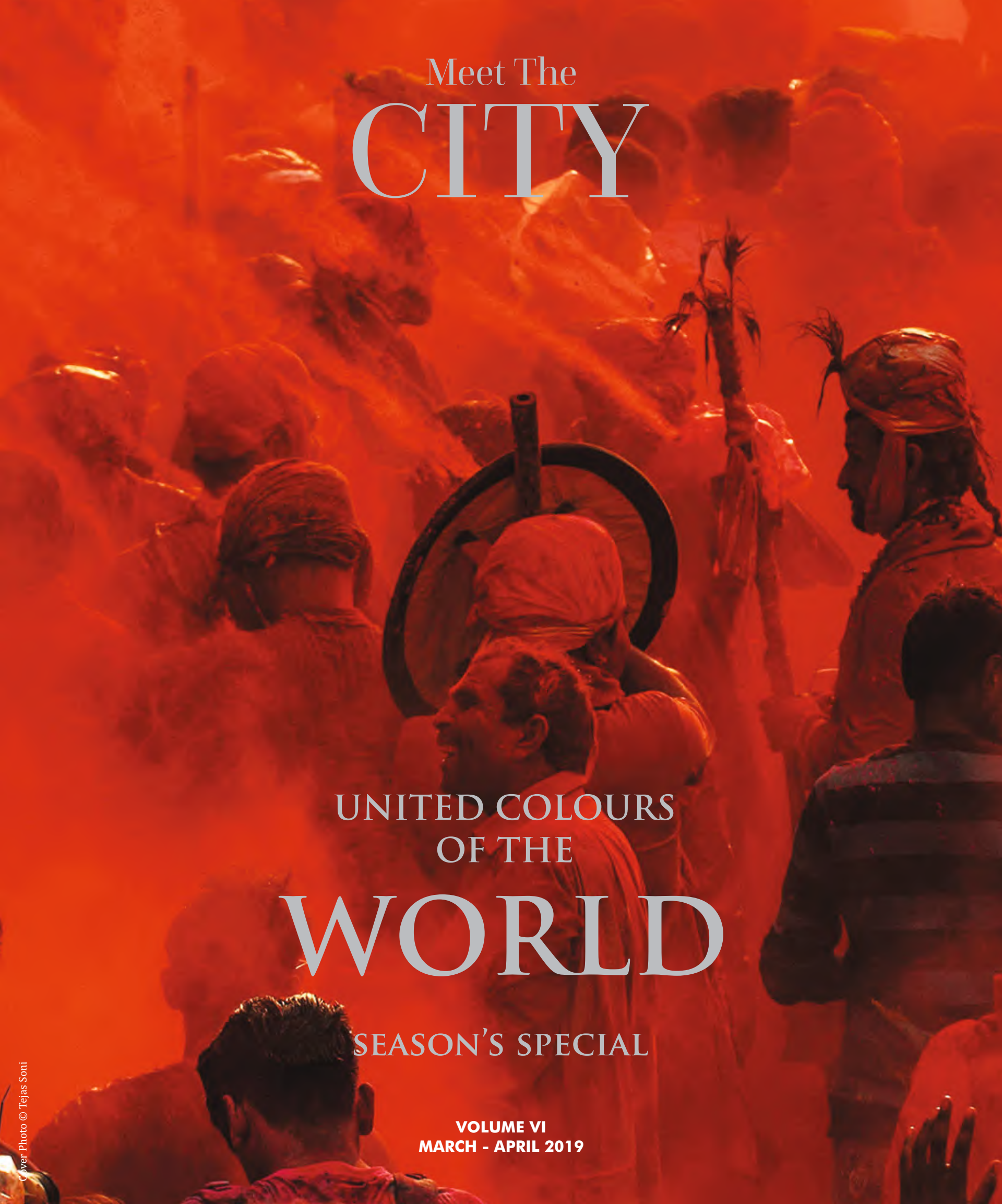




Meet The
CITY

UNITED COLOURS
OF THE
WORLD

SEASON'S SPECIAL

VOLUME VI
MARCH - APRIL 2019

TRUMP[®] TOWERS

P U N E

DEVELOPED BY
PANCHSHIL

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All images shot on location.



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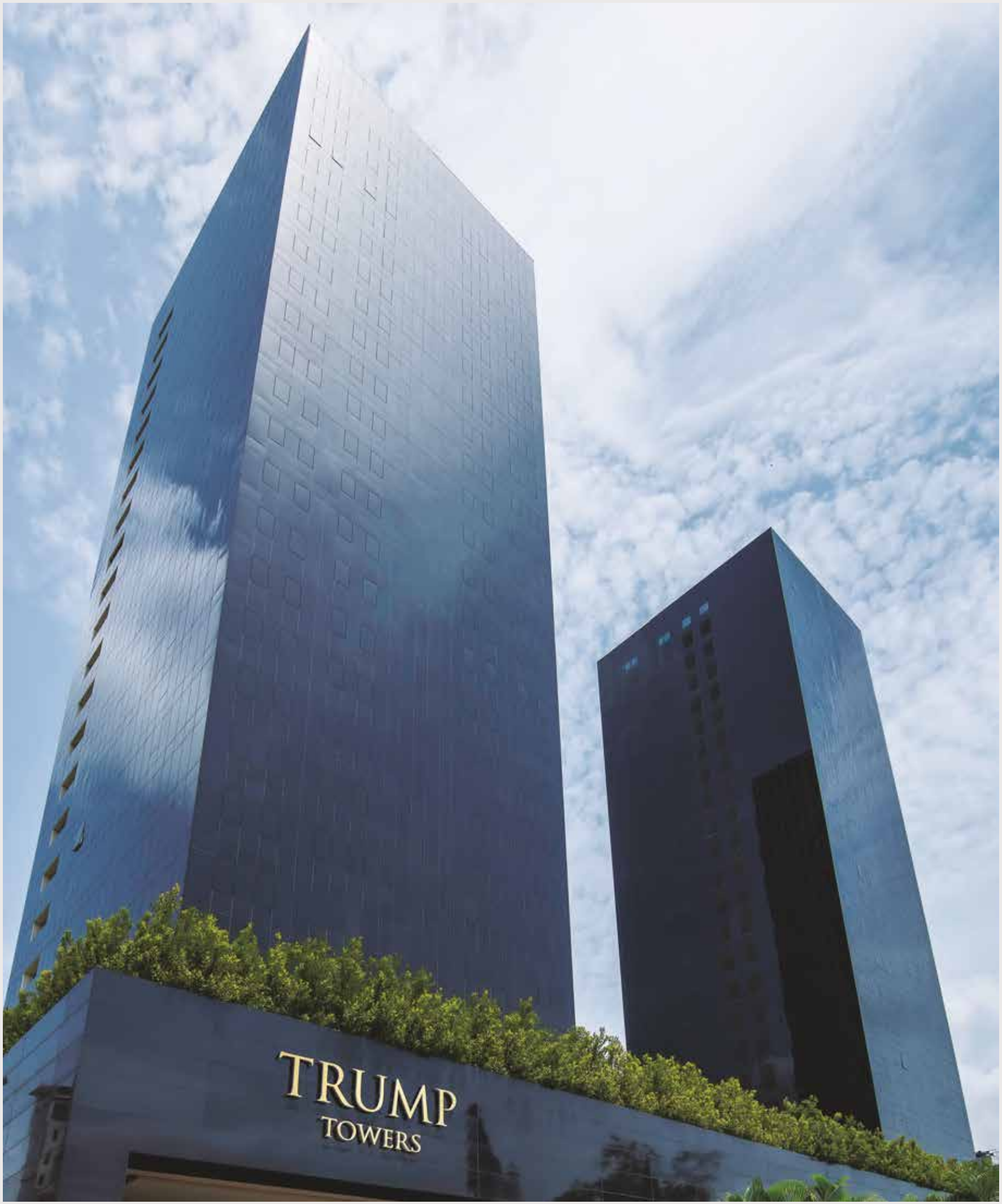
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© Tejas Soni

FOREWORD

The ability to perceive colour has been at the cornerstone of human survival for millennia, from the safe warm hues of an inviting abode to the cool flowing vistas of the open sea. Colour has been the key indicator of where we find our comfort. But what does it really mean to feel colour?

Colours affect everything around us. Our interaction with nature depends on its vibrant hues, our dream to take a tour of the world has been inspired by our desire to experience the shades of different cultures . Our decision to wear something depends on whether that colour will help us cast an impression or not. In fact, some colours have an ability to have a strong impact on our mood too. Colours help us communicate with ourselves and others around us.

In short a world without colour is a world without soul.

I invite you to explore something so intrinsic to our world yet often overlooked, the colours that surround us. From the blue in the sky, to the diversity in the shades of our skin or the vibrant shades of our environment, we identify everything in this world through colour. In this issue of Meet the City, join me as we explore the deeper significance of colour in our lives and rekindle the awareness of the role that colour plays. In this issue we also explore the women who inspire us to go beyond the status quo and challenge ourselves to be better.

Atul Chordia



Review



As we leave the chills of winter behind us, and ascend towards the warmth of spring, our surroundings become more glowing and vibrant. The vivacious and fresh pink blooms, the expansive clear blue sky, the sprouting tender green leaves, the gentle and fragrant breeze, the bright yellow sun illuminating everything that touches its rays – these are what this season is made of. However, what makes this time of the year even more special are the dazzling colours that we find everywhere around us. Don't colours make everything livelier?

Now, imagine a world without colours. What does it look like?

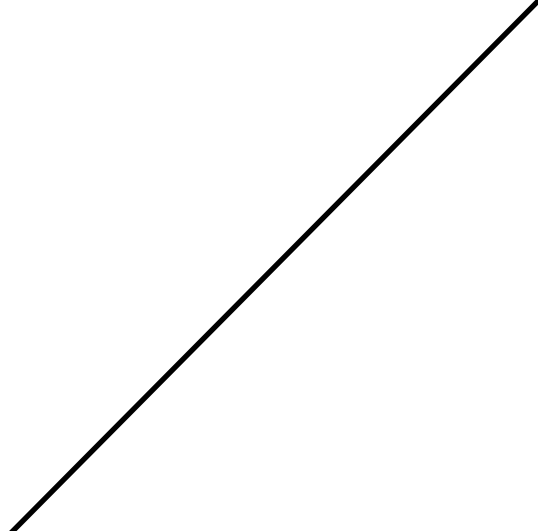
We find colours wherever we look. From the treasures of nature, to the creations of man, our interaction with everything around us is affected by colours. For instance, our desire to travel the world comes from our longing to experience the shades of different cultures and traditions, or our appreciation for art heavily depends upon how we interpret its tints. In fact, some colours have an ability to have a strong impact on our mood too, which is why many restaurants have the colour red in their logos, as red invokes a feeling of hunger. Colours help us communicate with ourselves and others around us.

Manasi Akre, on behalf of Meet the City, invites you to take part in a befitting tribute to the colours in our lives. From festivities, cultures, and traditions, to fashion, art, and culinary, we take a peek into every element in the world that celebrates the true beauty of colours.

In our attempt to tell a compelling story about hues, shades, and tints, we bring you tales that will capture all the facets of colours from around the world.

We hope that this issue of Meet the City enables you to view each colour in your life from a fresh perspective.





MEET THE CITY : MARCH - APRIL 2019

Cover Story

Holi Special - United Colours of the World

Travel

Glimpses of the World Travel

In Conversation

Sudha Menon, Meeta Makhecha, Mehek Malhotra

Fashion

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Reader's Corner

Words Count

Spazio Spaces

Furniture for Senses - LEMA

Designer Spotlight

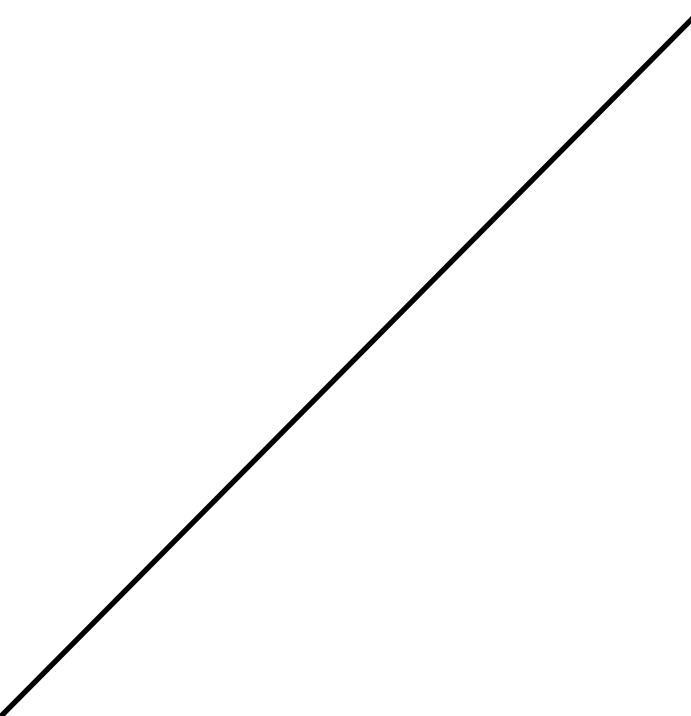
Maintaining Promises - Matteo Nunziati

Culinary Culture

FC Road Social
Arbour Kitchen

Wellness

SPAs at Panchshil







UNITED COLOURS OF THE WORLD



Image © Tejas Soni



The modern world, is riddled with its own complexities. While creating layers of connection across nations, cultures, people and businesses, individual lives often meld into those of a million others. In these roller-coaster like times, we often tend to lose ourselves in the monotonous, forget our purpose and get far too comfortable in the ordinary. It's moments like these when we need to reimagine the colours of life, add that ray of hope and believe in things far grander.

In this issue of Meet the City, Sameer Vijay Kumar, takes you on an exploratory journey that looks into the value of colour through celebrations all around the world. Holi, the festival of colours in fact unites the world, in jubilant celebrations not just in India, but countless places around the world. The festival touches more lives than you or I can imagine and spreads joy with vibrancy.

Holi is a celebration of victory over evil, welcoming the new season of spring and rejoicing in the company of loved ones in a blossoming flurry of colours. Symbolising the power of good over evil in its many facets, the transition of the cold winter to the sprightly spring, the festival of colours connects countless communities and creates harmony among diversity.

Barcelona, Spain

The riot of colours that is Holi has proved irresistible to revellers worldwide, particularly in the Catalan city of Sabadell, 20km north of Barcelona, Spain. For the last seven years, Sabadell has been celebrating Holi around the same date that it is celebrated in India.

Holi celebrations around the world—such as that of Holi One, which hosts gatherings in over 14 Spanish cities are not defined by the religious context but rather a wholesome humanistic approach to explore joy through colours. A young student in the city of Sabadell, shared her experience throwing colour at strangers and meeting new people, “...and everything was so colourful, and so were we”

Even in Barcelona, thousands of people will throw pounds of colored powder, becoming the largest and most popular festival of colours in Europe, filling the streets with colour; embracing diversity and free spiritedness. The infusion of spanish dance, the flamenco beats and the joyous celebrations, brings together people in a completely secular manner.



© Francisco Goncalves/Gettyimages



© Daniel Knighton/Gettyimages

Bath Race Course, UK

Billed as the hottest ticket in town the Colour One festival at Bath Race Course, UK, is infact a music festival that rejoices in the celebration of colour world over. Most often held in the last week of August, the festival begins by midday and continues into the wee hours of the night, with a host of musicians, revelers and vibrant folk.

The aim to unite people through music and colour, makes the festival a space to appreciate diversity and celebrate cultural differences. Often musicians from remote corners of the world gather to share forms of art that may not ever make it to the mainstream, but touch the heart and soul through their purity. Alexander Dau, director of Colour One, Festivals, said, “The festival is all about making friends, coming together and having an unforgettable experience. Everyone is equal at Colour One. Everyone leaves looking the same, doused in colour, with a smile on their face and some great pictures to remember it all by.”



© Ryan Pierse/Gettyimages





Blacksburg, Virginia

Holi, the festival of colours, is popular in all of Blacksburg, as over 10,000 festive spirited men, women and children gather to spend a colourful weekend, quite literally. With individuals of all faiths rejoicing, connecting and expressing their happiness, one festival goer said, "My favorite part wasn't throwing coloured dust at people; It was actually the embrace that it meant; a way for me to say that I see you in so many colours.". "It was fun to see different cultures so represented in an area that is dominated by the same faith. I often go back because it is fun! It gave me a chance to take part in something that does not happen just every Saturday" said another.



Boachum, Germany

It all started when a large number of people came together in Berlin for the first ever Holi Festival Of Colours in Europe and helped create an indescribable atmosphere on an unforgettable day. The community began to grow, the media interest was enormous and the spirit of the Festival was carried through Germany. This is how the Holi Festival of Colours established itself in the festival scene and marks the origin of the Colour festivals in Germany and Europe.

Bochum and Dortmund represented the festival last year in the Ruhr area, earlier in August. The happy, colorful mood on the grounds of the Fredenbaumpark in Dortmund keeps us going and inspired everyone that came.

Not only is the change from winter to spring celebrated, but also the victory of the good over the evil. People throw and paint themselves with the "Gulal"(colored powder), which ensures that differences between people are no longer externally recognizable. What counts is only equality, peace and togetherness. A motto that particularly appeals to the multicultural people of Ruhr.

Foster City, California

The Foster City Parks and Recreation Department along with Baybasi, Inc. invites communities to join them in the annual celebration of Holi, the Festival of Colors at the Leo Ryan Park Meadow. Scheduled every year around the same time Holi is celebrated in India, it is one of the largest festivals in California, significant for commemorating many myths and legends and symbolizing a fresh start, as well as celebrating the coming of spring. Colouring oneself and others is customary at the festival and almost everyone would participate without any prejudice or inhibition.

California is a wonderful state, lined with many beautiful stretches of open wild forests and its culture promotes spending time with nature. With the celebrations of Holi, taken into the Park Meadow, it adds the essence of tranquility to the celebrations and people truly experience the elevated energy. The exuberant festival sparked a sense of cultural togetherness in Foster City, exposing the community to what the Holi Festival is all about.

Gold Coast, Australia

The festival is definitely one of the most colourful ones that you will experience in the diaspora of Australia. Music (including international acts directly from Nepal!), food, dancing and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere rounds out this one into a lovely and energetic festival.

Melbourne will be all but lost beneath a plume of powdery, pastel haze. The Victorian capital has the honour of hosting Australia's first instalment of the Holi Festival of Colours – a celebration known worldwide for its acceptance of kaleidoscopic cultures, celebrating their differences.

The Holi Frolic is a day to down tools, let go of grievances, and basically 'spring clean' the soul. Festival-goers show their enthusiasm in the most visual way possible: by literally painting the town, and each other, in all the colours of the rainbow.

Taking inspiration from Holi Festival, The Color Run is a new event that also focuses on bombarding its patrons with coloured powder. The Color Run is a 'fun run' often held to raise money for charitable causes.

In Australia, this so-called "Happiest 5k on the Planet" is held right around the country throughout the year. Much like Holi Festival, the Swisse Color Run aims to get everyone involved.

Whether you're in a wheelchair, have the kids in tow, are young, old, fit, or maybe haven't been hitting the gym as much as you'd like, this five-kilometre dash is all about having fun and making everyone's day a whole lot brighter.

Madrid & Santa Fe, Granda, Spain

The city square in Madrid explodes into a kaleidoscope range of colours with hundreds of Spaniards and tourists celebrating the festival inspired by Indian traditions. Around 300 revelers packed the Plaza de Agustin de Lara last year, where they tossed handfuls of colored powder at one another and danced to the rhythms of popular beats.

Further South in Andalusia, beachside events have people gathering to paint each other in shades of pink, blue, green, and red. The festival creates an emotional connect for the communities and a vibrant atmosphere of peace and harmony. The first festival happened in 2013 and since then has been celebrated every year.

Munich, Germany

Blending colourful vibrancy with an open-air dance music festival, the event thrives on its fun, inclusive and welcoming atmosphere. As part of a Europe-wide series of events, this festival brings the spectacular party to the Bavarian capital, creating a fun-filled day out complete with DJs, dancers, impressive staging and an array of on-site games and activities. From the famous coloured powder paint, to the best in feel-good house music, the whole day is designed to put smiles on the faces of everyone in attendance.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Spring is a very colourful period in most of Pennsylvania and the landscape adorns beautiful flora ranging in shades, textures and truly creating a spectacular atmosphere. For the locals of Philadelphia, Holi is a way for them to welcome the colours of spring, by adding colour to the city. Rooted in the religious sentiment as those of Indians celebrating the festival, Philadelphians have been rejoicing at Holi festivals for several years now.

Redmond, Washington

Aiming to provide a wonderful opportunity to promote, preserve and share cultural traditions with the diverse community at Redmond Ridge, the local authorities organize gatherings every year for a festival of colours and harmony.

It is a festive day to meet loved ones, play, and laugh, forget & forgive, and bury hatchets with a warm embrace. The Festival of Color frees all of inhibitions so they can relate others with pure joy. It brings people together and creates a community of happy people. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil. The spirit of this festival is truly universal.

The tradition of the day also involve giving back and several forms of donations are accepted at the festival for the local and surrounding impoverished members. Blankets, books, food and coupons are collected along with other relief material. The message of good health and nutritious living is also propagated to the community.

Drenched in colors, individual identities disappear as everybody comes to resemble one another. You won't believe the fun of coloring your friends while dancing and jumping blissfully and hugging your friends and newcomers.







Villeurbanne, France

In a rainbow eruption of powder and dance, The Color of Time brings a stunning reinvention of the traditional Holi festival celebrated in India. Each year, people throw 'gulal' (coloured powder) in the air showing great joy and mirth, celebrating unity, acceptance of diversity through colourful embraces. While its origins draw from Indian culture, the reinterpretation is resolutely contemporary. Almost a bit unique in its presence. The Color of Time in Artonik creates a collective contemporary stroll mixing and gathering together, with a desire of tenderness, sharing and friendship, to fight against sectarian ideas or fear of the others.

The massive dance-theater parade with dancers and musicians move in a choreographed parade towards a huge finale. Joining in, the audience in a riotous explosion of colour and joy, painting the sky with an explosion colourful expressions.

Spanish Fork - Utah, United States

This festival breathes an atmosphere of social merriment. Every nook and corner presents a colourful sight. Young and old alike are covered with colours (red, green, yellow, blue, pink, orange, violet, and more). People in small groups are seen singing, dancing and throwing colours on each other. Though liquid colours are used in India (where it's warm) they prohibit them, as they don't want anyone to catch cold on account of the festival.

Holi, with its old traditional links with several legends, the festival solemnizes the love of Radha and Krishna. The spraying of coloured powders recalls the love sport of Lord Krishna and His devotees. The colour, sound and entertainment that accompanies the celebration of Holi bears witness to a feeling of oneness and sense of brotherhood. The festival brings home the lesson of spiritual and social harmony!

Known as the world's happiest transformational event, Utah's Sri Sri Radha Krishna Temple in Spanish Fork is known for its celebrations of Holi - the festival of colours and love.



Singapore

The ultra-modern country is a melting pot of cultures from around the world. With a large presence of the Indian community, the country organises many events to celebrate Holi - the festival of colours in a safe and inclusive manner.

The rich and vibrant atmosphere is managed and enthralls all the visitors with attractions, installations, supplies and so much more. Laughter is a common sight on the faces of everyone present during the celebrations and these types of multicultural traditions help the diverse communities of Singapore to come closer, better understand each other and share the common innocent joy that comes with colour.

Faces smeared with powder, revellers smiling for the camera and treated to hours of rich music and dance, makes this festival an experience for the bucket list.



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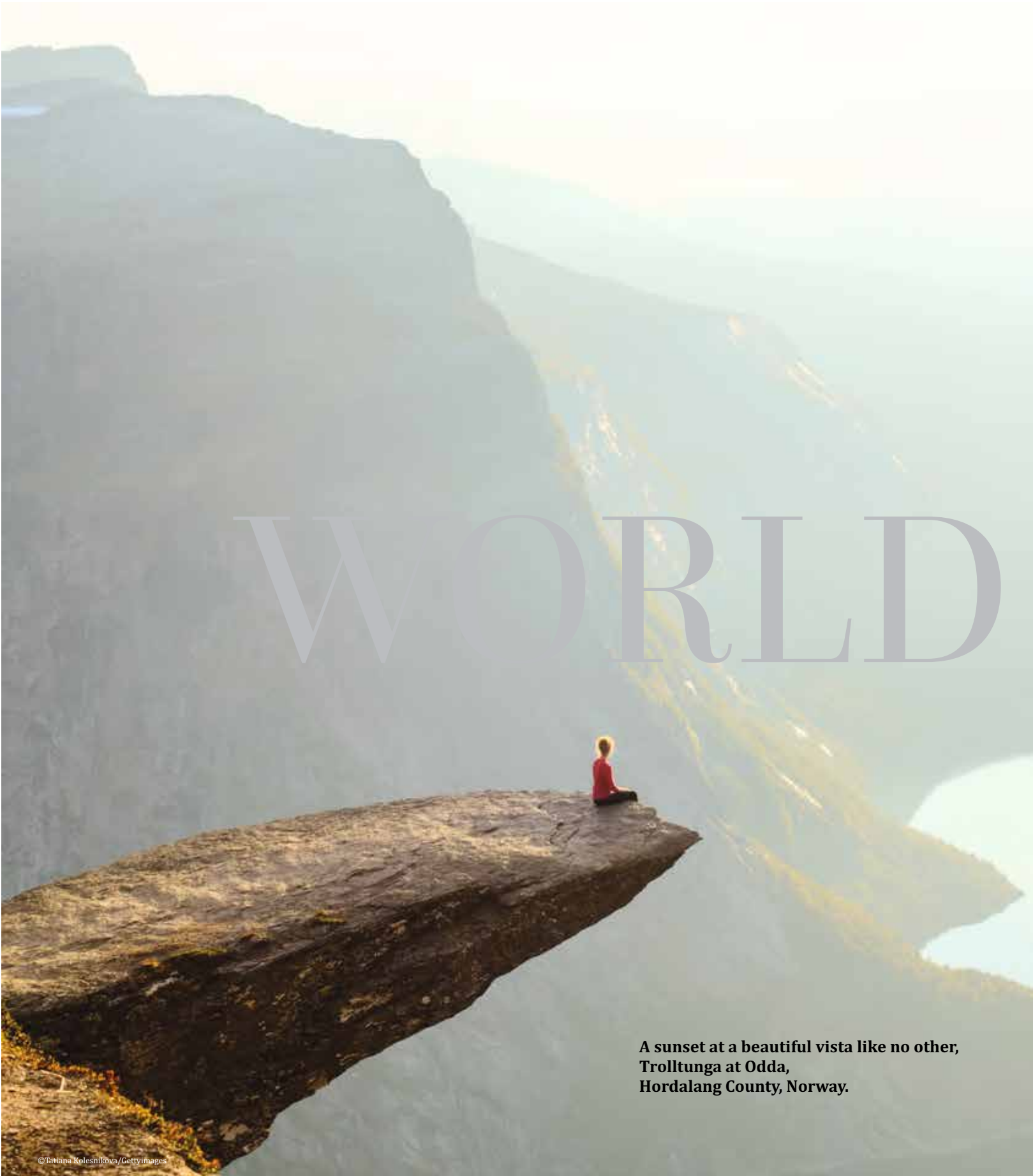


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WORLD

**A sunset at a beautiful vista like no other,
Trolltunga at Odda,
Hordaland County, Norway.**

©Tatiana Kolesnikova/Gettyimages

When you think of a beautiful place you've visited what's the first thing that comes to your mind? Isn't it the colours of the place that first jump right out of your memory?

Colours often represent a destination. They are intrinsically enmeshed in the fabric of what symbolizes a place. They blush the skyline with a sense of uniformity and belonging that make you almost breathe them in. It's these colours, cool or warm that awaken our senses.

TRAVEL

Join Nikhil Burby on a journey to experience the hues and textures of places far and wide, some familiar and some not so. Join us as we travel the world, exploring the palettes that colour our experiences.

A tourist enjoys a breezy walk on the sand dunes in Ica, in Southern Peru.

©Gaile Juknyte/Gettyimages





One of the most highly regarded architectural sites by the Moroccan people, this yellow mausoleum of Maulay Ismail in Meknes is said to bring divine blessings to its visitors.

The Turquoise coast of Oludeniz in Southern Turkey sits at the confluence of the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. Boats line this blue lagoon.



©Den-belitsky/Gettyimages



The ancient carpet markets of Goreme in Cappadocia are home to one of the earliest forms of Turkish artistry. The rich cultural heritage in each of these rugs tell stories of age old traditions.

Just 31 kms South of Tangier, Asilah in Morocco is a fortified coastal town built in the typical style of Arabic Architecture.



Cuban graffiti like this adorns the streets of Havana in Cuba.

As the sun rises in Bagan, Myanmar, a tourist looks over the many Pagodas that pepper the landscape. Hot air balloons dot the sky.



Hot air balloons over
Bagan in Mandalay, Myanmar.
The twilight brings with it a cool mist
covering the land.



A pair of slippers lie in the sand on Calangute Beach in Northern Goa, India.

A fisherman on the Li river in Yangshuo province in China fishes alongside his trusty cormorant. This age old tradition is the perfect example of man and animal working together.

©GlowingEarth/Gettyimages







Sometimes it's having been to the darkest places,
that shows us who we really are.

Nothing feeds the soul more than a traveller exploring a new city with an old camera.



This couple enjoys a candid moment in the craft bazaar of the Dilli Haat in New Delhi, India

Considered the birthplace of the Renaissance, the city of Florence today is best seen while riding around on a moped.





A girl explores one of the ice caves in the Vatnajökull National Park in East Iceland. The crystal caves are a natural phenomenon formed by rivers flowing under the Vatnajökull glacier.

Like many extraordinary landscapes,
Antarctica faces a litany of
threats to its fragile existence.



©David Merron Photography/Gettyimages

The sun sets peacefully on the Satorini horizon.
This peaceful vista hides the fact that the
island was the site of one of the most violent volcanic
eruptions in recorded history.



©Nutexzles/Gettyimages



©Nutexzles/Gettyimages

**Dromedary Camels (*camelus dromedaris*)
cross the Nubra valley in Ladakh.
Once the sole means of transport here these
camels now ferry tourists wishing
to explore the valley.**



©Artur Debat/Gettyimages

**The aqua-marine colour of the water,
off Lloret-de-Mar beach in Catalonia,
Spain enthral these two kayakers.**



The algae green waters of Kadamakkundy in Kerala is populated with 14 unique Islands. Home to a vibrant community of fisher-folk these unspoilt and untouched backwaters are best seen in the early mornings.

©gulfu photography/Gettyimages





One of the oldest Deserts in the world, the Namib stretches over 2000 km in Western Africa. The desert is now populated by groups of Nomad herders.

©SteveAllenPhoto/Gettyimages



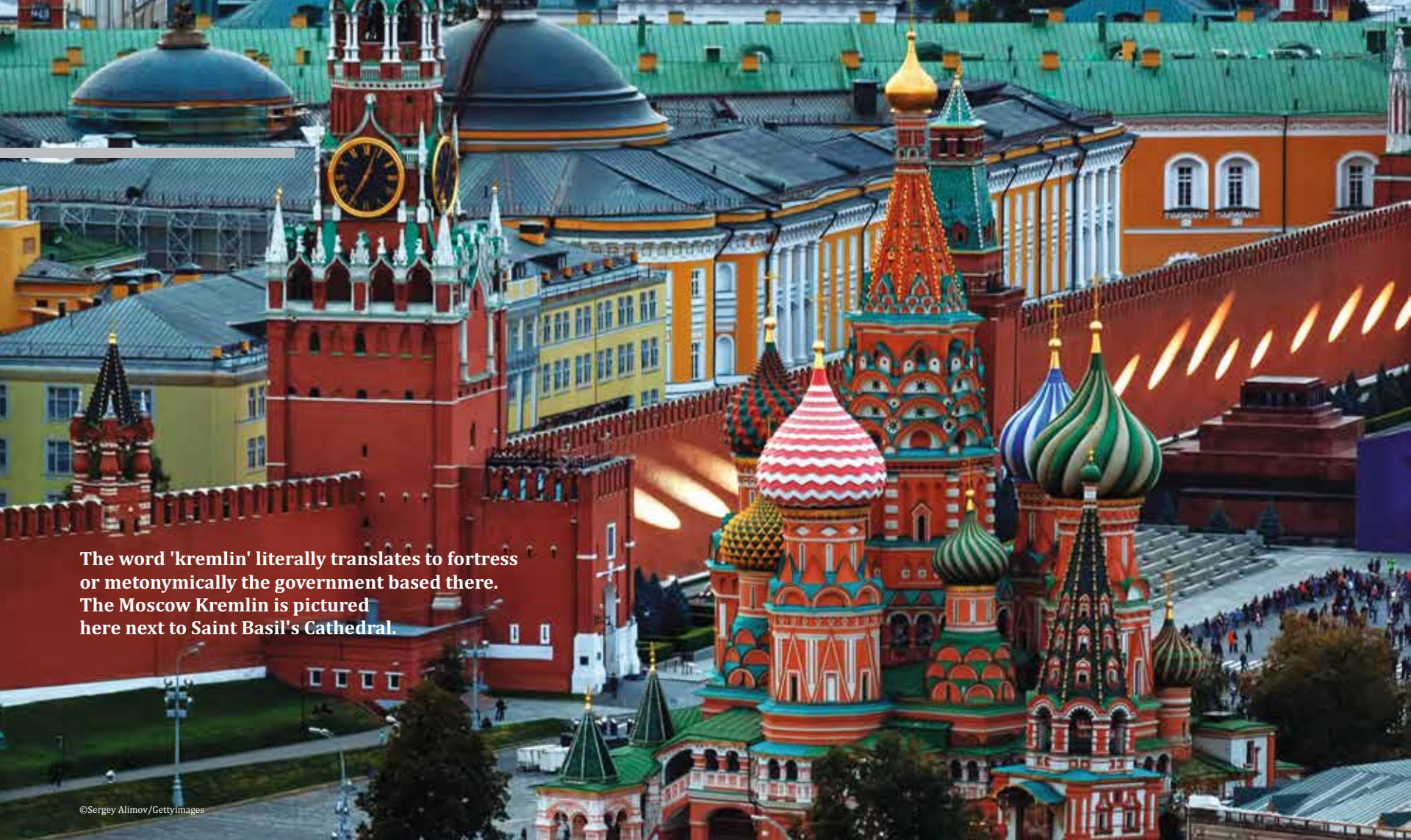
A trail of sand is visible in the late afternoon sun when this sand-boarder speeds down the dunes of Swakopmund, Namibia.

©Klaus Brandstaetter/Gettyimages



**A man crosses the majestic
Koosah Falls in Willamette, Oregon, USA**

©Helbert Ruiz/Gettyimages



The word 'kremlin' literally translates to fortress or metonymically the government based there. The Moscow Kremlin is pictured here next to Saint Basil's Cathedral.

©Sergey Alimov/Gettyimages



The traditional 'sugar skull' make-up worn by these women on the Mexican day of the dead or 'Día de los Muertos' is in remembrance of family members long gone.

©Tristan Savatier/Gettyimages

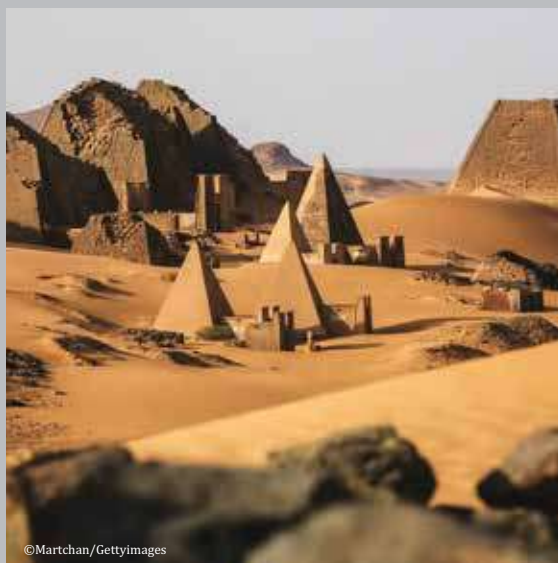


A couple hold their bags above their heads while walking towards long tail boats in the ocean at the Ao Nang beach in the Krabi province of Thailand.

Returning from a successful fishing expedition, these boys enjoy the summer evening while travelling by boat on a river in Thailand.



©Visoot Uthairam/Gettyimages



Desolate sands surround the Meroe Pyramids in Northern Sudan. Once a bustling metropolis most of the Pyramids have been raided by European invaders.

An aerial view of the Takachiho Gorge in Japan was formed when the ceiling of this cave system collapsed due to the rapid cooling of Lava. Now covered in lush greenery, it has become a popular tourist attraction.



The Temple of Hercules at the Amman Citadel in Jordan basks solemnly in the evening sun. Dating back to the Roman occupation of the Citadel in the 2nd Century A.D. all that remains now are these few pillars.

**It is nice to have an elephant in the room,
there's nothing more helpful than
having something everybody's thinking about.**



**The cool mountains off the lake in Alpen,
Germany makes for a pleasant view on a winter morning.**



©Nikada/Gettyimages

Once the abode of Maharajas, the city of Jodhpur in India is known as the 'Blue City' because all of the buildings in the oldest district are painted in this beautiful hue of blue.

A group of zebras kick up dust as they descend to cross the Mara river during the time of the Great Migration in Kenya.



The red sandstone used in the peripheral corridor of the Taj Mahal in Agra glows beautifully in the late afternoon sun.



Lujiazui in Shanghai is home to some of the tallest buildings in the world. Nestled in the clouds these magnificent skyscrapers tower over the city.



The main journey to the Ten thousand Buddhas Monastery in Hong Kong is lined with nearly 13,000 golden Buddhas in various positions.



A full-page photograph of a Khon actor in traditional Thai costume. The actor is wearing a blue mask with a red flower on the forehead, a gold headdress, and a white long-sleeved shirt with gold patterns. He is holding a long, thin wooden staff or sword. The background is a misty, rocky landscape. The actor is standing on a stone ledge, and the mist is rising from the ground.

'Khon' is a dance-drama art form from Thailand performed in the Royal court by men in vibrant attire. Basking in the morning mist this actor keeps alive an age old tradition carried down from generation to generation.

©Bhongsatorn Hengsuwanich/Gettyimages



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PUNE



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In the spirit of celebrating of International Women's day, Nikhil Burby & Sameer Kumar get in conversation with some of Pune's inspiring women, their stories, beliefs and more.

Sudha Menon

Columnist, Author and a voice for modern women

After a stellar career in journalism for over 23 years Sudha Menon decided in 2009 that it was time for her to share the experiences she had garnered during her career, to write a book about the journeys of successful Indian women who have challenged the status quo and shattered the glass ceiling.

That book, *Leading Ladies: Women Who Inspire India* continues to inspire both men and women in various fields close to a decade after it was launched.

What she has aspired to do over her last 9 years as an author of five books is to tell the stories of women who motivate her, encourage her to move forward with her dreams and aspirations and do the same for countless others. A self-confessed chronicler of women's stories, she now speaks at corporate houses and other platforms about women, success, leadership, gender and diversity issues, inspiring women across the country.

In the various conferences and workshops she has chaired over the years, she says the one thing that stands out is that a lot of women are raised in a manner that makes them timid, unquestioning and without the self-confidence to stand up and take ownership of their narrative or their ideas. The realisation led her to start 'Writing with women,' a workshop where women from diverse backgrounds come together to share their stories, write about them and form great bonds of friendships that extend beyond the duration of the workshop. These women discover their voices and self confidence at the workshop and that eventually helps them find their space at their workplace and even at home.

“Women need these strong friendships because women draw courage from each other.” – Sudha Menon

With the advent of Social media, there is now a renewed focus on women's issues that Sudha feels is going in the right direction. When people's opinions are focused on a problem the chances of it getting resolved faster are higher. Society, in general, has been pretending that women do not have any problems and it is only if women talk to each other, that we can move forward.

There are two things that Sudha would like to tell the women of the world, “Believe in yourself and your abilities. Tell yourself every day that you are strong. Something in our upbringing has made us timid and because we do not believe in ourselves we cease to reach our true potential”. And also, build up your sisterhood! There are so many of us privileged women with education and great careers and it is our responsibility to reach out and lend a helping hand to other women who have dreams but do not know how to follow them and fulfil themselves.

Chef Meeta Makhecha

Entrepreneur, Chef, Restaurateur and ardent pet lover



Pune is an amalgamation of different cultures, trends, lifestyles and a true melting pot of cuisines. Over the years, several brands have risen to fame, offering a slice from almost all corners of the world. Be it a taste for the hot and spicy south-east Asian delicacies or the olive rich Mediterranean dishes, the city caters to all types of palates and with the restaurant chain, 'Flour Works', Meeta Makhecha brought to life a true rendition of French cuisine.

A gutsy, serene personality, always approachable and very entrepreneurial, Meeta Makhecha, presents a side to the women of Pune, that is not only inspiring but very well balanced. Akin to the French cuisine, she exudes a kind of brilliance that is only realised in the finer tones and textures of life.

Modest in her opinions about women empowerment, Meeta says, “I don't really consider myself a feminist or someone championing the cause of women empowerment. In fact, I don't think it matters whether you are male or female for you to achieve something. If it's something you want to create, lots of effort and a bit of luck should be enough to get you there.”

When talking about the challenges women face, she shared how her early life was peppered with several inspiring women, from her grandmother to teachers and of course her mother. They all showed her that being a woman meant nothing lesser than being a man, and each had their place in this world. As a youngster she said, “I was always given the same freedoms as my brother and we were both given the responsibility to take care of ourselves. So if I chose to come home early, instead of staying out late, it's only because I value my safety and wouldn't jeopardise it. Similarly when it came to things like cooking and helping around the house, both my brother and I were taught everything.” She candidly recollects, that when her brother went abroad to study, he called her up thanking her for all the cooking lesson she imparted to him, that left him much better equipped to take care of himself. She feels that this prejudice prevails heavily in the economic middle-class wherein they raise their sons and daughters differently.

The privileged classes, rarely make this divide and often give both their sons and daughters the best of education, opportunities and avenues to be successful and realise any dreams they may have. In other words, empower their children to be whoever they want to be. “Although, our middle classes feel obliged to follow social norms which can be dated. They may choose to let the boys study in fields of science or engineering but hold back their daughters knowing that they will be married off soon after coming of age, which only makes the women less equipped to handle life.

Why not teach your daughters to manage money, involve them in discussions of business, share with them stories of breaking barriers to succeed?” articulates Meeta. She goes on to reflect on our Indian heritage and says, “For a long time India was a matriachial society, with powerful women making themselves heard. Queens were looked up to and they involved themselves in the betterment of their people. Although, somewhere in the past 200 years, we forgot about this and the lack of attention to women widened to create a gap, which is why empowerment today is simply a way to bring women back to same pedestal.





Life in Fluorescent

Mehek Malhotra,
the founder of Giggling Monkey Studio

From Royal palaces to museums to streets, art has made its way to the present holding a different meaning to everyone. But when held captive behind glass screens, it becomes inaccessible, thinks Mehek Malhotra, the founder of Giggling Monkey Studio. She is not only an influential illustrator but also a preacher of art that everyone has access to. One of India's youngest influencers, Mehek believes that your age should never decide if you're ready to claim what your dreams have to offer. With her imaginative and colorful illustrations, she explains that art lives in the little things we fail to notice every day, and hence, brings our attention to art that hasn't yet been captured behind the walls of a museum. She believes that life is all about seeing things how you want to see them, bursting confetti, and giggling while it takes its course. The boss girl has been a part of many fascinating projects including MTV's Jockey Woman Portraits and has a voice that's heard clearly through her bewitching and clever designs. Bhawika Jethwani, on behalf of Meet the City, had a conversation with Mehek Malhotra to know more about her journey of expressing through art. Read on!

How did do you start this unique journey? What got you into illustration?

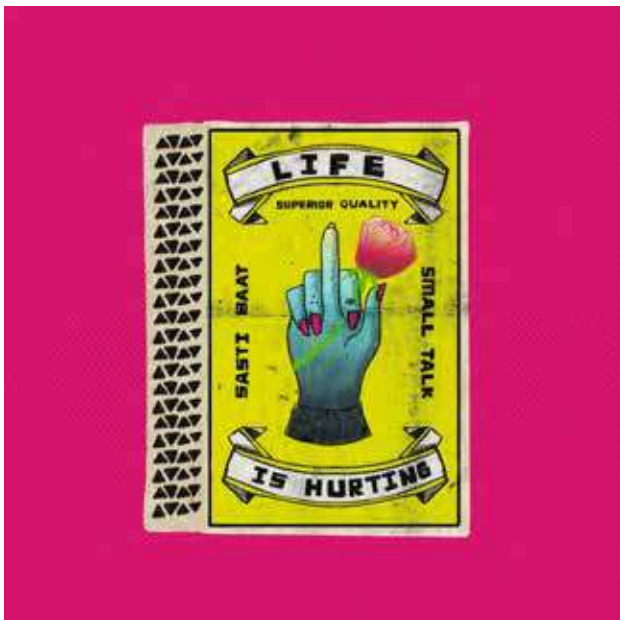
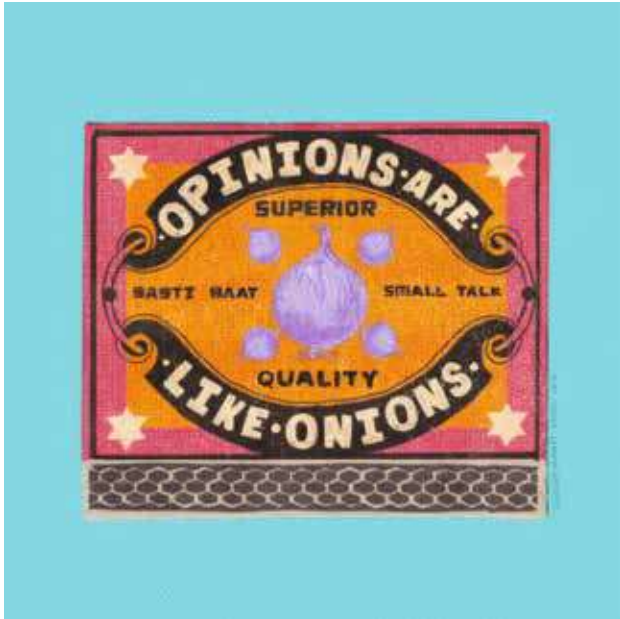
My background plays a major role in getting me started towards this journey of art and exploration. The male members of my family are in the army and the female members are educationists, either teachers or principals. But everybody had a creative side to them, so they understood what it was like having art around and appreciated me for my creativity. My Nani (grandmother) used to gift me stationery on my birthday till I was 16 and always pushed me to do what I do more seriously.

That's when I started considering the possibility of having art as a profession. I was tempted to the idea of earning money doing what I love, professionally, and realized I wanted to pursue illustration & design when I was 16. The first time I did something in the graphics field was in 10th grade. I used to design book covers for books published on Wattpad. That exposed me to the idea of working in collaboration with people to be able to communicate with my work.

Your work seizes attention just at a glance. What inspires you to keep coming up with new ideas?

My work is the reflection of something I want to see in the world. So, I like making things that are super colourful with colours which don't really exist in real life. All my illustrations are vibrant with fluorescent colours. I don't use green because we see it in nature and it is something that we cannot recreate. There was a matchbox series I have worked on which was inspired by the idea that people take breaks for smoking, but they never notice what's written on the matchbox. There are things we hear but never really pay attention to. The intent was to show that even if it's a break, nobody really pays attention to the thing they light their cigarettes with.

Similarly, I wanted to address issues during the #metoo movement. Everybody was doing something because everybody was doing it. I wanted to address this, but I didn't want to yell; I wanted to say it subtly. So, I created an illustration of a matchbox which read 'Row Row Row Your Boat Gently Down the Mainstream'.



One of the matchboxes in that series read 'AnxieTEA'. What's the story behind it?

I was sitting in a Starbucks where you can find a lot of rich people. I get a little intimidated by them. The lady there asked me if I wanted some sugar with my tea and I heard her as 'would you like some sugar with your anxiety?'. That's how this idea was born. Everybody has similar issues. And, most of my work is an expression of human feelings like pressure while ordering food. I feel art should be open to interpretation. That's why I don't go for personal and hard-hitting issues. When I put something online, I feel I should be responsible. I design a lot for different consumer products like FMCG, and I make sure the design is so intriguing that the person goes and picks it up. The design should invoke curiosity.

For me, even grocery shopping is like a study trip. That's when I see most art. It is probably because I haven't seen art in galleries, I have seen art in newspapers. When you put it behind glass, it becomes inaccessible and people start feeling distant from it.

You were one of the 25 under 25 in 2016. Please tell us more about it.

A company called Campus Diaries, which I grew up reading, had awarded top 25 people under the age of 25 in 4 categories which were Science, Visual Arts and Design, Writing, and Photography in association with VH1 & Tata Nano. I had just turned 20 when I was chosen under the Visual and Design category. This changed a lot of things in my life and I became confident. The group of all the talented and passionate people in the competition inspired me to do what I do more seriously. That's when I decided to start my studio.

When was Giggling Monkey Studio born? What were the challenges you faced setting it up?

I didn't want to work under the pressure of getting a job, so I started investing in building the image of my studio in 2016. That's when it was born. I went to lawyers and CAs to get it registered and always got questions like 'are you sure? But you're so young!'.

I filled incorrect forms and then filled them correctly on my own. I told myself that if nobody was going to do this for me, I would do this myself. I wanted to become an independent woman and a boss, and I worked towards it. The process included consistent learning and changing my style. I have always learned from people around me rather than feeling pressurized to be able to create what's in the 'trend'. I didn't want to be the next best thing, I wanted to create an impression with my art which when seen, cannot be forgotten.

I am bad at networking, but I am really good at making my friends. I am not the person who would hand out their visiting cards. I am the person you see in your phonebook and say, 'that's my friend'. The studio has the same voice too. It doesn't have clients, it has friends.

How did you discover social media? How would you explain its role in your success?

It started off as a rebellious act. I was in 8th grade when I wanted an email account, so my dad made me one with the name Giggling Monkey. He didn't want my name on the email id. Later, I wanted an Instagram account and my parents were not sure about me putting my name on a social platform. So, I made an account without them knowing and named it as Giggling Monkey. I posted anonymously for 2 years before changing the name and people were surprised to know that it was me.

Social media helps you reach people beyond boundaries. However, people feel pressurized for creating what others are creating. We need to understand that art isn't fast food that needs to be consumed instantly. It shouldn't be breaking news, it should be felt and understood every day.



Your work is an affair of colours and imagination. Do you think it would have been any different if it was not for your experiment with colours?

What is this world without colors? For me, colors are everything since they are an outlet of emotions. I believe that things should be portrayed the way they are. If it is a Chandni Chowk's jhatak thing, it will be that. If it is Govinda yellow, it should look like Govinda yellow and not canary yellow.

If not for colors, I would be writing poetry.

How would you best describe yourself?

I am constantly changing in the way how I look and how I perceive things while I remain the same person. I want to maintain my voice because being honest in today's world is rare; the real is fading away. I am all about challenging myself. I am a doer, so I do things and learn myself. I would say that I am a polite rebel. I like taking charge and I am extremely good at convincing people. I am that person who would tell you to go have 5 more drinks, but I am also the person who would tell you to go follow your dreams.

What's the best/your favourite piece of art that you have created so far?

My favorite works are the family portraits on 4x1 ft. vertical canvases I made of me, my sister, my mom, and my dad. Before I gave art to the world, I wanted to give my family back for being there, supporting me. Their reaction was everything for me. And, therefore these portraits are special.

Please tell us something you would like to share with our readers.

I don't see a lot of young women in design taking power. That is something I want to break. I want to inspire young men and women. I want to inspire them to find their voice. Most of us feel pressurized to create work that we see online. But, when they stand up for what they are and do what they like, that's when it's going to last.

What was your most recent project? What are we going to see Mehek Malhotra do next?

I recently designed a changing room wallpaper for Evoluisiani. I wanted it to interact with people, so I put mirrors in certain matchboxes that read 'Glitter Like Gaurav Gupta', 'Love Like Anamika Khanna', and a few other fashion related phrases. It was something new to me and made me realize that I may pursue Interior Design in the future.



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Zuhair Murad





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Edgy yet feminine, dazzling yet delicate, fancy yet feasible – This is how one would describe Zuhair Murad's masterpieces. Revered as the man who has an ability to make any woman feel like a princess, Murad became popular for his heavily sheer fabrics, scintillating colours, and shimmering embroidery. Today, he is hailed as not just a master couturier, but also as someone who doesn't shy away from experimenting. In a world where consumerism rules every aspect of our lives, and many designers have given into the pressure of fast fashion, Murad is one of the few who is still passionate about high fashion, or haute couture.

Manasi Akre takes you through the glamorous and sensational world of Zuhair Murad, and his latest creations that has gained many admirers from all over the world.

Zuhair Murad

Haute Couture

Spring Summer 2019

Early Years

Born in Ras Baalbek, Lebanon, Murad had begun sketching his designs at the age of ten. He decided to pursue his love for fashion after finishing his schooling by moving to Paris, where he attained a degree in fashion. Murad's tryst with fame began in 1997, when he opened his first atelier in Beirut. Two years later, he made his international debut on the ramps of Rome, where his designs were appreciated to an extent that it gained him a regular spot in the Italian fashion calendar.

However, it was in 2001 that Murad gained a momentum, with his couture collection that was presented during Haute Couture Week in Paris. From then, there was no stopping him as he continued to launch his ready-to-wear collection, and subsequently bridal. His success in couture then led him to open 'Maison de Couture' in the heart of the Triangle d'Or in Paris, which is also known as the home of the finest haute couture shops in the world.

By 2012, Murad had already touched the highest peak of success, with the managerial board of the 'French Federation de la Haute Couture et de la Mode' electing him as a guest member in the Parisian couture calendar.

Since Murad's talents are impeccable, his claim to fame was expected. Celebrities like Elizabeth Banks, Priyanka Chopra, Lily Collins, and many others have graced the red carpet in his creations. Over the years, he has become a leading choice among the celebrities to dress them for any occasion. His designs have become a regular feature on the 'best-dressed' lists. For some celebrities, like Jennifer Lopez and Sofia Vergara, Murad has become the ultimate 'go-to guy'.

Spring-Summer 2019

The Spring-Summer Fashion Season starts in January every year, and renowned designers and design houses from all around the world flock to the major Fashion Capitals to showcase their creativity.

Just like every year, Murad presented his designs in three different assortments – couture, ready-to-wear, and bridal. Let us take a look into each of these acclaimed collections.

Couture

If Disney's 'Little Mermaid' is ever turned into a live action movie, it would definitely resemble Murad's couture collection for this season!



Inspired by the depths of the pristine blue ocean, Murad's theme for his couture collection is 'Aquatic Serenade'. The collection romances with the rich beauty the oceanic world has to offer, and it is perfectly captured in a colour palette that consists the shades of blue, coral, purple, and shell. The fabrics boast of a fluid movement, and the textures epitomize the underwater beauty.

Along with the theme of sea life, Murad blended the opulent and flashy '80s silhouette in order to give his collection a modern twist. From wispy ruffles, to ombre prints, his collection “evoke the feel of ripples on water”, as Murad himself explained. He focused on a more streamlined shapes that enhance the curves of the wearer, and exude a subtle sensual aura. A recurrent motif in the collection was the train that was made of layered chiffon, and attached to extravagantly embroidered dresses. The train managed to give the outfits modern yet a fairy-tail like appeal.



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Ready-to-wear

Continuing on the aquatic theme, Murad's ready-to-wear collection takes a breezier approach by adopting the imagery of Hawaiian and Polynesian culture.

Aptly titled as 'Tiki Contemporary', this collection digs into the '50s American style, and plays around with an uncliché version pin-up culture that keeps the designs stimulating and dynamic. The motifs on Tapa cloth, a type barkcloth that originates from islands of the Pacific Ocean, has been incorporated on the clothes in form of embroidery. The prints, on the other hand, have been taken from the shapes of tribal tattoos.

The colour palette for the collection ranged from pastels to vivid colours, with shades of fuchsia, teal, crimson, black, and white dominating.

This collection reeked of Murad's talent to continuously experiment with his designs, which is why his tailored options were perhaps the most eye-catching pieces in the collection. It consisted of pantsuits with sleek creases, and flared trousers, which added an element of 'power' and 'intensity' to an otherwise ladylike collection.

The rest of the collection is dominated by frilly skirts, belted sleek tunics, deconstructed blazers decorated with lace, tops with ruffles, and airy capes that flow from the shoulders. While some were very much exuding the characteristics of the Pacific Islands, others were heavily embellished, thus giving us the best of both worlds – relaxed and glamorous.

Bridal

Murad's bridalwear gained an international fame after he designed actress Sofia Vergara's wedding dress. According to him, a bride's wedding gown is sacred and a masterpiece that is meant to be remembered forever, and this mantra is imbued well in all his bridal collections, including the Spring 2019.

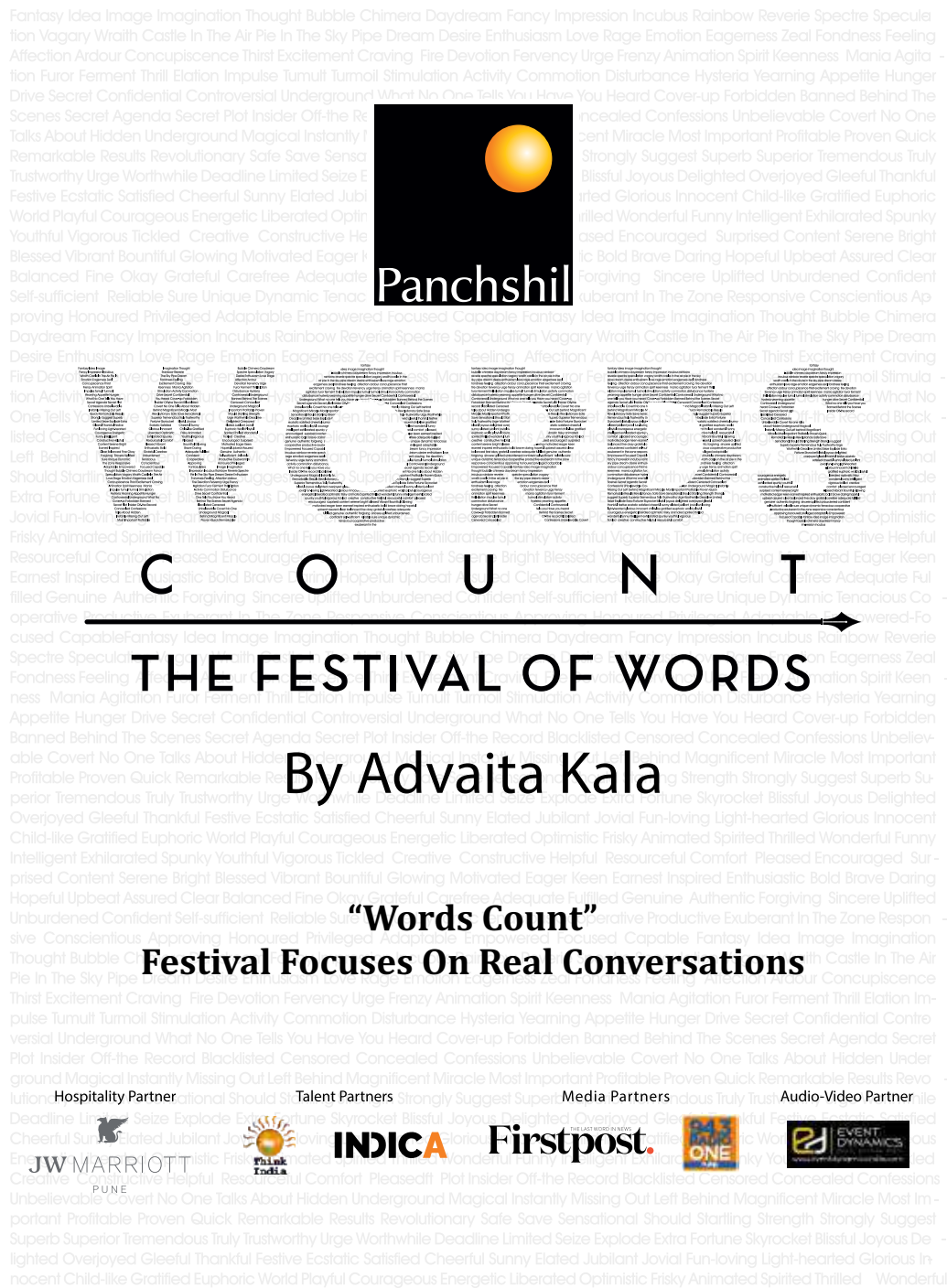
While floral designs have always been popular amongst brides as they signify romance, Murad decided to take an edgier route with his collection. Inspired from the Art Deco movement of the '30s, the dresses sport details and silhouettes from art and architectural elements of that era, like New York's Chrysler Building. Instead of giving the usual dainty touch that most bridal gowns have, Murad's design showcase fierceness and lavishness. The opulent embroidery and feather adornments give the dresses an Old Hollywood touch.



The gowns also boast of having a trompe l'oeil effect, which is an optical illusion technique in art where an object is painted with details so realistic that it appears three dimensional. Murad managed to achieve this by using a palette of off-white and cream instead of stark white, continual circular patterns, and sheer overskirts.

The Road Ahead

As we bid adieu to the current Fashion Season, we also prepare ourselves to dive into the upcoming one. While we may not be aware of what magic Murad is going to weave next, we can be sure that his master craftsmanship will come back to the ramp once again to charm us. With a vision that is so futuristic, and skills that are unmatched, there is no doubt that Murad isn't just a couturier, he's the reigning champion of the high fashion world.



Where are we headed as a society? Where do we see future generations reaching? How do we envision 'tomorrow'?

Our thoughts today condition our actions tomorrow and having those conversations today impacts the pace of a nation's growth. The recent addition to Advaita Kala's endeavours, 'Words Count – The Festival of Words', aimed to bring influential minds to discuss present and future challenges, explore solutions and image 'tomorrow' collectively.

As she says, "If we don't choose to talk about the roadblocks to growth, we can never hope to make a difference."

Join Sameer Vijay Kumar in glimpsing the timeless moments of Words Count, 2019 – the festival of words, curated by Advaita Kala, to stir conversations, explore ideas and thought-provokingly inspire. We'll go through the line-up of the distinguished speakers and expert moderators and also learn more about the idea behind the thought festival from the founder, herself.

There are moments that shape
our thoughts
and people that
influence our ideas.
Places that make us speak.
Words that change
who we are.

building to the idea of secularism and finding the path from challenges to opportunities. Moderated by celebrated media spokespersons like Bhupendra Chaubey, Padmaja Joshi, Prof. Nalapat & Prafulla Ketkar, among others, each conversation was instrumented with great detail and the discussion filled the room with an air of inclusivity and genuineness.

Given the role that words play in our lives – in art, politics, culture and literature, since its inception, Words Count celebrates the use of words to promote understanding and discourse in society. It's all about the exchange of ideas, concepts and ethos while keeping in view ideological, gender and artistic diversity.

In her press release statement announcing the Pune chapter of Words Count, 2019, Advaita Kala said, "I am delighted that

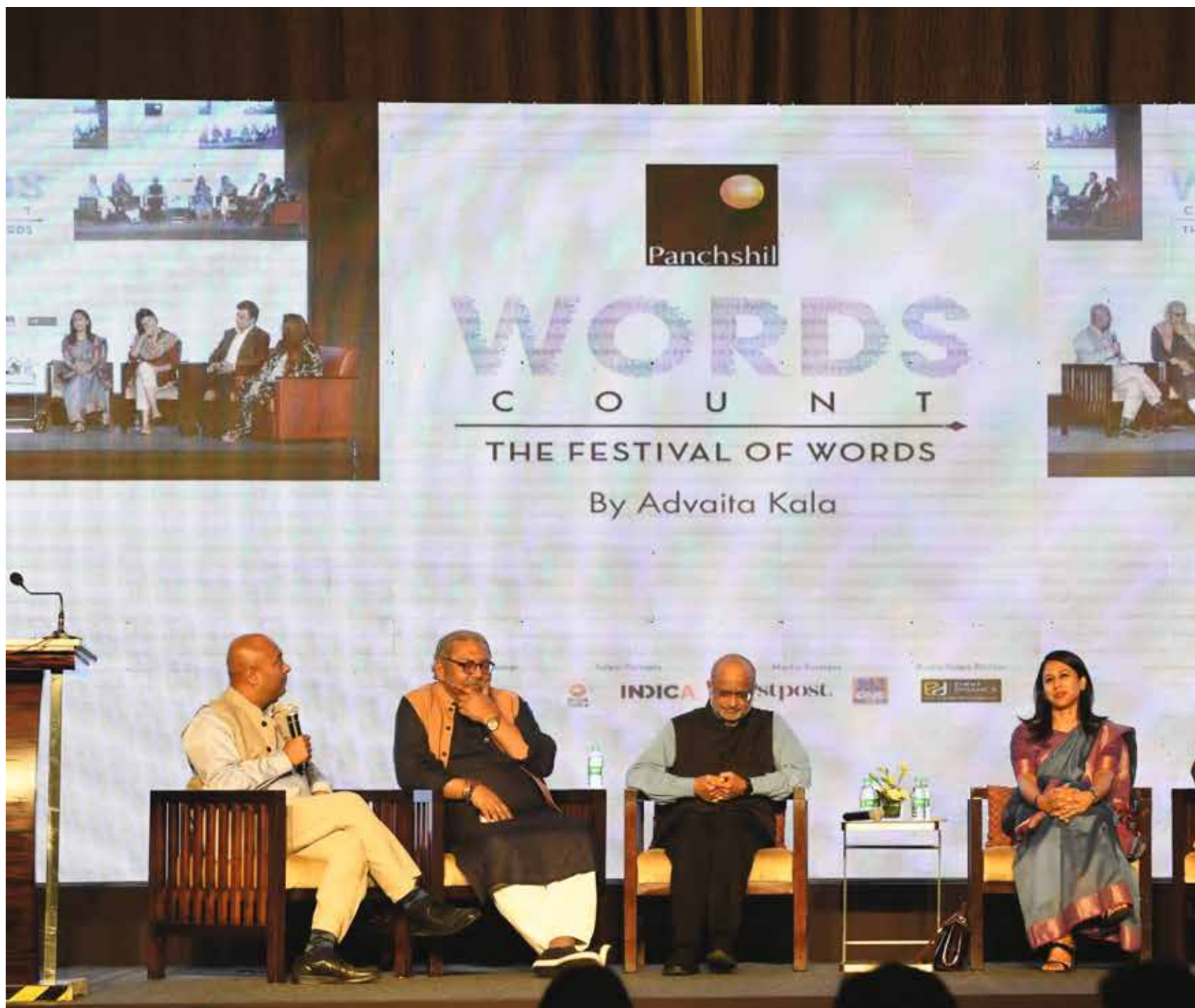


3rd of February, 2019, saw a great crowd of eager minds, collecting at the JW Marriott to participate in a thought festival like no other: Words Count, 2019, which was brought to Pune by known connoisseurs of art and culture, Mrs. Varsha Chordia and Mrs. Sabina Sanghvi, along with Ms. Advaita Kala, the founder of the festival, featured conversations with a curated line-up of changemakers, writers, poets, leaders and influential personalities in Indian media.

Speakers like Smriti Irani, Prasoon Joshi, Asaduddin Owaisi, Pavan Verma and others, set the tone by sharing their candid perspectives on a range of important social discussions. This featured a line-up of 8 accomplished speakers who dove into and explored themes ranging from youth and nation

Pune, the Oxford of the East, is home to this year's edition of Words Count which will dwell upon a range of topical themes and simulate an inclusive, participative and lively dialogue".

The highlight of this event was the conferment of 'The Wordsmith' award on Mr. Pawan Varma who, through his years of dedication to the constructive use of words has elevated discourse and contributed to intellectual debate significantly. The award was specially designed by the renowned designer-duo Shantanu & Nikhil who brought their forward-thinking design philosophy to celebrate the best of art, commerce and culture.



“Civilisation is a legacy to which
you and I are heirs” - Pavan Verma



Every speaker brought to the fore, a very specific agenda and thereby allowed for a range of discussions to be explored at the festival. In Asaddudin Owaisi's discussion with Prafulla Ketkar, he shared his opinion that the country 'cannot have uniformity by destroying diversity'. Sunil Ambekar on 'Youth and Nation Building' spoke about how the country should come first over and above other factors. Mayuresh Didolkar, a published short story writer from the INDIC writer panel, expressed how the digital spheres have created a whole new market of readers, and in a similar vein, Shefali Vaidya another author, spoke about there being a more robust and fresh perspective taken in vernacular writing that will benefit communities in a much more targeted way.

When the moderators got together in a panel, they spoke about the challenge of 'fake news' in the media and its ever-growing presence. Bhupendra Chaubey, a known journalist, validated that there is a lot a fake news every day, every hour infact. Kanchan Gupta also chose to question the quality of the truth being projected even in cases where the news reports are factually correct.

A unique thought shared by Pavan Verma was that, "civilisation is a legacy to which you and I are heirs", and therefore it matters what we choose to do, what we choose to accept and where we draw the lines. Prasoon Joshi, too articulated why as a society we often stumble into social and communal challenges rather than rising above them. He felt, we, far too often, brush things under the carpet, simply because it does not suit us, because it does not suit the political agenda.

The event came to a close with the last in the line of distinguished speakers, Smriti Irani, who has traversed the star-studded media limelight to tackling grassroot level challenges and becoming a changemaker for the society. Moderated by Advaita Kala, the duo spoke of the speaker's journey over time, her struggles and achievements. On the subject of women in the modern society, she said, "I'd rather women be celebrated for the talent they bring to the table than the nomenclature they carry."



In conversation with Advaita Kala, an award-winning screenwriter, published novelist and social activist, we spoke about the origin of the festival and its future. Most notably known for her screenplay of the Bollywood film 'Kahaani', Advaita has traversed many genres and mediums, all the while staying true to her unique ability to invoke emotions through words. She has written for prime-time television, films, works of fiction, renowned publications and is also a celebrated food critic. She told us that the genesis and inspiration for Words Count was to create a platform where real conversations took place, conversations that actually allow for discussion and equal participation by the people too.

Her literary work has often expressed themes of women empowerment, taking anecdotes from her own experiences and sharing them with wide audiences. Her debut novel, 'Almost Single' sold over 200,000 copies in India alone and was translated into multiple Indian and European languages. A regular face on television news debates and discussion panels, Advaita brings to the fore the importance of voicing out opinions to shape our social paradigm.

She believes it is our collective endeavour to explore the role 'words' play in our lives - in spheres of influence like art, politics, culture and of course literature. The value of words, to every individual, cannot be underestimated and at the Words Count festival, it is a celebration on the use of words that promote understanding, civil discourse and expand our sense of community.

In her first edition of Words Count, held in November 2017 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, the sessions were graced by Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Shri Vinay Sahasrabudhe, Ms. Jaya Jaitly, Ms. Gul Panag among others. Having completed another successful edition of the Festival, we spoke to Advaita about the growing need for such festivals and where she sees Words Count in the near future.

Is Words Count another iteration of a literature fest for writers?

I think it's a thought festival. I feel words are universal and everyone uses words to communicate ideas. I wanted people to have conversations. A platform that doesn't discriminate. Where communities can keep aside differences and only hold common the value that words can provide.

Do you envision this festival growing, and if so, How?

Sure, I see the festival growing overtime and reaching more people, for which I would be very happy but I don't want it to lose its identity. If growth dilutes the essence of the festival, which is the Indian tradition of 'samvad' (debate/discourse), then it will fail to impact the minds. While the number of people may grow, the number who are getting engaged, participating, getting involved will suffer, and that's the true aim. A thought fest for me, should activate the mind, influence the people to act.

“Conversations that are meaningful not competitive.”

What inspired you to setup a festival like this?

All of us writers, poets, policymakers, visionaries, entrepreneurs are trying to build bridges of communication. When you read someone's words, you are getting a chance to explore their perspective. You may choose to agree or disagree but now you are open to reason, and that's really a promising way forward. Limiting, restricting and prohibiting knowledge/opinion may make things easier to govern but it also makes people less tolerant, less aware and certainly diminishes the possibility of evolving. And as a responsibility to future generations, I felt I should create a platform, inspired by all my learnings and roadblocks I've seen in our media and communication, to provide them a space that truly allows for constructive discourse, not just overlapping banter and forced opinions as we often end up seeing our media project today. Honestly, that's not the way I want young adults to engage with people they don't agree with. We've solved far less than we have wrecked, through aggression and its time we mature as communities to be able to cordially converse with each other. I have seen quite a lot of this in our present-day media and it is fatiguing.

“Words Count is a consequence of my fatigue with the way the media today showcases debates and discussions.”

What kind of speakers do you want to bring together at Words Count in the future?

Let's hope to bring people together who drive conversations. People like Pavan Verma, Prasoon Joshi, who spoke at this Words Count festival, are both great additions because they are people who have used words, shared ideas, actioned them and certainly furthered the narrative. And the unique aspect is that they come from different fields, operate in different spheres of media and its influence on minds. And being involved in the public sphere, engaged with the issues of the day, aids them in propagating a much more mature discourse. Getting together thinkers, philosophers, policymakers, commentators of society can help us take our ideas forwards in a much humbler way. Learn the art of listening and being gentle in our need for people to accept our opinions. If there is something you think is right, let people open up to it. If it is truly the best way forward, the right minds will understand. Forcing our opinions is not only counter-productive but also limits the possibility of finding better ways.

I want to make Words Count a home for thinkers, philosophers, policymakers and communicators.

What do you hope a festival like Words Count would accomplish for a country like India?

We are only as good as the conversations we have and which is why a thought fest like Words Count is a big step for a nation like India. We are moving at a rapid pace and communication is key. We can resolve disputes, inspire minds and evolve our ways of dealing with contradiction in society by merely understanding the art of conversations. The more we communicate, the more we step away from reactive stances. And communication is not only with the world outside. How well do we communicate with



ourselves? Do we know how our assumptions are clouding our perspectives? Where prejudices are filtering our thought process? There is a lot left for each of us to explore, and improving our way of communicating can help with that. The idea is to help people build empathy towards others.

Is Words Count a platform, budding writers and policymakers should aspire to follow/ reach?

Words Count surely has a space for writers and budding artists simply because it gives them exposure to the various pockets of media across the sphere and helps them build their reach. Being a writer myself, I know the challenges my budding colleagues might face and I try to leverage the festival's platform to give them a chance to voice out. The first time around, we did a talk on first-time writers and in this edition as well, brought together a panel of INDIC Writers, all of whom were exploring specific genres, trying new approaches with their writing. Conversations such as these help all kinds of writers and the space helps basically everyone become better communicators.

I hope someday Words Count will be looked at as a caravan of conversations, travelling to different parts of the country and having diverse conversations with innumerable people.

Connect and engage with Words Count

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Angelo Meroni

Lema's Group President and Owner

Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder and in the eyes of this one. LEMA's collection at Spazio brings forth an elegance and simplicity that many aspire for but only few achieve. Spazio is India's largest multi-brand luxury furniture store.

The common thread that binds all the products of this assorted catalogue is the essence of comfort and harmony of slow living. Conviviality, relaxation and warmth are the key words. LEMA has championed the 'Made in Italy' aesthetic by expertly mixing innovation and tradition, turning quality and personalisation into its unique selling point.

When asked what LEMA's definition of the good life is, third generation owner Angelo Maroni says "it's about not being bored when you enter your home after 20 years. This is very important. We've learnt from our art director Piero Lissoni that products shouldn't follow fashion too much. At the moment it is beautiful but after two years you'll get bored. It's true, if your products are simple and beautiful, you'll never get bored of them because they are timeless. If you see our catalogue from a few years ago, the products are more or less the same, maybe in different colours or a different dimension, but the feeling is always the same. That for us is a good life"

Join Nikhil Burby as he takes a look at some of LEMA's finest offerings at Spazio in Pune and enthrall yourself in some bespoke Italian Design.



© Yard Sofa/Lema



© Felix Chair/Lema



© Cruise Table/Lema



© Sign Table/Lema

Yard Sofa

Reinterpreting the typical creativity of the Industrial design of the 60's the Yard sofa from LEMA is born out of the fact that its intention was to find a meeting point between various systems. Padded volumes are integrated into counters, shelves and tables. It is these multiple containers that match in various configurations to create countless multi-functional compositions.

A Project by Francesco Rota, it combines the modularity of a sofa with that of retentive systems that are an integral part of LEMA's DNA.

Sign Table

Sign by Studio Kairos sits elegantly and unobtrusively with its subtle lines and lacquered texture inviting you in to revel in its simplicity. Its elegant metal structure brings a functional air to the home and the versatility of its design lies in the fact that it is available as a small table or a bedside table version with a drawer.

Cruise Coffee Table

The circle and the square - timeless simplicity in the most common of shapes finds its completion in the materials and workmanship that are quintessential to LEMA. It is these characteristics that define Cruise, a result of the research by 'Officinadesign LEMA' on the concept of a coffee table. Its low profile conveys a sense of stability in subtlety, the bases support the tops on which glass plates are placed that convey conceptual as well as visual lightness.

Felix chair

Sinuous and delicate lines mark the design of Felix: a truly relaxing shell thanks to the curved back which encloses the monolithic seat. With its compact dimensions, Felix, here upholstered in velvet, is an ideal armchair for the night area and for sophisticated living areas. Signed by Roberto Lazzeroni its backrest is a true cove of relaxation. The stitching and seams reveal graceful and subtle contours, exalting them.

Available in a multiple finishes like fabrics, leathers and eco-leathers, Felix is a discreet object whose character completes the bedroom as well as the home's living area.





© Selecta/Lema



© Selecta/Lema

Memo Dining Table

Available with a top in heat-treated oak or lava stone, Memo has a metal structure in steel tinted brushed aluminium or lacquered Borgogna red. Its beauty is distinguished by the choice of colours and further emphasized by the extravagant proportions. — Its restrained form lends it a discreet presence and makes Memo suited to a variety of settings, such as a large dining area or an elegant meeting room.

Characterized by minimalist discretion that defines Piero Lissoni's style. LEMA's art director since 1995, Memo has an un-imposing presence that breathes character into any space it occupies.

Selecta

The versatile Selecta System is the evolution of the first Italian freestanding System designed by Officinadesign LEMA and incorporates new finishes and elements that fit the different needs that consumers have developed over the years.

Thanks to the technologies and solutions available, Selecta is ideal for designing compositions containing the TV and audio systems, real multifunctional walls able to satisfy the most exacting enthusiast, also from a design standpoint. The research always aims to offer systems that are cutting-edge, both aesthetically and technologically. The doors are equipped with a push opening mechanism and are free of handles

Rigorous design and graphic elegance characterize the space for the TV and its accessories.



Matteo Nunziati
MAINTAINING PROMISES



Matteo Nunziati is considered one of the most influential international architects and designers of the modern generation. He's skillfully crafted a fine balance of purposeful design with a very well refined understanding of materials. Whether it be a chair, a lamp, a cabinet or even an entire tower, Matteo's qualities are defined by his keen eye for detail and personified perspective to living. Some of the most prestigious design firms have chosen Nunziati for their new collections.

In the last few years, Nunziati has realized important architectural and interior design projects in some of the most influential cities in the world. These projects have received numerous awards and got published in international media and magazines. The design methodology of Matteo Nunziati considers the aesthetics and emotional value of any project as extremely important. No projects are considered more or less important, "sometimes the design of a chair can be more complex than the design of a skyscraper." One notices that simple clean design is often not that simple to create, and Matteo is very humble about this. He expresses that he enjoys crafting



Matteo Nunziati

The second aspect that Nunziati focuses on is the link with reality confronting the dynamics of the technical and economic issues.

"Often times, people assume that working with a brand makes it easier to create magnificent projects. Although I really believe it is about maintaining promises. The promise of great design, detailed work and a functional approach to living, needs to be maintained for the experience to remain timeless. In Trump Towers, Pune, we were really aligned in our vision and working with Panchshil made this project a landmark, because they maintain the promise." said Matteo at an interview at SPAZIO, a multi-brand Italian furniture store.

Specialized in luxury hotels, wellness centers, spas and residential projects, Matteo Nunziati has realized projects over the years in Italy, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, India, Maldives, China, USA. Matteo Nunziati was chosen for the Trump Towers project in Pune inaugurated in 2017 and a landmark in Pune city. His association with Trump Tower projects extends to the upcoming ones in New Delhi & Kolkata. The largest 5-star hotel in Doha, Qatar the "Fraser Suites West Bay" a 50-story tower awarded with the World Travel Award is a sign of Nunziati's elemental approach which creates a very comfortable opulent experience for anyone in the space. He is also connected to several other branded residences across the world.

His most outstanding residential projects are the Bosco Verticale penthouse in Milan winner of the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects Award (RIBA) 2018 for International Excellence, the skyscraper penthouse in New York at 432 Park Avenue that is considered one of the most prestigious residential buildings in the world and the most expensive one thanks to the sale of one apartment for 95 million USD. Private villas in Kuwait City, Dubai, Singapore, San Marino, Muscat, Pune, Bangalore extend Nunziati's portfolio.

material into the forms that he pictures would make for a great design. For all the products he's designed for various Italian furniture brands like LEMA, Poltrona Frau and so many others, he simply says, "I like to think of whether I would like to sit in a chair like that and only then would I proceed to bring it to life."

The goal is to find harmony between every aspect of human perspective creating deep emotions and a sort of existential melancholy. That's the sense of beauty.

F C ROAD SOCIAL

SOCIAL CHHATT



काय म्हणतोस ?

Afternoons basking on the greens, counting down to 10 before finding a laughing friend tucked away behind a tree, harkening back to a time when chalk squares meant an hour of glee - this is what many of us have lost out on as concrete creeps over the cityscape and the lure of the digital drives us indoors. But now it's time to be kind, rewind, and #throwback to a life where #Play meets #Work! With games, goodies and greenery galore, F.C. Road Social is set to be THE place where you relive your youth - with some updates!

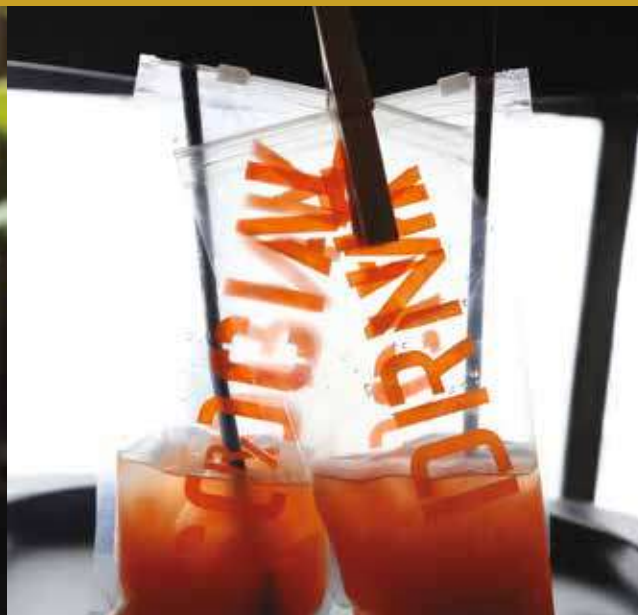
Dappled in sunlight, tinted by the colours of the foliage spilling over from every corner, the all-new 'Social Garden' taps into the human desire to be outdoors and free, fulfilling it by creating a world of verdant spaces and childhood frolic. The gabion stone wall, with its creepers, hides misty grasses behind its rustic exteriors, while the old world style living room, with cosy corners, and library units containing gardening tools, is an ode to life before technology. With the Pune sky merging into green columns that flow gently into the floor, set off by a rustic stone bar, the space provides a sense of grandeur that puts nature's majesty into

perspective. The turf flooring folds into benches surrounded with custom tree trunk lights and neon green glow boxes stacked up to add that all-important element of #Play to the settings!

"Social has blurred the lines between work and play to create the second, alternative place that modern India deserves. It has gone from strength to strength over the last couple of years, and Pune is a very special city for us. Since our first outpost, with each new café, we try to push the boundaries of the brand and pay tribute to the community which we serve", says Riyaz Amlani, CEO & MD Impresario Entertainment & Hospitality Pvt. Ltd. "Social is more than just a café - it's a space for inspiration, a gathering spot for communities. Every Social is unique and is inspired by its surroundings. With this outlet, we're also launching our first ever Chhatt in the city. There couldn't have been a better place than Pune for our version of #chhattypa, where everyone can just kick back and devour the food & drinks that take you down the memory lane. So we're excited to be moving in to F C Road, and I'm thrilled to make Pune a little more Social with our 23rd outpost of the brand."



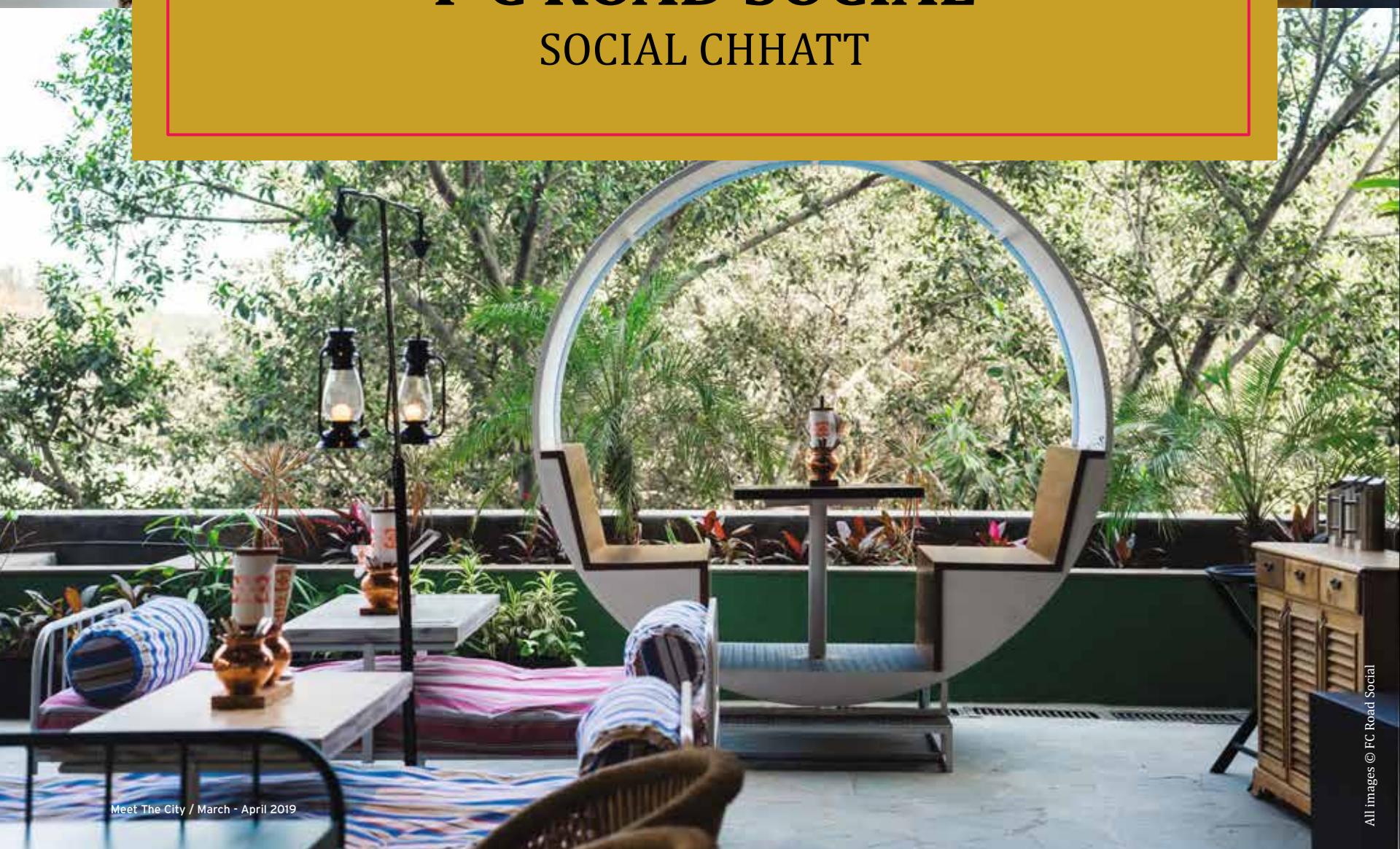
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F C ROAD SOCIAL

SOCIAL CHHATT





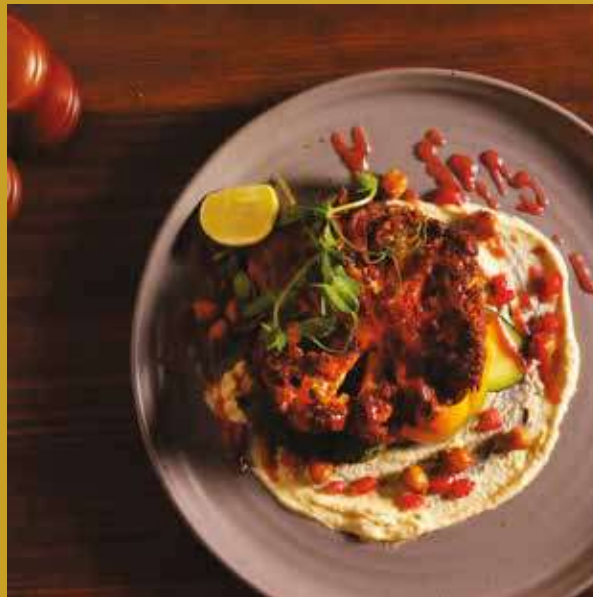
Tucked in the by lanes of Kalyani Nagar, Arbour is the new upscale, uber chic eatery which is all set to make its debut in Pune. The place is well thought out demographically and logistically made at the city's best location.

Arbour

Arbour means “a small place surrounded with trees”. On asking the story behind the name of the restaurant, the owner said, the name just happened! There was absolutely no intense research or brainstorming. I was talking to a friend and he suggested we go for Arborio (type of Italian rice), to which I disagreed but rather uttered Arbour and looked up for the meaning of the word and there you go! I found a name which goes well with the theme and location of the place.

The place would be an “All Day Dining” place which will dish out delish breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant is located on the ground floor and can seat 70 people. This dynamic space sprawling across 3300 square feet is divided into two sections – outdoor and indoor, making it the perfect dining and drinking destination.

The contemporary monochromatic theme of black and white in contrast with the greenery makes the place seem more open and widespread!



Talking about the food, the menu is going to be interactive and the food will be prepared from local ingredients. The delectable food offering at Arbour will see Modern European cuisine with great Indian regional spices and cuisines. The menu will also be focused on food along with well concocted drinks which compliments the food. The menu also comprises of comfort dishes and bar bites which one can relish whilst enjoying a couple of drinks. All the dishes in the menu are different and unique and that is what Arbour will be known for!

With their launch they also intend to introduce a whole new thoughtfully curated healthy menu which includes Vegan food too.

Arbour aims at providing the best of experience to its patrons. Arbour is going to be your home away from home.

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COURTYARD[®]
BY MARRIOTT

Pune Hinjewadi

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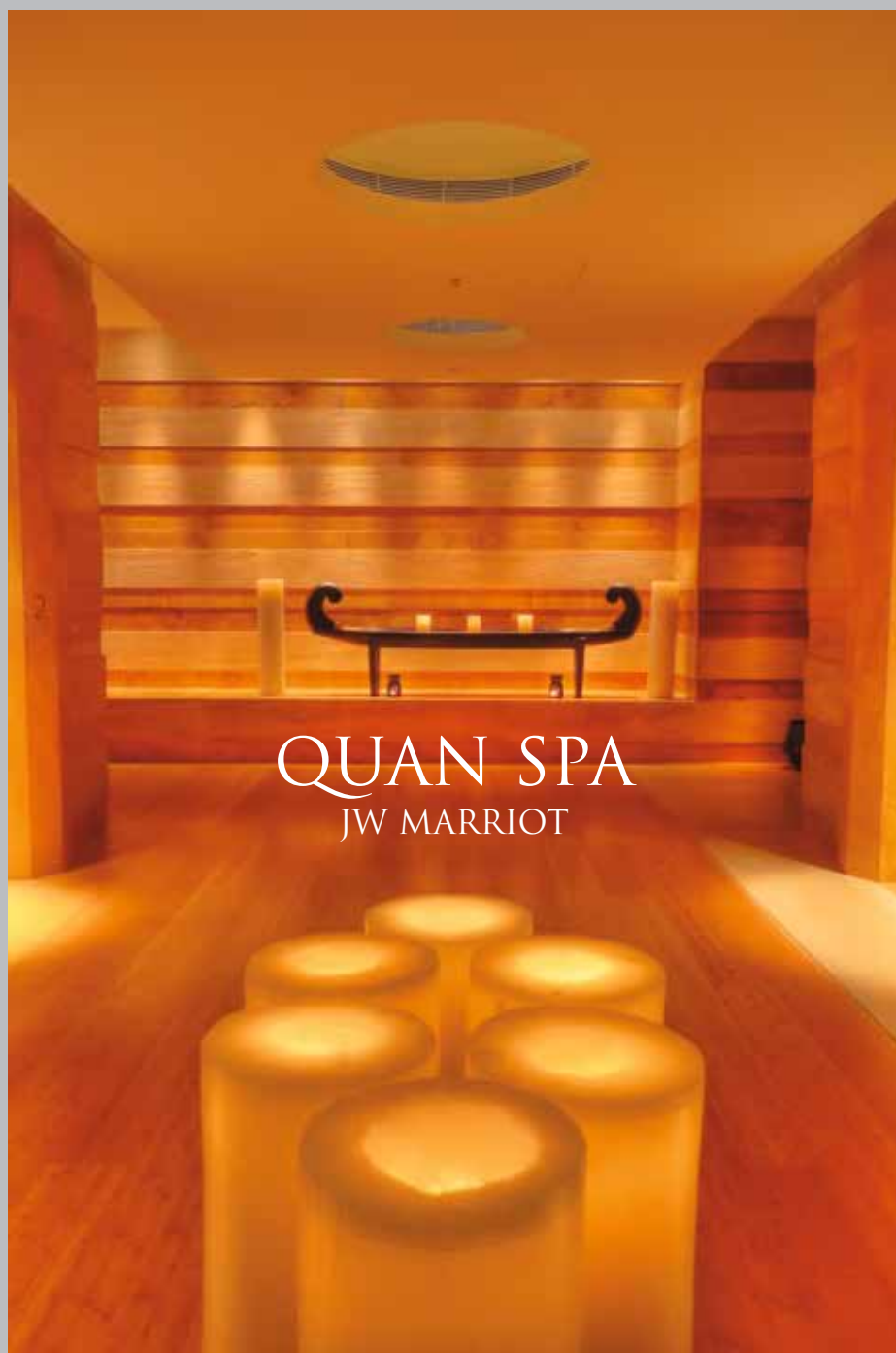
REVIVE. RENEW.
SPAS
AT
PANCHSHIL

"God is a spa-bath of water and we are all individual bubbles."

While the city keeps running ahead of time, these oases of peace and tranquillity are the finest places to relax and rejuvenate in town.
Let your journey into self-love begin here.

It is in this spirit that Nikhil Burby explores some of the best Spas in Pune to get you the R'n'R you truly deserve.





QUAN SPA

JW MARRIOT

Quan is a Chinese word that translates into spring water, a reflection of purity and well-being.
The spa uses water to heal the
body and mind with an emphasis on revitalising your energies.

Spread over 17000 sq. ft., the Quan Spa is one of the biggest urban spas in Western Asia.
Quan boasts of 13 exclusive spa therapy rooms,
a special relaxation lounge and a dedicated foot spa, to cater all your needs.



Quan's signature massage – Indulge, is ideal for those who desire a gentle, soothing experience. This therapy moisturises your skin with Brazil nut and Vitamin E oil that melts like butter on your warm body, nourishing each part of your parched skin. The smooth texture and exotic body fragrance is your takeaway post the therapy.



The Rose and Ashwagandha bath is another relaxing therapy which involves bathing in milk containing life renewing algae extracts and golden flakes. This therapy rejuvenates your skin and the golden flakes leave a veil of shimmer on the body. Quan has recently introduced a Gemology facial, a concept which uses gemstones to improve your skins radiance.

SPA LA VIE BY L'OCCITANE

YOOPUNE

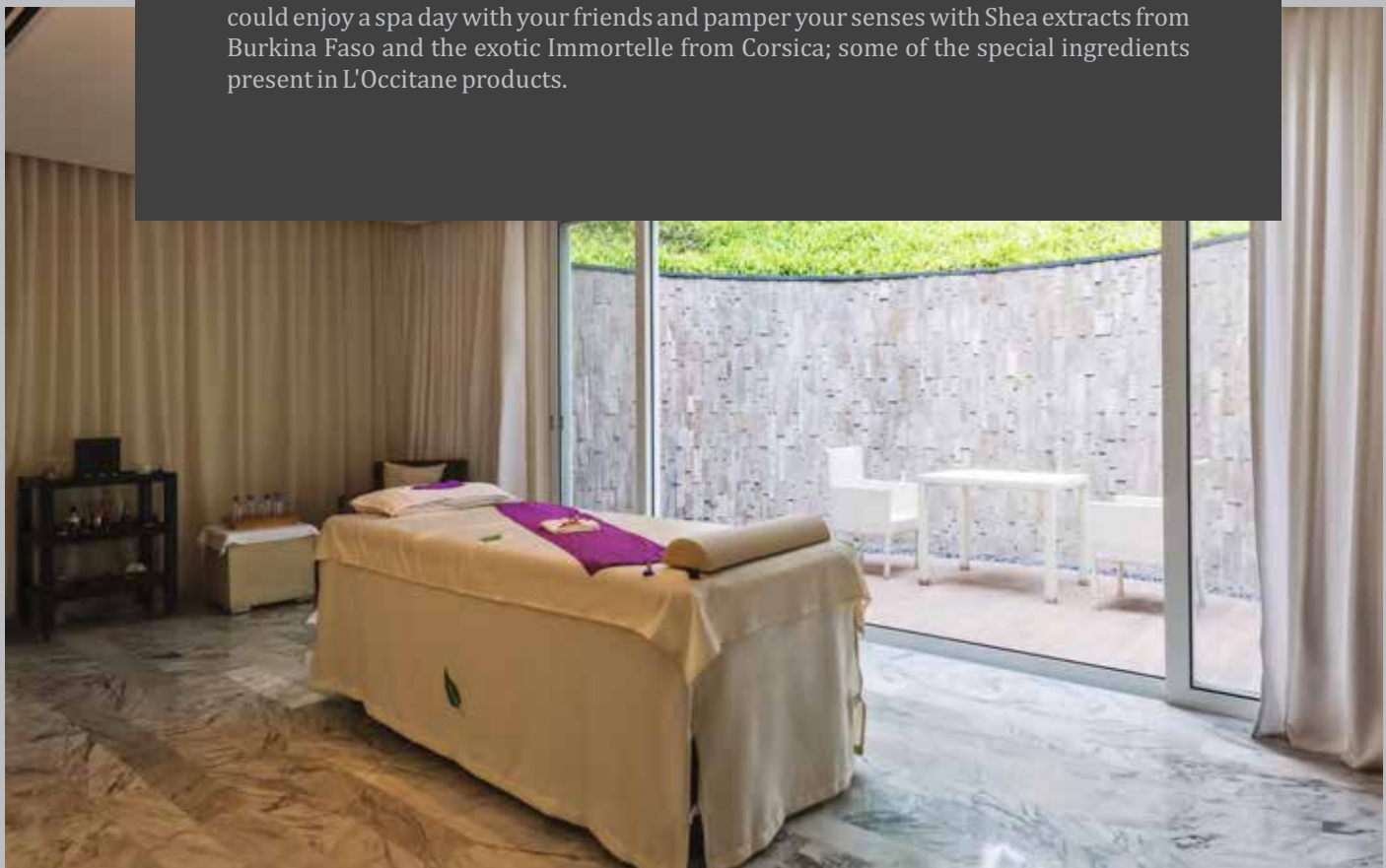


Inspired by the Mediterranean art-de-vivre, L'OCCITANE Spa combines authentic ingredients from Provence, with certified origin and proven effectiveness, and the best of traditional massage therapies from all around the world. Fused in exclusive sequences, all hand-performed, they offer guests a true well-being escape to the sunny soils of the South of France.

In India, Spa la Vie by L'Occitane has several branches but the one in Yoopune serves an extraordinary experience. It is Pune's first luxury themed spa, set in a dense forest ambience, inviting you to open the doors to a truly tranquil spa experience. Witness a spa that offers the you elements from the South of France, a atmosphere of lush greenery and a sense of a rejuvenating calmness.



The placement of the spa is unique in itself. Spa la Vie by L'Occitane is located right in the heart of a holistic sanctuary to make you feel refreshed and energized. The spa sits in the midst of a tropical expanse in the centre of yoopune. If you are in a social mood, you could enjoy a spa day with your friends and pamper your senses with Shea extracts from Burkina Faso and the exotic Immortelle from Corsica; some of the special ingredients present in L'Occitane products.



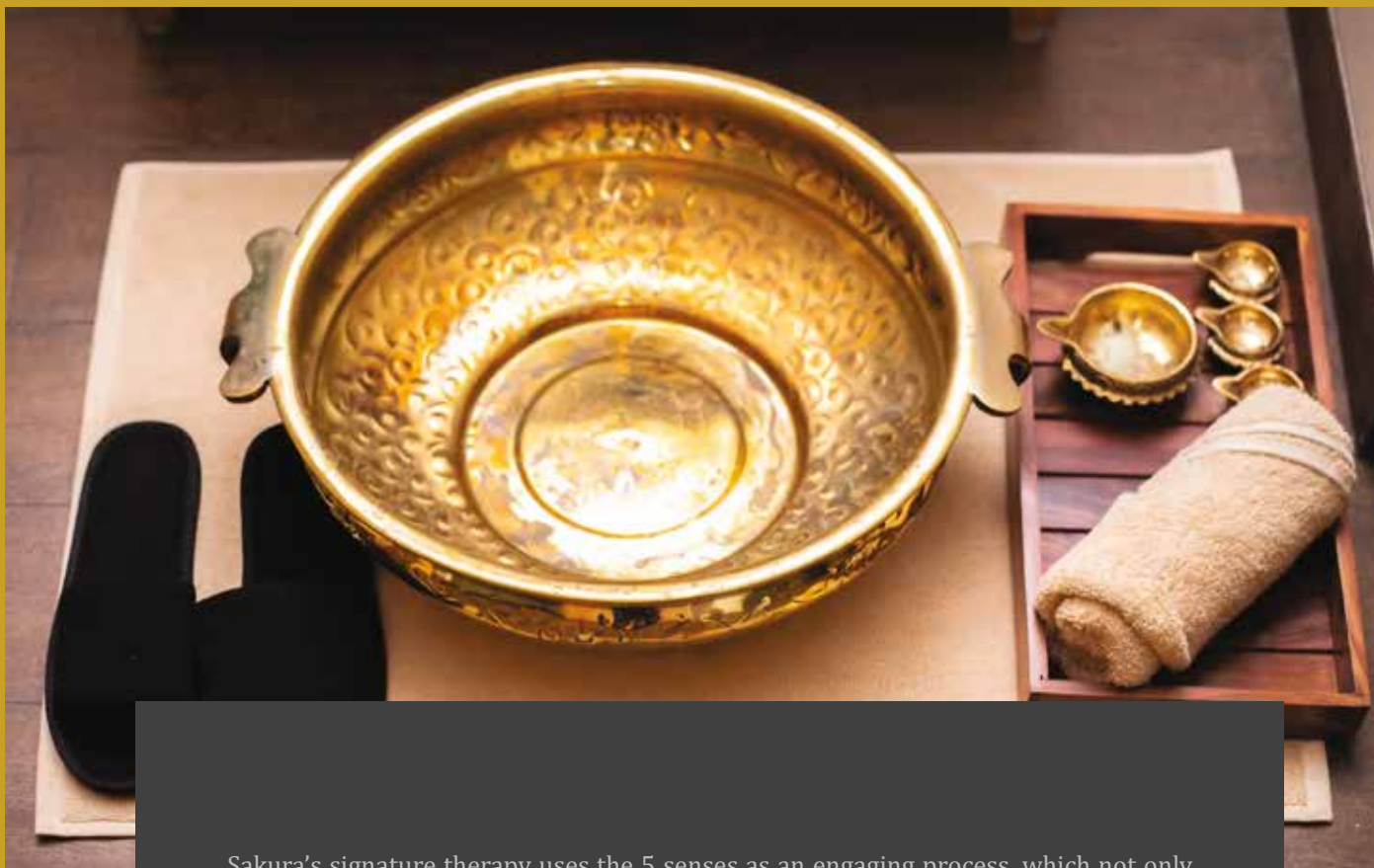
SAKURA SPA

MARRIOT SUITES

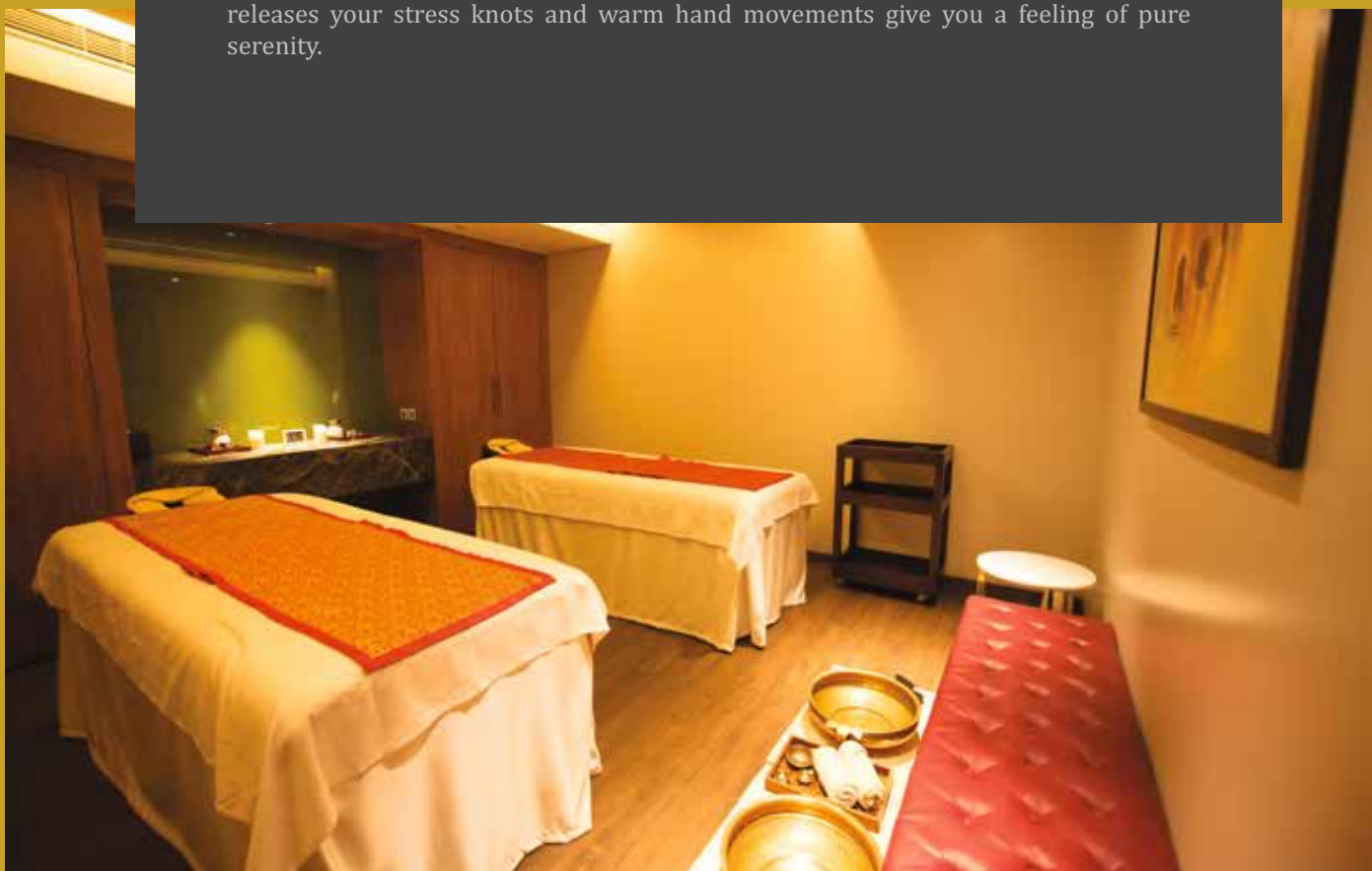


The Sakura spa is inspired by the rich traditions of Japanese culture, where Sakura translates to 'Cherry Blossom'. After the cold white winter, the coming of the Cherry Blossom signifies the time of renewal and new beginnings. The Sakura spa at Marriot Suites incorporates the colours and fragrances of Spring and uses cherry blossom as an integral ingredient in therapies to revive your mind and body

Sakura's rooms are spacious and well-equipped with an exclusive private steam room and walk-in-showers. Wood plays an important role in the design of each room and invokes a muted and minimal approach. Using bronze artefacts like foot basins and bells, Sakura adds an Oriental-Indian touch to the overall ambience.



Sakura's signature therapy uses the 5 senses as an engaging process, which not only work externally but also helps you align your inner chakras. The bespoke therapy releases your stress knots and warm hand movements give you a feeling of pure serenity.



TATTVA

COURTYARD MARRIOTT

The essence of Tattva is 'Sparsa' or touch based 'sense impression' in Indian Ayurveda. It strives to attain harmony & balance of various elements in the human body. Tattva offers unique therapies based on each client's individual requirements. Apart from known treatments like the Swedish Massage and the Deep Tissue massage, Tattva provides various innovative massages that work wonders. The spa offers special free wellness consultation to guests to provide them the perfect spa therapy.



Tattva specialises in Jet lag therapy. An intense therapy to remove tiredness that will boost up your energy and have you back to your normal routine in no time. The Gentle eye reliever is also a favourite at this spa. This simple yet effective treatment encourages the natural drainage of the lymphatic nerves, leaving your eyes rejuvenated. Tattva is your quintessential spa destination post a grueling travel routine.

ARISTO SPA

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON

The Aristo Spa in DoubleTree by Hilton in Chinchwad prides itself on the high functionality of its therapies. With an aim to open all your Chakras, time is always well spent when kicking back at Aristo. Bask in a cool cucumber wrap or blissful body massage and travel to a world beyond worry.



If you're looking for a getaway from the usual hustle and bustle of the city this getaway provides the best escape. Try the special Coconut Milk massage treatment that works wonders for the skin and combined with a soft tissue massage, you're definitely in for a divine 60 minute experience.



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Founded by international property entrepreneur John Hitchcox, and global design icon - Philippe Starck, YOO is an international residential and hotel design brand with 87 projects in 55 cities and 36 countries.

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