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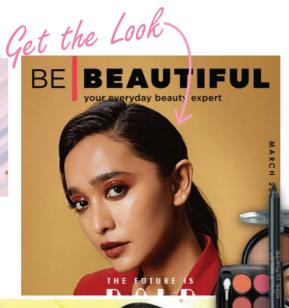
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THE ULTIMATE FESTIVE GUIDE TO GLOWING SKIN

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ALL THINGS

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HAIR



BEST LIGHTWEIGHT SKINCARE PRODUCTS FOR GIRLS WITH OILY SKIN

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3 HAIRSTYLES USING A HEADBAND



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A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO DO A FACIAL AT HOME

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STAR STALK

5 FESTIVE MAKEUP LOOKS FOR BEAUTY MINIMALISTS

MAKEUP



BOBBY PIN HACKS EVERY GIRL SHOULD KNOW

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HOW TO NOT LOOK SHINY IN YOUR FESTIVE SELFIES

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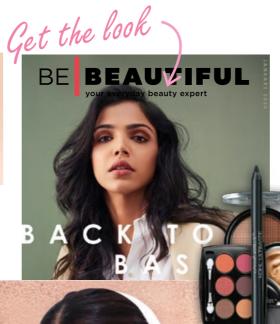






HOW TO MAKE THE TIKTOK-INSPIRED DIY TINTED MOISTURISER

SKIN





STAR STALK

GLAM UP FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON WITH THESE LOOKS

MAKEUP



WANT TO EXPERIMENT WITH A PASTEL HAIR COLOUR? READ THIS FIRST

HAIR



BEAUTY TIPS TO GET OVER THAT DIWALI SUGAR BINGE

SKIN



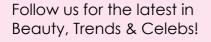
WATCH TUTORIALS



3 PONYTAIL HAIRSTYLES



FOUNDATION DOS AND DON'TS











Europe's No 1 Style Magazine

GRAZIA NOVEMBER 2020 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 8



NEWS

22 10 HOT STORIES

This month, we're turning the spotlight on fuzzy cardigans for days when you still want to look cute, fuelling our obsession with all things shiny, getting acquainted with Emma Corrin, the breakout star of The Crown, and more.

FEATURES

SHE'S GOT HER OWN

Neha Dhupia gets candid about motherhood, the need for personal growth, and body positivity.

46 PIECE OF HOME

Away from their motherland, these creatives are adapting traditions for pared-down celebrations at home.

MODERN LOVE

Three interfaith couples talk love, marriage, and imbibing the best of both cultures.

54 TO BOMBAY, WITH LOVE

Author and poet Karuna Ezara Parikh pays ode to modern love, and the city by the sea.

THAT FESTIVE FEELING



ON THE GRAZIA COVER

NEHA DHUPIA is wearing a satin camisole dress, Zara; mirror, thread and metal embroidered jacket, Saaksha & Kinni; 'Lounge' hoop earrings, Misho x Bhaane, hand-painted bangle, Azga

> **PHOTOGRAPHS** Rohan Shrestha FASHION DIRECTOR Pasham Alwani HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Mitesh Rajani at Feat Artists

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FASHION

- **16** FASHION CHARTS
- 65 FASHION OPENER
- **66 SUPREME SIDES**

The ultimate accessories edit for all the coming seasons.

- 78 (UN)USUAL SUSPECTS
- 88 ON THE STYLE RADAR
- 90 JUST ONE THING
- 91 EASY CHIC
- 92 THE WAY WE WEAR
- 93 CHICONOMICS
- 94 LOVE LOVE LOVE

BEAUTY & HEALTH

- **20 BEAUTY CHARTS**
- 95 BEAUTY OPENER
- 96 BRIGHT SPARK

Here's how to make metallics wearable for the festive season.

108 MAKE-UP SHAKE-UP

Experts divulge their top tricks for perfecting your make-up game.

- **111 SAVE SPLURGE**
- 112 BEAUTY REPORTER
- 114 TREND ON TRIAL
- 115 LOVE LOVE LOVE

LIVING & LEISURE

116 SWEET SPOT

Celebrate all that is nostalgic and traditional about *mithai*.

- 119 BIG BYTE
- 120 THAT'S A WRAP
- **124 FLOWER POWER**

Expert tips and tricks to make your own stunning centerpieces.

- 127 SHOPPING GUIDE
- **128 MONTH IN MONTH OUT**

Our top picks of things that got us talking this month.

130 GET IT BEFORE IT GOES













From the EDITOR'S DESK



omehow, there seems to be a greater sentiment of hope in the air. Maybe it's just the reflected glimmer from the upcoming festive season but at least it's something to feel good about, after months of uncertainty and downright despair. Our November issue picks up from here – from celebrating Diwali away from home, to how the rest of the country is dealing with pared-down celebrations on the streets outside, there's also cheer in the form of Diwali sweets, lights, flowers, and some soothing gift-wrapping.

On our cover this month is the vibrant Neha Dhupia, who talks to us about motherhood and not taking on the pressure to drop the pounds post her baby; she's focussed on her personal growth, but at the same time backs her decision to slow down and prioritise her new role as a parent. And we've got more for you – filmdom's bright new star Alaya F, our all-rounder and latest

OTT star Masaba Gupta, and the talented young actor Radhika Madan get into the spirit of all things festive by experimenting with metallic make-up.

And finally, a beautiful ode to the city of dreams and modern relationships – shot on the empty streets of Mumbai, a rarity that just had to be captured before the city opened up.

ernaaz

Piece of Home





Mehernaaz

0

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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.



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EASHION CHARLS Your best buys in stores right now

2

RUCHED SKIRT, GANNI AT WWW.SHOPBOP.COM, $\mathbf{\xi}$ 10,355 APPROX

A favourite among fashion folk – the leopard print is fierce, unapologetic, and not for the faint-hearted. Go allout rock 'n' roll with this ruched skirt. Add a leather jacket, ankle boots, and an IDGAF attitude, even if you have nowhere to go.

EMBROIDERED CORDUROY JACKET, UNTITLED CO, ₹ 25,000

We may have just found the trucker jacket of our dreams. As the temperature dips, this is the ideal extra to throw on over your #OOTDs for the 'gram.

3

BLOCK HEELS, THE CAI STORE, ₹ 2,599

These ochre sandals tick all the right boxes for your back-to-work wardrobe: A muted tone, low block heel, and trending skinny straps. We suggest getting a chalky pastel pedi to contrast for max impact.

5

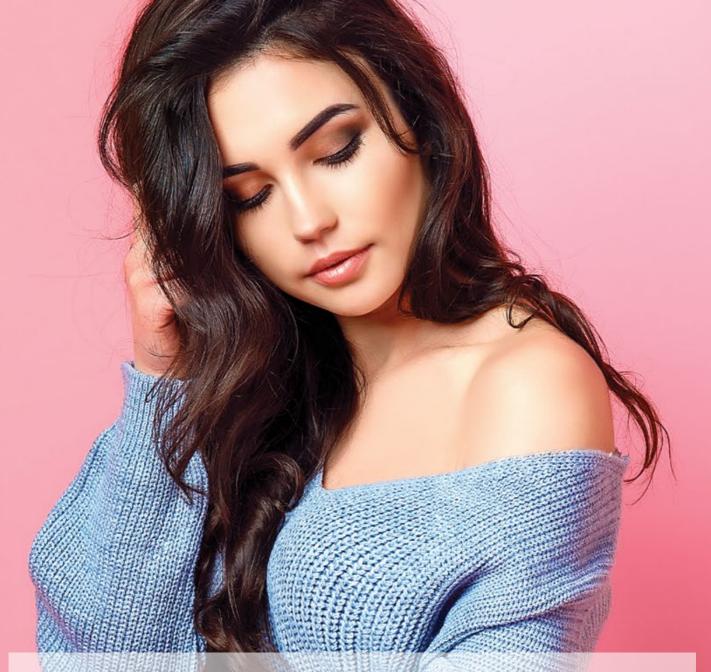
CHARM NECKLACE, DIOR, PRICE ON REQUEST

Charm jewellery is back in a big way and we're here for it. Gold hardware + charms reminiscent of sunny beach days are a perfect mood-lifter for when you're cooped up at home.



LACE ORGANZA BLOUSE, MANISH ARORA, ₹ 23,790

Swap your oversized and worn out Tees for this delicate, embroidered blouse instead. From work to play and everything in between – this is sure to be a winner in your closet.



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GRAZIA | FASHION



6

ALLOY EARRINGS, TRIBE AMRAPALI, ₹ 4,905

For days you're inundated with endless Zoom calls and virtual celebrations during the festive season and really don't want to dress up. this pair of statement earrings will do all the work for you.

JACQUARD HANDBAG, LOUIS VUITTON, PRICE ON REQUEST

Nicolas Ghesquière's latest offering for the maison – the 'Since 1854' collection – brims with nostalgia, paying homage to the year the house was born. Handheld or worn cross-body, this monogrammed boxy tote is one of those 'forever pieces' worth investing in.



Dressed up or dressed down – a classic LBD can do no wrong. Channel your inner Audrey Hepburn and accessorise with OTM freshwater pearls and a classic top knot.



HAIR BOW, SO FETCH X ESSGEE, ₹ 1,299

A nod to sustainability, this collab turns surplus fabric, that would have otherwise been discarded, into fun hair accessories. We're using ours in a slick low ponytail style, what about you?



DRAPED DRESS, BIBHU MOHAPATRA, PRICE ON REQUEST

This sari-dress hybrid has your festive dressing woes covered. Comfy, versatile, and ultra-chic – all you need is some traditional jewellery to complete the look.





NEW WAY FORWARD

iddhima Jain, Founder of The Midas Touch, started off her brand as an attempt to try her hand at something different and creative. What started off as a gifting solution brand has today become a full-fledged events company. However, with the pandemic playing spoilsport, Riddhima decided to switch things up with a new experiment of sorts. Her new concept, the curation of a 'Breakfast in Bed', provides a

more special because it is tailormade for occasions that call for celebration. Here's how it works: The brand prepares a lavish breakfast based on clients' food preferences, type of occasion, and city they miss the most or were meant to be travelling to. Every detail is customised along with a picture, mini menu, flowers, and balloons which are then delivered to their doorstep. The brand also

> customises 'High Tea' or 'Midnight Binge in Bed' specifically for someone who's not a morning person.

Riddhima adds, "We believe in creating an experience to create special moments in the comfort of your home.'







Chruti Kukreja is a leading Omake-up artist in the industry, who started her career by joining Scandinavian Makeup Academy, Europe and emerged as a pioneer in the world of make-up and fashion industry. With a diverse knowledge about beauty and make-up, Shruti has worked in Barcelona for multiple European

and now Indian clients. Shruti has now decided to share her knowledge and provide a platform to the newcomers to teach and advance the skills of make-up arts. Shruti opened Shruti Kukreja Makeup Institute (SKMI) in Delhi, offering a wide range of basic courses for beginners to advanced professional courses.



HOUSE OF TUHINA: THE WEAVING TOGETHER OF INDIAN HERITAGE AND FASHION

House of Tuhina: The weaving together of Indian heritage and fashion



REDEFINING **FASHION**

mbika Puri Malhotra, Founder at The Style Closet, is a PR professional turned jewellery enthusiast who believes in redefining fashion in the most luxurious and affordable way. Her collection of costume jewellery is a combination of western jewels and traditional polkis, along with her newly launched luxury collection of diamonds and *polki* statement pieces worn by the cream of Delhi.

duhina Goyal, the creator of House of Tuhina, hails from a family of doctors. She walked the untried path and pursued her career in textile apparel design from NID. Her deep passion for jewellery and her quest for discovering the cultural diversity of India's arts and craft was the driving force behind her foray into the world of accessories. The ability to create stunning pieces of jewellery was always a desire in her. Her designs were greatly appreciated at Amazon Fashion Week, Lakmé Fashion Week as well as other events.

Tuhina adds: "It's the beauty and distinctive creativity that led to the creation of the brand". She has drawn inspiration from everything beautiful that Indian design has to offer. The world

is yet to discover the immense power of Indian design.

House of Tuhina believes in creating a new workforce by training ladies into fine artists and equipping them with the craft. Our prime goal is to create extraordinary designs, while empowering women and raising their life standards.



GRAZIA | BEAUTY

BBAUS CHARS Skincare and make-up on our radar right now

CALVIN KLEIN CK EVERYONE,₹ 3,500

This cool, gender-neutral perfume features fresh, citrusy notes of orange blended with musky base notes of cedarwood. That's not all – this environmentally-conscious fragrance is vegan and made of 79 per cent naturally-derived ingredients.



2



GUERLAIN ABEILLE ROYALE MATTIFYING DAY CREAM,₹ 12,860

With honey sourced from the French islands, this luxurious, lightweight cream will hydrate your skin and boost firmness, while controlling excess sebum production. What this means is that even oily skin types can use it without worrying about any greasiness.

3

RUBY'S ORGANICS QUICK-SET LIQUID EYESHADOW,

Your search for a super-pigmented formula that's also clean, conscious and good for your skin ends here. These fast-drying, metallic shadows are not only crease and smudge-proof, but also come sans synthetic



THE BODY SHOP COCONUT BRONZE RANGE, ₹ 2,139 ONWARDS

Fake it till you make it – or in this case, till you can go outside. If you're missing that golden glow from the sun on your body, then this range of shimmering body oils, bronzing powders, tan lotions and more will come to your rescue.



O.P.I. PEAR

O.P.I NEO-PEARL COLLECTION, ₹ 850 EACH

There's no such thing as too many nail paints — and it's especially hard to resist them if they come in cool, luminous, pearly tones. These are modern, minimalist and chip-resistant, perfect for a five-minute festive fix.

5



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10 HOT STORIES EVERYONE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT



ashion week has always been an action-packed period – an opportunity to sit up close and soak in the designs that are set to define style in the months ahead. I miss the dimming of the lights, the rising of the tempo as fellow show-goers fervently crane their necks towards the runway waiting to see what's in store. But even in the chaotic midst of a pandemic, designers aren't deterred. The grand spectacle of a physical show has been substituted with breathtaking fashion films and presentations that highlight fashion's inherent ability to keep up with the changing times. And considering our redefined lifestyles, the focus has shifted towards practicality, with sustainability and attention to craft at an all-time high.

THE MODERN BRIDE

Master of innovation, Tarun Tahiliani can be credited for imbuing traditional techniques with a modern outlook. His latest collection, titled 'The Age of Innocence', showcased his take on bridal couture. With smaller guestlists and low-key celebrations becoming the new normal, weddings aren't like they were before. And Tahiliani couldn't have found a better opportunity to create light and comfortable bridal-wear, case in point: A lehenga with pockets. With resplendent brocades, hidden minakari work, and reiterations of the age-old royal jamevaar technique, the collection was a paragon of unbridled luxury, created for the pleasure of the wearer and not just the audience.

FLOWER CHILD

The ongoing period of isolation has urged many of us to introspect and reflect. Archana Rao's dreamy 'Wildflower' collection told the tale of personal growth and inner metamorphosis – a transformation from the delicate to the bold. The designer's trademark wispy garments came to the fore via buttery organza blouses with dainty pearl collars that transitioned into khaki trench coats with scallop detailing. Rao was mindful of her process – all the tulle pieces were designed using leftover fabric, and the embroidered pressed flowers were created using scraps of fabric in different colours, all in an attempt to emphasise the requisite for recycling and upcycling in the current climate.



Words TANYA MEHTA



THE BIG DAY

In the current reality, many couples who have always envisioned a big fat Indian wedding are in for disappointment. As the name suggests, Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna's collection, 'Parallax', was based on hope, positivity and aspirations for a happy future. With bridalwear at its core, the duo used their signature metallic embroidery on sensual silhouettes, apt for the new-age bride. Draped with silk organza and mesh, they incorporated fringing to exude a dramatic flair, translating it onto jackets and floor-length gowns — a befitting choice for opulent celebrations of the future.



There probably isn't a better time for us to be one with nature. Drawing inspiration from the aquatic, designer Vaishali S created a breathtaking collection of designs that rendered the intricacy and surrealism of corals. Through corded *chanderi* braids, that have become synonymous with her body of work, she mimicked the fluid, diaphanous curves and the arterial structure of marine life through sculpted jackets and pleated trousers that appeared to be both delicate and strong – a

reminder of the etherealness of mother nature.





UTOPIA

What could be more uplifting than the prospect of a new world? Shantanu & Nikhil's 'The Declaration 2034' took us on a glorious odyssey to a reality where gender fluidity, equality, right to privacy, and evolved consciousness become basic fundamental rights. In a harmonious narrative of science and conscience, the collection was a futuristic spin on the new scaffolds of society and the referendum of neo-governance. Strong military influences, embroidered insignia, and tough utilitarian detailing came to the fore in dynamic shades of forest green and royal navy with a pop of fuchsia – giving uniform dressing a new meaning.

IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE

To put it simply, Gauri & Nainika's latest offering seemed like a bittersweet tribute to the lost art of getting dressed up. The red carpet aficionados, who are known for their dreamy gowns and uberfeminine dresses, presented an array of pencil dresses, wrap dresses, and shirt dresses in gossamer crepe and chiffon, bearing Victorian-inspired florals and soft Dutch-inspired delft prints. Channeling old Hollywood glamour, the garments featured handpainted polka dots, while vintage velvet roses were speckled on poufy tulles and tea-skirts, evoking feelings of nostalgia and romance.



BACK TO BASICS

With most of us living in sweatpants – athleisure has become the need of the hour, and Namrata Joshipura has always treated it with a glamorous spin. For this collection, she re-visited her popular core pieces that harp on comfort. We saw the embellished cycling shorts-and-blazer combination, ruffled chambray skirts paired with crop tops, and matching visors featuring her quintessential bead work as well her sought-after gowns and slip dresses. Ideal for a post-pandemic wardrobe, or small-scale socialising, Joshipura transported us to the good ol' nights of revelry.



Through a narrative tinged with both melancholy and joy, Rajesh Pratap Singh's 'Fall. ing. 2020' collection was symbolic of the pandemic's effect on the fashion industry. In a gritty fashion film, models meandered through a garden filled with air cylinders (the cylinders were representative of the karigars as they've proved to be the life force and backbone of any brand.) The line-up featured the designer's trademark whites and his iconic pin tucks and pleating techniques on pared-down asymmetrical dresses. It soon transitioned into citrus shades of yellow and green interspersed with grey, as seen on tailored silksatin jackets and dhoti trousers. In a celebratory conclusion, we saw a riot of pastel hues with an extensive use of hand-blocking techniques and glass cotton proprietary weaves - all smattered with gold accents. Pratap also converted the cylinders into dolls, which are available for sale with part of the proceeds committed to a CSR foundation for supporting displaced craftsmen.

CLOTHES OF TODAY

Designer Akshat Bansal, the brain behind Bloni – an ethical luxury label renowned for creating contemporary clothing via sustainable processes - once again proved that he's a true green warrior with his latest collection, 'Allogamy'. Created using cross-breeding regenerated marine plastic waste, the designer deftly merged a hyper-futuristic aesthetic with a vintage viewpoint. In a melee of reflective fabrics, tweeds, faux leather, and laser-cut foil jerseys, he showed tiered mini dresses, neutral suiting and even a sheer sari – all with the intention to deliver a vision structured around the concept of crosspollination and hybrid identity culture.









2

COMEBACK KID

An essential in every 90s fashion starter kit — the humble shoulder bag has returned







t's no secret that fashion is cyclical with trends of bygone years typically reappearing on catwalks and in our lives, ever so often. With Prada's recently re-issued 'Nylon' shoulder bag, along with the Dior 'Saddle' and Fendi 'Baguette' revivals – and most recently Gucci's iconic 'Jackie', all still creating waves, there's no better time than the present to sift through your closet (or your mum's) to find a vintage shoulder handbag. Yep, you read that right: We're putting away our oversized holdalls and totes for smaller-sized purses that can be tucked safely under the arm and worn close to the body with a short shoulder strap or even in a longer style, thanks to adjustable straps that can be fastened. Unlike the Instagram-friendly, teeny-tiny mini bag, this 90s staple can actually hold all your essentials, while allowing you to go





'Saddle' bag,

Dior, price on request

'Twist' handbag,

Louis Vuitton, price on request

Zebra print shoulder bag, Zara, ₹ 3,790







As the festive season kicks off, we're lusting after minimalist traditional-wear and statement silver jewellery



IF YOU LOVE: Pared-down festive-wear.

THEN YOU WILL LOVE: Brih.

WHO: After studying biomedical engineering from The Don Bosco Institute of Technology in Bengaluru, Anjali Bahuguna worked in trading medical equipment for almost a decade. But, the designer was always drawn to fashion from a young age and remembers designing her first outfit – a fuchsia co-ord set in the sixth grade. Armed with a two-year degree from Fashionista – The School of Fashion Technology in Delhi, she decided to start Brih.

WHY: The brand believes in reducing the impact of their carbon footprint by creating garments using azo-free, non-toxic dyes that help the fabrics breathe easy, making them softer with every wash. All the pieces are created in embroidered and sustainable natural fabrics, and feature techniques such as *zardozi*, *zari* work, antique sequins, and French knots. The brand's design ethos is founded on the principles of slowness, durability, and longevity. The pieces work well together but also provide the wearer the opportunity to mix and match from within their wardrobe.

WHERE: Ogaan, New Delhi and Hyderabad; Anantam, Delhi; Anonym, Hyderabad; Asmairaa, New Delhi.

PRICE RANGE: ₹ 6,000-40,000

WEAR: These relaxed silhouettes in lush jewel tones play the perfect canvas to your favourite jewellery. Accentuate your look with an heirloom choker or intricate *chandbalis* for maximum impact.

IF YOU LOVE: Tribal-inspired jewellery. THEN YOU WILL LOVE: Bhavya Ramesh. WHO: A former engineer, Ramesh traded in her old job to take up a more creative vocation. During this period, she learned pattern-making, leather carving, and saddle stitching techniques for accessories, and also attended a workshop on making beaded jewellery by hand, in Auroville. To further hone her skills, she spent six months in a village near Hampi, where she observed the indigenous Lambadi and Banjara tribes - their ethnic fabrics and handcrafted pieces of jewellery caught her eye and formed the foundation of her eponymous jewellery label. WHY: Through the brand, Ramesh intends to showcase a fresh perspective on jewellery. Her multiple exploratory travels and interactions with various tribes have taught her the cultural and ritualistic significance of jewellery that moves beyond ornamentation and is symbolic as well as a form of expression. All the pieces from her line are crafted in sterling silver interspersed with elements such as pearls, semi-precious stones, and kundan.

WEAR: A perfect confluence of contemporary and traditional, these dramatic silver pieces are versatile enough to elevate a pristine white kurta-pyjama and can look equally appealing when paired with a crisp boyfriend shirt and denim cut-offs.

WHERE: www.bhavyaramesh.com

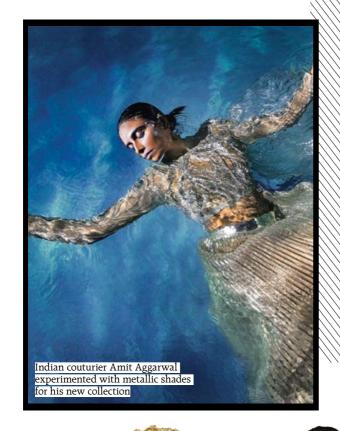
PRICE RANGE: ₹ 600-15,000





Compiled by TANYA MEHTA





Breaking the severity of a monotone gold look with easy-to-pair pieces is a great way to dip into the trend. Whether it's something as classic as a pair of bootcut jeans, bright extras, contrasting metallics or even busy prints - the pairing possibilities with gold are endless.







Beaded belt, Vaidaan, ₹ 12,000

'Fiero' bangles, FlowerChild by Shaheen Abbas, ₹ 5,500 (for set of 2)



'Rockstud' patent leather pumps, **Valentino Garavani** at

www.darveys.com, ₹ 1,15,950



'Compliquée Peacock' diamond and emerald encrusted analog watch,

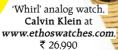
BY THORNTON BREGAZZI



Floral matelassé midi skirt, Cecelie Bahnsen at www.matchesfashion. com,

₹ 76,050 approx

Sequinned jersey gown, Gucci, ₹ 3,26,495 approx



'Golden Sunrise' juttis, Fizzy Goblet, ₹2,990

'Reborn' necklace, Studio Metallurgy, ₹ 12,500





5

STRAIGHT-TALKING



ashion has evolved due to a change in expectations and exposed realities. We are living in a time where metrics, radical transparency, and accountability are the most frequently used words in any, and every, conversation. Whether you talk about decarbonising supply chains and fashion's impact on climate change, diversifying our material mix and the impact on biodiversity, or the need for platforms to engage in intersectional environmentalism – as an industry, we are putting these topics under an accountability lens. Talking the talk doesn't matter anymore, walking the walk does.

Post Covid, our relationships with products, brands, and each other have transformed. In fact, certain groups within the industry have rallied together to foster community while others have been abandoned. Take garment workers for example: When Covid hit the fashion industry at the start of the year, 72 per cent of buyers refused to pay for raw materials already ordered and paid for by factories, 91 per cent refused to pay for the making of the orders they had committed to, and 98.1 per cent refused to contribute to the cost of paying partial wages to furloughed workers, which they were required to do under the law. These realities, and others of this year, have forced us to ask more probing questions, with the wrong answers impacting the brands citizens support. This will play out in everything – from more vulnerable corporate communications with hurdle pages on brand websites to more detailed clothing labels.

CHANGING TIDES

Samata, CEO of Red Carpet Green Dress, on what radical transparency could mean for the fashion industry

We are currently part of a 'call out' culture that puts the onus on radical transparency – from factory audit and proof of certificates of purchase to clear and honest product labelling.

The novel coronavirus has forced us to seek more from our products as, during this time, we have evaluated the meaning of the things we have. Citizens want to know what your values are and what your value is; brands need to re-evaluate what these things mean. Value is no longer easy to justify in a monetary way, it is now entrenched in human impact. Covid started our year and the pandemic broke it. Human-centric offerings are crucial, particularly those that centre the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of colour) population in a year where its exploitation has been in the spotlight. Although they form less than 5 per cent of the world's population, indigenous people protect 80 per cent of the global biodiversity. We owe communities a debt and it has become impossible to ignore that we, as an industry, have

Finally, Covid has changed the way we collaborate, and with whom. The collaboration I am seeing is in unique ways in the fashion value cycle – farmers collaborating with brands to not only harvest materials but to protect local biodiversity, or citizens collaborating with each other to redistribute excess garments in circulation through rental and clothes-swap platforms. Collaborations which ensure that findings are open-sourced are the future. We are all

appropriated and side-lined the groups who

hold us up.



in this together and the time of trade secrets has passed. A new form of collaboration is also across industries – fashion retailers coming together with agricultural scientists, botanists, top ecologists, and social scientists to address the fact that the fashion industry emitted around 2.1 billion tonnes of GHG emissions in 2018, equating to 4 per cent of the global total.

(Red Carpet Green Dress is a global changemaking organisation that brings sustainable design to the forefront of conversation within the fashion industry.)



Italian folklore and local crafts serve as inspiration for this new collection

aria Grazia Chiuri staged an all-singing, all-dancing homage to the rites, traditions, and craftsmanship of southern Italy for Dior's Cruise 2021 show. Set in Lecce, a stunning Baroque city in Puglia, the maison's socially distanced and live streamed production deployed the province's native artisans, musicians and dancers for a one-of-akind experience.

Puglia's history - replete with its bohemia, agriculture, and arts and crafts, made their way onto the runway by way of Chiuri's artful

bag returned with

intricate embroidery

juxtaposition of a homespun and rustic aesthetic that's steeped in tradition and necessity, with the opulence expected of a heritage French couture house. The classic 'Saddle'

Through this 90-look collection, the maison drove home the idea of being blissfully wild and free as an ode to nature and the region's unique landscape. Models took the runway in wholesome floorlength gowns with matching 'Book' totes and armour-style corsets that sprouted raffia-embroidered wheat sheaves. Dresses bloomed with flowers and butterflies that featured the Tombolo, a 15th century style of delicate lace popularised in southern Italy. The classic 'Bar' jacket made an appearance in jute with multicoloured stripes, and its quintessential hourglass waistline was let out for a relaxed fit. Crochet blouses paired with pleated peasant skirts, fringed apron dresses crafted out of geometric patterned fabrics that would traditionally be worn at home, easy shifts in folk-inspired woven fabrics, 70s patchwork, and pastoral headscarves - all alluded to the easy and local countryside vibe.

The designer accessorised her haute homespun looks with leather corset belts, bracelets and cuffs with botanic carvings, elaborate gold hoop earrings, utility boots, and simple flat sandals. The key was comfort - after all, Grazia Chiuri has made wearability a key tenet of her tenure at

the maison.





Curves & Edges

Celebrating 10 years of their eponymous label, Narresh Kukreja — one half of design duo Shivan & Narresh talks about the highs and hurdles experienced in creating a stellar fashion brand

estled in the Aravalli Hills is a hidden turquoise lake where, on a sunny morning in October, a troop of models strutted down by the edge of the water for Shivan & Narresh's 10th anniversary show. Watching the mesmerising spectacle on Instagram certainly didn't do the collection justice, however, it did help us escape for a quick 11 minutes. But, this isn't how the designers had envisioned their grand milestone celebration to be. The onset of Covid-19 not only compelled them to change their entire collection but also set them on a mission to find a new location, "The pandemic shifted our outlook entirely. Suddenly, we couldn't relate to the collection we had created. Being at home, we felt this ease in fashion, a need for lighter, more wearable clothes. So, we created a glamorous ready-to-wear collection. The theme of our original collection centered on plant and human anatomy and we preserved this through our 'Oriri', 'Nebulous' and 'Gardenia' prints. The 'Wildings 20' concept is about being one with nature, it's about getting back to the great outdoors with a small set of friends and having a carefree time," explains Kukreja.

The collection aprly encapsulated the spirit of a getaway with pops of sunshine yellow. We saw Grecian kaftan dresses, airy printed shirts as well as their signature cut-outs and sensual swimwear. The designers were sure to not let this impediment block their vision, but before they achieved the name they have today, they explored unknown turfs. A decade in, Kukreja looks back at the eventful journey it has been, so far.

EARLY DAYS

When Shivan Bhatiya and Kukreja launched what can be deemed as India's premier luxury swimwear label, they were navigating unchartered waters. "Since Independence, women have been forced to wear standard American or European sizes when it came to intimate wear. Inherently, Indian women have fuller hips, thinner waists, and shorter torsos – a very curvilinear body type by nature. So, as they struggled to squeeze themselves into bathing suits created in entirely different proportions it took a massive toll on their body confidence. Little did they know that those pieces were just not right for them," explains Kukreja.



kreja and Bhatiya

in Cannes, 2008





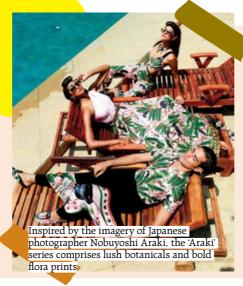
The 'Edomer' series features Seychellois

elements rendered in a Japanese Edo art

aesthetic

Kukreja and Bhatiya met at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi in 2003, when it was on the precipice of turning into a full-fledged university. Bhatiya was specialising in leather design while Kukreja was studying fashion, and even though they belonged to different departments, they soon became friends and began collaborating on various projects as well as participating in global design competitions. After graduating, the duo decided to start their own label and moved to Italy to further hone their skills, where they studied textile design and luxury fashion management. They staged their first fashion show in Cannes the collection comprised the world's first stitchfree swimwear line created in tandem with lycra, at a factory on the outskirts of Milan.

Upon their return to India, and driven by the need to create a local presence, they were faced with a barrage of challenges — "For starters, none of the pattern-makers or tailors that we hired knew anything about swimwear, so at a base level, we had to make them unlearn everything in order to grasp what was then a completely new-age fabric, one that wasn't woven and expanded 12-15 per cent more than any other material. Then there was the issue of machinery, unlike traditional garments, three different machines are required to make swimsuits, which we had to import from Japan," he explains.



INFLECTION POINT

For the five years that followed, the designers realised that they weren't merely designing and marketing a swimwear label to a skeptical consumer, they were also bridging a gap and making waves in a market that hadn't previously been paid so much intention to. Soon after they opened doors to their studio in Hauz Khas village, New Delhi, women came pouring in, divulging all their reservations and requirements for the perfect bathing suit, "In the early days, we realised that women found it much easier to drown themselves in layers of clothing, it made them feel confident. Fortunately, from our experience, we possessed the technical know-how of both Indian and Italian pattern-making, so we came up with our own body-size chart". Through swimwear campaigns and pop-ups in different cities, Kukreja and Bhatiya began vigorously educating women about styles and body types. Along the way, they realised that the issue wasn't purely about fashion, but also self-love - "In a country that is so weddingdriven, the bride dresses for the outward eye, with swimwear it was no longer a third person dialogue. These were women who had stretch marks, pregnancy scars and just wanted to feel good about themselves." Utilising these experiences as a learning curve shaped the initial aesthetic of the Shivan & Narresh brand. And as customers approached them with intricate body issues, they began drawing focus to and deflecting from certain areas with the use of colour-blocking - a core element of their designs, and a unique problem-solving tool.

NEW HEIGHTS

It was a matter of time before the consumer circled back, asking for cover-ups and kaftans, which encouraged the duo to expand into resortwear. And with their skill set, they also launched accessories, and menswear. In September this year, they forayed into couture, "Through the course of our career, we've dressed brides for their honeymoon, cocktail parties,

and even *sangeets*. Last year, Kaabia (Grewal), a close friend, got married on a beach in Vietnam. She wanted us to design a couture outfit for her that was completely bespoke and aptly represented a mixed-race wedding. Dressing her for her big day gave us the confidence to launch a capsule of nine couture pieces that are unique and different from how couture is usually perceived in the country".

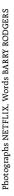
With an arsenal of collections and offerings under their belt, the designers have become prominent names in the industry. But what makes their brand so distinctive is their attention to building a strong visual identity they've become synonymous with their vibrant prints, and svelte silhouettes. The designers have also introduced the famous iconograms from their logo into their designs - a subtle move to solidify the brand further, "The five animals in our logo signify varies facets of the brand, whether it's adventure, tranquility or happiness. We decided to start incorporating these as a visual signature of sorts in our prints and accessories. I feel that wearing somebody else's name on yourself takes a lot of convincing but, if the consumer has organically been a part of your narrative and understand why something is being served in a collection, that's the advantage of good storytelling," says Kukreja.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

Inspiration from their travels has been a major driver for the label, so when we asked Kukreja to pick his favourite collection to date, he mentions that the 'Araki' series from their trip to Japan and the 'Edomer' series, inspired by Seychelles' art elements, hold special value. However, the one that always has his heart is the 'Koi' collection from Spring/Summer 2019. "Shivan is from Kanpur, in Madhya Pradesh, and so, he has always been fascinated by the indigenous Gond artwork, growing up. To integrate that into our designs, we invited a Gond artist to take up residency in our studio for a month and a half, where he developed characters using our signature style that we translated into prints, it was such an enriching experience for us," he says.

fashion industry, urging many design houses to reassess how they create. So, what does he perceive as the path ahead?
"Even though most of us are staying in, escapism has new-found significance in everyone's life – this could be through domestic travel or even retreating to one's holiday home. This new shift has made resortwear one of the most important categories of fashion today. As weddings and business trips take a back seat, easy separates and loungewear have become even more imperative, and as places begin to open up, this is going to be the way we will dress in the new normal."

The pandemic has changed the face of the





Royal Engagement

Meet the British actor who's set to portray the iconic Princess Diana





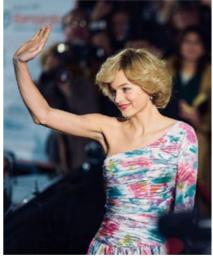
or any young actor, it's always interesting to take on a character that has so many complexities and layers and divides people so thoroughly. That's how British actor Emma Corrin summarises, arguably, the role of her career - where she plays Princess Diana in the fourth season of the award-winning Netflix show, The Crown. The 24-year-old actor reveals that while she's always been drawn to Diana, preparation for the show led her to do endless research into the late Princess's life - from personally meeting with Diana's private secretary, Patrick Jephson, to tuning into Diana: In Her Own Words a couple hundred times.

In the forthcoming series, Corrin will put her research to the test as she chronicles Diana's life from the age of 16 – when she first meets Prince Charles during a grouse shoot at her childhood home of Althorp – through to her late 20s, when her marriage begins to collapse in the public eye. In an exclusive chat with *Grazia*, Corrin opens up about the audition that changed her life.

GRAZIA: What was your reaction like when you received an invitation from The Crown's casting directors? **EMMA CORRIN:** The audition process was quite unorthodox. I was initially invited to read for Diana in chemistry sessions for Camilla Parker Bowles (for season three of the show), and one day, director Benjamin Caron and producer Suzanne Mackie teased the decision a little with a cheeky back and forth. I went into with no expectation, but I was prepared. I did my research and had her voice down pat, because my agent thought it would leave a lasting impression. After the read through, Ben said, 'Will you be our Diana?' It was intense, Josh (O'Connor, who plays Prince Charles) was in the room, which was incredible. I'd say he has a better memory of it than I do because my brain stopped functioning.







G: In stepping into the shoes of the late Lady Di, what did you re-learn about the woman behind the icon?

EC: When I landed the part, the first thing that struck me was that I was shouldering immense responsibility in trying to step into her (Diana's) shoes. And the fact that she is an icon, an instantly recognisable figure, is so terrifying because: How do you begin to do that justice? And the truthful answer is that I had to, very quickly, put all that aside because I realised it wasn't conducive to me doing good work as an actor. When I read the script that Peter (Morgan – the scriptwriter) had written I realised, this is fictional; this is my interpretation of the character. It helped me not get bogged down by the responsibility of recreating this mythic person because those words are not helpful. Also, this isn't an impersonation. When you read about Diana, you want to sift all the bullshit from the truth. She was a woman with immense strength. What Peter does so well as a writer is that he takes these public figures and shows us the nuance of their experience and the multifaceted nature of what they're going through at any given moment.

G: In preparing for the role, how do you get to know a character you haven't met?

EC: Well, research helps a LOT! Thankfully, The Crown is fictional so there's a script you can fall back on. There is a character embedded in those words. I would sift through countless files and tapes that documented her life. In the tapes, she speaks candidly about her battles with mental health (which was unheard of at the time) and infidelity - after a while, it felt like I had befriended her. I also worked with dialect coach William Conacher to get her voice right and with a movement coach to pick up her mannerisms, for instance, her head tilt. Over time, I got a great sense of companionship from her. You kind of start to patch together a sense of empathy and understanding. I particularly enjoy figuring people out.

G: Do you think her own suffering made her have compassion for other people?

EC: I would certainly say suffering did

make her more compassionate towards people. But then again, she was naturally a people's person. I used to think that to be as empathetic as she was must have stemmed from an incredibly painful place. I guess it's what made her appreciate people, closeness, and communication more. There's a scene in episode 6 when the Queen tells Diana: 'We all know that you've been attention-seeking a bit too much, which you obviously enjoy', and you can see Diana about to argue but she holds back and says: 'Yes, I do enjoy it because I get no support elsewhere'.

G: She was also a revered fashion icon. What was it like re-imagining some of her most notable looks (especially the wedding dress)?

EC: Her sartorial legacy is timeless. But while she went on to become a global fashion icon, her sense of style was not always up to par. When she meets with Prince Charles for the second time, she wears a pair of yellow dungarees, which was not exactly flattering. It really shows that fashion is something that grows with you. Slowly, you see her transforming, and as the marriage begins to unravel, she changes visually, and towards the end, I think, she becomes externally stronger. It's almost like she's clothing herself in armour as she becomes hugely fashionable. Our costume designers, Amy and Sid Roberts, are just phenomenal. It was incredible to wear the (wedding) gown. I really enjoyed the fittings for the dress. I'm terrible at fittings, I'm the biggest fidget in the world. I think the whole sewing-tailor team were not the biggest fans of mine. But I found it fascinating because they had to build the wedding dress around me.

G: What are some of your personal qualities you think you've brought to the character?

EC: When it came to portraying the complexities associated with her mental health, I struggled initially. But with time, I was able to take myself to those dark places. But, she also had a humourous side. So, it isn't all gloom and doom. I think I'm generally a very happy person and a people's person too, and I think those two personal qualities helped very much. I remember Benjamin Caron telling me: 'You're going to have a weird parallel experience, it will be very similar to hers because no one knows who you are right now, but you're going to become famous and suddenly be in the public eye."



9

WARM AND FUZZY

Fleece? Angora? Sherpa? We're counting all the reasons to love sweater weather



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Sequinned cardigan, Missoni at

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GREAT CHARACTERS REACH MILLIONS GREAT ACTORS TOUCH LIVES

spotlight

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chats with us about her maiden television project

t's 11.37 pm on a Thursday night in October, five days after Mira Nair's film adaptation of Vikram Seth's A Suitable ▶ Boy has aired on Netflix in India and I'm scheduled to have a Zoom interview with the filmmaker, who is currently in lockdown in New York. As usual, I'm wary, awkward, and easily intimidated - but Nair, who greets me with her dark, kohl-lined eyes and disarming smile, immediately puts me at ease and exudes the same warmth, passion, candour, and vibrancy that we've grown accustomed to through her films. In a Grazia exclusive, the award-winning director shares anecdotes from filming the show to the process of bringing Seth's post-Independence, Austenesque

expansive novel to life, and also talks about the challenges faced while putting the finishing touches on the series amidst a pandemic.

PAST PERFECT

Seth's sweeping 1,500-page novel is a saga that follows four families through a layered look at politics and love in a post-Partition India - so what drew Nair to it? "I actually read the novel back to back, twice, soon after it was published in 1993. And I considered it to be like my best friend that I didn't want to leave. Honestly, it's very rare to have that feeling. A Suitable Boy is about a time in India which I wish I had been born in.

And it is a time which, for me, depicts the great idealism of our country, and soon after, freedom. It was also in the year 1950 that my parents married and were part of this whole endeavour of creating a new country after breaking free from the shackles of the British. I always look at it as a time where, despite the wounds of Partition and all the accompanying trauma, the extraordinary history and syncretic culture of Hindus and Muslims and so many more, were all woven into the tapestry of our culture in all aspects - in music, in friendships, in poetry, and in language. And really, this is exactly what Vikram Seth does so eloquently, and with such a big and amazing heart. I wanted to

do that right for him and right for the 'suitable boy'," she shares.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

Nair was faced with the gargantuan task of whittling down a massive tome to the essence of what she wanted to convey, that too, within six-episodes, 349 minutes to be precise. "In India, we aren't used to this kind of rigorous economy, and I tried to shift the balance between it being a more political story or an equally political one as it was a personal story of Lata and her suitors. It's uncanny how timely it is given the state of our country today."

FINDING LATA

With a total cast of over 110 actors, the acclaimed director admits that casting for the protagonist, Lata, was the toughest. "We didn't find her despite our year-long efforts. We discovered Tanya (Maniktala) in July and we began filming in August. It took that long to find a girl who could embody that sense of innate feistiness, thoughtfulness, and intelligence but also, in her eyes and in her bearing - having a sense of not having seen the world. I think now, a lot of our young ones have been there and done that. They've seen it all and it shows. I hate the pretense of demureness and shyness. With Tanya, she imbued it, in the most beautiful way."

PLAYING FAVOURITES

What makes Mira Nair's work universally appealing is the way she manages to sculpt individual stories against a larger backdrop and create characters that often stick with you much after you've finished the film. Case in point: Meenakshi Chatterji Mehra (played by Shahana Goswami) and of course, Saeeda Bai (played by Tabu). With such strong distinct personalities at play, is it possible to pick favourites? Nair smiles, "Saeeda Bai is the reason I gave two to three years of my life to A Suitable Boy – she's the oxygen that drew me. Her character, her music, her craft, her pain – all of it. But in terms of the fun of it, it was Meenakshi. I also love Mrs Mahesh Kapoor, who really wasn't on the page at all, but we kept developing things for the character as we went along. And who doesn't adore Maan (played by Ishaan Khatter)? He's such an electric delight."

WAVE OF NOSTALGIA

Steering clear from excessively ornate or dowdy styling, akin to most period dramas,

the costumes in the series (designed by Arjun Bhasin), have a sense of modernity despite being set in the 50s. "We didn't want it to be a hip, funky, or non-period modern. That wasn't the point, it's not that kind of film. I definitely wanted it to have exactly what it has - which is, an anti-ornate eye, but also to make it feel wearable and completely relatable. In that sense, similar to how the Indian miniatures are modern. You look at those extraordinary images of women with their *churidaars* visible under diaphanous layers - that, to me, will always be modern, and that's how we did it. Funnily, Arjun calls it the 'Mary Quant costume' because I love her from the 60s in the UK. And I wanted to be her. The look for Tabu's character, Saeeda Bai, for the few times when she's seen hanging out at home – was inspired by Quant. The geometric designs of her palazzo trousers peeping out underneath a kurta - it wasn't Mary Quant alone - it was Quant coming out of an Indian miniature. That was the beauty of it. We had to have a very specific point of view, without any waste, whatsoever. We must have bought every khadi bhandar in the country - from Bengaluru to Delhi to Lucknow. Arjun only went to England once, where we got all those fantastic conical bras, the 50s period lingerie, and some of the men's suits. But mostly everything else was custom-made and tailored. He has a count of almost 1,100 costumes. It's really beautiful what he did," she recounts.

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

While the world went into collective



lockdown. Nair and her team across the globe worked on edits for the series, and what ensued was the best example of necessity being an ultimate source of invention. "We finished editing and jumped straight into the music. It was very challenging and interesting to do it all remotely with Anoushka (Shankar) in London, Alex Heffes (who created the score) in L.A., the orchestra in Budapest and of course, so many other musicians. There were so many other musicians from India, all working from home - the total jugaad of it was commendable. The dubbing for all the actors was unbelievable - they were all such sports. We literally had them covered in blankets and quilts and their dogs were muzzled as they recorded their lines. It was fantastic. I think this will change filmmaking for a long time, the idea that you can actually do this."

Danesh Razvi, who plays

Kabir Durrani, with

Maniktala

SHE'S COTHER OWN

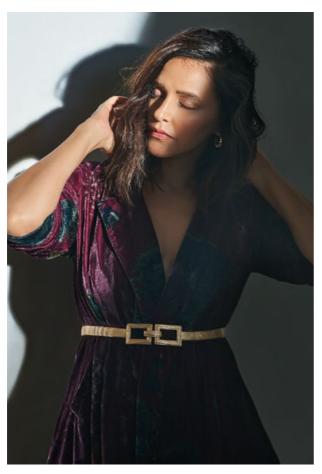
For Neha Dhupia, normal milestones of adulting and motherhood have taken on new meaning

Photographs ROHAN SHRESTHA
Fashion Director PASHAM ALWANI
Words BARRY RODGERS





COVER STORY | GRAZIA





ecoming who we are is an ever-evolving process, and thank God – because where's the joy in waking up one day and deciding there's nowhere left to go? That's the thought that ran through my mind during my telephone interview with actor, philanthropist, and doting mom, Neha Dhupia. When I decided to think out loud, she agreed. "That's something I've come to realise along the way. I'm not going to lie, as a younger woman, I frequently worried about what I wasn't achieving enough of, or if I was straying too far from what I thought was the prescribed path. What I hope my daughter (Mehr Dhupia Bedi) will realise a little earlier is that there is no prescribed path, that it's fine to swerve, and that the confidence she needs to recognise will come with time," she says, filling me in on how her perspective on life has changed in 2020. In true #nofilter style, Dhupia eulogises the need for personal growth, especially after the events that have transpired. "It would be difficult to not experience even an iota of change. I've truly cherished this time with my family and my new goal is to slow down and shed stressful things from my life. Even at my age, I felt the pressure to pack my life full of activity and maximise my time by doing all I can. All this busyness has overloaded our minds. I would often walk around with this nagging sense that there's something I've forgotten to do. There was just no rest; no sense of completion. I truly believe that life is now more about living in the now and cherishing it for what it's worth," she says.

GRAZIA | COVER STORY



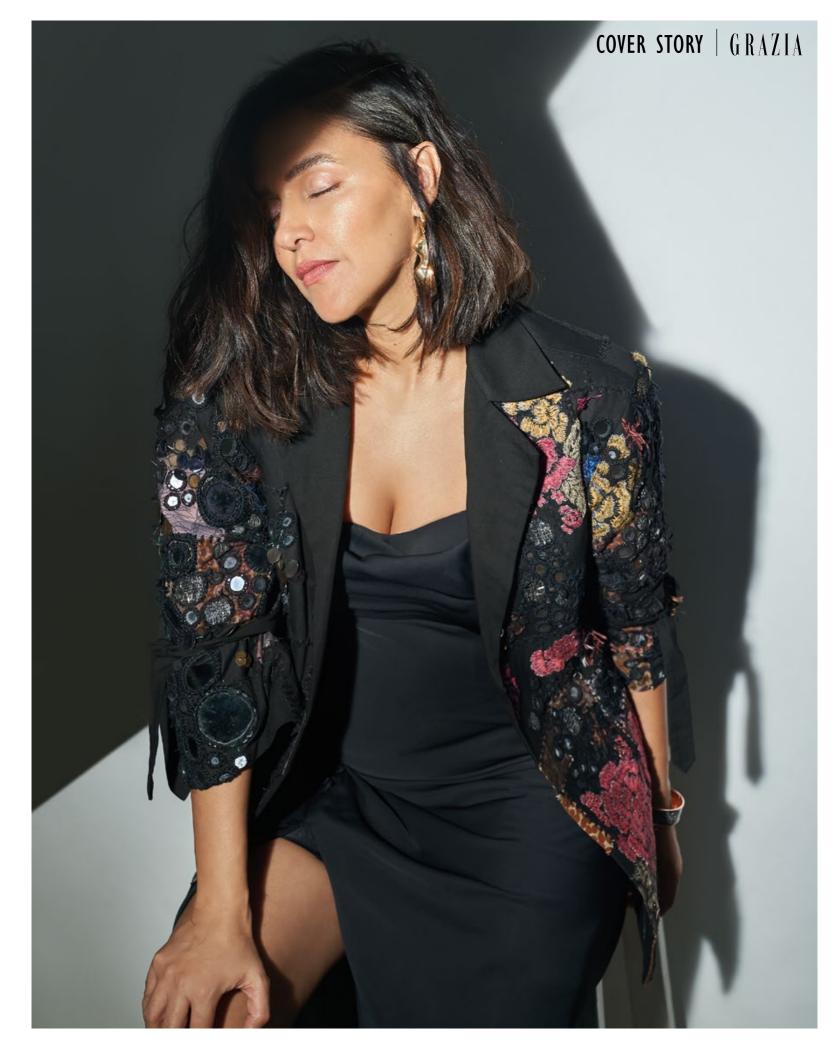
This page: Jacquard blouse, **Zara**, ₹ 2,990; handwoven Merino wool trousers, **péro**, price on request; gold plated choker necklace, **Olio Stories**, ₹ 12,500; polki necklace, **Anu Merton**, ₹ 4,910; strappy heels, **Steve Madden**, ₹ 7,499

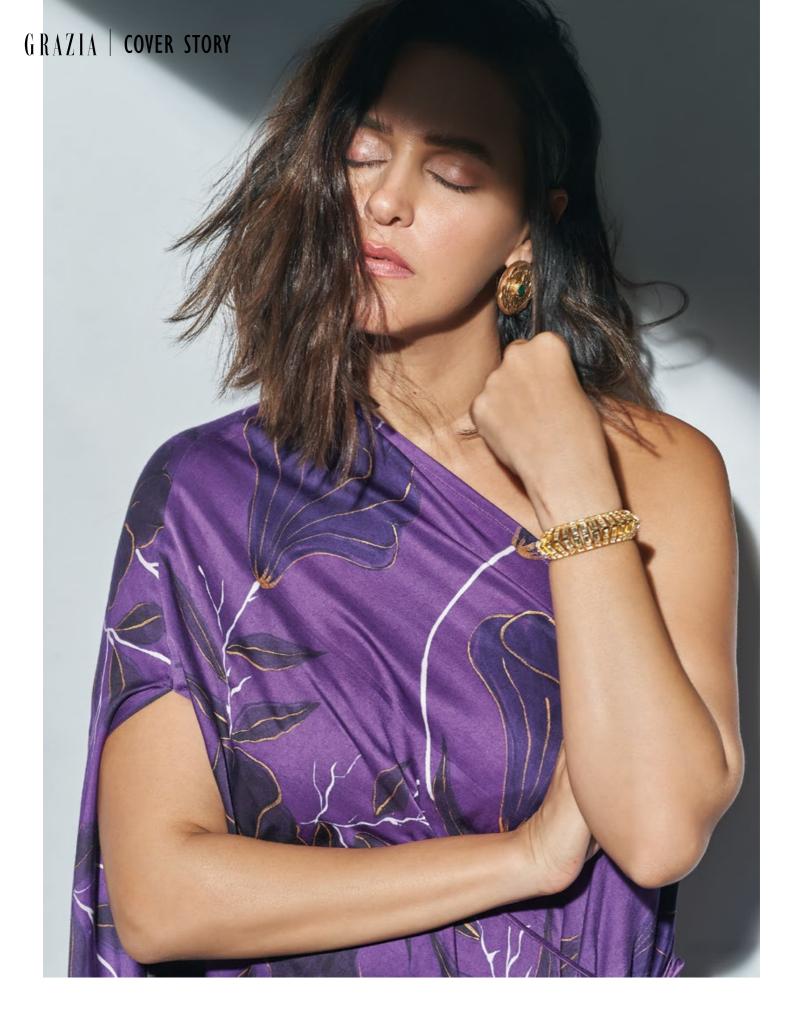
Facing page: Satin camisole dress, **Zara**, ₹ 2,990; mirror, thread and metal embroidered jacket, **Saaksha & Kinni**, price on request; 'Lounge' earrings, **Misho x Bhaane**, ₹ 8,000; 'Blossom' hand-painted bangle, AZGA, ₹ 7,800 It's easy to feel connected to Dhupia, even if it is over a smart device. She draws you in with her endearingly frank, down-to-earth personality – a rarity these days. It took me back to 2002, when as a 13-year-old I watched her beat the competition quite deftly with candour and decisiveness to win the Miss India crown. Eighteen years on, I found that I could personally relate to what she was sharing – and that the young Indian woman who watched her win the title back then, must have felt the same way.

FAST FORWARD

Not only has she made interesting career choices, she's proved she's more than just a pageant queen by being unflinchingly vocal about her opinions. She's given us memorable reel moments through her films – *Ek Chalis ki Last Local*, *Mithiya*, Netflix's *Lust Stories*, *Tumhari Sulu*, and *Hindi Medium*, among others. She's also switched mediums beyond cinema and has been successful with her podcast series, #NoFilterNeha, which is backed by her production house, Big Girl Productions. This year, and in its fifth season, the show has lent itself to a new initiative – #NFNCares. In partnership with Save the Children, Dhupia turns the spotlight on young change-makers who, with their powerful stories, have







encouraged listeners to come forward and support causes that matter. "I've been fortunate enough to have a platform that can help shine the light on issues that matter. Yes, the celebrity aspect is great too. I enjoy getting candid with people I respect in the industry, but there's so much more ground to cover. And there are causes close to my heart which deserve the airtime," she says. In the last few years, Dhupia has been vocal about breastfeeding, and even decided to throw her heft behind a special initiative that she spearheaded – #FreedomToFeed. "I've been lucky enough to find safe spaces in hotel bathrooms or someone's house or a trailer to breastfeed Mehr. But there are women, especially in rural areas, that are still grappling with the nuances of it, while struggling to talk about it. I'm not the first person to speak openly about breastfeeding, they've been others who have blazed a trail before me. But what I've tried to ensure is that the conversation doesn't die down – that it's okay to talk about it, or be nervous, or even confused, but it is not okay to be apologetic about it," she says.

Motherhood has, so far, been a lesson in savouring each moment. Dhupia says that she could lose hours just watching her little one sleep. "I enjoy listening to the little sounds Mehr makes — especially the way she low-key coos when she's deep into dreaming. Don't get me wrong, early parenthood is exhausting. But having a baby in the house is magical too. Time expands and contracts; each moment holds its own little eternity," she says, informing me that this prolonged time of being purely in each other's company will probably never come back again, so in hindsight it will be somewhat of a special and unique time. She also understands her responsibility as a mother to prepare her little one for life in an uncertain time, replete with unrealistic expectations. "Tve taught her to say *bas* (enough) when she needs time out or feels she doesn't want more of something. I think it's a small step in the right direction because children need to learn at a young age that certain lines need to be drawn," she says.

ACCEPTANCE

Our conversation quickly shifts to the new narrative around motherhood and the female body. Dhupia pulled back the curtains on her journey toward body acceptance, telling me that it's always been clear to her: Women - not men or the media - control the narrative around their bodies during and after pregnancy. "I put on 23 kilos after I gave birth to Mehr, but I refused to let society's ideals dictate my recovery. My husband (Angad Bedi) applied zero pressure on me to lose the baby weight. During my recovery and up until now, I've always given myself self-love and self-care. I've only just started dropping the pounds, but I'm okay being curvier too," she says. "I accept what my body wants to be." Dhupia's statement made me realise how easy it can get to forget how much things have changed for women over the past decade. In an ever-changing landscape, new mothers, like herself, are not forced to downplay the taxing effects of pregnancy on the female body or live up to 'bounce back' beauty standards or accept the status quo in the workplace. "I think both women and men need to appreciate the beauty in their natural bodies," she says.

As Mehr punctures a brief silence in our call, Dhupia is quick to point out that this was a reminder that it's time for her bedtime story. Even though I can't see them, I can almost *feel* the presence of their audience. It's like I'm peering in on something intensely private. I smile to myself, apologise for taking up so much of her time, and allow them to engage in their night-time ritual.

Hand-painted tunic, **Vedika M**, ₹ 23,500; gold-plated earrings, **Suhani Pittie**, ₹ 6,800; 'Mirror Rib' cuff, **Isharya**, ₹ 10,400 Hair and make-up **Mitesh Rajani/Feat Artists**Fashion intern **Lehan Devadhia**



GRAZIA FEATURE

Piece of Home

A Diwali away from the motherland has taught these creatives to make the most of what they have

Words BARRY RODGERS

Ankur Maniar,

Photographer & stylist, New York

For Maniar, who has styled and shot campaigns for Prabal Gurung and Rosie Assoulin, among others, growing up in the States meant that his holiday season comprised Diwali, Thanksgiving, and Christmas - all of which were celebrated "intimately and at home". "It was always just our family of four, surrounded by dias and mithai, with puja in the morning, and speakers blasting Bollywood music in the evening." However, with the novel coronavirus ensuring muted celebrations this year, Maniar believes it's a seasonal reminder to practice mindfulness, love and gratitude, compassion and forgiveness, philanthropy, and self-care.

On fostering community: "The pandemic has given me the space and time to re-evaluate my relationship with myself and focus inwardly on empathy and compassion. I see radical self-love as the key to engaging authentically with community, uplifting friends and family, and healing as a collective unit."

In style: "I've matched my favourite vintage Versace corduroy blazer with a pre-loved Jean Paul Gaultier mesh velvet burnout Tee, Paria Farzaneh joggers, and thrifted Miu Miu loafers. For jewellery, I've paired an oxidised silver Marc Jacobs cuff with brass and copper rings from Barcelona and Mexico City. With sustainability being at the core of my style, this look represents the people and spaces I hope to empower through my purchases — socially responsible brands, designers of colour, vintage stores, small businesses, and artisan communities."



parents' specialties - dad's crispy jale bis and mom's almond-laden sheera"





Radhika Maheshwari,

Designer & illustrator, Toronto

Diwali has always been Maheshwari's favourite festival. "When I was growing up in Mumbai, every year, my family would prepare for Diwali by getting our home cleaned and reorganised, which is something I carried forward with me after I got married. So, to start off the festival, I undertake a major purge, donate everything we haven't used in a while, and reorganise our home," says Maheshwari, the founder of Rara, an accessories label that seeks to revive the historic art forms from the past and preserve rare, endangered animals for the future. "I now live in Toronto with my husband; his family is scattered across North America. Around this time, we all try to get together and celebrate, even if it is for two days.

This year, due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, it might just be the two of us. Regardless, to keep the festivities alive we will light up our home with lamps, make rangoli, dress up and perform a small puja, and catch up with our families and friends on FaceTime."

On fostering community: "In March, when the entire world hit pause, I found myself reconnecting with so many people. It made me realise that these connections and relationships can easily fade away, but keeping them alive requires work. And guess what? When you are unsure for how long you may not see each other, even if you live two blocks away, a quick little chat can go a long way. Every phone call or message left a smile on my face."

In style: "I decided to keep it simple with a relaxed button-down white shirt paired with sequinned trousers to add some glam. I love traditional Indian jewels, and how effortlessly it elevates any look. So, I picked some my favourite pieces – a pair of *chaandbalis* gifted by my mother, a 'Navratna' necklace that belonged to my grandmother-in-law, along with stacked diamond rings and bracelets. This look is a mix of my Indian roots with a hint of the West. In a nutshell, it's subtle with a little sass."

GRAZIA | FEATURE

Shivam Punjya,

Founder & creative director at Behno, New York

Being away from both India and home for festivities always induces a sense of nostalgia for Punjya, whose womenswear label is designed in NYC and ethically manufactured in Asia, predominantly India, and also doubles as a social experiment that's designed to improve the lives of its workers. "I often fall back on reminiscing about old memories, when I was surrounded by the people I love. In line with distanced living, which feels so familiar in today's time, traditions will go on, just through Zoom calls and FaceTime. There's still time for lots of food, virtual hugs, and reflection."

On fostering community: "The way we've seen communities come together with sheer selflessness is inspiring. It's also a rude awakening, that we must really cherish our memories while creating new ones. For so many across the globe, the holidays won't be the same as their last. It's a bitter-sweet time, one where grace and humility will inherently be a part of the dinner table spread."

In style: "For the most part, I gravitate towards a more minimal sensibility with neutrals and black comprising the bulk of my day-to-day wardrobe. And I suppose this doesn't change much with the festive season. I'm wearing a kurta over a favourite pair of jeans from Totokaelo (RIP), paired with an easy loafer. For me, this minimalism allows for a timeless feel for a holiday season that has so much vibrancy around it."



Mamrata Tripathi,

Up until last year, Tripathi - who has most notably been featured in a campaign for Ted Baker London - did not even consider what it would be like to not clean every corner of her house, with her mom constantly nagging at her; or not having the opportunity to fail for the umpteenth time at making a rangoli but still going at it and then keeping all the little ones from spoiling it. For the Gorakhpur (a city in Uttar Pradesh) native, being away from home has made her appreciate the little things that go into making Diwali special. "Observing customs and traditions is important for me. It will be a regular Diwali this year - starting with puja, putting up last-minute decorations, candles, and preparing food. I live with an amazing British family and it helps that they are so inclusive of various cultures."

On fostering community: "I was in London in March when the pandemic started deepening and before I knew it, governments across the world started sealing international borders. I was stuck on a work visa, but had no work. I did miss my family, but it was heartening to see so much acceptance. Social distancing is a key precaution these days, but it's nice to see people being more considerate."

In style: "I've paired a golden, silk salwar kameez with a trench coat, a belt, and boots because, let's face it, I am in London and it generally always rains. Also, it has a good Indo-Western balance, which resonates with me as a person. I cherish traditional values but have a modern approach to life."



"The pandemic may

MODERN LOVE

Three interfaith, millennial couples share tales of their intricate journeys that are rife with love and convolutions

There's a scene in Mira Nair's A Suitable Boy that personally stood out to me. Based in a post-Independent India of the 1950s, a worrisome Hindu mother frantically questions her young daughter about the boy she's seeing. As the tormented daughter struggles to confess that she's dating a Muslim boy, the general discomfort and tension was palpable. Although this narrative dates back to a different age, the question of religion has been a defining factor for many marriages and relationships in the country, and often-times, a deal-breaker. Even in today's climate, it is a topic of constant deliberation and controversy, yet there are many who go against the tide, roping in their opposing families all in the name of love. Here, we speak to three couples who took the leap as they tell us what it's like to be in an interfaith marriage today, and how they've managed to find a middle ground in upholding tradition.

SHEEFA GILANI & AMAN MAROO

HOW IT STARTED

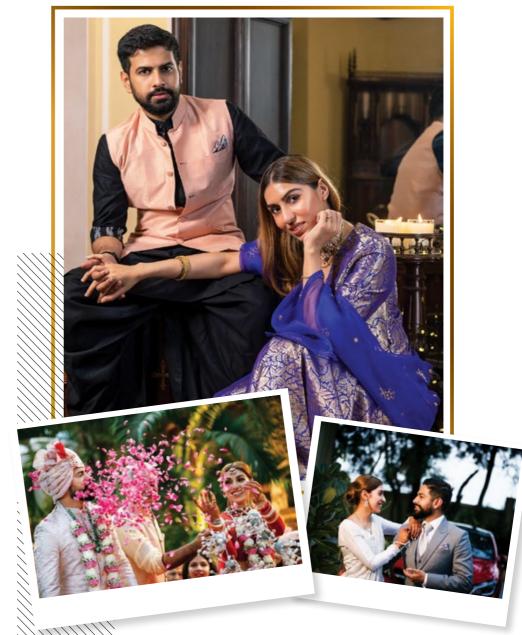
"Love story? I don't think you can call ours that, it was more of a chance encounter. Aman and I met on the dance floor at a mutual friend's *sangeet*, where we were both grooving to Salman Khan's cheesy number — *Jaanam Samjha Karo*, back in 2014. I had recently moved to Bombay from London with a broken heart and Aman was already in an almost-perfect relationship. But strangely, we hit it off and what followed was six years of being best friends, nursing each other's heartbreaks, and now being husband and wife. We've had our share of drama but it's safe to say we've come full circle," says Gilani.

Gilani, a fashion stylist, belongs to a Muslim family while Maroo, a businessman, comes from a conservative Marwari background. The duo dated for over a year in secrecy. When Gilani broke the news to her parents, they were sceptical and curious but gave her the green light. Maroo's family, however, wasn't so easily convinced.

GETTING HITCHED

"Up until last year, I was looking at wedding proposals that my family had in mind for me, I even ended up meeting a few suitors. Then one day something shifted and I realised that it would be pointless to not try and make this work out just because we belong to different religious communities. I asked Sheefa whether she'd consider marrying me, and as usual, she thought I was pulling one of my 'cheap tactics' to woo her again. Even though she agreed, my parents only knew of her as my best friend. With the help of my younger sister, we were able to share the truth with them, but my maternal grandparents (who I'm very close to) weren't accepting of having a Muslim bahu. They made it clear that they wouldn't attend the wedding and that I was 'tarnishing the family's name'. On the other hand, my paternal grandfather, who I thought would be dead against my decision too, was much more willing to listen to my point of view and have a conversation," explains Maroo.

After convincing the elders and getting blessings from Gilani's family, Maroo proposed to her in Agra during a weekend get-away, despite a brief courtship. The couple



had always envisioned an imitate wedding for themselves but as they incorporated ceremonies and traditions from both faiths, it led to a month-long extravaganza. "Sheefa's family lives in Nagpur, but they are extremely forward-thinking and told us this wasn't the first interfaith wedding in the family. Due to my family's reservations, we thought our wedding would be a low-key affair, but their enthusiasm surprised us, even my grandparents went the extra mile. We got engaged on December 6th, 2019 and solemnised our marriage legally on January 31st, 2020. What followed were haldi, mehendi, and nikah ceremonies in Nagpur and Hindu rituals in Mumbai, that included Ganesh puja, pheras, a reception, and cocktails. Our wedding finally ended with

a frieni-moon (a mini-moon with friends) in Jaipur."

BETTER TOGETHER

While they both admit that they personally aren't very religious, their varied backgrounds have diversified their relationship as they support each other's customs, "We partake in all festivities and ceremonies but we make sure we make it fun. Over the past few months, I've learnt about *Gangor*, *Teej* and *Karva Chauth* and, Aman, in turn, has observed *Roza* with me. We dress up and prepare delicacies – *kheer* for Eid and sweet dishes for *Teej*. The entire family has been on board with celebrating each other's festivals. It's made our marriage more substantial," says Gilani.

GRAZIA

HOW IT STARTED

"I come from what I'd call a semi-traditional Sindhi family. Since I am the first grandchild from both sides, my parents 'expected' me to find a good Sindhi boy and settle down, but I told them about Karl right from the start. When you're 19, you usually don't divulge your dating secrets to your family. But I don't know what made me tell them pretty much as soon as we started – maybe I subconsciously knew what this would eventually lead to. So yes, of course, there was opposition from my family but it was the opposite on Karl's side. Most Parsis are super liberal - they love food, Freddie Mercury, and revelry. Karl's parents had no problem with his new 'friend'," shares Mulchandani, a social media manager who met Tata, partner at B&K Wealth in junior college, where they were introduced by a mutual friend who happened to be Tata's cousin.

GETTING HITCHED

After sitting down both families, the couple zeroed in on a wedding date with only three months to plan. "While Karl and I wanted a small do, our parents had other ideas. To let everyone know you're engaged, Sindhis usually have a *Kacchi Misri*, while Parsis have a *Rupiyo* – the ceremonies are quite similar (both involve coconuts, flowers, and sweets.) We decided to go with the *Rupiyo*. We agreed on a three-day celebration – an engagement, a *mehendi*, followed by a wedding. For the ceremony, initially, we wanted to do the *pheras* but soon found out that a Parsi man isn't typically supposed to walk around fire. So instead, we brought in two *dastoorjis* (one of which was our close friend) and a Hindu priest to marry us as per our respective customs."

As per Parsi tradition, Mulchandani wore a white sari, but decided to add a pink *dupatta* on her head as a Hindu element, while Tata wore the traditional *duglee* for the ceremony and changed into a suit for the reception – like Sindhis would.

BETTER TOGETHER

Through the course of their relationship, and now marriage, the couple has fervently participated in festivities on both sides. "Non-Parsis aren't allowed to enter a fire temple so, unfortunately, Anushka hasn't been able to visit with me. On the other hand, I have been a part of Raksha Bandhan, Diwali pujas, and have even visit the gurudwara with her and her parents on Gurunanak Jayanti. We celebrate Navroze with the entire extended family, a great time for bonding and Parsi cuisine as well as *Roj* birthdays, which is according to the Parsi calendar," shares Tata.



HOW IT STARTED

"My best friend was really keen on introducing me to this guy from Bengaluru, however I wasn't quite interested in getting to know someone who lived in another city, because I didn't intend on ever leaving Bombay. I'd taken some time off work and was on a solo trip to Europe when she texted me and told me Anish was visiting Bombay and persuaded me to meet him. I didn't even ask what he looked like, or enquire about him in general. Cut to that Thursday night when we finally met, we went out for a few drinks after which he agreed to accompany me to a drum and bass gig, even though he hated the music. By the end of the night I kissed him, we met a few more times that weekend since he was in the city, I told him everything about myself, but he was a man of a few words. He soon left for Bengaluru and I didn't think we'd talk after," shares Barretto.

Contrary to her assumptions, the two ended up speaking regularly in the days that followed. With a family business to run, Vakharia asked her if she'd be willing to move to Bengaluru if they were to take the next step. Then there was also the question of their respective religions, Vakharia, a restaurateur, belongs to a Gujarati family while Barretto, a fashion stylist, is Christian.

"While my mother's only criteria was for me to marry a kind-hearted person, when I broke the news to my dad he was extremely sceptical. I remember being so nervous that I blurted out that even though Anish was Gujarati, he and his family ate non-vegetarian food and drank alcohol – my subtle attempt to normalise the situation."

Vakharia's family had their share of reservations, too. "The first question my mother asked was – who's going to convert? I had to sit her down and explain that both of us respect the religions we are born into and will continue to follow that while supporting each other," says Vakharia.

GETTING HITCHED

For the wedding, the couple agreed to host ceremonies from both faiths, which began with a church wedding in Mumbai followed by *pheras* in Bengaluru. "As per the Christian faith, the couple is required to attend a two-day marriage counselling workshop to be allowed to get married in a church. I wasn't sure if Anish would be keen to attend, but he did so happily. Prior to the church wedding,

DANIELA BARRETTO & ANISH VAKHARIA

we held a small ceremony at home called a *Roce* or *Umbracha Pani*. I had to wear a red and green nine-yard sari, glass bangles, and flowers in my hair. Coconut milk was poured on me, while all the elders in the family blessed me. Usually this ceremony is only attended by the bride's family, but we wanted Anish's family to be part of it and so we welcomed them to our home with a traditional East Indian dinner."

As the celebrations continued in Bengaluru, Barretto's family familiarised themselves with the various Hindu customs that were to be conducted during the *pheras*, upon her request, Vakharia's family also ensured that certain antiquated verses were removed from the traditional vows recited by the priest.

BETTER TOGETHER

The couple ensure that they actively participate in each other's festivals and traditions — be it Easter, Diwali or Christmas. "Anish has always attended midnight mass with me and is eager when Christmas is around the corner — he thoroughly enjoys the feast, exchange of gifts, and merriment. This year, due to the pandemic, I couldn't go home for Easter, which was quite upsetting but Anish and his mum sat with me through the Good Friday and Easter Sunday masses on Zoom. His sister laid out beautiful flowers on our dining table, and prepared a sumptuous lunch, just like we would have had back home."



GRAZIA | FEATURE

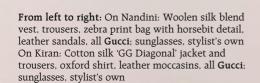
'Who will wear the pants?' you asked, strolling gullies at the start. 'We could both wear skirts,' I laughed.

'Who will say what I can and cannot do?'

Smoke left your mouth like a soft chimney, in plumes.

'For the bride who won't wear red or white who could ever make the rules?'

You closed one eye against the setting sun, smiled and said, 'Oh, I'm never going to marry you.'









In an ode to modern relationships, author and poet Karuna Ezara Parekh untangles the complexities of love with an original poem

Fashion Director PASHAM ALWANI
Photographs KEEGAN CRASTO

GRAZIA







Our love was monumental and began without a "once upon a time", our love unsentimental, began in city streets, against the odds of history, within careless, uncounted cups of wine.

We lived from the start like magic half beings, in the shell of the past of a city by the sea, we strode towards the future; our footsteps aligned, planting our love like trees, like something for the adventurous to climb.

'Who owns a body?' I once asked of your heart.

You stood against the horizon and said,

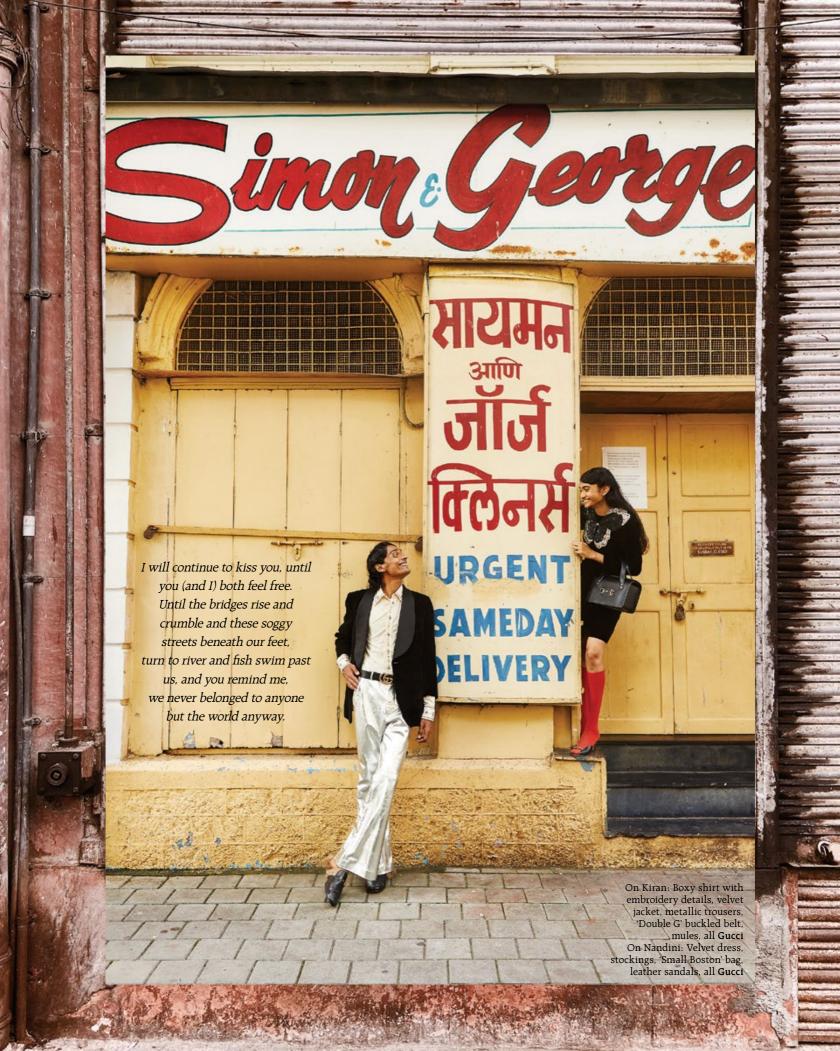
'The same person who owns the earth.'

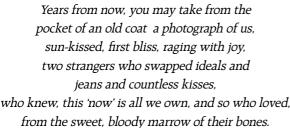
'Not the ones then, who leave their mark?'

You said, 'I am a growing forest, not a static piece of art.'

On Nandini: Jacquard polo neck knit dress, **Gucci** On Kiran: Bomber jacket, marble stone-washed jeans, both **Gucci**









Beauty assistant CHRISELLE BAPTISTA Models NANDINI/FEAT ARTISTS, KIRAN/FAZE MANAGEMENT halter dress, printed hairband, 'Jackie' handbag, leather sandals, all Gucci

GRAZIA | PHOTO FEATURE

THAT

THAT

FEELING

Compiled by PASHAM ALWANI

WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING SUDDENLY
POSING A BIG BARRIER FOR THE UPCOMING
CELEBRATIONS, WE'VE ENLISTED FIVE
CREATIVES, FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY,
TO CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF
FESTIVITIES THIS YEAR



KRUNAL BHALJA

"At the always-chaotic Dadar flower market, amidst the pandemic, this family was spotted selling roses with a smile. Meanwhile, the man in the red Tee seems to be enjoying his 15 seconds of fame."





"It's a patience maze, where hope is the only way out."

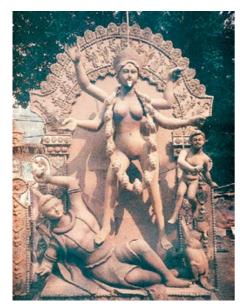






ABHISHEK BABU

"The idol makers have been optimistic about Kali Puja this year, backed by the faith of patrons who have been supporting them. While they feel that celebrations and the figurines might not be as grand as previous years, here's what one of them had to say: 'The idols might be small this year, but not the faith of people for *Ma Kali'*."







ABHISHEK BABU/ALF







VIRAJ NAYAR

"The Pankars have been selling fireworks in Mapusa, Goa, for over 80 years now and their shop is somewhat of a local landmark. Swapnil, a fourth generation Pankar, beams with pride as he tells me about how his greatgrandfather started this shop, back when fireworks had to be imported from Japan. For Pankar, fireworks are more than just a commodity to be sold, but are synonymous with spreading joy and fostering a spirit of family and community. With kind and thoughtful eyes, he goes on to say that just as temple bells create good vibrations and ward off evil, similarly, firecrackers create an audio-visual aura of happiness and ward off feelings of negativity. Swapnil remains hopeful that despite the pandemic and the restrictions on large gatherings, the true spirit of Diwali will still be celebrated in an intimate way, with close friends and family. He insists that he is not overly concerned with the drop in sales and profit margins this year, but instead looks forward to seeing nearby vados or localities lit up with fireworks; just knowing that he gets to contribute to this spirit of joy brings him some peace of mind. As he tells me this, a child walks into his shop tugging at his father's shirt sleeves, excitedly pointing at all the different kinds of firecrackers he would like to buy."





From super-sized pouches to cookie tins, paired with killer heels, this season's accessory edit holds court as fashion statements you need for the all the coming seasons

PHOTOGRAPHS STEVEN POPOVICH FASHION DIRECTION AILEEN MARR

Trifolio Cl mini bag, 'Mascali' knee high boots, Salvatore Ferragamo; Serpenti ring in 18k white gold with pavé diamonds, 'MVSA' ring in 18k rose gold with malachite, 'Gelati' ring in 18k rose gold with malachite and pavé diamonds, Bvlgari



Glitter knit blouse, glitter knit dress, knit beret, **Ganni**; quilted handbag, pumps, **Tod's**

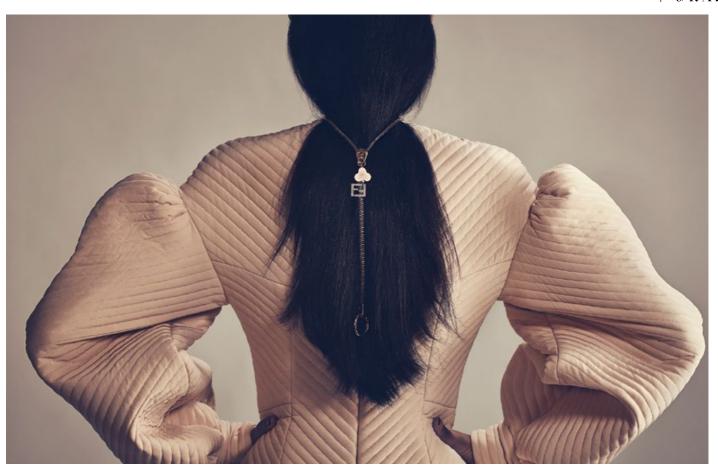
GRAZIA | FASHION



Crepe wool dress, '03 Rose Atelier' pumps, 'Rockstud Spike' handbag, all **Valentino**; 'Miss Sine' headband, **Ford Millinery**

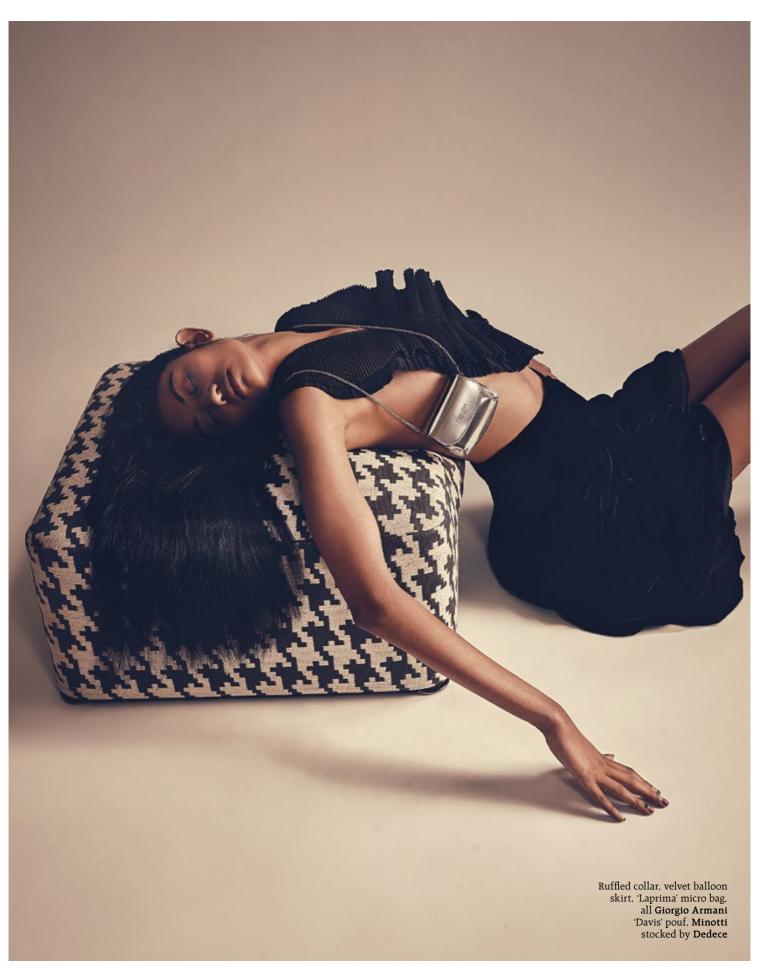


FASHION | GRAZIA





On left: Crepe de chine jumpsuit, 'ISeeU Peekaboo' handbag, structured crossbody bag, all **Fendi** On top: Metal strap for smartphone (worn as hair piece), **Fendi X Chaos**





GRAZIA | FASHION



'Peonia' lace crew neck mini dress, resin and metal choker, crochet gloves with bow detail, biscuit box with top handle, all **Gucci**













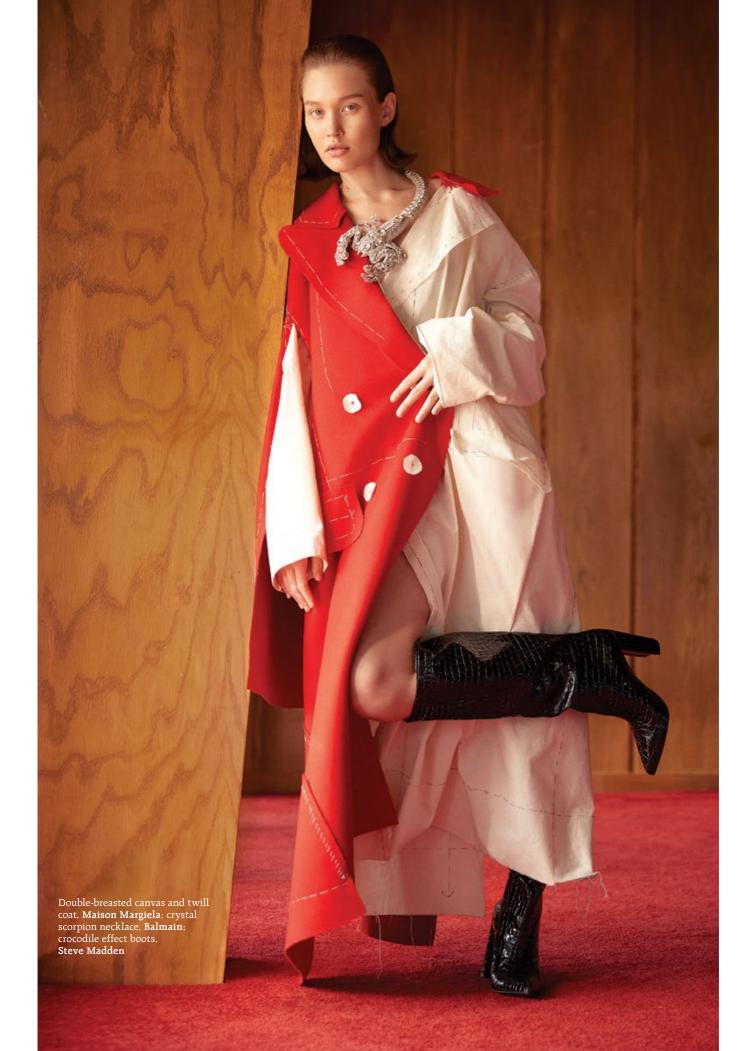


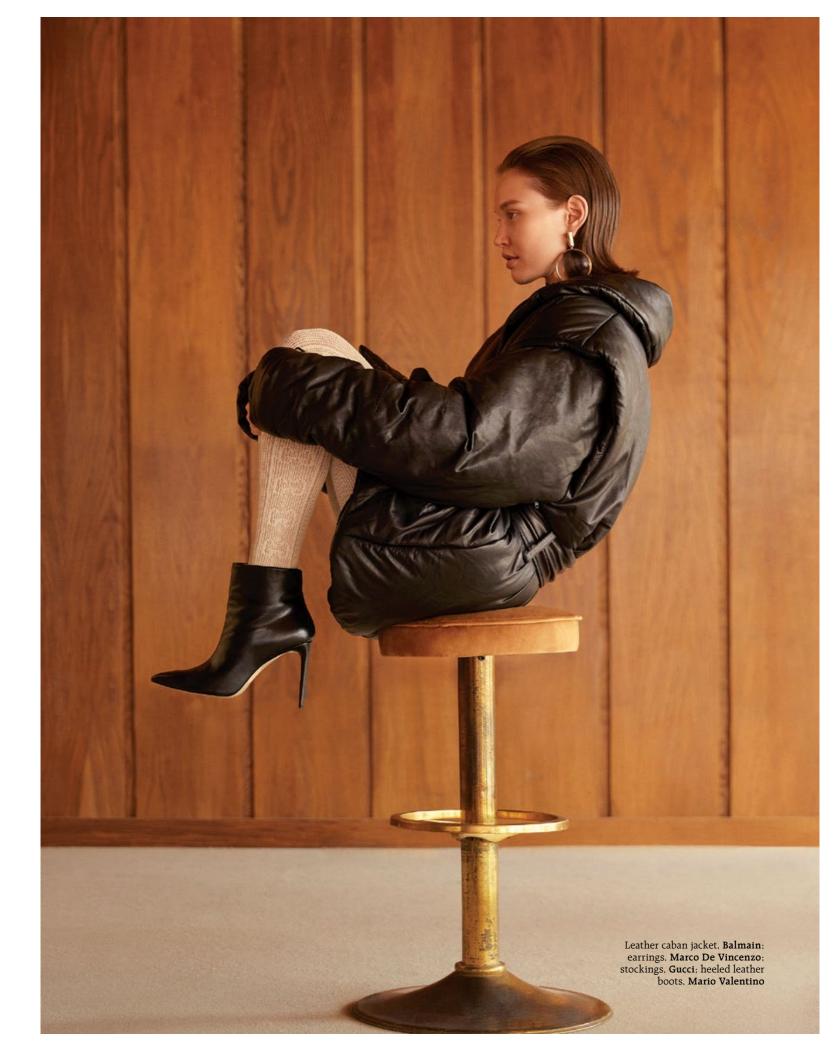
Heeled sandals with crystal embellishment, quilted shoulder bag both **Versace**













FASHION | GRAZIA











ONTHE STYLE RADAR



It's all about bright hues this festive season

he art of giving is a delicate one, particularly during the festive season. Our golden rule? Stick with the classics and this means turning to Paris-based luxury house, Hermès for ideas. Here are our picks, for you, from the house's Autumn/Winter 2020 collection: The clutch in Evercolor calfskin, which comes in various contrasting and tone on-tone colourways, as well as a removable strap; the 'Toucans de Paradis' silk scarf embellished with the toucan and

the bird of paradise motifs; and, cute bracelets in printed enamel, inspired by wildlife.





SHOE IN

Denim for your feet

The denim shoe trend has been in full swing in the past few years, and in keeping with the times, Louis Vuitton, under Virgil Abloh's direction, has unveiled a lightly reworked version of its LV 408 low-top sneaker in monogrammed blue denim. Flirting with nostalgia and borrowing its lines from basketball shoes, the LV

Trainer features a mixture of monogrammed denim, moniker-adorned plastic, and white detailing. The sneaker also incorporates a distinctive LV insignia on the

side, one that debuted in the house's Fall/Winter 2020 show in Paris.

ON SONG

A wedding edit steeped in nostalgia

Feted couturier Anita Dongre has come up with an exquisite wedding collection, called 'Love Song', as an ode to the intimate, close-knit weddings of yesteryear, celebrated with family and close friends. Reds, yellows and creams are set against lush green vistas characteristic of backyard weddings with Dongre's trademark *gota patti* work, *zardozi* embroidery and sequins and *dori* work on raw silk and organza and brocades on full display.

LIKE FINE SILK

A new RTW collection for the modern Indian woman

Bengaluru-based The House of Angadi is set to launch its latest fashion label, Alamelu, just in time for the festive season. This international ready-to-wear brand is rooted in Indian luxury textiles with a contemporary sensibility. With designs created for the woman of today, Alamelu aspires to become India's pioneer luxury label for the well-travelled and design-oriented connoisseur. Alamelu's first collection, titled 'Architexture', features a line-up of modern silhouettes that have been engineered for effortless elegance, crafted in the finest silk both woven by hand and on cutting-edge mechanised looms.



GRAZIA: How is the festive season different for you this year? RADHIKA MADAN:

It's quite different because around this time of the year, invitations for cards parties would pour in. I used to travel to Delhi and celebrate with immediate and extended families. With distance becoming a deterrent, celebrations are pared down this year. But, I'm looking forward to an

intimate affair with my family in Delhi.

A new festive collection brings the party home for those virtual celebrations

he festive season is upon us. While the celebrations may be pared down this year, your OOTD needn't be. In fact, a sartorial pick-me-up could be just the remedy you need to add some excitement to festivities in 2020. Not sure what to wear for those at-home pujas or upcoming intimate gatherings? Let H&M lead the way. The high street brand is embracing these intimate moments of celebration by adding a touch of positivity and togetherness with their campaign, 'Brighter Than Ever'. The campaign film, which stars actor Radhika Madan, captures the essence of how people continue to come together, even with distance keeping them apart. Topped up with some fun pieces, each look allows you to dive into the new normal of intimate gatherings and virtual get-togethers. We caught up with Madan to find out more about the collection.



G: Considering the low-key nature of celebrations this year, what are three at-home festive ideas for a quick pick-me-up, according to you?

RM: It would have to be making *mithai* with my mother and grandparents. We, as a family, believe in making sweets from scratch. Making a rangoli is a cherished family tradition too. If there's no colour available at home, we usually use sindoor (vermilion) as an alternative. Lastly, putting up the lights and playing cards with my family.

G: What would make a memorable Diwali celebration at home?

RM: For me, this year, Diwali celebrations will possibly involve a nice, cosy dinner, and puja with my *nani* and *dadi*. I'm looking forward to spending quality time with my family at home, as opposed to entertaining scores of guests who usually visit. I think H&M's 'Brighter Than Ever' perfectly captures the essence of intimate celebrations. It's all about self-discovery and self-love and that's what I observed with the lockdown as well, my family and I grew closer as a result.

G: What are some of your favourite looks from the collection?

RM: My favourite look from the collection would have to be the black velvet dress that I wear in the campaign video. I love the fit of it and how it compliments my body. It's also a versatile piece: The dress can transition from brunch to the club seamlessly.

G: If you could describe the new H&M collection in three words, what would they be?

RM: It would have to be: Fun, young, and fabulous

G: The campaign is titled 'Brighter than Ever', how would you describe your brighter than ever moment.

RM: The time I saw myself on the big screen. Emotions welled up inside of me and I got a little teary-eyed. It's surreal to see 'Introducing Radhika Madan' flash on a giant screen in front of you, especially considering how hard I've worked to arrive at the position that I currently find myself in.



MOON MAGIC

Crescent motif jewellery is soaring high on the accessory charts — take your pick for when you want to channel a divine force of style



Mixed metal bracelet, **Swarovski**, ₹ 5,490



Pearl and zirconia detailed ring, **Atelier Mon**, ₹ 1,250



Crescent studs, **Dhora**, ₹ 3,000



'Moon Glory' necklace, **Zariin**, ₹ 2,749



THE WAY WE WEAR... TUNICS

www.darveys.com, ₹ 45,950



Broderie anglaise tunic, Mango, ₹ 4,990 Leggings, Decathlon, ₹ 299 Combat boots, Christian Dior, price on request Acetate sunglasses, Balenciaga at

OFF-WHITE

A classic tunic is the most forgiving and versatile piece to have in your closet - whether you wear it on holiday or out running errands. Christopher Kane gave the tunic a Parisian makeover, allowing it to be sexy enough to be worn from brunches to elegant gatherings with the addition of a few shiny accessories. On the daily, pair the tunic with a pair of jeans and loafers, as seen at Gucci.



₹ 3,590



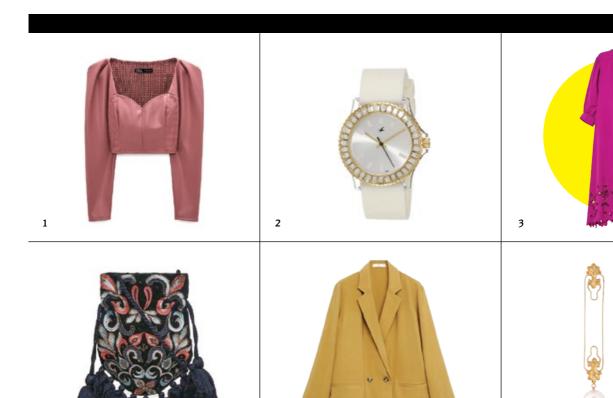


Studded loafers, Christian Louboutin, price on request

Drop earrings, ribe Amrapali, ₹ 7,500

CHICONOMICS

Great style picks, all under ₹5,000



5



- 1 Faux leather crop top, Zara. ₹ 2,490
 2 Embellished watch, Fastrack at www.amazon.in, ₹ 2,150
- 3 Cutwork midi dress, H&M, ₹ 3,499
- 4 Embroidered *potli* bag, **Diwaah** at *www.myntra.com*, ₹ 660
- **5** Blazer, **Mango**, ₹ 4,590
- 6 'Belle' pearl drop earrings, Zohra Jewelry, ₹ 2,550
- 7 Diamantè fishnet heels, **Simmi London** at *www.asos.com*, ₹ 4,300 approx
- 8 Flared floral trousers,
- www.topshop.com, ₹ 2,480 approx 9 'Alto' cuff bracelet, Pipa Bella, ₹ 1,199







8

6

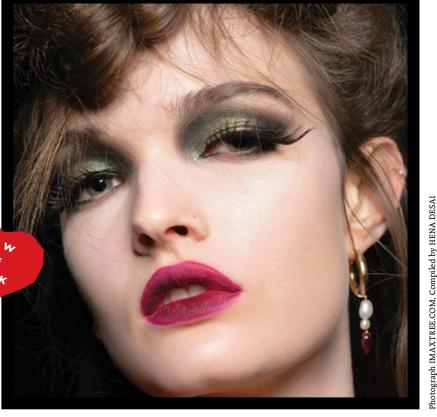


LOVELOVE LOVE

This monogrammed cappucino-hued bag is a fresh switch from your everyday tote — and a 'forever piece' worth investing in



BEAUTY



Where we spotted it
Anna Sui's A/W '20 showcase at the New York Fashion Week.

Why we loved it

It lets you reimagine contrast – if you thought pairing bold eyes with bold lips was too much, think again.

Ways to work it

- 1. Start with an illuminating primer to prep your face followed by a lightweight satin finish foundation to give your skin a luminous glow. Dab some concealer to brighten up your eyes.
- 2. Don't let the smoky-glittery eyes intimidate you, it is not as complicated as it looks. Pat on a shimmery gold eyeshadow all over your lids, apply a matte black eyeshadow on the outer corner of your eyes and smoke it with a fluffy blending brush. Smudge a bit of the black onto your lower lashline, but, not all the way.

 Top it off with a green glittery shadow in the inner corners of your eyes and halfway through the crease.
 - Add some drama to your glam eye look by adding some falsies. Finish it off with a thin coat
 of your favourite mascara.
 - 4. No look is complete without defined brows. Fan out your brows with a spoolie and fill it in with feather strokes, giving your brows a natural, yet fluffy and dense appearance.
 - 5. For the final step, line your lips and apply a deep red matte lipstick to perfect your pout.

1 Indulgeo Essentials, Brow Bro, ₹ 900 2 Huda Beauty Obsessions Eyeshadow Palette - Emerald, ₹ 2.495 3 Rimmel London Stay Satin Liquid Lip Color, ₹ 600 4 Nykaa Beauty Lash Talk - Turn Up The Drama, ₹ 199 5 Estée Lauder Double Wear Stay-in-Place Makeup,

₹ 3,300 **6 M.A.C** Strobe Cream, ₹ 3,200, **7 Max Factor** False Lash Epic Mascara, ₹ 890

raise Lash Epic Mascara, ₹ 890

AND THE STATE OF T



STAY SATIN



GOT IT FROM MY MAMMA

Vipul Shah,

- ALAYA F

Bollywood's brightest new star is famous for her beauty tutorials. But her love affair with make-up started young, as she observed real-life lessons from her mother.

necklace, Anu Merton, Shachee Fine Jewellery,

Facing page: Thread and mirror embroidered corset, Saaksha & Kinni, ₹ 34,500; velvet stole. **Good Earth**, ₹45,000; gold-plated 'Rekha' earrings, Anu Merton, ₹ 4,660; 'Moon Valley' bangle, 'Zambezi' cuff, both Lara Morakhia, price on request; goldplated 'Rangoli' bangle, gold-plated glass bangle, gold-plated Temple bangle, all Tribe Amrapali, ₹ 5,800, ₹3,700 and ₹ 16,500 each respectively; meenakari bangle, **Joolry**, ₹14,000

GRAZIA | BEAUTY



"My mom and grandmother used to wear thick kajal and liner to define their eyes and I used to try copying that. I couldn't do it too well without smudging it all over, but it's the first beauty lesson I remember picking up."





COMING OF AGE

-MASABA GUPTA



She may have launched a successful beauty line now, but like most of us, her first brush with make-up was far from perfect.

Abstract floral print wrap dress,

Saaksha & Kinni,

₹ 15,600; 'Aftab' earrings,

Eina Ahluwalia,

₹ 10,850; 'Picadilly'

ring, The Slow Studio,

₹ 3,000; gold-plated

'Haathi'ring,

Olio Stories, ₹ 4,500; 'Aadrika Clear Quartz' crystal ring,

Anu Merton, ₹ 8,650

GRAZIA | BEAUTY



"I used to raid my mum's makeup kit and use her foundation stick to cover my acne. But she was three shades lighter than me, so I would walk off to school with white spots on my face. Like many girls, I've dealt with problematic skin and cried myself to sleep over it. But it gets better; you just have to hang in there."

3D hand-embroidered jacket, **Rahul Mishra**, ₹1,49,5000; gold plated earrings, **Olio Stories**, ₹9,500



REAL AS IT GETS

- RADHIKA MADAN



With a 'less is more' philosophy, this young actress is not bound by trends and knows how to keep it real.

Printed silk shirt, **Yavi**, ₹ 11,900; embroidered jacket, **Vipul Shah**, ₹ 12,000; gold-plated collar necklace,

Suhani Pittie, ₹12,500; jute and stainless steel necklace, En Inde, ₹ 20,800





"Beauty lies in imperfection; people often forget that. We're told that you have to dress and look a certain way to be called 'pretty', when all you really have to do is be comfortable in your own skin."





BASE THE WENDY **ROWE**

FIRST BASE

International make-up artist and former global creative director at Max Factor, Wendy Rowe has worked with the likes of Kate Moss and Sienna Miller and she's about to change the way you apply your foundation forever.

PREP IT RIGHT

For Wendy, the first step to achieving a glowing finish is your skincare routine. "Skin prep is so important when it comes to applying foundation," says Wendy. "If you neglect that step then it's like trying to paint a beautiful picture on a dirty canvas. Make sure your skin is clean and moisturised before you start. If you're redoing your make-up towards the end of the day, take off all the make-up you already have on, apply your skincare again, and start again."

LIFT A FINGER

Wendy never relies exclusively on tools when applying foundation. "You need to push foundation into the skin. Handle the formula as you would moisturiser - you wouldn't apply that with a brush. If you use a sponge, make sure it's damp. You want your foundation to be pressed into the skin."

KNOW YOUR STARTING POINT

Apply your foundation to the middle of your face first, says Wendy, and blend outwards. "Start with your T-zone and blend outwards with your fingers to the areas of your face that need it less." The aim is to achieve a barely-there base look while applying just the right amount of coverage to the areas that require it most.

CUT DOWN ON CONCEALER

An angry spot appears out of nowhere and within seconds you're ransacking your makeup bag for concealer. According to Wendy, it's best to restrain yourself. "If you're faced with a problem area, the best thing you can do is to use as little make-up on it as possible. Use a lightweight foundation all over to even out your skin tone and finish with just a touch of powder over your breakout. Add any more layers than that and the area will start to look cakey."

Laura Mercier Flawless

usion Ultra Long-Wear Concealer,

2,420 approx

DOUBLE UP

If you hit on the exact right shade of foundation in summer, it's likely that it won't match your skin tone in winter. For this reason, Wendy advises investing in two shades of foundation at a time. "Buy one slightly darker than the other, and blend them to arrive at the perfect shade for your skin. Adjust the colour as your skin tone changes throughout the year. Do the same with concealer. You can use the darker shade of concealer on its own to achieve a subtle contoured effect, too."



BEAUTY | GRAZIA

AX FACTOR

MIRACLE

HYDRATE

RENEW

Max Factor Miracle

Second Skin

Foundation SPF20, ₹ 1,260 approx

Hourglass Vanish Airbrush Concealer, ₹ 3,100 approx







Dior Diorshow

Dior Diorshow 24h Stylo in 091 Matte Black, ₹ 2,180 approx

Hourglass Scattered

Light Glitter

Eyeshadow in Foil,

₹ 2,710 approx

SEEING RED

"Lots of us shy away from wearing warm tones, like pinks and reds, in case they make our eyes look sore," says Nikki. "But if you use a dark liner in the lash line to create definition and contrast, it works." For autumn/winter, Nikki recommends deep reds and rich burgundy eyeshadows — "These shades are really beautiful and much easier to wear than you think." Dab a pearlescent gold on top of the centre of the lid for a little 'eye-light'.

top lash line until you reach the outer corner,

and then look straight ahead in the mirror and sketch the angle of your bottom lash line." This

way, according to Nikki, the wing is always

going to be flattering and suit your shape -

rather than being too low or too high.

LASH OUT

Sometimes, a quick curl and coat of mascara is all you need to feel 'put together' and ready to take on the day. "I always like to curl lashes twice," says Nikki, "once, really close to the root of the lashes and then slightly further down the length of the lash." The result? "A nice gradual curve, instead of a 90° angle bend." Finish with a little bit of mascara. "I love the Dior Diorshow Iconic Overcurl Mascara – it pushes lashes up with its curved brush and doesn't smudge, transfer or flake." Triple tick!

LOUD MOUTH

Yes, you can wear lipstick with a mask, and here to tell us how it's done is none other than Lisa Eldridge, one of the most talented make-up artists in the business.

PREP YOUR POUT

The secret to making your lip colour last? "It's all in the prep," says Lisa. "During your cleansing routine, massage your lips with a muslin cloth to remove dry skin." Next? "Apply a generous layer of balm and let it get to work while you're doing your base and eyes." When you're ready, blot away any excess product before applying lipstick.

LAYER UP

When it comes to perfect application, Lisa recommends building up the colour in layers. "I like to use a brush for this," she says, "before blotting and finishing with a dab of colour straight from the bullet for the final layer." You can use your fingertips for a soft, natural 'just bitten' stain. "Dab your ring finger on the lipstick and pat lightly on to lips until you get the perfect level of colour and diffusion."

AVOID FEATHERING

"Keep your lip look in check and avoid bleeding with a lip liner," suggests Lisa. "Outline your lips either before or after your first application of lipstick with a long-wearing, waterproof gel pencil."

GO FOR BOLD

Don't let wearing a mask put you off a statement lip. Prep it and your look will last all day. "Just remember to blot well with tissue after application," says Lisa. "There is nothing more instantly pleasurable than a gloriously painted red mouth."

BEAUTY | GRAZIA

COME CLEAN

Stubborn make-up's no match for these trusty formulas

399

DERMAFIQUE BIPHASIC MICELLAR (KAJAL CLEANSER)

This solvent is gentle enough to use on sensitive skin as it wipes away even the deepest pigments without the need for any excessive rubbing.



Along with removing make-up, this one also deep cleanses your pores and brightens skin. Extra points for being paraben-free, cruelty-free and 100 per cent vegetarian.

499

775

JUST HERBS AYURVEDIC MICELLAR WATER SAPTA JAL

Ayurveda and make-up removers don't usually go hand-in-hand, but this blend of plant and vegetable oils cleanses, tones, hydrates, and soothes all at once, without drying your skin out.



BIODERMA SÉBIUM H2O MICELLAIRE WATER

If you find one of these in a make-up artist's kit, you know it's golden standard. This variant is made particularly for oily, acne-prone skin, with zit-zapping minerals like copper and zinc.

1,350



1,900

SHISEIDO REFRESHING CLEANSING WATER

This water-based, oil-free cleanser balances your skin's pH and gently melts away all traces of make-up without leaving behind any greasiness.

BOBBI BROWN MAKEUP MELTER & CLEANSER

This pick bubbles into a lightweight foam to melt away dirt and make-up from your face. Good enough to call it a double cleanser in a bottle.

2,700







GRAZIA: What's your earliest memory of lipsticks?

LISA ELDRIDGE: I first started to play with make-up when I was about six years old. I lived in New Zealand but came to England and found a box of my mum's old make-up at my grandmother's house. Mary Quant crayons and Coty lipsticks – it was so glamorous. I was initially captivated by the colours, textures, and objects themselves.

G: What prompted you to start your own line of products?

LE: I tend to do things organically and in my own time, often (unconsciously) doing the exact opposite of what people expect. I hadn't really planned to create and launch a lipstick first, but I had a dream that I was doing someone's make-up using lipsticks that were made from velvet. I was so inspired by the dream that I did an editorial shoot for using real velvet fabric instead of lipstick – the

READ HER LIPS

This YouTube beauty guru walks us through her routine

ake-up artist Lisa Eldridge, who counts Alexa Chung, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, and Dua Lipa, among her clients, has changed the game. She was the first leading make-up artist to get on YouTube, allowing millions of subscribers to get an inside look at her favourite methods and products, before it became an industry norm. She was also instrumental in educating a generation of beauty lovers to try out new looks, learn about the history of make-up, and embrace their own skills. So when we heard that the iconic make-up artist was expanding her range of lip products, we were more than interested.

From lipsticks that feel like velvet, to glossy tints and densely pigmented liners, Eldridge has created a capsule collection of must-have lip products to suit every skin tone. In a candid chat, she tells *Grazia* about her early tryst with lipstick, and shares tips and tricks to help you pucker up.

pictures looked fantastic, but as you can imagine it wasn't very comfortable for the model! So, I always had that in mind and wondered if it would be possible to create a lipstick like the one in my dream.

G: As lip kits designed by a make-up artist, what sets them apart?

LE: For over two decades now, I've been painting the faces of models

and celebrities for glossy magazines, edgy editorials, advertising campaigns, and runway shows all over the world. So, as you can imagine, I've tried a LOT of lipsticks. I know exactly what makes a product good enough for me to be able to use it on myself, on my channels and in my pro kit – I'll never use a brand or a product unless I truly believe in it. The production of make-up, in particular, is something that has captivated me in a way I never believed it would. After 20 years, I have a comprehensive knowledge of the cosmetic chemistry, and I'm as interested in the science, technology and history of make-up.

G: Do you have any tricks up your sleeve to get fuller-looking lips?

LE: Always prep your lips first. The easiest way is to massage your lips with a muslin cloth or flannel during your cleansing routine – this removes dry skin and pumps up the blood supply to the lips, so it plumps too. Lip liner is then the product you need for fuller-

looking lips. You can apply it before lipstick, but a good trick is to apply after your lipstick application — this way you'll be able to look at the shape of your lips with colour and can see exactly where you need to make your tweaks, cheats and adjustments.

G: You've always emphasised the importance of a good skin – what's a basic but effective skincare regime that you recommend?

LE: My routine changes day-to-day as I tend to gear it around what I look like that morning. If I'm puffy, I like to use something that's cold, so I always have some eye patches and sheet masks in the fridge - I buy sheet masks in bulk whenever I'm in Asia, I've been known to bring an empty suitcase for them. But if I wake up and my skin looks good, I just use a face wash and moisturiser. I have combination skin that's what I call a 'lazy exfoliator', so I need to exfoliate but I do it gently. I don't like scrubs, so acids are key in my routine - a gel cleanser with lactic acid is a morning go-to. I also use sun protection every day of the year. There's really no excuse not to use SPF daily - there are so many great products out there that offer high level protection and don't leave skin white or ashy.



BEAT THE BLOAT

Gummies aren't just for kids anymore



f you weren't already health conscious before, it may be safe to assume that you are now, thanks to everything that 2020 has thrown our way. Our active lifestyles have suddenly turned sedentary, resulting in lethargy, digestive issues and most importantly, bloating. Thankfully, an Indian-origin nutraceutical brand, Power Gummies, has launched Weight Management Gummies to help you in your battle against the bloat - infused with green coffee bean, L-Carnitine and vitamin C, these gummies boost metabolism, prevent fatigue and reduce water retention, all in a slow, safe and natural manner. Our team tried them out, and here's what they have to say about it:

Hena Desai, Senior Beauty Writer

"I've always been vary of trying supplements, but the fact that these are made with trusted, certified ingredients has converted me. It's the right kind of help you need to stay in shape - you only need two gummies a day to improve gut health, boost energy and improve your immunity (thanks to the vitamin C). They score big in my books because they're safe and fun."

Surbhi Shukla, Junior Fashion Editor

"I am only a handful of days into taking these but I can feel the difference it makes as I usually feel bloated after having eaten things containing gluten. These gummies taste great, like candy that's good for you and that's encouraging enough for me to take them on the daily. "

Meghana Ganeshan, **Digital Writer**

"I've always struggled with fatigue and lethargy, even when indulging in the mildest form of physical workout. That's when I decided to give wellness supplements a try for that extra nutrition and these have worked wonders. It's the perfect way to detox, stay in shape and build metabolism. The added benefits are that the vitamins are completely cruelty-free, sugar-free and gelatin-free, ensuring overall good health".

VITAMINS FOR

Power Gummies Beach

Body, ₹ 1,200 onwards

ANTI-AGEING K-CLASSICS

Bye-bye, frown lines



A drop of this super high concentration of serums reduces wrinkles. improves elasticity and hydration for your skin.

Accoje Anti-Aging Intensive Ampoule, ₹ 2.100

Meant to be used as the first step in your anti-ageing routine, this lightweight, watery serum improves radiance, skin density and also the efficacy of products that follow. A bottle of this is sold every 10 seconds in Korea, so you know it's worth every penny.

Sulwhasoo First Care Activating Serum, ₹ 1,850





Scarves are the easiest way to up the ante on a low-maintenance hairstyle, whether it is a low-slung ponytail or if you are letting your hair down. Made popular by the Olsen twins, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, this accessory comes without rules. Pull a demure pop-princess vibe by folding the scarf into a triangle shape and placing it at the crown but leaving a little bit of a fringe at the front. You can tie it at underneath your ponytail or pin it on your hair if you are leaving your hair open.

WITH THE BAND

Blair Waldorf made sure that headbands were a mainstay in our wardrobe. The accessory is once again sweeping through the zeitgeist as it becomes a particularly attention-grabbing piece. The headband has certainly grown up as it becomes appropriate to be worn with grown-up pieces like tea-dresses and trouser suits. It supports a charming versatility through the day depending on if you want to wear your hair down or in a messy bun.

> Textured headband, Accessorize, ₹ 1,299

> > Embroidered headband Joey & Pooh X Payal Singhal, ₹ 3,599



The 00s are back with scarves, headbands and all the shiny ornaments to wear in your hair



Louis Vuitton,

price on request

Pearl spirals, www.asos.com, ₹ 999 approx

HAIR TINSEL

We have been deprived of dressing up the entire year, so it is only appropriate to go all out during the festive season and style your hair like it is 1999. The decorated hairstyle of Jennifer Lopez prevails with a modern twist, reimagined on this season's runways remember Whether you deploy pearly pins to the task of a dramatic hairdo or tiny jewels to catch the light, no hair accessory compares to the glamour of dispersed jewels.



hotographs IMAXTREE, Words SURBHI SHUKLA

Embellished spiral clips

Mango, ₹ 999



Featuring the buzziest ingredient of the year, hemp - this is all you need to reach out for when your skin demands a hefty dose of hydration.

> The Body Shop Hemp Hardworking Hand Protector, Hemp Hydrating & Protecting Shower Oil and Hemp Overnight Nourishing Rescue Mask, ₹. 450, 1595 and 2,195 respectively





Pistachio Barfi

Ingredients:

- Pistachio 1,000 gms
- Sugar 800 gms
- I no. orange for zest

- I. Soak one kilo of pistachios in two litres of hot water for five minutes until the outer skin comes off
- 2. Now remove the skin and keep the green pistachios aside.
- 3. Puree the pistachios into a fine paste (without any lumps), add sugar and let it sit for 30 minutes.
- 3. In a kadai, add the puree, and on slow heat cook the mixture to 100° C.
- 4. Remove from the kadai and put it in a dough mixer with a paddle attachment along with the zest of one orange; let the paste cool down to 45° C or put it in a mixing bowl and use a spatula to cool it down manually.

5. Remove the barfi, roll it onto a tray to 2 cm thickness and coat with chopped pistachio and cut as desired.



Chocolate Pedha

Ingredients:

- Store-bought khoya 200 gms
- Sugar 30 gms
- Milk 30 gms
- Dark chocolate (melted) 100 gms For the chocolate ganache:
- Dark chocolate 200 gms
- Heavy cream 125 gms

Method for chocolate ganache:

- I. Put chocolate in a bowl. Take a pot and fill it half way with water and bring it to a boil. Put the bowl of chocolate on top of the pot and melt it.
- 2. In another pot, bring cream to boil and pour it over the melted chocolate. Mix well and strain the ganache.

Allow it to cool before refrigerating it overnight.

Method for making chocolate pedha:

- I. Crumble store-bought khoya in a kadai, add sugar and milk to it. Mix the khoya on low heat till it softens.
- 2. Now turn off heat, add the melted chocolate and stir well till the khoya is homogenous. Now you have chocolate pedha!
- 3. Remove the pedha from the kadai and let it cool for about 30 minutes.
- 4. Divide the pedha into two equal parts. Take one part of the *pedha* and sheet it into a square to I cm thickness and put on a tray. Apply the chocolate ganache to this layer evenly and let this mixture now set at room temperature.
- 5. Sheet the second *pedha* mixture to 1 cm thickness, again in a square shape, and put this on top of the chocolate ganache.
- 6. Cut it as desired or serve it whole at room temperature.

GRAZIA | FOOD

Coffee Chocolate Barks

Ingredients:

- Almonds I20 gms
 Hazelnuts I20 gms
- Caster sugar 250 gms
- Instant coffee powder 10 gms
- Water 30 gms
- Unsalted butter I20 gms
- Corn syrup 15 gms
- Vanilla extract 5 gms
 Dark chocolate 200 gms

Method:

- I. Pre-heat the oven to 150° C. Place almonds and hazelnuts on a baking sheet and bake for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown and fragrant. Set aside
- 2. Once the nuts have cooled to room temperature, chop them roughly into small bite-sized pieces.
- 3. In a medium-sized, heavy-bottomed saucepan combine the sugar, water, butter, and corn syrup. Have the baking soda, coffee powder and vanilla extract ready.
- 4. Bring the sugar mixture to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Then cook until the mixture reaches 140° C on a candy thermometre. Immediately remove the saucepan from the heat add the baking soda, coffee powder and vanilla extract and stir to combine. 5. Immediately pour this mixture evenly over the nuts on your baking sheet. Then place the chopped chocolate over the hot toffee. After a few minutes the chocolate will be soft enough to spread with a palate knife (or back of a spoon) in an even layer over the toffee. Sprinkle the remaining chopped almonds over the melted chocolate. Place the pan in the refrigerator until chocolate is firm. Then cut the barks into pieces using a sharp knife.



All the tech we're crushing on this month

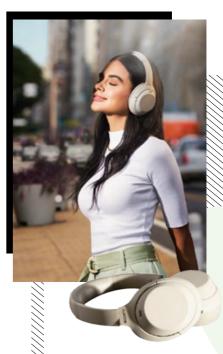
BIG BYTE

GLOSTER 28.9 LAKH ONWARDS

Who doesn't want to hop into an SUV? Especially if you're planning a weekend getaway with the fam. We're drawn to their sky-high seating, cargo room large enough to stow a national park, and the perceived ability to traverse anything. We wouldn't be lying if we said the MG Gloster is no small deal, quite literally. It's a car that matches style with versatility, along with it being India's first autonomous (Level 1) SUV. It sports an Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) that enhances your driving experience, thereby ensuring safety is paramount. The creature comforts inside the cabin include a 12.3-inch touchscreen infotainment system, a 12-way poweradjustable driver seat with ventilation, heating, memory, and massage functionalities. The Gloster also packs in exceptional power while giving you the leverage you need to try off-roading during your outdoor excursion.



In some cases: Bigger is actually better. The new Galaxy tab is aimed at the pro user, replete with a high-refresh-rate OLED display, (future-proof) 5G connectivity, and #workfromhome internals that can take on any app or game you throw at it. In short: This premium Android tablet is a must-have.



WH-1000XM4 ₹ 29.990

Sony's over-ear headphones is, simply put, one of the best out there. It's just the pair you need if you dislike plugging in gadgets and accessories with bad battery life again and again for charging. With an updated design for extra comfort, even better highs and lows, and a path-breaking magical active noise cancelling feature that helps drown out the world, we couldn't have asked for a better road trip companion.



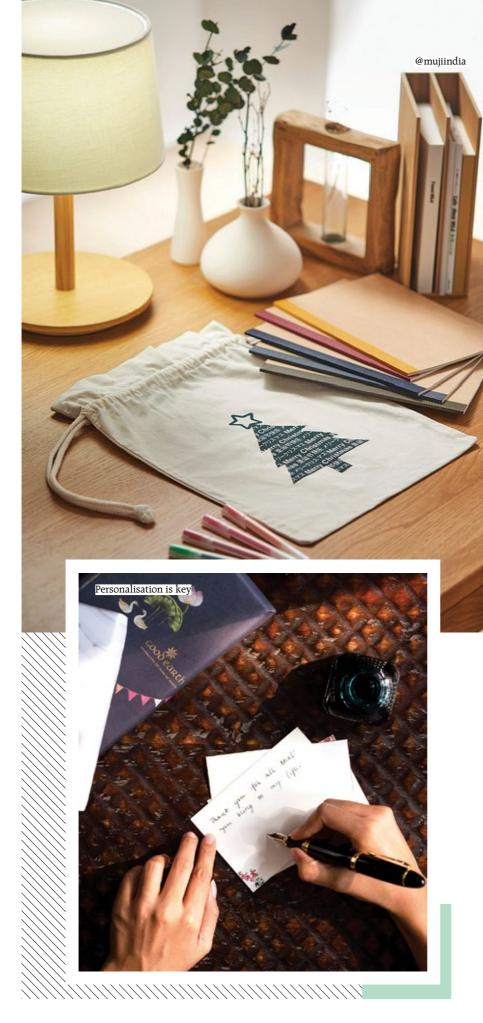
BOSE FRAMES SOPRANO ₹ 21,900

Bose seems convinced that people really like sunglasses with integrated speakers, and we decided to give it a whirl. These wireless glasses feature a cat-eye design and use Bose Open Ear Audio technology for unbelievably discrete sound the perfect companion if you're trying to hit up 10,000+ steps a day to keep healthy and fit.





LIVING | GRAZIA



esides bright lights, Mumbaibased photographer Frank Ahalpara's favourite thing about the festive season is wrapping gifts. "I enjoy the process of putting together a thoughtful gift for friends and family. I usually avoid wrapping gifts with coloured paper and refrain from using plain brown paper bags too. I get tremendous satisfaction from using unconventional material and taking up the challenge to tuck precise corners. In the age of e-commerce and digital cards, personalising a gift the traditional way is a rarity," he says with a passion.

Yet fewer people, especially 25- to 34-year-olds, are interested in buying wrapping paper and cards for the gifts they give at Diwali. This perceived shift in personalising gifts could partly be due to green gifting concerns. Perhaps, there's also a move away from the superficiality that can come with the festive season, a feeling that the love you have for your 'giftee' just isn't possible to sum up with rolls of massproduced embellished paper. But the more DIY among us might call it laziness or a lack of care instead. Maybe the current generation just don't want to put in the effort previous generations did and prefer to send their texts and unwrapped Amazon parcels because it's easy and instant. Maybe it's a symptom of us not understanding the value of giving; that this is a time that used to be about goodwill and sharing, etc, doesn't mean that much anymore.



Divya Choudhary, who's part of the team at Nicobar's flagship store in Delhi, believes otherwise. "Now more than ever, connection is priority. To say that the last eight months have been unusual is putting it mildly. While we're big believers of giving thoughtful gifts all year round (and sometimes for no reason at all), it feels important to reach out and let people you love know that you're thinking of them," she says.

When people think of gift wrapping, they think of simple paper with a puffy bow on top. But for Shelley John, who works at a gift shop in Hyderabad and is in charge of manning the gift-wrapping counter, her style is more about telling a story. "When people visit the shop to pick out a gift and card, I usually suggest the style of wrapping paper they could opt for. Personally, the paper should not only reflect the occasion but the recipient too. For example, if you walk into a room and see gifts on the table, the wrapping paper should want to make you gravitate to

a gift that's been packed specifically for you,"

And gift wrapping doesn't have to be expensive. Ahalpara wants his gifts to look nice, but cleverly nice. He says it's all about the skill of making something look even better than it is. "I'm not a fan of anything over frivolous, that's really not where I'm at. Recycled paper and fabric are huge now and will continue to be so from an environmental point of view. It all boils down to being thoughtful and thinking about the person who you're giving the gift to."

At a time like this, when so many of us are house-bound and away from our loved ones, personal gifting is a simple yet beautiful gesture - a reminder that tiny acts of kindness go a long way in an unstable and uncertain world. As Anita Lal, founder and creative director, Good Earth puts it: "Gifts that are beautifully packed with love always add a special touch and make the whole experience of gifting more memorable."

WRAPPED CONSCIOUSLY

While the festive season is traditionally a time of excess, that's no excuse to throw your efforts at saving the planet completely out the window. Instead, a mindful approach to gift wrapping can go a long way in reducing the environmental impact of your celebrations. Here's how to get started.



Collect paper or other materials suitable for gifts throughout the year, e.g. fine paper that many clothes from online shops come wrapped in, or old posters you want to discard.



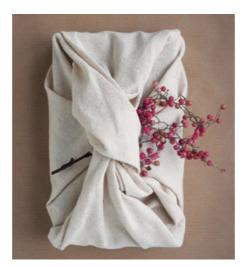
Pack gifts in boxes or glasses that can be reused quickly and easily. Homemade gifts look so much nicer in a cardboard box with a beautiful ribbon and a handwritten card.



If traditional wrapping paper is unavoidable, make sure you use paper that is FSC-certified and easily recyclable. Here's how you test it: If it can be scrunched up in ball, it can be recycled.



Do not use a tape. Instead, opt for strings or ribbons that can be recycled, e.g. gifts from the previous year or from other packaging.



Any fabric is a great, sustainable option. Get creative and use a handkerchief, scarf, tea towel, or even a reusable shopping bag that the person receiving can then go on to use beyond the festive season.



Use dried citrus, dried florals, and a filled ornament to top each gift. After opening, the dried flowers can go in a bud vase or used in other arrangements. The dried citrus can be used as an ornament, too.

FLOWER POWER

We asked floral experts for their best flower arranging tips and tricks so that you can make your own stunning centrepieces for Diwali – without breaking the bank

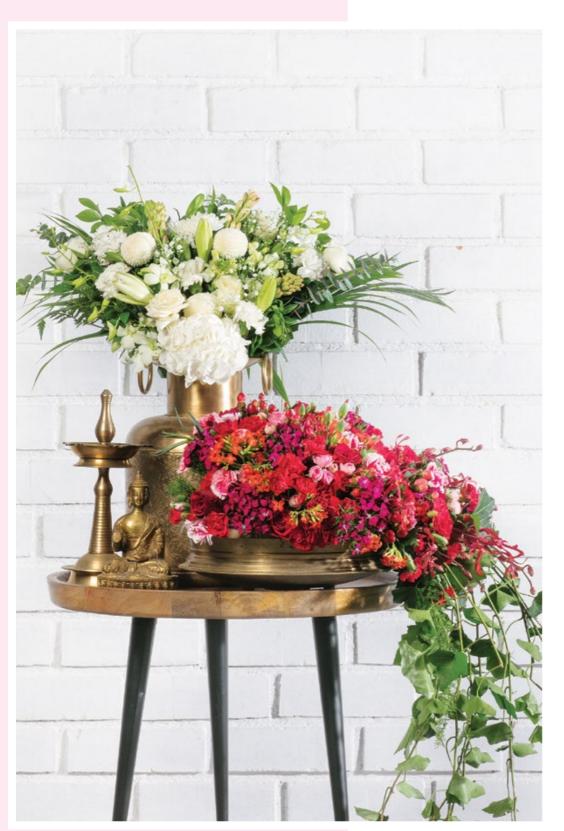
Words BARRY RODGERS



FIREWORKS

When it comes to flowers, Delhibased event design company Twelve Tomatoes' owners, Karan Singh Parmar and Amit Lata, are not minimalistic with their approach, hence anything inspired by ikebana (the ancient Japanese art of flower arranging) is challenging for them. This arrangement took inspiration from fireworks in the sky. "I went foraging in the fields (I'm setting up a farmstead in a village in Punjab and currently don't have access to flowers that are conventionally considered 'exotic') and have used what's available in abundance - wild grass (for texture), lantana (for colour and shape) along with a stem of edible greens. The base is a leftover piece from the trunk of an eucalyptus tree," says Parmar.

PRO TIP: "The eco-friendliest approach to flower arrangements would be to buy local flowers from your neighbourhood florist. We are firm believers of #supportlocal and one can absolutely make the most stunning arrangements without imported tulips or banksia (imagine the carbon footprint)," adds Parmar.



CASCADE

According to Bengaluru-based flower company, The Flora, cascading arrangements are back this festive season to spruce up your space with their old-world vintage charm, while maintaining a modern, sophisticated aesthetic. "The luxuriant garden-style blooms that gracefully cascade downwards into trailing foliage are elegant yet bold. Typically perched on a kylix or a goblet to give the arrangement some

height, these look best with an assortment of fresh flowers and fillers of your choice. The arrangement can be made with an oasis foam holding the blooms on a flat or shallow base, or with a mesh-like structure in a vase that has some depth. To give it a festive spin, use brass urlis or deep lamps for the base and style it with brass accent pieces," says Radhika Dilip Kale, head of product, brand, and marketing - The Flora.

PRO TIP: "Warm, bright, and eclectic colours, including deep reds, bright pinks, vibrant oranges, and crisp whites, are recommended to add festive cheer," says Kale.

G R A Z I A **DECOR**



UNTAMED

This arrangement blends the exquisite textures of organic life with raw and rustic qualities. "For an expansive and wild look, opt for larger stems, leaves, vines, and seed-pods for a dash of drama. If you don't want to commit entirely to this style, you can always mix it up with fresh blooms, including eucalyptus, Amaranthus, baby's breath or eryngium, which are versatile and maintain a balance between the natural and untamed look," says Anuja Joshi, director, marketing and events, Interflora India.

PRO TIP: "A little care will ensure fresh flowers last longer at home. Clean your vase and change the water every day. Remove any foliage that may fall below the waterline. Trim the base of each flower stem every day by 2 cm, at a 45-degree angle. Use good quality flower food in the vase water and stir gently, this will keep the bacteria at bay," adds Joshi.

BLOOM

According to Mumbai-based Rishika Shrishrimal, of Flowers Anonymous, the pavé technique is neat, simple and malleable enough to add flounce by playing with the volume of the bouquet. The flower-arranging technique draws inspiration from the orientation of old, paved paths of French towns. Stones are placed tightly together in a puzzle-like formation, rendering it a beautiful pattern. "I love placing focus on one large, circular flower, letting it take centre stage while working with smaller flowers around. It adds sculptural value to the arrangement, especially if you have to contend with a small vase," she says.

PRO TIP: "Adopt an eco-friendly approach by reusing old glass bottles, tin containers, and candle holders as vases. Avoid using oasis floral foam and, instead, work with barbed wire to tuck in the flowers," she adds.



WHERE TO FIND IT

ACCOJE

available at www.wonderskin.in

ALANUI www.alanui.it

www.ampm.in

ANAMIKA KHANNA www.anamikakhanna.in

ANU MERTON www.anumerton.com

APEDE MOD available at www.shopbop.com

ATELIER MON available at nykaafashion.com

available at Le Mill, Colaba, Mumbai

AZGA www.azga.in

BALENCIAGA available at www.darveys.com

BIBHU MOHAPATRA www.bibhumohapatra.com

BIODERMA available at Jean-Claude Biguine Salons

BOBBI BROWN available at www.nykaa.com

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI available at www.net-a-porter.com

Palladium, Lower Parel, Mumbai

CALVIN KLEIN FRAGRANCE available at www.sephora.nnow.com

CHARLES & KEITH Grand Galleria, Lower Parel, Mumbai

CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN Horniman Circle, Fort, Mumbai

DECATHLON www.decathlon.in

DERMAFIQUE

available at www.nykaa.com DESIGUAL

DLF Avenue Mall, Saket, New Delhi DHORA dhoraindia.in

Taj Mahal Palace, Colaba, Mumbai DIWAAH

available at www.myntra.com DOROTHY PERKINS available at www.myntra.com

EINA AHLUWALIA www.einaahluwalia.com

available at www.ogaan.com

EN INDE www.eninde.com **ESTÉE LAUDER**

available at sephora.nnow.com

FURLIMME eurumme.com FABIANA FILIPPI

available at www.farfetch.com

FASTRACK www.fastrack.in

DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

FOREVER 21 www.forever21.in

GANNI

available at www.shopbop.com

GOOD EARTH Raghuvanshi Mills, Lower Parel, Mumbai

GUCCI Hotel Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai

GUERLAIN availabe at www.sephora.nnow.com

High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai

HUDA BEAUTY available at www.nykaa.com

INDULGEO ESSENTIALS www.indulgeoessentials.com

ISHARYA 15th Road, Bandra West, Mumbai

JJ VALAYA valaya.com

JOOLRY Atria Mall, Worli, Mumbai

JUST HERBS www.justherbs.in

www.kngnbags.com

LARA MORAKHIA www.laram.in

www.levi.in LOUISVUITTON

LEVI'S

MAC

Taj Mahal Palace, Colaba, Mumbai

www.maccosmetics.in MANGO shop.mango.com

MANISH ARORA available at www.yoox.com

MAX FACTOR available at www.nykaa.com

STUDIO METALLURGY www.studiometallurgy.com

www.mishodesigns.com

MISSONI available at www.farfetch.com

PÈRO pero.co.in PIPA BELLA www.pipabella.com RADHIKA AGRAWAI available at Azotiique, Linking Road, Khar West, Mumbai

RAHUL MISHRA www.rahulmishra.in

RAW MANGO Raey House, BEST Marg, Colaba, Mumbai

RIMMEL LONDON available at www.nykaa.com

RITU KUMAR www.ritukumar.com **RUBY'S ORGANICS** www.rubysorganics.in

SAAKSHA & KINNI www.saakshakinni.com

SHISEIDO

SHACHEE FINE JEWELLERY available on Instagram @shacheefinejewellery_

available at www.nykaa.com SIMMI LONDON

available at www.asos.com

SO FETCH www.sofetchshop.com

STEVE MADDEN Palladium, Lower Parel, Mumbai

STUDIO MEDIUM www.studiomedium.in **SUHANI PITTIE**

suhanipittie.com SUKET DHIR suketdhir.com

SWAROVSKI

Palladium, Lower Parel, Mumbai

available at The Collective, Palladium, Lower Parel, Mumbai

THE BODY SHOP www.thebodyshop.in THE CALSTORE

THE OLIO STORIES theoliostories.com

THE SLOW STUDIO available on www.nykaafashion.com

TOPSHOP www.topshop.com

TRIBE AMRAPALI Palladium, Lower Parel, Mumbai

untitledco.in VEDIKA M vedikam.com

VIPUL SHAH

UNTITLED CO.

available on Instagram @vipulshahbags

YAVI studioyavi.com

zariin.com

7ARA Palladium, Lower Parel, Mumbai

7ARIIN

ZOHRA JEWELRY zohrajewelry.com



MONTH IN MONTH OUT

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

FINDING HER **VOICE**

There is much to laugh at and get inspired from in this book



ahira Kashyap Khurrana has learnt to let go. Clearly. Her latest book - The 12 Commandments of Being a Woman (published by Juggernaut Books) - is a funny, wise, and outrageously frank attempt at sharing her life experiences with the world. The filmmaker and author of three books doesn't shy away from taking digs at herself. Here, she opens up about her journey with the book.

GRAZIA: Is it easier to write about your own life experiences, or when it's a work of imagination?

TAHIRA KASHYAP KHURRANA:

There is clarity when it comes from your own life, but there are also apprehensions and hesitation. You wonder whether you have done the right thing or not. But when it comes to fiction, you can take more time exploring the character and the world you are creating. You get the opportunity to cross many barriers without having to think about the repercussions it might have on your personal life. So, there are pros and cons to both, according to me.

G: It takes courage to bare your deepest fears and insecurities to the world. How



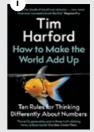
challenging was that?

TKK: Honestly, I have learnt to let go of things over the past few years. I did not feel the same way when I was in my 20s. I was very complex at the time. I think every human being is capable of finding their voice and once they do, they start cherishing it. I want to share my experiences with people so that they realise that being pretentious or insecure only makes you unhappy. I have been on both ends of the spectrum, where I have felt the world watching me. Then I realised that the world didn't care, it was just me coupled with my insecurities. I have found happiness now and I wish people could open that window in their lives as well.

G: Which of these 12 commandments do you think will resonate most with women?

TKK: That's difficult to say. I'm functioning from a place of gratitude now, so I can't say if the moment when I win a trophy is more special than the moments right after my marriage. I think every phase of your life has to be cherished. All of them have their hardships and in retrospect, they become sunny. I have covered how I felt as a child, or when I was in my teens, how I was in my 20s, and life post marriage. This is why I feel this book can resonate with women of all ages. There is a lot of intrigue for the men too, and I hope they pick it up as well.

On the Bookshelf



How to Make the World Add Up

Hachette India Tim Harford

Making communicating with numbers worthwhile, this is an insight into understanding numbers in order to see the world more clearly.

Voices of Dissent

Penguin Random House India Romila Thapar

A timely historical essay on the articulation of dissent and how debate through dialogue can change society for the better.



MARIAH CAREY

The Meaning of **Mariah Carey**

Macmillan

Mariah Carey with Michaela Angela Davis

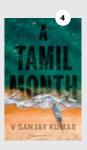
In her new memoir, the singer discusses growing up in poverty in a violent household, her experiences of racism, her music, her marriages, and much more.

A Tamil Month

Bloomsbury V Sanjay Kumar

A city-slicker from Mumbai sees an opportunity to carry out the political coup of his

career in Tamil Nadu, but is he ready for the fight of his life?





This hard-hitting album brings together the different realities of life

♦he lack of touring and equivalent opportunities has hit the entire music, entertainment, and nightlife ecosystem hard. While some navigate a way around it and try newer things, rapper Divine has used this time to write as much as he can. "Musically and creatively, the additional time has given me perspective, which might not have been that easy to come by otherwise," he says. So, a year after Kohinoor, his hit debut album. the musician is now all set to release his next, Punya Paap. The title track of the album was released recently. Here, Vivian Fernandes, aka Divine, talks about his new

release and the future of hip-hop.

GRAZIA: You released the title track of your upcoming album a few days ago. How has the response been to it? **DIVINE:** I feel the response to my first single has been quite good. I tried experimenting with my songwriting on this one and I think iLL Wayno, who produced the beat, absolutely killed it.

G: What is the thought behind the new album? How different is it from Kohinoor in terms of the core theme? **D:** From a thematic perspective, *Punya*

Paap focusses on how I've lived my life up to this point, some of it being virtuous and some sinful, in the most traditional ways. The reality of life is that you can be on the wrong side of the law and lead a virtuous life and vice versa – I draw parallels to that in a lot of my lyrics. Kohinoor was based more on my journey, how even a substance like coal can develop into a diamond. Musically, Punya Paap as an album will showcase a very different side of me – a more confident and experimentative songwriter.

G: How has the pandemic affected the way you think about music? What is the message you think needs to be conveyed through music?

D: I think the pandemic has made my writing flow faster than ever. With so much happening around us, it's hard to not be affected by it. I don't think there is one particular message that needs to be conveyed. What is always best is that an artist or a songwriter expresses what they feel strongly about.

G: Do you think desi hip-hop's best is vet to come?

Divine: I definitely think so. The last few years have been good with the movement growing in different pockets. Hopefully, as the supporting ecosystem grows around it, the movement becomes a force for a prolonged period. More than anything else, I'd love to see more girls be involved in the movement - as artists, MCs, producers, or even on the business side.



Qareeb, Kamakshi Khanna

With the melody harking back to the 90s indie-pop phase, this single has R&B influence written all over it.

The tunes that deserve a place in your playlist



Red, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya

The Delhi-based musician's single, with lyrics in English and Malagasy, conveys how music plants us firmly to our roots.



The Dance Song, Yung Raja

The party hip-hop prince of Southeast Asia's latest single is a light-hearted narrative on self-empowerment.





