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Europe's No. 1 Style Magazine

GR

Easy Chic

Volume 15 Issue 08
November 2022

IA

SHOULD
YOU BE SKIN
CYCLING?
WE BREAK DOWN
THE LATEST
BEAUTY TREND

MODERN
CLASSICS
FOR YOUR
FALL
WARDROBE

IN HER
PRIME
KRITI SANON



GRAZIA MOST LOVED BRANDS 2022

GUESS WHICH **BRANDS** ARE ON OUR **RADAR** THIS TIME AROUND

Over the last year, we've grown into much more conscious and mindful consumers. But with many consumer brands out there, with their varying products and marketing approaches, it can be difficult to discern which ones deserve your attention and love. How do you decide which fashion or beauty products should be added to your closet or whom you can trust for the best at home? Well, we're here to help you out.

#GRAZIAMOSTLOVEDBRANDS 2022

CHECK OUT THE LIST ON [GRAZIA.CO.IN](https://www.grazia.co.in)



From the
EDITOR'S
DESK

Fashion week is done and dusted; for once, I'm not glad it's over. Beyond the high-concept presentations, experiments with material innovation and unexpected drama – the five days of back-to-back shows packed in a lot for exacting spectators.

But this season for me, was a reconnection of ideas, people and creative forces that motivate us folks in the fashion business. Physical shows, post-show cocktails, stall raids, and interactions with younger designers who we've only tailed digitally – it's easy to fall into a familiar groove. But what's changed? Apart from the fact that I couldn't recognise half the people there, a digital creator takeover prevailed. But while influence is rightly sharing space with authority in the age of Instagram, I hope that style remains authentic and opinions more discerning.

On our cover, this month is an actor who's finally come into her own after eight years in the movie business. Kriti Sanon talks to us about the recognition she's

received this year (she bagged a Filmfare Best Actress trophy) and her journey onwards and upwards. “I am trying not to let people put me in a box”. She hopes to be as holistic through her performances, ready to take on anything that challenges and excites her.

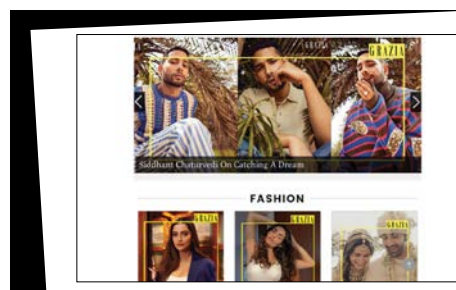
And if you've had your fill of festive fashion, this month's mood board draws from a modern take on classics. Combined with regular fall favourites like biker boots, novelty knits, and the comeback of 60s style here's everything to sort you out this November.

Until next month,

Mehnaz



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our website
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DITCH THE DIET



This Indian and dietary approach might be society's way to conform to an ideal image. But, it comes with a side of mental and physical damage

"In nutrition, there is no 'one size fits all'. The primary question you need to ask yourself is - could this food suit me?"

Life is a journey, and it's a journey that's full of ups and downs. One of the most common ups and downs is the struggle with diet. We live in a world where diet is a constant topic of conversation. We hear about diets that promise to melt away pounds, diets that claim to be the ultimate solution for weight loss, and diets that are touted as the most effective way to get in shape. But, what if we told you that all of these diets are just a series of tricks and gimmicks designed to make you feel like you're not in control of your own body? What if we told you that the only way to truly lose weight and keep it off is to ditch the diet altogether? It's time to take control of your diet and ditch the diet. Here are some tips to help you get started.

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Europe's No 1 Style Magazine

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26 THE WAY FORWARD

Kriti Sanon is currently on a career-high and shows no signs of slowing down.



KRITI is wearing a printed polo T-shirt dress, Label Ritu Kumar; 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue' duo bracelet, 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue Toi et Moi' bracelet, 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue Swirl' cuff, 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue Serenity' bangle; 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue' slender bangle, 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue Keystone' bangle, all Her Story

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FASHION CHARTS

Your best buys in stores right now

1

**'SADDLE' BAG,
DIOR, PRICE ON
REQUEST**

One of the most iconic styles from the 2000s, Dior's 'Saddle' makes a comeback. An 'It girl' fave – commit to the Y2K vibe with baggy, low-rise jeans and a crop top.



3

**DRAPED DRESS,
H&M STUDIO,
₹ 4,995**

With this grown-up iteration, tie-dye abandons its kiddish rep and takes on a new avatar. The unusual colour combo, draped details, and fitted bodice is guaranteed to turn heads.



5

**ROBE, HAREM
PANTS, BOOTS,
ALL SALVATORE
FERRAGAMO, PRICE
ON REQUEST**

As temperatures dip, ease into cool-weather dressing with a slick utilitarian look. A luxe, cosy robe with roomy trousers and chunky boots will keep you equally comfy and chic.



4

**ACETATE
SUNGLASSES,
CHARLES & KEITH,
₹ 4,530**

Channel old Hollywood glamour with this classic cat-eye design in a tortoiseshell finish. Add a bold lip shade to complete the look.



2

**JACQUARD KNIT,
TORY BURCH,
₹ 32,915 APPROX**

A fun, printed sweater vest can serve as the main character for your winter looks if played right. Go classic with a button-down and jeans combo or take the maximal route and wear it over a printed maxi.



6

GOLD PLATED EARRINGS, SWAROVSKI, ₹ 15,568

Intricate details meet bold construction with this vibrant green crystal set of three mini hoops. Style solo or combined to add a playful spin to any look.



7

RUCHED BODYSUIT, ZARA, ₹ 3,490

In anticipation of the party season, this metallic jumpsuit is a fail-safe starter for any celebratory look. Go with an oversized blazer and tailored trousers for an understated feel or with a metallic mini to up the glam quotient.



8

CORDUROY TROUSERS, COACH, PRICE ON REQUEST

Embrace a carefree 70s vibe with this jewel-tone textured pair of trousers. We're wearing ours with a slinky printed satin blouse and XL gold hoops; what about you?



9

'O'LOCK VERTICAL' WATCH, FENDI, ₹ 1,08,188 APPROX

Skip your classic gold or chunky silver timepiece for a slim wrap-around style. The best part? It creates a bracelet-like effect, so you don't have to worry about stacking multiple pieces.



10

KNEE HIGH BOOTS, ADIDAS X GUCCI, ₹ 1,31,673 APPROX

Pulling inspiration from Alessandro Michele's memories of the 80s and 90s – this pair uses emblematic Gucci motifs mixed with those of the historic sportswear brand. The result is an iconic hybrid style that works with everything from a midi dress to a skirt-suit combo. **IT**



BEAUTY CHARTS

The best beauty buys we are eyeing right now

2

D'YOU EYES & SHINE REUSABLE EYE PATCHES, ₹ 1,650

The area under our eyes always needs more TLC. Enter: D'you's new reusable eye patches made from medical-grade silicone to provide extra nourishment to your peepers. Use it with your favourite eye cream, serum, or moisturiser to lock in all the goodness and soothe the under-eye area. They are easy to use, can be washed with soap and water, and make for some cute selfies.



1

KAJA BEAUTY BENTO IN 'ROSEWATER', ₹ 2,200

This eyeshadow trio is power-packed with potent and vibrant hues and makes for a perfect travel-sized stack of versatile matte and shimmer eyeshadows. We have our eyes on the rosewater trio with shimmery rose, champagne, and pink tones that take you from day to night effortlessly. The colours are buildable, blendable, and can be applied with your fingers or an eyeshadow blending brush.



3

LANEIGE HELLO BLOSSOM WATER SLEEPING MASK IN 'CHERRY BLOSSOM', ₹ 2,240

If you've been a Laneige loyalist, especially their sleeping masks, here's news: The brand has revamped its cult favourite sleeping mask in a cherry blossom packaging, flavour, and fragrance. Designed by Korean artist Kang Han, the packaging interprets an everlasting spring. It helps hydrate your skin while you sleep, helping you wake up to refreshed, glowing skin.



4

KAMA AYURVEDA BRINGADI HAIR CONDITIONER, ₹ 1,795

What better than an Ayurveda-based conditioner with the goodness of Kama Ayurveda's award-winning bringadi oil? The latest entrant in the bringadi hair ritual is the conditioner formulated with nourishing and restoring ingredients of bhringraj to activate hair proteins, improve blood flow, and promote hair growth. The first wash will leave your hair feeling soft, silky, and manageable.



5

HUDA BEAUTY EMPOWERED LEGIT LASHES 2 MASCARAS IN ₹ 2,250

Huda Beauty's new 'Empowered' collection is a reminder to push past your limits and celebrate the best version of yourself. The collection includes an 18-hued eyeshadow palette with bold, shimmery colours, a face gloss to get the dewy look, etc. Our pick? The cult 'Legit Lashes' mascara is upgraded with limited edition gold packaging. Whether you use both sides simultaneously or individually, it is here to give you dreamy lashes. **LO**





THE WELLNESS CO.

The Wellness Co. is the most Trendiest, luxury premium, wellness centre in the capital city that prides itself in housing the most technologically advanced wellness therapies under one roof. Whole body cryotherapy, Hyperbaric oxygen therapy IV therapy are just some of the innovative techniques being practiced at TWC. This festive season, The Wellness Co. is offering their premium gift card ranges starting from 10,000/- and upwards.

“Let’s prioritize our health and celebrate the festivities with your loved ones with the ultimate gift of wellness.”



VARNIKA SANGOI

Varnika Sangoi is a consciously created label with an emphasis on ethical and sustainable practices and conceiving the perfect blend of stylish, contemporary wear that is comfortable and practical. Their upcoming collection emphasis on refined tailoring and simplified silhouettes that evokes the power of independent, alluring, yet poised modern women.

SHAHBERRY

Shahberry created by fashion designer, Madhuram Bhatia is a brand that prides itself for its creative designs and classic silhouettes in premium quality.

Being a size-inclusive and fashion-forward brand, Shahberry caters to people of all shapes and sizes allowing them to live out their fashion dreams.

Their new age collection has edgy silhouettes and sophisticated style that help elevate your fashion game.



SHADES OF SABI

Shades of SABI, is a homegrown and no-plastic brand that offers western wear and maternity wear to women of all backgrounds. Their collection focuses on light weight, comfort and modish clothes making it perfect for a new age empowered women, home makers and mother’s to be who are constantly struggling to find their sizes. For the upcoming season and the festivities, the brand has launched “Avyanna Collection ” that offers a wide range of Indo-western silhouettes married with the perfect combination colours, textures and embellishments making it perfect for special occasions.



KOHSH

KOHSH is a luxury Indian Women Clothing brand founded by Jaipur based sisters Riya and Kashvi Modi. The brand works to promote local Jaipur crafts of handblock printing and textile manufacturing in contemporary context, and adopts the ideals of modern day sustainable fashion. Kohsh is a brand that creates unique, free flowy silhouettes that are

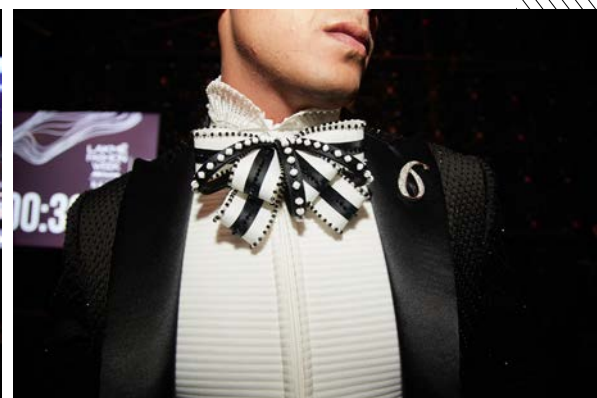


10 HOT STORIES

EVERYONE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT



Shahab Durazi's vintage-inspired eveningwear



Aditi Mayer.

Fashion week mainstay Gauri and Nainika collaborated with R|Elan™ to introduce fabrics on the runway that are entirely biodegradable. The designer duo chose to incorporate GreenGold, which has found favour in the industry for recycling used PET bottles into fluid material, as well as EcoGold and Freeflow into their romantic collection of voluminous gowns and floral eveningwear.

Showgoers were welcome to look at IMPACT HUB by The Woolmark Company. With an interactive spin, this newly launched space took after the art gallery format to illustrate the issues plaguing the fashion industry. The bite-sized installations offered a walkthrough of five enterprises firmly rooted in sustainability ideals, revolutionising the fashion industry across recycling, business innovation, packaging, crafts and textile innovation.

1

TACTICAL THEATRICALITY

FDCI x Lakmé Fashion Week was a gratifying meeting of the old and the new, of euphoria and dystopia

WORDS NIDA NAEEM

October was a packed month on the fashion fraternity's calendar, with FDCI x Lakmé Fashion Week's 2022 edition hosting its own kind of celebration. High-concept presentations, experiments with material innovation and unexpected drama – the five days of back-to-back shows packed in a lot for exacting spectators.

HOMEcoming

One of the most talked-about presentations was by veteran couturier Shahab Durazi, who made his comeback after a 12-year hiatus from the runway with 'A Retrospective'. The seasonless collection comprised both womenswear and menswear looks and gave us crisply articulated separates and evening gowns to blouses, jackets and boleros that hinted at the 40s and 50s era refinement. The impact of the monochromatic embellishments on these pieces deepened as metallic cuboids suspended from the ceiling reflected their own

luminosity at them. Decadent accessories, ranging from lace collars and cuffs to pearl-encrusted bow clips, complemented each look.

GREEN SHEEN

As the focus turned to sustainable textiles and circular fashion, R|Elan™ presented the winner of its Circular Design Challenge 2022, Pieux by Pratyush Kumar. The young label snagged the trophy for its eco-friendly digital and 3D printing techniques while using fabrics such as CARTEX, R|Elan™ GreenGold and a fusion of GreenGold + FeelFresh for its prismatic athleisure collection.

To further stakeholders' engagement with the conversation, RISE Worldwide and British Council India also organised a talk on 'Fashion, Climate & The Role Of Women', moderated by sustainable fashion blogger, photojournalist and labour rights activist

MOVEMENT MAKERS

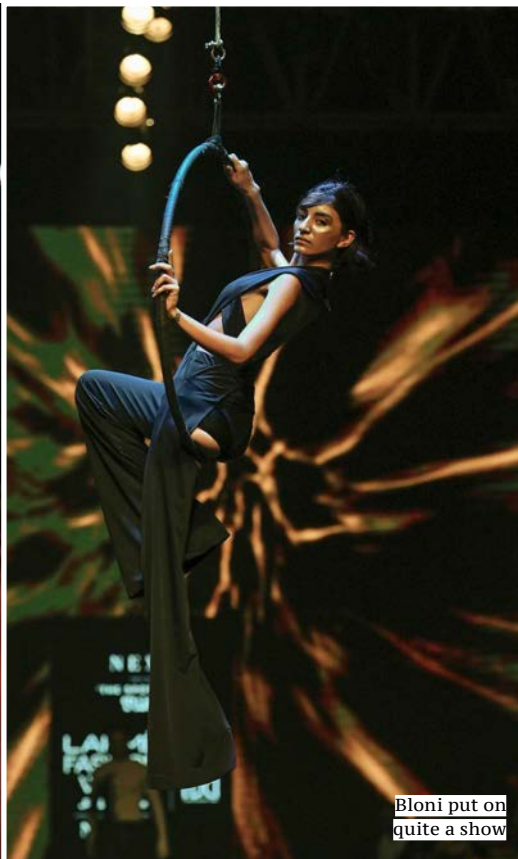
Satya Paul's show veered into camp territory with its many theatrics. The intergalactic drop, titled 'A Stranger Thinks', was showcased under the



Floral gown by Gauri & Nainika



Intergalactic antics on the Satya Paul runway



Bloni put on quite a show



A play on proportions, courtesy of Bloni



Gaurang's line-up of crimson drapes

open sky at Jio World Garden and had models coming in on cars, bikes, skateboards and even hand-pulled carts. Some served baller pirouettes, while others sported basketballs painted to look like the globe. In an odd artistic choice, the designer chose to seat front-row viewers on metal beds reminiscent of children's hospitals.

The increased focus on carefully timed and choreographed movement was also evident on the Bloni runway. The mood set with aerial gymnastics against an ominous soundtrack. Previously shown at Paris Fashion Week's recently concluded edition, the collection, titled 'Preamble', was an amalgamation of what designer Akshat Bansal does best – tear things apart and build them back up again, with a side of cutting-edge tech. In a post on Instagram, the brand page elaborated, "Preamble: The Show" is the pathway to experience reconstructed emotions that are appearing to comprehend, explain and sculpt this world in the face of complex interfaces and altered realities."

With the wise use of heat-sensitive materials that changed colour upon exposure to light, alongside sculptural rubber and reflective textiles with an otherworldly quality, the lineup was heavy on boxy tailoring and power shoulders. Some pieces evoked even more post-apocalyptic malaise, such as the metallic breastplate work over and under different dresses, and the 'drop' piece, an inverted waterdrop-looking chrome 'top' (if it can be called that), which was first modelled in 3D. Bansal also took the opportunity to introduce the concept of 'them wear' as a means to break out of the gender binary in fashion. One of the

most memorable and inventive 'them wear' creations was a hybrid take on denim, and a dress train that trailed behind the model as trapeze artists and aerialists from The Wooden Stage, a performing arts institute in Mumbai, continued to turn tricks for the audience.

EMOTIVE ENDEAVOURS

Gaurang Shah blessed showgoers with a feel-good lineup of bridal drapes, quite literally titled 'Sindoori'. Strategically placed incense created a calming atmosphere as models in crimson saris featuring a gamut of embroidery techniques and art forms such as *patachitra*, *kalamkari*, and *cheriyal* paintings made their way across the arena, barefoot. In their spins and twirls, they seemed to express a joy that didn't feel staged at all.

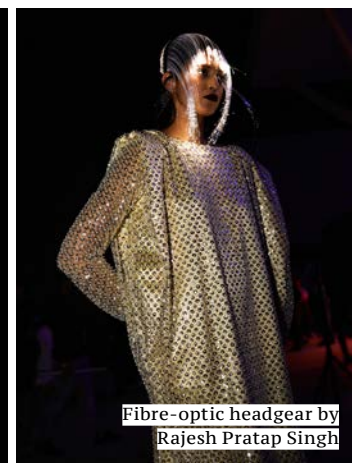
Gaurav Gupta also went the astral route with his 'Starland' collection. A huge orb modelled

after the moon was the central point of the runway, which was walked by an inclusive lineup of models. Gupta's fantastical offerings took the form of his signature sculpted gowns, head-to-toe crystal-encrusted mesh suits, and more experimental corsetry and *Handmaid's Tale*-esque headgear.

Rajesh Pratap Singh took the finale spot. Showstopper Mrunal Thakur went against the grain by appearing at the show's beginning to trace the history and origin of Lakmé. Audiences were enchanted through a live opera performance of a contemporary version of 'Lakmé' – the 1883 French Opera score by Leo Delibes, in collaboration with The Neemrana Music Foundation. This was punctuated by beatboxers and rappers who dropped beats in sync with the resounding jangle of the ghungroos that graced the designer's enduring monochrome designs. **16**



Gaurav Gupta's sleek showcase was one for the books



Fibre-optic headgear by Rajesh Pratap Singh

2

SIXTIES SWING

*Fashion is having a
throwback moment*

Fashion's love for all things nostalgia takes on the 60s with high-impact mod looks from the time. Think: Boxy pea coats, in-your-face optical prints, extra tiny minis and high-shine extras. The 60s allowed women to play with their looks and establish a sense of identity – so it should be no surprise that this groovy era of experimentation is seeing a renaissance in 2022.

Belted jacket
United Colors of Benetton,
₹ 3,490



Buckle detailed
jacket, Coach,
price on request



Metallic bouclé
jacket,
Alice + Olivia,
₹ 81,191



Boxy jackets in big plaid and graphic lines are instantly striking and lend a retro-on-the-go look. Try a cropped version with a mini to nail that perfect 60s style.



BORA AKSU

CHANEL



One shoulder
blouse,
Ahluwalia,
₹ 58,768

Maxi dress,
Tory Burch,
price on
request



Channel your inner Mary Quant with designs reminiscent of abstract and expressionist art on your clothes. The bigger, the better.



AVEC STUDIO



TOMMY HILFINGER

Satin trousers,
Christopher John Rogers,
₹ 92,594



EMILIO PUCCI



MIU MIU

Bold yet chic, the mini is the fastest way to turn into our ultimate 60s style muse – Twiggy. Pair it with a demure polo neck and gogo boots to complete the look.



Leather,
Gucci,
price on request



Pocket detailed,
H&M,
₹ 2,490



Striped
Staud,
₹ 20,881



Printed, Zara,
₹ 1,980



DIOR



TOMMY HILF



Acetate
sunglasses,
Bottega Veneta,
₹ 50,042



Hairclips,
Accessorize,
₹ 799



Shoulder bag,
Fendi,
price on request



Buckled Mary
Janes,
Charles & Keith,
₹ 7,599



Reversible belt,
Valentino,
₹ 60,255



Earrings,
Louis Vuitton,
price on request



Slim scarf,
Dior,
price on request

Bracelet,
Roxanne Assoulin,
₹ 29,299

Finish off your 60s look with electric extras in acrylic and PVC for a perfectly saturated and shiny effect. **10**



Kabra's designs are for a modern woman who braves a whole new world

A hint of traditionalism with a modern approach changes the perspective of garments, feels designer Anand Kabra

as a skirt; to see a 'kurta' as a tunic, or to think of an *anarkali* as a floor length dress. This conscious shift to changing design nomenclature automatically allows for a new interpretation of how we view fashion.

The next step was to understand what was expected in terms of the functionality of the clothing. 'Light', 'fuss-free', and 'ease of movement' were the words I kept on hearing. This generation wants nothing more than to avoid the pokes or scratches and weigh them down.

And lastly, it was to figure out how much 'Indian' is the right amount of Indian.

I've come to understand that we need to stop viewing traditional Indian clothing and fashion as 'matchy-matchy sets', but rather view them as items of clothing, as separates that come together to create a look.

Indian-inspired prints, weaves, and dyeing techniques need to be used in a non-traditional manner. Colour placements and scale need to be reinterpreted. Silhouettes need to be reimagined; a Banarasi brocade jacket would make much more sense today than a Banarasi sari. You could throw it over a slip and jeans, team it up with a *dhori*, throw it over a jumpsuit, or style it with a simple sari.

We also need to start thinking of world fashion and incorporate it into our design process. Information and trends are available readily, in real-time.

Also, embellishments need to be kept to a bare minimum, just enough to enhance the silhouettes and make enough of a statement to give the garment its handmade, artisanal appeal.

I still remember when one of my recent bridal clients entered the wedding venue on a horse – she never wore the voluminous can-can underskirt; she swapped her heels for trainers, refused to be weighed down by a heavily embellished dupatta and got married. That's Gen-Z for you. **IK**

It's a fun time to be in fashion. With globalisation, corporatisation, investments and the reboot post-pandemic, true Indian fashion starts now.

We have always celebrated and valued our traditional Indian costumes and heritage and have made it a part of our wardrobes to a large extent; however, I see a big change in the way Gen-Z approaches fashion – the way they perceive traditional-wear or ethnic-wear is different from how the earlier generations saw it.

I understand from my observations that they want the full Indian exotic fantasy for their big day. In contrast, their regular requirements for attire rooted in Indian tradition, for smaller occasions and everyday-wear, are completely different.

'Comfort', 'ease', 'uniqueness' and 'sex appeal' are the words I constantly hear from my younger clientele. They want the Indian elements – textiles or embellishments – without the extra frills and fuss. Their demand is simple: It has to be easy to wear and move in without compromising the overall Indianness of the garment.

ON THE PULSE

I have realised that today's youth is much more

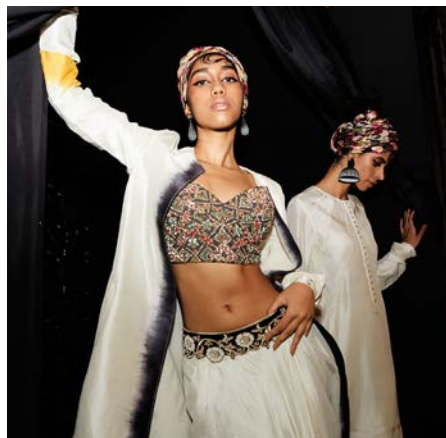
empowered and independent than earlier generations.

They are at ease with their identity and are not afraid to express themselves. These traits contribute to why I believe we need to rethink our idea of traditional-wear

Loud colours and shimmery embellishments don't cut it anymore. Sartorial excess is now giving way to more mindful designs. It is all about enjoying the experience instead of being dressed for it.

As a contemporary Indian designer, much thought has gone into making my product relevant, introducing a new ideology, and reinterpreting our heritage clothing.

The first point was to change the language – for example, to stop calling a 'lehenga' a 'lehenga' but rather refer to it



4

SWEATER WEATHER

Cosy yet whimsical – novelty knits are having a moment

While the impending cool weather might dictate that we bundle up, designers have leaned toward a quirky and experimental aesthetic with barely any sign of neutral knits on the runways. Think: Animal motifs, exotic fruits, optical illusions, big blooms, and landscape designs that are not for the faint-hearted.

Jacquard knit,
Acne Studios,
₹ 53,534



Metallic intarsia,
Stella McCartney,
₹ 1,01,671 approx



Embroidered,
Rio, ₹ 22,215



Striped,
United Colors Of Benetton,
₹ 1,62,091 approx



CHLOÉ



Embroidered,
Zara, ₹ 5,490



CHANEL

DSQUARED²



Crystal detailed,
Area,
price on request



Turtleneck,
H&M Studio,
₹ 5,449



Ribbed,
JW Anderson,
₹ 58,939



ALESSANDRA RICH



PRADA



ASHISH

Photographs IMXTREE

WELLNESS FIRST

Placing human and environmental well-being above profits is not a novel concept. But a new guard of fashion-conscious creatives is articulating an alternative to the discourse

WORDS **NIDA NAEEM**

Conversations on sustainable fashion have come to a standstill, while fast fashion continues to be a popular choice among shoppers – Zara reported a 28.3 per cent fall in revenue in 2021 but bounced back with a whopping ₹ 1,815 crores in revenue from India at the end of FY22, according to the annual report published by Inditex Trent Retail India. Shein has been riding the TikTok popularity wave and is a go-to among Gen Z, the very generation that's the most vocal about climate change. Even second-hand clothing has devolved into a feel-good alternative, with the rapid pace of the drop model that many thrift stores follow and the sense of urgency it evokes mirroring the excessive consumption synonymous with fast fashion. These are only a few contradictions we find today as trends wax and wane and clothing labels make new claims.

WISHING YOU WELL

Sustainability is an expansive topic. There's always room for a grey area where there are umbrella terms – marked-up, 'conscious' lines, while most of the products a brand offers are sweatshop-chic, don't mean much. Many sustainability initiatives factor in profits first and then work from there to minimise their



environmental impact. But that's not enough.

Maybe it's sustainability that needs a rebrand. Well, a new concept, termed 'well-being wardrobe', could be the antidote. Coined in a report published by the European Environmental Bureau earlier this year, it stems from the idea of a well-being economy, where humans and the planet take precedence over limitless economic growth. The report states: "Shifting to sustainable fibres and textiles, providing ethically conscious options to consumers, or introducing 'green' certification and labelling systems – these changes do not meaningfully allow the fashion and textile sector to decrease material throughput and the needless disposal of clothing and textiles, which in turn leads to increasing contributions to global carbon emissions, natural resource



Kardo's menswear moves away from mass production



use and biodiversity loss. Some leading experts estimate that a 75-95 per cent reduction in resource use (compared to current levels) is needed for the fashion industry to meet looming climate targets. These environmental and social sustainability challenges facing the industry have led to a growing body of research on sustainable fashion alternatives that truly reimagine and restructure how the sector might operate, including slow, eco, green, fair trade, ethical and circular fashion."

As a consumer, having a well-being wardrobe means cutting down on purchases, buying higher quality clothes so they last longer, shopping second-hand, and prioritising swapping, renting and mending clothes before chucking anything in the trash. It also means turning to indigenous textile traditions, which

are inherently kinder to the environment. The Indian subcontinent's rich handloom, dyeing, and hand embroidery traditions are the OG slow fashion, after all.

Of course, you've heard it all before. Maybe you've even taken a leaf out of the sustainability handbook and incorporated some of these practices in your clothing choices. Congratulations, you have a well-being wardrobe.

Kirti Poonia, entrepreneur and co-founder of Relove, an initiative that partners with fashion brands to power them with resale tech and digital factory outlets, believes that a well-being wardrobe comprises more than just garments made with sustainable fabrics and fair production practices. "It has a little bit for the days you feel dull and want to wear that shirt from when you were 15 years old. It has a preloved sari passed on from your grandmother, and you adore it for the history and belonging it makes you feel. It has a jacket you swapped with a friend to make sure you meet again," she says.

CLOTHING COMRADES

This shared economy of clothing now extends beyond our immediate circles, with many rental platforms providing people with options that are easier on both the budget and the conscience. The Clothing Rental is one such platform that specialises in big-ticket occasion-wear. Shilpa Bhatia started The Clothing Rental way back in 2005, primarily catering to the media industry. As a stylist, she felt the need for rental clothing when budgets didn't allow purchases. "So I decided to invest a little amount into this setup where I could hold the garment, but I could rent it to five people and recover the cost over time. When we started, it wasn't for profit; it was to ease my life, but eventually, I stopped styling, and we transitioned to only rentals and opened up to consumers as well," she tells me.

A sense of community is vital to clothes that make up a well-being wardrobe, and this holds true on the production side of things too. Rikki Kher, who heads menswear label Kardo, focuses on the weavers and artisans behind the clothes. From *ikat* from Andhra Pradesh to *mulmul* from West Bengal, he sources textiles from craft communities all over India. Kardo follows a zero-inventory model where garments are stitched only after an order has been placed. Kher elaborates: "I come from a big garment production background. So I knew that I wanted to do things consciously. Going against mass-produced fashion keeps us from overproducing stock. It also allows us to pivot, so we're not left with dead stock. If you've tied up all your money in production, you might end up with pieces you can't sell. You can reinvent a textile into a new style, silhouette or product category."

Poonia says, "I believe circularity is a low-hanging fruit for Indian fashion to adopt to lower production levels while growing sales and customers. Hence our focus is to build technology like Relove and Rescue to power



"Ultimately, every product will reach the landfill in the future. But it's our responsibility as consumers and as designers to increase the product's lifespan as much as possible"

brands with the muscle to go circular easily. We handle all the tech and operations so brands can continue to focus on their core business."

PAIN IN THE PROCESS

Of course, challenges abound, and designers make compromises to realise their vision. Pratyush Kumar, who bagged the Circular Design Challenge 2022 trophy for his innovative use of leftover carpet yarns for his brand Pieux has built circularity into the very DNA of the brand. This material, dubbed CARTEX, is made from tons of discarded carpet yarns procured from an export house in Uttar Pradesh.

"We have to compromise on the season because the yarn used in carpets is warm. So if we're creating a whole garment, it's only for the winters," Kumar shares.

Since his designs depend entirely on the material he can get his hands on, the design process is not linear. Many of Pieux's pieces end up being one-of-a-kind due to the limited availability of certain materials. "The thing is that with any upcycled product, we can produce a minimal amount of garments. All the yarns we procure are in different compositions and colours. So, some carpet textiles can only be produced in 4 to 10 meters of length," he explains. At Pieux's recent Lakmé Fashion Week showcase, the collection used CARTEX panels and R|Elan™ recycled polyester. "The moment we use panels, we can produce around 8 to 10 pieces of the same style," says Kumar. Even the leftover textiles can turn into footwear – CARTEX and recycled polyester were used to make sneakers for the collection.

"Ultimately, every product will reach the landfill in the future. But it's our responsibility as consumers and as designers to increase the product's lifespan as much as possible," said Kumar.

Proper garment care also goes a long way in extending a product's life. The kind of heavily embellished occasion-wear pieces offered by The Clothing Rental aren't meant to be laundered often. But of course, dry cleaning is a vital step in between rentals. Shilpa Bhatia tells me that

over 17 years in the business, her team has gone through a couple of vendors to finally settle on a dry cleaner that uses fabric-friendly chemicals that are not too harsh but still get the job done.

The by-products of such chemical processes also contribute to environmental destruction. Any new production, however eco-friendly, entails some level of destruction and exploitation. If it's not fabrics, it's energy. Kher points out, "If an organic textile factory produces its power by burning wood, how is it really sustainable?"

For instance, even the fuel emissions from transporting garments from one renter to another build up over time, but all stakeholders can do their best to minimise harm.

Such contradictions plague designers and manufacturers, and initiatives to create end-to-end solutions undoubtedly face teething troubles.

Even though the climate catastrophe is already playing out in some parts of the world and urgent change is necessary to prevent irreversible damage, Kirti Poonia remains optimistic. She says, "My approach has been to never call people or brands out for what they are NOT doing but to go with practical, easy-to-adopt solutions that they can smoothly embrace. So this is what I do in my day job: I approach brands to go circular by launching their resale programs. I would urge more people to build practical solutions; to work with brands to change systems from within. And as consumers, I would ask them to vote with their wallets so that brands understand that they have to do the right thing, not just because it's good for the planet, it's good for their business." **U**





6

A still from *Chhello Show*

CHASING THE LIGHT

Director Pan Nalin's love letter to the movies has been chosen as India's official entry to Oscars 2023

“I wanted to control light so I could tell stories. That's what cinema was in my head – a magical way to bend light and make stories out of it,” says veteran director Pan Nalin, looking back on the first time he stepped foot inside a cinema hall. Nalin's two-decade-long film career started with his internationally acclaimed philosophical treatise *Samsara* in 2001. He has since gone on to tell several other equally riveting stories that double as brief yet intricate snapshots of the human experience. With his latest release, *Chhello Show* (internationally known as *The Last Picture Show*), Nalin aims to get down to

the brass tacks of his craft and explore how he first fell in love with cinema.

“It was always a big deal because nobody could afford to go to the movies. When my father finally took us, my siblings and I laid out outfits and got haircuts a week before going,” says Nalin. But he was yet to witness the actual magic. When Nalin first stepped into the cinema hall, he finally understood what the fuss was all about. “I remember thinking, Oh, so *that's* why people love movies.”

His fascination with the screen, however, was short-lived. Minutes into the movie, young Nalin's curious gaze was transfixed onto the projector (more accurately, the



Pan Nalin

beam of light coming out of it). “There was something about that beam of light that just fascinated me. It made me feel like making movies was not so hard after all. All I had to do was find a way to catch the light and throw it onto a wall.”

Nalin's experience is mirrored in *Chhello Show* through its protagonist, Samay. Like Nalin, Samay becomes fascinated with beams of light and sets out to catch them so he can make a film of his own. The story, as Nalin puts it, stemmed from his deep longing for a simpler time, where everything new he saw was just magic he was yet to understand. “It's important to return to that inner child. Don't you miss a time when motes of dust in sunbeams looked like magic and movies were this big, mystical thing that amazed you?”

As for the philosophy behind the story, Nalin chose to stick to his Zen Buddhist roots (which, albeit adopted, are now ingrained in him). “The underlying message here is inspired by Zen philosophy. It's a slight nod to the ten oxherding pictures of Buddhism (that describe the Zen training path to enlightenment), which suggest ways to see, understand and control all elements, including light.”

He believes the inclusion of spiritual philosophy in his stories isn't a conscious choice as it is a simple reaffirmation of a well-established fact. “I think every good work of art – from *Star Wars* to *The Godfather* is deeply spiritual. My stories embrace it more deeply because that's how I was raised.”

With *Chhello Show*, Nalin hopes to make audiences more aware of their inner spirituality and connect to it better. “I don't want to influence people's beliefs through the film. It aims to make people look at themselves and their lives through the ideas of a child – optimistic and incredibly curious.” **W**

7

BIG BOOT ENERGY

Think: Chunky soles and a whole lotta comfort

Finished with platforms or thick lug soles, A/W 2022 boots are anything but dainty. Channel your inner tough-girl/rocker chick and wear these hardworking boots with everything from tough leather and worn-out band Tees, or give an unexpected edge to a romantic dress as seen at Emporio Armani. Irrespective of your vibe, you won't have to compromise style and comfort. **IT**

PARIS STREET STYLE



Lace-up,
3.1 Phillip Lim,
₹ 58,918



Rib detailed,
Gianvito Rossi,
₹ 1,05,38 approx



Buckled,
H&M,
₹ 3,499



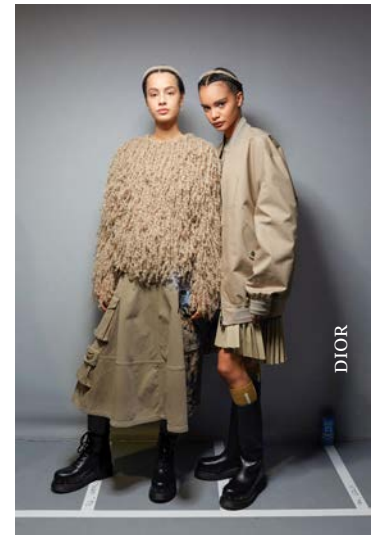
Satin,
Dune,
₹ 15,999



SALVATORE FERRAGAMO



Buckled,
Jimmy Choo,
₹ 1,11,821
approx



DIOR



Hardware
detailed,
Zara,
₹ 6,990



Multi
buckled,
Dior, price
on request



Nylon and
patent,
Charles
& Keith,
₹ 10,990

Photographs IMAXTREE



EMPORIO ARMANI



Kulsum Shadab Wahab (far left) with Indya Moore and burn and acid attack survivors in Milan

8

HOLDING GROUND

Ara Lumiere caught the spotlight at Milan Fashion Week for championing the creativity of burn and acid attack survivors. Kulsum Shadab Wahab opens up about charting the course for the brand

Words **NIDA NAEEM**

Maria, a burn survivor, says that as a child, she was never encouraged to follow her artistic pursuits. Rather, she was trained to be a wife – a good wife who, in return, had

her world turned upside down due to the attack. Now, as a part of Ara Lumiere, she gets to channel the facets of her inner world into palpable art that lives on clothes.

As brands navigate the social justice

landscape, inclusion takes on many shades of meaning. The degree of effort in this direction varies greatly across brands, but the most sincere way forward is to let the marginalised tell their own stories.

The very foundation of Ara Lumiere is built on giving a platform to women who have survived burn and acid attacks and helping them reclaim their narratives. Established by Hothur Foundation, the brand retails handmade apparel crafted by survivors under the mentorship of philanthropist Kulsum Shadab Wahab.

"The proceeds go back to the women and core artists that create revenue streams that help them support themselves while also being able to voice their untold stories through art. We provide rehabilitation and skin regeneration surgeries along with psychotherapy that becomes a safe space, a community even, for them to heal and nurture," elaborates Wahab.

On the historic stage of the Teatro alla Scala, Ara Lumiere showcased its latest collection, 'The Unbound', at Milan Fashion Week. The collection draws from the body dysmorphia faced by the survivors who are mentally bound by their body, mind and soul. It represents the creative self-expression of the survivors, even with the presence of turmoil and trauma that has changed their conduct towards the world. The collection encourages them as they pull themselves out of the spiral life has given and taken from them.

Telling these stories with sensitivity isn't easy. The impact of trauma and dysmorphia are heavy themes. But here, the survivors are completely in control of the narrative being crafted since it is their story to tell.

Wahab tells us, "Using art therapy and the survivors' natural ability to create through their experiences, we build a collection that they are constantly working together on. In 'The Unbound,' the printed artworks are based on the originals made by the survivors. The cuts and designs are bold but delicate to project the cuts and creases that trap the survivors in their minds. At the presentation at Milan Fashion Week, it was evident, as they painted over one of the collection pieces, that it's their stage, their heart and their spirit that creates the vision for Ara Lumiere. Our ultimate goal is to abolish acid and burn attacks for good."



Pieces with hand-drawn artworks from 'The Unbound' collection

Telling these stories with sensitivity isn't easy. The impact of trauma and dysmorphia are heavy themes. The survivors are completely in control of the narrative being crafted since it is their story to tell

The team was honoured with the Social Impact Award at the CNMI Sustainable Fashion Awards 2022, which highlights creatives' outstanding contributions and efforts to design a better fashion industry for people and the environment. Ara Lumiere is the first Indian brand to receive this laurel. Speaking of the moment, Wahab says, "The survivors and I stood hand in hand, knowing that our work and stories are being shared and supported through love. And as Indya Moore handed us the award, I could feel my heart pounding as my mind flooded with multiple emotions of gratitude and joy. The moment was ours to celebrate a journey towards victory over violence."

The work culture at Ara Lumiere also reflects an environment where safety and inclusion are prioritised.

Wahab adds, "As Ara Lumiere critically looks into the work that backbones acid attack survivors, it's all the more necessary to apply goals that cater towards diversity,



The Ara Lumiere team at Milan Fashion Week

equity and inclusion. So we start from the bottom and keep building. Each employee at Ara Lumiere is connected to different cultural backgrounds and gender identities, with specifications on pronouns and other needs required to help the team practice equity. With consistent participation in workshops involving the survivors, our team connects and fully understands the importance of acceptance and kindness. ■



Label ALERT

9



This month, we turn to dainty gold jewellery and tenniscore to catch a break from festive excess



IF YOU LOVE: Polished athleisure

THEN YOU WILL LOVE: Struct

WHO: Jalandhar-based Rageene Berry and Arushi Chawla followed the friends-to-business-partners

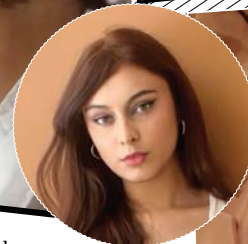
pipeline. As a young tennis player, Berry remembers being as eager about Maria Sharapova and the William sisters' Wimbledon and Roland Garros kit reveals as their matches. In 2009, she wanted to play in Sharapova's floaty-blue Nike dress (which she wore during the French Open), but Indian sportswear stores, at the time, stocked little to no women's tennis apparel. When she landed in New York City for college, the city's infectious energy fuelled the passion behind Struct. On the other hand, Chawla comes from a family business of leather. Growing up surrounded by leather apparel sparked her interest in fashion. She attended Babson College in Boston, and the thriving culture of entrepreneurship there pushed her to go out and start something of her own. When the two friends got together, their hunt for timeless quality pieces led to the genesis of Struct.

WHY: Wearable doesn't have to mean boring, and the brand is a testament to that. The label bridges the gap between classic fashion and streetwear designs through a careful balance in each piece. The result? A product range that offers blazers, silk shirts, waistcoats and polos but also Varsity jackets, hoodies and leather shorts that are simple yet powerful.

WHERE: www.structshop.com, @__struct

PRICE RANGE: ₹ 2,800-20,000

WEAR: Go country club-chic at your next brunch with the 'Heritage Polo'. Leave it untucked over crisp white linen pants and add comfy heels and luxe sunnies for that wear-all-day kinda vibe.



IF YOU LOVE: Concept-based jewellery

THEN YOU WILL LOVE: Alcemi

WHO: Sumedha Muralidhar has always felt like a jack of all trades but a master of none. The Bengaluru-based professional chose to take up law, but the itch to start her own business led her down the entrepreneurial path. With the label, she looks to create personal and intricate pieces that have a story behind them and speak to the customer. The brand's name is a take on 'alchemy,' the ancient art of transforming matter into gold. Alcemi's pieces are always based on a story and thought before seeking their form in the hands of the artisans who make them.

WHY: The label's demi-fine jewellery stands out from the scores of minimalist gold pieces that populate our IG feeds. Alcemi's conceptual drops embody affordable luxury and use some of the highest quality raw materials – some of which are still new concepts in the Indian jewellery space, like gold-filled jewellery instead of gold-plated jewellery.

WHERE: www.shopalcemi.com, @alcemi.co

PRICE RANGE: ₹ 600-1,700

WEAR: Throw on the 'Marjorie Freshwater' pearl dangles over your finest eveningwear. A slinky dress will serve as a base for this subtle statement-maker. Maximise your slay with glossy nude lips and siren eyes. **11**



10

THE LAGERFELD LEGACY

The Met Gala's 2023 theme celebrates Karl Lagerfeld's impressive body of work, but why is it starting a dialogue about his lasting legacy?

Legacy is a charged word, especially in an industry as fickle as fashion. At a time when trends are rendered obsolete by the time they hit shelves, designers often struggle to leave a lasting mark beyond the niche circles they're known in. But every so often, a creative genius comes along that manages to straddle the lines of high fashion and pop culture, leaving behind an empire in their wake. German-born designer Karl Lagerfeld was undoubtedly a master at crafting a lasting legacy.

For the uninitiated, Lagerfeld is unequivocally one of fashion's most prolific designers. An almost chameleonic talent, he designed for numerous labels like Balmain, Patou, Chloé, Fendi, Chanel, and his eponymous brand until his death in 2019. With a fabled work ethic and a passion for immaculate craftsmanship, he breathed new life into Chanel, reviving the house's design codes for the modern

era and bringing a touch of mainstream entertainment to couture. Lagerfeld was widely recognised for his slicked-back snow-white ponytail, large sunglasses, an affinity for monochrome, and his beloved Diet Coke. And now, his talent is set to be honoured at fashion's biggest event in 2023.

A LINE OF BEAUTY

Often dubbed fashion's biggest night out, the Met Gala sees celebrities and the fashion elite flocking to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on the first Monday of May every year. The prestigious event is categorised by a specific theme that coincides with The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Exhibition. The focus of next year's exhibit will be Karl Lagerfeld in a theme titled 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line Of Beauty'.

Following the precedent of previous designer-centric exhibits like Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty in 2011 and Rei

Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons Art of the In-Between in 2017, the exhibition next year will focus on Lagerfeld's expansive body of work. The designer himself may have questioned the theme, who famously believed that fashion doesn't belong in museums. "When we worked on the Chanel show together, he was incredibly generous in what he lent, but he was completely disinterested in the exhibition itself!" Andrew Bolton, the Costume Institute's curator-in-charge, told Vogue. "He would say, 'Fashion is not art – fashion belongs on the street, on women's bodies, on men's bodies.'" Perhaps in an attempt to respect this stance, the exhibition will be grounded in Lagerfeld's sketches. A gifted illustrator, he has an impressive gallery of original sketches, 150 of which will be presented alongside the garments.

But while Lagerfeld was a supremely talented designer, his career is littered with stances that range from slightly unsavoury to problematic. He's famously called singer Adele "a little too fat" and invited scandal with his views on the #MeToo movement. This crass commentary has invited flak to the posthumous celebration of his legacy. But as much as people may look down on the redemptive discourse around Lagerfeld, his talent and creations changed the course of fashion over the years, and his iconic status is undeniable.

While it would have been gratifying to see the Met honour names like designer Virgil Abloh or legendary journalist André Leon Talley, it will be interesting and exciting to see Lagerfeld's multifaceted design identity unfold on the carpet. Last year's events, with themes like In America: The Lexicon of Fashion and In America: An Anthology of Fashion, saw celebrities show up in opulent glamour (most of which missed the point of the theme entirely), but this year's theme seems to be brimming with potential for a deep dive through some prized fashion archives—ruffled couture, a possible return of the teeny Chanel bikinis of 1996 loved by Kim Kardashian, or even a sighting of Christy Turlington's famous black and gold vintage Chanel dress. There is also the possibility that attendees could embody his iconic look with many signature eyewear, ruffles, collars, and monochromes. You can like or dislike Lagerfeld's legacy, but this theme could bring a re-infusion of glamour to the event, albeit with a sacrificed moral virtue, which is what most fashion is about. **W**

THE WAY FORWARD

Kriti Sanon is currently on a career-high and shows no signs of slowing down

Photographs **TARAS TARAPORVALA** at **INEGA**
Fashion Director **PASHAM ALWANI**

Printed georgette dress, **Label Ritu Kumar**; 18K rose-gold 'Poetry in Motion Two Finger Ring', 18K 'Poetry in Motion' statement ring, both **Her Story**





Kriti Sanon has a lot to celebrate with a host of hotly anticipated releases, namely *Adipurush*, *Bhediya*, *Ganapath* and *Shehzada* in the pipeline, she also bagged her first Filmfare award for best actress stemming for her power-packed performance in *Mimi*, and she isn't done yet. "I've dreamt of it since I won the debut award at Filmfare, and it's taken eight years. But I'm very happy," says the actress, who is currently gearing up to add two more films to her ever-growing repertoire. For Sanon, it's the kind of validation that any actor seeks, the kind of motivation to keep the ball rolling. The actress has always been receptive to growing as a performer and a storyteller, hoping to diversify the roles she takes on and prevent boredom from striking on either side of the silver screen.

There's a beautiful sensitivity to Sanon, and it's surprisingly profound, sneaking up on you with understated yet wholly earned emotion by the end of each film. The sense of possibility each character she essays offers is what's exciting. She elaborates, "I am trying not to let people put me in a box". She hopes to be as holistic through her performances, ready to take on anything that challenges and excites her. I've always constantly been willing to try new things. Nothing has ever been given to me on a platter as much as it may look that way. It's never been easy. Sometimes roles have felt a bit too much, but the calling to act has always stopped me from walking away from it," she says.

In a candid chat, she talks about her filmography, so far, fashion, beauty and everything in between:

ON HER CRAFT

When *Mimi* was offered to her, Sanon confesses that it was the role she had been looking for, for quite some time. Something she could sink her teeth into. "I was craving to do a film like

Mimi where I had a lot more to do, where I felt challenged as an actor. It felt like the perfect film I'd like to lead as my first time." And she's hopeful for the future as she sets sail with two additional films to her repertoire, Sanon is betting on herself. "I'm in a mixed bag right now, and I'm enjoying that. If something strong enough scares me and excites me, I would definitely go for it."

ON FASHION

Kriti Sanon has charted her course from being a model to a celebrity showstopper. Her style is ever-evolving, and she sports sultry evening gowns and voluminous bridal wear (both on the runway and off) with equal ease. She enjoys fashion and doesn't allow trends to dictate her sartorial proclivities. "I think at the end of it, it shouldn't be so much about your outfit. You should just have fun".

It can be tricky to navigate between bold colours and opulent embellishments, but for Sanon, it's best to establish a synchronicity between shimmery textures on one hand and bright colour blocking on the other, going with muted tones when you find yourself donning high-octane shimmer or packing the punch with bold solids. "I find myself gravitating these days more towards solids or colour blocking than prints," she shares.

ON BEAUTY

While the actor is a fan of the glazed doughnut look for life's ups and downs, she enjoys going all out every now and then, sharing "I would definitely want to go fully ethnic, with *kohl* in the eyes and smoked-out *kajal* and maybe a few flowers or a *gajra* in the hair". We're definitely keeping our eyes peeled for her jaw-dropping looks, which will draw their finishing touches from her penchant for statement-making precious stones and glistening silver *jhumkas* that make just the right amount of noise without being too much. ■

"I'VE DREAMT OF IT SINCE I WON THE DEBUT AWARD AT FILMFARE.
AND IT'S TAKEN EIGHT YEARS. BUT I'M VERY HAPPY"

Velvet dress, **Label Ritu Kumar**; 'C'est L'Amour Rivière' 18K white-gold necklace 'C'est L'Amour' 18K white-gold solitaire ring, 'C'est L'Amour' 18K white-gold lace eternity band, all **Her Story**

"I'M IN A MIXED BAG RIGHT NOW, AND I'M ENJOYING THAT. IF SOMETHING STRONG ENOUGH SCARES ME AND EXCITES ME, I WOULD DEFINITELY GO FOR IT"



Printed dress, **Label Ritu Kumar**; 18K rose gold 'Limitless' statement ring, 18K white-gold 'Limitless Elevate' cuff, 18K rose-gold 'Limitless' pyramid bangle, 18K rose-gold 'Limitless' contoured cuff, 18K rose-gold 'Limitless' studded bangle, all **Her Story**





"I WAS CRAVING TO DO A FILM LIKE *MIMI* WHERE I HAD A LOT MORE TO DO, WHERE I FELT CHALLENGED AS AN ACTOR. IT FELT LIKE THE PERFECT FILM I'D LIKE TO LEAD AS MY FIRST TIME"



Printed polo T-shirt dress, **Label Ritu Kumar**; 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue' duo bracelet, 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue Toi et Moi' bracelet, 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue Swirl' cuff, 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue Serenity' bangle; 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue' slender bangle, 18K rose-gold 'Heart of Blue Keystone' bangle, all **Her Story**

Hair **ASIF AHMED**
 Make-up **ADRIAN JACOBS**
 Assisted by (styling) **NAHID NAWAAZ**



FASHION FORWARD

After 30 years in the business, Abraham & Thakore's strategic plans for the upcoming decade will reinforce the brand's quiet, modern voice and distinct cultural language

Words **MEHERNAAZ DHONDY**



Backstage with David Abraham
and Rakesh Thakore,
just before their show at
FDCI x Lakmé Fashion Week

"We believe in clean, strong design. Eventually, people will come to us for a cool, well-cut piece"

Almost a week after designer duo Abraham & Thakore showcased their Autumn/Winter 2022-23 collection at FDCI x Lakmé Fashion Week, I got to sit with David Abraham and Rakesh Thakore across screens over a Zoom call. In sharp contrast to the starkness of this digital interview setting, last month saw a cosy room filled with warm hugs and clinking glasses as their most loyal customers, family, friends and well-wishers gathered not just to celebrate a stellar show and collection, but also to raise a toast to the prêt label that completed 30 years in the business. The nostalgic fashion chatter at the after-show cocktail could write itself into a retrospective profile on the designer duo – their astute design aesthetic, the black and white codes, their beginnings in 1992 when soon after they were joined by their third partner Kevin Nigli, their first collection at The Conran Shop in London, and the iconic *ikat* houndstooth print sari that made its way to the permanent archives of the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Their most rewarding moment is, perhaps, their first-ever ramp show at India Fashion Week in Delhi in 2010, which gave them the space to explore the culture of where they came from as designers. With a collection that consisted of a play of saris, handloom, *ikat*, *churidars* and other Indian shapes, after a decade-plus of selling just dresses in "nice shops". Using the past to define the future is what sets them apart – and their strategy has rendered them into a label that's well on its way to building itself into a legacy brand.

GRAZIA: Your recent show at FDCI x Lakmé Fashion Week was your first big outing since Reliance Brands Limited invested in your company for a majority stake investment. What has changed?

DAVID ABRAHAM: What we're doing with this partnership is to bring out the best of the best. That's the way both partners look at it. It's not about redefining anything but exemplifying what we do best

and taking it to a larger audience – and doing it with a larger team's support.

G: Thirty years in the business. Do you think the collection and show reflected that journey?

DA: It wasn't a retrospective – but we pulled out a few old pieces. We decided to build upon some of those garments – just a few in between. We slipped it into the new collection to see how relevant they looked – and I think we passed with flying colours, but nobody even realised.

G: We did. Your *ikat* houndstooth print sari, worn by Carol [Gracias], was a nod to the first fashion week collection.

DA: These constant conversations in sustainability, about the trend being 'trend agnostic', 'timelessness', 'how do you wear a garment after two years', 'do you throw it away, do you keep it' – that's never been part of our design philosophy because we believe that everything anyway gets carried on. It's very important to find new definitions of fashion for ourselves; we all live in different parts of the world with different clothing cultures, it's necessary not just to accept the diktats of the western fashion model. As for the sari in the collection, it did look seamless, like it was part of a collective. More like codes of the house sprinkled into the new collection.

G: How do you plan to build on these codes? Will we see a shift in the design language?

DA: We're looking to widen the vocabulary. We didn't show everything at fashion week because the show is a very short, focused statement to communicate what the brand stands for. If you look at the collection when it hits stores, there will be changes in fabrics, in structures. We're associated with handicrafts and handlooms, but we're also very happy to work with industrial and man-made fabrics and blend the two together. For example, we're working with a weaver who weaves *khadi* fabric to make



it lighter and softer, given the way people like to dress now – we've given him Tencel (which we have sourced from Lenzing), and

David Abraham and
Rakesh Rathore



beautifully. Even with handloom weavers, we're introducing new yarns to see how we can push the envelope. To answer your question, yes we have very strong codes but we are trying to expand and move in new directions.

RAKESH THAKORE: We blend traditional and contemporary designs involving sustainability, incorporating different skills, techniques and technology and will continue to do so.

The current fashion landscape talks incessantly about cutting loose the trends and seasonality model.

DA: I've always found it problematic. We don't have those seasons in India; the western cycle revolves around the Christian calendar as opposed to ours, which starts after Navratri. The western silhouette has changed considerably over time – we've had a history of non-stitched clothing that you wrapped around, so your shape is pretty much how you decided to drape. We must question these things – a trend is connected to silhouette and timelessness. The West has also been questioned and challenged, as has been evident over the past few years. You now get collections from top brands, where every garment from every period of history they look like. They also trawl through their grandmother's chest and put a look together – like a pair of velvet bellbottoms from the 60s paired with something from the 90s. Maybe that is their sense now because of the internet and how visual history has collapsed on itself. For a young person, it's what you see on social media. You don't remember much of what people in the 60s and 70s wore, but you pick up what is attractive and put it together. It's a post-modern approach to fashion.

G: Let's talk about the rebrand. The first time we saw it, it innovatively came together digitally via graphics on the massive LED display at the start of your show.

DA: We worked with a talented designer, Rabia Gupta [who runs a popular design consultancy called RGD in Mumbai].

She's also a customer; we studied in the same design school. We looked at a fresh approach – we're opening two new stores in Mumbai [Kala Ghoda and Palladium] and thought it'd be nice to have new shopping bags and new packaging – to give the whole thing a new spin and lighten it up a little bit. It just happened to be at the time of the show.

G: Many smaller details – like the fine ones found in your garments – emerge even on social channels. For example, every post on your Instagram feed has a sign off line ...for all the days you're not get married and an #unblingit to boot. Whose idea was this?

DA: We were sitting with our marketing team and asked where one would wear A&T and I said, 'for all the days you're not getting married'. You won't come to us if you're getting married because, let's face it, there are many designers who focus on that, and it seems to be the focus of much of the industry – so maybe we fit into the space that's all the other days. We're looking to dress people for every day, which is why you need to 'unbling' it.

G: Does this mean catering to a changing demographic of customers led by social media?

DA: It's a tricky point – as a business, eventually, we want to engage with all customers across all age groups. A social influencer will pick a garment that looks strong on that tiny little. It may not be the garment that's beautifully made, is tone on tone with no colour or contrast and just texture, with fine invisible details that only you know of – that garment will never reach the pages of social media. If it's strong and graphic or even a logo, it might just – but I don't know if we can only do that – it doesn't measure with our values. We believe in clean, strong design; some parts of our collection photograph very well, for example, also move well to meet the needs of those clients. Eventually, people will come to us for a cool, well-cut piece. **W**

now he's going to put that into the weft – which mean it will have the look and feel of *khadi* but the fabric will be soft. It falls

MYSTICAL REALISM

*Booker Prize-winning author Shehan Karunatilaka
takes us on a journey to the afterlife*

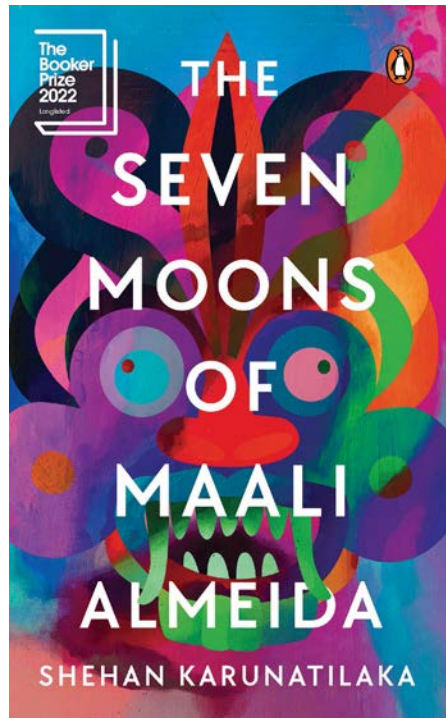
WORDS **BARRY RODGERS**



Shehan Karunatilaka writes with a storyteller's flair, a talent for telling an engaging tale matched by his latest novel's ambition – the Booker Prize-winning *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*. Initially published in 2020 as *Chats with the Dead*, the story is set in Colombo and follows Maali Almeida, a recently deceased war photographer who navigates the afterlife while reckoning with the ghosts that haunt his country. For a place like Sri Lanka, the past is never really dead. The United Nations has estimated 80,000 to 100,000 deaths tied to the Sri Lankan civil war, a shockingly high number of those being civilians. The afterlife is sometimes a rather comic affair, drawing on Buddhist, Hindu, and other beliefs – with a splash of bureaucratic red tape that keeps the hereafter grounded in the here and now. Karunatilaka makes the wise choice to tell the story in the second person, Maali seemingly telling the tale to himself with a mix of sarcastic wit and streetwise sensibility. Despite the heaviness of the subject matter, Karunatilaka's touch is light. After an exposition-heavy first chapter and a sloggy middle, this turns into a cracking page-turner, picking up steam as it goes, a whodunit wrapped in a morality play wrapped in an incredibly told story with compelling characters.

"When I got the call about being longlisted for the Booker Prize, I could not dwell on the good news because my family and I were living through Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis in seven decades, first hand. Sri Lanka was imploding. We were not sure how it would all turn out. We're still trying to figure it out. If the Army had taken on the protesters, it could have been a massacre and immense tragedy, but no, it was largely peaceful. In contrast, I was insulated from everything around me, but I didn't ignore what was unfolding on the streets," he says.

Throughout this book, Maali is urged by conflicting forces – on the one hand, to stay in the In Between and extract revenge, or to avoid trying to change the world Down There and to move on to The Light. As readers, we see through Maali's eyes the



"And maybe I will write about the 2022 crisis in Sri Lanka in a few years because I have made notes. There's always a story; it's about finding the right words to express it"

extent of Sri Lanka's suffering, much of it directly caused by the government and the Army. Through exhibiting his photos, Maali is determined to show the world what he has seen but risks exposing the secrets of his personal life in the process.

FINDING SUCCESS

A book launch may not necessarily enjoy the same hectic press fanfare as movies, but authors hope their art finds an audience. Karunatilaka realised that his book would get attention because it was focused on Sri Lanka. But he "went with the flow when it (the book) made the shortlist." "In a writing life, there's always going to be disappointments. But all you can do is hope that your book, and more importantly, your

point of view, is accepted."

And while it has been hailed as a spectacular piece of political fiction, Karunatilaka says he would not categorise himself as a political writer. "It's a crime whodunnit, a sunny dark comedy, and a philosophical and contemplative meditation on the meaning of life, the relevance of each creature's death, and what the afterlife may bring. While outwardly denying the importance of (any) religion, my perspective is decidedly Asian, informed by Buddhist and Hindu concepts of reincarnation, compassion, and forgiveness," he says.

And while Maali, the protagonist, has been allowed to be both omnipresent and close to the opposite of omnipotent as he navigates Colombo, Karunatilaka has deftly fleshed his queerness in a way that has prevented feeding stereotypes. "He's not sad or self-loathing," he says. Maali's privileged background, strained personal relationships, and general hedonism is prismatic towards this end – he is the morally ambiguous anti-hero who exposes the self-interest and willful ignorance of Colombo's high society, who may or may not be indifferent to what his incendiary photographs expose about themselves.

The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida may be hard to sum up and shut up about. Still, its identity as a metafictional satire conducting itself as a modern-day morality epic, a strapping thriller, and political whodunit, a warm story of love and friendship, makes it entirely deserving of this year's Booker Prize. After Shyam Selvadurai's *Funny Boy* (1994) and, more recently, Anuk Arudpragasam's *A Passage North* briefly brought Sri Lanka to the literary world's attention, this novel is capable of keeping it.

As Karunatilaka puts it: "I hope this book enjoys a lasting legacy because it's hard to come by given how print is waning worldwide. And maybe I will write about the 2022 crisis in Sri Lanka in a few years because I have made notes. There's always a story; it's about finding the right words to express it." ■

PERFECT TWO

*Step into fall with earthy tones,
oversized silhouettes and cozy knits*

Photographs EMRE GÜVEN
Styling SELIN BURSALIOGLU

Cashmere sweater,
skirt, tweed jacket,
necklaces, bag, knit socks,
rubber boots, all Chanel





Bra, faux fur
coat, skirt,
all Gucci



Sweatshirt, trench
coat, trousers, pearl
necklaces, boots, all
Givenchy



Organza blouse, polo shirt, pleated skirt, bag, socks, all Miu Miu; reversible coat, RRD Roberto Ricci Designs

Jersey blouse, double
wool skirt, bag,
pumps, all Prada;
quilted jacket, Fay





Silk and lace dress,
blazer, flower brooch,
all Saint Laurent By
Anthony Vaccarello

Blazer, viscose
leggings, pumps, all
Loewe; wool trench,
Diego





Suit, boots, both
Patou; rainproof
jacket, Herno

Printed pullover,
nylon skirt, boots,
all Max Mara; padded
jacket, Blauer





ATTENZIONE
ATTENTION
ACHTUNG

Bra, tulle shirt,
beaded skirt,
technical
shorts, boots,
all Dior; nylon
bomber, Tat Ras



Shirt, palazzo
trousers, tie, wool
loafers, all
Louis Vuitton; woollen
blend bomber,
Woolrich

Knit dress, boots, both **Etro**; reversible hood, **K-Way R&D**

Casting **SIMONE BART ROCCHIETTI** at **SIMO BART CASTING**

Model **CHANE HUSSELMANN** at **WHYNOT**

Make-up **SILVIA DELL'ORTO** at **ETOILE MANAGEMENT**

Hair **MAURIZIO KULPERK** at **ETOILE MANAGEMENT**



BARE NECESSITIES

Let versatile, yet chic basics serve as inspiration for your fall wardrobe

Photographs YUSUF LOKHANDWALA
Junior Fashion Stylist NISHTHA PARWANI

SUIT YOURSELF

We're easing into cuffing season with lightweight oversized blazers as temperatures dip. Once known as a workwear staple, the roomy and slouchy silhouette gives it a casual and carefree feel. Whatever you choose to throw yours over – oversized blazers will be the hardest-working piece in your wardrobe.

Tie-up denim blazer, **Kanika Goyal**, ₹ 27,000; satin shirt, **Bloni**, ₹ 12,000; heart necklace, **Anatina**, ₹ 2,4650



Pinstripe oversized, **Acne Studios**, ₹ 73,873 approx



Relaxed fit, **All Saints**, ₹ 16,999



Doubled breasted oversized, **H&M**, ₹ 2,699



Oversized, **LouLou Studio**, ₹ 42,928 approx



Double breasted, **Good Wool**, ₹ 32,742 approx



Checkered, **United Colors of Benetton**, price on request



Silk, **Mango**, ₹ 6,590



Boxy, **Phase Eight**, ₹ 17,000



Panelled, **Perona**, ₹ 5,530



Mulberry, **Ralph Lauren**, ₹ 75,750



Long sleeve, **AMI Paris**, ₹ 34,844 approx



'Eva' silk shirt, **Stella McCartney**, ₹ 61,286 approx

SATIN RUSH

Steering clear from its pyjama reputation, silk shirts are meant to be worn beyond the bedroom. Flowy and easy, it ensures a transitional look from day to night and desk to drinks. Opt for a fluid collared-style shirt for your work-from-home meetings, or wear it with an oversized blazer and high-waisted trousers for a daytime look.

THE LIGHT BLACK DRESS

A uniform of sorts, the little black dress has always been a winner in our books. It's sexy yet elegant, demure yet daring, sophisticated yet a statement; there's an LBD for any occasion. It forms the perfect canvas for any accessory. The best part? You can dress it up or down, play it safe or not; it's up to you.

Organza dress, Ituvana, ₹ 14,800; handcrafted 18k gold-plated bangle, Lune, ₹ 5,000 each; 'Umberta' heels, Christian Louboutin, price on request



High heel,
Sergio Rossi,
₹ 64,473 approx

Tie-up, RSVP at
www.nykaafashion.com,
₹ 1,887

Transparent heel,
Peter Do,
₹ 1,84,960 approx

Patent, Oceedee,
₹ 6,999

Strappy,
Steve Madden,
₹ 8,999

Strappy, H&M,
₹ 1,999

THE PERFECT PAIR

Nothing accentuates a look quite like a pair of strappy heels. Open-toe, block or sling-backs; pair them with your fave jeans and Tee combo for a casual look or hit the town with an embellished pair of trousers for good measure.



Sleeveless,
Styched,
₹ 787

Ruched, Vero Moda,
₹ 2,299

Cotton,
Marks & Spencer,
₹ 3,999

Square neck,
Hunza G,
₹ 29,335 approx

Draped jersey,
Gauge,
₹ 32,152 approx

BLUE JEAN BABY

While we've moved past our skinny jeans era, oversized denim has been on rotation for several seasons, and we're not complaining. As we gravitate towards all things comfort, slouchy and baggy jeans have become a go-to. Wear yours with a comfy tank or dress it with a printed off-shoulder blouse; they're guaranteed to look good with almost everything.

Ribbed tank top, **Zara**, ₹ 1,590; pleated denims, **Kanika Goyal**, ₹ 16,000; beaten hoops, **SNA Studios**, ₹ 1,990; stackable enamel ring, **Misho**, ₹ 5,655; brass textured ring, **Michelle Alexander**, ₹ 1,999



Lace trim, **Marks & Spencer**, ₹ 1,299



Crossback, **Adidas by Stella McCartney**, ₹ 48,770 approx



LIKE SECOND SKIN

Once an undergarment and known to be hidden from sight, the humble tank top is now a bonafide wardrobe essential. Comfortable, laidback, yet fuss-free, tank tops tick all the right boxes. Paired with 90s-style jeans, they work perfectly for a casual yet effortless look. Pro tip? Dress them up with a pair of fancy flats or pare the combo down with classic white sneakers – tank tops will always serve you well.

Cotton, **Agolde**, ₹ 6,698 approx



Ribbed, **CDLP**, ₹ 9,107 approx



Stretch-cotton, **Wunderlove**, ₹ 499



Flared, **Closed**, ₹ 31,957 approx



Baggy, **Uniqlo**, ₹ 2,990



Distressed baggy, **Mango**, ₹ 4,790



Wide-leg baggy, **Balenciaga**, ₹ 1,09,090 approx



Baggy, **H&M**, ₹ 1,999



IN THE TRENCHES

Practical, versatile and wearable, the humble trench coat is just the thing for the sunny-one-minute-rains-the-next weather we've been having off late. Whether you opt for different shades or experiment with fabrics and colours, the traditional trench is the only way to brave transitional and moody weather.



Belted nylon,
Adidas,
₹ 39,999



Structured,
Forever New,
₹ 8,400



Polyster,
Ted Baker,
₹ 51,000



Hooded,
Michael Kors,
price on request



Double breasted,
Karl Lagerfeld,
₹ 44,425 approx



Drop shoulder,
Vero Moda,
₹ 7,499

Double breasted
buttoned trench,
Massimo Dutti,
₹ 16,490; mini
leather bag, Tanned,
₹ 4,850



BAG IT

This season, the classics are helping the It-bag revival, and leather accents are at the top of our radar. This season's leather arm candy edit holds supreme, from oversized totes to quilted crossbodies and crescent-shaped shoulder bags.



Crossbody, Uniqlo,
₹ 2,490



Croc embossed,
Coach,
price on request



Quilted, Mango,
₹ 2,390



Crossbody chain
link, Steve Madden,
₹ 8,999



Leather, Wandler,
₹ 46,331



Leather shoulder,
Zara,
₹ 9,990



Cropped tailored waistcoat, wide leg trousers, both Qua, ₹ 1,995, ₹ 2,995 respectively; textured hoops, band ring, both Radhika Agrawal, ₹ 2,100, ₹ 3,000 respectively

WAIST UP

A tailored suiting essential you didn't know you needed – the do-it-all waistcoat may just become your go-to from work to play and everything in between. Wear yours as a suit coordinated trousers, or pair it with a tank and stacked jewellery for maximum effect.

ONE FITS ALL

While our obsession with sweats and pyjama styles may never end, there's nothing better than a pair of perfectly tailored for a polished look. Complete the look with a matching waistcoat and strappy heels for an elegant feel or pair them with your oversized trainers to keep it casual.



Belted linen, Akris, ₹ 2,19,819 approx



Satin, CO, ₹ 90,005 approx



Double breasted, Remain, ₹ 19,809 approx



Linen and wool-blend, Akris, ₹ 1,74,728 approx



Satin-trimmed twill, JW Anderson, ₹ 65,492 approx



Pleated, Remain, ₹ 28,180 approx



Tailored, Vero Moda, ₹ 2,799



Oversized strap back, Zara, ₹ 4,990



V-neck linen, Massimo Dutti, ₹ 6,490



Cotton, Uniqlo, ₹ 2,490



Flare, Zara, ₹ 2,890



Linen dartsed, Massimo Dutti, ₹ 7,490

SHIRT UP

A winner in our books, there's nothing better than a pristine, white button-down that goes with almost everything. The newest iterations include exaggerated sleeves, embellishments, ruched details and deconstructed silhouettes. Pair yours with a midi skirt or under a corset; the possibilities are endless.

Puffy sleeve shirt, **Malie**, ₹ 9,000; leather shorts, **Clarache**, ₹ 4,000; mini hoops; brass ring, both **Misho**, ₹ 9,218, ₹ 6,160; molded ring, **Sna Studios**, stacklace ring, **AJ&Co x Tanzire**, ₹ 3,599



Viper chain, **Arket**, ₹ 4,557 approx



Gold plated ring, **Inaya**, ₹ 1,150



Knotted hoops, **Studio Metallurgy**, ₹ 4,500



Brass bangle, **The Label Life**, ₹ 1,740



'Greca' detail ring, **Versace**, price on request



Link Chain Choker, **Perfectly Average**, ₹ 5,000



Dangler earrings, **Azga**, ₹ 1,450

GOLD STANDARD

A jewellery box must-have, OTT gold pieces are guaranteed to make a statement. Over-the-top maximalist dangles, beaten hoops or chunky bangles – it's best to invest in pieces that can work with everything from a button-down to a chic LBD. **||**



Puffy shoulders, **Moonray**, ₹ 8,500



Monogram-motif cotton, **Burberry**, price on request



Long sleeve, **Jacquemus**, ₹ 26,022 approx



Rustic fabric, **Zara**, ₹ 2,590



Pearl-embellished cotton, **Simone Rocha**, ₹ 97,931 approx



Cropped short-sleeve, **Ambush**, ₹ 49,973 approx



Cropped, **The Frankie Shop**, ₹ 24,779 approx



Oxford, **H&M**, ₹ 1,499

Model SUMAN RAO at TIMES TALENT; Hair and Make-up RAKSHANDA IRANI, Fashion Assistants SANSKRITI GUPTA, IRAM HALAI

ON THE STYLE RADAR

THE ART OF REVIVAL

This e-commerce platform gives pre-loved pieces a fresh start

Pre-loved is more than just a buzzword; Revivify seeks to change that narrative. We speak founder Aashni Shah about the platform.



Aashni Shah

GRAZIA: Tell us a little more about how the idea came about?

AASHNI SHAH: I spent over nine months going back and forth with planning and refining the brand. After extensive market research, I started my brand with the vision and mission for Revivify to make South Asian luxury fashion sustainable and build a fashion-conscious consumerism mindset by selling your pre-loved wear and purchasing pre-loved outfits.

There is a sense of exclusivity in owning creations discontinued in production by the designers. A vintage piece could also elicit the memory of how a style statement came into the radar. An outfit you liked was customized, rare, and exclusive that you couldn't get your hands on, but if it's available in the pre-loved space, there is a market to cater to that audience.

G: Pre-loved clothing is often looked down upon. How did you go about destigmatising that mentality? And, has it been challenging to convince people?

AS: There has been a gap in the Indian market, especially the acceptance of wearing a second-hand/

pre-loved outfit. In the US and internationally, it's still very much accepted. It's the mindset and the preconceived notion of believing that second-hand wear is frowned upon or not practised much. But, if you see the pre-loved vision, it's not so much different from re-wearing an outfit your sister previously wore.

G: Does India have a long way to go with regard to pre-loved clothing?

AS: People are still on the fence about pre-loved garments; however, we are confident that we will get a larger Indian market in the coming months and bring you the best outfits you can get at a fraction of the price.

G: Tell us about the curation process at Revivify.

AS: We have a two-step authentication process that ensures a thorough quality check. Our in-house team QCs every garment piece and notes the condition, sizes, pricing, and how well it's loved. Every composition and care is taken into consideration, and only then do we finalize the listing. At Revivify, you will find fabrics and embroidery work/prints that

are vintage, rare, and intricate designs that were either exclusive, out of stock at the designer's space, or the design is no longer available.

G: Has sustainability become a buzzword and less active practice in the industry?

AS: Sustainability in the fashion world is still upcoming; however, for this word to become a long practice, we still need to give it time. Since the pandemic, many consumers have become mindful of socio-economic factors, which has led to sartorial enlightenment, making people learn ways to optimise their wardrobe and pledge to make conscious purchases. Practising this in our daily lives is something we need to do. Revivify's idea of re-loving pre-loved wear helps reduce the carbon footprint by 30 per cent. Circular fashion will be booming in the coming years.

G: What have been some of your biggest challenges while setting up Revivify?

AS: Figuring out a way to make pre-loved appealing and destigmatizing second-hand mentality.



IT'S A BAGUETTE

The It-bag of its time celebrates 25 years with a limited edition tome

The FENDI 'Baguette' has quite an illustrious history and has long been alluded to as one of the first It-bags to have the fashion gworlds in a complete chokehold. While the 'Baguette' was first introduced to the masses in 1997, its claim to fame is credited to *Sex and the City* when Carrie Bradshaw famously referred to it as a "Baguette" and "not a bag" when it's stolen from her. And now, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, FENDI has released a limited-edition book that celebrates the anthology of the various iterations of the bag. Titled *FENDI Hand in Hand*, it honours the initiative of the same name launched in 2020 to praise the Italian maisons whose skills and knowledge go into creating FENDI's masterpieces. The book highlights the artistry and work of thirty artisans from Italy's twenty regions as they reinterpret the iconic bag using materials like vegetable leather, coral, filigree, gold chiselled marble, and wood, to lace, crochet, broom plant fibre, brocade, mosaic tesserae, weaves and embroideries, such as those with peacock feathers.

Lorenzo Vitturi's photographs for the book centre around the interventions at the intersection of photography and sculpture, while the text curators Eugenio Viola, Orsola de Castro, and Aldo Bakker provide insight into the history, craftsmanship, and more in the book. Maison's artistic director of accessories and menswear, Silvia Venturini Fendi, says, "*FENDI Hand in Hand* is an initiative that aims to sustain local traditions, the work of craftsmen, and the transmission of skills to new generations. Above all, sustainability is about human commitment, transparency, and civil respect".



A NEW DIRECTION

A handbag for the modern woman

A hallmark brand in consumer categories and long-favoured for its elegant yet highly affordable range of products from watches to perfumes, Titan Company is now also a proud owner of IRTH, a new-age handbag brand designed for the modern woman. With a varied product portfolio that includes workbags, tall totes, shoulder bags, handholds, slings, cross body, clutches, and wallets, IRTH aims to be the go-to brand for women. Their unique product categories also include Delights, which they refer to as practical, and feature 'mom' bags that are primarily designed to suit the everyday needs of mothers. They come equipped with insulated milk bottle slots, changing mats, and water-repellent slots for soiled clothes and can be hands-free with detachable straps to be hooked onto the stroller. Speaking about the new launch, Mr CK Venkataraman, managing director, Titan Company Limited, said, The brand IRTH "represents the values and trust of Titan and our understanding of the women consumer and their evolving needs."



SOMETHING FISHY

The ocean serves as inspiration for this new collection

Inspired by the depths of the ocean, Tribe Amrapali's latest jewellery collection pays an ode to fish in the form of the all-new 'Matsya' collection. 'Matsya' translates to fish in Sanskrit, and the collection explores the mysteries of the sea and its connection with the sky in the collection, close on the heels of their 'Chandrika' line. Tribe Amrapali's jewellery design shines through in the range set alongside deep green malachite, mother of pearl and crystals. With nautical and celestial elements, the collection takes influence



from the *guttu pusalu* necklace from the coast of Telangana. Roughly translated, *guttu* refers to a shoal of fish, while *pusalu* refers to beads, two of the things synonymous with the collection. **KA**

CHICONOMICS

Great style picks, all *under ₹ 5,000*

		
1	2	3
		
4	5	6
		
9		7
		
		8

- 1 Heart pendant necklace, **Anatina**, ₹ 2,750
- 2 Draped dress, **Zara**, ₹ 2,990
- 3 Embellished pouch, **Forever New**, ₹ 3,200
- 4 Pleated knit sweater, **Mango**, ₹ 1,495
- 5 Brass earrings, **Flowerchild by Shaheen Abbas**, ₹ 3,500
- 6 Deconstructed scarf, **Pari Pari**, ₹ 5,500
- 7 Leather belt, **Free People**, ₹ 3,098
- 8 Studded heels, **Cai**, ₹ 2,999
- 9 High-waisted trousers, **H&M**, ₹ 2,299



JUST
ONE
THING

LOEWE

FLIGHT MODE

Roomy, slouchy, and lightweight – this season's bomber jackets offer endless layering options



Woven,
Adidas By Stella McCartney,
₹ 19,999



Cropped quilted,
Dion Lee,
₹ 37,689 approx



Leather,
Remain,
₹ 48,576 approx



Nylon,
Scotch & Soda,
₹ 18,990

NEW UNIFORM

From boardroom meetings to day-to-night looks, the elevated pantsuit is here to ensure you channel maximum power-dressing vibes

**Easy
CHIC**

Enamel necklace,
Azga, ₹ 1,350

A cult favourite – the heart necklace is back, and we couldn't be happier. Cutesy yet chic, it's the perfect plus one for your #OOTDs. Go for a chunky beaded one or the coloured enamel pendant – this quirky charm surely won't disappoint.



Wide leg trousers,
Marks & Spencer,
₹ 1,999

It's time to pause your fave pair of jeans and opt for the 'it' trousers of the season. Baggy, relaxed and versatile, experiment with risqué cut-out bodysuits à la Bella Hadid or opt for a classic button-down to play it simple; there's no one way to pull these off.



CHANEL

While your trusty blazer may have served you well, its newest iteration, packed with a bold hue, ensures you can dress up or down. Paired with matching trousers or jeans, it goes beyond the 9-to-5 monotony.



Tailored blazer,
Karl Lagerfeld,
₹ 38,660 approx



Dangler earrings,
Swarovski,
₹ 7,290

Even the simplest looks can do with a hint of gold, and we're currently crushing on these crystal dangles. The best part about them? They will frame your face perfectly, guaranteeing you'll never want to take them off.

A forever must-have, black pumps are a wardrobe classic. Putting comfort first, this timeless pair goes with almost everything – from embellished looks to tailored silhouettes for a minimalist feel.



Leather pumps,
Aldo,
₹ 4,999

THE WAY WE WEAR... PLEATHER



1.



Wool sweater,
Marks & Spencer,
₹ 999

+



Oversized leather jacket,
Zara, ₹ 5,990

+

+



Link chain,
Misho,
₹ 13,338 approx



Leather trousers,
Zara, ₹ 2,890

+



Heeled ankle boots,
Clarks,
₹ 12,999

+



Acetate cat eye
sunglasses,
Daniel Wellington,
₹ 9,899

Utilitarian, yet edgy, pleather is often a mainstay on the A/W runways. From moto jackets at Celine to maxi coats at Cos and head-to-toe pleather looks at Otrura, stepping out swathed in this cold-weather fabric is a seasonal staple. Pair your looks with classic gold jewellery or opt for matching pleather accessories which will be perfect for all your winter evenings and beyond. **IK**



2.



Leather bustier,
Ksubi,
₹ 25,082 approx

+



Leather trousers,
Ksubi,
₹ 67,764 approx

+



Gold-plated hoops,
Pipa Bella, ₹ 821

+



Studded clogs,
Khaite,
₹ 1,79,180 approx

3.



Belted leather trench,
Anokhi,
₹ 2,03,135 approx



Satin Shirt,
Veromoda, ₹ 2799

+



Spiral earrings,
Thesto,
₹ 349

+



Leather trousers,
H&M,
₹ 2,299

+



Embossed mules,
Steve Madden,
₹ 7,999

+

LOVE LOVE LOVE

*Equal parts playful
and elegant, this
patent number is all
you need to lift your
spirits this season*

'Lipchick' pump,
Christian Louboutin,
price on request

Photograph YUSUF LOKHANDWALA, Junior Fashion Stylist NISHITHA PARWANI



GRAZIA BEAUTY



Photograph IMAXTREE.COM Words SANJANA SALUNKHE

Where we spotted it
Ujoh's SS/23 showcase.

Why we love it

Metallic meets vibrant hues as the models were spotted with painted metallic pouts with a bright neon lip liner used on the lips instead of using it around to contour it. We love this look because it's fun, bold, and dramatic and lets the pout take centre stage for a statement look.

How to get it

1. Prep your skin with a primer. Follow with an illuminating foundation to get that clean and glowy base. Apply a concealer to conceal any blemishes and dark circles. Blend well and set it with a matte powder.
2. For the cheeks, opt for a light stroke of bronzer for a chiselled look. Apply a generous highlighter on the cheekbones, bridge of the nose, and Cupid's bow. Extend it towards the high points of your brow bone for a more sculpted look.
3. For the eyes, keep it simple with a swipe of white kohl on the upper and lower waterline for a bright-eyed and fresh effect. Set the brows with a brow gel for a fuller yet natural look.
4. Exfoliate your lips to get a moisturised pout. Glide a metallic coppery shade on the lips. Use a fuchsia lip liner and swipe a neat crescent along the bottom lip and then follow the natural contour of your upper lip and highlight the Cupid's bow.

1. Clarins Ever Matte Compact Powder, ₹ 3,662
2. Pat McGrath Skin Fetish: Sublime Perfection Concealer, ₹ 2,889
3. Sephora Collection Lip Stain Liner in 'Endless Purple' ₹ 1,100
4. Anastasia Beverly Hills Brow Freeze, ₹ 2,800
5. M.A.C Frost Lipstick in 'O', ₹ 1,750
6. Clinique Even Better Glow Light Reflecting Makeup SPF 15, ₹ 3,000
7. Shiseido Innerglow Cheek Powder in 'Ambient White', ₹ 2,600



TAKE A BREAK

*A new skincare trend wants you
to give vacation days to your skin*

Words **SANJANA SALUNKHE**

We are all guilty of going down the social media rabbit hole - at an ungodly hour when procrastination gets the

best of us. Once the sea of content consumes you, there is no going back. Truth be told: It's a gold mine for us beauty enthusiasts. These innovative and indisputably entertaining apps have given us some questionable trends like creating false eye bags and also some of the best beauty hacks, like the dual blush trick that gives you the perfect, snatched, and dewy look. Occasionally, specific trends turn out to be life-changing, and one such recent discovery that the GenZ-led platform TikTok has given us is the 'Skin Cycling' trend. The hashtag has racked up over four billion views on the platform and continues to influence more and more people. So, what is it exactly?

WHAT IS SKIN CYCLING?

Skin cycling is a routine coined by Dr. Whitney Bowe, which she discussed on her TikTok and Instagram. It applies to a night-time skincare routine where you apply active ingredients only on certain days, gives your skin rest days, and then repeat the process. "Say you start with an at-home peel for the first night with either salicylic acid or any other AHA in a higher percentage, the next day you do a retinol, and then for two days you take a break and let your skin do some healing," explains dermatologist and founder of Isya Aesthetics, Dr Kiran Sethi.

DOES IT REALLY WORK?

"It's a balanced approach to using actives without damaging the epidermal barrier. The routine allows the use of exfoliating actives that will improve your skin and, at the same time, let your skin breathe," says Dr. Sethi, adding that doing actives in moderation is key as too much of it could lead to irritation, especially when you aren't aware of what your skin needs and just jumping on all the floating skincare

trends. Dr. Madhuri Agarwal, dermatologist and founder of Yavana Aesthetics Clinic, seconds the sentiment and believes that the technique could be your answer to getting good skin in the long run. "The skin shows effects with minimal and essential actives. As there is no layering of multiple products, it helps to understand and identify if the ingredient is suitable for the skin. It is also a great option for Indian skin as we are prone to pigmentation and using too many actives can cause irritation and worsen it."

WHAT IS AN IDEAL SKIN CYCLING ROUTINE?

A four-day cycle has been the most popular, which typically uses active ingredients for two nights of the week, followed by two nights of rest, and then repeating the same cycle. Dr. Agarwal notes down the routine you can start with.

"The skin shows effects with minimal and essential actives."

Day 1: Exfoliate

Start with a chemical exfoliant like as an AHA /BHA, which can be used as a combination or single ingredient depending on skin reactivity. In

case of sensitive skin, use a PHA. Don't forget to apply a moisturiser over it before sleeping.

Day 2: Repair & Recover

Retinol is the gold standard in anti-ageing and repairing collagen and elastin. Start with a gentle retinol formulation. You can also opt for the retinol sandwich technique, where you apply the moisturiser specifically to the sensitive areas of your face like eyes, lip contours, etc. Apply the retinol and then the moisturiser again.

Day 3 & 4: Heal

These are rest days; avoid using actives. You can use a moisturiser with ceramides, glycerine, and squalene on the face to hydrate and let the skin be.

Day 5: Reset

Repeat the entire cycle again. ■



DITCH THE DIET



Thin bodies and dainty appearances might be society's way to conform to an ideal image. But, it comes with a side of mental and physical trauma

Words **AAALIYA PANJU**

Photograph **IUJU TAN**

“In nutrition, there is no ‘one size fits all.’ The primary question you need to ask yourself is – would this food item suit me?”

Let’s be honest: We’ve all wished (at one point or another) that our bodies looked slightly different. A few pounds cut out in the midsection, a few added to the bottom and a few tweaks here and there. But where does it end? Who benefits from putting ourselves under a microscopic lens, judging every tiny, so-called imperfection? To put it simply, diet culture is more socially stigmatic than scientific. It’s society’s way of telling you that you should eat certain things to look a certain way, which will subsequently lead to a generalised ‘acceptance.’ Diet culture can affect you no matter which demographic you fit into, and it’s a far cry from a nutritionally specific routine to help you live a healthier lifestyle.

ONE SIZE DOESN’T FIT ALL

Dr Anouksha Pingle, counselling psychologist and wellness therapist, put together how mental well-being and the food we eat go hand in hand. The word ‘diet’ is often used in a context that screams out “you are not enough” and seeks validation of a specific desired body type. Eating right is necessary, but being educated about why you’re eating what you are is imperative. Luke Coutinho, a practitioner of holistic nutrition – integrative & lifestyle medicine, says, “All of us are unique individuals with a unique bio-type, so no two intakes can be the same. Every day, I receive queries – is a protein shake good or bad? How about sattvu? Is wheat good or bad? What I’d rather hear? Is a protein shake the right choice for me? Does wheat suit my gut? In nutrition, there is no ‘one size fits all.’ The primary question you need

to ask yourself is – would this food item suit me?” he says.

LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

Dr Rohini Patil, a nutritionist and founder & CEO of Nutracy Lifestyle further elaborates that the most prominent ‘con’ of being on a diet without knowing your actual nutritional gain from it is that you can end up lacking necessary vitamins and minerals that your food plan may not include, which in turn, can lead to nutritional deficiencies with a long-standing impact.

Individuals put excess focus on losing or gaining weight, which takes away from the nutritional requirements of their bodies. When asked about the popularity surrounding severe carb-cutting and the intake of supplements, Dr Nmami Agarwal, nutritionist to Mansuhi Chhillar and founder of Nmami Life, says, “Instead of restricting carbs, I would recommend choosing them wisely. It’s always best to opt for a balanced diet containing carbs from whole grains, proteins, and lots of fibre from nuts, vegetables, and fruits. When it

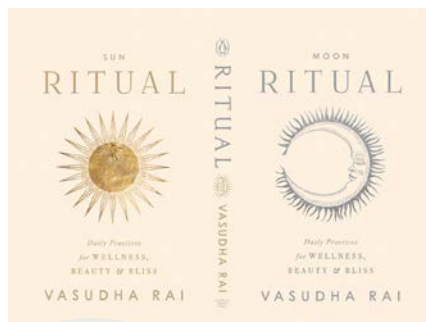
comes to supplements, they alone won’t help. Supplements, in conjunction with well-balanced, healthy meals and an improvement in sleep cycles and stress levels, go hand-in-hand to bring about a positive effect. Always consult your healthcare expert before starting or stopping any supplement.”

A diet isn’t all bad. However, the factors driving you to diet and the plan you follow are paramount to understanding the after-effects this culture has on your body and psyche. Diet to live a healthier lifestyle, look for foods that are good for your body and your mind. **ff**

Dr Agarwal notes down a few positive affirmations that you can practise every day:

- I trust that everything in my life is unfolding perfectly.
- I am nourishing my body with healthy, enriching food and exercises.
- I am incredibly grateful for every opportunity and every person in my life.
- I choose happiness over doubt and fear.
- I will be the best I can be today and every day.

BEAUTY REPORTER



THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP

Scientific studies show mixed results of synchronizing your sleep timings with natural circadian rhythms.

But to understand sleep, we need to look at the two main stages of sleep NREM (non-rapid eye movement) and REM (rapid eye movement), which happen cyclically through the night. The former is a deep, dreamless sleep, which prevails in the first half of the night, while the latter is when you dream, that happens more during the second half of the night. Both stages of sleep are equally important—NREM helps regenerate the body, repair tissue and boost immunity, while REM sleep improves memory and learning. Because REM sleep happens usually close to the morning, the ideal sleep hygiene would be to go to bed without setting an alarm, so that you're not jolted out of bed, thereby starving the mind of the REM sleep it deserves. To ensure you sleep without an alarm, you need to develop a disciplined daily routine. In an ideal world, you'd be asleep by 11 p.m. for over 7 hours and wake up without an alarm. Even if you can't go to bed early, being a night owl (those who are predisposed to sleeping late), it is essential to cultivate a daily rhythm, so that the body can work with your sleeping habits. It's not just the duration but consistency of sleep habits that counts. Irregular sleep schedules are associated

with increased risk of health problems, such as obesity, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. You could make up the loss of sleep with an afternoon nap, but according to Ayurveda, napping is recommended more for older adults and in warm climates. Also, if you're an insomniac, it may prevent you from sleeping well at night. Having said that, napping, when done right and for a short period, can help catch up on lost sleep. The ideal duration to feel refreshed is about 30 minutes. It's also essential to nap at the same time every day. If you can, do it sitting in an armchair so that the upper body stays elevated, because Ayurveda claims that lying down completely in the afternoon increases toxins in the bloodstream. Ultimately, whether your sleep is monophasic (only at night) or biphasic (night and a nap in the day), a schedule is important so that the body knows when to begin the winddown. This is why rituals are important, as they bring a sense of regularity to life.

THE SLEEP MINDSET

If you've ever tried to give up smoking, you know that more than the actual process, it is the determination that helps you kick the habit. The same is with sleep. Today, we're addicted to our tablets and smartphones. Because there are a variety of options to keep us entertained the entire night, why would anyone ever want to sleep? To get a good night's rest, we have to want and prioritize it more than anything else. There's no podcast, series or conversation that cannot be postponed till the morning. Sleep has to be number one priority because it helps every function in our bodies – it's an anti-ageing pill, a memory enhancer, immunity booster all rolled into one. But nobody can spoon-feed you that motivation; you need to find it from within.

**An excerpt from the book 'Ritual' by Vasudha Rai, published by Penguin Random House India*



THE BEAUTY OF SLEEP

Did you know that a well-rested, good night's sleep comes with a memory boost, increased emotional intelligence, and enhanced creativity? Author Vasudha Rai tells us why sleep may not be as underrated as you think

ALL EYES ON THIS

Meet the newest standout brands
on Grazia's beauty desk

Brand: TYPE
BEAUTY

Stand-out star:

The Zit Quit concealer

Why: The Zit Quit concealer is the first of its kind in the Indian market. It not only conceals your acne but also penetrates through your skin's layers and helps heal it from within. It contains two per cent salicylic acid, which works on active acne, and is also infused with green tea extracts that help soothe the skin.

Brand DNA:

Founder Ananya Kapur's purpose with the brand is to introduce a make-up line to help women express themselves and work towards healing and strengthening the skin barrier. "Type Beauty gives you unique, semi-customised make-up that functions as skincare. Our concealers become spot correctors and eye creams, thus focusing on target areas while also covering the blemishes," says Kapur. With potent products that help rebuild the skin and correct hyperpigmentation, Type Beauty wants all Indian women to have the best of both worlds.

Grazia loves:

We're crushing on the quirky name and the rich blend of salicylic acid and green tea extracts. The formulation helps dissolve the build-up stuck in the pores while soothing and exfoliating the skin.



Brand: TSARA

Stand-out star:

Universal Tint

Why: A multipurpose tint that makes your skin appear naturally flushed. The blendable and buildable formula keeps it dewy while allowing you to colour your lips, cheeks, and eyes easily. The pigment is designed to be strong enough to be used as lipstick and blendable enough to be used as a cheek and eye tint. More than 90 per cent of the ingredients in the mixture are natural or organic and is entirely vegan.

Brand DNA: Tsara

Cosmetics was founded to produce clean, natural make-up that can be affordable for all make-up lovers. Delivering cruelty-free, vegan, organic, and natural cosmetics, the founder of Tsara, Tanisha Valralwar, says, "Creating make-up formulations that are all-natural and products that make your beauty routines easier will always be at the core of our brand." Her vision for the brand is rooted in simplicity. "In a market where organic and natural skincare and haircare brands were in excess, I always thought make-up was something we used every day and lacked a cleaner and greener option. With Tsara, we wanted to create high-performing make-up using the best natural ingredients," she says.

Grazia loves: The strong pigment, blendable, and buildable formula makes it easy to be applied on the cheeks, lids, and eyes. You can also mix and layer other hues from the collection to create your custom shade. ■

CHEEKY BUSINESS

The humble blush has always been the real MVP of any beauty routine. Here, we round up some of our favourite tried-and-tested formulas that will give you a soft, sheer, and sunkissed glow

MAYBELLINE NEW YORK FIT ME MONO BLUSH IN 'PROUD'

With a formula lasting up to 16 hours, this blush is lightweight, breathable, and created to give you a fine, breezy, and pigmented application. Available in six shades to suit all skin tones, textures, and types, swipe it on the apples of your cheeks, temples, nose, and eyelids for a monochromatic look.



₹499

KAY BEAUTY CRÈME BLUSH IN 'ROSY ROMANCE'

Rarely do you see a blush with an intense pigment that also blends well. This cream blush gives you the best of both worlds in a pigmented yet blendable and lightweight yet buildable formula. It is long-lasting, and the buttery smooth formula melts onto the skin to give you the perfect, sunkissed look.



₹799

SIMPLY NAM ROSY PINK VELVET CREAM MAGIC BLUSH IN 'WE GO WAY BACK'

You need this in your vanity if you're looking for a soft, velvety, and easy-to-use blush. With a creamy texture, this one is lightweight and brings you a long-lasting and high-coverage formulation. Apply with your fingertips, a make-up sponge, or a blush brush.



₹1,399

NUDESTIX NUDIES BLOOM ALL OVER DEWY COLOR IN 'TIGER LILY QUEEN'

This luminous, multipurpose chubby stick gives you rosy cheeks and a sheer tint that can be applied on the lips or the eyes. The dual-ended design – the colour on one side and the blending brush on the other – makes it the ideal beauty kit companion.



₹3,150

CHARLOTTE TILBURY PILLOW TALK LIP AND CHEEK GLOW IN 'COLOUR OF DREAMS'

This emollient-rich lip and cheek tint gives your lips and cheeks a sunkissed radiance and sheer colour. The formula has an easy-to-blend, chiffon-sheer texture and is infused with vitamin E (that helps moisturise) and raspberry leaf stem cell extract that softens and hydrates. So, you get the benefits of skincare with make-up.



₹3,850

LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE


*When you can't escape to the
seaside or take a dip in the pool,
a quick spritz of facial mist is a
handy hack to help you cool down*



Givenchy Prisme Libre
Prep & Set Glow Mist,
₹ 4,550

A TOAST TO HISTORY

For sheer magic, champagne has no equal. It is the very emblem of sophistication, of celebration, of uninhibited pleasure. One of the most closely protected wine appellations in the world, it enhances French art de vivre and contributes to its global prominence and prestige. Ever since champagne was first dreamed up at the turn of the 18th century, the region's visionary producers have forged ahead to open new markets and develop local terroirs. Just how did the cork-popping "devil's wine" become the blessed nectar of the gods?

Whether it's crafted by independent vignerons who cultivate grapes on their own lands or produced by legendary houses, champagne remains an international success that shines in a category by itself, beyond every other sparkling wine on Earth. From exceptional vintages to an array of more recent releases, this exclusive selection curated by World's Best Sommelier Enrico Bernardo spans three centuries and is illustrated by various tasting experiences, insightful tips and singular anecdotes. He highlights the most remarkable bottles ever produced, all united by the impossibility of ever having them together in one cellar at a time, hence this volume's title. Presented in a wooden box, this edition is bound by hand and luxuriously crafted with hand-tipped labels, making it a must-have for all champagne aficionados. 





Guests can walk through the metres-high cellars when visiting the Pommery estate in Reims.
Photograph: Fred Laurens



Two waiters in tuxedos serve Veuve Clicquot champagne on a scaffolding overlooking New York City.
Photograph: Keystone/Getty Images

A harvester holds a vine in the Bérèche & Fils 2 vineyards in Ludes.
Photograph: Jeremiasz



Harvesters sit on top of their 10 champagne barrels at Huré Frères in Ludes, France.
Photograph: Huré Frères Champagne



Alexandre Chartogne, one of Champagne's brightest young talents (his pure, energetic wines are well on the way to setting a new regional standard), explains the champagne production process to visitors during a tasting at the Chartogne-Taillet estate in Merfy.
Photograph: Michaël Boudot

A vintage photograph of the rue de la Croix d'Or in the village of Cœilly, where Tarlant produces its champagne.
Photograph: Jean Poyet



The first buds of the year in the vineyards announce a new growing season at Taittinger in Reims.
Photograph: Taittinger Champagne



Krug's restored Rolls-Royce, which first hit the road in the mid-1980s to deliver champagne to its best clients.
Photograph: Thierry des Ouches

MONTH IN MONTH OUT

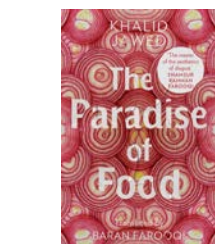
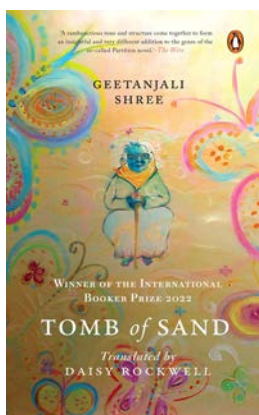
MOVIES, ART, BOOKS, AND MORE, HERE ARE OUR TOP PICKS OF THINGS THAT GOT US TALKING THIS MONTH

FAMOUS FIVE

The JCB Prize for Literature shortlist is not only history-making but also gives us a peek into cultures we know so little about

It is that time of the year when the JCB Prize for Literature announces its shortlist – revealing the best picks of the year in contemporary Indian fiction. This year's shortlist has been path-breaking, with all five works comprising translations: *Tomb of Sand* by Geetanjali Shree, translated from Hindi by Daisy Rockwell (Penguin Random House India); *The Paradise of Food* by Khalid Jawed, translated from Urdu by Baran Farooqi (Juggernaut); *Song of the Soil* by Chuden Kabimo, translated from Nepali by Ajit Baral (Rachna Books India; FinePrint, Nepal); *Imaan* by Manoranjan Byapari, translated from Bengali by Arunava Sinha (Aleph Books); and *Valli* by Sheela Tomy, translated from the Malayalam (Harper Perennial).

***Tomb of Sand* by Geetanjali Shree**
Winner of the Booker Prize International 2022, the novel is centred around an 80-year-old woman who is determined to follow her desires and show that her life isn't over yet. It's remarked that "At eighty, Ma had turned selfish." She's variously referred to as Ma, Amma, Mata-ji and Baji, as this story flits between many different perspectives. Even though she's the central protagonist, Ma has physically turned away from the reader and everyone in her family for the first 175 pages of the novel. She's grieving for her lost husband and chooses not to converse with others anymore, but people flock to her when they believe that her cane decorated with butterflies has magical properties. Much to her family's dismay, she launches out on her own before settling in at her daughter's home and embarking on a quest to visit her homeland, which is now known as Pakistan. In the process, she revisits her painful childhood, which the Partition disrupted.

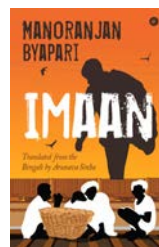


***The Paradise of Food* by Khalid Jawed**

The story spans the life of Guddu Miyan, who loses his parents at a very young age. He lives with his joint family consisting of paternal as well as the maternal side of relatives in his ancestral house. With so many people residing in a house, the kitchen becomes a place for bonding and conflicts. Guddu Miyan does not only see it all but he has a surreal relationship with the kitchen where his emotions are tangled with the fragrance of food being cooked. Particular foods bring out something sinister in him and make him do some ugly and grotesque things. But no one sees Guddu Miyan. It has a haunting feeling with the metaphorical writing. The incidents are described elaborately, and the author hasn't shied away from giving the minutest and goriest details. We love how the story unfolds the protagonist's life one layer at a time, diving deep into human emotions and his connection with food.

***Imaan* by Manoranjan Byapari**

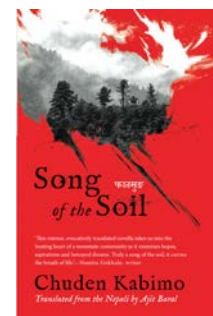
The book offers an unsentimental look at poverty, hunger, death, displacement, the human will to live, the desire for company, and the meaninglessness of existence. But, written with Byapari's characteristic candour, *Imaan* did not make us sad. On the contrary, its black humour made us smile and even laugh out loud in some places. The safety of the prison for certain people is the central irony: "The jail is much better for a poor man. Outside the jail, you can die on the pavement. No one will care. Here... [three] meals a day [are] assured. Plus a roof, no rain, a blanket in winter." This inverted view makes perfect sense when we see the world through the eyes of the protagonist and those around him – all migrants from poverty-stricken villages or ecologically sensitive areas which have turned into illegal squatters in bustling Kolkata.



***Valli* by Sheela Tomy**

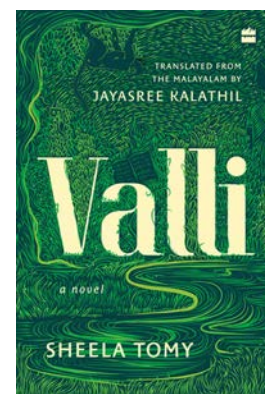
There comes a book to your life which will bring you to your senses of the feelings an author's world can evoke in you. This saga and a deeply personal love letter to Wayanad by the author is like stepping on wet earth on a typical monsoon day in Kerala. The earthiness of her words reminds you of the smell the land carries with her.

Valli is so much of a story of pain as much as it is the story of earthy folklore narrated through biblical references, tales you wouldn't hear anywhere else and the finest storytelling we've had the chance to experience in a long, long time.



***Song of the Soil* by Chuden Kabimo**

The novel traces the turmoil of the Gorkhaland movement in the 80s through the lives of two generations of young people. Filled with the remnants of various trauma, it gently talks of deep wounds in the most potent poetic expression that will leave you haunted. However, it is pertinent to note that the English translation does not appear fluid and literary – the sentences are often staccato, with repetitive words and lines. The narrative's tone changes from start to finish, and it feels like two different writers have written the book. Towards the latter half, the writer breaks the fourth wall. It's hard to say whether this was intentional and in the original text or made its way into the translation, but the inconsistent structure disrupts the reading experience.





A scene from *Into Dust*, the true story of Perween Rahman, an activist who was murdered after she stood up to Karachi's water mafia



'Student' category to inspire more young filmmakers to take up the environment as a critical subject in their films and projects.

G: Over the years, the spectrum of environmental movies has expanded to include different perspectives and styles.



Please give us a rundown of what we can expect from this year's edition.

KK: This year, we received over 200 film submissions from across the globe, and our final programme comprises 55 films, of which 33 are India premieres. This is our largest and most diverse programme yet. Films being screened comprise a whole range of themes including, but not limited to conservation, indigenous wisdom, activism, urbanisation, capitalism, forests and oceans, climate change, sustainable living, food politics, and the ecosphere. We have animations, documentaries, fiction, and an emerging format known as 'docu-fiction', where actors are in real-life environments and scenarios.

We have over 25 countries represented in the programme. Stories of resilience and persistence are emerging from all over the place; the community is standing up and taking action to address the climate emergency, fighting for climate justice, and protecting the ecosystem we are part of.

G: Why is it important to make environmental cinema accessible to everyone? Is it

true that people don't want to be preached at; they want to be entertained?

KK: There is no doubt that people want to be entertained, which is precisely why film holds the incredible power to engage and mobilise people towards action. Environmental cinema is hardly preachy but instead an authentic reflection of how humans interact with the broader ecosystem; it's an insight into the juxtaposition between nature and the dominant systems we have created for ourselves. This message is often communicated in a way that is entertaining and highly engaging.

G: When discussing climate change, a greater emphasis must move away from media representations – including sensationalism, controversy and fear-induced messages. Your thoughts?

KK: Indeed, climate change is affecting thousands of people right now. While fear-induced messages do get your attention, it rarely leaves you in a state where you feel equipped to tackle the challenges constructively. While we live in the age of ever-diminishing attention spans, we face a relatively slow but steady threat to life as we know it. Hence, there are better approaches than the sensationalism around this. Still, a consistent approach with messaging highlights actions, solutions, initiatives and movements that tackle this challenge in a myriad of ways out there. Rather than inducing fear, we must focus on a call to action and opportunities to engage and become change-makers because we need to move away from the actions and mindsets that have brought us to this point in the first place. This is not the time for us to make each other feel small, but it's an opportunity to unite on a shared goal and rise to this existential challenge. ■

NEED OF THE HOUR

Climate change and conservation take centre stage at this film festival

We get it. Talking about climate change can be challenging.

And sometimes, it's downright awkward. But as responsible citizens of a planet under constant threat, breaking the divisive rhetoric around climate change is doing the exact thing we're not doing: Talking about it. The third edition of the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival, which begins on November 17th, aims to do just that. The festival continues to push forth the conversation of environmental conservation, climate change and nature. It boasts an impressive selection of 55 films from India and worldwide, spanning feature, short and animated formats. Festival co-founder Kunal Khanna chats with us about this year's edition.

GRAZIA: Started with a solid intent to promote and stir a conversation on

nature, conservation, and the environment at large; how has the festival evolved?

KUNAL KHANNA: Since the festival's inception in 2020 till now, the effects of climate catastrophe and environmental degradation continue to be front and centre in India and worldwide. As we speak, we are experiencing one of the wettest Octobers on record, and both the intensity and frequency of extreme events have increased dramatically in recent times. Being one of the only environmental film festivals in India, it is a groundswell of both content creators sharing this lived experience through the medium of film and storytelling and a consistent increase in the interest from audiences to engage with this.

Alongside this, we enable better environmental storytelling through programs like masterclasses for filmmakers. Last year, we introduced the

ON THE RADAR

From travel to food and decor – we've got you covered this month

IN THE HEART OF NATURE

Uttarakhand natives Kriti Bisht and Ashish Godara have long lived the simple life nestled in a stone house they built for themselves, in Nainital, for the past three years. They farm, forage, cook and tend to their Ayurveda garden. And now, you get the opportunity to live the slow life too (with a few luxuries, of course) in their home, aptly named Slowness Himalayas, which is now open to guests. Inspired by Kumaoni architecture, conscious design elements define the home. Laze around in a hammock or enjoy endless cups of chai in the open seating area with birdsong as company.



UNWIND

A weekend getaway is also the perfect way to ease yourself into the world of exploration – whether you like to discover a new place on a solo trip, with family, a partner, or friends. Oleander Farms in Karjat, a few hours from Mumbai, offers you the chance to kick back amid a compound dotted with towering trees, and peacefully running fountains that set the tone for zen-like serenity.



EASY DOES IT

Heritage meets harmony at the gorgeous MansionHaus, a boutique hotel, in Goa, characterised by timeless architecture, curated gastronomic journeys and a peaceful stay at Goa's most effervescent neighbourhood, Anjuna. Neo-classical interiors paired with iconic Goan architecture delicately balance the luxuries of a hotel with sustainable sensitivities. What makes the property authentic is that it is spearheaded by a Goan entrepreneur whose family has been deeply rooted in the fabric of the city's rich culture for generations.



ROOTED

The Mudhouse is an experiential stay located amid the rural scapes of Marayoor, near Munnar. It's not a fancy hotel; instead, it's rooted in truly experimenting with sustainable eco-living. Authentic and rustic, the property is perched upon a gentle hill surrounded by the Western Ghats. Here, time moves unhurriedly, slowly painting the sky a different hue with each passing hour. The mud cottages and treehouses reflect barefoot luxury, helping you experience the great outdoors.



AMBER ALERT

Villa Palladio, Jaipur's newest boutique hotel, looks straight out of a Wes Anderson film – replete with texture, colour, and stories. While, in essence, it harks back to the Rajasthani *havelis* from a bygone era, the pulsating red that permeates (almost) every nook of the hotel gives it a modern, glamorous edge. Mughal, moorish and fabulous – a stay here comes with a slice of history.



TASTE TEST

Shiori – a Japanese-inspired street bar in Goa's Siolim specialises in Yakitori (which literally translates to grilled skewered bird), creative small plates and a well-curated cocktail menu. The cooking itself, while seemingly simple, is far from it. Knowing when to turn the skewers, when to season them, and having an innate sense of when they're done (lest they get dry) separates novices from masters. And Shiori has got it down pat.

GREEN THUMB

Maybe it's grown out of the rise of locavore restos and the trend for meat-free, but gastronomic greenhouses seem to be flourishing the world over. And why shouldn't they, with their flora-festooned, sunshine-flooded digs and pretty plates almost too good-looking to eat? The Conservatory in Mumbai's Juhu houses not only great-tasting food but the best of spirits from around the world. Come for the plants, stay for the drinks.



SMOOTH OPERATOR

Sylvia at W Goa is set to become home to the best gin cocktails, boasting of dim lights, cheeky couches and a picturesque view of the Arabian Sea (what's not to love?). Drinkers are spoilt for choice here. And just a word of warning – with a LOT of gins to select from, and comfy leather banquettes to melt into, you might be here a while.

FLAVOUR PUNCH

The b**f san khow suey, the lesser-known sibling of the classic Ohn-no khow suey that we all know and love, is a powerhouse in its own right, served up by the kitchen experts at Sopo Goa – a new eatery specialising in Burmese cuisine. With a clean, fresh, punchy broth, this style allows rice noodles and the thinly sliced tender b**f to shine.



FLAVOUR PROFILE

This modern tapas bar in the heart of Goa's Panjim loves showcasing local cuisine, and that's best done using authentic produce. Their paella is as close to the real thing as possible, and as the trending expression goes, an absolute 'flavour bomb'. The rice used is called 'ukda', which is grown across the border in Karnataka and is extremely close in flavour and texture to the Spanish Bomba rice used to cook paella.



SO LIT

Sculptural and visually interesting, this hanging lamp from Studio Indigene will add an aesthetic element to your space even when not in use. Position it to anchor your entryway console or flank your bed.



TAKING A STAND

Making anything baked look pretty is an art, and Objectry's beautiful cake stand justifies the same. Its crafted from solid wood and has a coat of clear food-safe lacquer, so your stand stays pretty and safe to use. Pair it with cake servers in blue floral printed handles for pictures that will go viral on the Gram.



THE SIMPLE LIFE

The sweet, subtle glaze and simplistic design (that depicts nature and its raw instincts at its best) of this dinner plate by Curiouser is perfect for dining any time of the day.

FUNCTIONAL CHIC

Perfectly at home in every room in the house, this chic console from Anousshka is a nod to the textural beauty of handwoven rattan – a material we always turn to for its natural warmth and elegance. With display space for plenty of curating potential, it's as practical as it is easy on the eyes.



PLANT SANCTUARIES

Characterised by clean lines and a modern silhouette, this stylish planter by Studio Palasa will give the entire room a boost. It also serves as the perfect inspiration for what your space could look like. All you need to do is walk in and let the magical monstera and pleasing philodendrons in this beautiful planter engulf you into a state of plant-induced happiness.

WHERE TO FIND IT

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www.acnestudios.com

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Infinity Mall, Malad, Mumbai

AGOLDE
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