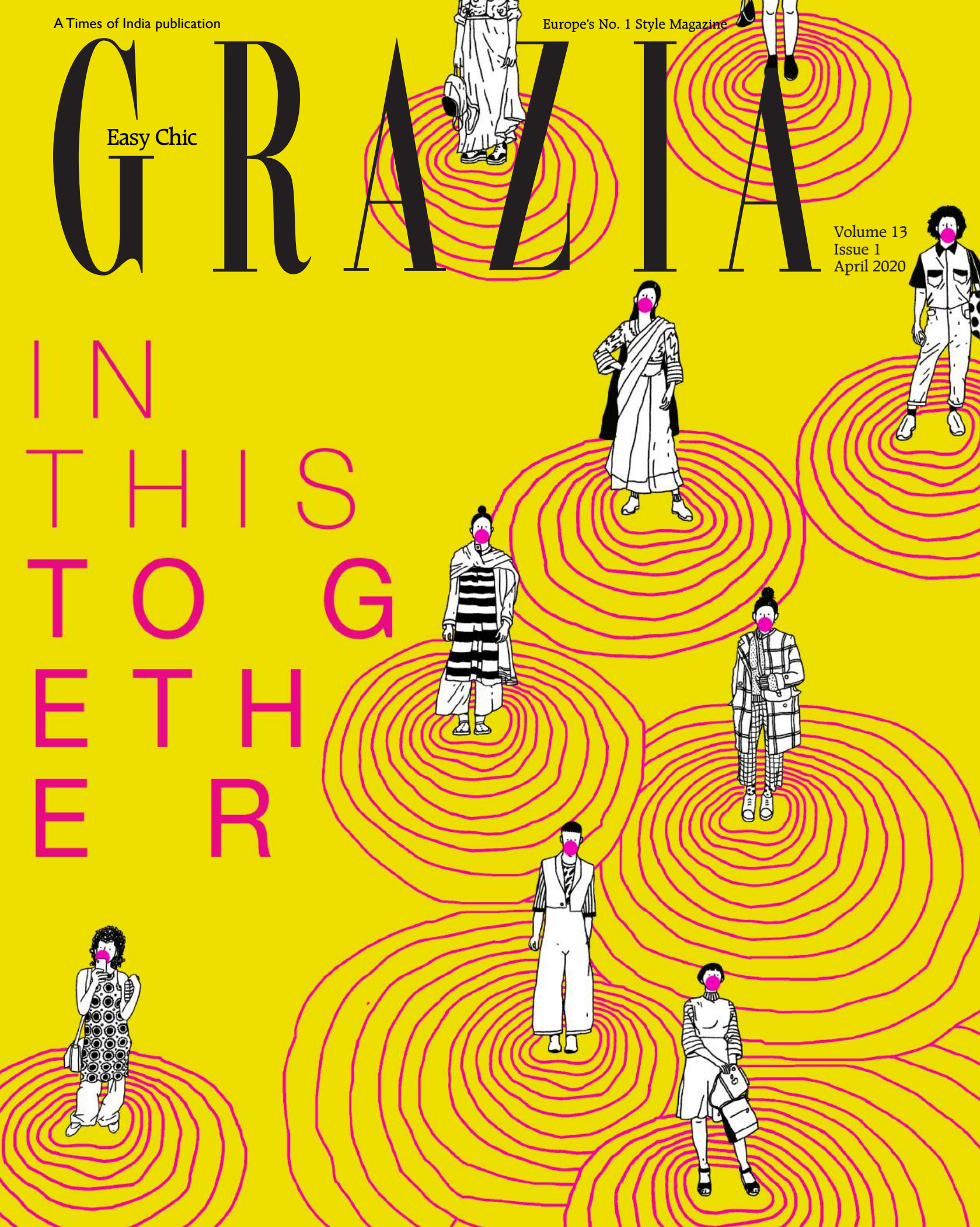


Europe's No. 1 Style Magazine

# GRAZIA

Easy Chic

IN  
THIS  
TOGETHER  
EARTH







# From the EDITOR'S DESK

**B**y now you know the drill – stay safe, wash your hands, practice social and physical distancing. Yes, we're smarting from the discomfort of the uncertainty that faces us, but we're charting out new routines under lockdown, periods of quarantine and self-isolation that our privilege allows us.

Our special April digital issue is here to break some clutter and give you a happy hour or two of some old-fashioned reading amid all those #WorkFromHome conference calls and taxing household chores.

Casting anxious emotions aside can't be as easy as it sounds, but it's reassuring in some odd way to know that we're all in it together, apart. As the fashion industry in India rallies together in this difficult period, it's heartening to know about the FDCI-led formation of the Fashion Covid-19 Fund, that's meant to lend a hand to young designers and their businesses in their time of need – read all about it as you scroll

down. Fashion gets easy and updated for your homes, dress up or down, do what it takes to make you happy and at ease with your thoughts, even if it's a DIY haircut. And when the social media overload gets to you – switch off, make the distancing real.

Leaving you with something I read on the Internet that stayed with me; "We're in the midst of a pandemic, a seemingly unnerving experience, it's understandable to be playing a balancing act between being overwhelmed and productive. Take heed, we're under a lockdown and not on a sabbatical". Stay safe, stay healthy.

Until next month,

*Mehernaaz*  
Mehernaaz



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Our website is our complementary arm, combining the best of what the magazine offers with its own flavour and take on current events around the world. Fashion news haute off the press, beauty product reviews, DIY hacks, and previews and reviews of the biggest dos around the country – we've got it all covered in easy reads.





**The effect:** *Awe struck expressions*

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# Europe's No 1 Style Magazine

GRAZIA APRIL 2020 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

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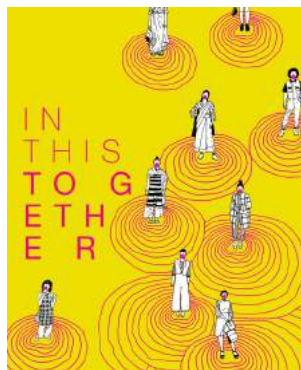


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KITCHEN  
CONFIDENTIAL





# 10 HOT STORIES

EVERYONE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT



*In light of the impact of Covid-19,  
the fashion industry needs to re-think  
how it does business*

1

## FASHION REVOLUTION

Words MEHERNAZ DHONDY

In many ways, fashion is a service industry. From our in-store experience, to delivering our garments on time, to follow-up and relationship building, we strive to be high-touch and always deliver on our promises to customers. At the same time, we are committed to the well-being of our employees and craftspeople. Usually, servicing our customers and ensuring the well-being of our employees are two goals that perfectly align.

However, now we are facing a situation where those goals do not align. Where we must choose between delivering on our promises to our customers, or proactively protecting our employees and communities.

Today, in the middle of a season, we are shutting down every single one of our factories, and sending all of our staff home on paid leave. We will pay our employees for as long as we can, regardless of their ability to work from home.

As an entrepreneur, I can tell you it's a frightening and lonely situation to be in, with no revenue and continued expenditures. Even the most financially stable companies cannot sustain like this forever, and I know

SABYASACHI  
CALCUTTA

Continued...

Nearly a month and half ago, towards the end of Milan Fashion Week, Giorgio Armani took a call to hold his collection showcase behind closed doors due to a sudden spike of Covid-19-related cases in Italy.

Paris Fashion Week, which follows Milan on the fashion calendar, continued as per schedule though the novel coronavirus conversation continued to dominate the fashion space, with more designers cancelling or holding shows behind closed doors. The World Health Organization classified the outbreak as a global pandemic on March 13th, and the rest will now only be remembered as a dystopian nightmare playing out in real time.

A lot has changed in the last few days. Our interactions. Our work. Our relationships. All faced drastic upheavals. Upheavals that can include unforeseen medical emergencies in the coming days.

Among the people who are likely to be most affected by these changes are the small vendors and self-employed artisans who contribute to the work you love and admire. Considering the swiftness of the crisis, we recognise that not many of them will have resources available to cover a potential medical emergency.

It is for this reason that the Anita Dongre Foundation has decided to set up a dedicated fund of INR 15 Million, to support any medical treatments arising during these troubling times.

>>  
ANITA DONGRE

that many, including mine, will struggle.

I am not saying this to be an alarmist or to instill fear. Rather, to emphasize what we all must acknowledge is most important - compassion, integrity, and respecting the value of human life.

As we will all look back and reflect some day, let it show that we met this moment as friends, families, communities. As cities, states, and countries. Let it show that we took this opportunity to reject the hate, cynicism, and violence that we've grown so accustomed to, and instead celebrated our united efforts in a time of need.

I, Sabyasachi, urge everyone to reflect on this, and be inspired to share your stories of hope and positivity. You never know what a little dose of positivity can do for those who find themselves in a dark place right now.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you all.

SABYASACHI  
CALCUTTA

It was amid the start of the chaos that the Fashion Design Council of India postponed its fashion week amid growing concerns of the spread of the virus in New Delhi. “It was quite clear in my mind,” explains Sunil Sethi, President, FDCI, “What was the point in endangering people’s health? Fashion week is meant for the business of fashion, if people are not going to turn up in full numbers as buyers – I could sense a fear and uncertainty among our international buyers who were meant to travel. The board backed me immediately and that’s when we said let’s go for it and postpone it.”

What followed in the next few weeks is not news to us – 21 days of a lockdown (though unofficially many fashion businesses started packing up store operations much before the official call), amid a health crisis that India and the world are continuing to grapple with.

Sabyasachi Mukherjee was one of the first designers to announce shuttering of his stores, and later factories, while mentioning that they would be providing for their 2,472 skilled and unskilled workers in their ecosystem. “As an entrepreneur, I can tell you it’s a frightening and lonely situation to be in, with no revenues and continued expenditures,” read his social media post. Anita Dongre’s Anita Dongre Foundation announced a separate fund to support any medical treatment for smaller vendors, self-employed artisans and partners requiring the assistance, while brands like House of Angadi have assured wage support to its craftsmen during non-productive times. But not all businesses, especially start-ups and younger brands, have the monetary muscle to keep their businesses afloat during a suspension of services.

“Covid-19 is the biggest crisis to date for the apparel and fashion industry, globally,” says fashion consultant and author Sujata Assommull, “The textile industry is India’s second-largest employer, its health is critical to the country’s welfare. The backbone of the industry are its workers and craftspeople. Even after the lockdown, businesses may go back to normal operations, but consumption patterns are set for a complete disruption. The effect on the global financial markets is bound to change the mindset of everyone.”

Perhaps, the need of the hour was sensed by the FDCI too, who has been trying to figure alternatives to the impasse faced by designers and their businesses. The Covid-19 Support Fund was launched by the FDCI on March 30th, “It aims to provide financial assistance to emerging designers and to help businesses out in need.



It’s meant to help tailors, embroiderers and masters. Business models of young designer are relevant only if these people are safe and with them. If we can’t do business for fashion right now, we can strive towards doing business with compassion,” says Sethi.

Who qualifies for the fund? The answer, says Sethi, is simple. Member-designers of the FDCI, plus any designer who has been showing in the Indian market via shows or collections. The criteria is flexible and yet being worked upon by the board, but the availability of help relies solely on the strength of the kitty. More recently, the FDCI announced that Lakmé Fashion Week had also endorsed the initiative. “It shows that the industry is one when it comes to a crisis,” says Sethi.

Many brands and designers are unsure about what lies ahead, whether it’s complexities within supply chains, and a lack of current demand, “The lockdown and work from home is likely to trigger a change in consumer behaviour. The fear and havoc brought on by Covid-19 is likely to catalyse an increase in sensitivity. The fashion and lifestyle industry that is on pause at present may need to reset. Every dark cloud has a silver lining. I think this crisis will awaken us to examine the way we think and act,” says Archana Jain, managing director and CEO of PR Pundit. “Even though fashion is the first love for many, a crisis of this nature may get consumers to rethink and re-prioritise their fashion consumption to make it less conspicuous and more responsive towards society as well as the environment. The loud logo strategy may not work anymore. The growing affinity for sustainable brands (authentic and responsible) may become a stronger belief.”

Perhaps, this gives us time to reflect, restructure and rebuild towards a future which asks us to be more conscious than ever before. Assommull aptly closes, “The power right now lies with the consumer. As Li Edelkoort, one of the best fashion forecasters in the business has said, there will now be a ‘quarantine of consumption’ as ‘we slow down our pace’ and revisit the way we consume, entertain and travel. Which means we will embrace the ‘less is more’ theory in everything. We will also ask more questions and consumers will want to know about how their clothes are made.”

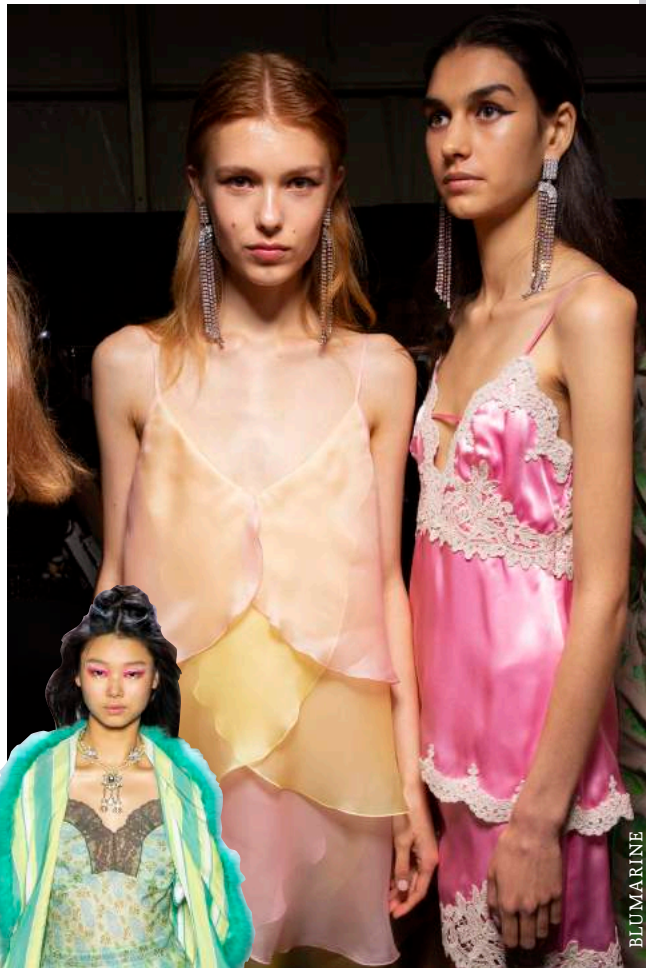




# CREATURES OF COMFORT

2

Photographs IMAXTREE, Fashion Director PASHAM ALWANI



KOCHÉ

BLUMARINE



*There's no better time  
than now to use the  
phrase 'I woke up  
like this'*



GUCCI



MISSONI



ANNA SUI

If you're like us here at *Grazia*, you're about two or three weeks into the unfamiliar territory of working from home, and slowly getting used to the regular intimacy of daily video and con calls with your colleagues. The one constant through this ordeal (apart from the hypochondriac-style excessive handwashing and subsequent moisturising) has been a question we ask ourselves every morning: To get dressed up or to stay in pyjamas?

A quick glance at the fashion pack's #WFH (Work From Home, for the uninitiated) outfit posts reveal that there are many who

are turning to luxe loungewear – a mood that translates perfectly from the front row to the sofa, even though they're firmly ensconced in their living rooms. In these uncertain times of #quarantine, #socialdistancing and #selfisolation, the lines between day and night, work and play, downtime and get-up-and-get-to-your-laptop are more blurred than ever. While there are several experts waxing eloquent on the correlation and psychology of how dressing up for work (at home) is directly proportional to productivity, we'd like to think otherwise, because right now, all that is of any consequence is whatever makes you feel most comfortable and safe. To be honest,





Are you a classic silk girl like Sophie Turner, or are stripes your jam à la Gigi Hadid?

Organic cotton pyjama set, Desmond & Dempsey at [www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com), ₹ 18,716



Velvet pyjama trousers, Sleeping with Jacques, price on request



Whether it's lounging on your couch all day, or your TikTok debut, a pair of your comfiest PJs will have you covered



Slip dress, Zara, ₹ 2,499



Printed camisole, Forever New, ₹ 3,500



Satin slip dress, Blumarine, price on request



Printed pyjama set, Marks & Spencer, ₹ 5,500

sometimes, a comfy pair of PJs can almost serve as a balm – the soft, familiar fabric a safe cocoon against the news.

Our sartorial choices have and will always reflect the zeitgeist. Considering the outside world is scary, hostile, ambiguous and ever-changing with a global pandemic on our hands, we tend to lean more towards a cushioned and familiar aesthetic – pieces that coddle us in the quietest of ways and feel light on the skin instead of sharp edges, frills, extra layering and unnecessary drama. If there was a defining moment where it would be appropriate to wholly embrace the pyjama dressing trend, it would be right now. Think: Soft satin slip dresses, lace-trimmed camisoles, easy-on-the-eye florals prints and matching co-ord sets that will always do

you right. The thing is, when your morning commute consists of wandering from bed to desk (or sofa), a pair of your fave jammies are truly all you need.

We've been reminding ourselves that dressing for comfort isn't a complete cop out. More often than not, the best way to get creative juices flowing and focus on work at hand begins with being in a state of complete relaxation. While getting to this aforementioned stage is usually aided by several tools (aromatherapy, warm beverage in hand, ideal room temperature, no distractions), the nucleus though of the entire process is putting on clothes that don't take much thought or fuss. Because for the time being, it's the little familiar comforts that make all the difference. **U**



Lace camisole, La Perla, ₹ 50,112 approx



FORZA **ITALIA**

*Grazia Italy's editor-in-chief Silvia Grilli gives us an account of solidarity from her balcony in Milan*

Silvia Grilli with her daughter, Anna Rocca, in her balcony in Milan



Italian balconies have become a symbol of hope and patriotism

**W**e have been living under lockdown for a little over a month now. At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, nobody wanted to acknowledge the danger we were facing. Milan, the economic capital of Italy, didn't want to stop functioning. Even during the first weekend of the outbreak there was an attempt to show the world that we could be invincible. So, people went about crowding bars and restaurants almost like they would over any other weekend.

And then the death toll began to rise, making us all realise how we were threatening the most vulnerable among us: The elderly, and those with other pathologies. So, the government enacted laws forbidding people to leave their homes, except for those working in essential services. Suddenly, a once bustling city came to a standstill, and restricted movement for anything other than those who must remain on duty, or the procurement of medicines and essentials, became the norm.

The sky is bluer than I have ever seen it in Milan, but there is no more chatting in

corners. In fact, the ambulance sirens never seem to stop. Almost everybody wears a mask and engages in handwashing regularly. Through this particularly trying time, we have resolved not to let our guard down. Doctors and nurses work around the clock to ensure the sick receive the best care possible. Donations to build new hospitals and prevent patients from lining up in emergency ward corridors are pouring in from all corners of the country – from the rich and even from ordinary citizens.

But my prayers especially go out to the people of Bergamo, a city located northeast of Milan, which is the bleak heart of the world's deadliest coronavirus outbreak. Cemeteries have run out of tombs and the endless flood of victims have forced local newspapers to dedicate their pages to obituaries. But, one can only hope for a turnaround.

The situation is slowly improving – the rate of infections has slowed, although the count still stands at 1,11,000 positive cases and 13,160 deaths. The government is trying to bring about a sense of normalcy, but we know that nothing will ever be the same. What can we look forward to now? A Covid-19 vaccine, which will hopefully give us back our normal lives. We will also have to contend with a devastating economic recession, which could be especially deep and lengthy.

Here at *Grazia Italy*, we are working from home, trying to do our best to provide readers with an escape from their worries through stories that uplift and inspire. It is important, now more than ever, to be a beacon of reliable information even as fake news and conspiracy theories do the rounds on the world wide web. **U**



Drawstring detail blouse,  
Jacquemus at  
[www.farfetch.com](http://www.farfetch.com),  
₹ 30,700 approx



Button-down blouse,  
MICHAEL Michael Kors,  
₹ 9,050 approx



Longline waterfall jacket,  
Forever New, ₹ 4,800



Ruffle detail blouse,  
Mango, ₹ 4,590



4

## FROM THE WAIST UP

*Business up top, leisurely down town. We may as well make ourselves comfortable with the mullet concept while we're all indoors*

Daily video conferences with your co-workers is the new normal, and while mental health experts state that there is something to be said for getting dressed, the case for comfort wins most times. Take the MSGM route and pick an energetic blouse that screams 'give me something to do', and pair bike shorts underneath. You can't go wrong with a crisp shirt, but if you're too lazy to iron it, layer it with a blazer and be ready to be awarded 'employee of the year'. Chanel and Jacquemus debuted barely-there hot pants for S/S 20, so consider yourself ahead of the curve as they become the mainstay of your WFH outfit. When you really don't want to wear trousers, opt for a bodysuit that has you covered on top. You'll want to keep the punchline to this joke to yourself. **IT**



Panelled blazer, Gucci,  
price on request



Cropped blazer,  
H&M Studio, ₹ 7,999



BRANDON MAXWELL



KENZO



CHANEL

Striped bodysuit,  
adidas Originals,  
₹ 1,899



ALEXANDER WANG



MUJER



Polo-neck bodysuit,  
Forever 21, ₹ 1,299

Draped bodysuit,  
Zara, ₹ 2,599





# DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

10 HOT STORIES

5

Here's how you can DIY your way into S/S 2020 trends, even during the lockdown

Upcycled jacket, Yavi, ₹ 40,000



Printed silk slip dress, Ganni, ₹ 38,530 approx



Oversized shirt, Zara, ₹ 2790



## RIP N CURL

Ripped denim is one of those polarising trends. Whether you love it or hate it, it's back for S/S 2020. So if you're bored of your classic blue jeans, you can use this time at home to give them an instant makeover. Mark where the jeans fall on your knees and cut some horizontal slits. Use sand paper or even the edge of a butter knife to pull out some threads around the rips or anywhere else that you might want the distressed effect.

High-waisted jeggings, American Eagle, ₹ 4,499



Straight-leg jeans, Rag & Bone, ₹ 34,430 approx



## ALL PATCHED UP

Florals, stripes, abstract, paisley or even table linen – when it comes to patchwork, there are no rules. Identify old, unused fabric pieces at home or old garments that you don't wear anymore. You can either sew or glue the pieces on to a plain white Tee or even patch them together to give your garments a fun makeover. We're gonna try our hand at a wall hanging-turned-into-dress, a la Ashish. What about you?

Flared midi dress, Ashish, ₹ 2,13,880



Frayed hem shorts, Aeropostale, ₹ 1,999



Asymmetric skirt, Redemption, ₹ 24,440 approx



'Parker' blazer, Ralph Lauren, ₹ 2,00,000



OTTOLINGER



ACNE STUDIOS



JONATHAN COHEN

Photographs IMAXTREE, Fashion Stylist GARVIKA KHANNA



GENNY



Embroidered gilet,  
Etro, ₹ 3,04,750 approx

BALMAIN



Cotton tweed shorts,  
Sacai at [www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com),  
₹ 53,450 approx



Studded suede sandals,  
Maje at [www.outnet.com](http://www.outnet.com),  
₹ 9,820 approx



Belted jacket,  
Blaze Milano,  
₹ 1,09,620 approx

### FRINGE BENEFITS

While often reserved only for festival-goers, fringe is now a mainstay on the S/S runways. DIY your own swishy piece by cutting up an old suede bag – make sure the strips are evenly sized before gluing them onto your fave dressing gown or dress. Or alternatively, fashion your own tassels with beads for a 40s-style look.

Cotton blend tank,  
Nanushka at [www.matchesfashion.com](http://www.matchesfashion.com),  
₹ 13,500 approx



Straight-leg jeans,  
Alanui, ₹ 35,860 approx



Eyelet detailed bikini,  
Ack at [www.farfetch.com](http://www.farfetch.com),  
₹ 19,630 approx



Trucker jacket,  
Levi's, ₹ 6,999



DIOR

### TO DYE FOR

Surfer girl T-shirts were our summer staple back in the day, and we're more than happy to bring that 70s cheer back in our lives. With all this time at home, you can finally make your own exactly the way you want. Gather supplies like rubber bands, fabric dyes (or even make natural dyes at home with coffee, turmeric, etc) and of course, your Tee. Start with damp fabric. Pinch it into the patterns of your choice, tie it up with rubber bands and pour the dye. Leave your Tee to dry for a couple of hours and voila! You have your own tie-dye piece to wear on the couch and beyond.



Backpack,  
Aldo, ₹ 9,999



RALPH &amp; RUSSO



Cropped trousers,  
Miguelina at [www.shopbop.com](http://www.shopbop.com),  
₹ 29,360 approx




Crossbody bag,  
Isabel Marant,  
₹ 23,880 approx



Knit maxi dress,  
Missoni, ₹ 64,500

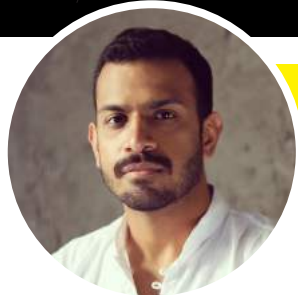


### KNIT KIT

If you're looking for ways to spend quality time with your grandma, but also want to learn something in the process, we've got just the answer for you – crochet. While the craft is a precious, hand-spun technique, its return in 2020 is anything but old school. Designers like Fendi and Marni are championing the whole Parisian chic vibe with crochet polos, dresses, bags – you name it. Brb, turning our crochet doilies into a cute crop top. 

FENDI





## THE BIGGER PICTURE

*Do we still need fashion? Designer  
Karan Torani weighs in*

For as long as I can remember, fashion and the process of design has been my escape. My studio is my place of indulgence, where discussing ideas with my team and sampling with the *kaarigars* takes me to fantastical new worlds everyday. But as the country remains under a complete lockdown to arrest the spread of Covid-19, developing sample designs seems like a luxury of the past. This may sound like a complaint, but it is far from being one.

As I spend restless days at home, I can't help but wonder about the future of all the many small designer labels, including mine, that are part of the apparel and textiles sector, the country's second-largest employment generator after agriculture. I see individuals and companies – big and small – coming together across the country to help daily-wage earners. But how long, I ask, will it sustain?

So, when I read an Instagram post – on one of the fashion world's biggest digital platforms – that posed questions like: Do we still need fashion? Do we still need to buy more clothes? among other relevant queries, it got me thinking. I must clarify that these questions were directed at another country's fashion ecosystem, but it forced me to think deeply on the topic.

Today more than ever, consumers need to support local industries that generate employment. And while it is important that we be more mindful of our purchases and not over-consume, the post-Covid-19 response should not be to stop buying well-designed, beautiful clothes. Should this become a mass movement, it would deprive the fashion industry of its income and result in an unforeseen rise in unemployment.

Veteran fashion moguls and established

labels may survive and somehow sustain their teams during this time with paid leaves, but start-up brands such as mine have not had the luxury to save for a rainy day. What would reduced demand for our designs lead to? Cutting costs, making our teams smaller, stricter budgets, and an overall analysis of our business investments. In my case, acting on these measures would directly impact the employment and salaries of over 200 artisans that we currently employ. It would also affect the survival of their families.

About two weeks ago, I announced a halt on all our operations (before the official lockdown was put in place) for our retail store as well as our design studio, and production. The need to take such a step had many reasons, chief amongst them – the financial stability and survival of our artisans and *kaarigars*. We also put up an open appeal on social media, requesting our followers and clients to contribute to our salary fund; the amount would be considered paid towards any future purchases.

While I'm happy to report that I received a number of contributions and many encouraging messages, I was also questioned on my decision to 'crowd-source' for our workers' salaries.

The truth is the world of fashion carries an unforgiving and notorious image of glamour and easy money. But most people outside its inner circles don't know that numerous successful designers struggled in their one-room studios for decades. The competitive and fast pace of the fashion calendar doesn't allow most of us to retain our profits, which are immediately pumped back into the business as an investment in the form of another ambitious experiment or project.



*Kaarigars and skill workers do not have the safety net of financial savings*

So, back to the question: Do we still need fashion? I would say, yes. For consumers, it is as much an economic responsibility as it is a duty to the artisans, weavers, embroiderers, and *kaarigars* of our country. Private contributions and government charities are important, but they may not last long enough, or even be enough to support millions of low-wage workers who make the clothes everyone loves to wear.

The current times call for us to re-learn the lessons of Mahatma Gandhi's Swadeshi movement. A humble request: Support all homegrown brands and products once the lockdown is lifted. This would rotate much-needed money within our own economy, and help brands, like mine, sustain and maybe even generate more employment opportunities.

By doing this, not only would we be making mindful purchases that help the cycle of handmade production to continue, but it would also financially secure the lives of our daily-wage artisans. By showing our belief in their craft, we will help them get back on their feet without taking away their pride with another act of charity. ■



*It is also imperative to shift gears about how we look at craft*

Woven,  
Missoni.  
₹ 23,490



Printed,  
Marks & Spencer.  
₹ 2,699



Fleece,  
Hunkemoller.  
₹ 3,320



Terry cloth + diamonds?  
We're here for it. Rita Ora

## THE SNUGGLE IS REAL

*For days when you're in need of some comforting, throwing on a plush bathrobe is the closest you can get to 'being swaddled*

Velvet,  
Balenciaga.  
₹ 1,93,427 approx



RALPH & RUSSO



Rihanna makes a case  
for wearing a robe outdoors,  
post quarantine



In these times of self isolation and social distancing with nowhere to go, we're approaching fashion with absolute reckless abandon. Our commitment to this new laid-back, bed-to-sofa couch potato life is now spreading to our sartorial choices too. We're looking for something cosy, comfortable; something that feels like a warm embrace on a cranky day (and you know there's been a lot of those lately), a no-fuss option that doesn't have to entail too much thought. Enter: Bathleisure. Combining the words 'bath' and 'athleisure', this look has been championed by the likes of Rihanna and Rita Ora as well as designers Fendi and Ralph & Russo at their S/S 2020 shows. It's all about turning your favourite post-bath accessories (from a robe to a plush towel) into all-day wear. Bathleisure is boujee, it's #IDGAF and #IWokeUpLikeThis at the same time. Add XL chandelier earrings or a swoosh of red lipstick (an instant pick-me-up!) to create the illusion that you have somewhere fabulous to be in a few hours, even though like you, we're all staying at home. While we're not all confident enough to wear our robes outside the 'gram, this is one trend we'll be giving a go – even if just for pure comfort and overall #treatyoself vibes.





L-R: Mudita and Divya Chandra

# REACHING OUT

*For many women, home may not be a safe place in these times, write Women of India Summit founders Divya and Mudita Chandra*



What vulnerable women need right now is emotional support



Online support groups are helping women who endure domestic abuse during this pandemic

Openly discussing emotional violence, trauma and sexual harassment is a relatively new phenomenon in our country, yet even with this heightened awareness, there is a molestation case every 15 minutes, a rape every 20 minutes, a sexual harassment case every 53 minutes, a case of cruelty every nine minutes, every day in our country. Even while the government places strong emphasis on self-isolation and social distancing, there is a growing concern about what impact this might have on women trapped in abusive relationships. Of course, it would be foolish to assume that Covid-19 could cause domestic violence. However, a heightened state of anxiety and stress is likely to make this a more dangerous time for women.

“Women who face abuse in the household will become further vulnerable and victimised as they will be stuck with their abusers for days and weeks on end. This will further raise challenges of not letting one’s mental health deteriorate. It is also

to be noted that women who face these challenges of violence in the home are now also facing all the sundry stresses of this new normal with the lockdown and myriad uncertainties. It is well established that stress reduces one’s immunity, and during this pandemic, maintaining and strengthening one’s immunity is of prime importance,” says Dr Kaizaad Kotwal, Emmy award-winner and Karmaveer Puraskar Maharatna award-winner for his work on domestic abuse.

During this period, we have been working with individuals and private groups globally over WhatsApp and encouraging online meetings over platforms like Zoom. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of connecting with others so that women can share their worries, or just provide support by being a witness to others and hold space

for them by just being there. In an abusive environment, it is imperative to have others you can confide in, which provides an emotional security blanket to have a safe place to speak your truth and not be judged. Having this kind of online support community has never been more important, especially for Indian women, who are culturally conditioned to look out for others before thinking about themselves.

In India, there are very few support structures that support women suffering from domestic violence. It’s therefore important for our compassion to extend support to these women in an active and practical way. **U**



Woven scarf, Forever New,  
₹ 2,000

Reversible shawl, Gucci,  
₹ 90,495 approx

Woven shawl,  
Global Desi,  
₹ 2,499

Printed scarf,  
Accessorize, ₹ 2,295

PALM ANGELS

AGNONA

RICK OWENS

SIES MARJAN

# BLANKET ORDER

*Cosy fashion is making a comeback and here are the ways in which your blanket can make a fashion statement*

9

Clairvoyance is a prerequisite, if you're a fashion designer, to stay ahead of trends. But when collections were in production for Fall/Winter 2020, there was no way of knowing that we'd all be facing a full-scale global pandemic that would force us to take shelter in our homes for the foreseeable future. So, designers as varied as Marc Jacobs and Rick Owens were all on to something. And with the free time on our hands, we find that raiding our linen closet can be fashionable and cushy, as demonstrated in the 80s by Martin Margiela, who was the OG of bedspread fashion, making duvet coats from quilts. More recently, Marine Serre tailored a suit out of towels. The blanket trend bridges our reality to high fashion, and we love nothing more than for it to be relatable.

Crushed linen scarf,  
AND, ₹ 699

Woven scarf, Zara,  
₹ 2,299

Monogram shawl,  
Fendi, price on request

Checked wool scarf,  
H&M, ₹ 4,499



MARC JACOBS

Photographs IMAXTREE, Junior Fashion Editor SURBHI SHUKLA



# BECAUSE I'M HAPPY

10 HOT  
STORIES

10

*Being coiled up at home doesn't mean you have to subject yourself to mundane sartorial choices*

In the popular 2009 comedy-drama, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, the protagonist, Rebecca Bloomwood, equates the sheer joy of acquiring a creamy cashmere sweater or a silk scarf to the satisfying feeling of warm butter melting on toast. While Becky battles a serious shopping addiction, she presents a very valid analogy of clothes and how they make us feel. As we spend our days in solitary confinement, many of us might not feel the urge to dress up, and rightfully so, but the dopamine release and mini adrenaline rush of looking good even if you have nowhere to go might just be the pick-me-up you need right now. I'm terming it 'vicarious dressing', a concept already adopted by several influencers globally who are expertly taking selfies in various sun-drenched corners of their homes, rocking everything from

rhinestone-encrusted Mary-Janes to floral printed trench coats. While the degree of playing dress-up lies entirely in your hands and in accordance with your mood of the day, it is highly recommended that you #trythisathome, pulling nearly forgotten hero pieces from your own closet while dressing up those trusty basics. Whether you're doing it for the 'gram or building a personal Polyvore-like inventory for future OOTD referencing, we've rounded up some food for thought that will get those ideas flowing.



LONGCHAMP

## SPORTS DAY

Yes, we're all working out at home now so maybe it doesn't matter how we look. But once upon a time, leggings and sports jackets were quite the popular caffeine-run uniforms. However, we're ditching athleisure and getting an upgrade with refined sportsluxe. Subtle athletic accents, neutral colour palettes and tailoring for all those days when we want to feel active, in spirit.



JACQUEMUS



@leandramcohen



OFF-WHITE



@emilisindlev

## PICNIC IN THE PARK

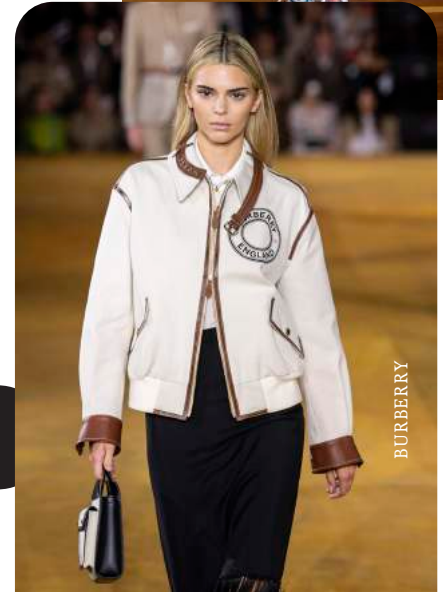
Or, what could be your private garden or backyard. Just because we aren't entirely out and about doesn't mean we can't soak up some vitamin C. The key aspect to achieving this look is throwing on your bucket hat or any larger-than-life floppy hat over an ensemble that screams spring, we're talking Hawaiian dad shirts, floral trousers and any fun tie-dye elements.



FENDI



ALBERTA FERRETTI



BURBERRY





JW ANDERSON



MARYAM NASSIR ZADEH



MARQUES ALMEIDA



@alyssainthecity

## BRUNCH CLUB

For those relatively early risers who enjoy a good round of mimosas and pancakes every other weekend, not being able to visit your favourite brunch spot might feel like a real buzz kill. But fret not, with the panoply of easy-to-create, at-home recipes, you could cook up a storm and have a daytime soiree in your living room. What's more apt to wear for the occasion than an all-purpose dress, something that's tonal, easy, sexy yet transitional enough to be worn well into the after-hours.



@violette\_fr



EMPORIO ARMANI



ROLAND MOURET



KHAITE

## DATE NIGHT

The going out (not) top and its many aliases have become a staple amongst us girls, even the lazy ones. Bodysuits, bandeaus, tank tops and a subtle corsetry is versatile with plenty of room for creativity. Wear one even if it's in the sunshine hours with a smack of red lipstick.



SAKS POTTS



@salome.mory



VERSACE

## SATURDAY NIGHT DISCO

Virtual house parties on FaceTime have become the new mode of blowing off some steam and keeping that feeling of togetherness intact – so why not dress for the part? We aren't expecting you to go all out, but throw on a shimmery sheer shirt for those waist-up calls or a sequined onesie for the glam slumber parties featuring champagne. **6**



# HOME ALONE

*#WorkFromHome might be the new normal, but this bunch of cool men and women are trading in their sweatpants for quarantine outfits that are anything but drab*

Compiled by **TANYA MEHTA**



**MERRYLIN BORO,**  
MODEL

"I chose to wear a dress from NorBlack NorWhite. The kaleidoscopic colours make me happy instantly. Given the current situation, dressing up has proven to be an escape from reality. Obviously, it's hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we need to maintain a positive outlook even in the smallest things we do daily. We have the easiest part to play – stay home and stay isolated while preserving our mental health."

**NEHA SINGH,**  
DESIGNER

"Dressing up for yourself is the first principle of self-love. When you look good, you feel good. As much as I enjoy being in a worn-out Tee and sweatpants, I try to reserve that privilege for the stay-in-bed-all-day weekends. I'm wearing a kaftan with a drawstring from Cord's S/S 20 collection, which has been crafted in cotton-satin with hand-embroidered motifs. It makes me want to tuck into my favourite corner for a quick read before my daily nap."



**ASU LONGKUMER,**  
MODEL AND STYLIST

"This is my quarantine outfit – it's my go-to look comprising shorts and an oversized shirt that are both from my vintage label, Red Empress. I've paired it with a basic tank top from Urban Outfitters. Being confined indoors doesn't mean we can't look good; in fact, it keeps me calm in times of chaos and uncertainty. On a regular day I'd be out running errands in this look."



**DIVYA SAINI,**  
FASHION CONSULTANT AND ENTREPRENEUR

"I'm wearing a tie-front blouse, hand-picked from Bali, and a vintage tie-dye print skirt from Bodements. I quit fast fashion two years ago, so everything I wear is either sustainable, handmade, or vintage. In current times, it's important to stay indoors and build a routine – meditate, practice yoga, declutter your wardrobe and living space. Also, read, re-read; cook, if you don't, or paint if you can. Take this time to also enjoy doing nothing. We finally have some time off from the fast pace of life, let's be grateful for that."

**KAVYA  
TREHAN,**  
SINGER

"Pre-lockdown, at around 1:54 pm every day, I would usually be done completing seven tasks, leaving room for very little time with myself. Now, every ounce of Nivea cold cream that I apply to my skin, or the time I take to brush my curls is an uninterrupted love story to time. Not one that's always slipping, in a hurry, but the redefined kind that's allowed us all to slow down, water our plants, wear flowers and breathe. I'm wearing a dress from Zara, and vintage earrings."

Photograph ANUJ CHOUDHRY



**SHIVANI BOROUAH,** CONTENT CREATOR

"This crisis has and is continuing to gravely affect each one of us, but more so the artisan community and daily-wage workers. So, we should use this time to change our respective outlooks and help those in need. On a different note, working from home can be mundane, but your outfit doesn't have to be. I'm wearing carpenter trousers from Carhartt, a graphic T-shirt from Les Benjamins, and have layered it with a corduroy shirt and sneakers from MNML. It's easy, comfortable and a no-brainer."



**AANCHAL  
RAI,**  
CONTENT CREATOR

"For someone who is always outdoors and on the go, it's taken me time to adjust to a new routine. Classic styles mixed with eclectic pieces in prints and patterns shape my personal style. I've paired a fun block-printed polka shirt with checkered pattern tangerine trousers, complemented by a seashell appliqué belt that was gifted to me by one of my friends, who purchased it from the Maldives. It encapsulates hope and comfort during these particularly difficult times."

**SUHANI PAREKH,**  
JEWELLERY  
DESIGNER

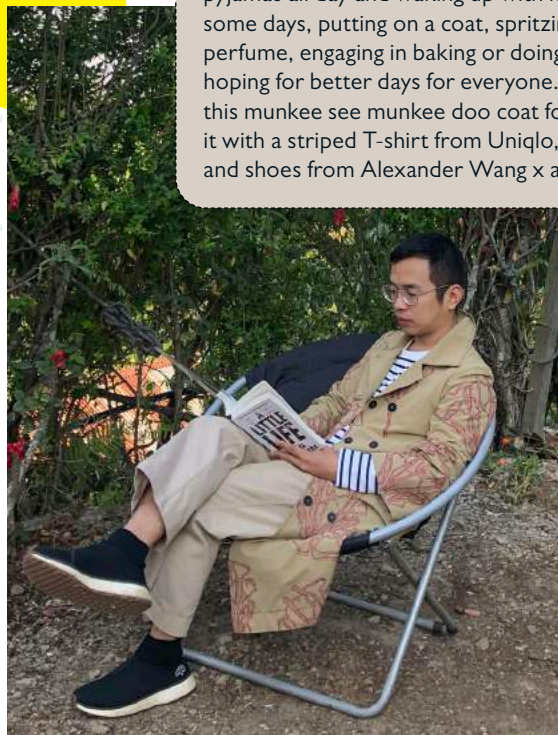
"I love an effortless but chic WFH look – I've paired this sweatsuit with my daily staples. At this point, my fingers are used to the weight and volume of my rings, it feels funny not to wear them. I wear my Zodiac medallions and birthstones everyday as well, I love a piece that tells you a story. We've always looked to the stars for answers and I think we always will. I love the idea that we're all part of something much bigger – the cosmos. An especially apt feeling that resonates with a period like this."





## RIN JAO, FASHION EDITOR

"I was lucky enough to make it back to Manipur before the lockdown, and privileged to have a garden I can go out to, where I read for as long as my attention holds. I oscillate between feeling listless and hanging out in my pyjamas all day and waking up with more purpose on some days, putting on a coat, spritzing on my favourite perfume, engaging in baking or doing some wood work, hoping for better days for everyone. I've been wearing this munkee see munkee doo coat for a while, I've paired it with a striped T-shirt from Uniqlo, trousers by H&M and shoes from Alexander Wang x adidas Originals."



## KAUSTAV DEY,

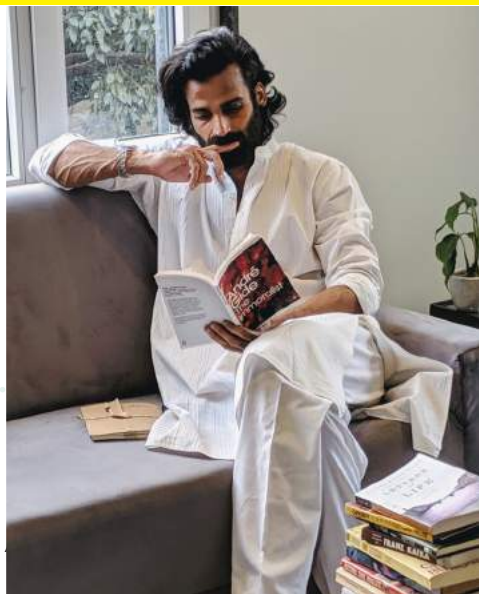
VP OF MARKETING

"Now that I'm locked in, I've never appreciated freedom as much as I did before. What we wear can set us free – and while I'm by my bookshelf at home, in my head I am in Kashmir – one that's free and beautiful. I'm wearing a silk Kashmiri princess coat, hand-embroidered with a scene of lotuses floating on the Dal Lake."



## PRANAV MISHRA, CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND WRITER

"The times are challenging, and the future is uncertain. While growing up, my father taught me an important lesson: Put people before yourself and your needs. But, over the past few decades, the general attitude seems to have shifted. I'm beginning to believe that this crisis is nothing but an outcome of that mentality. I wear this white kurta set at home on most days because it forces me to think beyond myself and transports me mentally to the time when I was a child and my father used to teach us a new lesson every day."



## SAHIL MARWAHA, ENTREPRENEUR

"This outfit encapsulates my #wfh style. I'm wearing a muscle T-shirt from Ucandco, a homegrown label from Bali, shorts by Huebn, slides by Nike and a cap from Kerano. I've been enjoying the calm and downtime by reading, researching, baking and working out (sometimes with my dogs)."







**GAUTAM SINHA,**  
ENTREPRENEUR

"I'm pretty regimental about my daily routine, such as waking up on time, cleanliness and having everything in its place, which reflects in the way I dress as well. I'm the sort of person who would wear shoes at home. During this lockdown period, I've gravitated towards comfort clothing with a smart, sharp overtone – you will never see me hanging out in my pyjamas at home. I live in a basic black/grey Tee layered with a smart casual jacket, paired with chinos or jeans and sneakers."



**NIMISH SHAH,**  
CREATIVE  
DIRECTOR

"Hanging out at home, I'm wearing a mustard hoodie shirt from Bhaane and black joggers by Uniqlo. It almost feels like I'm an extra in a movie."

**RAHI  
CHADDA,**  
MODEL AND  
ENTREPRENEUR

"My outfit of the day is essentially my work from home look. I like wearing colour (preferably bright) to induce my mood with productivity and sunshine. An eclectic ensemble helps me stay positive during this time. I'm wearing a shirt by Asos and trousers by Etro. I've always liked fashion for the expression it lends to one's personality. At the same time, I love to laze around in PJs and comfy sweats, and to do absolutely nothing."



**UDAY SHANKER,**  
BLOGGER

"The Covid-19 outbreak has disrupted our lives in a number of ways. My idea of #wfhfits is what I usually wear at home with a shirt thrown on for those sudden video calls that crop up throughout the day. I'm wearing Delhiwear's 'Half & Half' shirt; Derrick Rose's Chicago Bulls jersey, for a hopeful feeling that radiates from anything associated with the former MVP, who's amazing comeback from years of injury is nothing short of inspiration; a pair of comfy and breathable basketball shorts from mnm.la makes me miss both hooping and the now in-hiatus NBA season. Vans slip-ons are great for lounging, it's also easy to slide into when you want to run downstairs to catch the *sabjiwala*, who I barely see every day. I also keep my guitar near me so I can strum whenever the corona-blues come calling." 





# PRESS PAUSE

*Going on a social media detox in the age of social distancing might not be a bad idea*

Words **TANYA MEHTA**  
Illustration **KATHLEEN LANCELOT**

It's safe to say that for almost all of us, life as we know it has changed overnight. One week, we were micro-dosing on face masks and sanitisers and now, we are being treated to a full-fledged lockdown. Covid-19, an invisible fatal virus that has affected a vast majority of the global population, has brought most of our lives to a startling halt, paving the way for #workfromhome to become the new normal. For those of us with 9-5 jobs, working remotely, initially, came as a welcome change – we worked in our pyjamas, snoozed through our



alarms, and binged-watched inane content OTT platforms provided. But five days in, I noticed a peculiar pattern developing as I mindlessly picked up my phone at regular intervals to scroll through Instagram. The landscape of social media has also changed in a quick span of time as millennials and the Gen-Z crowd have, true to form, begun hyper-documenting and attempt-glamourising their quarantine lives. Every other hour, I sifted through screenshots of video calls from the now wildly popular Houseparty app, videos of frothy cold coffees, curated imagery of a wine glass nestled amongst crumpled white sheets and a barrage of quarantine-related memes. In a bid to monitor and manage the time I spend on the app, I had initially chosen an option that showed me the average period I spent on it. Now, I blindly ignore those prompts as if caught up in a very strange social media daze.

In her book, *Trick Mirror*, an anthology of essays by Jia Tolentino, the author expansively covers the various facets and stages of the Internet – from its inception and the subsequent effect on the consumer's psyche. "The Internet has become the central organ of contemporary life. It has already rewired the brains of its users, returning us to a state of primitive hyper-awareness and distraction while overloading us with much more sensory input than that was ever possible in primitive times. It has already built an ecosystem that runs on exploiting attention and monetising the self," she says. As I became more aware of what primarily appeared to be a harmless consumption of social media, I questioned its very nature in times like these. On one hand, as we are blanketed by loneliness and uncertainty, the virtual connection to other entities – our friends, family members and acquaintances might just be the soothing balm we need to not feel completely disconnected. But a larger and more overwhelming feeling, in my case, is as Tolentino pointed out: The subconscious brainwashing that causes us to overthink, compare, for old insecurities to creep up – an impediment that has largely riddled the very existence of social media. Coupled with the comparative free time that we're all unexpectedly presented with, it's becoming exceptionally tough to differentiate between creative content that actually has a constructive take-away, and content that disguises 'brag' culture and herd mentality. Moreover, the sheer labyrinthine architecture coupled with the algorithmic structure that's belting out advertisements and a dizzying amount of



@c\_l\_o



@the\_hungry\_blogger

imagery has warped our very understanding of scale – and, the immensity of it.

But consciously tapering the time we squander on social media is easier said than done. I found out about the 21-day lockdown that Prime Minister Narendra Modi put into force not via a TV news channel, but through an Instagram story. Even the strongest cave in, including Tolentino herself as she says, "The worse the Internet gets, the more we appear to crave it – the more it shapes our instincts and desires. To guard against this, I give myself arbitrary boundaries and still on occasion I'll sit there like a rat pressing the lever, like a woman repeatedly hitting herself on the forehead with a hammer, masturbating through the nightmare until I finally catch the gasoline whiff of a good meme."

The intention of my rant is not to ask you to cut off from social media completely and lead a caveman's existence, but maybe in keeping with our current lifestyles it is time to slow down, which means enjoying a cup of tea by the window, listening to the birds chirping without having to post a picture of it. It means taking up a hobby to enjoy it in its pure essence like we did in our adolescence. It means calling up your friends and checking on them via video call and not waiting for the next post or tweet. While we're all being mindful of our bodies – crushing those at-home workouts and eating our fruits, why not send your mind to the spa and actually use this time to introspect and cut out the white noise? Maybe it will help you, maybe you'll think it was a stupid idea. For me, personally, pressing pause never felt more liberating. **U**



@gildaambrosio



@officialnewgirl



@damselindior





# NEW RULES

*Lockdown paranoia has driven some millennials to view dating in a whole new light*

Words **BARRY RODGERS**

**I**f things weren't as crazy, I'd consider it," wrote a Grindr user, when I asked if he was comfortable meeting guys IRL right now. (His profile indicated that he was bored.) "Covid has me paranoid to hook up." As the coronavirus outbreak disrupts nearly every aspect of social life, almost all of us single folk are also reckoning with what it means for our sex lives. Social distancing marks an unprecedented strain on almost anyone with

a libido and no partner at home. However, it would be highly irresponsible of us to not take a step back, self-isolate and reflect. But in the current scenario, I find myself, like many others, even more alone. So, turning to dating apps to cultivate conversations seems like the only viable option. It's just that now, most of the men that hit me up on these platforms are keen to talk, too – a modern-day miracle.

## I'M NOT VIDEO CALLING YOU

An untold number of millennials are exploring virtual alternatives to social interactions and intimacy during a time of social distancing. Of course, these measures have been put in place to help keep everyone safe. That doesn't make the rules any easier to follow. All the popular dating apps are being morally and socially responsible by advising users to adhere to social distancing actions and other safety precautions while also encouraging digital date ideas, like video dinners. But, I don't think I'm ready to video-call a complete stranger. What if I get catfished?

A therapist friend of mine, who wished to remain anonymous and was quite active

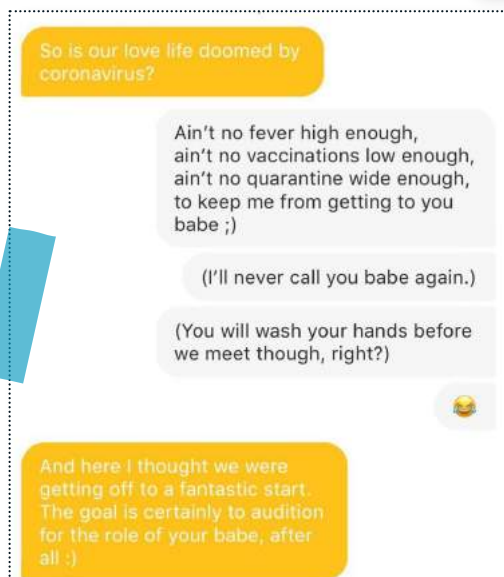
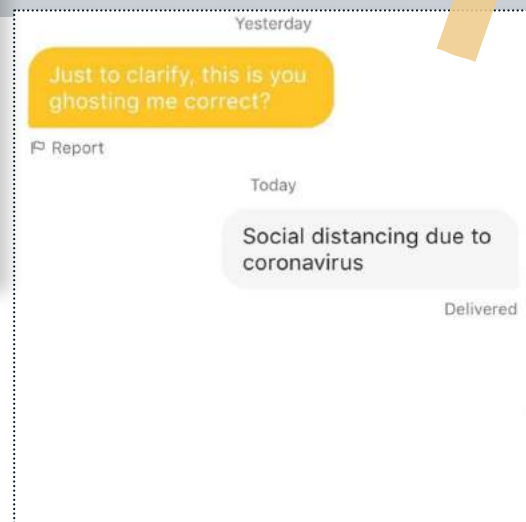


on dating apps up until February, offered an interesting insight: "I think a lot more people are engaging on dating apps to remain active and sane," she says, "Because all people want at this time is to have someone to talk to, and share ideas, and play video games with, or whatever it is."

## CHANGING THE GAME

While most of my conversations, after the initial exchange of pleasantries, have come to naught, I applaud dating apps for bending the rules, allowing me to explore the world, literally. Take Tinder for instance, the dating app has made their Passport feature, which allows one to connect with anyone, anywhere in the



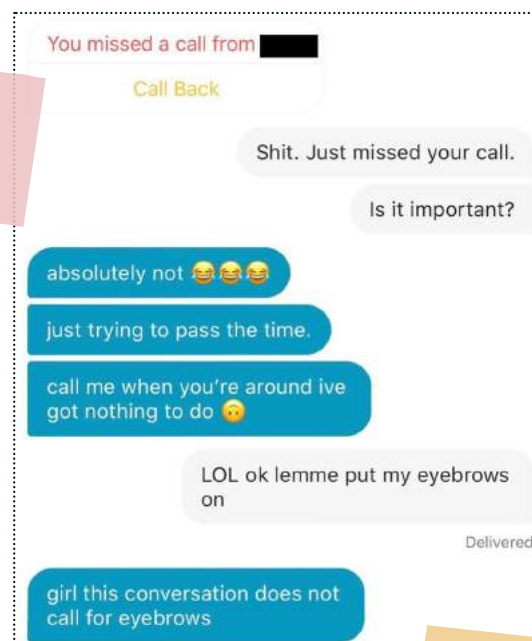


world, available for free to all members through April 30th. Their hope: That their members can use the feature to transport themselves out of self-quarantine to different parts of the globe. My hope, however: If nothing else, I can at least learn how to say 'hey' in another language. Sagar Dave, a Pune-based working professional, tells me that a number of dating profiles that he has come across on Grindr still read: 'Meet now' and 'with place'. "I've tried engaging in conversation, but it usually falls flat after a few exchanges. I'd also blame me for it because I chat with the intention to meet. I am just more of a 'meet and greet' kinda guy. I've stopped trying," he says.

Priti Joshi, vice president of strategy

at Bumble India, says the video call feature on the app has been its best performer. "There has been a 21 per cent increase in the Bumble video call usage during the outbreak, which only further validates that when physical connection is limited, humans will seek out other means to interact and engage, and video calling is meeting that demand." For Mumbai-based media professional Pratiksha Acharya, this period of self-isolation hasn't changed the dynamic on dating apps yet. "I've been keeping a safe distance from all the apps because I've come to the conclusion that the thirst is real during this lockdown period. However, when loneliness set in, I did get back on, and honestly, more than having a stimulating conversation, men just want to exchange nudes. And I say this because every person I have hooked up with in the past has either slid into my Insta DM or has hit me up to find out how I'm doing," she says.

And while this period of social distancing could change how we approach dating in the future, for me, personally, it has made me realise the importance of true intimacy. I could have a great relationship with someone and be texting them constantly, but I miss not doing anything physical together. There's still something about being with somebody in person. Maybe once all of this is done, I'll give hooking up a break, and give true love a shot, again. **K**







# OVER The Rainbow

We're joining hands with queer-friendly mental health experts and activists to help LGBTQIA+ folk endure isolation with those who might not accept their identity

Words **OJAS KOLVANKAR**

**O**n a Sunday morning in March, amidst the 21-day nationwide lockdown, my phone started buzzing with WhatsApp notifications. The messages that populated not just the social messaging app but also my Twitter feed later were requests to find shelter for a trans person who was asked to vacate their accommodation almost overnight. With inoperable transport services in the city, they would have been homeless, coupled with the mental trauma that usually results from such incidents.

It didn't end there. A few days later, I was confronted with another incident – this time involving a queer woman, who endured harassment on returning to her family home in Delhi. Not only was she subjected

to physical violence, her family proceeded to hack into her social media accounts with the intention to monitor and restrict communication under the pretext of 'making her heterosexual again'.

One would consider being surrounded by family at home as a safe space during a pandemic. However, a series of incidents, excluding the ones mentioned in this story, that have come to light draw attention to the stark reality of life under quarantine for LGBTQIA+ individuals, who have to navigate their time under lockdown in non-queer affirming environments. We spoke to queer folk, therapists and activists to help us compile a guide to help the community endure isolation in these trying times.





## THIS IS TEMPORARY

While you may be quarantined in environments that may not necessarily make you feel welcome, adopt a positive affirmation approach. Shipra Parswani, president of Plane Jar Welfare Foundation – a youth activism platform, explains, “If you want to keep negative thoughts at bay, maintain a happy jar. Drop in notes that document a happy memory. On particularly hard days, you can open these happy memories and lift your mood. One could also draw an image of their safe space. It can be something whimsical, or even your own room.”

## STICK TO ROUTINE

Maintaining a daily routine can be helpful during times like these.

Counseling psychologist Divya

Dureja suggests engaging in mundane activities that you would have otherwise done on any given day, pre-lockdown. “It could involve making your bed or just taking a shower, which also instills a sense of discipline. Allocate time for work and leisure equally, and stick to it. Make a list of tasks you want to accomplish, you will feel productive once you strike them off. Also, track the time you spend scrolling or swiping on your phone.”



## FIND AN ALLY

Initiating a conversation in non-queer-friendly spaces can be risky. If you are being misgendered, referred to by your dead name (as a trans person) or encounter something traumatic, where confrontation is necessary, identify an ally within these surroundings. They could be your siblings or any individual who accepts you in the family. In the case of violence or extreme harassment, stay in touch with your friends who you know will check up on you regularly.

“The first step would be to assess the level of danger and to have all the following conversations accordingly. If you are in an unsafe space, avoid engaging in conversation about identity, especially if you do not have another place to go to. However, if you are in a safer environment where people are willing to listen and engage, or there are at least some people you trust, then initiate such conversations. Start by sharing your feelings and take time to explain your identity. Give them time to process and ask questions and be open and willing to communicate. Also, expect respect and openness from them,” says Vandita Morarka, founder-director of feminist not-for-profit, One Future Collective.



## ONLINE RESOURCES

### TheMindClan

[themindclan.com/mental-health-covid-19](http://themindclan.com/mental-health-covid-19)

**Services offered:** The mental health platform offers information about counseling, helpline numbers and support groups.

### Plane Jar Welfare Foundation

[theplanejar.com](http://theplanejar.com)

**Services offered:** They facilitate counseling and run online support groups.

### One Future Collective

[onefuturecollective.org](http://onefuturecollective.org)

**Services offered:** They facilitate free counseling sessions and run a legal aid helpline.

### iCall

[icallhelpline.org](http://icallhelpline.org)

**Services offered:** The organisation offers free virtual counseling via telephone, email, and chat.

### Arpan

[www.arpan.org.in](http://www.arpan.org.in)

**Services offered:** This platform offers chat-based counseling via direct messaging on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and also runs a helpline. **GO**



## EXPRESS YOURSELF

During this time, it's important to engage in self-affirming activities that don't trigger anxiety. Queer mental health professional Richa Vashista encourages her clients to use art and writing as therapeutic methods to express themselves. Educator Dan Rebello, who identifies as demimale (a gender identity describing someone who partially, but not wholly, identifies as a man regardless of their assigned gender at birth), uses art to express themselves, while living with their family. Navigating the situation at home, they are hoping to generate revenue by selling their artworks, which they create during the quarantine period for their top surgery. The point is finding anything that helps you hold on to your identity within, even if you cannot be open about it.



# LOCKED IN

*Homes, in this moment, are taking on a new kind of indeterminacy*

Words **BARRY RODGERS**



Rooshad Shroff



Making your home multifunctional is key



Find corners in your space that are conducive to a work from home situation

The jokes usually start to flow in after a crisis begins. Right now, Instagram is full of gallows humor about a global pandemic. While some of the jokes are hilarious, many of them are not. But, a common punch line that seems to bind them all is centered on the premise that: Self-quarantine will play out like a sitcom or a rom-com. It will test how strong your relationship to whomever you live with is, now that you're going to be trapped in a small space together. However, this general espousal got my mind wandering in an entirely new direction: How liveable are the spaces we occupy? Will a post-pandemic world spur a new wave of thought with regard to spatial arrangements? We enlisted the help of renowned architect and interior designer Rooshad Shroff to give us the skinny on why homes need to be practical now.

## OPENING UP THE SPACE

"The lockdown has had a massive impact on all of us, and being confined within our homes will definitely make us reconfigure our living quarters. More than decluttering, this will entail a spatial reconfiguration. For example, given that I live on my own, I have emptied out my living room to allow for

some open space to work out. Since work from home has become the new normal, and depending on each vocation, one needs to figure out how to navigate that best. Being designers, we are fortunate to have the luxury to work from home and use the time constructively to work on projects or even research design ideas we can implement at a later date. The set-up to work from home becomes important as different corners become our new office. Opening up the space to light and fresh air is imperative given that our dwellings were never meant to be as profoundly multi-functional as a shelter-in-place scenario requires them to be."

## NEW OUTLOOK

"Apartments in cities assume that the city itself is a meaningful extension of whatever square footage a dwelling might offer. So, a home will be for the resident just one

place among many in the rhythms of a day. But, this scenario does not account for what we are collectively experiencing right now: Home as the everything. During this time, we will be forced to look at space in relation to its engagement with nature, sunlight and/or wind orientation. The lockdown will make one aware of their surroundings."

## FIND YOUR CORNER

"It is important for us to resist the bland assumption that a larger space is better, but instead to treat function as a core value. I have embraced that approach, which has become especially evident in quarantine. I spend the first half of my day in the study and the bedroom, where I get the morning sun. I usually switch to the dining table in the evening. As I'm home alone, I often carve out different corners and rearrange furniture in the house through the week just to bring about a fresh change to the space." ■



# A PASSIVE WAR

*Author Shaheen Bhatt talks about mental health in the time of Covid-19*



If pressed to consider possible backdrops for the making of history, it's unlikely you, like me, would consider your couch a viable setting. I don't know about you, but, great world leaders do not frequent my home and make world-altering policy changes on my couch.

Wars aren't fought over my couch because the likelihood that anyone wants a sofa with a carefully concealed wine-stain on it that badly is quite remote. And, unless I count the time I ate too much Chinese food and lay there groaning for six hours, massive natural calamities do not routinely take place on my couch either.

All in all, the potential to create world history on any of our couches is relatively low. Still, somehow, your butt on your couch, your chair, your floor, is currently an unprecedented moment in history. Confined to our homes, we're not just living through history, but actively creating it.

This past month has seen the lives of almost eight billion people brought to a

screaming halt by something we can't see. As I write this, most of the world – barring those in Sweden (damn that Viking blood) is chained to their homes. We've had pandemics before, sure, but this is the first time the entire world has simultaneously shut shop. (Imagine a giant 'Sorry, we're closed' sign hovering somewhere over the planet.)

When world leaders tell you that the should-be mundane act of leaving your home is enough to potentially kill you – it's hard not to take that to heart. It's hard not to imagine the worst. There is nothing more powerful than the instinct to survive. When faced with situations that threaten survival, our bodies flood us with stress hormones to prepare us for the impending threat. For most of us, Covid-19 has been a constant but not immediate threat. The result: We're low-key stressed all the time but don't realise it. Spoiler alert: Constant stress wreaks havoc on your mind and body. All the uncertainty only adds to that stress.

Human minds are designed to plan for the future. But currently, that isn't an option. We don't know enough about what's going on, or how long it's going to last, or where it's going to take us. There's no way to plan for this because we don't know what we're planning for. So, it's important to remember that there's no right way to do this. To eight billion people, this is new, and it's overwhelming – and that's okay.

To quote Philip K. Dick: "It's sometimes an appropriate response to reality to go insane. These are mad times, so go mad. There will be time for sanity later."

It's been 21 days



since I've been anywhere but my home and the outside world already feels like a not-so-distant but fast-fading memory. I constantly swing between optimism and horror. I'm okay until I'm not. Everything is surmountable until it's overwhelming.

Ten times a day I forget that we're in the middle of a pandemic – which means ten times a day I also remember that we're in the middle of a pandemic. The realisation is as (pun not intended) sickening each time. Every day I remind myself I can't control this and there's nothing to do but put one foot in front of the other in the little space I have left and breathe. To be okay, and then not, and then okay again. To be human.

If right now you're struggling, remember this, as surely as these days have come, they will end, and until then all you can do is take a deep breath, sit your butt down on that couch and continue making history. **W**





From left to right: On Maumita: Printed linen blazer, trousers, both Suket Dhir, ₹ 28,650 and ₹ 15,650 respectively; 'Motion' hoop earrings, AlmaFive, ₹ 6,500; patent mules, Charles & Keith, ₹ 6,499  
On Divya: Brocade blazer, trousers, both Suket Dhir, ₹ 58,650 and ₹ 32,650 respectively; 'Take Five' hoop earrings, Confluence x Zariin, ₹ 3,300; slingback platform brogues, Michael Kors, price on request



# THE #WFH EDIT

*For those who feel pyjamas and sweatsuits are not an option, we've put together looks that can work for work while still being comfy*

Photographs **MAYANK MUDNANEY** Fashion Stylist **GARVIKA KHANNA**

**A**s the current lockdown forces office workers to ditch their blazers and heels for hoodies and bedroom slippers, we're trying to navigate a new 9-to-5 style. The burning questions are, Should I get out of my yoga pants? Should I be wearing jewellery? And

what about make-up? The answer is yes. Yes, but in moderation, as always. Of course we are all of the unanimous opinion that comfort is key. So while you do your chores, or Zoom calls— here's a guide on how to look professional while still not being too done up. Minimum effort, max impact.



Cotton double-breasted blazer, trousers both Attico, ₹ 57,790 and ₹ 67,260 respectively



Double-breasted blazer, cigarette trousers, both Blazé Milano, ₹ 1,20,115 and ₹ 58,470 approx respectively



'Cosmo' organza co-ord set, O'Frida, ₹ 9,000



Jacquard paisley print gilet, trousers, both Etro, ₹ 73,390 and ₹ 58,100 approx respectively

## BETTER TOGETHER

This is the closest you'll get to feeling like you're still in a suit and calling all the shots at work with all the ease of pyjamas. Wearing a co-ord set automatically shaves of at least 20 minutes off your morning routine that includes pondering in front of your closet while still looking a 100 per cent chic.



Satin pleated tunic, Payal Khandwala, ₹ 14,800; metallic cord belt, Rimzim Dadu, ₹ 10,000; metal earrings, Minerali, ₹ 2800; charm bracelet, Swarovski, ₹ 7,690; ankle strap heels, stylist's own

Asymmetric floral dress, Gucci, ₹ 2,38,300

## FOOTLOOSE

From Crocs (great for rushing in the kitchen even with spillage) to a comfy pair of slip-ons, there's really no excuse for not changing out of your everyday flip-flops.

Woven leather T-bar sandals, Emilio Pucci, ₹ 51,200 approx



'Tema' sandals, Birkenstock, ₹ 6,990



'Leslie' flats, Oceedee, ₹ 3,499



'Tattami' espadrilles, Burloe, ₹ 2,990



Clogs, Crocs, ₹ 3,495



Woven slides, Dior, price on request



Printed crepe wrap dress, Ganni, ₹ 15,750

Silk twill maxi dress, Louisa Parris at [www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com), ₹ 51,930 approx

Printed maxi dress, Sabyasachi x H&M, ₹ 4,999

## GO WITH THE FLOW

Wearing a dress may seem counterintuitive when you can easily get away with leggings and a Tee. But, it's a way to look polished while still being comfy enough for curling up on the couch. Go for a loose fit with poppy prints that will also prove to be a mood-lifter.



Cropped cotton shirt, **Mango**, ₹ 2,590

## WHITE WASHED

Now, with restricted movements and a whole new #YOLO attitude, we're happy to report that white works great for #WFH. Plus, there is nothing that lifts the spirits or implies that you have your s\*it together on a Zoom conference call, quite like wearing a crisp, clean oversized white shirt.

Crinkled cotton dress with pussybow detail, **Honorine** at [www.farfetch.com](http://www.farfetch.com), ₹ 18,190 approx

Poplin trapeze dress, **GAP**, ₹ 3,499

Cotton poplin shirt, **Valentino**, ₹ 1,00,500

From left to right: On Maumita: Pleated peplum blouse, trousers, both **Rajesh Pratap Singh**, ₹ 21,500 and ₹ 18,500 respectively; chunky charm necklace, **Minerali**, ₹ 9,000; 'Pochette Métis' satchel bag, **Louis Vuitton**, ₹ 1,61,000; slingback heels, **Charles & Keith**, ₹ 6,299  
On Divya: Pleated midi dress, **Rajesh Pratap Singh**, ₹ 26,500; chunky charm necklace, **Minerali**, ₹ 9,000; 'Pochette Métis' satchel bag, **Louis Vuitton**, ₹ 1,71,000; mules, **Tod's**, price on request



Graphic, **Levi's**, ₹ 1,699



Graphic, **Uniqlo x Kaws**, ₹ 1,290



Embroidered organic cotton, **Birdsong**, ₹ 3,050

## TEE PARTY

If your aesthetic when working from home can only be described as glorified pyjamas — you know, an oversized vintage Tee and sweatpants — this one's for you. Putting on a cheery graphic or logo Tee in pristine white is the best way to ease into your work day.





Lovers' graphic  
cotton T-shirt,  
Boiler Room,  
₹ 5,690



'One Love'  
sweatshirt,  
Rag & Bone,  
₹ 14,290



Oversized knit  
jumper, Alanui,  
₹ 70,000

### KNITTED OUT

It's got the same silhouette and ease of your ratty college zip-up hoodie but feels a little more like an actual outfit. Wearing a light cotton XL sweatshirt is still the comfort level you want when at home, but wouldn't mind wearing it into the office either when real life normalises.



Tie-dye cotton  
sweatshirt, Aries at  
[www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com),  
₹ 25,525 approx



Embroidered cotton  
hoodie, Kenzo,  
₹ 35,535 approx

From left to right: On Maumita: Striped patchwork sweater, péro, price on request; skinny jeans, model's own; asymmetric shell earrings, Swarovski, ₹ 13,900; leather loafers, Tod's, price on request  
On Divya: Knit with embroidered detail (worn below), colour-blocked knit, both péro, both price on request; distressed jeans, model's own; pearl drop earrings, MuchToLuv, ₹ 4,200; metallic patent loafers, Tod's, price on request







Chain link necklace,  
Fendi, price  
on request



'Callie' pearl drop  
hair clip, Chloé at  
[www.matchesfashion.com](http://www.matchesfashion.com),  
₹ 19,785



Scrunchies, Zara,  
₹ 990 (for set of 2)

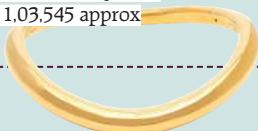


Embroidered  
felt hair slide,  
Deepa Gurnani,  
₹ 2,100



Plexiglass earrings,  
Salvatore Ferragamo,  
price on request

Tubular choker,  
Alexander McQueen,  
₹ 1,03,545 approx



'Wave' steel bracelet,  
Hermès,  
price on request



'The Great Essential'  
hoop earrings,  
Louis Vuitton,  
₹ 41,500

### RULE OF THE EXTRAS

Every #girlboss work-from-home tip says to get dressed as you normally would while in quarantine and we're not going to skimp on our add-ons. Pick a minimal statement piece, add some shiny barrettes or a scrunchie and you're all set.

From left to right: On Maumita: 'Manar' cotton silk shirt, 'Mubarak' mashru silk striped jacket, both Raw Mango, both prices on request; flared jeans, Levi's, ₹ 3,299; recycled cardboard earrings, Euremme, ₹ 3,200; cross-strap platform sandals, Charles & Keith, ₹ 6,499. On Divya: 'Carra' cotton tunic and trouser set, 'Mubarak' mashru silk quilted jacket, all Raw Mango, all prices on request; chunky necklace, Amrapali, ₹ 30,600; platform sandals, Charles & Keith, ₹ 6,499.



'Luca' pleated  
trousers,  
Rag & Bone,  
₹ 21,475 approx



Organic cotton  
jacket, Eka,  
₹ 17,800

### EASY DOES IT

When your 8 hours and more are spent between your couch and bed, it's all about achieving a balance of stylish, but not too structured. Go for relaxed tailoring and easy silhouettes that can be layered with a basic tank top.



Knit cardigan,  
Alanui, ₹ 2,10,150



'Gemma' linen  
trousers,  
Ralph Lauren,  
₹ 60,000





# HAIR and now

*While there's no pill you can pop to deal with a pandemic, can a hair makeover serve as a fitting distraction?*

Photograph **KEEGAN CRASTO**  
Words **HENA DESAI**

**B**ritney did it IRL in 2007, and Jennifer Lawrence did it on screen for the movie *Joy*. While one woman shaved off her head while fighting divorce and substance abuse in the public eye, the other portrayed a frustrated character who chops off her hair over a basin in order to feel just a little better about herself. The common connect? They both highlight the strong link that exists between your hair and your mental state. Following an emotional upheaval, it's very common to have a strong urge for a major makeover. Avani Yashwin, hairstylist and owner of Bandra-based salon Happy In The Head says, "I've had people come to me after break-ups and divorces, wanting to reclaim a sense of self-identity, while recovering from illnesses or expressing courage after dealing with abuse. In my

experience, hair is definitely intertwined with our mental health." In fact, psychologists suggest that a change in physical characteristics is the easiest way to feel like you're back in charge, especially when you're in a situation when things are largely out of your control. Case in point – the current lockdown.

The Covid-19 outbreak has brought the whole world to a grinding halt – its impact is so vast that most countries are under lockdown or in self-isolation. We're bombarded with bleak and depressing news all day long, and naturally, people are ridden with constant anxiety, worry and even loneliness (thanks, #socialdistancing) right now. So in unprecedented times like these, how do you get by and emote without being able to get to a stylist's chair?



Britney Spears caused quite the stir with her public meltdown in 2007



## UNDERSTANDING THE BOND

For a lot of people, a hairstylist's chair is more comforting than a therapist's couch. "You spend so much time in the chair while you're getting your hair done – you feel pampered and calm. We also try to create an environment where clients feel warm and safe, which leads to a beautiful relationship where people feel comfortable sharing intimate details of their life," explains Yashwin. And this intimate relationship is exclusive and regular. "There's this one girl who flies down all the way from Ahmedabad once in two months to get her roots touched up. It's not even a necessity but more like a ritual of catching up on all things 'life'," says Aanchal Morwani, celebrity hairstylist, Hair Masters Salon.

When I decided to chop off my chest-length hair to a jaw-grazing bob in 2014, the first question my hairstylist asked me was if I'd recently broken up. What seemed like a pervasive question was in fact a cautionary one; stylists routinely see people come in for drastic hair changes to reclaim a sense of control over their lives, only to regret it later and come back crying to their chair. "I always have a thorough consultation with the person to understand where they're coming from. If you desire a metamorphosis to deal with emotional pain, there are a millions ways to achieve it without regretting your decisions, so I make it a point to sit down with my clients and talk them through it," shares Yashwin.

## LOCKS IN LOCKDOWN

At a time when we're battling a deadly virus globally, the state of your strands can seem like a frivolous thing to worry about. But, the idea of fixing your hair represents 'fixing' life, making for a good conversation starter and serving as a refreshing distraction from all that's happening around. It's clear that we love snipping our stress away – like all things DIY, there is an increase in online search volumes for at-home haircuts, colour touch ups, and requests for virtual consultations. Even if it's just to look good for those morning Zoom calls, physical upkeep is helping most of us maintain a sense of normalcy in these rather strange times.

According to a *Reuters* report, Americans are making the most of their stay-at-home time by experimenting with dramatic cuts, knowing that if it doesn't go well, they have "several weeks behind closed doors to grow it back." In the UK, *The Guardian* also reported, buzz cuts are the new craze, with several

footballers like Paul Pogba and Eden Hazard sporting what they called "lockdown locks." Even Jim Carrey is trying to grow out a full, thick beard. Perhaps that's the reason why we're seeing a solid spike in social media quarantine challenges involving hair trimming or shaving beards. "At BBLUNT, we've started a fun #GrowOutChallenge, since this is a great time to grow out your hair and change the shape of your cut. Our co-founder, Avan Contractor, has also taken it up to get the ball rolling," says hairstylist Adhuna Bhabani. You just have to key in #QuarantineHair on Instagram and TikTok to really see what people are doing with their locks through these weeks of isolation.

## NO CUTS IN CRISIS

Emotional outlet aside, Morwani and Yashwin both agree that now's not a good time to dive into the DIY pool. "Unless you're trying to go bald, I wouldn't suggest trimming your hair at home. Just wait it out," suggests Morwani, who has had to deal with her fair share of frantic calls from friends to virtually help fix failed trims. And Bhabani concurs, "It's better to leave certain things to the experts rather than taking matters into your own hands and regretting it later." An at-home job is going to be nearly impossible to fix, and you don't want that to add to your already long list of current worries. But if you absolutely cannot stay away from the clippers, Yashwin advises that you only pick them up if you're confident enough to pull off even your mistakes as a quirky fashion statement. "Whether you're trimming or cutting your own bangs, don't ape your stylist and attempt to cut wet hair as it messes up judgement. Take small sections and start slow."

If you really are looking to fill in your time and find pick-me-ups, focus on styles and care instead. Use this time to finally master that donut bun, or the French braid that you never got to practice. Plenty of stylists are uploading tutorials to help out. Indulge in regular oiling, Google homemade hair pack recipes and as Yashwin advises, try to eat, sleep and hydrate better to develop not just healthy hair but also a healthy mind. "Consider this a good body cleanse and detox," adds Bhabani. "Staying at home gives you a good reason to give your hair a break from heat styling tools and learn to embrace the natural texture of your hair." **LI**

Manchester United star Paul Pogba shares a picture with his family and his newly shaved head



Jennifer Lawrence chops off her locks in joy





# KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

*It's time to raid your cabinets and whip up these expert-approved beauty blends*

Photograph **KEEGAN CRASTO** Words **HENA DESAI**

Let's be honest, we love face masks in all forms – whether they're sheets, pastes or the all-nighter kind. And now here's another addition to that mix – the DIY kind. Since you can't really run to the store to stock up for your next mask fix, it makes sense to try out those beauty recipes that your grandma always told you about. With all that extra time on your hands, raid your kitchen cabinets to whip up a mask that is tailor-made to suit your needs, addressing every concern in the gentlest and most natural way. The best part? They're good enough to give those salon facials a run for their money.







### DETOX MASK

**ARTI NAYAR,**  
CELEBRITY MAKE-UP ARTIST

*"I picked this one up from my grandmother. It helps in deep cleansing and eliminating dullness that's mainly caused by harsh environmental stressors."*

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup grated potato
- 1 tbsp gram flour (besan)
- 1 tbsp milk
- 1 tbsp rose water

Mix into a smooth paste and leave it on for 20 minutes before washing it off with cold water. The ingredients are great for lightening pigmentation, evening skin tone and brightening the face.

### ANTI-AGEING GLOW BOOSTER

**KIRAN SETHI,**  
DERMATOLOGIST,  
WELLNESS EXPERT  
AND OWNER OF  
ISYA AESTHETICS

*"This recipe is chock full of natural AHA's, which helps increase cell turnover, improves hydration, and lightens pigmentation, especially in older or damaged skin, to reveal a fresh glow."*

#### INGREDIENTS:

- Yogurt or butter milk
- Tomato juice
- Granulated sugar
- Pulp of plums

Once you put on the mask, gently rub using circular motions to exfoliate the skin. The ingredients contain a host of natural acids – from AHAs to glycolic acids – which work to get rid of rough, lacklustre cells and small bumps to give you super-smooth, tight skin.



### SOOTHING REMEDY

**JAMUNA PAI,** AESTHETIC  
PHYSICIAN AND FOUNDER, SKINLAB

*"Home remedies are great skin sootheners. This one works especially well for oily skin."*

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp Fuller's earth
- 1 tbsp milk powder
- ½ tbsp lemon juice
- ¼ aspirin tablet (crushed)
- ½ tbsp granulated sugar

Mix into a paste, leave it on for 20 minutes and wash off gently. The clay will pull out excess sebum and impurities from your pores, the gritty texture of the sugar granules will exfoliate them, and aspirin will dry out any active acne from the face to give you an oil-free, matte look.



### PURIFYING PASTE

**NAMRATA SONI,**  
MAKE-UP ARTIST AND  
EDUCATOR

*"This simple recipe eliminates impurities in the skin, giving your face the glow-up it deserves."*

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2-3 tbsp red chandan powder
- 2-3 tbsp distilled rose water

Make a paste that's not too thick or watery. It's good enough to apply on the face as well as the body; leave it on for 30 minutes for cleansed, radiant skin.



### ANTI-BACTERIAL CLEANSER

**JHELUM BISWAS BOSE,**  
BEAUTY WRITER AND AUTHOR,  
PHOOLPROOF

*"I love using oil – this versatile ingredient can be used for everything, from cleansing to hydrating. It also works well for your hair and body."*

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tbsp turmeric
- 1 tbsp coconut oil

It takes only 5-10 minutes to work its cleansing magic on your face. While honey and coconut oil are natural moisture magnets, turmeric is the best antibacterial agent that works to purify and protect the skin against aggressors. **KL**



# IN FO CU S

**COLSTON**  
**julian**

*"I shot this inside a beautiful home in Bandra. I love the simplicity of the image; it has a sense of calm to it. I enjoy my time in solitude as I am always on the go, which is why I'm not complaining about this period of self-isolation. The downside, however, is that I can't roam the neighbourhood now to take pictures."*

*As we find ourselves isolated with loved ones because of the coronavirus pandemic, tensions can run a bit high, and finding joy in moments of panic becomes harder each day. So, we decided to enlist the help of some of the country's best photographers who, willingly, dug into their archives and pulled out images that reflect the times*







## **PORUS** **vimadala**

*"This still life image encapsulates my current life in self-isolation. A set daily routine helps me feel anchored to normalcy and engaging in creative activities makes this time productive. Revisiting images from my archives, baking a cake for the first time, practicing self-care with massage tools, afternoon cups of tea, to nurturing our orchid plant and waiting eagerly for it to bloom when warmer days arrive."*

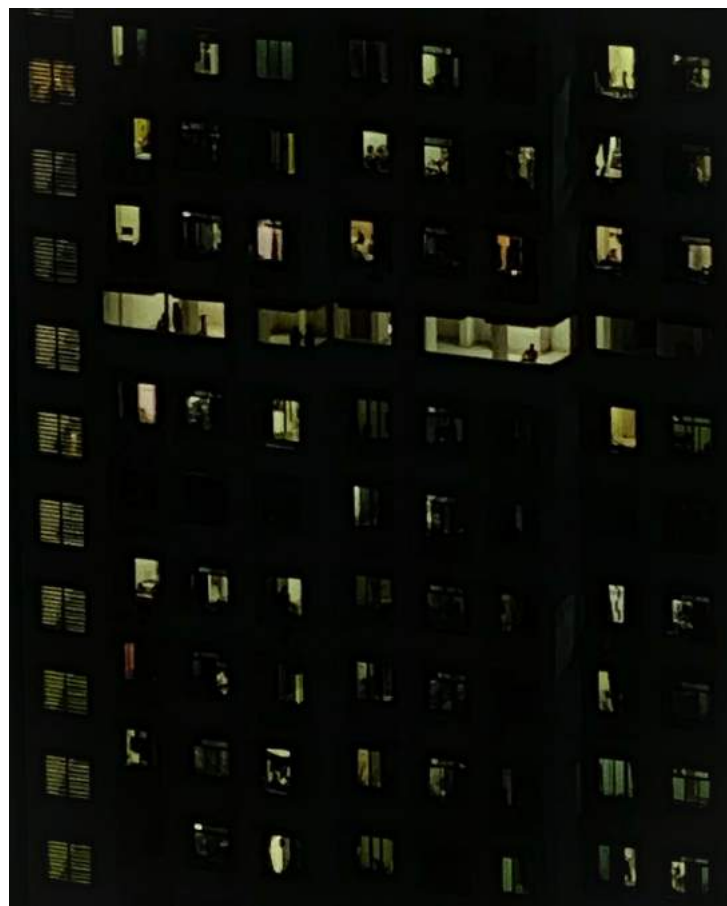
## **HASHIM** **badani**

*"My neighbour thumps upstairs with a restructured walk. Room to end of room to balcony railing, swerve at kitchen, cut back to room and continue. Birds in the mornings and crickets at night. Are they back? Were they always around? Secret egg sellers have popped up and eggs are laid, relayed, delayed and mislaid under the dark of masks and the spritz of sanitisers in building societies.*

*Netflix announces itself like a heart attack and I see images of people crowded in small spaces and feel a sense of dread. I hope this leaves me soon. The new sounds include the chime of video calls within which are familiar sounds. Of pressure cookers and partners, the muffled background noises of living. The sound of Pril, a pop, a squeeze, a pretty green chemical bubble released and clang and chaos – utensils washed with a certain drama. Clanging plates have now become historic metaphors, I suppose.*

*The faraway sounds of other people's songs drift in and out of evenings and there's a sense of hope – someone's making a good time of it. And there is, cornily enough, the sound of silence – whirring fans, rustled sheets, creaking chairs, a flipped page, an itch scratched, cats whispering past legs and someone flapping out a large sheet to dry like a giant flag of peace."*

(Words: Meera Ganapathi Ayappa)





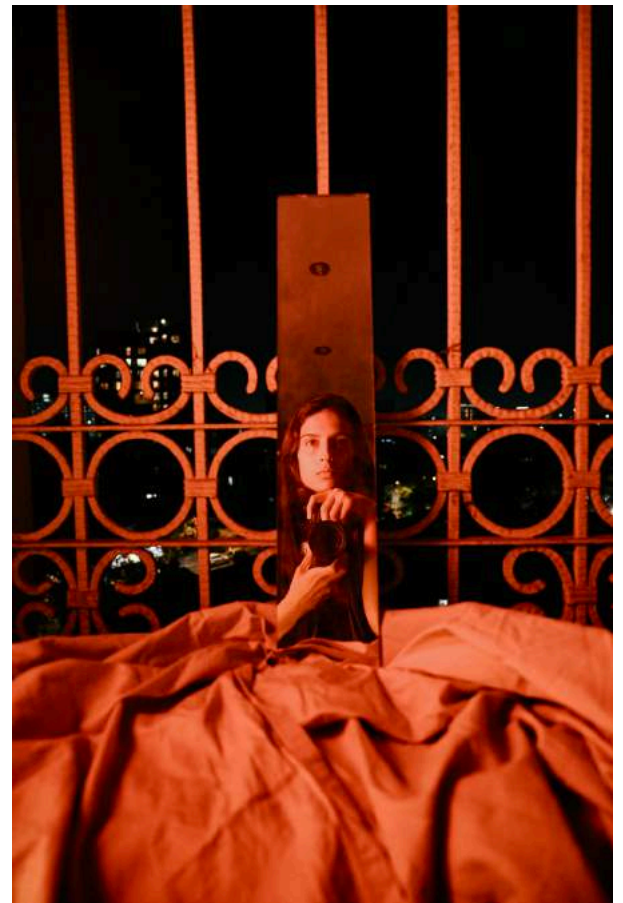


## TENZING dakpa

*"This photograph is from my photo-book, titled *The Hotel* (Steidl, 2020), and the process of making the pictures was motivated by a certain kind of boredom and negotiating feelings of migration and detachment, which one feels after returning to a home where one grew up and left for personal/professional opportunities. Here, my father tends to his rooftop garden in Gangtok, Sikkim. He is standing behind a flowerpot that's suspended from wires. From where I was standing, I was hoping that he would move. But he wouldn't, and I finally gave in to making this picture."*

## AVANI rai

*"We underestimate life because there is so much to see and experience outside. But when we're alone by ourselves, there are infinite ways we experience ourselves, and as photographers we are able to document that. Quarantining does not limit, but opens up another world...that of our own."*



## VIKAS vasudev

*"In these strange and uncertain times, this period of self-isolation has given me a moment to pause, take a deep breath and dream."*







## SUNHIL sippy

*"I made this image about a month ago on 35mm analog film while I was on my way to a photography workshop in Oaxaca, Mexico. It was an unusual situation where I boarded a flight that was intended for Oaxaca but ended up in a small town called Tuxtla Gutiérrez. I had to stay overnight before flying back to Mexico City and reconnecting to Oaxaca, and so I checked into a nondescript motel somewhere in town. This image captured that state of mind. Many of us may lack privacy and may feel claustrophobic at this time. Others may feel alone and isolated. At the end of the day, we are all trapped in our homes from the inside, looking out."*

## MANASI sawant

*"Navigating a lockdown with a toddler can be confusing. She's at a stage where she's very curious and wants to go out a lot. We miss our evenings in the park, but I'm grateful that we are safe, indoors and finding different ways to entertain ourselves. Here's a moment I managed to capture as my three babies lay still and there was a moment of calm."*



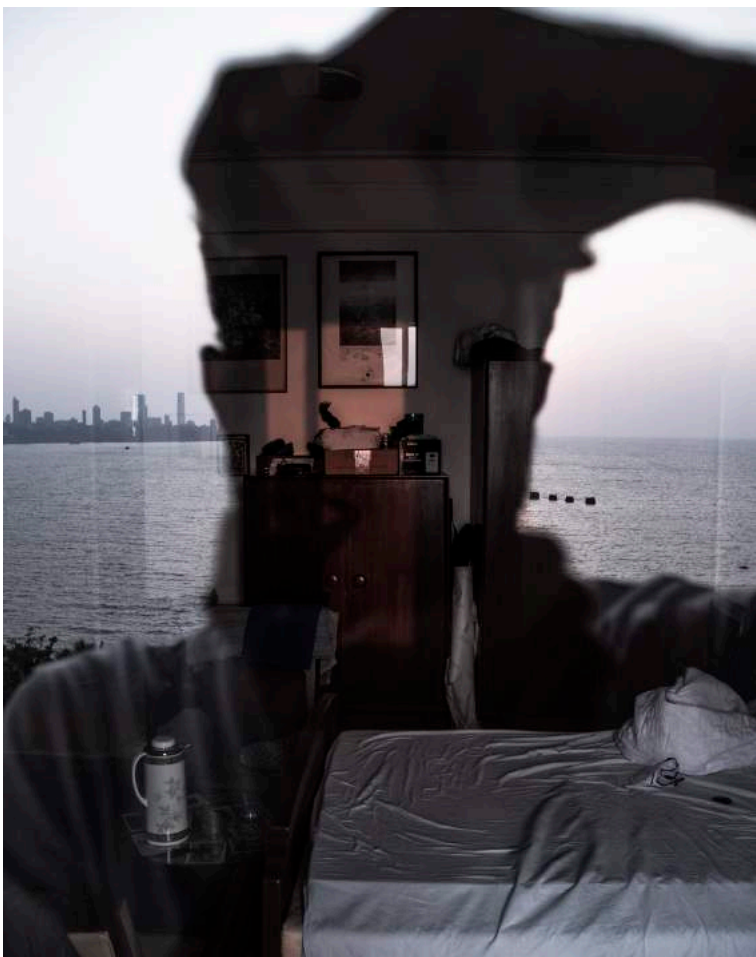
## ROHAN hande

*"Self-isolation isn't completely new to me. I have been living alone in this apartment for almost five years. When I look around, I see books and lighters left behind, painted walls, gifted plants, postcards and photographs. Each of them linked to a memory – a reminder of how each person has shaped my home, and me, ever since I moved in."*



## FARHAN hussain

*"Port of Aarhus, back in a time when isolation wasn't what the world needed, but it chose to have. Let us all remember this as we move into an uncertain future with the hope of being able to treasure the idea of isolation like we used to. Live slow, let go."*



## SUSHANT chhabria

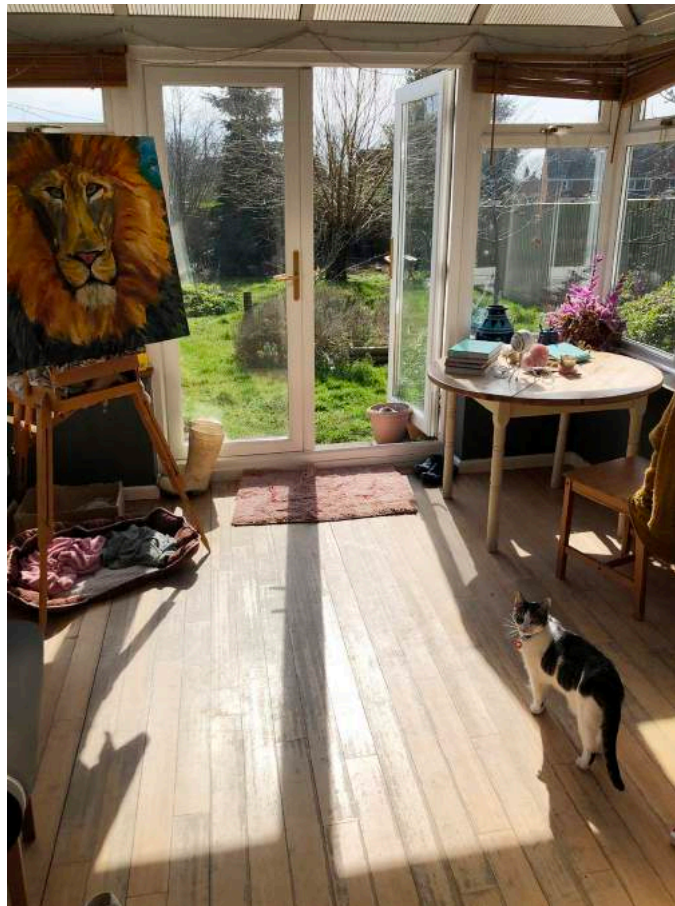
*"Row row row your boat, gently down the stream.  
Merrily merrily merrily merrily, life is but a dream"*



## VIRAJ nayar

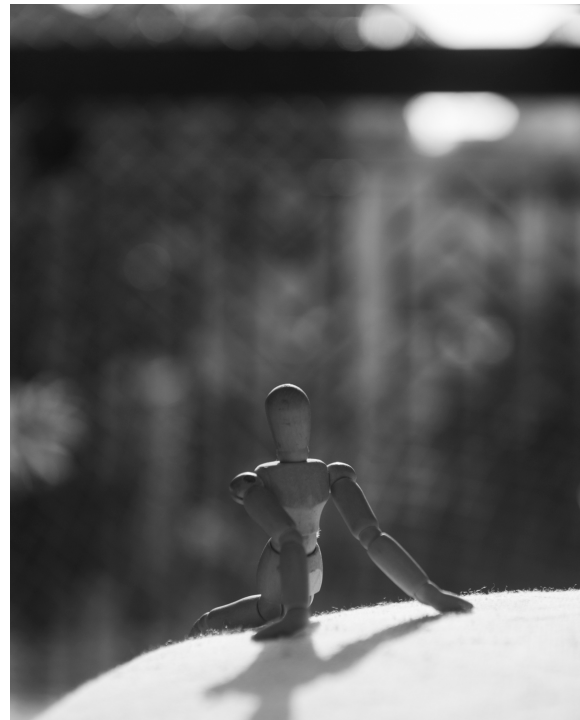
*"The quarantine has forced me to look inwards. It has shifted my gaze from the streets and faces of strangers, to myself and my family. This recalibration of my vision is voiced in my most personal series yet, 'Outside In'. I took this photograph on my balcony as the sun was setting on another abandoned day. When I turned to look inside my room, I momentarily felt disoriented by what was real and what was a reflection, and felt stuck somewhere in between."*





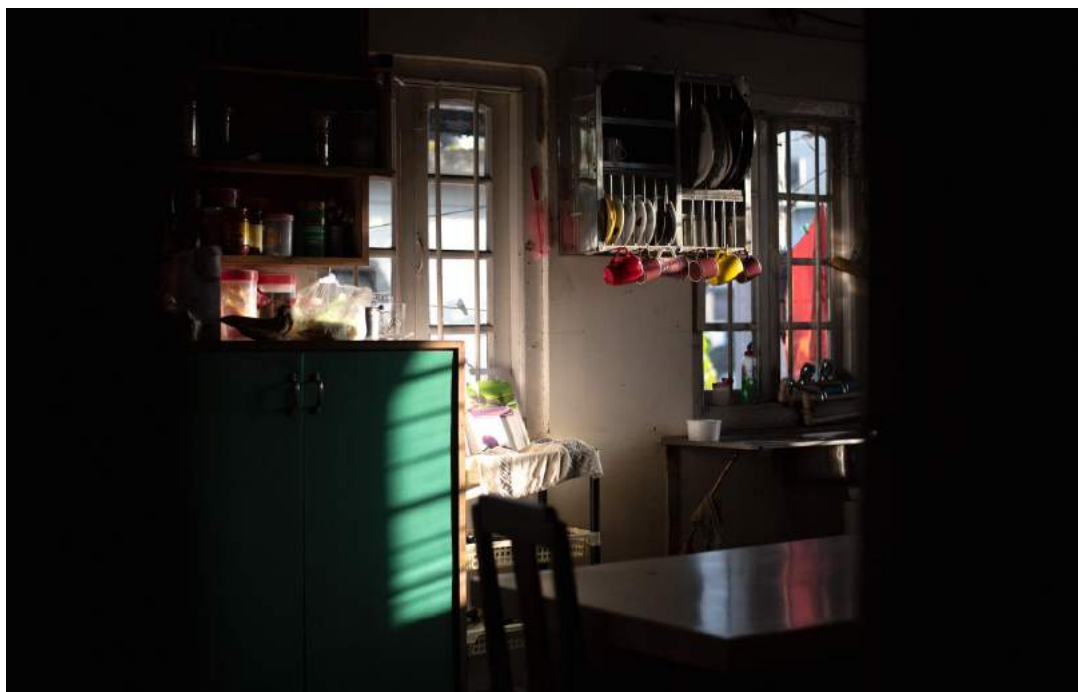
## VIKRAM kushwah

*"During these otherwise difficult times, the weather in England has been a saving grace. And oblivious to what's been happening in the outside world, my pets are having a field day as they get so much attention (because humans are staying at home)."*



## KARAN kumar sachdev

*"Home. Rediscovering it."*



## ANURAG banerjee

*"The only movement seems to be that of the sun through the house."* 



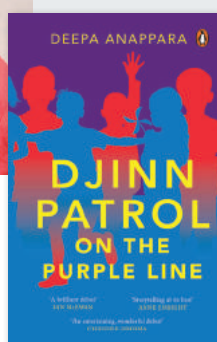
# MONTH IN MONTH OUT

MOVIES, ART, BOOKS, AND MORE, HERE ARE OUR TOP PICKS OF THINGS THAT GOT US TALKING THIS MONTH



## ON THE HUNT

*A crime-show-watching youth recruits his friends to track down a missing schoolmate*



Sometimes in a novel, a character is barely outlined by their creators; instead, it's their singular voice that gives them their life and complexity. So is the case with Jai, a nine-year-old boy who's the narrator and main character of Deepa Anappara's debut novel, *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line* (published by Penguin India). In the same tone as a *Famous Five* or *Nancy Drew* mystery, where children play detective, Jai and his crew (Pari and Faiz) decide to use their crime-solving skills to find a boy at school who goes missing. But kids continue to vanish, and the trio must confront terrified parents, an indifferent police force and soul-snatching djinns in order to uncover the truth. Here, Anappara talks to us about the inspiration behind the book.

**GRAZIA:** Was it an alarming statistic on child abductions or a particular incident that prompted you to write this novel?

**DEEPA ANAPPARA:** It was not a particular incident but several stories about the disappearances of children that I had heard, or read about, that prompted the idea for the novel. I was certainly aware that a huge number of children go missing in India each day (one estimate puts this number at 180), and that parents – particularly if they are from impoverished backgrounds – don't get any help from the police or other institutions of the state. In news reports about these disappearances, the voices of the

children themselves were missing. I wanted to centre their experiences, and put them at the heart of the story.

**G:** Why do you think Jai's viewpoint makes a familiar situation unfamiliar?

**DA:** A child looks at the world differently from an adult, and they often have their own unique way of understanding the events unfolding around them. Writing this story from nine-year-old Jai's point of view meant inhabiting his worldview, and focusing on what he is interested in: From his vantage point, which is vertically different from that of a grown-up, he sees what an adult might not be interested in, or may overlook. His observations are his alone, and dissimilar to how an adult or even another child might see the world.

**G:** Do you think there's a risk involved in writing about poverty?

**DA:** Writing from Jai's point of view, and focusing on his interests and observations, was a way to avoid the pitfalls of writing about poverty; there is a danger of romanticising the subject, or going the other way and reducing people to their difficult circumstances. Jai resists such an easy categorisation. He has strong opinions and isn't afraid to express them.

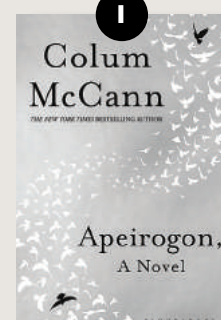
**G:** The trio show resilience in trying to solve the mystery, refusing to be passive. Is this where hope stems from for you?

**DA:** Jai's attempt to find the missing children is certainly an act of defiance; he is claiming for himself the agency that he doesn't have. Ultimately, it is also a novel about the stories we tell ourselves, and how these stories can offer us hope, comfort us or even fail us.

### On the Bookshelf

**Apeirogon**  
Colum McCann  
Bloomsbury

Based on the true-life friendship of two men whose daughters were killed in the Middle East, this novel buoys the heart.

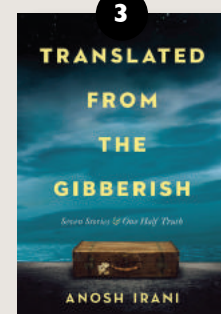


**Here We Are**  
Simon & Schuster  
Graham Swift

Rich, comic, alive and subtly devastating, the novel is a masterly piece of literary magicianship which pulls back the curtain on the human condition.

**Translated from the Gibberish**  
Penguin  
Anosh Irani

Part short fiction and, seemingly, part autofiction, it takes readers into and around the experiences of living between countries – Canada and India – between identities, and between stories.





# PRESS PLAY

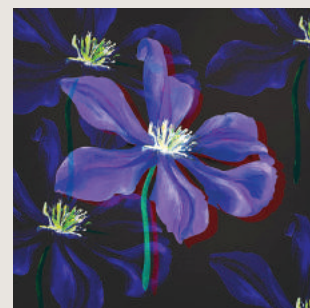
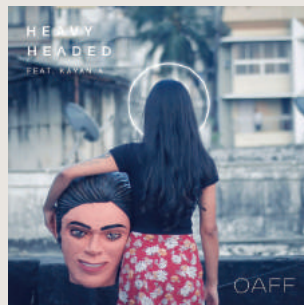
*The tunes that deserve a place in your playlist*



## Disclosure, *Ecstasy*

The infectious house track is mostly an instrumental dance song with singer Gloria Jone's throat-y belt of the titular refrain peppered throughout.

**Oaff feat. Kayan.A, Heavy Headed**  
This bittersweet offering packages longing as a warm, fuzzy feeling, delivered over accessible song structures and catchy choruses.



## Ramya Pothuri, *Summer*

This delicate R&B swing track is a complete 180 by Pothuri, whose previous body of work has been more towards melancholic acoustic tunes.

# Take TWO

*Another round of laughter, friendship and sex, please*



**B**old, relatable and incredibly fun, Amazon Prime Video's *Four More Shots Please!* managed to become a guilty pleasure for women of all ages across the country. But what really drew us to the show were the lead characters — four distinct women played by Kirti Kulhari, Bani J, Sayani Gupta and Maanvi Gargroo. With season two just around the corner, the lead cast of the show is all set to introduce us to new adventures and developments.

**GRAZIA:** What are some of the stereotypes that the show actively sought to debase? How will season 2 take this to the next level?

**KIRTI KULHARI:** Season one dealt with various stereotypes such as homosexuality, body shaming, being a single mother, fighting for your beliefs and other sub issues. Season two has introduced newer issues. For instance, my character deals with an extra-marital affair.

**SAYANI GUPTA:** For the first time,

an Indian show or film is giving women the room to completely, unapologetically be themselves. That shatters all kinds of stereotypes.

**G:** What exciting new developments can fans expect from the new season?

**MAANVI GARGROO:** In terms of the story, you've already seen the characters and have picked your favourites. Now, expect to go deeper into their lives. You'll either root for them or argue their stand, but you will nonetheless talk about them.

**BANI J:** Also, new lovers, impending heart breaks, solo journeys, new discoveries, and exciting outdoor shoots.

**G:** We hear a lesbian wedding is on the cards. Could you tell us a bit about that?

**KK:** Yes! There is a wedding that is happening in season two and it is one of the big highlights of the show. We had such a wonderful time shooting for it in Udaipur, it felt like we were at a friend's wedding.

**G:** What's one thing you would want viewers to absorb from this show?

**KK:** I think I would want viewers to know that it's okay to make mistakes.

**SG:** I just want everyone to have a great time watching it and be entertained, but also to feel love.

**MG:** I want viewers to view the show as it is, not as they want it to be.

**BJ:** I want people to be kind, laugh as much as possible, and maybe not drink as much as us (laughs). **||**



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GRAZIA