prove, not just in design but as a human being.”

If one were to say that Anamika Khanna is one of India’s most revered designers, what’d she say?

“I feel embarrassed that you say my name has reverence attached to it,” she says. “I’m far from it. I’ve always been true to what I do. I wasn’t looking at others, or what others were doing. I just chose to go with my gut. I’m married to what I do. I hope I leave this world doing what I do.”

For Anamika, today’s bride is very much in the driving seat.

“Mums don’t go and choose their bridal outfits,” she says. “The bride is fully engaged with what she will wear and will push boundaries. But due to their upbringing or education, they still respect tradition. That’s beautiful. But I can’t put bridalwear in a box. It’s taken a 180-degree turn and is personal now.”

And when Shloka Mehta (who married Akash Ambani) wears an Anamika Khanna for her wedding, it’s a huge compliment.

“She’s not one of those who’d wear something because she likes the brand or the name. That was a moment where we knew our work was appreciated. That matters more than anything else.”

Anamika walks that tight line between fashion and art, where she not only began her journey, but is also married to an artist. It’s no surprise that she’s into edgy, experimental art. She’s been experimenting recently with lace-inspired embroidery that looks like lace, but is handcrafted in the finest possible way; and currently, she’s



obsessed with satin. While she’s a thinking person’s designer, she doesn’t “want customers to be engulfed in an AK and lose their personality”.

“When they take a piece and make it their own, I want my customers to interact with an AK outfit. Dress it up, dress it down, make it their own.”

And her muse for the HELLO! cover shoot, Kiara Advani, brings just the right amount of confidence.

“Kiara exudes elegance, beauty and a sense of power,” says Anamika. “She’s confident yet humble, and that shows through in her body language. She has respect and empathy, and looks spectacular. It feels as though she owns her looks. I don’t want the clothes to own the wearer!”

And what will her twin boys Viraj and Vishesh do with her legacy?

“For my boys, it’s their own journey to travel,” she says. “I don’t want to decide what they should

do with the brand, or where they should take it. They’ll have to discover that for themselves. At the moment, Viraj has found his place in art, and Vishesh is involved in the menswear line of AK-OK. They are still young and discovering.”

Anamika takes care of herself, and it shows through with her svelte frame.

“I’m vegan and gluten-free. I’ve always been into fitness (she started running recently) and made sure that I never let go. But I’m at peace internally, while working really hard every day. I also indulge in yin yoga, and I love music. When I think of design, that’s a form of relaxation to me.”

INTERVIEW: PRIYA KUMARI RANA
PHOTOGRAPHY: VAISHNAV PRAVEEN
FROM THE HOUSE OF PIXELS
CREATIVE DIRECTION & STYLING: AMBER TIKARI
FASHION EDITOR: SONAM POLADIA
HAIR & MAKEUP: MEHEK OBEROI
PRODUCTION: THINK THESIS



Camille Vasquez rose to fame defending Hollywood star Johnny Depp in the defamation trial against his ex-wife Amber Heard (below)

(LEFT) SUIT: ARGENT (RIGHT) SUIT: ALINA ANWAR

EXCLUSIVE

SUPERSTAR LAWYER CAMILLE VASQUEZ

ON MAKING JOHNNY DEPP SMILE AGAIN – AND HOW SHE'S DEALING WITH FAME

"Fame has been a surreal experience and, if I'm honest, a tad overwhelming, something I wasn't prepared for"



She is the high-powered lawyer who found global fame when she secured victory for Hollywood actor Johnny Depp in the sensational six-week defamation trial against his ex-wife, Amber Heard. And in just a matter of weeks, Camille Vasquez took the world by storm as she found herself at the centre of one of the biggest entertainment stories of the year.

Dubbed the "queen of cross-examination", the lawyer became a vital member of the litigation team that ended the trial with a jury ruling in favour of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* star, awarding him US\$10 million in compensatory damages and US\$350,000 in punitive damages.

Thrilled with her fierce showing in court, Johnny's legion of fans posted photos of themselves

wearing "I [heart] Camille Vasquez" T-shirts on social media and even called for her to run for president in 2024. Her company, international law firm Brown Rudnick, promoted her to partner.

The 37-year-old — who has also represented Ben Affleck, Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lopez — is indeed a force to be reckoned with. Always smiling, full of life, kind, intelligent, close to her family, and passionate about her work, Camille — the daughter of immigrant parents from Cuba and Colombia — knew that her career goal was to represent and defend people.

Camille, who is dating British property executive Edward Owen, tells HELLO! about her humble childhood, her love for her family and why she still feels emotional about making Johnny smile again.

How was your life before becoming the "queen of cross-examination" and a viral sensation? Private. I was just a hard-working lawyer and, thankfully, was surrounded by a fantastic legal team. We're very close friends and trust and challenge each other. I can't say enough about what a fantastic group of lawyers I had the privilege to work with.

How did you become part of the litigation team? I've worked for Johnny on all the matters that the firm has handled for the past four-and-a-half years. So when we filed this case, it was a natural fit for me to take the leading role. I was one of the few women on the team initially, and having experience with Johnny and knowing his

background, his story, and knowing him, made sense to put me on this case.

Ben [law firm partner Benjamin Chew] and I worked closely, and then I started recruiting people at the firm that I thought could bring a different perspective and other, individual skills. We have some fantastic underwriters and some strategic thinkers, and it just turned into this magical team of lawyers.

Johnny Depp wasn't in court [when the verdict came]. Now that the trial is over, how did he thank you? The court was very kind to provide us with a room that we used for lunch and meetings, and when we FaceTimed him, he was so relieved, happy and grateful. It was



Joined by her mother during the exclusive photoshoot, the lawyer reveals her parents were the first people she called after the case's verdict

"We're very close friends who trust and challenge each other. I can't say enough about what a fantastic group of lawyers I had the privilege to work with"

nice to see him smile. A mutual friend told me: 'I haven't seen Johnny smile like that in six years.' It's true, there's a sense of peace to him now that he just didn't have before. He was able to tell his story and was infinitely grateful and moved. We all were. I still get a bit emotional about it — to give him his life back.

On TV, we saw you all super excited and embracing each other after the verdict. When you got home, who was the first person you called? I called my parents on the way back to the hotel and also spoke to my sister and her husband who were with their baby girl. She was saying: 'Bravo, Tia (Auntie).' I got a picture of her wearing a little T-shirt that says: 'Camille is my lawyer.' My boyfriend was with me, too.

Can you share a little-known fact about your behind-the-scenes experience? How did you all keep entertained when you weren't in session? When we got a notification that the verdict would be read, we were in a very intense game of Monopoly. Despite that, we quickly threw [down] all our money and had a little dance party to get our wiggles out. Then we received the verdict.

It was overwhelmingly positive for Johnny, and we immediately got him on the phone. After we composed ourselves, Ben and I decided we should go outside [to make a statement], but when we were inside the lift heading down, it broke! We thought we'd be stuck there, but thankfully, the boys managed to open the doors, and we got out and were able to give the statement. It was a day I'll never forget.

Your law firm Brown Rudnick has made you its newest partner. What do you think the CEO sees in you? I'm very grateful to the firm for promoting me. I'm thankful they see my dedication to my work, clients, and team. This is not something anybody can do alone. I give credit where credit is due and can't say enough good things about this team of lawyers. We worked so seamlessly together; I don't think they want to break up the band and want to keep us together. It's very important to me, especially as I get to work with people I respect, people I look up to, and that those people are at the firm.

In 2010, you graduated from law school with honours. How proud is your family after seeing your success and performance before and during this trial? When I got off the phone with my mom, I was like: 'Mom, please stop crying.' My parents are both overwhelmed with excitement and happiness. Mom is Cuban, Dad is Colombian, and they both left their countries to give their daughters — I have a sister 15 months younger than me — an opportunity for a better life. They always say: 'We're not leaving you with much, but we're leaving you with your education, and that's something that no one can take away from you.'

They never wanted us to have to rely on anyone. That's their gift to us, and I think they did a good job.

"I was one of the few women on the team initially, and having experience with Johnny and knowing his background, his story, and knowing him, made sense to put me on this case"

My sister is a doctor and I'm a lawyer, so I'm just eternally grateful to them. They're the best parents anyone could ask for.

What are the biggest lessons you learnt from your parents? To stay humble and be grateful for all the sacrifices they made. I think working hard is something they instilled in us both. There'll always be forces working against you because of your last name or how you look. For them, it was essential we learnt the language, and Spanish is our first language.

We're proud of where our parents came from, but it's also a testament to the fact that we are Americans. We were both born in California and are first-generation Americans. And growing up surrounded by the Latin culture allowed us to experience, first-hand, why Hispanic food is among the most flavourful and diverse!

Do you have any hidden talents? I can sing, but it's not something I do any more. But you might find some videos if you dig deep enough. I did a lot of musical theatre growing up. My father worked for Hilton Hotels throughout his career, and we lived at the Anaheim Hilton Towers. It had an Italian restaurant, and at weekends, a duo, Jerry and Victoria, sang and played piano. They're such close friends of my family and, every night I was there, I would sing 'Part of Your World' from *The Little Mermaid*. One of my oldest memories is that. As I got a bit older, Victoria would make a joke like: 'You're getting bigger,' while sitting me on her lap.

What do you do in your free time? I love to travel, eat at different restaurants, try different cuisines and spend time with loved ones. Nothing makes me happier than being around family or friends over a really good meal and a glass of wine. I love hosting dinner parties and being around people; that's probably the Hispanic side of me; it just makes me happy. I'm much more of a homebody than you might think.

You're the perfect example that hard work and discipline pay off. For many, you are a role model. What would you advise others to learn from your experience? To follow their dreams and be committed to them. My goal was always to be an advocate. Ever since I was a young girl, I've been told I talk a lot. When I feel passionate about something, I take it seriously. It's about following your dreams, sticking to your gut instinct, and not being afraid to be confident and do what's right. If I could be an inspiration for other young women, especially Hispanic women and Latinas, then it's all worth it. 📌

INTERVIEW: SHIRLEY GOMEZ
PHOTOGRAPHY: JESUS CORDERO
STYLING: EMMA PRITCHARD
ASSISTED BY: CORAL FINNIE
HAIR & MAKEUP: JAMIE HARPER

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: AP



KRUTIKA GHORPADE & AKSHAY BHANSALI

He hails from the royal family of Gwalior, and she's a scion of the Sandur blue-blooded clan. The charming Akshay Bhansali and Krutika Ghorpade Bhansali, who've been married for five years now, encapsulate a narrative that borders on history and legendary families coming together. This is a marriage equal in all respects, be it their royal status, their professional lives, or their responsibilities towards their three-year-old daughter, Annika Devi.

The Scindia family has a history with both pre- and post-independence India. Akshay's mother, Yashodhara Raje Scindia is a two-time MP from Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh and also the youngest daughter of Jiwajirao Scindia, the former Maharaja of Gwalior, and the late Vijaya Raje Scindia. Akshay's father, Dr Siddharth Bhansali, on the other hand, is a cardiologist from a prominent family of Palitana in Gujarat, the son of famed cardiologist Dr Kirtilal Bhansali.

"My mum met my father at Mahalaxmi Racecourse in Mumbai in the early 70s. They both love equestrian sports. My dad was a jockey; he must have been quite the sight up there on the horse! My mother was also quite an accomplished horsewoman. They met, and the rest is history!" shares Akshay.

Krutika, too, comes from royal blood — her father Kartikeya Raje Ghorpade hails from the royal family of Sandur, while her mother Ambika Ghorpade is the daughter of Rajkumari Sushiladevi of Jasdan, Gujarat.

Armed with their heart-warming chemistry — Akshay reaches out to Krutika time and again for wardrobe checks — the couple are dressed to the nines for this special shoot with HELLO!, a far cry from their go-to casual personal style. There's an easy camaraderie and warmth in Krutika's parental home in Bengaluru, where they play fabulous hosts to HELLO!, regaling us with tales of how they met, their amusing 'proposal', their wedding shenanigans and more!

Akshay, your family has a strong history in politics. Can you throw some light on this?

My great-great-grandfather, Jayajirao Scindia, was the ruling Maharaja of Gwalior under the British. My late grandmother Vijaya Raje Scindia followed her heart and played an integral role in the *Sangh*, shaping and financing the modern-day Bharatiya Janata Party in the spirit of helping people. And this continues into the subsequent generation. We lost my uncle Madhavrao Scindia tragically before he reached his full potential. His son Jyotiraditya Scindia is willing to fulfill his vision. Then there's my mother, who's been compelled to contribute like her mother did for the past 30 to 40 years.

IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH HELLO!, THE YOUNG ROYALS SHARE THEIR DELIGHTFUL LOVE STORY AND WHAT IT'S LIKE LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY POST MARRIAGE



Do you see yourself joining politics?

The way I see it, I'd be so lucky if I did. There's a lot of discussion out there right now about politics being a family business. One has to be careful about the optics of things. When we get together as a family, we have impassioned discussions in good spirit. It's a high-stakes game. When we get together, we like to leave the office talk in the office (chuckles). We wait for my mum and her two sisters to come together; they regale us about their royal past. We feel proud about our background and cherish it.

Tell us a little about your early life.

Akshay Bhansali: My father moved to the US in the 70s, where he was inspired by his dad to also become a doctor. After their wedding, they raised three kids — my brother, sister and I — in the US. We'd all come down to India every year to visit Mumbai, Delhi and Gwalior, and since my marriage, I visit Bengaluru, too.

Krutika Ghorpade: My sister and I grew up in Sandur and went to a school that was started by my father and his brother there, as there was no school in the region at the time. We studied there till Class 6 and soon moved to Bengaluru. I also went to Jain International Residential School for a year, but boarding school was not for me as I was used to a protected environment. I cried to my parents over the phone every day, but they talked me into slugging it out for at least a year. Then my sister and I shifted to Delhi Public School, followed by Mallya Aditi International School in Bengaluru. I soon moved to London for my undergraduate studies in economics and management from Royal Holloway, under the University of London.

What do you do professionally?

AB: After graduating from NYU, I worked for a decade with MTV as a producer. I now run my own brand content advertising agency called We Are Not Pilgrims, the idea being that people who came to America were settlers, but we aren't settlers in our art, and hence, not pilgrims. Currently, our feature-length documentary, *NYC Point Gods*, on the enduring impact of the New York City Point Guards who honed their craft in the city's playgrounds, is airing on an American channel. *It's Bruno*, a short comedy series, aired on Netflix and was nominated for an Emmy. As far as Bollywood collabs are concerned, I do have my Holy Grail of family-related stories that I plan to pitch. They are within the realm of family storytelling, so let's see where it goes...

KG: I'm currently going with the flow. My daughter is too young and needs my attention right now.



Their chemistry evident to all, Krutika Ghorpade and Akshay Bhansali are a match made in heaven. Standing by a mantle with endearing family photos here, Akshay wears a draped double-breasted jacket with gold detailing and velvet zaradozi-embroidered dress shoes by Manoviraj Khosla. Krutika is dressed in a figure-hugging gown by Jyoti Sachdev Iyer, embellished with delicate sequins. Antique emerald earrings and a diamond bracelet from her personal collection complete the look



As she flaunts a solitaire from her personal collection, Krutika looks confident and elegant against an antique dining table in the dining area, which overlooks a cosy balcony

"I had my apprehensions as Akshay is 10 years older, but I realised later that he's easy going, young at heart and gets along with everyone"
- Krutika Ghorpade

How did the two of you meet?

AB: I was invited to an extended family member's birthday party in Goa. My mother could not make it, so I went on her behalf. I had not met this wing of my family, so it was a whirlwind of an evening — and then I noticed Krutika. We spoke briefly, and I was charmed by her smile and how she interacted. I remember getting into the car and asking my cousin who she was. Soon, I dropped her a 'Hello' on Facebook and began to occasionally like or comment on her pictures. When I was visiting Bengaluru, I asked her whether she'd like to catch up. I was 35; she was 25. We knew within a few meetings that this was it. We caught up in London and New York, as well, and then our families exchanged pleasantries and decided to give us space to get to know each other. She next invited me to visit her family plantation in Chikmagalur; I was unsure until I spoke to my dad. It was then that I knew she was the one for me. By the end of the Chikmagalur trip, I had a chat with her father and was invited to join the family with open arms. I couldn't be luckier.

KG: Akshay was actually invited to the party to be introduced to my older cousin. I was more like her wing woman at this party and had made myself available to be of any assistance to her. But it didn't work out. Later, Akshay told me he was impressed by how I was working so hard to help my cousin. Sometime later, he sent me requests on Instagram and Facebook and asked to meet me when he was visiting Bengaluru. And that's when it hit me that he was interested in me! I did have my initial apprehensions as he's 10 years older than me, but when we met again in New York when I was on a holiday there, I realised he's very easy going, young at heart and gets along with everyone. I think we met around four to five times through that year, and by the sixth time, we were married!

What was the proposal like?

KG: Technically, there was no proposal. The defining moment was when our mothers met. It was meant to be a meet and greet among the

"The journey's been quite an adventure that's primarily had its ups and moments where we learned about teamwork. We're a happy couple"
- Akshay Bhansali

parents. They were travelling in the car ahead of us. We were heading to his mum's place in Delhi, when someone told us "Yes, they've decided. This is your engagement date." We didn't have that conversation; the parents did!

You had a magical wedding that went on for 12 days...

AB: It was a dream! The wedding took place at Taj West End, Bengaluru. Around 35 American friends came down for our nuptials. There were gatherings in Mumbai, Delhi, Dholpur and Gwalior. We showed them the fort, and the function was at Taj Usha Kiran Palace in Gwalior.

KG: It was a fun wedding! I wish I were a guest at it because most of his friends from the US were travelling to India for the first time. They got to experience this big, fat Indian wedding, along with a tour of almost the entire country. We got married in Bengaluru and then we went to Mumbai, followed by Delhi, Agra to see the Taj Mahal, and then Dholpur, where his cousin lives. It was magical.

Krutika, how has life been post marriage in New York?

Initially, it really was quite overwhelming because Akshay had a tiny bachelor pad, just around 400sqft. When I landed there, I had two suitcases full of clothes. Poor Akshay had sweetly emptied parts of his closet so I could unpack. We stayed there for five to six months. It was hectic but a lot of fun — even though we had no personal space! But now, we live in a nice home in Brooklyn and have a child. We manage her by ourselves. She used to go to preschool for 2 to 3 hours, but this month onwards, she'll begin full-day school from 9am to 3pm. She gets spoiled in India, but in New York, she becomes more independent. Akshay is not a typical Indian husband; he does the cleaning and helps with everything. In fact, I learned to cook only after marriage. I used to FaceTime my grandmother even to make scrambled eggs. But now, I can cook everything!



The living room at Krutika's parents' home in Bengaluru is adorned with traditional paintings, intricate décor elements as well as a console that holds framed images of their royal families



The couple takes in the warmth of the upper-floor balconies at Krutika's parents' home in Bengaluru that overlook a lovely green lawn. She's slipped into a long, flowing dress from her wardrobe to suit the setting, while he poses in a bomber jacket with complementing sneakers by Manoviraj Khosla

How has your journey been so far, with marriage and a child in the big city?

AB: The journey's been quite an adventure that's primarily had its ups and moments where we learned about teamwork. We're a happy couple. She makes me laugh. When our daughter Annika Devi was born in 2019, it made us a whole lot better. When she's in India, she speaks Kannada and Marathi and enjoys local snacks. But when we return to NYC, she's back to speaking "Mommy and Daddy" with an American accent. She's an easy child, and we've travelled together to the Bahamas, New Orleans and Miami.

KG: It's been five years! We're more like good friends than husband and wife. The pregnancy happened organically. He was 40, and the timing felt right. Then Covid happened, and the baby was the best excuse to stay home. I had an easy pregnancy.

"I wish I were a guest because most of his friends from the US got to experience this big, fat Indian wedding, along with a tour of almost the entire country"

- Krutika Ghorpade

"Politics is a high-stakes game. When we get together as a family, we have impassioned discussions in good spirit"

- Akshay Bhansali

Sometimes, I'd even forget I was pregnant! The first time it hit me was when someone offered me their seat on a subway in NYC. That's when I was reminded that I was six or seven months pregnant. But I was quite comfortable till childbirth.

Akshay, where do you see yourself in five years? The sky's the limit! Blessed with my family background and given the steps I've taken... But it's too early to tell. I'm in a happy, privileged place and look ahead with positivity. 🇮🇳

INTERVIEW: NAYARE ALI
PHOTOGRAPHY: LUCKY MALHOTRA
JUNIOR STYLIST: ANUSHREE SARDESAI
FASHION COORDINATION: NAYARE ALI
WARDROBE COURTESY: MANOVIRAJ KHOSLA FOR AKSHAY BHANSALI; JYOTI SACHDEV IYER AND TASUVERE FOR FOLIO, FOR KRUTIKA GHORPADE
HAIR: MANJULA JAGAN
MAKEUP: BHAVANA PRASHANTH



At ease before the camera, the two share a cool, cosy vibe by an embellished mirror, with an Omega gold clock and antique urn on the side. Krutika dons a jumpsuit by Tasuvere with antique ruby earrings, posing casually with her husband, who's dressed in a kurta with a desi jacket from his wardrobe

SOHA ALI KHAN

WITH A NEW SERIES OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS LINED UP, THE PATAUDI PRINCESS TALKS MOTHERHOOD, FAMILY, RETURNING TO ACTING AFTER A LONG BREAK AND HER 'RETIREMENT FUND' WITH HUSBAND KUNAL KEMMU

"My husband's away, the baby's asleep, and I've booked myself a massage. I like having some alone time; it's precious to me," says Soha Ali Khan, as we connect for a post-dinner chat on her second book. This time, a children's novel titled *Inni and Bobo Find Each Other*, which comes five years after her debut work, *The Perils of Being Moderately Famous*, a witty narrative on being a 'fringe member' of a famous family.

Inspired by her four-year-old daughter Inaaya, Soha co-authored her latest book with her husband, actor Kunal Kemmu. *Inni and Bobo Find Each Other: Inni and Bobo Adventures* is the first in the planned series on a little child finding friendship, adopting dogs, learning empathy and imperative life lessons, and opening one's heart and homes.

"Everyone was after me to get down to writing, especially my mother. She'd religiously ask me about it during our weekend catch ups. Kunal does not enjoy reading as much as I do, though our child loves to be read to. We decided to put together a book for her birthday, and it turned into a catalogue of Inni and Bobo and their numerous adventures. Inaaya herself has contributed to the stories, with many characters a child of her imagination. She's well aware that she's the star of the book!"

No stranger to life in the spotlight, being the youngest of Nawab Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi and actor Sharmila Tagore's three children. Soha admits the constant scrutiny and social media frenzy around star children is worrisome. Most recently, her nephew Taimur Ali Khan, was trolled for asking the paparazzi to stop filming him, drawing a strong reaction from the family.

"It's part and parcel of our life; we have to accept it. But the main concern is safety. The jostling and flashes scare the children. The psychological impact, too, is difficult to measure. You want your child to have as normal an upbringing as possible and have their own sense of self. Inaaya understands what being 'famous' means, and that



"I can't juggle too many things. I'm focussed and single-minded even when it comes to relationships. I was a good girlfriend and a good wife, and then I had my daughter and became a terrible wife!"

she's recognised by people she does not know. Imagine what that can do to a four-year-old! Children are observant, but they may not be able to express everything they feel."

"It's also incredibly unfair to comment on a child's behaviour when they are being photographed in a public space. A five-year-old is just being themselves! The constant emphasis on being 'perfect' and defining 'good behaviour'... Can you imagine what it does to a young mind? People who do that need to self-reflect that these are children, not people you're checking out on Instagram. Let children be!"

An investment-banker-turned-actor, Soha agrees that motherhood brings its own challenges, saying she was a "self-centred person" until she had her daughter at age 38. She chose to hit pause on her career to focus on raising Inaaya and is candid

"Our daughter Inaaya has contributed to the stories, with many characters a child of her imagination. She's well aware that she's the star of the book!"

when she admits she doesn't adhere to societal norms of women being multitaskers, or there being a "perfect mom model". Although by husband Kunal and her own admission, Soha says she's a far more controlling parent than her own mother, who not only raised three children, but also helmed the biggest movies of her time, among other commitments.

"I can't juggle too many things. I'm focussed and single-minded even when it comes to relationships. I can only do one thing at a time. I was a good girlfriend and a good wife, and then I had my daughter and became a terrible wife!" she says in jest. "I was not a good daughter, not a good friend... Everything suffered, but I chose to have Inaaya at 38 so I could completely immerse myself in motherhood. But as mothers, we need to accept other people into parenting, as well. Women tend to lose their identities once they become mothers, and we need to be mindful about it."

While Kunal tends to draw flak from her for spoiling Inaaya and being the 'good cop', Soha reveals he's quite hands-on when it comes to several other aspects of her well-being — from brushing her hair and helping her get dressed, to taking her on play dates as and when his schedule allows.

"My father was a stay-at-home dad, and my mom was at work. If he wanted to know about my boyfriends, etc, he'd ask mom, but he'd discuss books, finances, and other such subjects with us... Things are different now. Mothers and fathers are both hands-on in all aspects. Fathers are more understanding that it's not just equality at the workplace but equality at home that matters, as well, and it does not make them less of a man to participate in activities seen as a 'mother's job.'"

Be it weekends at Pataudi Palace, their ancestral home, with mother Sharmila, or vacations and family get-togethers with brother Saif, sister-in-law Kareena and their children, Soha says she enjoys the company of her family, describing them as "incredibly funny people".

"We have an innate ability to laugh at ourselves. My mother apprises and keeps us up to date with the goings on of the world. *Bhai* is an awesome cook and loves to discuss art, philosophy and history. But Kareena is the most entertaining person in our family. She really makes us laugh! We are all such different personalities, so it makes everything colourful."

Saif Ali Khan had once remarked how both his sister and daughter Sara, despite being armed with decorated educational degrees, chose to pursue acting. The comment is met with a laugh by Soha, who is all praises for niece Sara and nephew Ibrahim.

"It's such a fantastic profession. Yes, we were swayed by the industry because there's a magic about cinema, performing and telling stories. But it's not easy; it's a road littered with broken hearts and crushed dreams. You have to have thick skin and pick yourself up and have your wits about you. I am very proud of Sara and Ibrahim because of the kind of people they are — clever, funny and

"My mother keeps us up to date with the goings on of the world. Bhai Saif is an awesome cook and loves to discuss art, philosophy and history. But Kareena is the most entertaining person in our family. She really makes us laugh!"

their own person — which should be encouraged and applauded."

On the work front, Soha was recently seen in the series *Kaun Banegi Shikharwati*. With Tanuja Chandra's thriller *Hush Hush* lined up, she's grateful for the opportunities streaming platforms have created for actors across the board.

"I'm so grateful that I get to follow my heart. OTT platforms have instilled this confidence that today, five years after I took a career break, I know that if I wake up and say, 'Hey, I want to go back to acting,' there'll be something for me to do. So I'm not panicking."

"Also, with the narratives these days, you see yourself being represented on screen. Someone like me, who is 43 years old, can be a protagonist. You are no longer burdened by theatrical success, distribution and the PR machinery. My mother is going to do *Gulmohar* after 11 years now, and it's amazing how we are all able to work."

The next in the *Inni and Bobo* series is due in September, with a third book already in the pipeline.

"Kunal and I think of it as our retirement fund," she concludes with a hearty laugh. ☺

INTERVIEW: PUJA TALWAR

Soha Ali Khan and Kunal Kemmu co-authored *Inni and Bobo Find Each Other: Inni and Bobo Adventures*, the first in the planned series inspired by their daughter, Inaaya



Throw it all the way back to our shoot with Soha and Kunal by scanning the QR code

MADHUVANTI SINGH

HERALDING HERITAGE IN HOSPITALITY

THE BRAIN BEHIND JAIPUR'S NEWEST HERITAGE JEWEL, SURYA HAVELI, MADHUVANTI SINGH TAKES HELLO! THROUGH HER JOURNEY RENOVATING AND RESTORING THE CENTURIES-OLD STRUCTURE INTO A MODERN-DAY LUXURY GETAWAY



The central enclosed vestibule and the courtyard of Surya Haveli, with a Mughal-inspired marble fountain accentuated by an Osler-inspired chandelier, is a sight to behold

At the foothills of Amber Fort stands a haveli that can best be described as a jewellery box — fortified on the outside, but hiding true beauty on the inside. Having witnessed the tumultuous tales of Jaipur's rise, the haveli has been magically transformed into a boutique hotel that's received much acclaim from industry insiders and worldly-wise travellers alike. Madhuvanti Singh, a well-known figure among Jaipur's elite, is the lady behind this magical transformation.

With several years of experience in the tourism industry, Madhu — as she is known to her friends — brought together her eye for luxury and old-world style with hospitality, a relatively new endeavour for her family. HELLO! got to discover this unique heritage revival project and speak with the mind behind it, as she shared with us the story of this marvellous metamorphosis.

How did you decide to take over and transform Surya Haveli into a hotel?

Since 1947, the haveli had been inhabited by several families before my father, Thakur Bhim Singh of Rampura, and I inherited it. At the time, it was completely dilapidated and in desperate need of restoration. Though what it always had was the most amazing view of Amber Fort. One evening, while sitting on the roof terrace, gazing at the fort, we decided to transform the haveli to its former glory.

What were the challenges you faced when converting such a heritage structure into a modern-day luxe getaway? To preserve its original features, I worked with specialist restoration artisans from across the country — yet, the renovation of Surya Haveli still proved a challenge! Not only was the original building made of limestone with no bricks and cement, the builders also had to contend with the roofing, made of gigantic stone slabs from the foothills of the surrounding Aravallis. Installing the elevator elegantly



Madhuvanti Singh is pretty and poised, standing on the first floor landing of the haveli, its arches in perfect symmetry, done up with monogrammed wallpaper inspired by the works of the Danielle Brothers



The triple-height atrium of the haveli is embellished with mirror work detailing around the arches and the doorways leading to the bedrooms. The antique grillwork design was inspired by the *jalis* of yore

was another monumental task. Despite the challenges, our desire and love for restoring the haveli won through.

You're probably one of the closest hotels to Amber Fort. What are the pros and cons of such proximity to a massively popular destination? The best part about having a property overlooking the fort is the breathtaking view. Especially watching the sound and light

show from atop our rooftop restaurant. Across the world, properties often have views of such iconic sites, which gives you the real sense of the city and its history. We are lucky to be perfectly placed, overlooking this marvellous UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Surya Haveli lies off the beaten track and yet, is at the heart of the action. Overlooking Amber's main square, fruit and vegetable stalls, textile houses and a market bursting with life are all on



the haveli's doorstep. This means guests can be fully immersed in local life while enjoying the mesmerising views. The sounds of Amber absorb guests further into the 'real India', with the *azan* from the nearby mosque clearly audible and the bells from the fort's temple adding to the magic.

I cannot think of any cons except being in an area that falls under the Architectural Survey of India's purview. We have often struggled with planning permissions and have had to take meticulous care to abide by the guidelines when restoring the structure.

Your interior designer Adil Ahmad has a very distinct sense of style. What was the brief you shared with him when renovating the place? Adil is a master at perfectly blending modern and traditional interior design, so we didn't lose the original character of the property. He had already done our Sonaar Haveli in Jaisalmer and now worked his magic on Surya Haveli, producing a colourful creation worthy of a king. The bedrooms, named after chambers in Amber Fort, are unique in design, view and craftsmanship. His specially-created wallpaper for each room tells the many stories of Jaipur with Mughal motifs, the tales of the hunting days of the maharajas and beautiful pleasure palaces.

My brief was to bear in mind the three different Rajput architectural styles in Amber — Hindu, Mughal and Persian. Surya Haveli is inspired by Amber and retains this trio, which is only apt, with this heritage hotel being right in the centre of the city. Although the haveli belonged to Rajput ministers, both Hindus and Muslims lived here over the centuries. Consequently, the design inspiration was taken from both temples and mosques. This is evident in the courtyard, the arches and the specially made wallpaper.

Any plans to add more facilities to the property? Absolutely! We're currently amid adding a rooftop pool and a restaurant, so there's a new and exciting oasis of calm away from the hustle and bustle of sightseeing around Amber. We're also

taking a keen interest in our hotel kitchens to serve authentic Rajasthani cuisine. We want to celebrate the best of local produce and heirloom.

You and your family have been involved in tourism for decades now, with Rajasthan Tours. How did you decide to branch out into hospitality? What's it been like so far? We've been in the travel and hospitality industry for 63 years. My father started Rajasthan Tours and has always been a great ambassador for promoting tourism in Rajasthan. We wanted to give our state something unique. Having understood what attracts people to Rajasthan, we felt there was a great opportunity in the boutique hotel segment, so we thought of a design hotel that's affordable, central and sustainable.

The journey has had its twists and turns. The pandemic severely affected the tourist count, especially inbound tourism. We like to think the worst is over and that better days lie ahead.

Any plans to expand to other areas of Rajasthan? We hope to create a chain of these unique boutique hotels in the heart of Rajasthani cities. We want them to feel like a home rather than a hotel, so we've deliberately kept them small and personal.

What's your personal interior design ethos? What school of design inspires you the most? Having lived in Rajasthan for so long, traditional arches and carved pillars married to modern-day amenities for the ultimate comfort is what inspires me. Blending traditional interiors with a contemporary twist, with all new-age comforts and facilities is the perfect mix. It's also important for me to give back to the local community and ensure that the environment's been treated as a priority during the construction and operation of Surya Haveli. 🏡

INTERVIEW: VISHWAVEER SINGH
PHOTOGRAPHY: ABHISHEK KHANDELWAL
CREATIVE DIRECTION: AMBER TIKARI
HAIR: DILIP SISODIYA
MAKEUP: KANUPRIYA DULAR



Madhuvanti Singh is dressed elegantly in the petite salon of the haveli, adorned with a madder plant wallpaper inspired by the Sheesh Mahal at Amber Fort (above). The main lounge, with bespoke wallpaper from Adil Ahmad's Palace Collection, was influenced by the local flora and fauna. On the ceiling is a Philippe Starck chandelier (top)



Nachiket Barve took two years to research on the costumes for *Tanhaji*, focussing meticulous attention to all details, including the draping of a *pagadi* or saree



NACHIKET BARVE

THE FASHION AND COSTUME DESIGNER IS RIDING HIGH ON HIS NATIONAL AWARD WIN. IN A RIVETING CONVERSATION, HE CELEBRATES WITH HELLO!, LETTING US IN ON THE INTRICACIES OF COSTUME DESIGNING AND THE EXPERIENCES THAT SHAPED HIS FASHION PHILOSOPHY

Nachiket Barve's been inundated with congratulatory messages since winning the National Award for Best Costume Designer for the film *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior*, along with Mahesh Sherla. The Mumbai-based designer is evidently elated! A low-profile personality who's consistently served up innovative looks in peppy colour palettes, this victory's been long overdue. Already neck deep in multiple movie projects and his upcoming menswear line, Barve's schedule is chock-a-block — though he takes time out for HELLO! for an insightful chat, letting us into his world where he's as particular about a weave as he is about the draping of a *pagadi* or saree.



Congratulations on your win! What's your current state of mind like? It's overwhelming! I worked on the film with complete passion, not with the idea of winning an award. I believe in the saying from the *Bhagavad Gita*: “*Karm karo, phal ki asha mat karo.*” I randomly got a call from Om Raut, the director of *Tanhaji*, congratulating me, but I didn't know what for. That's when he mentioned that I had won the award for best costume, and Ajay Devgn for best actor.

How different is this space where you design costumes for a historical film? It took me two years of extensive research, where I spoke to various specialists. Om is a visionary; he's educated abroad with a global perspective, but his heart is Indian just like mine. So there was a synergy between us. Any costume project hinges on four pillars — the script, the directors' vision, the cast and my creative inputs on how I visualise characters. There has to be a connect among all of us. There are hundreds of people involved behind the scenes. From secondary costume designers, key costume designers and assistant directors who work on the leather, armoury and metal artisans and footwear specialists... I was very finicky about the draping of *pagadis* and sarees, so we had specialists on set for those, too. Everything had to be perfect!

You have worked with top stars like Ajay and Kajol in *Tanhaji* and Prabhas and Saif for *Adipurush*. What was your experience like with them? Ajay is fantastic. He was also the producer of *Tanhaji*. He speaks little, but sensibly. He loved the costumes and congratulated me when I won the award. Both he and Kajol trusted me blindly with styling. They were patient, especially Kajol since her saree had to be draped just right. Mickey Contractor, who's been doing Kajol's makeup for years, told me this was the first time he saw her so excited. Kajol is part Maharashtrian,

“I randomly got a call from Om Raut, the director of *Tanhaji*, congratulating me, but I didn't know what for! That's when he mentioned that I had won the National Award for Best Costume”

so she was also excited about wearing the Nauvari saree. She wore one for the first time for her wedding. She even posed for pictures between shoots!

The filming for *Adipurush* is completed. I designed costumes for the whole film and even the VFX characters. I'd like to believe that we are at the cutting-edge of filmmaking. This was so fascinating as there's only a blue wall, and we have sketches with us. There are fabrics to add, and we have to envision how it'd look on a VFX body when it moves. All of it is computer-generated, and we had a team of VFX experts working closely with us.

The stars are all consummate professionals. Prabhas is so enthused and wears the worth of his stardom lightly. Saif is classy, has an innate sense of style and is curious about things. Even during the shooting of *Tanhaji*, he took me home and showed me the Pataudi archives, and we settled on a ring from that collection.

You studied apparel and accessory design at NID, post which you were awarded a French government scholarship to study at École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs. How did this experience shape you as a designer? That year, the National Institute of Design selected nine students from across India. I was the only one from my batch without a design background. Every year, the French government would choose one Indian student from NID for a scholarship; I was that student.

As a designer, it opened my eyes as I saw things unfolding in front of me. It gave me an understanding of how my thought process compares with that of the rest of the world. It sets the bar high. I learnt how to write a press note — even today, I write my collection notes as well as the text for my website. I also got a chance to work with LVMH for Celine; that experience made me realise how Indian I was. In an international setting; their context and culture is different from ours. It makes you self-aware. *Devdas* had just released in India, and for westerners, India was the land of maharajas and pink elephants. I could neither relate to that concept of India, nor was I as European as them. I was this hybridised mix of the best of both worlds, which gave birth to my fashion philosophy: celebrating Indian craftsmanship and techniques, yet giving the product a global vibe.

Your career began to gain momentum after you designed for the senior Bachchans for a Tanishq advertisement. How was that experience, given that your father is a personal physician to Amitabh Bachchan? My dad has been his family doctor for years, so they know me in a different light. They called me out of the blue, and there was the added pressure of knowing someone. He was shooting for *The Great Gatsby* in Australia, so there was no time for trials before the shoot. I requested him to bring some shoes, and he brought along 25 pairs of blacks and 25 pairs of *mojaris* and asked me to choose — for



an ad where his feet wouldn't even be visible! I also learnt a lot from Mrs Bachchan. I value her feedback, which comes from a place of knowledge and merit.

Your fashion philosophy shows that you love to experiment with colour... After Covid, I felt that if I can bring joy to the world in my own way, by creating a happy vibe, then I should do it. We've always been pioneers of slow fashion and inclusion without even realising it. I still get orders

“I requested Mr. Bachchan to bring some shoes for the shoot. He brought along 25 pairs of blacks and 25 pairs of mojaris and asked me to choose — for an ad where his feet wouldn't even be visible!”

for clothes from my first collection. Recently, two women from California ordered outfits from my website and wore them to a wedding in Tuscany. I was able to be a part of their happy memories, and that brings me joy.

Tell us a little about your family life. My wife Surabhi and I were introduced by family in 2012;

we got married the next year. Surabhi has done fashion management from the National Institute of Fashion Technology. She has a different set of skills, like number crunching, and works with me. My daughter Aarohi was born in 2020 in the first week of the lockdown! It was a blessing to be able to spend so much time with her. There's so much you learn from kids. You rediscover the world through your child.

Both your parents are doctors. Was there any pressure to get into that field? Everyone in my family is a doctor. I remember when I was six years old, I told my mum I wanted to be a cobbler, and she said I could become a cobbler, but I'd have to be the best in the world. I was a good student and scored 90 percent in Class 10. I could have become a doctor. But I give credit to my parents who gave me a *carte blanche* 20 years ago to study fashion, at a time when it was not so popular as a career.

Where do you go from here? We are launching our menswear line soon. I'm also doing a contemporary urban prêt line, in addition to the designing for a number of films. I have two Marathi movies; there's *Har Har Mahadev*, a multilingual film in Marathi, Hindi and Tamil, and there's a slice-of-life Hindi contemporary film. 📺

INTERVIEW: NAYARE ALI

Good Living

THE HAUTEST NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF LUXURY INTERIORS

Haute HOMIES!



Made from a single and unique block of marble, this Infinito table, commissioned by Poltrona Frau to their long-time collaborator, Roberto Lazzeroni, is a treasured piece. The table, made from Rosso Lepanto marble, features a unique colour and texture, with the double oval shape resembling yin and yang, or an overturned number 8, thereby getting its moniker of Infinito. Available in two styles — and limited edition — Infinito is truly an inimitable work of art. Price on request; poltronafrau.com

Tell us about your journey that led you to become an interior designer.

I was always extremely fond of interiors. Initially, I was into product packaging and wanted to go abroad to further study design. But in the midst of that, I got the opportunity to do an interior design project, and that's how my journey in interiors began. I was very young at the time, and because my family was into real estate, I was able to design a few showflats. One thing led to another, giving me a lot of opportunities in this field. Although I don't have formal education in design, my experiences and journey in the industry taught me a lot. That's how I grew and established Design Hex (smiles).

How would you describe your style of work and aesthetic?

For me, it's extremely important to have a personal connection with the space and my clients. My inspiration for a space comes from the touch-and-feel effect of materials and also with spiritually guided design intuition. I'm more of a material-oriented designer; exploring design possibilities through forms, materials and textures excites me the most. My aesthetics, too, are based on versatility, and I like to discover different styles with different sites. Overall, though, I love nature- and architecturally-inspired forms.

What's more important — aestheticism or functionality?

Functional aestheticism is the way to go. Not everything can be driven by functionality, and not everything can be aesthetically heavy. There has to be a sweet spot between the two.

The latest trends in interiors right now.

Definitely more nature-inspired designs that bring the greens inside, with biophilic and earthy materials and schemes. Organic materials are being well appreciated, along with easy-to-maintain and practical spaces. Clean neutrals, too, are a big hit currently.

Is it better to follow trends or stick to one's own aesthetic in the long run?

Trends keep changing. We cannot always follow them. In fact, two to three trends can co-exist at the same time, or one could even opt for a completely unique scheme for their space. But I do believe

Shimona Bhansali



The interior designer, space stylist and founder of Design Hex gives HELLO! the low-down on what's trending, what's out and what makes spaces most welcoming

homes need to be trend neutral as well as trend adaptable. For instance: loose items can be trendy, whether in the form of upholstery or accessories, as these are easy to change.

And colour palettes? What are people veering more towards?

White is definitely there and will always be. Neutral, earthy tones and terracotta have also been some really calming colour palettes that everyone's been loving, along with a touch of pastels.

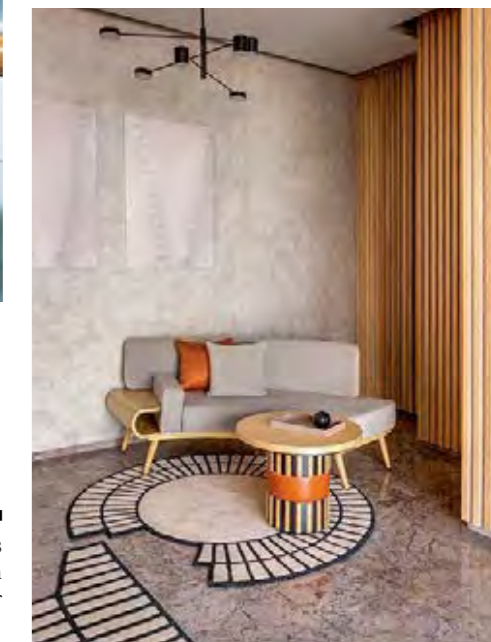
What's 'out' in terms of trends? The out-and-out concrete spaces and industrial looks are totally out now.

Your hacks for maximising the use of space. One needs to plan smartly when it comes to storage. Everything needs

to be precisely looked at and given only the amount of space that's genuinely required and usable. Customise and save on some extra inches that will allow you to make space for more. Furniture sizes also need to be thought of based on the size of the room. For instance, one can opt for lesser seating and pull-out dining chairs for a compact apartment.

How has the interiors landscape in India evolved over the past decade?

There's been a huge shift. Designers have become bolder, more experiential in India. Earlier, there was more focus on functionality and less on aesthetics. Now, designers balance the two. Even the lighting industry has seen immense creativity and growth. I've seen a huge interest among clients to carefully pick out the right lighting for themselves, which wasn't the case earlier. Moreover, both clients and designers have become more environmentally conscious and bold in their design choices. This comes to life with eco-friendly materials, lots of greenery in the house, and incorporation of art and unique collectibles.



Designer Shimona Bhansali believes in striking a balance between aestheticism and functionality, a stickler for planning smartly when it comes to storage and eco-consciousness

What does the future of home décor look like to you?

Definitely more efficiently planned in terms of health-conscious and cosier homes. People now prefer easy-to-maintain homes that include automation, mechanisation and eco-friendly solutions. Smart homes and adaptable spaces that enable you to work from home have become huge.

What's next? There are a lot of interesting projects coming up. We're trying new styles and aesthetics and experimenting our way through every project. One of our most exciting spaces is a 3-lakh-sqft resort in Rajasthan's leopard sanctuary! 🐆

INTERVIEW: JEENA J BILLIMORIA





6
Animal Collection
Wallpaper **MOMENTI**
ottimo.in; price on
request

MIND OVER MONOCHROME

Life isn't black and white — until it comes to these uber chic and classy accents!



1
Acoustic Classical-
Style Aluminum Horn
ANEMOS
anemos.in; ₹22,500



3
Diamond Mine Table **BARO**
barodesign; ₹75,000



7
White & Gold Cherry
Blossoms Dome
Table Lamp **LLADRÓ**
luxury.tatacliq.com;
₹24,000



5
White Hound
Sculpture **HIH**
htohshop.com;
₹8,000



4
Canvas Rug
GHARGHAR
gharghar.in; ₹12,500



8
Nest of Tables **BEYOND
DESIGNS** beyonddesigns.in;
price on request



9
Feathers Collection
Candles **BAOBAB
COLLECTION**
sourcesunlimited.co.in;
price on request



10
Ivory & Black Cushion
Cover **AMOLICONCEPTS**
amoliconcepts.com; ₹680



11
Dédale Rectangular Tray,
L'OBJET @emerstudio.in;
price on request



12
Mr. James Sculptures **BOSA**
sourcesunlimited.co.in;
price on request



13
Collection of Flowers Art
Prints (Set of 8) **IKKA DUKKA**
ikkadukka.com; ₹20,000



14
Starlight Collection Bed **CPRN HOMOOD**
ottimo.in; price on request



17
Stark Chair
CANE BOUTIQUE
caneboutique.com;
price on request



15
Colt Sculpture
HOME EDITION
shophomeedition.com;
₹5,250



16
Medium Op Art Lacquer Box,
JONATHAN ADLER sourcesunlimited.
co.in; price on request



18
Jade Lotus Natural
Soy Wax Candle
ELLEMENTRY
ellementry.com; ₹1,990



19
Rotterdam Table Lamp
BAROVIÉ & TOSO
@emerstudio.in;
price on request



20
CA'D'ORO Collection
Tea Set **SIEGER BY
FÜRSTENBERG**
sourcesunlimited.co.in;
price on request

COMPILED BY: JEENA J BILLIMORIA
CONTRIBUTION: AMBER TIKARI

BEYOND DESIGNS BISTRO GETS A COOL NEW MAKEOVER

Beyond Designs Bistro, a unique concept restaurant where food meets art in Delhi, has recently undergone a stunning interior makeover—and with a new menu to boot! The chandelier-studded, art-filled interiors are warm and inviting, and instantly conjure up scenes right out of Paris, with all the luxurious trimmings.



BARO DESIGN LAUNCHES UNIQUE MID-CENTURY CABINETS

Handcrafted furniture and lighting brand Baro Design has launched a beautiful collection of cabinets that are inspired by mid-century aesthetics, but with a modern feel. Most of the furniture designed by Baro Design is made from reclaimed teakwood, thereby promoting sustainable living, while also delivering one-of-a-kind pieces for your home.

HAUTE HOMIES

Hello! gives you the low-down on what's making headlines in the world of luxury interiors and design



WRIVER OPENS FLAGSHIP STORE IN GURUGRAM

Furthering their 20-year legacy of delivering luxury, Wriver, presented by Alsorg has opened their flagship showroom in Gurugram. The expansive store in DLF Grand Mall is a gateway to the world of material innovation and meticulous craftsmanship, the cornerstones of the brand's identity. The display offers an array of chairs, tables, cabinets, sofas, beds, shelves and more in exquisite material palettes.

DESIGNER VIKRAM PHADNIS COLLABORATES WITH HIIIH

In a first-of-its-kind collaboration, celebrated fashion designer Vikram Phadnis has created a special line for décor heavyweight HIIIH in Mumbai. The collection of handcrafted furniture and rugs are evocative of Indian luxury vintage design. All in all, it's a winning combination, for HIIIH is a brand that retails an array of handcrafted décor pieces from across India and Southeast Asia and Phadnis is known for his creative genius!



MADS CREATIONS HAS AN OPULENT NEW LIVING-DINING SPACE

MADS Creations, a leading interior design that brings global refinement to residences, corporate spaces and the hospitality sector, has unveiled a gorgeous living-dining space. Expensive materials, layered design, gilded furniture and lighting lend a completely ostentatious atmosphere — an appealing visual, especially if living OTT is your jam.

THE BLUE KNOT ROLLS OUT ITS LATEST COLLECTION

Lifestyle brand The Blue Knot has introduced a new collection of rugs, titled 'Artful Misproportions', that enliven contemporary spaces with a juxtaposition of elements, materials and textures, as well as geometric shapes. These beautiful, eco-friendly carpets are perfect to give your living spaces the contemporary makeover it may need.



NIVASA UNVEILS BEAUTÉS DE LA CAMPAGNE

Nivasa, a one-stop shop for luxury lifestyle that offers statement furniture revolving around lifestyle patterns, has launched an elegant, bespoke collection of furniture called Beautés De La Campagne. Inspired by the French countryside, this collection is classic and exudes just the old-world charm you seek, while still retaining a modern feel.



THE GREAT EASTERN HOME'S ART NOUVEAU LINE IS ONE FOR KEEPS

Furniture brand The Great Eastern Home, renowned for housing furniture from across the globe, now has on offer an array of Art Nouveau collectibles, a popular art style from the early 1890s. This beautiful collection includes chairs, consoles, vases, lamps, and more — and is created with hardwoods, primarily walnut, oak and teak.



COMPILED BY: JEENA J BILLIMORIA



HOUSE OF AC HAS SPECIAL ALF ITALIA UNITS ON OFFER

Kolkata-based House of AC, which works with different communities in art and design to create unique furniture and décor accents, has unveiled a robust selection of elegant coffee tables and TV units by Italian brand Alf Italia. The collections boast refined aesthetics and high-quality construction that add further definition to any space.

HELLO! DIGITAL DIARY

WHAT'S BUZZING IN THE
WORLD OF LUXURY & LIFESTYLE

in.hellomagazine.com

To stay updated on everything from
the world of fashion, beauty, business,
luxury, lifestyle, weddings, culture,
society and much more, scan the code!



WHAT THE
POST-PANDEMIC
**BRIDAL
WARDROBE**
LOOKS LIKE



CHEF **MEGHA
KOHLI'S** RECIPE
FOR THE ULTIMATE
INDIAN DESSERT



HOME GROWN
PERFUME BRANDS
THAT WILL MAKE YOU
SMELL LIKE A DREAM

WHAT **THE STARS**
HAVE IN STORE
FOR YOU
THIS SEPTEMBER



REAL-LIFE
INDIAN
PRINCESSES
WHO WERE
FASHION
ICONS

Follow us on:

IN.HELLOMAGAZINE.COM HELLOINDIA @HELLOMAGINDIA HELLOMAGINDIA HELLOINDIA

HELLO!

Trends

THE HAUTEST NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF LUXURY



Haute in HELLO!

This 'Poetry in Motion' statement ring by [Her Story](#) encapsulates the passion and energy of a woman who creates her own rhythm in life. Precious *ghungroo*-inspired elements in this 18kt rose-gold and diamond statement ring move gracefully with the wearer, with soft, musical notes. Coloured enamel or gold elements can be attached to and detached from the jewel, making it a versatile piece that celebrates rhythmic intensity.

"People keep telling me I should do more work. But at the end of the day, you have to love your job. If you can't give your heart and soul to something, it's not worth it"

Disha Patani

She's bold. She's bodacious. And she's undeniably B-town fittest beauty. Currently basking in the appreciation coming her way for her latest movie, the nymph-like sensation lets her guard down — and HELLO! into her real world



Scan the code to catch all the behind-the-scenes action with Disha Patani!

"I get bored easily, so I don't want to repeat a part I've played in the past. I always look for something new"

Svelte and stunning, Disha Patani is radiant in a classic Tarun Tahiliani ensemble. She's dressed in a corset from the label, with silk threads, pearls and sequins delicately embroidered on fine tulle, all tied together by dazzling crystals. Rings from Tara Fine Jewellery and Joolry by Karishma complement the outfit



"Tiger Shroff is a friend. I call him my guru as I look up to him for being so very hard-working and dedicated. I want to be more like him"

To those who don't know her, Disha Patani may come across as an enigma. Svelte and sensuous, with a physique even an athlete would envy, she may appear haughty and unapproachable unless you decode her mannerisms. However, this is nothing but a defense mechanism that Disha developed to ward off unwanted attention, over the years. Perhaps the reason why one would rarely find her at the infamous bashes Bollywood biggies are known to throw.

"I'm very shy and I don't drink. So when I attend parties and people get drunk and uninhibited in their behaviour, it gets awkward. I'm comfortable hanging out with my team or my colleagues, but I'm wary of strangers," she shares.

But isn't networking and socialising intrinsic to being part of the Indian film industry, we wonder out loud...

"I don't think it's just our industry; people expect you to socialise across all professions. But it doesn't guarantee that it will lead to work. I'd rather let my work speak for itself," she says, soft but firm.

A few may perceive this approach as one of someone not ambitious enough, but give Disha a character she can sink her teeth into, and you'll find a competent actress emerging. In *Ek Villain Returns*, her portrayal of Rasika Mapuskar, a grey character, greedy and ambitious, who can go to any extent to achieve her goals, has earned her immense appreciation as the sultriest anti-hero ever. Ask her whether she was apprehensive about taking on a role with negative shades, and pat comes her confident response.

"Not at all! I was more than excited to play a character that wasn't just 'a good girl'. When Mohit (Suri) sir, narrated the script to me, I fell in love with the part. I'd work with him anytime, anywhere. I love his body of work as the women in his films always play an integral role. He's hugely influenced by the women in his personal life, be it his wife or daughters."

While the world may tell her she needs to showcase her talent a tad more, Disha has consciously been selective about the movies she's signed. Her films may be few in number, but the roles she's portrayed are distinctly varied. Be it Priyanka Jha, MS Dhoni's girlfriend in his biopic, or Sarah in the midst of a quarter-life crisis in *Malang* or even the bubbly Diya Abhyankar in *Radhe*, the actor likes to push her boundaries.

"I get bored easily, so I don't want to repeat a part I've played in the past. I always look for something new. There has to be a connection, and I could relate to these characters on some level. It's always an intuitive decision for me."

"People keep telling me I should do more work. But at the end of the day, you have to love





your job. If you can't give your heart and soul to something, it's not worth it."

And love her job, she does. The actor even got the opportunity to work alongside superstar Salman Khan in not one but two movies early in her career — *Bharat* and *Radhe*. We wonder whether she was intimidated by his stardom...

"It's not that he was intimidating. I was working with one of the biggest stars in India at an early stage in my career. So I was nervous! But he makes you feel very comfortable. The first time I met Salman, he was cracking jokes and trying to make everyone feel at ease. He's so easy to work with, humble, grounded and a supportive costar," she gushes with childlike excitement.

As Disha settles into our conversation, we

realise she has an easy vibe, one that allows her to mesh well with most of her costars.

"I'm not best friends with anyone, but I have a decent relationship with all my co-actors. I do have a few friends in the industry. Kunal Kemmu is like a brother to me. I also bonded well with Tara Sutaria. I got to spend some time with Arjun Kapoor and John Abraham. We had so much fun while promoting *Ek Villain Returns*."

"Tiger Shroff is a friend. I call him my guru (chuckles) as I look up to him for being so very hard-working and dedicated. I want to be more like him."

While she mulls over every role offered to her, Disha doesn't waste precious time waiting around. Instead, she constructively uses her day to pursue

her multiple fitness passions. Ask her whether she's genetically blessed with a fit body and she counters: "Who's genetically blessed? It depends on your goal, whether you want to be lean or muscular. To me, fitness is not just about looking a certain shape or size; it's about having a healthy mind. I want to be strong and gain more muscles as I like dancing and gymnastics. A strong muscle tone will help me move faster and jump higher."

Considered one of the fittest stars in Hindi cinema today, Disha would like us to know she's mindful about her diet: "It's 80 percent diet, 20 percent workout. I need to consume more protein to get muscular. I weight train, I do cardio and even enjoy kickboxing and martial arts."

And that's how she looks the way she does

"The first time I met Salman, he was cracking jokes and trying to make everyone feel at ease. He's so easy to work with, grounded and a supportive costar"

A style maven, Disha looks exquisite in this Tarun Tahiliani ensemble — a new bloom summer lehenga that's a floral paradise, embellished with butterflies in soft pastels, mauve, roses and lilacs, and teamed with a bodysuit covered in crystals and whimsical ribbon embroidery. Ruby earrings and rings from Tara Fine Jewellery complete the look



Dressed in a Tarun Tahiliani ivory sharara sprinkled with Swarovski crystals, Disha looks supremely elegant. The sharara is designed with artwork inspired by porcelain with a short peplum kurti, a surplice neckline and attached wings at the back, all hand-embroidered delicately in cutdana and pearls. The look is accessorised with a light gold handcrafted bag with a velvet base from Tarun Tahiliani, along with bling from Tara Fine Jewellery and Joolry by Karishma

“Who’s genetically blessed? It depends on your goal... To me, fitness is not just about looking a certain way; it’s about having a healthy mind”

both on screen and off, slipping effortlessly into the most glamorous ensembles, moving swiftly like a mermaid on red carpets. She enjoys playing dress up occasionally, but Disha’s personal style is simple and comfortable.

“I don’t wear any designer clothes in my personal life. I like to keep it casual and dress according to my mood. Most of the time, I’m in my basketball shorts and oversized shirts. It’s only when I go out that I like to dress up.”

Disha’s is a Bareilly to Bombay story. It’s been 18 years since she moved from Uttar Pradesh to B-town to build her career, and over time, she’s evolved with experience, as has her career.

“I speak a lot more and am a little more comfortable with interviews now. I’ve learnt how to make conversation as it used to get awkward for everyone. I’m also more disciplined in life. When I was younger, I was more of a go-with-the-flow kind of person, but now that’s changed. I’m a lot more responsible today.”

And while she may come across as a sober girl — pun intended — Disha knows how to let her hair down and have her share of fun.

“I love to travel! I was in Spain and Italy in June. It was stunning! When I travel, I love to try out different cuisines; I enjoy walking around and experiencing other cultures.”

But now, the holiday is over and it’s back to work for Disha. So what can we look forward to from the star later this year?

“There’s *Yodha* and *Project K*, though I’m not sure when these films will be out (smiles). We still have to finish shooting them! I also signed a new film, but can’t really talk about it now. Hopefully, you will know soon!”

INTERVIEW: NAYARE ALI
PHOTOGRAPHY: MADHU AKULA
CREATIVE DIRECTION:
AVANTIKKA KILACHAND
FASHION EDITOR: SONAM POLADIA
JUNIOR STYLIST:
ANUSHREE SARDESAI
MAKEUP: SEVERINE PERINA
HAIR: HUMERA SHAIKH
WARDROBE & LOCATION COURTESY:
TARUN TAHILIANI



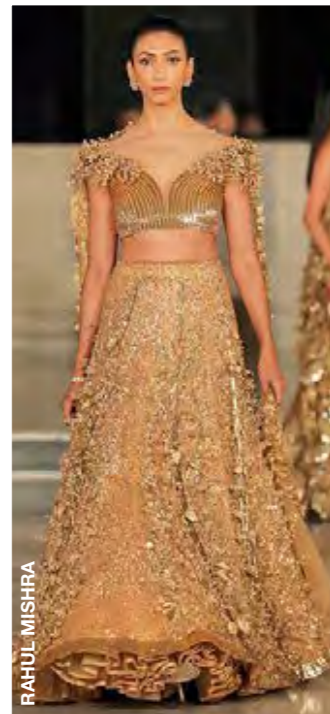
TROUSSEAU L'ESSENTIEL

Drama, decadence, glitz and glamour... Season after season, India Couture Week has presented a beautiful array of haute masterpieces that are nothing less than a visual treat. Here's a recap of the top six trends from 2022 that need to make it to any trousseau!

SPARKLE SEASON



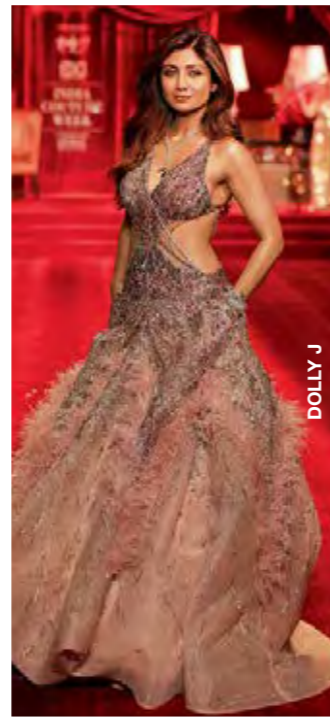
AMIT AGGARWAL



RAHUL MISHRA



FALGUNI SHANE PEACOCK



DOLLY J

PAINT IT RED



JJ VALAYA



DOLLY J



VARUN BAHL

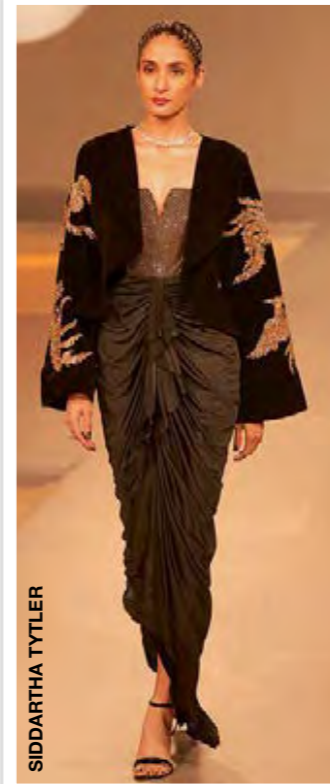


FALGUNI SHANE PEACOCK

BLACK BONANZA



KUNAL RAWAL



SIDDHARTHA TYTLER



ANAMIKA KHANNA



ROHIT GANDHI + RAHUL KHANNA

THE MAGIC OF MUTED TONES



SUNEET VARMA



ANJU MODI



TARUN TAHILIANI



ANAMIKA KHANNA

BESPOKE BLOUSES



DOLLY J



SUNEET VARMA



VARUN BAHL



AMIT AGGARWAL

ASSEMBLED AMALGAM



AMIT AGGARWAL



ANAMIKA KHANNA



RAHUL MISHRA



VARUN BAHL



SAY HELLO! TO YOUR FAVOURITE CELEBS AT YOUR DOORSTEP MONTH AFTER MONTH.

HELLO! SUBSCRIPTION FORM

SUBSCRIBE TO HELLO! MAGAZINE AND GET GLOBAL BEAUTY SECRETS GIFT HAMPER WORTH ₹ 2580



GLOBAL BEAUTY SECRETS
DISCOVER TOGETHER



TO ORDER EMAIL: subscriptions@hello-india.co.in CALL: 0124-4561900

Tick	Term	No of Copies	Cover Price (₹)	You Pay (₹)	Discount (%)	Additional Benefits
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Year	36	5400	4320	20	Gift Hamper of Global Beauty Secrets worth ₹ 2580
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Year	24	3600	3060	15	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Year	12	1800	1620	10	

HELLO! - SEPTEMBER 2022

Name (Mr./Ms./Mrs.): _____ Designation: _____
 Occupation: _____ Industry Type: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Pin (Mandatory): _____
 Mobile No.: _____ Landline No.: _____ Email ID: _____
 Cheque No./Draft No.: _____ Date: _____ Amount: _____



PAYMENT DETAILS Mail the subscription form with your cheque/DD to **Business Media Private Limited**, First Floor, Tower 3 A, DLF Corporate Park, DLF City, Gurugram, Haryana-122002

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- HELLO! publishes 12 issues in a year ● HELLO! may publish occasional extra special issues ● The cover price of the magazine is ₹ 150
- Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing your subscription ● HELLO! subscription offer is a limited period offer and subject to change
- Once the free gift has been dispatched, no request for cancellation will be entertained.
- All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts & forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

HELLO! is a registered trademark of HOLA! licensed to Business Media Private Limited

Self-Care Selections

Our picks of body and haircare products are the indulgences you need for some well-deserved pampering

1. Brazilian Bum Bum Cream **SOL DE JANEIRO** ₹3,591; nykaa.com
2. Fairytale Diamond Shimmer Mist **BATH & BODY WORKS** ₹1,699; nykaa.com
3. Quinoa, Protein & Olive Damage Repair Shampoo **DOT & KEY** ₹695; dotandkey.com
4. Strengthen & Restore Hairfall Oil **SKINKRAFT** ₹549; skinkraft.com
5. Blossoming Beauty Blooming Rose Body Shower Mousse **KIKO MILANO** Price on request; kikocosmetics.com
6. Chroma Absolu - Masque Chroma Filler **KÉRASTASE** ₹3,350; shop.reflexions.in
7. Bringadi Intensive Repair Post Wash Hair Masque **KAMA AYURVEDA** ₹825; kamaayurveda.com
8. Shea Butter Ultra Rich Body Lotion **L'OCCITANE** ₹2,700; nykaa.com
9. Bringaraj Deep Hair Treatment Oil **DEYGA** Price on request; deyga.in



Ready, Set, Glow!

Our latest beauty roundup is just what you need to prep for the upcoming festivities



Concentrated Ginseng Renewing Cream **SULWHASOO** ₹790; shop.kaya.in



Sunscreen For Sensitive Skin **KAYA** ₹790; shop.kaya.in



Anti-Ageing Skincare Regime **KAMA AYURVEDA** ₹3,300; kamaayurveda.com



Volcanic Calming Pore Clay Mask **INNISFREE** ₹1,500; nykaa.com



Yuzu Fine Brightening Peeling Gel **QUENCH** ₹499; quenchbotanics.com



Active Peel System **S CLINICAL** ₹8,500; clinikally.com



Fibre Clinix Range **SCHWARZKOPF PROFESSIONAL** ₹4,435; ubuy.co.in



Tea Tree Oil **THE BODY SHOP** ₹695; thebodyshop.in



Kukmu Mahua Beautifying Face Oil **GLOBAL BEAUTY SECREYS** 2,200; discovergbs.com



Drop The Bags Under-Eye Serum **ENN BEAUTY** ₹260; nykaa.com

Chroma Absolu Soins Acide Chroma Gloss Hair Treatment **KÉRASTASE** ₹3,600; shop.reflexions.in



A FLAVOURFUL AFFAIR

HELLO! SETS CONVERSATION ABLAZE WITH FOUR GRAND DAMES OF THE INDIAN CULINARY SCAPE – AMRITA RAICHAND, GAURI DEVIDAYAL, ADITI DUGAR AND SHILARNA VAZE

The lovely women who shaped much of Mumbai's foodscape – Shilarna Vaze, Aditi Dugar, Gauri Devidayal and Amrita Raichand – come together for an afternoon of love and laughter at The Quorum.

Here, we see the quartet dressed to the nines – Vaze in a jumpsuit from A Humming Way, Dugar in a dress from the same brand, Devidayal in a jumpsuit from Trupsel, and Raichand in Label Anushree. They have accessorised with bling from Simsum Fine Jewelry, Misho Designs and Forest of Chintz



To dive deep into the world of food with us, scan the QR code



Amrita Raichand looks radiant in a dress from Payal Khandwala, jewellery from Simsum Fine Jewelry and heels from Zara

“Food is a powerful expression of emotions; it reconnects you with your past and also helps bring people together to build new relationships, be it business, love or friendship”

- Amrita Raichand

Tell us about the journey that’s led you to where you are today...

Amrita Raichand: I’ve been cooking since I was eight! After I got married, I travelled a lot with my wonderful husband Rahul, which gave me great exposure to different cultures and cuisines. After our son Agastya was born, and I started weaning him off breast milk, I wanted to be in control of everything I fed him; this is when I started experimenting with exciting food options for him. I wanted my child to thoroughly enjoy his mealtimes and provide him with dishes that were nutritious and appealing. That’s when I got offered the show *Mummy Ka Magic* on TV. The timing couldn’t have been more perfect; the show went on to win many awards, and

that’s when I said to myself, ‘This is it, my true calling!’ I’ve also given two TEDx Talks — one explaining the child-food equation and the second about 10 life lessons, each learnt at every important stage of my life. I also have a YouTube channel, Amrita Raichand, ‘Chef And Beyond’.

Gauri Devidayal: I ventured into the food space a little unintentionally back in 2009-2010. My husband, Jay, had the crazy idea to open a restaurant, so I decided to take a year-long sabbatical from my accountant profession and tag along for the ride. It’s ended up being a 12-year-long sabbatical, but I guess I found my true calling. (Smiles)

Aditi Dugar: My career began in finance; it wasn’t until I had my second child that I decided to take some time



Gauri Devidayal is all smiles in a dress from Lovebirds, heels from Massimo Dutti and cuffs from Forest of Chintz

a leisurely lunch. But these are no ordinary women... Each, in their own right, has shaped Mumbai’s food space in ways unseen, making way for an elevated yet robust kind of eating that’s accelerated India’s culinary terrain on new and exciting courses. After a quick catch up and laughs among themselves, and completing a fun shoot, they’re ready to sit down and get candid in our tête-à-tête.

“What has always driven me is taking on the risks and challenges of introducing Mumbai to something new”

- Gauri Devidayal

Taking a couple of hours off from what we’re certain would have otherwise been a demanding Monday afternoon, four beautiful women walk into The Quorum, an upscale private members’ club in Mumbai’s Lower Parel district, the location for our shoot today — Amrita Raichand (former model and actor turned celebrity chef); Gauri Devidayal (Co-Founder, Food Matters Group); Shilarna Vaze (chef at Gaia Gourmet catering, cookbook author, TV host and content creator); and Aditi Dugar (Founder-Director, Masque and Sage & Saffron of Urban Gourmet India; Chief Brand Advisor, retail and lifestyle, Araku Coffee; Manager and Curator, Seesaw).

At first glance, one would assume they have perhaps stopped by for



Aditi Dugar is elegant, posing in a printed dress from Verb, teamed with heels from Bottega Veneta and accessories from Misho and Forest of Chintz

off. Little did I know what it’d lead to! My mom has always been an excellent cook, and it was during this time that I began helping her with the small-scale catering requests — not just in the kitchen, but also with tablescapes, presentation and décor. I realised there was a dearth in the space for events with that kind of finesse... And that was how my catering company, Sage & Saffron, came about in 2012. Four years later, Masque opened its doors. In 2021, Araku Café opened in Bengaluru, and Seesaw opened in Mumbai; we operate their kitchens. Each business filled a gap in the market. It’s been quite a learning curve, learning the value of building a strong team and ways to block out the noise. I think I’ve created a space for myself that combines the things I’m most interested in, in the capacity I wanted to do them.

Shilarna Vaze: I studied at Le Cordon Bleu in 2004 after graduating from St Xavier’s. I’ve been in the business ever since. I

“We brought a kind of vibrance and fun to the catering world that wasn’t there before. We loved to chat with clients about their dream food”

- Shilarna Vaze

worked at standalone restaurants in Goa after I returned from Paris and set up my first restaurant, Gaia, with my then boyfriend and now husband Christophe, by the time I was 28! We then launched Gaia Gourmet, one of the first gourmet catering companies in Mumbai. Post pandemic, we are living between Mumbai and Goa again, so life has come a full circle!

How has the food landscape changed in India in recent years? How do you think you contributed to it?

AR: We’ve been made to believe that

“It’s been quite a learning curve... I’ve created a space for myself that combines the things I’m most interested in, in exactly the capacity I wanted to do them”

- Aditi Dugar

food can either be sinful (delightfully tasty) or healthy (tasteless and boring). This concept is even more prevalent where children are concerned. Very often, they are either being indulged with junk food as a treat or being punished through unappetising yet so-called healthy food at home. When I started in the food space, children’s palates were never really given the respect it deserved, and I had taken a vow to change that. In my career as a chef, I’ve created a lot of recipes that are both sumptuous and super healthy; my primary aim has always been to help children and adults develop a constructive, productive equation with food. My motto is, ‘Healthy is not boring.’

GD: The food scene in India has been bursting with new ideas and incredible talent over the past few years. Careers in the culinary world have a whole new respect, which has led to many more people venturing into F&B and a growing middle class that’s eating out more and wants a quality product. What’s always driven me and Jay is to take risks and take on the challenge of introducing the city to something new. We did that successfully with The Table as well as Magazine St. Kitchen. Both spaces introduced new dining concepts, such as community-style dining, sharing-style menu, small and large plates, farm-to-table ingredient-driven menus and the idea of a



Shilarna Vaze is the epitome of culinary power, dressed in a jumpsuit from Payal Khandwala, accessories from Forest of Chintz and Simsum Fine Jewelry, and Zara heels



culinary playground, to name a few.

AD: In the past five years, we've seen the focus on diverse Indian food grow rapidly. Indian produce and ingredients are taking up more of the spotlight, and people are more conscientious of where their food comes from. We, at Masque, have helped contribute to breaking stereotypes about what Indian food can be, highlighting regional dishes and ingredients as well as the sheer diversity of said ingredients, and that Indian can be both casual and as 'fine-dine' as any other cuisine.

SV: What Chris and I brought to the catering world was a kind of vibrance and fun that just wasn't there before. We loved to chat with our clients about their travels and experiences and dream food. We were often asked to join the party, as well! I think we really did pioneer the small, eclectic, gourmet setup that's now mushroomed everywhere, with the chef as the focus.

Gauri and Aditi, congrats on your restaurants' entries to 'Asia's 50 Best Restaurants' this year; The Table at 83 and Masque at 21 (making it the best restaurant in India). You also had The Living Room at Masque at 73 on the 'Asia's 50 Best Bars' list. How does it feel?

GD: Thank you! It's an incredible feeling to continue getting recognition of this kind in the twelfth year of our operations. It's been exactly the boost the team (at The Table) needed after a tough two years.

AD: It's a bit surreal to be on the extended list (with The Living



Room at Masque) at just around six months old. It's a testament to our bar team — Ankush Gamre, Wilston Carvalho and Raviraj Shetty. They are the talents behind the cocktail programme. What's truly encouraging is the number of Indian entries on the list this year... A real coming of age for the Indian bar scene.

How did you bounce back from the effects of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions?

AR: The pandemic was tough for everyone. Without my team around and having to do everything virtually, I learnt to record my videos on my own and upload them on Google Drive (I had no clue what that was till the lockdown!) for my team to edit them. Also, to keep my social media family in high spirits, I started doing many live shows like 'Bites and Beyond'

and 'Mere Ghar Ka Khana'.

GD: It affected us as much as anyone else in this industry. But fortunately, for various reasons, we were able to get up and running soon; that's what kept us going. From trying to meet payroll every month, to figuring things out with our landlords, to managing an open line of communication with our team members — this was a test like no other. Our stakeholders across the board, including the amazing support from guests, stood by us, which helped us get through this and come out on the other side.

AD: We know how hard the pandemic hit the F&B industry, with little systemic support. We only served 10-course tasting menus and had never offered delivery before. What was not a pressure point? At this point, we figured that just like us,



people were looking for comfort. We put together a delivery menu of the kinds of foods we wanted to eat at the time. On weekends, we ran 'Chef's Pick' menus, with one team member picking a cuisine. 'Milestones with Masque' gave diners the option of a five-course tasting menu delivered home for special occasions. On our fourth anniversary, while still in lockdown, we continued our tradition of collaborative dinners, this time with other Mumbai-based chefs, and put together an epic delivery tasting menu. Our Tailgates, which we ran drive-through style, opened every Sunday to a packed parking lot for six months. In tandem with different a la carte price points, more casual dining options, a wider delivery radius and aggregator apps, we were able to tap into a wider market base.

SV: We were hit quite badly, being



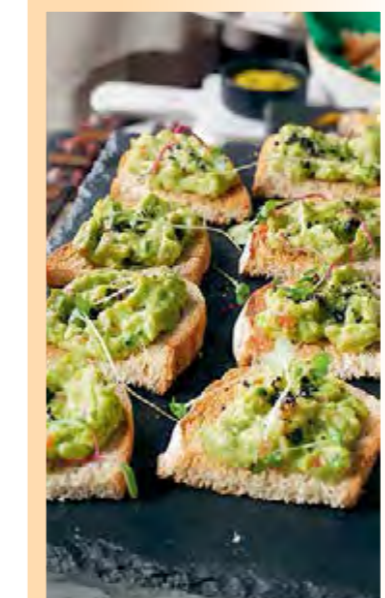
a small business. We were doing any work that came our way, from Zoom birthday boxes to catering for even two people. We learnt that keeping your overheads low and taking care of your team were the two most important things. We are super proud to have come out of it intact.

Tell us about the projects you are working on currently.

AR: I recently wrapped up a show for Sony TV, where I celebrated food from different regions with my own special twist to them. I'm currently the brand ambassador of Spanish Olives and VKC Nuts, in the capacity of a lifestyle chef who believes in healthy, wholesome eating and living! Also, my new business venture of selling super sumptuous, healthy cookies is about to be launched.

GD: We've got our hands

full with seven brands now, so nothing new in the pipeline other than possibly reaching a wider audience with our existing offering. **AD:** Without saying too much, baking breads and casual Thai street food! **SV:** I'm finally at the end of recipe testing for my second cookbook (this one's called *Baby Knows Best*; the previous one was *Party Like A Star*). Our catering company is finally going great again after a tumultuous two years. I work with numerous brands and create recipes and content on Instagram as well as create a lot of my own content, with a focus on heirloom recipes and kids' food because of my daughter, Zanskar.



In your expert opinions, what do you think makes food so powerful?

AR: Food brings back memories; that's probably why when asked about our favourite dishes, most of us talk about what we grew up eating. What our mothers, grandmothers and, in some cases, dads cooked. Food is a powerful expression of emotions; not only does it take you back in time, reconnecting you with your past, it also helps bring people together to build new relationships, be it business, love or friendship.

GD: Food is not just about what you eat — it's about the hospitality experience, the ambience, the company... All of these factors contribute to making a memory around food, that if done well, is unforgettable and will keep you coming back for more. **AD:** It's nourishment in every sense. It's a vehicle for connection and community. It can unite and divide. It permeates through every part of society, whether for better or worse. Food presents us with opportunities to educate ourselves, to learn about each other, our cultures and heritage. **SV:** It's actually an emotion we are tapping into, which is why people have such strong opinions on it. It's also a powerful statement to make when you support small businesses, small suppliers, and care where your food is coming from. 🇮🇳



INTERVIEW: JEENA J BILLIMORIA
PHOTOGRAPHY: ASHIMA MEHRA
CREATIVE DIRECTION:
AVANTIKKA KILACHAND
FASHION EDITOR: SONAM POLADIA
JUNIOR STYLIST: ANUSHREE SARDESAI
HAIR & MAKEUP: NISHA CHANDNANI
& MISHTHI RAJANI FOR AMRITA
RAICHAND; SANDHYA AGGARWAL FOR
ADITI DUGAR; PINKIE THAKUR FOR
GAURI DEVIDAYAL; SHIVANI GOEL
FOR SHILARNA VAZE
LOCATION COURTESY:
THE QUORUM, MUMBAI

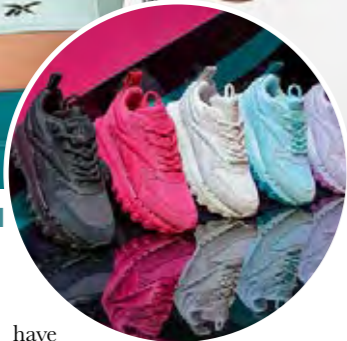
Haute Flash

HELLO! gives you the low-down on what's making headlines in the fashion and luxury hemisphere



REEBOK X CARDI B EXPAND 'ENCHANTING' COLLECTION

Reebok and Cardi B have revealed the second part of their 'Let Me Be...Enchanted' collection. Following the first part of the bright, energetic capsule, inspired by living in a state of euphoria, this next installation features a wider range of apparel and an expanded offering of the Classic Leather Cardi B V2 in bright ways that emulate the intensity, energy and enchantment of the line. The highlights of the new collection include the Cardi Body Layer, which is crafted with Reebok's signature Lux Bold fabrication. Next is the Cardi Bralette that features underwire for built-in support and shaping. Finally, the Cardi Lux Bold HR Tights, which embodies the ultimate shaping leggings with special tech.



RELIANCE BRINGS LUXURY GIANTS VALENTINO & BALENCIAGA TO INDIA

In a celebration of firsts, Reliance Brands Limited, or RBL, has announced that it has partnered with Valentino and Balenciaga to open boutiques across India. It is set to open its first Valentino boutique in Delhi in 2022, "by the end of the summer", with the flagship store in Mumbai to follow in the coming months. The outlets will all stock a complete range across womenswear, menswear, footwear, and accessories of the brand. Besides, RBL's strategic deal with Balenciaga includes bringing the best of global couture to the Indian market. With this long-term franchise agreement, Reliance will not only be Balenciaga's sole partner in India, but this will also be its second collaboration with its parent firm, French luxury group Kering, which houses other luxury brands like Bottega Veneta, Gucci and Saint Laurent.



SAHIB SINGH IS BURBERRY CHILDREN'S FIRST SIKH MODEL

In the spirit of representation and celebration of diversity, Burberry's Children's Autumn-Winter '22 collection won the internet for their choice of casting four-year-old Sahib Singh, making him the first model to be wearing a *palka* in the label's official imagery. The collection of back-to-school designs sees Singh donning a Thomas Burberry Bear puffer jacket, worn over a cardigan and shorts. In the few hours since it was posted online, the picture had been subjected to a myriad of praises and an outpour of support, especially from the South Asian community.



VICTORIA'S SECRET IS SET TO OPEN ITS FIRST STORE IN INDIA

Beauty and intimate wear brand Victoria's Secret opened its first offline store at Palladium Mall in Mumbai this August, with its local franchise retailer Major Brands. The outlet will host three brand categories: Victoria's Secret, the flagship lingerie range, Victoria's Secret Beauty, the seller of perfumes and bodycare products, and finally, Victoria's Secret Pink, which sells luxury intimate wear and athleisure products. The brand plans to open its second store in Delhi soon, followed by another in Bengaluru by next year.



WELCOME THE NEW TUMI X STAPLE COLLABORATION

Tumi, a leading international travel and lifestyle brand, has launched an exclusive collaboration with iconic streetwear brand, Staple. They joined forces on a design journey guided by the world travels of Staple's visionary founder, Jeff Staple. Each piece of the collection features the iconic Staple Pigeon, while drawing influence from the global streets that inspire the creativity of both Jeff Staple and Tumi. The Pigeon is an integral part of the Staple brand and serves as a mascot that represents New York City. The campaign featuring the collaboration was shot entirely on film by renowned street photographer and multi-talented artist Jacob Consenstein. Set around New York City, the vibrant images not only capture the product's functionality, but also celebrate its authenticity, energy and inspiration.

REGÉ-JEAN PAGE IS THE NEW FACE OF ARMANI CODE

Former *Bridgerton* star Regé-Jean Page is all set to be the new face of Armani Code Parfum. This campaign will debut in September, where Page will join Armani beauty alongside stars like Cate Blanchett and Nicholas Hoult. Shot by French director Manu Cossu and British photographer Damon Baker, this latest campaign offers a fresh take on masculinity. "Regé-Jean Page interprets and explores the nuances of a gentle, profound masculinity that is not ostentatious or showy. He authentically and spontaneously represents the cultural richness and vitality of this moment in time," said Giorgio Armani.



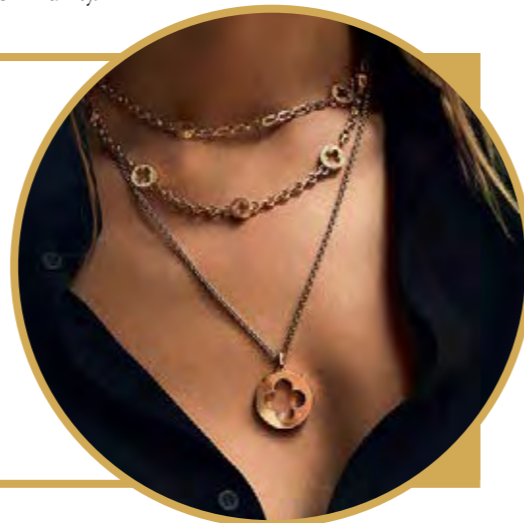
ESTÉE LAUDER IS IN TALKS TO BUY TOM FORD

In what could be the cosmetics giant's largest-ever acquisition, Estée Lauder is reportedly in talks to buy luxury brand Tom Ford in a potential US\$3 billion or more deal. The New York-based brand is primarily known for its skincare products, cosmetics and perfume, while Tom Ford is best known for its menswear, accessories and a high-end line of cosmetics and fragrances. Estée Lauder is not the only suitor for Tom Ford, yet with its market value of nearly US\$100 billion, it has the capacity to partake in such a deal.



LOUIS VUITTON'S 'EMPREINTE' BLING IS CLASSIC LV

An intemporal Louis Vuitton jewellery collection, Empreinte is enriched by new designs that evoke inner adventure and personal discovery. Conceptualised in 2004, the collection is distinctive for its instantly recognisable designs that draw their essence from the maison's emblematic codes. This year, Francesca Amfitheatrof, Artistic Director of Jewellery and Watches for Louis Vuitton, opened a new chapter by turning her eye to unprecedentedly bold creations with contemporary designs. With Empreinte, Louis Vuitton offers fans a jewellery collection full of character, writing an ode to travel in clear lines and bright strokes.



ANASTASIA BEVERLY HILLS LAUNCHES 'NOUVEAU PALETTE'

Anastasia Beverly Hills has introduced the Nouveau Palette, dubbed a single palette for an instant, effortless look, from on-the-go to ultra-glam. Its reimagined mattes and multidimensional metallics were inspired by the deep colours and duo-chrome tints of summertime fantasies. This 12-shade eyeshadow palette features all the muted pastel olive hues and ethereal earthy tones. It offers countless day-to-night looks because of its diverse hues and creamy formulations, making it a palette that's simple for daily use. **H**

TEXT: HARNOOR SINGH

COUTURE CONCLAVE

WHAT: To mark the launch of one of India's most sought-after designer's new bridal couture collection, socialite and lawyer Ritika Vardhan hosted a soiree for her friends at the brand's new flagship boutique in Mumbai.

BUZZ: The gathering drew a number of eminent faces from across the city, who had a gala time surrounded by the best of haute couture and company. Spotted at the event were Madhoo, Farah Khan Ali, Penny Patel, Laila Khan Furniturewalla, Malavika Kohli, Nisha JamVwal, Kaykashan Patel, Sharmilla Khanna, Viveka Narang, Nishka Lulla, Nayntara Thacker, Anjali Gaekwar, Tanaz Doshi, and Arpana Punjabi, among several other noted names from Mumbai.



Tarun Tahliani and Farah Khan Ali



Madhoo, Tanaz Doshi and Sharmilla Khanna



Pooja Advani, Viveka Narang and Kaykashan Patel, with host Ritika Vardhan



Nishka Lulla



Nisha JamVwal



Shibani Madhavilal, Viveka Narang and Laila Furniturewalla



Priya Nathani



Penny Patel



Nayntara Thacker and Anjali Gaekwar



Luck by Numbers

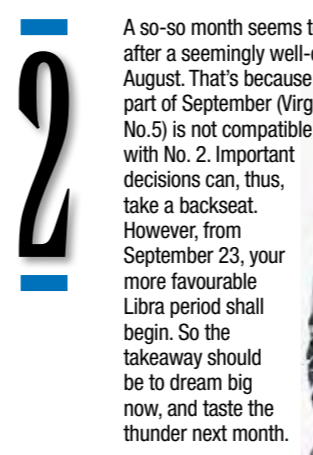
HELLO! reveals your monthly fortune with celebrity numerologist **Sanjay B Jumaani**.

How to calculate your number
Begin with your date of birth. Reduce the date to a single digit, if you're born on a double-digit date, by adding the digits involved. For example: If you're born on the 12th of a month, your number is **1 + 2 = 3**.



Ranbir Kapoor

You may have had a decent previous month, as August was governed by your sign, Leo (No. 1). If not, you are still likely to better yourself in various aspects. September is ruled by Virgo (No. 5), and No.1 and No. 5 can be considered a fair match. This could be a redeeming month for you. If you haven't yet covered a lot of ground, now's the time.



Keanu Reeves

A so-so month seems to be nearing after a seemingly well-constructed August. That's because most part of September (Virgo; No.5) is not compatible with No. 2. Important decisions can, thus, take a backseat. However, from September 23, your more favourable Libra period shall begin. So the takeaway should be to dream big now, and taste the thunder next month.



Beyoncé

You'll find ease in communication this month and hence be subsequently less misunderstood. This month will also gift you a sense of confidence that could help you complete even the most herculean tasks. However, don't let impulse get the better of you; it could literally consume your fantastic-four energy. Instead, make a conscious effort to gauge the situation patiently and handle your tasks effectively.



Ayushmann Khurrana

Put on your running shoes, for this is your month and your time to sparkle like your planet, Mercury. But don't slip away in haste. Patiently embrace every good thing that happens to you this September. The next month, too, looks bright for you. Your social and enterprising nature will carve out a path for you. However, don't put your legs in two boats. You are quite likely to travel this month or the next. Bon voyage!



Nick Jonas

You'll be more materialistic this month than otherwise, so finances could fluctuate. Practically, too, you'll gain vast experiences in life. September is a little fast-paced, so ensure that you don't rush things in any way. This month, governed by Virgo (No. 5), exudes nervous system issues. So keep a check on your anxiety and maintain your nerves. Bank on your intuition to make the right choices.



Serena Williams

There's no better streak of good months than this! August (No. 1), September (No. 5) and October (No. 6). And 1, 3, 5 and 6 are numbers lucky for 8s. This shall prove to be a landmark quarter for you. Finances could be smooth, better opportunities could prevail, relationships could be less pungent. But it won't magically pan out unless you endeavour to work towards them. Remember, your ruler, Saturn, is the lord of trials and hard work.



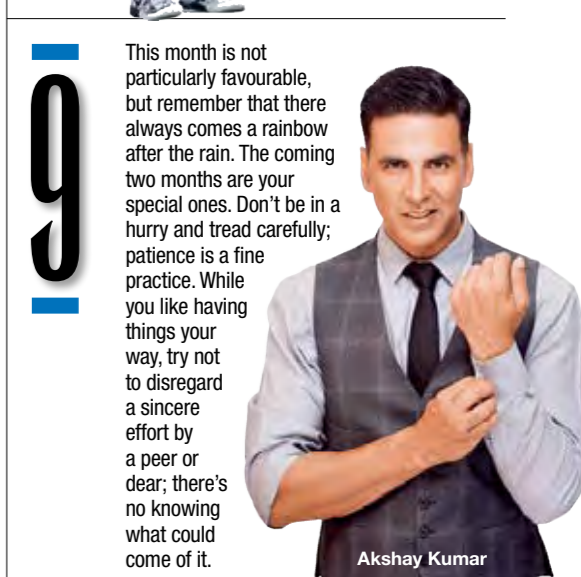
Kareena Kapoor Khan

This month, as well as the next two months, the gods of luck appear to be thrice as nice for No.3s! September, which is governed by Virgo (No.5), October by Libra (No. 6) and November by Scorpio (No. 9) are all in your favour. So start sowing your seeds of knowledge and hard work now, and harvest the fruits later. By and large, 2022 (No. 6) in itself is your lucky year. So any significant life decisions like personal or professional associations, career, residence change, etc., should be acted upon in this lovely phase.



Tom Hardy

Your persuasive nature, social skills and charm will be the highlight of the coming three months. In fact, the whole year, 2022 (No. 6) is governed by your number, which means there couldn't be a better time for you! Your personal life will be smooth-sailing, at least in this favourable phase. Your efforts at work will, indeed, see greater heights. Your numbers are bound by luxury, so there's a likelihood of spending on a luxurious item or two in this period.



Akshay Kumar

This month is not particularly favourable, but remember that there always comes a rainbow after the rain. The coming two months are your special ones. Don't be in a hurry and tread carefully; patience is a fine practice. While you like having things your way, try not to disregard a sincere effort by a peer or dear; there's no knowing what could come of it.

DISCLAIMER: WHILE THESE PROPERTIES ARE GENERIC, ALL THE ABOVE TRAITS MAY NOT NECESSARILY HOLD TRUE FOR YOU. YOUR ZODIACAL QUALITIES MAY SUPERSEDE SOME OF YOUR PRIMARY NUMBER'S ATTRIBUTES, TOO.

Rachel Goenka

For a decade now, she's added a 'sassy' touch to the culinary space of Mumbai and Pune. The restaurateur, chef and award-winning author shares the idea behind her innovative gastronomical concept and surprising patrons with twists in her menus



You expanded The Chocolate Spoon Company to over 15 outlets and two central kitchens in Mumbai and Pune — all within a decade! How did you go about this mammoth task? It's been quite the journey! It's funny because when I first registered the company name, the idea was always to be patisserie specific. Restaurants were never part of the plan. But once I saw the property that became The Sassy Spoon in Nariman Point, Mumbai, I knew I wanted to create something that married food and dessert. I was hooked! It's a highly energetic field where you're constantly learning and unlearning and encouraged to think out of the box. It's been a combination of passion, creativity, ambition, a little bit of madness and an appetite for risk. For people like me who get bored easily, I can't think of a better profession to be in!

How did you come up with the 'sassy' concept? 'Sassy' has always been an honest concept. The idea was to serve my personality on a plate, rather than try to mimic others. It's amazing how today, almost everyone calls me Ms. Sassy and says the brand was aptly named after me. I guess when you stay true to who you are, it reflects in other things. The brand's evolved over time, reflecting how I've grown as a person.

TCSC completes 10 years this year. Describe your climb up the hospitality ladder. Competition is imperative to success. So I'm glad I started my career in a city like Mumbai. Baptism by fire, if you may. I learned a tremendous lot over the past decade, like to be less naïve and trusting and take things with a fistful of salt. The pandemic taught me resilience, perseverance, the importance of teamwork and sacrifices. The only reason we survived as a business is because of the amazing team I have.

Any moments in your culinary journey that stand out? There are so many! That feeling the first time we turned a profit, the late nights with my team after a busy night, eating *anda bhurji* with *paao*, deboning 5kg of lamb because we didn't have a butcher, crying with my team when restaurants shut down during the pandemic, strategising with them on ways to survive, the relief when business started picking up again... There are numerous such moments, many of which involve my team, for I wouldn't be where I am today without them.

How did you make the switch to F&B from journalism and advertising? To be honest, I don't think I ever did. Both journalism and advertising are integral to what I do. I write all the time for newspapers and magazines and even had my own column with *The Economic Times*. My journalism background even helped when it came to writing my book, *Adventures With Mithai*.

How do world cuisines influence what we find on your menus? Our motto at Sassy is "Travel the world on a plate". While we may not serve a traditional Italian

lasagna, since we like to add a 'sassy' twist to all our fare, you will find a lasagna with creamed leeks, mushrooms, sweet potato and cheddar. Our menus have such influences from across the globe.

How receptive do you think Indian patrons are to European and other world cuisine? People are far more experimental today. Everyone wants an experience, especially when it comes to dining out. They are better travelled, and shows like *MasterChef* exposed them to different cuisines and techniques, making them more receptive to new ideas. Things changed a lot in the past 10 years. The pandemic also taught people so much about food because almost everyone took up cooking as a hobby.

Your favourite places to wine and dine. In Mumbai, you can find me at Slink & Bardot, Saz or PCO. Overseas, I love Zuma, as cliché as it sounds! I'm a Dubai baby, and I used to be there almost every weekend! Some of my other favourites are in London, like Clay, Chiltern Firehouse for their lobster rolls, Richoux for breakfast, Barrafinna, and Amaya for their venison seekh.

The chefs you admire the most. Overseas, my favourite chefs are Amaury Guichon (everything he does is a work of art!); Paul A Young (he's one of my mentors and combines the wackiest of flavours); Alain Ducasse; and Grant Achatz (the man's a food magician!). In India, I love Chef Avinash Martins (he's uber talented, and I love his passion towards reviving the lost techniques of Goan cuisine). On the European front, Hanoze Shroff is one of my favourites (he's extremely technique-driven, creative and also one of the nicest people I know!).

What's comfort food to you? I love Japanese cuisine, but I'm a sucker for home food. In my profession, we eat out so often and conduct food trials, etc, so home food becomes a luxury.

Have you faced any challenges in what's considered a heavily male-dominated industry? This perception needs to change. I'm lucky our industry recognises talent and passion rather than whether you're a woman or a man. I don't think that should even be a criterion for being a success. Hard work and dedication is what should make you stand out.

Any plans to expand to the rest of India? Absolutely. Just prior to the lockdown, we had done extensive work on taking our brands to NCR. Since the pandemic threw a spanner into our ideas, we continued to go deeper into our existing markets, Mumbai and Pune. We are currently scaling our patisserie, Sassy Teaspoon, and have already signed three new locations in Mumbai. New projects in the pipeline include more outlets of our bar brand, Baraza, in Pune and Mumbai, as well as a new Indo-Portuguese concept in the works! 🇮🇳

INTERVIEW: SHRADDHA CHOWDHURY

Italian Masterpieces

Archibald armchair designed by Jean-Marie Massaud

poltronafrau.com



Mumbai - Ground Floor, Wakefield House, Dougall Road - T. +91 22 22614848 Email mumbai.showroom@poltronafrau.com
Pune - Ground Floor, Trump Towers, Kalyani Nagar - T. +91 20 66473131
Surat - No.6-7, Union Heights, Next to Lalbhai Cricket Stadium, Surat Dumas Road - T. +91 261 2977444
New Delhi - 99 Empire Plaza, Mehrauli-Gurgaon Rd, Sultanpur, T. +9111 26809772
Hyderabad - H.No.8-2-682/B/6/A, Road NO.12, Banjara Hills - T. +91 4029557145


Breguet
Depuis 1775



BREGUET.COM

REINE DE NAPLES 8918