The Magazine With Class

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MAGNATE PUBLISHING PRIVATE LIMITED
March 2026
₹ 350

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Vol 2 Issue 2



"THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ETHICAL LEADERSHIP"

HON. MINISTER PANKAJA GOPINATH MUNDE

LEGENDS & ACHIEVERS

SHANE & FALGUNI PEACOCK

INDIA'S T20 WORLD CUP VICTORY SQUAD

IHANA DHILLON

CHEF MANISH MEHROTRA

Women's Special

Trailblazers – Schauna Chauhan, Zeba Kohli, Raell Padamsee, Nandita Mahtani & Vandana Shah – advise Gen Z

LIFESTYLE

Fitness

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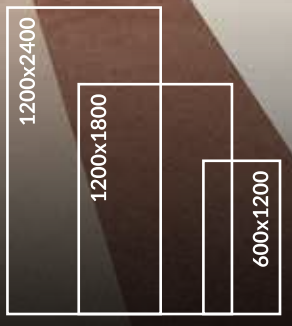
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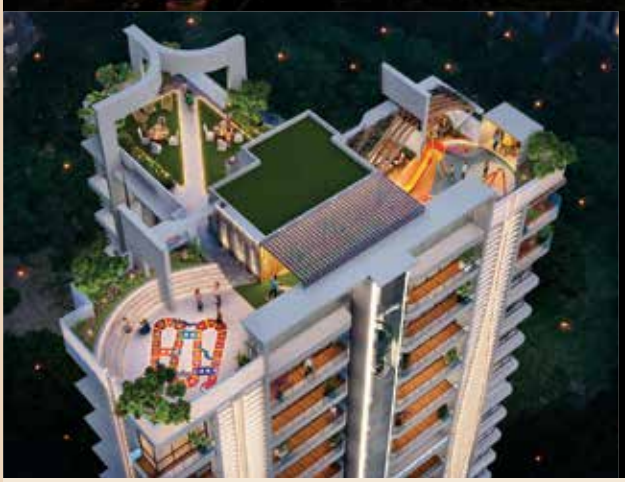
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Insight



It is truly an honour to present the latest issue of 'Society Achievers'. Our current cover features the admirable Hon. Minister Pankaja Gopinath Munde — known for her long-standing commitment to public service. Her candid interview offers thoughtful insights into her journey, vision and dedication, and we are proud to present this engaging conversation as our cover story.

Our previous issue also created a wonderful buzz, featuring iconic singer Shaan along with his sons Soham and Maahi. The issue was a huge success and received a fantastic response from readers who appreciated this celebration of music, legacy and family.

The unveiling of that issue at Escobar, Bandra, turned into a memorable musical evening. Shaan and his sons sang live, filling the room with nostalgia and joy. Legendary composer and singer Anu Malik also joined in, while celebrated composers Salim–Sulaiman and Shantanu Moitra, along with Saregama's Vikram Mehra, came out to support the family and celebrate the occasion. My special thanks to Vardhaman Choksi and his team at Escobar for their warm hospitality.

Another vibrant celebration followed with the unveiling of the latest issue of 'Society Interiors & Design' at Keibaa x All Saints, Mumbai. The issue was unveiled by actors Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani, with the spotlight on renowned architect Vivek Bhole whose inspiring work features on the cover.

We also hosted the spectacular Society Interiors & Design Competition & Awards (#SIDCA26) at Taj Santacruz. The evening was honoured by Chief Guests Hon. MP Dr Shrikant Shinde, and Hon. Mayor of Mumbai Ritu Tawde, along with Guests of Honour — National Award-winning filmmaker and Padma Shri awardee Madhur Bhandarkar and former MP Rahul Shewale.

#SIDCA started over two decades ago, continues to encourage young creative talent in architecture and design. My heartfelt thanks to our partners, supporters and Team Magnate — and above all, to you, our readers, for your continued encouragement.

Warm wishes,

Ashok Dhamankar

Founder, Magnate Publishing

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Chief Editor's Note



Charming. Charismatic. Courageous. Committed. Commanding... that's **Hon. Minister Pankaja Gopinath Munde** for us. As always, we are delighted to feature her in our magazine – and yes, she's an interviewer's delight! In our engaging **Cover Story**, she opens up about carrying forward her powerful family legacy while forging her own path, speaking candidly about resilience, faith and the responsibilities of leadership – particularly in her role as Cabinet Minister for Animal Husbandry, Environment and Climate Change in the Government of Maharashtra. Her reflections reveal the values and inner strength that guide her public and personal life.

Our **Legends & Achievers** segment celebrates men and women who continue to push boundaries in their fields. Among them are design visionaries **Shane & Falguni Peacock**, actor **Ihana Dhillon**, celebrated chef **Manish Mehrotra**, and **India's T20 World Cup victory squad – our spirited champions!**

In keeping with Women's Month, our **Women's Special** is particularly close to our hearts. From one woman to another, inspiring voices such as industrialist **Schauna Chauhan**, chocolate sommelier **Zeba Kohli**, theatre queen **Raell Padamsee,** fashion designer **Nandita Mahtani,** and spunky advocate **Vandana Shah** share thoughtful words of encouragement, lessons learnt, and heartfelt advice for the next generation of trailblazers.

Our **Lifestyle** section, as always, is a vibrant mix of fitness inspiration, striking architecture, a lively conversation with former colleagues and authors **Suchitra Iyer** and **Sunanda Mehta** on their book 'Beyond The Screen', and our scintillating events — the 'Society Achievers' magazine unveiling with mesmerising singer **Shaan** and his sons **Soham** and **Maahi**, and the inspiring **Society Interiors & Design Competition & Awards 2026.**

...So much to read, learn and stay inspired by. Inspiring people and choices that elevate life remain the bedrock on which **'Society Achievers'** stands — strong, steady, sparkling!

Andrea CostaBir

Chief Editor, 'Society Achievers'

Photograph: Viraj Shirodkar

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Publisher: Magnate Publishing Private Limited
Chief Editor: Andrea CostaBir
Editor: Sunil Khavnekar
Associate Editor: Nichola Marie
Assistant Editor: Amber Dias
Consulting Director - Strategy & Growth: Shivendra Parihar
Graphic Designer: Syed Zaid Inamdar
Sales & Distribution Manager: North: Sujeet Kumar +91 9818419443 / +91 8882573426
Distributor: Moti Lal & Sons +91 8383070697
Printer: S and M Enterprises - Gala No. 7 & 8. Sun Height Ind. Estate, Satiwali Vasai East, Near Dhuri Ind. Estate. Palghar, Maharashtra - 401208.
Legal Adviser: Adv Smita Rahul Chiplunkar

Business Heads
National, West Zone: Preeta Nair +91 9892746767
North Zone: Ravi Roushon +91 9818198689 South Zone: Rekha Kambhoj +91 9845587253
East Zone: Ashim Banik +91 9830056642 Gujarat: Madan Menon +91 9898002522
Middle East: Pranali Dhamankar +971 52 909 2360
Cover Photograph by Ganesh Lad

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Carrying forward a powerful legacy while forging her own path, Hon. Minister Pankaja Gopinath Munde speaks about resilience, faith, and the responsibility of leadership in a rapidly changing India. In this candid conversation, she reflects on politics, personal strength, and the values that continue to anchor her public life.

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Shane & Falguni Peacock

India's T20 World Cup Victory Squad

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Fab Finds
A peek at some of our favourite things.

Society Achievers is published once every month by Magnate Publishing Private Limited, 103, First Floor, Vireshwar Smruti CHS, Eden 2, Next to Lokmanya Tilak Sabhagruh, Ram Mandir Road, Vile Parle - East, Mumbai, India, 400057. Tel No: +91-993-0061-674. Editorial texts and illustrations are the copyright of the publishers of this magazine. No one may reproduce any material before permission is obtained in writing.

Printed by S and M Enterprises Published By Sunil Nana Khavnekar on Behalf of Magnate Publishing Private Limited, Printed At Gala No. 7 & 8. Sun Height Ind. Estate, Satiwali Vasai East, Near Dhuri Ind. Estate. Palghar, Maharashtra - 401208.

Editor: Sunil Khavnekar

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Hon. Minister Pankaja Gopinath Munde: "Power & Love Rarely Coexist — I Am Blessed With Both"

In a world where influence and affection don't always coexist, Hon. Minister Pankaja Gopinath Munde believes she is fortunate to inherit and enjoy both — and she continues to honour that rare privilege with courage, conviction and an unwavering commitment to Maharashtra.

By Andrea CostaBir

Fearless in voice and generous in spirit, Pankaja Gopinath Munde has built a political identity that balances authority with deep human connection. Today, serving as Cabinet Minister for Animal Husbandry, Environment and Climate Change in the Government of Maharashtra, and an MLC, she carries forward the legacy of her late father, Hon. Shri Gopinath Munde – one of India's most respected and widely loved leaders.

Across rural Maharashtra, however, titles matter less than affection. Here, she is simply "Pankaja *Tai*" or "Pankaja *Tai Saheb*" – a leader who speaks boldly, laughs easily, and remains fiercely committed to the people who place their trust in her.

For her, leadership is not about titles or power, but about the faith people place in her — the blessings of elders, the hopes of women, and the trust of communities that expect her to stand by them. Undoubtedly, she occupies an influential space in the state's leadership while remaining closely tied to the grassroots.

Pankaja Gopinath Munde's political path has seen both celebration and scrutiny. Ministerial responsibility, public expectations, electoral setbacks and relentless public attention have all shaped her leadership. But through every phase, two traits have remained constant: Courage & Resilience.

Excerpts from the interview...



You were born into a powerful political legacy. How has your father's vision and values shaped your understanding of leadership and public service?

Yes, as you have stated, I'm very blessed and grateful to God that I was born into this family. You have described it as a powerful political legacy. But I was always made to believe that I'm born in a family which has a legacy of love, a legacy of trust, and that we belong to people who are really deprived. That is why there should always be a humble approach, a grounded approach.

Hence, I think my legacy — I don't know whether it is powerful, but it is trusted for sure. My dad was known more as the most loved leader than as the most powerful leader. His vision and values shaped me a lot. It shaped my understanding of leadership and public service, but beyond that, it shaped me as a complete human being.

It has given me the values and vision to live life the same way, no matter what — whether you are hitting rock bottom or you are in seventh heaven. Success never goes to my head, and defeats or bad times never sink me. He never formally taught me by sitting me down and explaining things. He was such a happy person, such an accommodating person. The way he gracefully handled bad situations and humbly handled successful moments — I just kept watching him. Sometimes, watching people who are bigger than you, who are achievers, silently shapes you automatically.

Politics can be both empowering and unforgiving. What has been your most defining challenge, and how did it transform you as a leader?

Politics can be very empowering. It gives you recognition, power, and authority. And it can also be very unforgiving. I think many fields are like that — especially fields with glamour, public perception, and popularity attached to them. They give you a lot, and if something goes wrong, they can be very unforgiving.

In any phase of life, one should experience both. That makes you a different soul — someone ready to absorb whatever comes and still not shake from within.

There were empowering moments — when I became minister, when I worked with very renowned leaders of the country, when I could take decisions that affected many lives and people would come and bless me. When old people put their hands on your head, on your cheek. When women take out your *nazar*. When I go to my villages, they make me stand on a wooden platform, put water on my feet, apply *haldi* and *kumkum*, and welcome me as if Lakshmi is entering their house. That increases my responsibility. That empowers me more than the authority of being a minister or VIP. Empowering other people empowers me.

But it is unforgiving when your words are broken down and presented differently in today's media world. The trolling can be cruel. If you are weak-minded, it can tear you into pieces. When you lose elections — and I have lost an election even after getting huge votes — the people who love you feel shattered. And those who are happy you lost start trolling and judging you.

When you are doing well, not many praise you. But when something goes wrong, you are judged — especially as a woman. "You leave your hair open." "You don't wear a *sari*." "You are overconfident." Women are measured differently. It happens subtly. When a man is loud, he is confident. When a woman speaks strongly with emotion, she is called rude. That happens.

"I'm very blessed and grateful to God that I was born into this family. You have described it as a powerful political legacy. But I was always made to believe that I'm born in a family which has a legacy of love, a legacy of trust, and that we belong to people who are really deprived."









“My dad never formally taught me by sitting me down and explaining things. The way he gracefully handled bad situations and humbly handled successful moments — I just kept watching him.”

“Success never goes to my head, and defeats or bad times never sink me.”

As a woman in Indian politics, what barriers did you have to consciously break — and what message do you have for young women aspiring to leadership?

My message to women who want to enter politics — just be brave. Be unbreakable. Be self-respecting. Things will fall in place. And even if they don’t, you will learn a lot. Every experience either gives you success or gives you a lesson.

Leadership can be in any field, not just politics. I believe women are born leaders. They are multitaskers. When given love, trust, and comfort, they do great. The best power of a woman is that she never thinks only about herself. No matter her position, she thinks of many people. She is realistic, mostly ethical, and rightful — both in being right and in protecting others’ rights.

Public life demands resilience. What anchors you during moments of criticism, political setbacks, or intense scrutiny?

When I face criticism, political setbacks, intense scrutiny, the heat – one has to be composed, calm, and brave. When you work in such fields, you have to draw a circle around yourself where nothing enters — no happiness, no sorrow, no darkness, no light. That is your zone. You protect your inner self here. You wait for the time to pass, because everything passes — good or bad. Always believe there is a ray of hope after the darkness.

Some people create their own darkness by their deeds. I don’t believe in doing wrong things. I believe in being right. Being right may bring turbulence and shocks, but in the long run, it never harms. Like gold in fire — it comes out as an ornament.

You have worked closely with rural communities in Maharashtra. What, in your view, is the single most urgent reform India’s villages need today?

I’m Minister for Animal Husbandry, Environment, and Climate Change. I was Minister for Rural Development, Water Conservation, Women and Child Welfare, and Employment Guarantee Scheme. I have experienced seven ministries, but I’m really enjoying this work of Environment, Climate Change and Animal Husbandry.





“When I go to my villages, they make me stand on a wooden platform, put water on my feet, apply *haldi* and *kumkum*, and welcome me as if Lakshmi is entering their house. That increases my responsibility. That empowers me more than the authority of being a minister or VIP.”



Earlier, I was working for people who could express their problems. Now, I’m working for those who cannot express themselves.

In Animal Husbandry, on one hand, it is about providing the best nutrition — meat, milk, fish, goat, chicken — to people. On the other hand, it is about saving cows, preserving indigenous breeds, and doing scientific experiments where we come up with hybrids. So it is very scientific on one side and very global on the other, where we are trying to provide eggs, milk, mutton to other states and even globally. It is a very strong business.

This department has the capacity to create many entrepreneurs in rural areas — especially lady entrepreneurs. We call them Good *Lakhpati Didi* – they can provide and produce to our own state, as well as nationally and export to other countries as well. This sector has a lot of strength, and I’m very positive about it.

As a minister, I have ensured that people who have livestock and are breeding animals get subsidies – solar, interest – and all the benefits that farmers receive. This will strengthen Animal Husbandry at the grassroots level. It is already a grassroots issue, but now it will get a more corporate approach. We are working on that, and every day I’m seeing good results.

I also like being with animals — touching a cow, interacting with people who care for them, breed them, grow them, and run their businesses. It’s a very different department. On one hand, it is about saving; on the other, it is about feeding people. But that is required. We must give people the best products they deserve.





Youth aspiration in India is rapidly evolving. How should policymakers adapt to a generation that is ambitious, digital-first, and globally aware?

Yes, youth aspiration in India is rapidly evolving. The youth today are very goal-oriented. For everything, they ask: What is my goal? What is my outcome? What will I achieve from this? They are very ambitious and very aware of global scenarios.

But at the same time, they must remain emotional and ethical. They must understand deprivation — that you don’t have to have everything. That will make them calm and composed internally, strong enough to fight the world.

The youth today have tremendous energy, knowledge, and technology. They will achieve things with great force.

“The trolling can be cruel. If you are weak-minded, it can tear you into pieces. When you lose elections — and I have lost an election even after getting huge votes — the people who love you feel shattered. And those who are happy you lost start trolling and judging you.”

I’m very positive about what they aspire to and where they want to reach. They know their potential.

The only thing is that they must stay connected to their roots. That will keep them grounded and make them feel complete. In life, you need success, health, wealth — but harmony is equally important.



As Minister of Animal Husbandry, Environment, and Climate Change, GoM, what have been your key priorities? What tangible steps have you taken so far towards environmental protection and sustainable development in Maharashtra?

Environment and Climate Change are vast subjects. It is so global that whether I interact with a Japanese governor, the Consulate General of Argentina, or a British leader, everyone is concerned about climate change. We are all speaking the same language globally — clean oceans, clean rivers, ozone layer protection, soil preservation, biodiversity, wildlife protection, forestation, decarbonization, desalination. It is very scientific.

Both departments I handle are scientific. In Animal Husbandry, we talk about breeding animals to get proper results. In Environment and Climate Change, it is like serving Mother Nature.

I’m a very spiritual person. I pray. I worship. I do *sadhana* of *Bhagwati* — *Devi*, *Prakriti*, *Shrishti*. Taking care of the food chain, providing the best breeds, preserving forests and the environment — somewhere I feel it connects spiritually.

We were provided with everything on a platter, but in our greed for development and wanting more and more, we are polluting even space now. It is a global subject and a matter of concern.

In this entire journey, I consider myself an environment warrior — working to preserve what we have, to save it, and maybe one day bring it back to what it once was. That may be difficult, but preserving today’s situation is the task we are on.



How do you balance your responsibilities in the government with your role in the BJP?

My journey in the BJP has been great because I was fortunate to receive solid responsibilities. I became MLA, then Youth Wing President — the first woman Youth Wing President. Then I became a core committee member, then minister.

Except for Women and Child Welfare, I was the first woman minister in all the other departments I handled. That thrilled me. Whenever I was given responsibility, I made sure my work would be remembered through decisions and action. I insist on that.

Just like silently observing my father shaped me, silently observing the BJP's decisions shaped me. Sometimes, at that moment, I didn't understand whether something was right or wrong. But later, when I looked back, I realised it shaped me and taught me lessons.

I cannot separate myself from the BJP. It is a value-based party, spiritually inclined. Every scheme connects ancient beliefs with modern science and future vision. That has strengthened my values. I can say I am a daughter of the BJP.

What does ethical leadership mean to you in today's political climate?

Ethical leadership means ethical leadership. There is no substitute for ethical leadership. You can be smart — if you feel things are not going your way or are not ethical, you don't have to jump into the fire. You can have a strong mind and simply choose not to be part of it.

And if you are in a strong position, if you have the strength and authority, you should stop it. Because unethical practices have a very bad future. Whatever it is, whoever it is — it is a big no.

Beyond policy and power, what personal values define Pankaja Gopinath Munde the individual?

Beyond policy and power, the personal values that define me are... that I am the same everywhere. As a leader, as a minister, as a *karyakarta*, as a family person — I am not different. Maybe my approach changes. As a minister, I may be more official. As a leader, more communicative. As a family member, more submissive. But inside, I am the same.

I feel very responsible for everything I do. I am very kind. I don't want to destroy somebody's creation or life for my ego — I would never do that. Even if I am not wrong and somebody else is, I am not a person who keeps grudges. I don't hold things in my heart. I'm not grudgeful at all.

People trust me. They know that what I say, I do. I am fearless. Nobody can blackmail me because there is nothing to blackmail me for. And even if someone tries to threaten me — "If you don't do this, I will do that" — that is a big no. You cannot threaten or blackmail me to get something out of me. If you are clear, positive, and honest, I can give everything. I can take out my heart and give it to you. But not under pressure.

I am very spiritual. I do what I say. And I say what I do.

Maybe in high society parties, my way of talking or clothing changes slightly. But I am not different among rich people or common people. I am the same. In and out — the same.





"When you are doing well, not many praise you. But when something goes wrong, you are judged — especially as a woman. 'You leave your hair open'. 'You don't wear a *sari*'. 'You are overconfident'. Women are measured differently. When a man is loud, he is confident. When a woman speaks strongly with emotion, she is called rude."

You balance an intense public life with personal roles. How have your son, mother, and sisters shaped your emotional strength?

My mother and father shaped me deeply. I am the oldest daughter. My mother is very strong-headed, decisive, value-oriented, self-respecting, and disciplined. Health-wise — her exercise routine and diet — I can never beat that.

I am more like my father — chilled out, not taking everything to heart. But my mother grounded us. She never let pride enter our heads. That made us who we are today — able to live simply and happily. No showing off. I owe that to her.

My sisters and I are not like typical older-younger sisters. We are the same. The middle one is like my friend — sometimes she behaves like my older sister. She is very decisive, very strong-headed, very clear about what she wants in life — unapologetically clear.

The youngest one is very knowledgeable and well-read. She sees through people. Whoever she talks about, she usually turns out to be right. She is creative, decorates beautifully, loves cooking and feeding people. She is a lawyer. The middle one is a doctor.

My sisters and I have different personalities, different likes, but what binds us together is that principally we are totally alike. As is our mother.

Even though we are in politics, my sister will stand in line in a temple for *darshan*. She won't use our names. That grounding comes from our parents.

Now, my son... He is my support system. He is tall, strong, broad-shouldered. Sometimes he looks like my father. But his nature is different. He is fiery, dreamy, decisive. He knows what he wants, and his decision is final. He is punctual. If we have to reach somewhere, he will be ready on time. But he loves sleeping when he gets the chance — he can sleep 23 hours a day! When he is hungry, he becomes very cranky. He commands respect and gives respect. He talks to people of all ages kindly.

"When I face criticism, political setbacks, intense scrutiny, the heat – one has to be composed, calm, and brave. When you work in such fields, you have to draw a circle around yourself where nothing enters — no happiness, no sorrow, no darkness, no light. That is your zone. You protect your inner self here. You wait for the time to pass, because everything passes — good or bad. "

"My message to women who want to enter politics — just be brave. Be unbreakable. Be self-respecting. Things will fall in place. And even if they don't, you will learn a lot."







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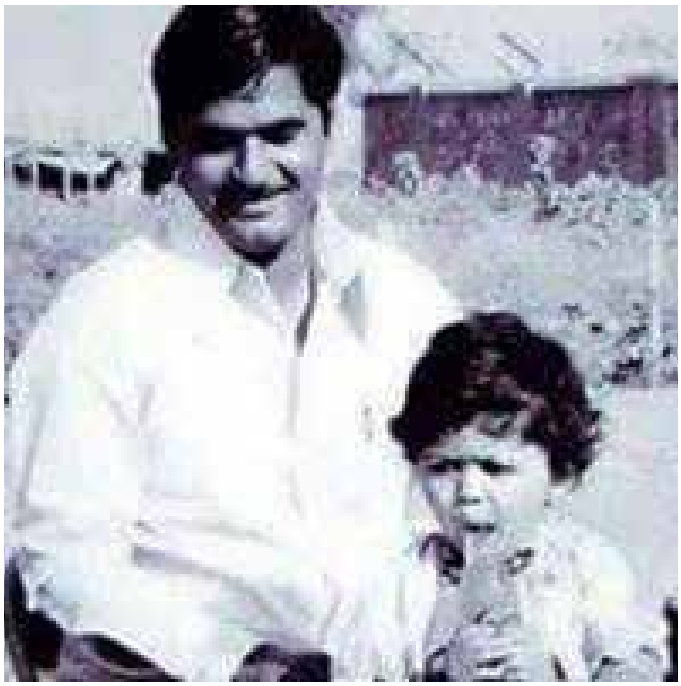






“You cannot threaten or blackmail me to get something out of me. If you are clear, positive, and honest, I can give everything. I can take out my heart and give it to you. But not under pressure.”







Rapid Fire with Pankaja Munde

What's your favourite way to unwind with your son?

Our simple "chai time." We sit together, sip tea, watch something light, and just talk. Those quiet conversations are my best moments.

Anything your mother still lovingly scolds you about?

Oh yes — travelling at odd hours! If I take a late-night trip or push through tough conditions (floods etc), she gets upset and says, "Why do you have to go when no one else is going?"

Who's the most mischievous among you and your sisters?

Definitely me. I love performing mimicry and teasing my youngest sister especially. As kids, I would even fake little dramas just to trouble them!

Your perfect holiday looks like…?

Exploring temples, heritage sites, and ancient architecture in India and around the world. I love history, spirituality, and peaceful walks.

One sweet dish you can never say no to?

Honestly, I don't have a sweet tooth — I can happily skip desserts!

Morning chai moment or late-night quiet time?

Chai at any time — but late-night chai hits differently.

A colour you love wearing?

Brown, sky blue, white — and lately, softer, lighter shades. I feel our colour palette evolves as we evolve within.

One small daily ritual that keeps you grounded?

Starting my day with prayer and ending it with meditation. It keeps me calm, centred, and positive.

Three words your family would use for you?

They're not big on praise! But in the past, they have called me – strong, socially connected, and responsible.

When you need strength, do you turn to silence, prayer, music, or conversation?

Silence and prayer. I go inward. I don't carry my stress home — I step inside my home with faith, and find strength within myself.

"My sisters and I have different personalities, different likes, but what binds us together is that principally we are totally alike. As is our mother."











“I want a beautiful exit. I will not wait for people to throw me out or ask me to leave. I will know when it is time to go.”

“My son is my support system. He is tall, strong, broad-shouldered. He is fiery, dreamy, decisive. My absence due to my work did not break him. He is my biggest strength.”

During a rough political phase in my life, he would always manifest for me. “Mama, you will become this. Mama, you will become that.” That pure soul asking for something played a big role in where I am today.

Over the years, my absence due to my work did not break him. He is my biggest strength. He was pampered as the first grandchild in the family. There is no “no” in his dictionary. He is kind and loving towards my dogs. Every mother wants her son to prosper — wealth, health, happiness.

बच्चा, बीवी, घर, गाड़ी, बंगला सब कुछ।

मैं चाहती हूँ लोगों से बहुत प्यार मिले उसे।

और क्योंकि लोगों से जिसे प्यार मिलता है, उसके अंदर certain चीजें होनी चाहिए होती हैं। वो उसमें automatically होंगी और हैं तो बढ़ती रहेंगी।

(“Kids, a wife, a house, a car, a bungalow — everything. I want him to be loved by a lot of people. And when someone receives so much love from people, they need to have certain qualities within them. Those qualities will come to him naturally, and if he already has them, they’ll only keep growing.”)

I want him to do better than me. I don’t force him into any field. Just don’t drive fast — that’s my only motherly fear. Otherwise, he should do what he wants and succeed.

Where would Pankaja Gopinath Munde like to go from here?

I want to go to my destination, which was designed for me before I was born by the Almighty, so that no karmas are left behind. I want to retire after achieving what I am born to achieve, and then begin a spiritual journey till my last breath. That is my real dream.

Doing good for people does not mean only building them roads, drains, temples, factories, and giving them jobs. It also means showing direction. Helping people understand themselves. Calming them. Teaching them to respect and love each other. After a certain time, I want to focus on that. I don’t know when that time will come — maybe 10 years, 12 years, 15 years. But I will know when I reach my destination.

And I want a beautiful exit. I will not wait for people to throw me out or ask me to leave. I will know when it is time to go.

Legends & Achievers

Every meaningful journey demands resilience. These men and women show that real achievement comes to those who stay the course, evolve with every challenge, and continue striving for more.









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Shane & Falguni Peacock: “We both put our hearts and souls into whatever we take on”

From celebrity couture moments to strategic global expansion, Falguni Shane Peacock continues to redefine the language of modern Indian luxury.

By Nichola Marie

The past year has reaffirmed the red-carpet magnetism of the couture house Falguni Shane Peacock. Actors Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda recently chose the label for their Sangeet celebrations. Mandanna wore an ivory lehenga intricately embroidered with sapphire and silver crystal motifs. The jewel-toned embellishments shimmered against the ivory base under the lights, lending the ensemble a cool, luminous elegance. The silhouette, designed for movement, was a fitting choice for an evening built around music and choreography. Deverakonda complemented the look in a custom Falguni Shane Peacock, wearing a statement velvet jacket paired with a sweeping crystal-embroidered cape. Such high-profile appearances continue to underscore the brand’s enduring presence at the intersection of celebrity culture and couture.



News also breaks of the label entering an exciting new phase of growth. A strategic investment by RPSG Ventures, part of the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, has brought fresh momentum to the brand’s global ambitions. The designers have also ventured into the beauty space through a collaboration with Kay Beauty — the cosmetics line co-founded by Katrina Kaif and backed by Nykaa — translating their signature aesthetic of drama and luxury into makeup.

Against this backdrop of new milestones and evolving horizons, ‘Society Achievers’ revisits a conversation with the husband-and-wife duo about creativity, collaboration, and the journey that has defined their celebrated fashion house.

Excerpts from the interview...

“Some of the goals we set for ourselves seem absolutely crazy, but we’re so glad we went with our gut instinct.”

Falguni Shane Peacock is regarded as a trailblazer in the world of design, including the red carpet and the silver screen. What has helped the label achieve this significance and standing?

Many factors have been catalysts for everything we have achieved to date. But if we had to narrow it down, we’d say it’s our ability to dream big and then work hard and smart to achieve what we’ve set out to. We’ve never been afraid to dare to dream big. Looking back, some of the goals we set for ourselves seem absolutely crazy, but we’re so glad we went with our gut instinct and worked tirelessly to achieve our goals.

The second would be our meticulous attention to detail and being hands-on with even the smallest of tasks that we have lined up for the day. We enjoy what we do so much that we like to be involved in every step and every part of the process — right from the ideation to the final touches.

You have placed India on the global map by creating enduring, evocative couture pieces that revive Indian artisanship with contemporary resonance. How interesting was the process of achieving this amalgamation?

Our aesthetics from the very beginning have leaned towards Western, modern and contemporary. So when in 2015-16, we set out to solidify our presence in India, we didn’t want to do away with our signature aesthetics just because we were venturing into Indian wear.

We knew we had to blend in Indian, traditional elements to create something that was an amalgamation of both. And so we did that and created something that was unique and quite never-seen-before in the traditional bridal wear scenario, like adding opulent feathers to a traditional lehenga and blouse or giving the veil a modern, contemporary twist. We enjoy ideating newer ways to infuse both elements in our Indian wear.



“The last 20 years have been a rollercoaster ride and a thrilling experience. Back then, we were starting out and weren’t scared to take the risk.”



How do you look back at the early days?

The last 20 years have been a rollercoaster ride and a thrilling experience. Back then, we were starting out and weren’t scared to take the risk. For example, after London Fashion Week, we decided to do New York Fashion Week and then, after a decade, take a break internationally to grow our presence in the Indian market.

We wanted to set up our Indian wear line, and we did end up successfully setting it up. And now, we have everything from prêtwear to advanced contemporary to ready-to-wear and traditional ensembles to offer. We’ve done all of this with the intent of building a fashion house that leaves behind a legacy.

Can you take us through some of the milestones in the journey of the brand?

For us, every small and big milestone is special, and we look at them with equal importance as they’ve taken us a step further and helped us set the bar at each step. So be it retailing at Harrods or our comeback at the New York Fashion Week — each of them is fulfilling in its own special way.



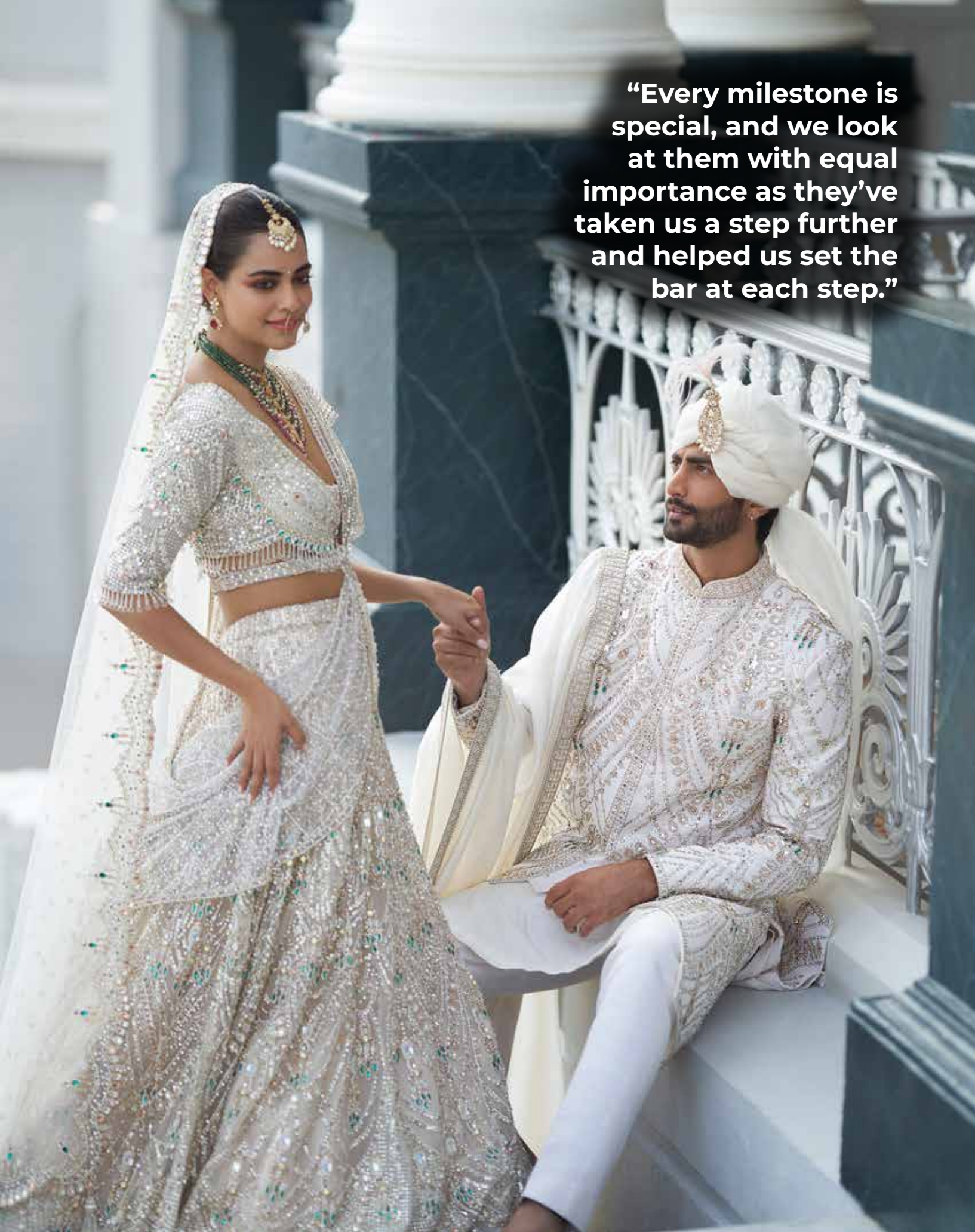
Partners in design and in life, what are each of your individual strengths and how do you meld together as a team?

It may sound unbelievable, but we do everything together, and that’s because we enjoy each other’s company too much! It’s like working with your best friend who understands you completely. Work has never felt like work. It’s never tedious or cumbersome, as we tend to have fun at work with whatever we do.

We both put our hearts and souls into whatever we take on, and that makes it easier. Of course, we have our share of disagreements as well, but when we look at the bigger picture, we easily tend to come to a middle ground and work on it together.

Do give us a glimpse into your creative process.

For us, travel holds immense significance and serves as a fountain of inspiration for all our collections. Exploring different places in India and internationally allows us to understand and study diverse cultures, traditions and architectural marvels.

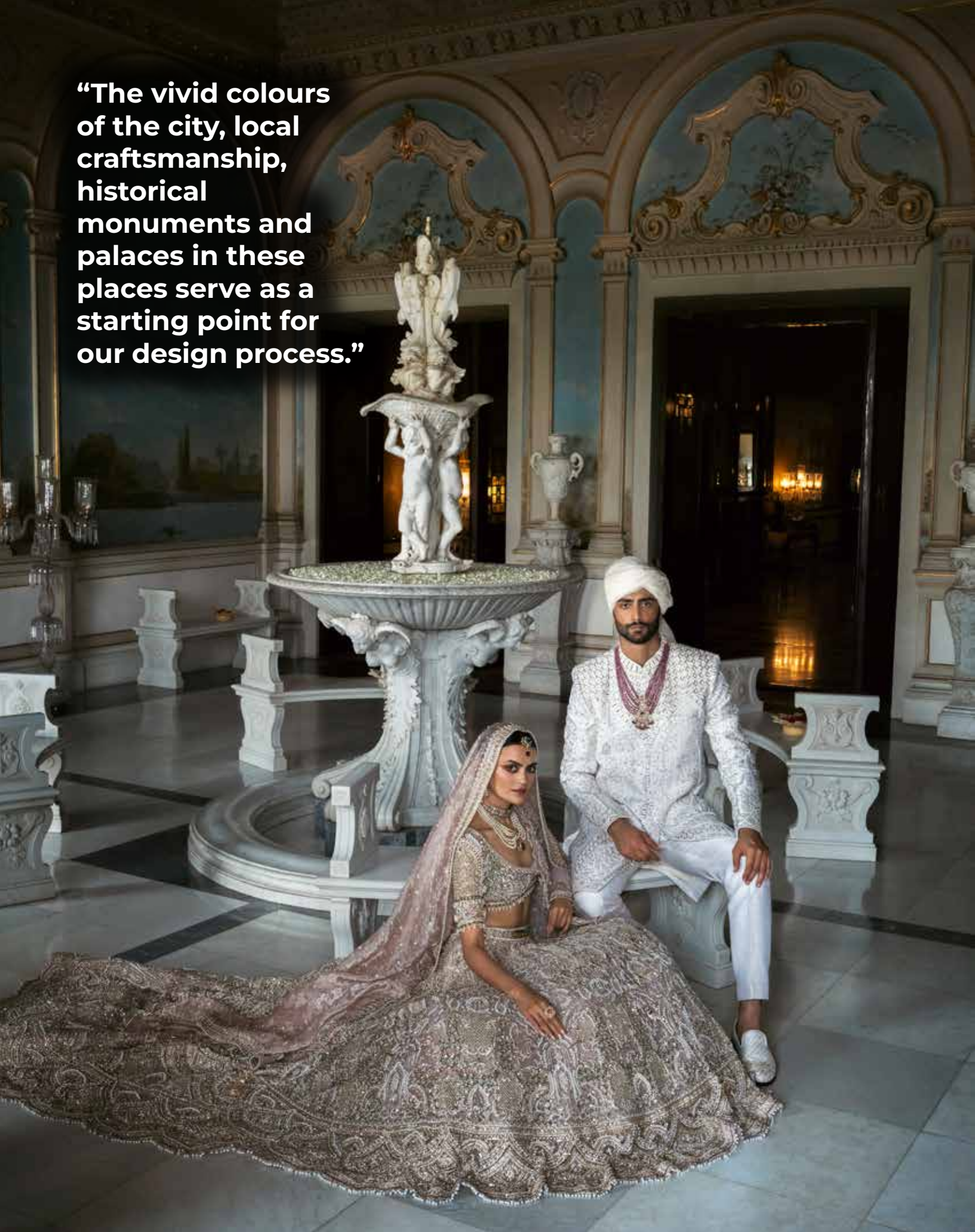


“Every milestone is special, and we look at them with equal importance as they’ve taken us a step further and helped us set the bar at each step.”

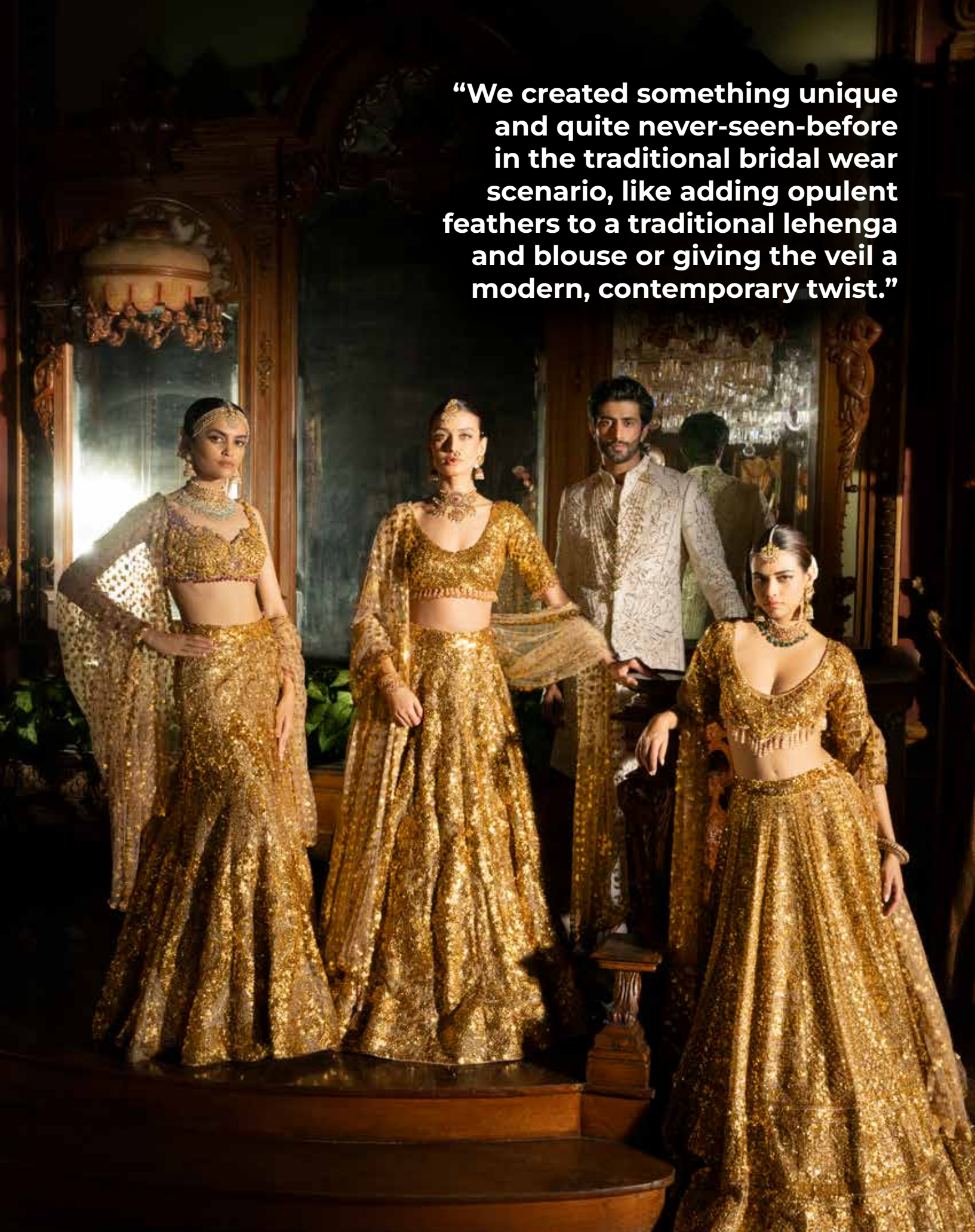


“Be it retailing at Harrods or our recent comeback at the New York Fashion Week — each of them is fulfilling in its own special way.”


“It may sound unbelievable, but we do everything together, and that’s because we enjoy each other’s company too much!”



“The vivid colours of the city, local craftsmanship, historical monuments and palaces in these places serve as a starting point for our design process.”



“We created something unique and quite never-seen-before in the traditional bridal wear scenario, like adding opulent feathers to a traditional lehenga and blouse or giving the veil a modern, contemporary twist.”

“We have everything from prêtwear to advanced contemporary to ready-to-wear and traditional ensembles to offer.”







“While Shane loves his blacks and neutrals, I’m all about subtle, pastel colours. I like silhouettes that are elegant and classic, whereas Shane prefers smart casuals.”

- Falguni



When we visit places like Udaipur, Agra, Kashmir, Paris, New York City etc, we have the opportunity to get to know its rich heritage, artistic aesthetics and breathtaking landscapes. The vivid colours of the city, local craftsmanship, historical monuments and palaces in these places serve as a starting point for our design process.

We like to observe local customs, interact with artisans and appreciate the craftsmanship found in each of these cities. It provides us with fresh perspectives. This enables us to translate the beauty and essence of different cities into wearable works of art i.e. our couture.

Your personal style game is always on point. How would you each describe your individual style and fashion sense?

Falguni: We both have quite dissimilar tastes when it comes to personal style. While Shane loves his blacks and neutrals, I’m all about subtle, pastel colours. I like silhouettes that are elegant and classic, whereas Shane prefers smart casuals. Both our wardrobes have some classic pieces from other luxe brands that we style in different ways.

India's T20 World Cup Victory Squad: The Spirit Of Champions

India's T20 World Cup triumph showcased the power of belief, teamwork and individual brilliance as a new generation of champions etched their names into cricketing history.

By Nichola Marie



Indian cricket has witnessed many glorious chapters, but the national team's triumph in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup stands as one of the defining achievements of a golden generation. In front of an electrifying home crowd and millions of fans across the country, India produced a commanding performance to defeat New Zealand in the final, successfully defending their title and securing their third ICC trophy in as many years.

The victory was not just another trophy in the cabinet — it symbolised resilience, belief and the evolution of a team that had endured a long wait for global success before ushering in a new era of dominance.

Captain Suryakumar Yadav summed up the journey perfectly. After India lifted the trophy amid scenes of jubilation, he reflected on the transformation of the team over the past few years. The drought of more than a decade without a major ICC title ended in 2024, and since then the team has found a rhythm that blends fearless batting, disciplined bowling and remarkable depth.

Under Yadav's leadership, India has embraced an aggressive brand of white-ball cricket that allows players to express themselves freely while maintaining a strong tactical structure. His captaincy in the tournament was marked by calm authority, bold decision-making and unwavering trust in his teammates.

Sanju Samson later revealed that guidance from cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar helped him regain clarity and confidence during a difficult phase in his career. The result was a triumphant return that proved his immense value to the Indian side.





Collective Excellence

India's triumph in the tournament was built on collective brilliance rather than the heroics of one or two players. Each member of the squad contributed at crucial moments, ensuring that the team remained consistent throughout the campaign.

Throughout the tournament, India displayed remarkable consistency across departments. The batting unit repeatedly set or chased down formidable totals, while the bowling attack maintained control in pressure situations. Dominant performances in the group stage and Super 8 rounds showcased the team's depth, with different players stepping up at different moments. By the time India reached the knockout stage, they had already established themselves as one of the most balanced and confident sides in the competition, carrying that momentum into the semi-final and ultimately the title-winning final.

Sanju Samson: The Redemption Story

At the heart of the victory was Sanju Samson, whose inspiring comeback became one of the tournament's defining narratives. After enduring a difficult period of form leading up to the competition, Samson rediscovered his confidence spectacularly.

Named Player of the Tournament, Samson delivered match-defining performances in the knockout stages, including an unbeaten 97 against the West Indies in the Super 8 stage and two commanding innings of 89 in the semi-final and final. His elegant strokeplay, combined with fearless intent, set the tone for India's batting dominance.

Samson later revealed that guidance from cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar helped him regain clarity and confidence during a difficult phase in his career. The result was a triumphant return that proved his immense value to the Indian side.

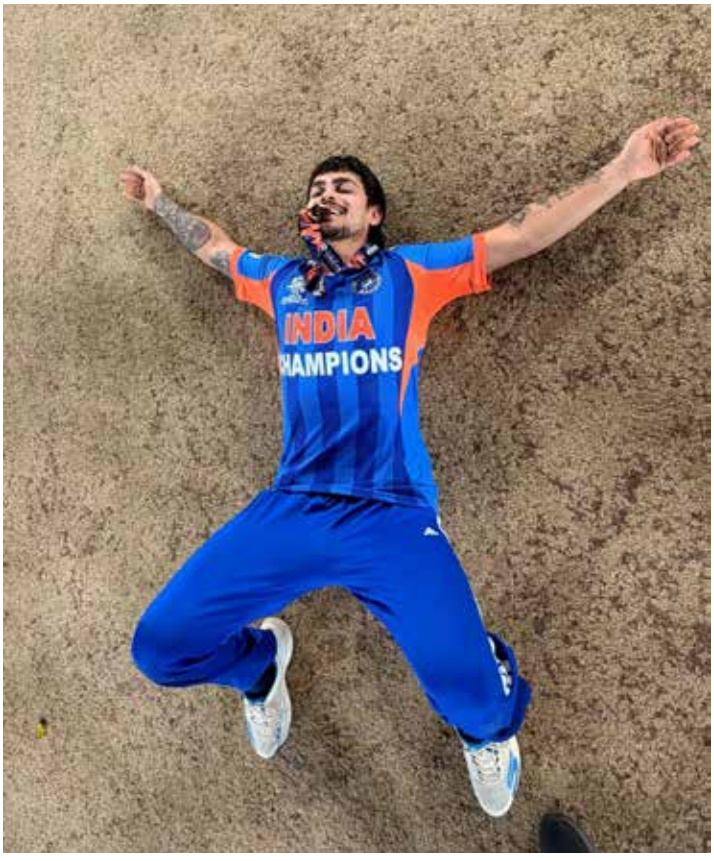
Abhishek Sharma: Explosive Beginnings

Young opener Abhishek Sharma provided the explosive starts that modern T20 cricket demands. His fearless approach in the powerplay allowed India to seize early momentum in several matches.

In the final, Sharma raced to a blistering half-century off just 18 balls, setting the platform for the massive total. His aggressive style and ability to attack from the first ball made him a crucial component of India's strategy.



Captain Suryakumar Yadav led from the front with his trademark innovative strokeplay and strategic clarity. Known for his 360-degree batting ability, he consistently applied pressure on the bowlers and maintained India's attacking momentum.





Ishan Kishan: Energy Behind The Stumps & At The Crease

Ishan Kishan played a dynamic dual role throughout the tournament. As a wicketkeeper, his sharp reflexes and energy behind the stumps added intensity to the team's fielding unit.

With the bat, Kishan's aggressive approach complemented the top order perfectly. His rapid 54 in the final ensured that the run rate remained sky-high, while his remarkable catch in the field — despite losing control momentarily — became one of the most memorable moments of the match.

Suryakumar Yadav: Leadership & Innovation

Captain Yadav led from the front with his trademark innovative strokeplay and strategic clarity. Known for his 360-degree batting ability, he consistently applied pressure on the bowlers and maintained India's attacking momentum.

While he fell early in the final, his leadership throughout the tournament ensured that the team remained confident and composed in high-pressure situations.



Throughout the tournament, India displayed remarkable consistency across departments. The batting unit repeatedly set or chased down formidable totals, while the bowling attack maintained control in pressure situations.







Shivam Dube: Finishing With Authority

All-rounder Shivam Dube played a vital role as India's finisher. His powerful hitting in the death overs provided the final flourish to India's innings.

In the final match, Dube's late assault transformed a strong total into a virtually unassailable one. His ability to clear the boundaries with ease made him an invaluable asset in the closing stages of the innings.

Hardik Pandya: All-Round Backbone

Hardik Pandya once again proved why he is considered one of India's most valuable all-rounders. Contributing with both bat and ball, Pandya provided balance and flexibility to the team. His ability to accelerate scoring in crucial moments and deliver key overs in the middle stages of the innings allowed the team management to maintain tactical versatility throughout the tournament.

Jasprit Bumrah: Master Of Precision

If India's batting dazzled, Jasprit Bumrah's bowling brought discipline and control. Widely regarded as one of the finest fast bowlers in modern cricket, Bumrah delivered yet another masterclass in the final.

Using deceptive slower deliveries and pinpoint yorkers, he dismantled New Zealand's batting line-up and claimed three crucial wickets. His outstanding performance earned him the Player of the Match award and once again highlighted his ability to thrive under pressure.



Young opener Abhishek Sharma provided the explosive starts that modern T20 cricket demands. His fearless approach in the powerplay allowed India to seize early momentum in several matches.





Ishan Kishan played a dynamic dual role throughout the tournament. As wicketkeeper, his sharp reflexes and energy behind the stumps added intensity to the team's fielding unit.

The Supporting Cast: Strength In Depth

Beyond the headline performances, the tournament also showcased the depth of India's cricketing talent.

The squad's bowling unit consistently delivered in key moments, ensuring that even massive targets remained well defended. Fielding standards remained exceptionally high throughout the tournament, reflecting the team's commitment to fitness and preparation.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir played an equally important role behind the scenes. His emphasis on mental toughness, strategic clarity and player confidence helped create an environment where every individual could perform at their best.

A Victory For The Fans

For the passionate supporters who filled stadiums across the country, the victory carried special meaning. India became the first men's team to defend the T20 World Cup and the first to win it on home soil.

The sight of thousands of fans dressed in blue celebrating under the floodlights symbolised the deep connection between the team and its supporters. It was a moment of shared pride that will be remembered for years to come.

Building A Legacy

India's triumph also represents a larger shift in the global cricket landscape. After years of near misses and heartbreak in ICC tournaments, the team has now established itself as one of the most formidable forces in world cricket. With two T20 World Cups and a Champions Trophy secured since 2024, the Indian side has demonstrated remarkable consistency at the highest level. Captain Yadav has made it clear that the team's ambitions extend far beyond a single victory. The focus now is on sustaining excellence and continuing to push the boundaries of modern white-ball cricket.

Champions For A New Era

Ultimately, this triumph symbolised far more than sporting success. It reflected the spirit of a team united by belief, resilience and an unwavering commitment to excellence. For millions of fans across the country, the victory served as a powerful reminder of what collective effort and fearless ambition can achieve. As the celebrations echoed across the stadium and beyond, one truth stood clear: Indian cricket had entered a bold new chapter defined by champions.

The victory was not just another trophy in the cabinet — it symbolised resilience, belief and the evolution of a team that had endured a long wait for global success before ushering in a new era of dominance.





Ihana Dhillon: “I’ve faced phases of highs and silence, appreciation and waiting. What keeps me going is self-belief”

From Punjabi roots to Hindi blockbusters like ‘Hate Story 4’ and ‘Bhuj: The Pride Of India’, Ihana Dhillon’s journey is driven by discipline, self-belief and a desire to portray strong, evolving women — always choosing meaning over mere momentum.

By Andrea CostaBir

You’ve worked in Punjabi films like ‘Daddy Cool Munde Fool’ and ‘Tiger’, as well as Hindi films like ‘Hate Story 4’, ‘Radhe’, and ‘Bhuj: The Pride Of India’. How has working across different industries and genres shaped your approach to acting, and what draws you to a particular role?

Working in both Punjabi and Hindi cinema has been a beautiful learning curve for me. Punjabi films like ‘Daddy Cool Munde Fool’ and ‘Tiger’ gave me a strong emotional foundation — they’re rooted, expressive, and culturally rich. Hindi films like ‘Hate Story 4’, ‘Radhe’, and ‘Bhuj: The Pride Of India’ exposed me to larger productions, different storytelling scales, and diverse audiences.

Switching between industries taught me adaptability. I’ve learnt that no matter the language or scale, authenticity is everything. I’m drawn to roles that have emotional depth, strength, and a journey — characters that evolve and leave an impact.




“Discipline is non-negotiable in my profession. Acting is not just glamour — it’s preparation, patience, and constant self-improvement.”

The film industry can be highly competitive and challenging. What has been your experience navigating these dynamics? And what advice would you give to young women aspiring to enter cinema?

The film industry is competitive, yes — but it's also deeply rewarding if you stay grounded. I've faced phases of highs and silence, appreciation and waiting. What keeps me going is self-belief.

My advice to young women: Never compromise your dignity for opportunity. Talent matters, but so does character. Be patient, work on your craft, stay physically and mentally strong, and understand that rejection is redirection. The industry respects resilience.

Work ethic often defines longevity in your field. How do you stay disciplined, motivated, and consistent in your craft, both on and off screen?

Discipline is non-negotiable in my profession. Acting is not just glamour — it's preparation, patience, and constant self-improvement. I maintain a routine that includes fitness, script reading, and staying connected to creative inspiration. Consistency comes from loving what you do. When you truly respect your craft, you show up — even on days when motivation is low.

Maintaining peak performance on screen often requires physical preparation. Can you share your current fitness routine and how you stay motivated to keep up with demanding schedules?

Fitness for me is about strength and stamina, not just aesthetics. I mix weight training, functional workouts, and sometimes yoga or Pilates; depending on my schedule. When you're on set for long hours, physical endurance becomes essential. I remind myself that my body is my instrument — and I have to take care of it with discipline and gratitude.

Alongside fitness, self-care is essential for mental and emotional balance. What are your go-to practices for self-care, and how do you manage stress in a high-pressure industry?

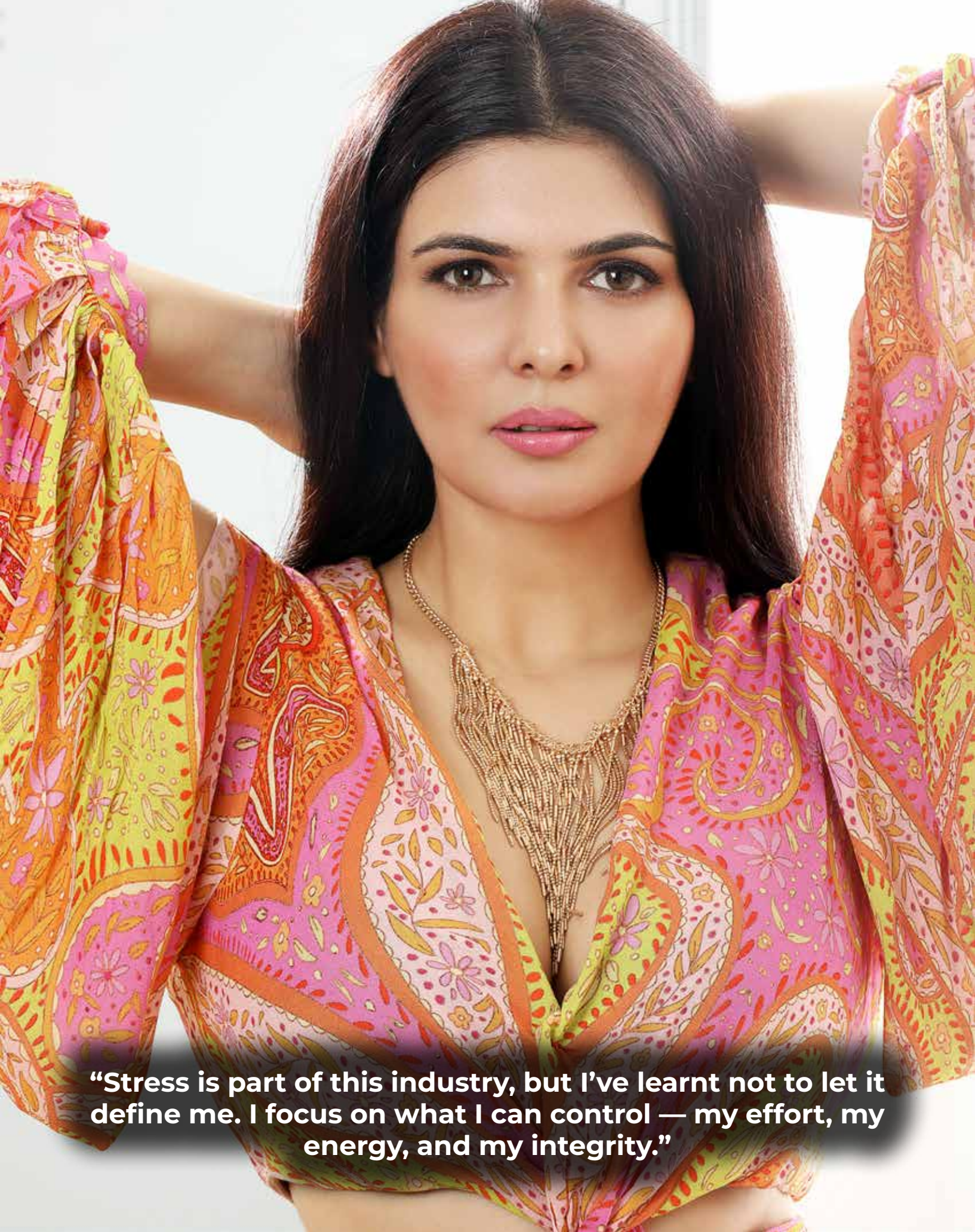
Self-care is sacred to me. I believe emotional balance reflects on screen. I meditate, spend time in silence, and detach from social media when needed.

Stress is part of this industry, but I've learnt not to let it define me. I focus on what I can control — my effort, my energy, and my integrity.

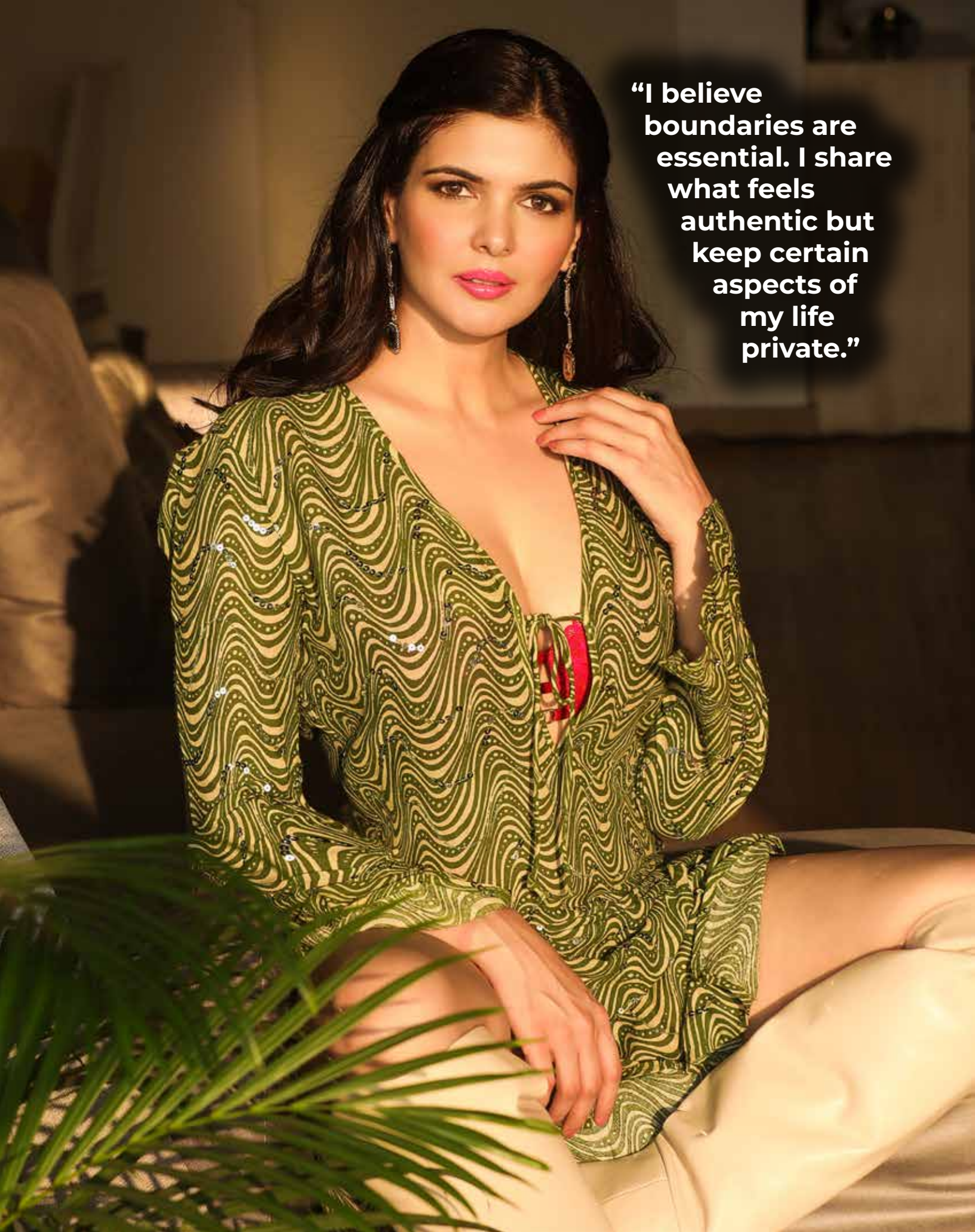
"In an unpredictable industry, having a stable emotional foundation makes all the difference."

"Family is my grounding force. Their unconditional support has helped me make decisions with clarity rather than pressure."





“Stress is part of this industry, but I’ve learnt not to let it define me. I focus on what I can control — my effort, my energy, and my integrity.”


“I believe boundaries are essential. I share what feels authentic but keep certain aspects of my life private.”

Family often provides grounding and support. How has your family influenced your career decisions, and what role do they play in your day-to-day life?

Family is my grounding force. They remind me who I am beyond the spotlight. Their unconditional support has helped me make decisions with clarity rather than pressure. In an unpredictable industry, having a stable emotional foundation makes all the difference.

Outside of work, what hobbies or passions bring you joy and help you recharge creatively?

I love music, travelling, and spending quiet time reflecting. I'm also deeply drawn to spirituality and personal growth. Creativity doesn't only come from film sets — it comes from living fully, observing people, and understanding emotions.

Social media connects you directly with fans. How do you balance staying engaged with your audience while maintaining personal boundaries?

Social media is a powerful bridge between artists and audiences. I love engaging with people who support my journey. However, I believe boundaries are essential. I share what feels authentic but keep certain aspects of my life private. Mystery is powerful — and peace is priceless.

Looking ahead, what are your professional goals, and what kind of characters or stories excite you the most?

Looking ahead, I want to explore more layered and powerful characters — roles that challenge me emotionally and physically. I'm particularly excited about stories that portray strong, complex women.

My goal isn't just to work more — it's to work meaningfully. I want to be part of cinema that resonates, inspires, and stays with people long after the credits roll.

"My goal isn't just to work more — it's to work meaningfully."



Chef Manish Mehrotra: “The kitchen teaches you far more than just how to cook”

For Chef Manish Mehrotra, food has always been about identity and emotion. He discusses evolution, leadership, and the quiet confidence shaping his newest chapter.

By Amber Dias

Few chefs have shaped modern Indian cuisine as decisively as Manish Mehrotra. Widely credited with redefining contemporary Indian dining, he earned global acclaim as the longtime culinary force behind Indian Accent, which consistently featured on prestigious international restaurant lists and helped place progressive Indian cuisine firmly on the world map. Known for marrying deep-rooted Indian flavours with refined global techniques, his food balances nostalgia with precision, restraint with imagination.

Over the years, his approach has come to represent a larger shift in how Indian cuisine is perceived globally, not as a monolith, but as a layered, evolving narrative. His ability to reinterpret familiar dishes without stripping them of their emotional core has earned him both critical respect and a fiercely loyal following. Beyond accolades, it is this balance of integrity and innovation that defines his culinary voice.

With his newest venture, Nisaba, Mehrotra enters a more personal, reflective chapter, one that distills decades of experience into food that is thoughtful, seasonal, and quietly confident. In this conversation, he looks back at his journey, his philosophy, and what continues to drive him forward.

Excerpts from the interview...

You’ve been at the forefront of modern Indian dining for decades, shaping how the world experiences Indian cuisine. Take us back to the beginning. How did your culinary journey start, and what first sparked your passion for food? What made you realise this was the path you wanted to commit to?

Honestly, it wasn’t some dramatic moment. I grew up in a home where food was important; it was how people connected. After hotel management, I naturally found myself drawn to the kitchen. What really pulled me in was the idea that food could say something about who you are, where you come from. Over time, I realised this wasn’t just a job. This was something I wanted to commit my life to.





How has your relationship with food changed over the years?

In the beginning, it was all about technique, learning the rules, getting things right. Today, it's far more instinctive. I think a lot more about balance, restraint, and clarity. You learn that not everything needs to be complicated. Sometimes the most powerful dishes are the simplest ones.

Your work beautifully balances tradition with innovation. How do you honour India's rich culinary heritage while still pushing boundaries and reimagining what Indian cuisine can be?

For me, innovation only works if it comes from respect. You can't reinvent Indian food unless you truly understand it. Our cuisine is incredibly layered, regionally, culturally, and emotionally. I spend a lot of time understanding those roots and then interpreting them in a way that feels relevant today. It's not about changing for the sake of it – it's about evolving naturally and finding the right fit.

What continues to inspire you creatively? How do you nurture originality, discipline, and confidence within your kitchen and among your team?

Curiosity. That hasn't changed. I draw inspiration from travel, art, conversations, even architecture, not just food. In the kitchen, I try to create a space where young chefs feel comfortable sharing ideas and making mistakes. Discipline is important, but creativity really grows when people feel trusted.

You're an inspiration to many young chefs. Is there someone from the industry who inspired you and your approach to food?

I've learnt from many people, but more than individual chefs, I've been inspired by cultures and cuisines. I admire chefs who stay rooted while still being open to new ideas, people who cook with honesty and integrity.

"You learn that not everything needs to be complicated. Sometimes the most powerful dishes are the simplest ones."

In your view, what truly defines a great chef today beyond technical excellence? What advice would you offer young chefs who aspire to build a career in the culinary world?

A great chef today needs empathy for their team, their guests, and the environment they work in. Leadership, humility, and adaptability matter as much as technique. My advice to young chefs is simple: Be patient. Focus on learning, not fame. The kitchen teaches you far more than just how to cook.

What drew you towards starting a new chapter with Nisaba? In what ways does Nisaba reflect who you are today, not just as a chef, but as a creative thinker and storyteller?

Nisaba really reflects where I am today, calmer, more reflective, and deeply rooted. It's about food that feels personal, without being intimidating.

There's less focus on spectacle and more on emotion, comfort, and storytelling. It allows me to cook with maturity and freedom.



Rapid Fire

One ingredient you can't live without?

Garlic.

The one Indian ingredient the world underestimates?

Lentils.

Sweet or savoury?

Savoury.

The most unexpected flavour pairing you love?

Blue Cheese Naan.

One kitchen rule you never break?

Never mix two cuisines in one dish.

One city every food lover must visit?

New York.

If you weren't a chef, what would you be?

Running my father's petrol pump.

"I enjoy travelling, reading, and simply observing – markets, people, cultures. Those quiet moments often influence my cooking more than anything else."







"People want more than just good food; they want meaning. I'm interested in more intimate, experience-driven formats going forward."



Are there specific ingredients, techniques, or guiding philosophies that define the identity of the restaurant?

Seasonality is key. Indian ingredients are treated thoughtfully with modern techniques. We focus on layering flavours, fermentation, and balance, nothing loud or overpowering. Everything has a reason to be on the plate.

What do you enjoy doing outside the kitchen?

I enjoy travelling, reading, and simply observing – markets, people, cultures. Those quiet moments often influence my cooking more than anything else.

As you look ahead, what excites you about the future of food and dining? Are there new ideas, formats, or directions you're eager to explore next?

I'm excited by how conscious dining has become – sustainability, sourcing, and purpose really matter now. People want more than just good food; they want meaning. I'm interested in more intimate, experience-driven formats going forward.



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WOMEN'S SPECIAL

From One Woman To Another...

...here are a few words of comfort and inspiration, of lessons learnt in storms and sunlight, to guide you on your way. Whether you need a gentle nudge forward or simply a reminder that you are not alone, may these voices meet you exactly where you are and shed a little light on the path ahead.











"MOST PEOPLE ARE FIGURING IT OUT AS THEY GO"

Dearest Reader,

You're standing at the start of your journey, ambitious, hopeful, and perhaps a little unsure of what lies ahead. I know that feeling well. **When you are beginning, the world can seem both exciting and intimidating at the same time.** There are dreams you want to chase, but also questions that quietly sit in the back of your mind: Am I ready? Will I be able to do this?

Let me reassure you — **uncertainty is not a weakness. It is the beginning of growth.**

The early stage of any journey is messy, confusing, and full of questions. You will try things that don't work, you will face rejections, and you will also occasionally feel like everyone else has a clearer plan than you do. They don't!!! Most people are figuring it out as they go along.

One thing I learnt early is that vision matters. If you can see possibilities where others see limitations, you are already ahead. In our industry, whether it was building iconic brands or expanding manufacturing across India, the goal was never just to participate. **It was to create, to innovate, and to think bigger than what seemed possible at the time.**

What matters more than what people realise is persistence. The kind that shows up when things are slow, when recognition hasn't arrived yet, and when the only person who believes in your vision is YOU. It's the persistence that is the quiet strength that keeps you moving forward. The most successful people are not the ones who never fail — **they are the ones who refuse to stop trying.**

You will also encounter a lot of noise. People's opinions, expectations, how you should be, how you should look at things the way they do, by when you should be achieving success etc – they come from everywhere. Some will be well-meaning, others won't. Listen respectfully, but **learn to trust your own judgment.** The world will often try to define your limits for you. Don't let it.

What you must protect at all costs is your integrity and your passion. The values you carry will guide your decisions long after the excitement of early success fades. In leadership, people remember how you made them feel — whether you empowered them, inspired them, and treated them with fairness and respect.

Over time, many things will change. Your confidence will grow and your perspective will widen. **The challenges you once feared will become experiences that strengthen you.**



You will realise that **the failures you feared were actually some of your greatest teachers.** Someone might look at you and say, "You make it look so easy." And you'll smile politely. You probably won't mention the sleepless nights, the mistakes, the rejections or the moments you nearly gave up.

But some things should never change — **your curiosity, your willingness to learn,** and your belief that you can build something that matters.

There is something powerful about women supporting women, sharing experiences, and lifting each other forward. Each generation opens doors for the next, and I hope that as you grow in your own career, you will do the same.

Your journey will not be perfect, and it will certainly not be predictable. But if you stay committed to your vision, work hard, and lead with integrity, you will create opportunities not only for yourself but for many others along the way.

So step forward with courage. Dream bigger than what feels comfortable today.

And if you remember nothing else from this letter, please remember this: **You don't need permission to become everything you are capable of. Trust yourself.**

With Belief in You…

Warm Regards,

Schauna Chauhan

CEO-PARLE AGRO



"KEEP LEARNING AND NEVER LOSE THE CHILD WITHIN YOU"

Dear Reader,

I pen this short letter to all of you who are just beginning to carve your career paths in this long and fascinating journey called life. In many ways, this is also a letter to my younger self — a quiet reflection on the **lessons that time, work and experience have taught me.**

In the early stages, life can feel overwhelming. There is so much to absorb, so many voices offering advice, and so many possibilities competing for your attention. My first suggestion is simple: **Do not overthink or overanalyse.** Another lesson I have learnt over the years is to ignore casual or free advice and instead consult professionals when needed. Protect your private life and your family fiercely. Life will inevitably throw you googlies — that is a given. What must never change, however, is your commitment to truth and to working hard and working smart.

My own professional journey was anything but conventional. I grew up as a physics student, immersed in the practical workings of my grandfather's business operations. **Chocolates and the art of making them were completely new to me.** In many ways, it was my science education that held me in good stead. Understanding concepts such as relative humidity and production processes helped me gradually find my footing in the world of chocolate.

Along the way, I began discovering the fascinating nuances of tasting chocolates from different zones, regions and countries. Even today, it continues to amaze me how cacao grown in the same area can produce entirely different flavour profiles depending on the components used — whether milk or alternative milk — or even the environment in which the beans grow, whether closer to fields or gardens. The flavours shift and evolve in remarkable ways.

For me, the journey with chocolate has always been one of discovery and experimentation. I **remain deeply inquisitive and curious,** and my advice to young people is this: Never lose the child within you. Keep experimenting, keep learning and keep asking questions. Over time, you will gain mastery over the many intricate elements that shape chocolate — temperatures, fermentation, particle textures, grinding methods, and the many processes that transform the humble cacao bean into something extraordinary.

I do not know if I am India's original chocolatier. What I do know is that **I may well be among the most curious and experimental.** I work with seasons, moods, wedding celebrations and everyday occasions.





Seasons are particularly important because they influence temperature and humidity — two critical factors in chocolate making. I also work with the delicate ingredients that form the heart of pralines and ganaches. In many ways, I see myself as a chocolate sommelier — someone who tastes, studies and understands cacao, while also working closely with farmers, producers and young, aspiring chocolatiers.

On the entrepreneurial front, my formal qualification is simply a B.Com degree. I am now 60, and nearly 40 years have passed since I graduated in my early 20s. What has truly shaped me, however, is hands-on experience combined with constant learning. Over the years, I have worked in every vertical of the business — **from the most basic tasks like operating telephones and typing forms to launching products, understanding marketing and learning to connect with people.**

One area that required particular effort was accounts. Understanding financials is essential in any business. Although I did not initially have the time to master it, I worked closely with chartered accountants and gradually built my understanding. My advice to young professionals is simple: **If time and finances permit, invest in smaller courses and continuous learning.** If you cannot pursue long-term programmes, seek out opportunities to enhance your knowledge wherever you can.

Life is a continuous process of learning and discovery. Stay curious, stay disciplined and stay grounded. Pray, sing, dance and love with abandon.

Sincerely,

Zeba Kohli

Chocolate Sommelier & Entrepreneur

"YOUR DESTINY BEGINS THE MOMENT YOU STOP WAITING"

To the young woman standing at the beginning of her journey,

You may not say it out loud, but **I know what this phase feels like. I have been there.**

It feels like ambition wrapped in uncertainty. **Like dreaming big while quietly wondering, 'Am I truly capable?'** It feels like smiling confidently in public and questioning yourself in private. You want to matter. And yet, some days, the weight of expectation feels heavier than your confidence. Let me tell you something gently — no one ever feels completely ready.

The early stage of your journey will feel like a contradiction. You will feel powerful and invisible at the same time. You will work harder than anyone sees. You will question your voice before you use it. And you will secretly hope that one day someone will look at you and say, "She belongs here."

Now let me share something personal. I did not begin with a blank slate. I began with a legacy.

Being **the daughter of Alyque and Pearl Padamsee meant inheriting not just a name, but an expectation.** Their work shaped theatre in this country. Their standards were uncompromising. Their reputation was towering. For years, **I wrestled with a quiet question — am I building something of my own, or merely standing in someone else's spotlight?**

Over time, I understood something important.

Your destiny truly begins the moment you stop waiting for approval and start trusting your own voice. Not when everyone applauds you. Not when the doors open easily.

Your real work begins when the other person says no. When the door does not open. When the applause does not come. Because that is when you stop relying on permission — and start relying on persistence. I stopped trying to compete with a legacy and started interpreting it in my own way. I realised I did not have to replicate what came before — **I had to add my own voice to it.** Cookie-cutter imitation was never the goal. Individuality is.

Theatre taught me that. **On stage, there are no retakes. You rehearse. You prepare. You discipline your body and mind.** And then you step into the light and perform your best in that one fleeting moment. It teaches creativity, teamwork, resilience, and respect for process. In a world obsessed with quick fixes, theatre insists on steady growth.

That is where real dividends lie. You may gather degrees and distinctions. But if you cannot translate knowledge into communication, collaboration, empathy and courage — something essential remains incomplete. **Find a creative pursuit.** It does not have to be theatre. It could be art, music, writing or dance. **Commit to something that stretches you and humbles you.**





Because creativity refines more than talent. It refines character. It teaches empathy, the ability to step into someone else's story and feel their truth. And somewhere along the journey, you begin to understand something deeper: Success feels very different when it is shared.

There is a quiet power in giving back. **In using your education, your voice, and your opportunities to uplift those who have had fewer chances than you.**

When I began working with the underprivileged and started a nonprofit, something shifted within me. I realised that recognition may fade, but impact endures. Achievement measured only by personal success feels incomplete. But when your work begins to touch lives, restore dignity, and open doors for someone else, fulfilment takes on an entirely new meaning.

When you do something that is not about applause or self-appreciation, you realise you have achieved far more than titles alone could ever offer. **Let your ambition include contribution.**

Build your career. Build your confidence. But also build something that serves others. The most meaningful legacy is not the brightest spotlight — it is the light you pass on.

Protect your individuality fiercely. Stay disciplined. Stay consistent. Move forward even when doubt whispers.

Write your own destiny.

And as you rise, reach back.

You are not here to inherit a spotlight.

You are here to create your own — and to use it wisely.

Sincerely,

Raell Padamsee

MD & CEO, ACE Productions

"WHAT MATTERS FAR MORE THAN AGE IS PASSION"

To the girl figuring things out,

When I think back to the early days of my professional journey, I remember them as a mix of emotions — **excitement, ambition, curiosity and, yes, quite a bit of uncertainty.** When you are young, you are full of ideas. There is a voice inside you constantly urging you to do something meaningful, to create something of your own, to follow what excites you. It is an incredibly energising time because you feel as though anything is possible.

But alongside that excitement come doubts. You ask yourself questions like: Where do I even begin? How will I make this work? Those questions are natural. I had them too.

What I realise now is that **youth brings with it a kind of fearlessness that is difficult to replicate later in life.** When you are younger, you jump into things headfirst. You do not always think about everything that could go wrong — you simply move forward with enthusiasm and belief. In many ways, that fearlessness is a gift.

When I started, I did not really know what I was doing. I simply knew that I wanted to work and that I wanted to create. **I did not begin with a perfect plan or a long list of goals. I just started and figured things out along the way.**

My journey began quite early. I started working when I was 16 because I was fascinated by the idea of being a working woman and building something of my own. My first pieces were embroidered shawls paired with matching pashmina handbags. I never formally studied design; it was simply something I enjoyed. I loved bringing colours and textures together and watching ideas come to life. I spent time at a factory working with artisans, experimenting with designs and seeing the finished pieces take shape. What began as a creative experiment slowly grew into a small collection.

During a holiday in London, I organised an exhibition of my work. It was not planned as a business venture — **I simply wanted to try it.** But the experience opened the door to the creative world and helped me realise how much I enjoyed it.

When I look back now, I sometimes smile at the confidence I had then. I remember walking into Harrods with samples of my products and asking for a meeting.



Today, I might think twice before doing something like that. But when you are young, you do not overanalyse everything — you simply go for it.

People often ask whether there is **a "right age" to start a business.** My honest answer is that there is not. I have seen people build successful ventures in their 20s and others begin in their 40s, 50s or even later.

For many women, life takes different paths. Some focus on family earlier in life and begin their professional journeys later. Running a home and raising a family is a full-time responsibility in itself, and many women return to pursue their ambitions afterwards with remarkable success.

So **the timing of your journey is deeply personal.** What matters far more than age is passion and commitment. You have to truly believe in what you are doing — sometimes almost to the point of obsession.

Like any creative field, fashion comes with criticism. I remember one of my early shows receiving harsh comments from some people. At the time, it was difficult, especially when the criticism came from people who did not necessarily understand the work behind it.

But over time, you learn perspective. People often see only the final result, **not the months of effort and preparation that go into it.** Not every opinion needs to define your work or your confidence.

One thing I believe strongly in is integrity and kindness in your professional life. The way you treat people matters. Over the years, many assistants who worked with me have gone on to build their own careers. When they reach out years later to say they valued the experience, it reminds me that relationships are just as important as the work itself.

Experience has also taught me the importance of balance. Earlier in my career, I said yes to almost everything — running my brand, collaborating on projects, and taking on styling assignments. There were moments when I barely had time for myself.

Today, I understand **how important it is to take care of yourself — mentally, physically and emotionally.**

If I could offer one piece of advice to any young woman starting out, it would be this: **Protect your self-belief.**

There will always be people who say something will not work. There will be setbacks and disappointments. But keep showing up. Consistency and persistence are powerful.

And remember, you do not need to have everything figured out from the start. **Take things step-by-step** and grow into your journey.

Most importantly, if you are fortunate enough to do something you truly love, give it your whole heart — and never take that opportunity for granted.

Work with passion. Stay kind. Stay true to yourself. And trust that the rest will unfold.

Warmest Wishes,

Nandita Mahtani

Fashion Designer & Entrepreneur

"NO ONE WILL EVER TRAMPLE UPON ME AGAIN"

Dear Reader,

T-H-A-P-A-K and a billion shattered dreams characterised me - the bahu of a respected family just having rupees 750 in my bank account, bewilderment at the cruelty and abuse inflicted upon me by my husband and in-laws, the dreams in my heart, and the grit and determination to survive. I said to myself, **"I must amount to something in life. No one will ever trample upon me again because I will be a 'somebody'."**

I was willing to endure my abusive marriage because 'good Indian girls' like me didn't go through a divorce. And then came the night that changed it all. After a particularly bad bout of vitriolic abuse, I was thrown out of my marital home. That single event changed the course of my life. From a beaten, bruised, abused woman, **I became a champion for legal rights** and set up India's first non-judgemental support group, 360 Degrees Back to Life, for those going through divorce.

Simultaneously, I decided to fight for justice – my own divorce battle. It turned out to be a long, tumultuous, frustrating battle that ended after nearly a decade. Each hearing was painful, having to put up with the litany of lawyers and their changing stances, the mounting expenses of fighting in what seemed to be a futile case, the taunts of an unforgiving society, and the sheer vulnerability of being an almost single-again woman.

Slowly, I was inching towards my goal to develop my own identity, sans the suffix of a powerful married surname. Finally, I got freedom – the legal and societal independence from the bonds of a terrible marriage. During the course of my divorce, when I pointed out a fact to my divorce lawyer, she ridiculed me by saying, "When you become a lawyer, then give me your suggestions", and **never one to back down from a challenge, I took up studying law**, and it was hard, but today when I meet my ex-divorce lawyer in court, the sweet smell of having been victorious in a challenge by a detractor feels good.

That's the beauty of detractors. **Don't let them run you down, but use their negativity to spur you to achieve further.** After my divorce, I embraced my role as a Justice Warrior. I published a news magazine on divorce. Then came the book, 'Ex Files', published by Penguin Random House under the Shobhaa De Books imprint. This book was endorsed by Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr Sonal Mansingh and (the late) Lord Meghnad Desai, and launched by legal luminaries like former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi and former Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Mohit Shah, amongst others.





Furthermore, I collaborated with Priyanka Chopra for a film centred around the law.

My divorce also led me to study and practise law. After the divorce, I thought I was done with court, but the calls from distressed and abused women who were in a similar predicament led me back. **This time as a lawyer, not a litigant.** Initially, it was gut-wrenching, but slowly, the cause of helping others to get justice and their victories made me realise that this was the mission chosen for me by God. Being a lawyer is a matter of pride, and **I encourage everyone and especially women, to become empowered by studying law.** You'll find it a life-empowering experience. Like I say, "Women in white court collars are superwomen."

Currently, my hands are full with high-profile divorce cases and pro-bono cases; no wonder the media has dubbed me as, 'India's Top Divorce Lawyer'.

My efforts gained international recognition when the BBC' made a documentary featuring my work. I was also interviewed by the BBC' on law and the situation of divorce in India. I wrote columns for domestic and international media. And I continue to be quoted by national and international media right from 'The Times of India' to 'BBC', 'CBC', 'French TV' and 'Vice Media' as an expert on the subject. I was also associated with the National Commission for Women.

I have been conferred with awards like Best Woman Lawyer of India, Top 50 Iconic Women of India and the Karamveer Puruskar. **Each is a milestone in my journey from victim to victor.**

My positivity is perhaps inherited. My father, Wing Cdr Sanwal Shah, was a patriotic Indian Air Force pilot and my beautiful mom, Charan, my biggest cheerleader. They both encouraged me to pursue excellence. Despite being orphaned early, losing both my parents to cancer, my parents' teachings helped me to emerge victorious.

On podcasts, with award-winning podcasters like Raj Shamani, Sharan Hegde, Ted-Ex and Humans of Bombay, among others, **I speak candidly about my struggles and victories so that these inspire others to think that nothing is impossible.** I continue to write, with my new book 'Pali Hill Divorces' being published by Penguin Random House, and continue my fight for justice.

My life philosophies are simple:

- **"Be Brave and Conquer the World."**
- **"It is better to elevate yourself than bring down another."**
- **"Above everything is GOD."**

Sincerely,

Advocate Vandana Shah

Author, Lawyer & Social Entrepreneur



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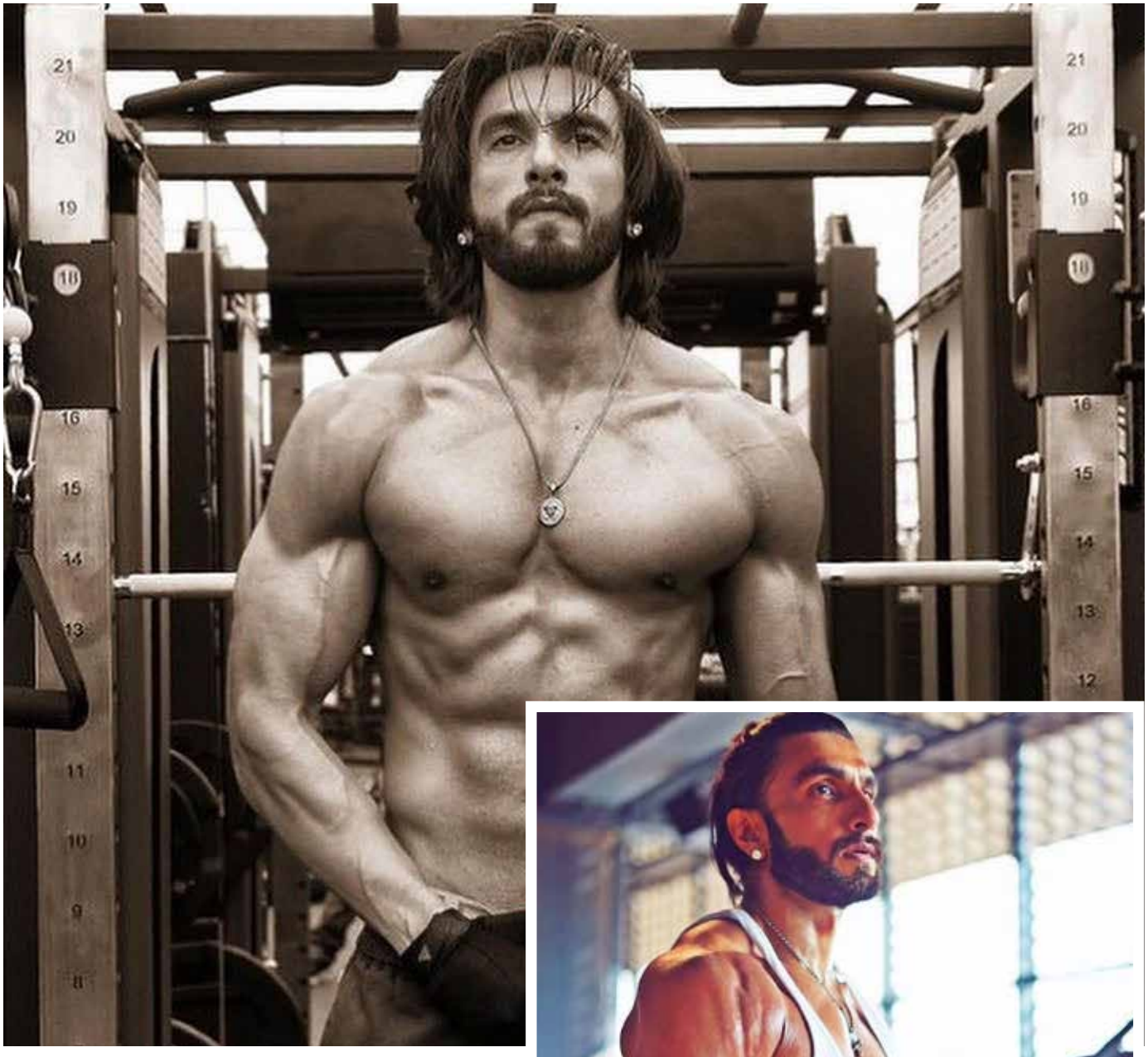







The Healing Power Of Motion

From marathon miles to martial arts drills, Akriti Pal decodes how Bollywood's winners are turning to movement for emotional and physical balance.



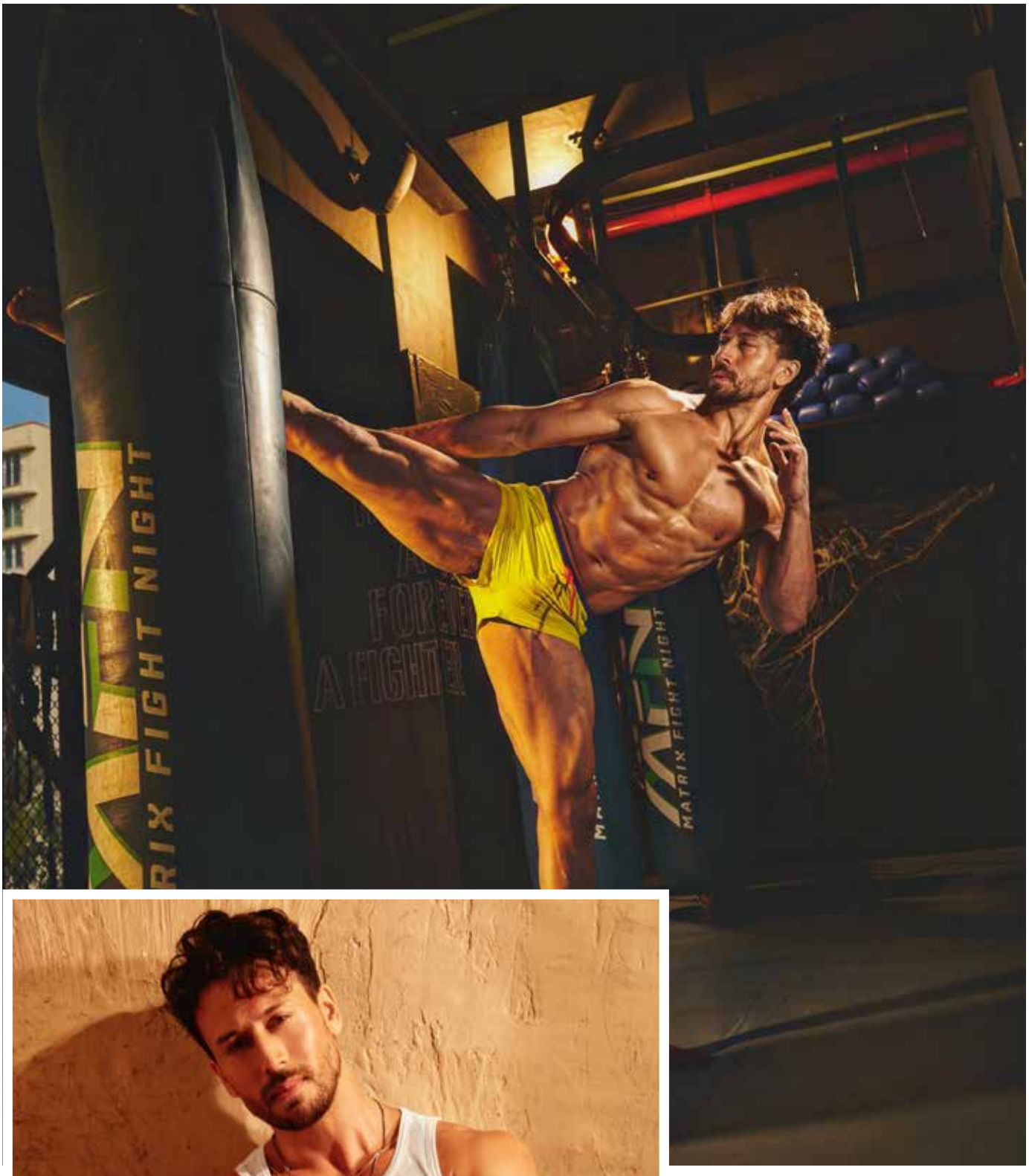
Ranveer Singh

Ranveer mixes his gym routines with regular runs, swimming sessions, and cycling to boost cardiovascular health and clear his mind before and after long shooting days. He's spoken about how staying active helps him manage intensity and reset mentally.



Mandira Bedi

For Mandira, running isn't just fitness, it's a ritual. She has spoken about how regular runs help her stay centered, manage emotional ups and downs, and reconnect with her inner calm through the rhythm of her footsteps.



Tiger Shroff

Movement is play for Tiger Shroff. His practice of parkour blends running, jumping and agility drills that keep both his body and mind engaged. The dynamic nature of this discipline helps him diffuse stress and maintain focus.



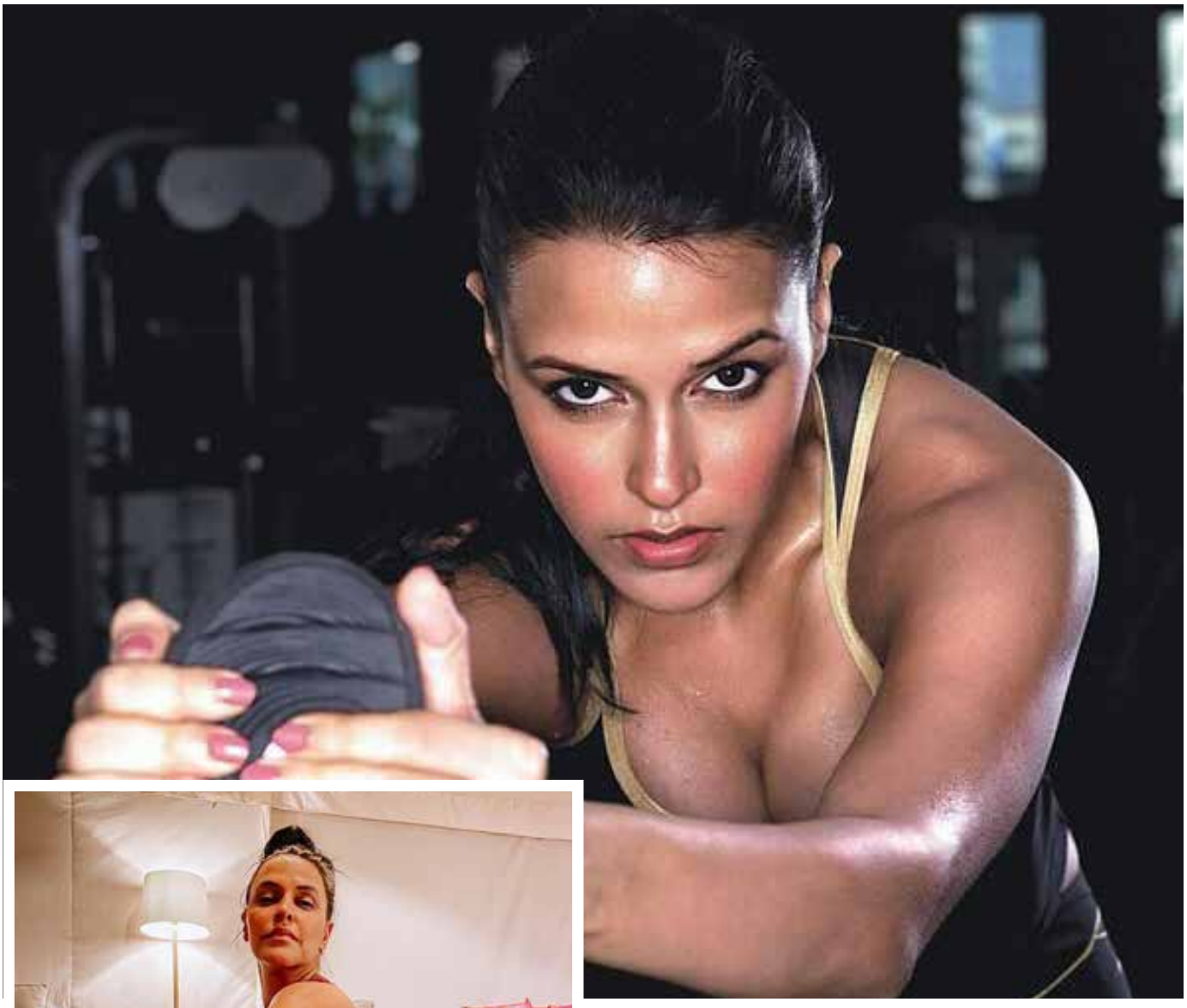
Rakul Preet Singh

Rakul incorporates trekking into her lifestyle, blending outdoor adventure with physical challenge, a powerful combo for stress reduction. Being in nature, away from the city buzz and deadlines, brings an emotional reset that's hard to match.



Vidyut Jammwal

Vidyut's lifelong journey with Kalaripayattu and martial arts isn't just about physical prowess. The discipline required in these practices fosters focus, resilience, and body-mind harmony, making movement a daily therapy session in its own right.





Neha Dhupia

Neha turns to cycling and sprint workouts to break up the monotony of routines and clear her head. Short bursts of intense movement are great for stress relief, boosting endorphins and sharpening mental clarity.

Move It

Physical activity triggers endorphin release, reducing pain and elevating mood, while lowering cortisol — the body's primary stress hormone. Regular aerobic exercise also boosts brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which supports sharper cognition and reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression. Add better sleep, improved heart health, and steadier blood sugar regulation, and the result is clear: Movement doesn't just strengthen the body, it stabilises the mind.

Iconic Design Language

Amit Porwal, the creative force behind IPIPL, has spent over two decades redefining the meaning of modern luxury, creating environments that inspire, endure, and evolve with time.



Amit Porwal, Founder and Principal Designer of Icon Projects Inspace Pvt Ltd (IPIPL), has been shaping India's design landscape for over two decades. Based in Mumbai, he has carved a niche as one of the country's leading names in interior and architectural design, celebrated for his ability to craft spaces that are refined, purposeful, and deeply personal. Guided by the belief that every environment should narrate the story of its inhabitants, Amit's design philosophy blends intuitive client understanding with creative versatility and functionality.

Under his leadership, IPIPL has evolved into a multidisciplinary practice that seamlessly integrates interiors, construction, and bespoke furniture, powered by a strong in-house team. From luxury residences to cutting-edge commercial spaces, and now with projects extending to Dubai, the studio continues to push boundaries while staying rooted in excellence, innovation, and detail-driven design.

Amit Porwal's design philosophy blends intuitive client understanding with creative versatility and functionality.

Here's a selection of projects that capture IPIPL's commitment to design excellence.

Kanira

Kanira was envisioned as a residence that brought together the ornate elegance of colonial architecture with the openness and transparency of contemporary glass design. Conceived as a dialogue between the past and the present, it has grown into a home where tradition and modern living coexist seamlessly.

The colonial character was articulated through mouldings, arched openings, tiled pitched roofs, and finely detailed cornices. These elements anchored the architecture in timeless tradition, adding richness, rhythm, and a sculptural quality to the façade. In contrast, expanses of glass introduced a bold modernity — flooding the interiors with natural light, creating visual transparency, and opening the house to its natural surroundings.

The design language thrived on dualities — solid and transparent, ornamental and minimal, heavy and light. Grand colonial-inspired entrances were balanced with glass atriums, skylights, and glazed pavilions, resulting in immersive interior spaces that felt both formal and fluid. Each space was shaped to create a layered architectural narrative, one that continues to resonate with both heritage and innovation.





Conceived as a dialogue between the past and the present, it has grown into a home where tradition and modern living coexist seamlessly.



The Cove

Every corner of The Cove is thoughtfully curated, transforming furniture into expressions of personality, aspiration, and refined taste. The spatial journey flows effortlessly through a series of exclusive display areas, intimate lounges, refined dining setups, accent corners, and a welcoming reception zone. Each setting is styled not only to showcase functionality but also to evoke the emotional connection furniture can create within a living space.

Lighting plays a pivotal role in shaping the showroom's mood. A carefully orchestrated mix of warm ambient tones, accent highlights, and focused illumination elevates materials, finishes, and textures, allowing every piece to reveal its true character. The interplay of luxurious surfaces, rich palettes, and tactile detailing enhances the sense of opulence while maintaining an understated elegance that defines The Cove.

The design language of the showroom balances minimalist sophistication with timeless grandeur. While clean lines and uncluttered layouts reflect modern sensibilities, statement pieces and curated décor infuse richness and drama. This balance ensures that The Cove resonates with both contemporary lifestyles and those who appreciate classical luxury.

What truly distinguishes The Cove is its experiential approach. Visitors are not merely browsing through furniture; they are immersed in fully realized lifestyle environments. From the warmth of a lounge to the intimacy of a reading nook or the elegance of a dining space, each zone encourages clients to visualize these pieces in their own homes, bridging the gap between inspiration and reality.









Grand colonial-inspired entrances were balanced with glass atriums, skylights, and glazed pavilions, resulting in immersive interior spaces that felt both formal and fluid.

The Nautical Escape

Perched on the 44th floor of Mumbai's prestigious Blu development in Worli, this 4,000 sq. ft. four-bedroom apartment embodies refined luxury while embracing comfort and ease of living. With sweeping views of the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, the residence draws inspiration from its coastal setting, infusing serenity and lightness into a bustling urban backdrop.

A key design challenge lay in the placement of structural columns and beams. Instead of concealing them, the design team transformed these constraints into defining features, introducing graceful curves that now shape the interiors. These fluid lines soften the architectural edges, creating a sense of continuity and warmth throughout the home.

The residence accommodates two master bedrooms for a young couple and their parents, along with additional spaces for children and guests. A curated collection of Indian art frames provided by the client anchors the design narrative, layered with opulent marble inlays, brass accents, and bespoke furniture to create an atmosphere of understated grandeur.

The living room is expansive and filled with natural light, its neutral base enlivened by subtle hints of blue that echo the sea views. Curvilinear seating, marble flooring, and refined brass detailing define the space, while a striking bar clad in fiery Murano stone — with dynamic lighting — emerges as a bold counterpoint. A distinctive swing and curved veneer wall add further character, reinforcing the balance between sophistication and warmth.



Each setting is styled not only to showcase functionality but also to evoke the emotional connection furniture can create within a living space.



A carefully orchestrated mix of warm ambient tones, accent highlights, and focused illumination elevates materials, finishes, and textures.

A distinctive swing and curved veneer wall add further character, reinforcing the balance between sophistication and warmth.





The dining area is framed by elegant metal arches and mirrored motifs, while the powder washroom gleams with gold accents and patterned finishes.

Every corner of the apartment is crafted with care. The dining area is framed by elegant metal arches and mirrored motifs, while the powder washroom gleams with gold accents and patterned finishes. A long passage, often overlooked in apartment planning, was reimagined through mirrors, lighting compositions, and patterned ceilings into a visually rich corridor that enhances movement and experience.

The private areas reflect individual personalities with equal refinement. The parents' bedroom exudes serenity with warm veneers and soothing tones. The children's rooms embrace vibrancy and playfulness — one in cheerful yellow for the son, and the other in a palette of pinks and blues for the daughter — separated by a flexible sliding partition that allows shared or independent spaces as needed.

(This article has been excerpted from our sister publication 'Society Interiors & Design'.)

“Painting feels like a moment of peace, introspection, and self-discovery”

Guided by mindfulness, memory, and nature, Rakhi Poddar shows Amber Dias how spirituality and self-reflection shape her evolving visual language.

Rooted in childhood creativity and shaped by spiritual reflection, Rakhi Poddar’s journey is one of rediscovery and quiet transformation. Through vibrant colours and meditative forms, her work explores inner strength, emotion, and the untapped potential within every individual.

Excerpts from the interview...



When did you realise that art was becoming more than just a hobby for you?

I was drawn to art from early childhood, beginning with making rangoli for Diwali. Gradually, those patterns transformed into faces, especially female faces, which fascinated me deeply. I found myself naturally drawn to charcoal, and soon pencil became my medium of expression. By the time I was in sixth or seventh grade, I was sketching portraits and figurative works purely from observation, without any formal training or guidance. Creating deep, expressive eyes became instinctive to me, and through this process, I realised that art was no longer just a hobby, it had become my way of understanding and expressing the world.

Your mother’s influence shaped not only your appreciation of art but also your understanding of discipline and precision. How did her example shape your artistic mindset and work ethic?

From my earliest years, my mother was my first silent teacher. She prepared colours for my Diwali rangoli and encouraged me to create freely, never worrying if I spoiled a wall or made a mistake. I was allowed to paint whatever inspired me — from Lakshmi and Ganesh to figures from my imagination — and that freedom built my confidence as an artist. At the same time, her disciplined life and carefully drawn science diagrams taught me precision and structure. Watching her quiet strength also shaped my instinct to portray strong women, and she naturally became my first muse.

“Don’t rush to ‘find’ your voice, your voice already exists and reveals itself through honesty and patience.”

What was the emotional and creative process of returning to art after a hiatus?

Coming back to art after a break was deeply emotional. At first, I felt unsure and worried whether I could still connect with it in the same way. But as I began creating again, the connection returned naturally. Art became a space for healing and reflection.

The experience changed my relationship with my practice. I became more patient and present, focusing less on the final outcome and more on the act of creating itself. Today, painting feels like a quiet, daily ritual; a moment of peace, introspection, and self-discovery.

In what ways has your faith influenced your themes, creative process, and the energy you hope your paintings convey?

My spiritual practice has brought deeper meaning and intention to my art. As a practitioner of Buddhism, my faith and painting are closely connected, shaping the themes I explore. I am often drawn to human faces and forms because they reflect emotion, resilience, and untapped potential. When I paint, I work with mindfulness, allowing thoughts and feelings to settle calmly onto the canvas. The teachings of the Lotus Sutra inspire me deeply, especially the idea that beauty and growth can emerge even in difficult circumstances, like a lotus rising from muddy water. Through my work, I hope to inspire strength and self-belief.

How would you describe the evolution of your visual language?

My visual language has evolved alongside my inner journey. In the beginning, my work was intuitive and emotion-driven. Over time, as my spiritual practice deepened and my connection with nature grew stronger, my colours became more vibrant and intentional, carrying energy and emotion rather than serving as decoration. Nature-inspired forms and meditative rhythms gradually entered my work, helping me balance movement with stillness. This evolution has made my paintings quieter yet more powerful, inviting viewers to pause, reflect, and connect with the deeper potential that exists within themselves.







Having navigated pauses, self-doubt, and rediscovery, what guidance would you offer to emerging artists?

I would tell emerging artists this: A pause is not a failure, it is preparation. Creativity doesn’t disappear when you step away; it quietly gathers depth and life experience. Don’t rush to “find” your voice, your voice already exists and reveals itself through honesty and patience. Self-doubt will appear, but it often means you care deeply about your work. Create even when you feel uncertain, not to impress others but to understand yourself. Let your experiences guide you, and trust the quiet pull that keeps bringing you back to art. Confidence grows from courage, not perfection.

Screen To Page

Preeta Nair chats with Suchitra Iyer & Sunanda Mehta about their new book 'Behind The Big Screen'.

Veteran journalists Suchitra Iyer and Sunanda Mehta come together as co-authors to present 'Behind The Big Screen'. The book candidly presents the real-life journeys, challenges, and behind-the-scenes realities faced by child actors in Bollywood, offering readers a rare and insightful perspective on their world.

Excerpts from the interview...

What first inspired you to explore the lives of child actors, and what brought you together to collaborate on this book?

The idea was to explore the unusual childhoods of actors who grew up in front of the camera, experiencing fame at a young age, only to see it fade as they grew older. As we began our interviews, we uncovered the realities behind early stardom: Lost childhoods, exploitation, parental pressure, and the psychological impact of sudden fame. While there were happy stories, many felt that a child actor's life comes at a cost. As filmmaker Prakash Jha notes in the foreword, "You are what your childhood was." Through these stories, we hope to highlight the importance of protecting childhood and encouraging a better balance between education and the spotlight.



How did you select the personalities featured in the book, and what was your process of researching, approaching, and earning the trust of your subjects to tell such personal stories?

After deciding to write the book, we first listed iconic child actors who had to be included — Daisy Irani, Honey Irani, Master Raju, Jugal Hansraj, Junior Mehmood, Sachin Pilgaonkar, Ravi Valecha and Khushbu Sundar, among others. But we weren't only chasing big names. We wanted a range of experiences: Actors who transitioned into mainstream cinema, those who left the industry, and those who struggled later in life. Gender and era diversity were important, as we hoped the book would become a seminal work on child actors.

Our research involved revisiting old interviews and consulting experts. Filmmaker Dilip Ghosh, who directed 'Children Of The Silver Screen', offered early insights that shaped our approach. While some actors readily agreed to speak, others were hesitant, and trust often developed through multiple conversations.



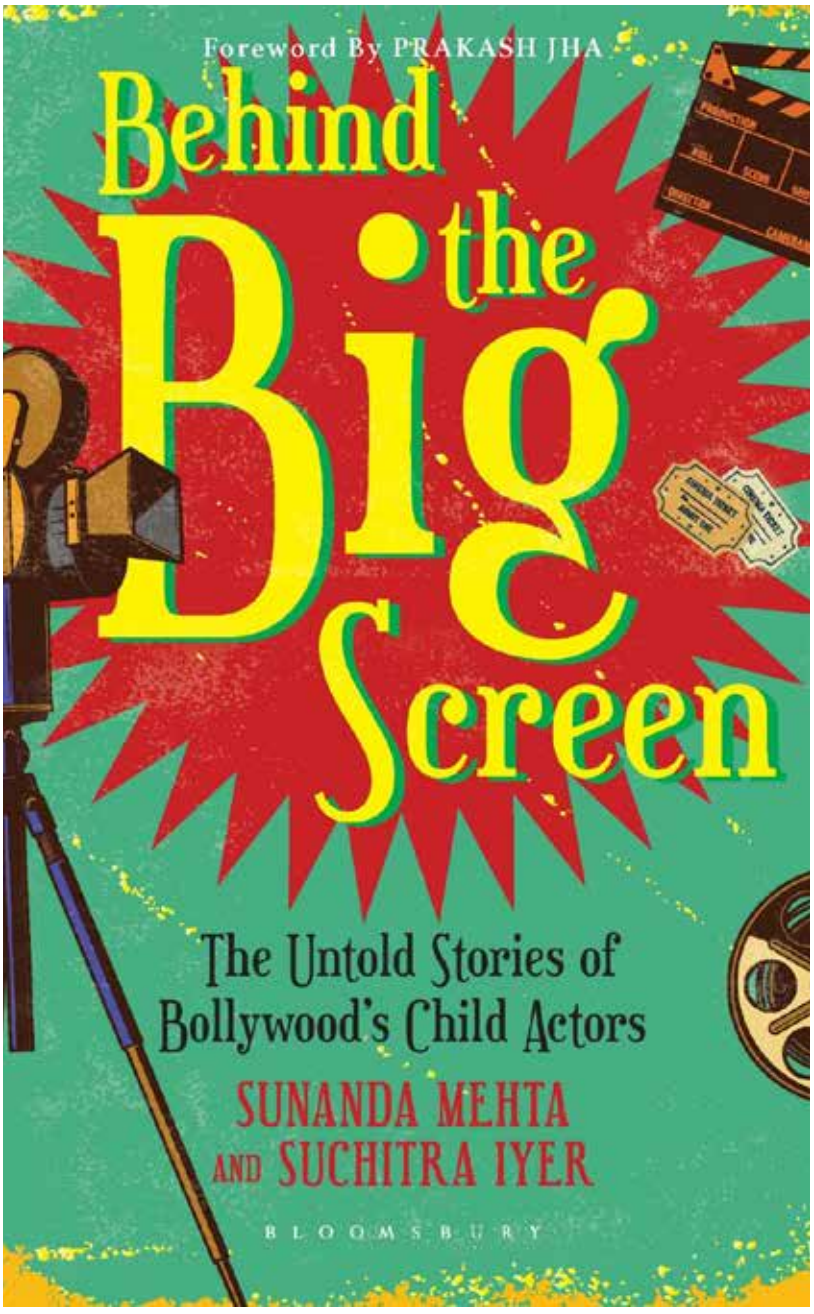
“By giving them a voice, we hoped to shift how readers view child stardom, not just as fame or money, but as a complex journey of childhood, identity, and growing up in the spotlight.”

What were some of the most surprising or revealing insights that emerged during your conversations with former child actors?

Many spoke of lost childhoods, their most formative years spent on film sets among adults, delivering dialogues beyond their age, with little chance to attend school or socialise with peers. Some faced intense parental pressure to capitalise on their fame, becoming the family’s “golden goose,” often without emotional or physical safeguards. A few even spoke of sexual exploitation and the burden of growing up too quickly.

Yet, not all memories were bitter. Many recalled the joy of acting and shared warm, sometimes humorous stories of working with legendary stars. For some, the experience instilled discipline that shaped their later lives and careers.

Some stories stayed with us. Jugal Hansraj revealed he signed 35 films as a young adult that were never made. Rubina Ali and Shafiq Syed felt early fame disrupted normal life. Meanwhile, Junior Mehmood and Sachin Pilgaonkar remembered their journeys with gratitude.



In highlighting the realities of child actors, how important was it for you to give them a voice and meaningful visibility through this book?

It was central to the book. Child actors are often remembered only as cute faces on screen, but they are real people whose stories continue long after the film ends. We wanted to move beyond nostalgia and let them speak in their own words, stripping away the veneer of fame. By giving them a voice, we hoped to shift how readers view child stardom, not just as fame or money, but as a complex journey of childhood, identity, and growing up in the spotlight. As the first book of its kind, we also wanted to document and archive these lives within the history of the film industry.

What was your experience of working together — both creatively and personally? And how did your individual strengths as journalists complement each other during the research and writing process?

We have known each other for over three decades, and that familiarity and friendship helped immensely. Most of the time, we were on the same page. It wasn’t always smooth sailing, but we always had each other’s backs and worked through them together. From the start, we agreed to critique and praise each other’s work honestly, which made the process easier.

Being journalists also helped. With years of experience interacting with high-profile personalities, speaking with former child actors felt natural. That background also shaped how we approached the book – with curiosity, sensitivity, and a strong focus on getting every detail right.

The Universal Skin Ally

Gazall B Kothari, Founder, LEAFOBERRYY, decodes how niacinamide works for almost every skin type.

Niacinamide is one of those rare actives that doesn't create instant drama on the skin, nor does it rely on irritation to show results. Instead, it works quietly, consistently and intelligently — making it one of the most dependable ingredients across skin types. Also known as Vitamin B3, niacinamide's rise isn't because it's new. It's because it understands how skin functions.



An Ingredient That Works With The Skin, Not Against It

What makes niacinamide unique is its ability to respond to the skin's condition rather than forcing change. On oily or acne-prone skin, it helps balance excess oil production without stripping moisture. On dry or dehydrated skin, it strengthens the skin barrier, allowing better water retention. For sensitive or reactive skin, it calms redness and irritation instead of triggering flare-ups. Rather than behaving uniformly, niacinamide adapts — making it one of the few truly versatile skincare actives.



Barrier First, Beauty Follows

Most visible skin concerns — breakouts, pigmentation, sensitivity and early ageing — often trace back to a weakened skin barrier. Environmental stress, sun exposure, pollution and aggressive skincare routines gradually compromise this protective layer.

Niacinamide supports barrier health by boosting ceramide production — the lipids responsible for keeping skin resilient and protected. When the barrier is strong, skin naturally appears calmer, clearer and more balanced. This is why niacinamide doesn't just correct concerns — it helps prevent them from returning.

Brightening Without Irritation

Unlike aggressive brightening agents that deliver fast but inflammatory results, niacinamide works gently. It improves uneven tone by regulating pigment transfer within the skin rather than harshly suppressing melanin.

With consistent use, this leads to gradual improvement in dullness, post-acne marks, and mild pigmentation — without burning, peeling, or heightened sensitivity. It's a long-term approach to radiance that respects skin health.

Niacinamide supports barrier health by boosting ceramide production — the lipids responsible for keeping skin resilient and protected. When the barrier is strong, skin naturally appears calmer, clearer and more balanced.





Using Niacinamide Effectively

Where To Place It In Your Routine

Niacinamide works best in serums, essences, moisturisers and toners. Apply it after cleansing and before heavier creams or oils.

Ideal Concentration

For daily use, formulations between 2–5% are sufficient for barrier support and oil regulation. Higher percentages may suit experienced users but should always be balanced with calming ingredients.

Skin Types & Product Choices

- Oily/ Acne-Prone: Lightweight serums or gel-based formulations.
- Dry/ Sensitive: Creams or lotions with ceramides and humectants.
- Combination: Toners or emulsions for layered hydration.

Pairing With Other Ingredients

Niacinamide works well with hyaluronic acid, ceramides, panthenol and soothing botanical extracts. It complements active-heavy routines by adding stability and balance.

Consistency Over Intensity

Niacinamide delivers its best results with regular, long-term use rather than short bursts. Think resilience, not overnight transformation.

A Reset Ingredient

Modern routines often involve excessive layering of acids, exfoliants and actives, leaving skin stressed and reactive. Niacinamide plays a restorative role here. Being non-acidic and non-exfoliating, it helps skin recover from overuse while restoring balance. It's equally suitable for beginners building a routine and experienced users looking to stabilise their skin.

In Niacinamide We Trust

As someone deeply involved in formulation and skin education, I have consistently seen that the most effective skincare respects the skin's biology. Niacinamide doesn't overwhelm the skin — it strengthens it. It doesn't follow trends — it builds long-term resilience.

That is why niacinamide works for almost every skin type. Not because it is fashionable, but because it is functional, gentle and aligned with how healthy skin truly behaves.

In an era moving towards conscious beauty and barrier-first formulations, niacinamide stands as proof that powerful skincare does not need to be harsh — just thoughtful.

Luxe Living

The Soft Life

Indulgent comforts designed for slow mornings and relaxed evenings.

It's time to slow down and enjoy the small comforts. Think silk against the skin, cashmere underfoot and a home that smells quietly luxurious. These indulgent essentials turn everyday moments, from winding down at night to unhurried mornings, into something a little more special.



Olivia von Halle Vanderbilt Osaka Navy Cashmere Pyjamas
₹2,85,200



Derek Rose Navy Blue Rose Silk Pyjamas
₹81,000



Dolce & Gabbana Floral Silk Robe
₹2,21,137



Dolce & Gabbana Floral Belted Robe
₹5,53,720



Versace Icon Slippers
₹81,400



Tom Ford Harrison Embroidered Slippers
₹24,660



Hermès Avalon Cashmere Throw Blanket
₹1,64,943



Jo Malone Lavender & Moonflower, Oud & Bergamot, Peony & Moss Scented Candles
₹24,923

*Prices may vary

Cocktails In Bloom

Amber Dias explores how florals are adding fragrance, elegance and visual drama to cocktails.



The prettiest cocktails on the menu right now also happen to be the most fragrant. Rose spritzes, lavender gin sours, hibiscus margaritas and elderflower highballs are showing up everywhere, from neighbourhood cocktail bars to elegant hotel lounges.

The appeal lies in their balance of fragrance, flavour and visual beauty. Floral ingredients add subtle sweetness and aromatic complexity while keeping drinks light and refreshing — ideal for warmer months and outdoor drinking. More importantly, they offer bartenders a creative palette that feels elegant rather than heavy.

The Rise Of Floral Cocktails

The growing love for floral cocktails can be traced back to the craft cocktail revival of the early 2000s, when bartenders began experimenting more freely with botanicals, house-made syrups and edible garnishes. Ingredients like elderflower liqueur quickly gained popularity because they blended effortlessly with classic spirits.

One product that helped push this trend forward was St-Germain Elderflower Liqueur, launched in 2007. Made from hand-picked elderflower blossoms from France, it gave bartenders a way to add floral sweetness and aroma without overpowering a drink.

"Elderflower works almost like seasoning in cocktails," notes one London bar manager. "It lifts citrus, softens stronger spirits and adds a fragrance people immediately recognise." Today, drinks like the Elderflower Collins or a rose-infused gin spritz regularly appear on cocktail menus around the world. Floral liqueurs paired with sparkling wine or soda have become especially popular because they create drinks that are aromatic yet easy to sip.

There's also a visual appeal. Floral cocktails photograph beautifully, something that matters in the social-media age. A drink topped with rose petals, lavender sprigs or hibiscus ice cubes instantly feels elegant and a little indulgent.

Why It Works

Flowers add more than just visual appeal. In mixology, they function much like herbs or spices, introducing delicate layers of aroma that interact with other ingredients. Unlike fruit flavours, which are usually bold and obvious, florals are subtler. They often carry honeyed, perfumed or slightly herbal notes that complement citrus, berries and botanical spirits like gin.

As some experts explain it, when you add flowers to a cocktail, you're adding aroma first. In turn, it is the fragrance that hits first, before the drink is tasted, and that changes how the palate perceives flavour.

Rose water or rose syrup, for example, brings a soft sweetness and a slightly exotic perfume that pairs beautifully with gin, vodka or sparkling wine. Lavender adds a herbal dimension that complements gin-based cocktails, echoing the spirit's botanical character. Hibiscus introduces both floral notes and a natural ruby colour, while jasmine can lend tea-like elegance to lighter drinks. Crucially, these ingredients enhance rather than dominate. Used sparingly, they brighten cocktails without making them taste overly sweet or perfumed.

Signature Floral Ingredients

- **Elderflower** remains the most widely used, largely because it pairs seamlessly with gin, vodka and sparkling wine.
- **Rose** is another favourite, particularly in Middle Eastern–inspired drinks. A rose gimlet or rosé-based spritz offers a fragrant twist on familiar classics.
- **Lavender** brings a subtle herbal quality. When infused into simple syrup or gin, it creates cocktails that feel both floral and slightly earthy.
- **Hibiscus** contributes colour as much as flavour. The deep crimson petals infuse syrups and teas that add tangy brightness to margaritas, spritzes and tequila-based drinks.
- **Jasmine** is often used as tea or syrup, lending cocktails an elegant fragrance reminiscent of green tea or white blossoms.





Floral Cocktails To Try

- Sakura Mojito
- The Garden Party
- Elderflower Sour
- Floral Old Fashioned
- Birds & Bees
- Rose Magarita



On The Menu

Many contemporary cocktails highlight florals while remaining rooted in classic structures. The Elderflower Collins adapts the traditional Tom Collins by replacing sugar with elderflower liqueur, creating a drink that is crisp, citrusy and lightly aromatic. A Rose Spritz, often made with rosé wine, elderflower liqueur and sparkling citrus, delivers both fragrance and effervescence — making it a popular aperitif. Lavender has also found its way into gin-based cocktails, where lavender syrup softens the spirit's sharpness while highlighting its botanical notes. Even classic drinks are being reinterpreted through floral lenses. Bartenders might add a hint of rose to a gimlet, hibiscus to a margarita or jasmine tea to a martini.

For The Season

Seasonality is another reason floral cocktails have become so popular. Just as chefs adjust menus based on fresh produce, bartenders are also treating cocktails as seasonal creations. Many bars now experiment with ingredients that feel fresh and botanical — hibiscus syrups, chamomile infusions and jasmine tea reductions are common additions. Some even use edible flowers directly in the drink. Violet petals, tiny roses or marigolds might be frozen into ice cubes or used as delicate garnishes, adding both flavour and visual appeal. This approach also reflects a wider shift towards natural, botanical ingredients. Many drinkers today are drawn to cocktails that feel lighter, fresher and less sugary, and floral notes deliver exactly that.









Best Bites

- Elderflower or jasmine-based drinks complement seafood, salads and citrus-forward appetisers.
- Rose cocktails often pair nicely with Middle Eastern dishes, grilled meats or mezze that include ingredients like pomegranate, nuts and herbs.
- Lavender cocktails tend to work best alongside creamy cheeses, light desserts or fruit-based pastries

Say It With Flowers

Floral cocktails may have started as a seasonal favourite, but they've clearly earned a permanent spot on the menu. Many bars now keep at least one botanical- or flower-forward drink available year-round, thanks to their wide appeal and easy elegance. They also fit perfectly with today's drinking trends, lighter spritzes, botanical spirits and cocktails that look as good as they taste.

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WARDROBE REFRESH

From subtle statement pieces to wardrobe classics with a twist, these finds reflect the spirit of modern style.



Louis Vuitton Coffee Indigo Denim Long-Sleeved Shirt

₹2,43,000





Dolce & Gabbana Washed Fabric Trousers

₹1,65,113

Hermès Maillon Chaîne d'Ancre Crewneck Sweater

₹2,69,056



Dolce & Gabbana Rose Bouquet-Print Dress

₹2,43,300



Versace Silk-Chiffon Draped Midi Dress

₹11,58,700



HermèsEx-Libris a Main Levee Dress

₹5,24,315



Louis Vuitton Layered Tailored Bermuda Shorts

₹3,20,000



Versace Pinstripe Wool Oversized Pants

₹1,99,200

*Prices may vary



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Bright Outdoor Media limited is proud to be the Official Outdoor Media Partner for this prestigious event hosted on 7th March,2026 at NSE BKC.

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BRIGHT ICONIC WOMEN 2026









Bright Iconic Women 2026, an International Women's Day initiative by **Bright Outdoor Media limited**, was a special evening dedicated to celebrating the strength, achievements, and inspiring journeys of women across diverse fields.

The event brought together influential voices for a thought-provoking panel discussion, where women leaders shared insights on empowerment, leadership, and personal growth.

The evening also featured a prestigious award felicitation ceremony, honouring remarkable women for their outstanding contributions to society and their respective industries.

Through Bright Iconic Women 2026, Bright Outdoor Media limited proudly recognized and celebrated women who continue to lead, inspire, and create a lasting impact.

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Terrific Trio

‘Society Achievers’ unveiled its latest issue featuring Shaan and his sons Soham and Maahi on the cover, with an unforgettable celebration of music, well-wishers, and family in Mumbai.

It was an evening steeped in warmth and melody as ‘Society Achievers’ unveiled its latest issue at Escobar in Bandra. The celebration, led by Ashok Dhamankar, the dynamic Founder of Magnate Publishing, alongside Chief Editor Andrea CostaBir, brought together industry stalwarts, friends and well-wishers for a night that felt both intimate and electric.

The spotlight was on cover star Shaan, who was joined by his sons Soham and Maahi. The trio took to the mic for an impromptu live performance, filling the room with nostalgia and joy as guests sang along. Adding to the sparkle, legendary composer Anu Malik also performed, transforming the evening into a spontaneous musical celebration. Esteemed special guests, including Salim–Sulaiman, Shantanu Moitra, and Vikram Mehra of Saregama India, spoke glowingly about the family, applauding their artistry and unity.





















The evening also celebrated excellence across industries, with felicitation honours presented to industrialist Aneel Murarka of Mirachem, Kisle of Bright Outdoor Media, and Anusha Srinivasan Iyer, Siddhant Gill and Vedant Gill of Naarad PR & Strategists.

With the support of Team Magnate (Jayshree Dhamankar, Sunil Khavnekar, Preeta Nair, Amber Dias, Mario Ferreira, Riya Sachdeva, Suhani Chavan, and Jivisha Toshniwal), and compere Simran Ahuja, it was truly a night of music, legacy, love and togetherness.

Special thanks to our venue and hospitality partner – Escobar's head honcho Vardhaman Choksi and his Team – for ensuring the warmest hospitality; making it an intimate, cosy and truly special night. And our media partners Bright Outdoor Media, and Naarad PR & Strategists.

#SIDCA26: Celebrating India's Emerging Design Visionaries

The Society Interiors & Design Competition & Awards 2026 returned for its 23rd edition, spotlighting the creativity and potential of young student architects and designers nationwide.

Ashok Dhamankar, the dynamic Founder of Magnate Publishing, along with Consulting Editor Swati Balgi and Team Magnate, hosted the spectacular Society Interiors & Design Competition & Awards 2026 at the grand Imperial Ballroom, Taj Santacruz, Mumbai. The 23rd annual #SIDCA26 celebrated the creativity, innovation and ambition of India's next generation of architects and interior designers. The evening brought together industry leaders, mentors, educators and students from across the country to recognise emerging talent in the design world.

The iconic event was honoured by the presence of Chief Guests — Hon. Member of Parliament Dr Shrikant Shinde and Hon. Mayor of Mumbai Ritu Tawde. Adding to the evening's prestige were Guests of Honour, National Award-winning filmmaker and Padma Shri awardee Madhur Bhandarkar, and former Hon. Member of Parliament Rahul Shewale.













The ceremony formally commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp by Ashok Dhamankar and Jayshree Dhamankar; Swati Balgi; Sunil Khavnekar, Director, Magnate Publishing; Shivendra Parihar, Consulting Director – Strategy & Growth, Magnate Publishing; Andrea CostaBir, Chief Editor, 'Society Achievers'; and Preeta Nair, Director, Magnate Publishing — symbolising the beginning of an evening dedicated to creativity and learning. The keynote address by Ashok Dhamankar set the tone for the evening, highlighting the importance of nurturing young design minds and providing them with a national platform. A lively musical performance added an energetic interlude before the awards segment began.

This unforgettable evening celebrating creativity, excellence, and inspiration was attended by a host of architects, interior designers and other well-known personalities like Jitendra Mehta of JVM Spaces; Poonam Soni, trailblazing jewellery designer; Neeti Goel, restaurateur and social impact activist; Aneel Murarka, industrialist and philanthropist; and Dr Rekha Chaudhari, beauty industry leader, whose presence added to the prestige of the evening.

The students of #SIDCA26 were absolutely thrilled to interact with all these distinguished leaders and creative icons.

Before recognising student achievements, the event also honoured the mentors and jury members who guided and evaluated the competition. Their expertise played a crucial role in shaping the competition, which saw enthusiastic participation from architecture and interior design colleges across the North, South, East and West zones of India. The mentors and jury included Ar Sunil Gambani, Ar Milind Pai, Ar Ankit Shah, Pritik Ajmera, Rupesh Shah, Ar Nirmala Banaji, Interior Designer Ketan Sheth, and Ar Jasleen Changani.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the All-India Winners across Residential, Commercial, Product Design and Visual Arts categories, celebrating exceptional creativity, technical understanding and innovative thinking. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by our spectacular compere Simran Ahuja, and an invitation for guests and students to continue the celebrations over a scrumptious High Tea.

The magazine would like to thank Magnate's young ones – Nitya Chokhani, Isha Chhedha, Jivisha Toshniwal, and Suhani Chavan; the team at Taj Santacruz for being our hospitality partner; and our media partners Bright Outdoor Media and Naarad PR & Strategists.

Truly, an awesome evening was had by all!


STUDENTS


- Mayor of Mumbai


STUDENTS
23RD EDITION








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INTERIORS
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Ritu Tawade

DESIGN
STUDENTS


Ar. Rupesh Shah (Jury)

Ar. Jasleen Kaur (MENTOR)



CIDCO


HONOURS


Winners – Society Interiors Design Competition & Awards 2026

Commercial Category

1st Place: NIF Global, Indore

Vinjal Jain, Taha Kapdawala, Swastik Kesarwani, Aanya Jain

2nd Place: ESEDS School of Design

Sabir Chhutani, Ujjala Singh, Puja Chowdhury, Farhan Ahmed

3rd Place: NIF Global Himayatnagar

Aanchal Mundra, Mahi Kasera, Deshna Jain, Aniruddha Ojha

&

LS Raheja School of Architecture, Bandra East

Saifur Rehman Malik, Kritika Kotian, Aishani Rangnekar, Hardik Nahar

Residential Category

1st Place: LS Raheja School of Architecture

Krisha Vadhan, Vidhushi Choudhary, Krish Mehta, Candace Valladares

2nd Place: Rachana Sansad Academy of Architecture

Hetvi Chheda, Shankar Rampariya, Jayesh Suthar, Lynn D'Chuna

Special Appreciation – ESEDS School of Design

Aparupa Paul, Amit Das, Srija Ghosh, Santa Mondal

Product Design Category

1st Place: L.S. Raheja School of Architecture

Bhargavi Shekatkar, Mohd Taha Reani

2nd Place: MEASI Academy of Architecture

Aadithya A, Dheeksha R

Visual Arts Category (Team)

1st Place: ESEDS School of Design

Eemon Fariha, Selma Debbarma, Bhaswata Nayak, Anjali Sharma

2nd Place: Pearl Academy

Shruti Modak, Chikki Nikita Kharai

3rd Place: NIF Global Himayatnagar

Rishita Jain, Ojasvi Madhogharia, Bhavana Choudhary, Reeti Sanghi

Special Appreciation: Hisham Dianath Khan

Visual Arts Category

Kashish Bawa Enand

Swami Vivekananda College of Architecture
















& AWARDS 2026






COMPETITION
& AWARDS 2026




SID INTERIORS DESIGN
COMPETITION


2nd Winner


COMPETITION
& AWARDS 2026
1st Winner


COMPETITION
& AWARDS 2026



Making Waves

Hiranandani Communities brings marine leisure to the forefront with the launch of Entartica Seaworld at Hiranandani Sands, Alibaug.

Hiranandani Communities has unveiled Entartica Seaworld within its premium coastal township, Hiranandani Sands, marking the debut of India's most comprehensiveprivatewatersports centre and Maharashtra's first structured marine leisure facility of its kind. Operating under a co-investor model, the Group retains ownership and licensing of equipment, while Entartica manages day-to-day operations, signalling a decisive move towards experience-led destination building rather than conventional real estate development.





A 225-Acre Coastal Vision

Spread across 225 acres in Nagaon, the mixed-use township is envisioned as one of Alibaug's largest coastal developments. The masterplan integrates luxury apartments, villas, plots and branded service residences alongside hotels, convention spaces and wellness hubs. A significant portion of land is earmarked for wetlands and forest conservation, reinforcing a sustainability-driven approach to coastal living.

Connectivity Driving Growth

Alibaug's rapid evolution is being propelled by major infrastructure upgrades, including the Navi Mumbai International Airport and the Atal Setu, as well as expanded Ro-Ro ferry services and proposed coastal corridors.

With Phase 1, comprising 480 residences across four towers, already sold out, Hiranandani Sands reflects growing investor confidence in Alibaug's transition from weekend retreat to year-round luxury coastal address.

Off The Rack

Some of our favourite things.



SKIN WIN

Leafoberryy Mucin Fusion Face Serum

This serum brings a fresh, plant-powered twist to the mucin trend. Powered by okra extract, it mimics the moisture-binding benefits of traditional mucin while remaining completely vegan. The lightweight formula absorbs quickly, delivering hydration without greasiness. With soothing gotu kola, antioxidant-rich lotus, and hyaluronic acid, it helps skin feel smoother, plumper and more radiant, making it a simple, effective addition to any daily skincare routine.

Check it out at: Check it out at: revlon.co.in, exclusive brand outlets, leading departmental stores, and general trade outlets

₹1,899



POP OF COLOUR

Luxiora Cosmetics Blurre Pudding Blush

This blush brings something new to the beauty shelf with its playful pudding-like texture. The formula melts into skin like a cream but settles with a soft, powdery finish, giving cheeks a natural, blurred flush. Lightweight and easy to blend, it works beautifully for quick, everyday makeup. With skin-loving ingredients like niacinamide and squalane, plus shades designed for Indian tones, it's a fuss-free blush that makes minimal makeup feel polished.

Check it out at: Luxioracosmetics.com, Amazon and Myntra

₹1,299



TRIPLE THREAT

REFINE Beauty Lip Balm, Lip & Cheek Tint & Highlighter

This trio brings a playful, design-forward approach to everyday makeup with its new range of lip balms, tints, and blush-highlighter sticks. The textures are smooth, easy to blend, and made for quick, fuss-free routines. Standouts include the buttery Oh-Mwah Melty Lip Balm and the versatile Lip & Cheek Tint, and the Oh-My Glow Blush + Highlighter that works across lips, cheeks, and lids. Add bold, sculptural packaging and skin-friendly formulas, and you have makeup that's as fun to use as it is to display.

Check it out at: refinebeauty.in

₹799 Each

*Prices may vary



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