

POPPIN APP

VOL V ISSUE IV (Jul-Aug 2024)
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VOICE OF TRIUMPH
Jyotica Tangri

Jason Shah
STELLAR CRAFT
UNCOVERED

Global insights
Unveiled
Victoria S. Zagitova

SUHAIL NAYYAR
UNFILTERED

NATURE'S WILD VISIONARY
Akanksha Sood Singh

THE BEAUTY OCCULT
Cristian Buca

A beacon of hope!
AAKASH RANISON

RADHIKA SETH

Crafting a Digital Alchemy

Relentless. commanding. & fearless
SALONI BATRA

SPECIAL
Fluid inclusive tech couture



MUSE SASHA & CAT | MAKEUP & HAIR CRISTIAN BUCA | PHOTOGRAPHY PRIYANK NANDWANA | PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT DHRUWANG
& MALHAAR | RETOUCHER SAAD MAHMOOD | PRODUCED BY SAAD MAHMOOD

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EXPRESSION OF IDENTITY

The human face is a living canvas, a mosaic of emotions and stories etched into every line and contour. Each face is a unique masterpiece, reflecting the essence of individuality and experience. Artists capture the soul within the gaze, the history in the wrinkles, and the vitality in the smiles and frowns. The face communicates

beyond words, a silent symphony of expression that connects us to each other and to our own humanity. In its infinite variety, the face is a testament to life's richness, a perpetual source of inspiration for those who seek beauty and truth in the human form.

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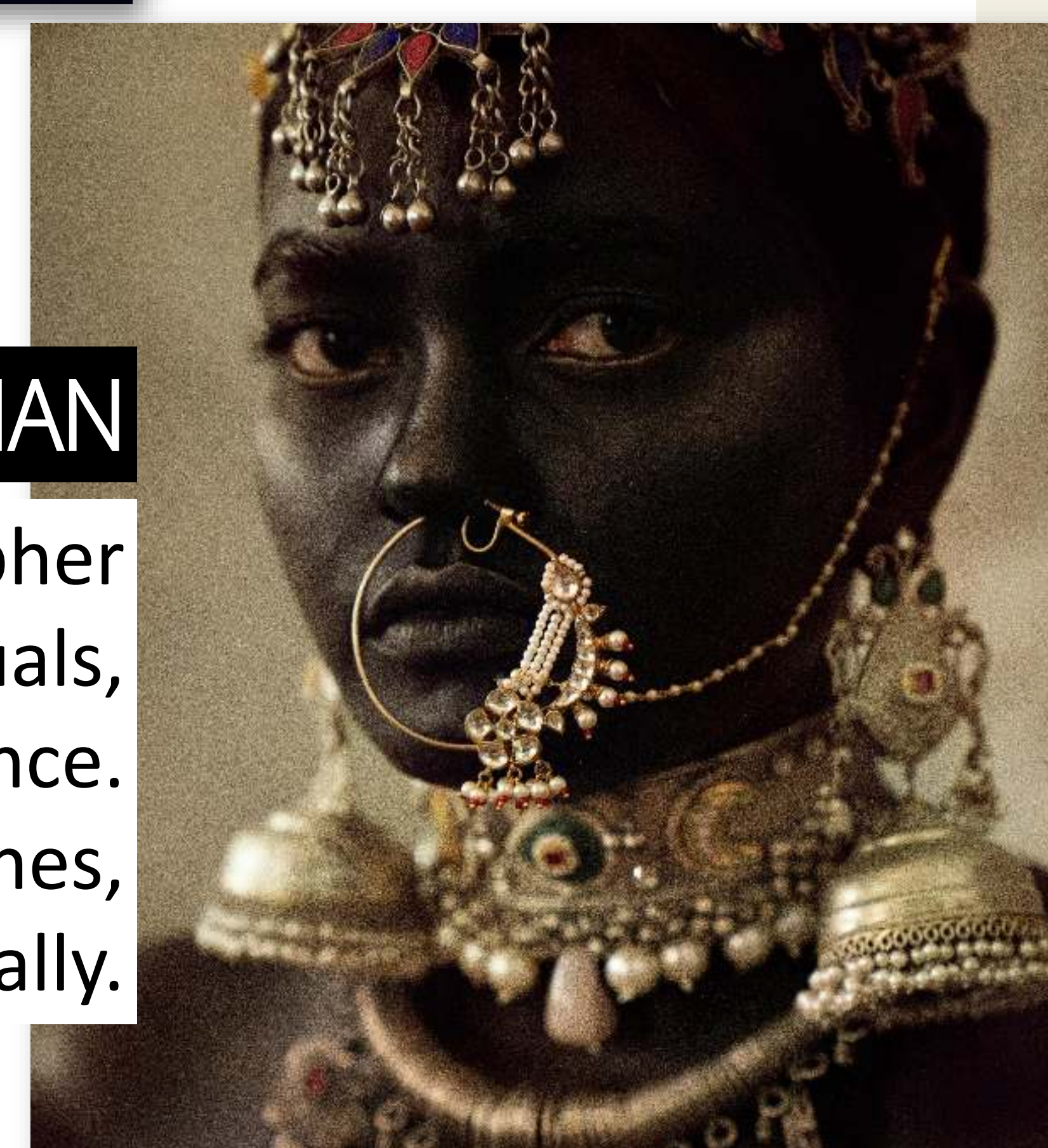
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significance in Modern
Love Adventures.



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Renowned fashion photographer
captures stunning visuals,
blending creativity and elegance.
His work graces top magazines,
setting industry trends globally.





they shape consumer behavior, dictating trends across fashion, beauty, wellness, and beyond!

In the ever-evolving landscape of digital culture, social media influencers have emerged as pivotal arbiters of taste, style, and innovation. Their influence extends beyond mere aesthetics; they shape consumer behavior, dictating trends across fashion, beauty, wellness, and beyond. Collaborations with luxury brands and high-street retailers alike are testament to their clout, as they seamlessly integrate promotional content with engaging storytelling.

This new breed of digital celebrity commands a unique trust, often surpassing traditional advertising methods in efficacy. They are the vanguards of contemporary culture, continually redefining the boundaries of influence and shaping the future of digital interaction.

July is a time for bold expressions, playful creativity, and unapologetic style. In this

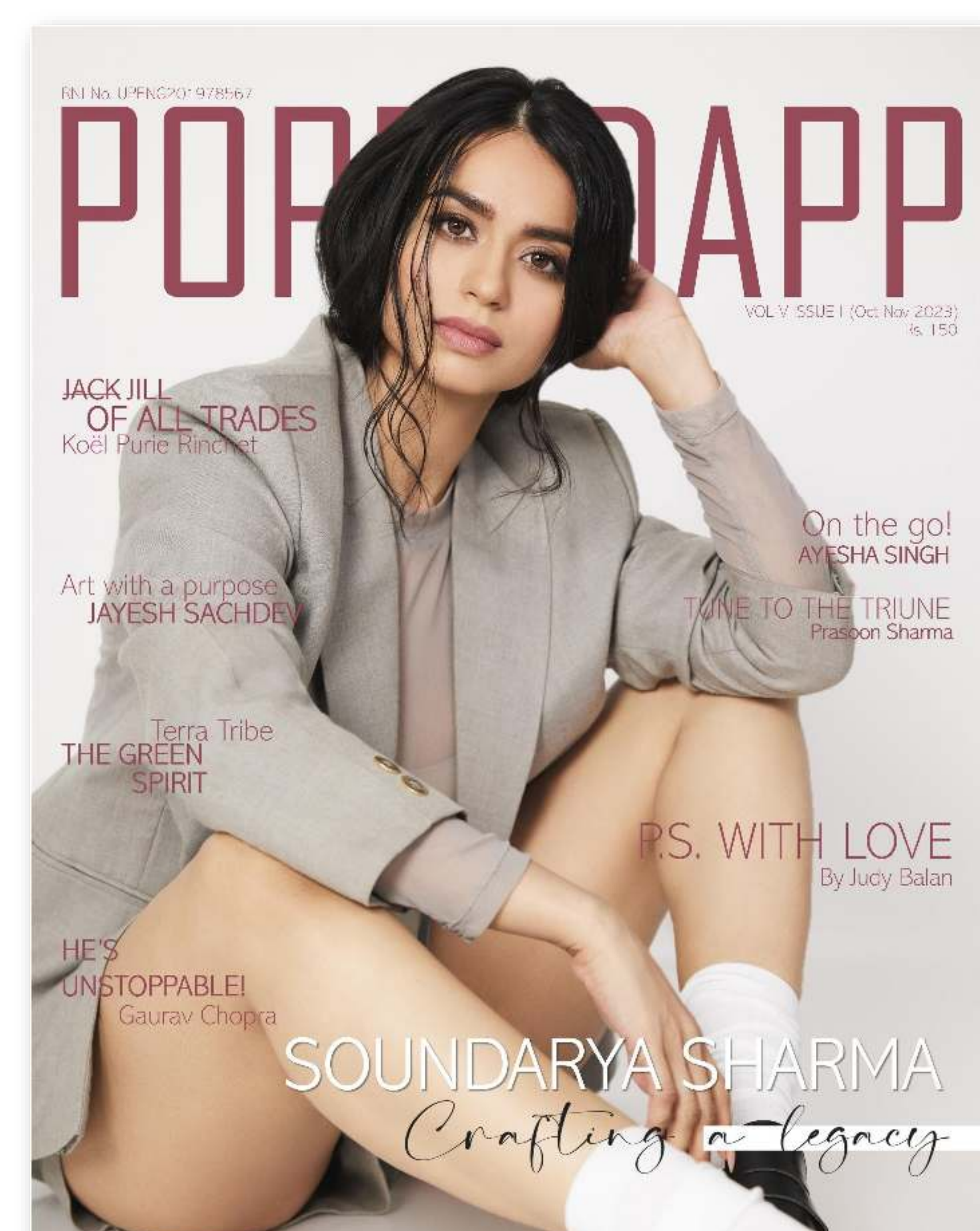
issue, we dive into the world of bright hues and striking patterns, celebrating the fearless fashion choices that define summer 2024. Our cover features the enigmatic Radhika Seth, who perfectly captures the spirit of summer with her dynamic style and captivating energy. Artists like Radhika are the vanguards of contemporary culture, continually redefining the boundaries of influence and shaping the future of digital interaction.

Climate change activists champion sustainability and advocate for decarbonization. Their campaigns highlight the catastrophic impact of anthropogenic emissions and deforestation. This issue captures & highlights the constant efforts of activists like Aakash Ranison & Sneha Shahi. They emphasize the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem preservation, and carbon sequestration.

Physical fitness enhances cardiovascular health, strength, endurance, flexibility, and resilience, promoting longevity, mental well-being, and overall vitality. We have talked to athletes like Girish Bindra & Ripudanan Bevli about their journey & physical health.

As you flip through these pages, I hope you feel inspired to embrace the bold, the beautiful, and the unexpected. Here's to a season of style that's as bright and dynamic as the summer sun! ■

Anuja Mathur
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Navigating the World with Passion and Purpose



Sahib Singh Sadana, a renowned travel blogger from India, has captured the hearts of many with his vivid storytelling, stunning photography, and deep cultural insights.

Sahib Singh Sadana, a renowned travel blogger from India, has captured the hearts of many with his vivid storytelling, stunning photography, and deep cultural insights. Through his blog, Sadana has not only chronicled his adventures across the globe but also inspired countless others to explore and appreciate the world around them.

Inspiration

Born in Delhi, Sahib Singh Sadana developed a passion for travel at a young age. His family's frequent trips across India sparked his curiosity about diverse cultures, landscapes, and histories. This early exposure to travel laid the foundation for his future endeavors. As a teenager, Sadana began documenting his travels through photographs and journals, gradually honing his skills in both writing and photography.

The Birth of a Travel Blogger

After completing his education, Sadana decided to merge his passions for travel, writing, and photography by starting his travel blog. What began as a personal project soon garnered a significant following. His unique perspective, engaging writing style, and eye for detail resonated with readers who sought authentic travel experiences. Sadana's blog covers a wide range of topics, from detailed travel guides and itineraries to

personal anecdotes and cultural insights. He emphasizes sustainable travel practices, encouraging his audience to explore responsibly and respect the environments and communities they visit.

Exploring the World

Sahib Singh Sadana's travels have taken him to some of the most breathtaking and offbeat destinations around the world. From the serene beaches of Southeast Asia to the rugged landscapes of South America, his adventures are as diverse as they are inspiring. Each journey is meticulously documented, with Sadana providing practical tips, historical context, and personal reflections. One of his most notable trips was a solo backpacking adventure through the remote regions of the Himalayas. This journey not only tested his physical endurance but also deepened his appreciation for nature and solitude. Through his blog, Sadana shared his experiences of trekking through challenging terrains, interacting with local communities, and finding inner peace amidst the mountains.

Impact and Influence

Sahib Singh Sadana's influence extends beyond his blog. He is an active presence on social media platforms, where he engages

with his audience through stunning visuals and interactive content. His ability to connect with his followers on a personal level has earned him a loyal and dedicated fan base. Sadana's work has been featured in various travel magazines and online publications, further cementing his reputation as a leading voice in the travel community. He has collaborated with tourism boards, travel brands, and environmental organizations, using his platform to promote sustainable and responsible travel.

Challenges and Future Plans

Despite his success, Sadana faces the challenges that come with a life of constant travel. The demands of creating high-quality content, maintaining a social media presence, and navigating different cultures can be daunting. However, his passion for travel and storytelling keeps him motivated. Looking ahead, Sadana plans to expand his blog by incorporating more video content, offering immersive experiences for his audience. He also aims to explore lesser-known destinations, shedding light on the hidden gems of the world. Additionally, he is working on a book that combines his travel experiences with practical advice for aspiring travelers.■



VOICE OF TRIUMPH

Listening to stories of talents like **Jyotica Tangri** makes us believe in hard work, perseverance, persistence, skills, and destiny. In this interview with Popp Dapp, Jyotica opens about her struggle, passion, inspiration, and much more.

Mumbai is the financial capital of India and the city of dreams! Every year, thousands of young, energetic, talented, and ambitious kids come to this city to make their dreams come true. But the question is, how many of them end up making a sturdy career, name, and fame? Sitting in 2024, when the world is on the brink of knowing everything that they are expected to see, we do not know the answer. And the most important point here is: why? Why is there a huge gap between perception and reality? You may call it luck, destiny, perseverance, competence, or connection, but the real answer is still unknown. Listening to stories of talents like Jyotica Tangri makes us believe in hard work, perseverance, persistence, skills, and destiny. In this interview with Popp Dapp, Jyotica opens about her struggle, passion, inspiration, and much more.

Mumbai has been kind to me.

My journey in the music industry started in 2015 when I moved to Mumbai. I began meeting composers and started singing Scratch. I used to love doing the drill of getting up every day and going out in the city of dreams full of opportunities. I got my first Punjabi song, *Main Marjawan* (Music: Jaidev Kumar, co-singer: Feroz Khan) in 2016. Becoming a finalist in *Saregamapa* gave me a lot of recognition. In 2018, I got '*Pallo Latke*' and my life changed! I never got a debutant award; my first award was for best female playback singer, the 'Zee Cine Award', for '*Pallo Latke*.' Getting nominated and winning amongst my idols 'Sunidhi Chauhan' and 'Shreya Ghoshal' was a big achievement for me!

I was a musical child

My mother tells me that when I was 3 and was being interviewed for my preschool admission, the principal asked me a lot of questions, and I answered most of them by singing songs! After the interview ended, we came out of the office, and I told Mumma sadly, "I forgot to sing that bhajan!" Mumma smiled and said, "You can sing as many songs as you wish in the class." I started learning Hindustani classical music from Guruji, the late Sh. Dharminder Kathak ji (from Jaipur, Gharana), when I was 6 years old. Though kids get bored by classical, I used to love the music—the *Sargam*, *harkat*, and *murkiyaan*. I learned from him for 15 years and gradually decided to take up music as my main subject. I wanted to devote all my time to learning and doing music! >>

<< ‘The Voice 2015’ showed me where I stood as an artist.

‘The Voice 2015’ was the first ever singing reality show, and it was like a mirror to me; it showed me where I stood as an artist and what all I had to improve my performance. It gave me the best moments of my life when all four judges turned for me in the blind auditions and fought for me to be in their teams. Unfortunately, I could not go that far in the show. I got another chance to be a part of *Saregamapa* 2016, a dream stage for aspiring singers. This time, I prepared myself for every challenge. Also, the mentors in the show worked extremely hard on the grooming of vocals, personalities, diction, styling, etc. After becoming the finalist, I came out of the show as a changed person—groomed, smarter, and more confident!

The gift of voice is given to the chosen ones.

I feel extremely grateful for the gift of voice given to me. Whenever I feel low, this is what pulls me out. I try to nurture my voice, take care of it, keep working on improving my singing skills, and mold and discover something new about my voice. Whenever a song is released, I am the biggest listener to my songs. I have heard ‘*Ishq de fanniyar*’ on loop thousands of times, especially on flights. Every day I wake up with the hope of becoming a part of new beautiful songs—that is what keeps me inspired in life!

Music makes you visualize a whole new world in your imagination.

Music has something for everyone, every mood, and every occasion, and music is a dimension that cannot be seen, but it can make you visualize a whole new world in your imagination. This power of music is extremely fascinating. There are only 12 notes (sur) in music, and every song in the world is made by using these 12 notes, but they are as huge as an ocean. As a child, I used to wonder: What if all the troubles get over by the time I grow up? I was afraid. What will I sing? What if new songs cannot be made? But as I grew up, I realized that these 12 notes have endless possibilities and combinations—they are enormous, like oceans!

Always follow the composer’s instructions.

Mika Bhaji was my mentor in 'The Voice'; he has always been a constant support for me in Mumbai. Once, I was going to a renowned composer's studio where Mika Bhaji had recommended my name for the song. Before

leaving for the recording, Mika Bhaji gave me her best wishes and said, "Don't try to become a composer or a lyricist there; go like a singer; follow whatever they tell you." That advice was meaningful because often singers tend to add something to the lyrics or the tune from their end. But the wiser way is to simply follow the composer's instructions because that song is the composer's imagination unless you have been asked for it. It is always better to deliver exactly how the composer asks you to!

I wish to do a music world tour.

I have sung songs that are loved worldwide and are part of people's celebrations. I want to see the live reactions of my audience when listening to my songs; I want to feel what they feel as soon as *Pallo Latke*, *Mungda*, or *Surmedani* play, and that can be achieved by performing concerts all over the world. Though I have done hundreds of shows in the last 8 years, I wish to do a world tour where I perform all my songs for my listeners!



Every rejection made me stronger because I learned from it.

When I moved to Mumbai, I came here with a mindset of 'no expectations'. With that, I mean singing a scratch for a composer and forgetting about it—never troubling anyone by asking about that song I sang. The composers used to keep calling me now and then to sing their demos. I have a strong

feeling that they used to call me again and again to work with them because

1. I was good and fast; everyone loved my grasping power.

2. I never looked back at whatever we had recorded earlier; it was always about the next.

This made everyone's life easier. I did not hurt myself by overthinking about 'when will it work for me'—it is never in my hands! What was in my hands was to keep trying, and, in that process, I kept getting better. I used to sing 4-5 song demos every day; that was my routine. Imagine how fluent I would have become on the studio mic—this kind of practice has helped me discover so many things about my voice! So, not expecting helped me keep my cool, and one fine day I started getting calls from the composers, and it all started working out.

Music has something for everyone, every mood, and every occasion, and music is a dimension that cannot be seen

Writing my songs has helped me evolve as an artist and musician.

Recently, I have started my journey as an independent artist. Songwriting is my new passion, alongside playback singing for films (that is my first love), but writing my songs has helped me evolve as an artist and musician. Whenever I sit down to jam and create a song, I realize how beautiful the feeling of creation is. Being a part of a song from the beginning gives you another level of satisfaction. And when people appreciate that, it is a proud feeling, just like a parent feels proud when their child does well. So, working on some originals, drop soon, some songs have already been released on my label, JT Music, available on all digital platforms. Some amazing Bollywood projects are also in the loop; I cannot disclose the names yet because they are at a very early stage, but I am sure everyone is going to love them all. I am extremely excited because I am getting to work with the people, I have dreamt of working with. ■



DESIGNS OF DISRUPTION

Dhruv Bandil, a 28-year-old fashion brigade! Winning the L'Oreal Pro Creative Award 2024, Dhruv has not only made his mark in the global fashion façade but has also acted as a conduit amid his traditional roots and novel trends. In this discussion, we will get to know him a bit more as a designer as well as a person!

Fashion is one of the largest and most diverse industries in the world due to its subjective nature. If something works for Milan Fashion Week, it might fall flat in Indian markets and vice versa. So, if not international appeal, then what does it take to stay relevant yet ahead of the curve? It is innovation. Bringing something new and innovative to the market is what it takes to become a global brand.

When the world was thinking about the utility of luggage bags in the 1840s and 1950s, Louis Vuitton's innovative approach set the stepping stone for the luxury bags brand, Louis Vuitton. So, the fashion industry has seen it all and done it all! It has been the forerunner of the activist moments of feminism as well as the advocate of inclusivity and representation.

Talking about the contemporary fashion scenario, we have talked to Dhruv Bandil A 21-year-old fashion brigade! Winning the L'Oreal Pro Creative Award 2024, Dhruv has not only made his mark in the global fashion façade but has also acted as a conduit amid his traditional roots and novel trends. In this discussion, we will get to know him a bit more as a designer as well as a person!



resilience and strength of the widows in Vrindavan, interpreted through delicate yet powerful designs. 'Kakanmath' drew inspiration from the grandeur of the ancient Kakanmath temple, translating its mystique into fashion.

Balancing wearability with artistic allure is a fundamental aspect of my design philosophy.

I focus on merging traditional motifs and artistic elements with modern, functional silhouettes. This approach ensures that my garments are not only visually captivating but also practical and comfortable for everyday wear. By using high-quality fabrics and paying close attention to craftsmanship, I create versatile pieces, allowing the wearer to experience both the artistic and functional aspects of the design seamlessly.

The future of the global fashion industry is sustainability, technology, and cultural inclusivity.

Reinforcing my belief in the power of fashion to tell stories

Representing your brand at London Fashion Week, how has the experience been? Representing my brand at London Fashion Week was a pivotal moment in my career. It provided an incredible platform for me to showcase my work to a global audience and engage with leading figures in the fashion industry. The experience was both exhilarating and validating, offering invaluable exposure and feedback. It was an honor to present my designs on such a prestigious stage, reinforcing my belief in the power of fashion to tell stories and connect across cultures. This opportunity has propelled me forward with greater confidence and determination in my creative journey.

Fashion is a profound form of storytelling.

Fashion is a medium through which I can express my identity and emotions. Fashion allows us to explore and communicate who we are and who we aspire to be, blending the past with the future in a continuous dialogue. It is a dynamic canvas for creativity and self-expression, making it both personal and universal.

Indian designers offer a distinctive perspective.

The world is beginning to appreciate the

depth and diversity of Indian textiles and techniques, positioning Indian designers as influential contributors to global fashion. By infusing cultural heritage with contemporary innovation, Indian designers offer a distinctive perspective that enriches the international fashion landscape.



My advice for upcoming fashion designers in India is to stay curious and continuously seek inspiration from diverse sources. Remember, authenticity and passion will set you apart in a crowded field. Be your true self.

Creating an alternative environment that questions existing industrial practices

In the future, I hope to create not only a brand but a worldview that people can experience. The idea is to create an alternative environment that questions existing industrial practices and demonstrates the power of clothing to embrace new ideas about identity, culture, and history.

Embrace creativity and diversity.

Fashion is more than just what we wear; it is a powerful form of self-expression and a way to connect with our heritage and the world around us. As you explore and enjoy fashion, I encourage you to seek out pieces that resonate with your personal story and values. Embrace the creativity and diversity that the fashion world offers, and remember that each garment you choose is a part of your narrative. ■

Grown-up amid the rich culture and heritage

I am from Morena, Madhya Pradesh, India. Growing up amid the rich cultural and historical backdrop of my hometown, I developed a deep fascination with art and traditional crafts. My journey has been a path of continuous learning and exploration. Through my collections, I strive to tell stories that celebrate and reinterpret Indian heritage in modern, wearable art!

Designing was something I always wanted to do.

My first recollection of saying the words "fashion designer" dates to when I was about five years old. My uncle would ask me about my plans, and I would tell him that I wanted to be a fashion designer. My cousins used to tease me about my response, but the answer manifested itself over the years!

‘Vrindavan Widows’ & ‘Kakanmath’

My collections are deeply inspired by the rich cultural and artistic heritage of India. 'Vrindavan Widows' was born from the



Popp Dapp spoke to **Sneha Shahi**, Plastic campaign advocate for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), New Delhi. She works to increase action and awareness on SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) through a network of partners and grassroots leaders across India.

Climate activists are pivotal in driving the global movement against climate change. They advocate for urgent action to mitigate environmental degradation and promote sustainable practices. Through grassroots organizing, public speaking, and social media campaigns, they raise awareness about the impacts of global warming and push for policy changes.

My deep passion for nature and a desire to protect our natural resources

Over the years, I have worked on several projects aimed at restoring degraded streams to their natural states, enhancing water quality, and preventing solid waste, especially plastics, from entering our waterways. These experiences have reinforced my commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability. My journey began with a deep passion for nature and a desire to protect our natural resources. I first started working on a stream named Bhukhi (a rivulet of the Vishwamitri river in Vadodara) with a team from my college (the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda) in 2019 when I noticed the distressing solid waste issues plaguing my stream. My inspiration came from seeing the

resilience of the system despite so many stressors, such as sewage, solid waste, and more. I felt a deep desire to contribute to a solution. We called it the Bhukhi Steam Project. One of our primary obstacles was the lack of awareness about water conservation for smaller freshwater systems, which often get looked at as 'nallahs' or gutters. It was tough to convince people to change their long-standing habits of dumping waste directly in the stream.

Additionally, finding the necessary resources and funding to execute our initiatives on a larger scale was a significant hurdle. We conducted research on anthropogenic stress on Bhukhi due to improper urban planning, bank encroachment, and the release of large quantities of untreated domestic sewage in

the kaans. We received support from over 300 volunteers from across the science faculty and Environmental Science department for this activity and managed to gather around 700 kg of plastic from this patch of about 800 meters. The group segregated 300 kg of this plastic to give it to recycling. The remaining plastic was given to the local municipal administration to dispose of. The result was an increase in the sighting of crocodiles and flap-shell turtles in the patch. We continued to visit the area to keep a tab, and the crocodiles are indeed back because of less solid waste. We were able to clean the patch under university jurisdiction, increase awareness about freshwater bodies, and maintain the ecologically restored stream.

Popp Dapp: When did you first get involved in climate activism, and what did it teach you?

Sneha Shahi: Growing up in Assam and Meghalaya as a child was a privilege, as I lived close to nature and untouched ecosystems. North-east India has some of the rainiest places in the country, and yet, due to a myriad of reasons, be it infrastructure or socio-political conflicts, they have a scarcity of drinking water. We had to visit communal taps to access drinking water, while most people enjoy water available in the comfort of their homes. This issue has stayed with me since then, and this is reflected in my projects related to water conservation. It taught me that we need to take proactive measures to address environmental issues rather than just complain about them. Activism has shown me the power of collective action and the importance of advocating for policy changes and sustainable practices. Proximity to forests and mountains instills a sense of responsibility, especially when you see the gradual destruction of these places. For me, balancing science and action has always been a priority, and I strongly believe action stems from empathy towards nature.

PD: The invention of plastic is one of the most lethal double-edged swords. On one side, it has immense usage in developing countries, and on the other side, it is making our planet sicker day by day. What is the probable solution?

SS: Banning plastic, or, as we call it, a blanket ban, is not practical, especially in developing countries like ours, where it is deeply integrated into daily life. From a young age, we start using plastics and never seem to be able to get rid of the plastic options and switch to more sustainable alternatives. I believe we need a phased approach to reduce our reliance on single-use plastics. This means developing and promoting sustainable alternatives that are both affordable and accessible to all. Traditionally, we never used as much plastic as we do now, to the extent that billions of tons of waste float in our oceans and rivers. We need to improve waste management systems to handle plastic more efficiently and implement policies that encourage recycling and responsible plastic use. We do not even have basic knowledge of the awareness of plastic types among our population. How are we to describe "good" and "bad" plastics? At the end of the day, we do need plastic in many sectors, especially healthcare and the

food industry, to ensure safety and healthy practices. Public education and awareness campaigns are crucial to changing consumer behavior and reducing plastic waste. People need to understand the environmental impact of their choices and be empowered to make more sustainable decisions. By taking these steps, we can create a more sustainable future without disrupting lives. It is about finding a balance between practicality and environmental responsibility, ensuring that our solutions are inclusive and effective for all communities. Together, we can phase out harmful plastics and protect our planet for future generations.



PD: What are some of the direct impacts of plastic that we can see on our flora and fauna?

SS: Plastic pollution has devastating impacts on both flora and fauna. As a young researcher in conservation, I see firsthand how wildlife suffers from ingesting plastic debris and mistaking it for food. This can cause malnutrition, intestinal blockages, and even death. Marine animals, like turtles and seabirds, are especially vulnerable. They can also become entangled in plastic, leading to severe injuries or fatalities. Moreover, plastics break down into microplastics, which are ingested by smaller organisms. This contamination works its way up the food chain, potentially disrupting entire ecosystems. On land, plastic waste can smother plants and disrupt soil health, hindering plant growth and reducing biodiversity. It is heartbreaking to witness these impacts. By raising awareness and promoting sustainable practices, we can reduce plastic pollution and protect our planet's incredible biodiversity. Together, we can make a difference.

PD: Climate change is no longer a future demon; we are starting to see its impact in the form of delayed monsoons, extreme heat waves, floods, forest fires, sinkholes, etc. What immediate actions should be taken by governments?

SS: As a part of my PhD, I have conducted fieldwork in many remote areas and have witnessed the devastating effects of floods

and droughts on rivers and the communities that rely on them. Governments must act immediately and comprehensively to mitigate and adapt to these challenges. Enhancing our resilience to climate impacts is vital. Governments should prioritize strengthening infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events. This includes improved flood defenses, better water management systems, and restoring natural habitats like wetlands and forests, which can act as natural buffers against floods and droughts. We must promote sustainable agricultural practices to protect our water resources and ensure food security. Supporting farmers in adopting techniques that conserve water and maintain soil health is crucial. Our disaster preparedness and response plans are necessary, considering the changing climate. Governments need to engage with communities, scientists, and stakeholders to develop policies that are inclusive and effective. By taking these immediate actions, we can better protect our environment and the vulnerable communities most affected by climate change.

PD: What do you want to say to those who are so discouraged by the climate crisis that they are ready to give up?

SS: It is natural to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the climate crisis, but giving up is not an option, not this late when we have the longest river in the world drying up and our glaciers melting. Every small action counts, and collectively, we can make a significant difference. Focus on what you can do within your capacity, whether it is reducing your carbon footprint, advocating for policy changes, or supporting organizations working towards sustainability. Remember, change often starts with individuals and spreads to communities and beyond. Staying hopeful and actively contributing to preserving our planet is what we need the most right now.

PD: What are your future plans?

SS: My plans would involve developing sustainability strategies based on scientific research. I plan to create and implement conservation plans that are not only environmentally sound but also socially and economically viable. By working closely with communities, policymakers, and other stakeholders, I hope to promote practices that protect our natural resources while enhancing the well-being of society. The goal will be to contribute to a sustainable future where both people and nature can thrive.■

Depths of Vision

Anup J. Kat, an ingenious cinematographer, a gifted underwater photographer, a fervent scuba diver, and the co-founder of 'First December Films', talks to Popp Dapp about his artistic visions, passions, inspiration, and journey!

Cinematic visionaries, or directors, are the people who bring out the essence of life and project it in front of audiences. And it is the knack of the cinematographers that an audience comes face-to-face with the vision created by the directors. Sometimes

the difference between a good and not-so-good film is how it has been shot or captured.

Wonders start to happen with a spark in the consciousness, but wonders actually happen with their correct

execution. Anup J. Kat, an ingenious cinematographer, a gifted underwater photographer, a fervent scuba diver, and the co-founder of 'First December Films', talks to Popp Dapp about his artistic visions, passions, inspiration, and journey!





I picked up the camera again and started shooting.

My journey with the camera began at 8 when my dad handed me one. Unlike me, he preferred being in front of the camera, as he was an actor and director for TV serials. I spent my childhood immersed in my dad's production house, surrounded by various departments. I was particularly drawn to the camera crew, admiring their long hours and dedication. After completing my B.Com. at St. Joseph's College of Commerce, I knew I didn't want a career in a call center or BPO. I picked up the camera again and started shooting, initially focusing on portfolios and weddings. Gradually, I moved on to corporate films and, eventually, ad films. Though I never received a formal education in filmmaking, the world has been my classroom, and the people I have met along the way have been my teachers.

The artistry and technical skill behind each scene inspired me deeply.

I always wanted to be a cinematographer. However, to make ends meet and buy gifts for my then-girlfriend and now-wife, I took up photography jobs. My love for cinema was profound; I often watched movies by myself, captivated by well-framed shots and seamless camera work. The artistry and technical skill behind each scene inspired me deeply, fueling my passion for cinematography. Watching great films not only entertained me but also taught me invaluable lessons about visual storytelling and the magic of the camera.

I have plenty of inspiration.

I have a deep admiration for the works of several cinematographers. Roger Deakins' masterpieces like "Mountains of the Moon," "Blade Runner 2049," "1917," and "The

Shawshank Redemption" have always inspired me. Emmanuel Lubezki's innovative techniques in "The Revenant" and "Birdman," along with Robert Richardson's dynamic visuals in "Inglourious Basterds" and "The Aviator," have also greatly influenced my approach to cinematography. The way Gordon Willis used shadows and light in "The Godfather" and "All the President's Men" and Vittorio Storaro's bold use of color in "Apocalypse Now" are other examples of the brilliance that I look up to.

I must also mention Bruno Aveillan, one of the first to get me thinking about experimenting with lenses and foreground elements. I am captivated by the way he bends light, pushing the boundaries of visual storytelling. These artists have shaped my understanding and appreciation of cinematography, fueling my passion for the craft.

The “First December Films”

First December Films was named in a coffee shop just a few hours before a meeting with an agency we had pitched to. When we started, it was a design house that handled everything from websites to posters to corporate films. However, my brother and I eventually decided to focus on what we love best: films. Along the way, we brought Ganesh on board. He has embraced the role of producer, taken over as the captain of the ship, and done exceptionally well.

Popp Dapp: How do you maintain your artistic vision in a deadline- or stressed-out environment?

Anup J. Kat: Book a flight, go scuba diving, and stay away from the clutter of the industry.

Your brain is always working on a solution.

I get creator's block all the time. What works for me is to take a walk and not think about it. Subconsciously, your brain is always working on a solution. Things always fall into place; they always have and they always will.

Collaboration is key.

The first thing to keep in mind is that, as a cinematographer, my primary responsibility is to realize the director's vision for the film. At times, we may have differing perspectives, but through conversation, taking breaks, and understanding each other's points of view, we can find common ground. Collaboration is key, and ultimately, the show must go on.

Understand the complexities of filmmaking.

The advent of Instagram has made it easier for behind-the-camera teams in the entertainment industry to get recognition and credit. It allows cinematographers, editors, and other crew members to share their work and processes with a broader audience, showcasing their contributions and helping people understand the complexities of filmmaking. One thing I keep getting asked is, "What is the job of a focus puller?"

Introducing people to the unseen world under the ocean

Aside from the ad films and a couple of feature films I have recently signed up for, I am working on underwater projects to introduce people to the unseen world under the ocean. For the past six years, I have been building a brand called One Ocean, One Love with my partner Zeba, aiming to encourage more Indians to dive and explore the underwater world. ■

GLOBAL INSIGHTS UNVEILED

Victoria S. Zagitova, the founder of the Young and Hired (YH) project that helps people build their careers and an international relations and communications specialist, explains to Popp Dapp about her advent into this field, her knacks to get into the international relations domain, her experiences, and much more.

Though the world is far from the vision of a “borderless world, but the borders have blurred with the seamless flow of information, transparency, and talented people in international relations who make cultures, political stances, and cross-border business scenarios understandable. We are sitting at a time when geopolitics and global economic scenarios are no longer the topics of international news fanatics but have also become a coffee table discussion for the average, educated citizen. Victoria S. Zagitova, the founder of the Young and Hired (YH) project that helps people build their careers and an international relations and communications specialist, explains to Popp Dapp about her advent into this field, her knacks to get into the international relations domain, her experiences, and much more.

Believe in your dreams! We live in a world of opportunities. Sometimes, it is only important to understand where to look for them, and everything can be set up in a moment. Just believe. It is possible. You can be hired!

UNESCO, Paris

I started my journey in international relations by working at UNESCO in the Paris office as a communications intern. Since then, I have worked on projects with various international organizations, including WWF, ITU, UN-Migration, and UN Headquarters, and have grown my blog, @victoriaspeaking, to inspire others to start their international relations journey!

A global citizen

Since childhood, I have always wanted to travel, speak different languages, and be a global citizen! However, I initially did not understand how to combine these interests and make it a career. Since I discovered IR, I have been amazed at the vast opportunities it presents! My first step was to get an IR education, but I needed help understanding what exactly I wanted, because usually people think that IR means to become a diplomat, but I needed more. After 6 internships in different structures, I realized that I like communications and international relations, so I developed an IR career in communications, became an international communications specialist, and decided to help others understand what they can do with their careers!

Focus on the solutions.

There is no need to focus too much on turbulent geopolitical situations; the world is always full of problems, but the task of an international employee is to focus on solutions and make this world a better place. When I went to study international relations, I was scared that my direction might not be promising, but, the more problems there are in the world, the more the world needs specialists in international relations who are trained to look for solutions to global problems.

What do I want to work for?

"Subscribe to Young and Hired," ha-ha-ha! The best thing to get into international relations is to do research, that is, to understand what areas there are within work in international relations, not only the work of diplomats but other professions. Did you know that international organizations sometimes need drivers? Or that you can find a hairdresser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Or do consulting companies hire government relations specialists? Studying international relations and working in international organizations opens a huge number of career opportunities, so it is

important to answer the question: What do I want to work for? Where do I want to work? In which country? The first step is to find real job openings that suit your interests. The next step is to analyze the job requirements and understand what you already have and what you still need to learn. I know, it can sound overwhelming! That is why I created YH: it is crucial to meet kind and friendly people who have already taken this path to advise you and encourage you psychologically—to make you believe that it is possible. During the meeting, our consultants help you analyze these aspects and build a long-term plan to achieve your career goals.



"Young and Hired"

The idea to create YH came to me in my first year of graduate school. I studied global

affairs, and like a typical representative of the younger generation, I went on social media to find out where I could work. I realized that there was not a single blogger on Instagram who talked about international relations, so I thought, why not create such a blog myself? As a result, in addition to my page @victoriaspeaking, the Young and Hired project was born, which began to consist of a group of consultants who help young people around the world understand how to get a job in international relations and, most importantly, find themselves in this field.

Results fuel me.

Seeing the happy eyes and sincere smiles of every person who has become closer to their dream! I love talking to people who tried YH and now work in international relations. Sometimes, I meet them in the streets of Geneva when they come from their offices. This feeling is incredible! It keeps me going because I know that every day, we give hope and make someone happier!

The world is much more complex than I thought.

Studying geopolitics and the global economy helped me understand that the world is much more complex than I think, and it can be looked at from different perspectives to understand what it consists of and what aspects can influence the development of the current state of affairs. All subjects are valuable because they show you a certain model of understanding the world, so it is important to study different subjects to expand your knowledge and understand which components can change everything. A specialist in international relations is a person who has different paradigms of the world in their arsenal and understands what exactly needs to be applied to solve problems.

A solution to the complex and stressful recruitment processes

I plan to create a solution to the complex and stressful recruitment process we have today. Finding a job or employee nowadays is something that causes anxiety and takes up time and resources. YH is the first step to making the process of getting a job easier. Currently, our team is developing a mobile application called Almost Hired (AH) that will help companies and candidates find jobs with one click. You will find out more about it very soon, but in the meantime, subscribe to us to be the first to know about our product!■



NATURE'S WILD VISIONARY

Akanksha Sood Singh, a wildlife filmmaker, producer, & a writer – captures the beauty and complexity of nature, bringing untold stories of animal behavior and ecosystems to the screen. Through her lens, she raise awareness about conservation issues, showcasing the delicate balance of life and inspiring viewers to appreciate and protect the natural world!

I am a wildlife filmmaker—the only career I have ever known!

I am a naval officer's daughter. I grew up wandering along the coastline of Bombay, enchanted by the sea. I never thought there was a career to be made there. The turning point came when I was 6 and my father bought us a television set. That window changed my life. I grew up through some of the most iconic programming on Doordarshan and transitioned into natural history with the coming of cable television. And yet, I could not think of it as a career. Was it something an Indian could do—chase animals, live in jungles, make films? Nah. But somewhere in my subconscious, the idea was embedded. I was 21, having left my post-graduation halfway through, and just about starting in public relations when I got to know about this wildlife filmmaker who was looking for an assistant. He had two conditions: he could not pay, and the person should know how to drive.

That is how I met my husband! We got married eight years later after I had given him enough grief. In the first decade of my life, because I was not

from film school, I worked in various capacities across genres: television, advertising, news, format shows, reality TV, regional cinema, Bollywood, cross-over films, and documentaries. This was a phase of exploring the craft and finding my strengths. I found my niche as a line producer of wildlife films being shot in India. The learning curve from working with some of the biggest names in this field is not something that would have been carved out at a film school. Then came the next decade of my career—being a director. I started with a human-interest documentary, *The Pad Piper*.

It won me a lot of international recognition and the National Award from the President of India as the producer and director. The next was my wildlife debut with my husband, which also got us a national award. There was no looking back. I had to stop being a freelancer and start my brand. That is how my production house, *The Gaia People*, was started. 22 years later, in the third decade of my career, I am now a mother, mentor, cook, producer, director, writer, and DIY freak!

It happened over time.

I started as a line producer. It was how I picked up the nuances of the craft because I worked very closely with directors from around the world. The way their minds worked to craft stories—that was my hook. The 10 years of diverse experience across genres added to it. The Pad Piper made me realize how good a storyteller I can be, and every film thereon strengthened that belief.

The ‘wild’ inspires me

And the possibilities of my imagination. It is rare to be able to monetize your passion, but here we are. I make enough to run my house comfortably for a year. But the fact that I can take my children to work with me—in the wild—let them wander carefree and experience and reflect as they grow—that is fuel for my fire!

‘The Gaia People’

When I wanted to start my own production house, we were very clear that we would specialize in natural history and human-interest documentaries. We did not have money to get a branding specialist on board, so we sat at home and brainstormed. The Gaia People were Praveen’s brainchild; in Greek mythology, Gaia is the personification of Mother Earth. And for the work we do, we are her people.

Acceptance was hard; mental health, inclusion, and diversity were unheard of.

I was 22 when I started. I had no one around me to look up to as a mentor, guide, or friend in this field. I have worked in some extremely toxic environments. Acceptance was hard; mental health, inclusion, and diversity were unheard of. 22 years later, in the conservation world, we have just about taken one step forward.

And that one step is purely because there is a generation of women who are saying no, who are owning themselves and their talent, and opening doors for other women. Over the past few decades, there has been an accelerating and conscious global shift towards acceptance, inclusion, and gender equality. Legal frameworks are strengthening, economic equity is being promoted, the healthcare network is expanding, cultural change is being fostered, and education and advocacy are being enhanced. Yet, a lot of work needs to be done as individuals and as a society.

‘Women of the Wild’ a revolution! I did not see it coming!

The idea was to create a yellow page to bring women working in STEAM with nature together under one umbrella. It was as simple as that, and for me, back then, it was revolutionary enough! The fact that today it is a safe space, inspiration board, and networking tool and is driving institutional change is a badge of honor. But the credit goes to all the women of the wild (and a few men too) who have trusted me with their words, shared their apprehensions and experiences, and, in the process, owned this space as their own too. It has not been easy. And it has just started. There is a lot of ground to cover!

I tilt towards what my soul says and use my experience to drive that commercially.

Honestly, commercial viability was something that concerned me a lot when I started making my films. Back then, it was a tight walk. I have largely worked on direct commissions from broadcasters. In this agreement, the broadcasters own all the rights, and thus they have an editorial say. It takes the burden away a little from the

balancing act, as you must follow their advice. Today I am in a position where I make films the way I want to, crafting them through my learnings over the years and being aware of what the audience is looking for. I do want to make money, but I make money to make films. To keep the bread and butter going, I undertake some commercial projects: advertisements, social media content, brand films, short documentaries, et al.

I want to model as a middle-aged gray-haired woman!

And I want to take my stories of the wild into the fiction space next—to engage a wider audience beyond the obvious. *Kantara*, *Sherni*—the precedents exist. I have a databank of stories from the last 22 years and am slowly tapping into them and beginning to write.

We are all nervous and excited about

On the Brink, Season 3, with 10 episodes, which is gearing up for release. This is the first time we have made films on three marine species from India. This season will see:

- .Mahseer with Neethi Mahesh, filmed across the Kaveri River in Karnataka
- .Sharks with Dr. Divya Karnad, filmed in Chennai
- .Brown Bears with Niazul Khan, filmed in Drass Kargil and along the LoC
- .Dugongs with Swapnali Gole, filmed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- .Sangai with Dr. Chongpi Tuboi, filmed in Manipur
- .Butterflies with Dr. Krushnamegh Kunte, filmed in Karnataka
- .Spiny-Tailed Lizard with Caleb D. Gnonavalu, filmed in the Thar
- .Rhinos with Dr. Udayan Borathakur, filmed across Kaziranga and West Bengal
- .Flamingos with Dr. Amit Kumar filmed across the National Capital Region of Delhi
- .Corals with Dr. Idrees Babu, filmed in Lakshadweep

Season 3 is very different from the first two seasons—a format experiment of sorts, something not tried with wildlife films yet. We are all nervous and excited about this. ■





Bindu Gopal Rao, a consummate photographer and writer, opens up to Popp Dapp about the knacks of writing, art, photography, and life!

RAW NATURE'S CHRONICLES

It is important to find what makes you happy and actively seek that out. Also, do a job that you love, as that is when you can give it your 100 percent, and that will also make you happy.

Capturing the moment sounds like something we are always obsessed with. But photography is not just about capturing the visual; it is an alternate universe altogether. Today's booming faction of photographers is truly the eyes of the world. What we see with our naked eyes and what a lens captures sometimes seem poles apart. And since perception is reality, photographic perception is our new digital reality! Bindu Gopal Rao, a consummate photographer and writer, opens up to Popp Dapp about the knacks of writing, art, photography, and life!

Writing and photography

I started writing in publications when I landed a job posting my MBA and ICWA (yes, I have not studied journalism) at a newspaper. I worked as a business analyst, a role and designation created specifically for me as the editor wanted someone who could write analytical business stories. So, I wrote extensively on stock markets, finance, and more in my short nine-month stint. After that, I switched to a job with an IT major that I still work for and continue to freelance. It has been over two decades of writing across varied topics, something I have always done.

It happened very organically.

Photography was not always the plan; I think it happened very organically. I have always believed in taking my photos for my stories. Probably that is what triggered my interest in photography, and I have learned on the job, on my own.

Nature inspires me.

I am self-motivated and am inspired when I see nature. My travels, fortunately, always get me up close to nature, which I believe has been a great source of inspiration.

I have always liked to write.

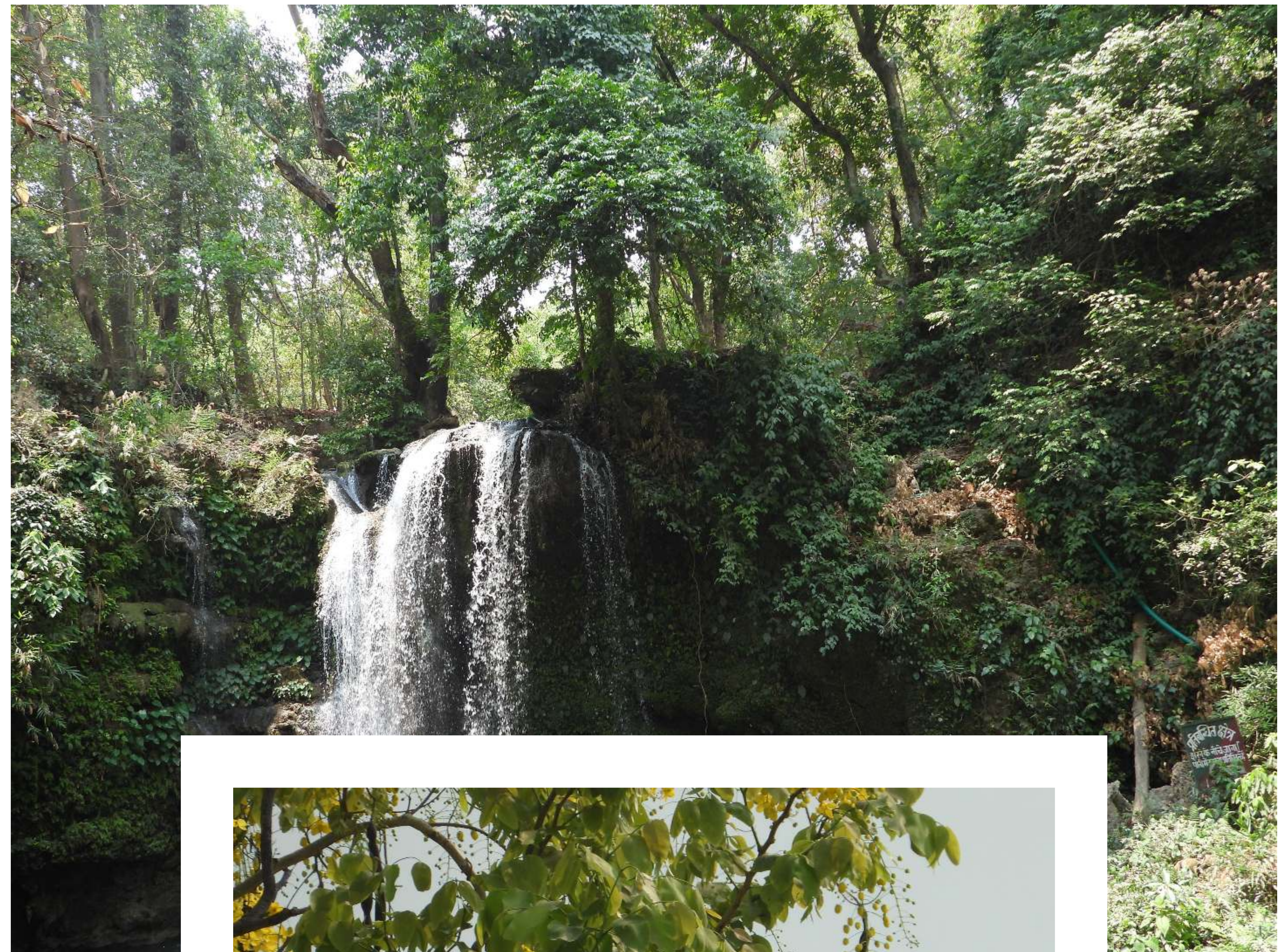
I have dabbled in a bit of writing in my school magazine. My first job, however, was the trigger, especially my first byline, which felt very good. And then it was something that motivated me—learning new things, interviewing different people—it opened my mind to a world that was fantastic and continues to evolve even today.

Birds give me immense joy.

Nature and wildlife, especially birds, are key areas of interest. As I mentioned, the abundance of nature means that there is so much to see and discover. Although photographs do no justice to the beauty of nature, I believe they are a great way to capture some of its essence. And to use a cliché, 'a picture is worth a thousand words.' I also love wildlife, especially birds, as it is something I truly enjoy and seek out every day. Birds give me immense joy, and I feel they have a therapeutic effect on me.

A lot has changed in the publishing world.

In the past two decades, a lot has changed in the publishing world. When I started, the concept of freelancing was novel and limited to a very small group of people. Today, however, it is an overcrowded market where there are too many people freelancing and vying for the same publications. Also, post-COVID, there has been a dramatic shift in the print world and an increased focus on things being digital. I have also tried to change my perspective and look at new ways of writing to suit different publications. I am looking forward to writing more and looking at newer publications that give me the scope to write something outside my comfort zone. ■





AN EMERGING STAR FOR FORCE

Embarking on a cinematic odyssey, **Binita Budathoki** emerges as a luminary in the entertainment realm. With a blend of raw talent and refined skill, this rising star captivates audiences, bringing fresh intensity and nuance to every role. Her performances, characterized by profound emotional depth and remarkable versatility, promise to

redefine standards and elevate storytelling. As she navigates the intricate tapestry of the film industry, her magnetic presence and artistic commitment are poised to make an indelible impact, heralding the arrival of a transformative force in the world of cinema. The stage is set for an extraordinary journey of success and acclaim!

'A girl from Manali trying to make it big in Mumbai'

I am a Pahadi born and brought up in Manali, Himachal Pradesh. I come from a lower-middle-class family. Growing up, I realized that I am a very creative person. As my Instagram bio says, 'A girl from Manali trying to make it big in Mumbai', I've always dreamt big irrespective of all the circumstances. I was a top student in school; hence, I did most of my schooling on scholarship. I opted for

medicine as my stream. I even managed to get myself a seat to do MBBS, but I took the difficult road and did not go for it. Rather, I did my graduation in journalism and mass communication to give myself a fair chance in this creative field. I have always been this overly excited, high-energy person. If I had to define myself in one word, I would say I am like a chihuahua. Tiny, pretty, and always barking (well, talking in my case), but very lovable and honest. For me, it is what it is. I

just cannot lie, and a lot of my friends feel that sometimes I am way too honest and I need to chill. I manifest a lot, and I have very big dreams in my life. I work hard each day to grow my skills, so I am hardworking. I love animals, and I am not just a dog or a cat person; I am an animal person. I love to write. Writing is like therapy to me. Ahhh Journey? It has just started, but I know I am going to make it big. I must.

I always wanted to be a journalist and a writer.

I was the captain of the debate society in my school and college. That is why I did my graduation in journalism and mass communication. I worked with AajTak, Amazon, and Rusk Media as a writer and an anchor after college. Although I had done some ads in college for some extra pocket money, post-Covid, I got an ad film for McDonald's, and it changed the game for me. How I enjoyed being in front of the camera that day is something that I cannot express in words. So, I thought of trying my hands at acting and moved to Mumbai two years ago, where I landed my first acting job within a week. I am very happy with my journey till now, and I cannot wait to experience whatever comes my way in the future.

Art inspiration comes from within.

Growing up, due to some financial problems, I was not privileged enough to go to a private school until I was in fifth grade. I knew as a child that I was lagging compared to other students who were going to a good school, especially when it came to learning and speaking English. So, I started watching shows like Hannah Montana and Wizards of Waverly Place in English and borrowed books to read (like Cinderella, Snow White, and Pinocchio) to learn English. Little did I know that this process was converting me into a creative person. I used to write, dance, and direct plays in school and play important characters in them. This experience of being underprivileged and trying to cover it with extra hard work is helping me today with my career. Also, my mummy, an uneducated and beautiful Pahadi woman who started as a house help today, is a businesswoman who runs her own small guest house as the owner of the place in Manali. This is enough for me to get inspired.

I understand life better now.

I was like this in Manali, and I am still the same in Mumbai. I do agree that I have grown as a person. I understand life better now. I have become better at decision-making. What Mumbai taught me is survival. To make every day count and push myself. Let people know that I am here and ask them to give me opportunities. Never shy away from asking for work, and make sure your presence counts. Social media at present is the best way to do this, and that's why I

started posting frequently on Instagram only after moving to Mumbai, it helped me get good auditions for myself and financially as well through different collaborations.

I want to test my capabilities.

I am very new to this industry, but I would like to play a character like Sehmat Syed (Alia Bhatt in Raazi), Mimi (Kriti Sanon in Mimi), Michelle (Rani Mukerjee in Black), or Amy Dune (Rosamund Pike in Gone Girl), and trust me, there are so many characters that I would love to play. I want to test my capability to play characters from different parts of India as well. Well, I cannot talk much about the projects that are releasing shortly, but I can tell you all that till now I have covered Haryana, Delhi, and Indore.

Fashion is something that represents one's personality.

Fashion should be an individual's personal choice; not what others would want him or her to wear. When it comes to me, I love clothes, and shopping gives me a different kick in life. Also, fashion is not expensive at all. I have always been into street shopping and thrifting. Sarojini can be called my wonderland. When Mummy used to work as house help, her owners used to give us a lot of old, good-branded clothes, and I used to get very happy and style them. Today, because of my Instagram, I get a lot of clothes for free from different big brands, and sometimes they even pay me to wear them. So, I am sorted like that.

I will dress up like a boy one day and like a princess the next day.

I will wear sneakers one day and high-heeled pumps the next day. So, it depends on my mood and how I feel in the morning. I think I am decent at styling myself, and in the future, I will get to learn more about fashion and styling because of my acting career.

Maybe win an Oscar (manifesting here).

Write stories and make these stories heard. Being an animal lover, I want to get a farmhouse on the outskirts of Mumbai where I can have thousands of street animals stay with me. Get Mummy Papa a beautiful house, spend more time with my family, find a good life partner, and settle down. I have kids and will grow old with my partner. Nothing is new, but the old way is the best way to live life. Is it not? ■

Please be kind to each other, to every living thing in this world, and our environment and earth. And dream big, big, big. Love and hugs to you all.





FLUID INCLUSIVE TECH COUTURE

Gender-neutral fashion embraces inclusivity and individuality, dissolving traditional boundaries. Designs focus on versatility and comfort, allowing self-expression beyond gender norms. This shift fosters a more inclusive industry, where fluidity in clothing reflects evolving identities and celebrates diversity, redefining fashion as a space for everyone.



CONCEPT & STYLING THE CLOSET CASE
| CREATIVE TEAM ARUN SINGH,
KARTIKAY PANDEY, & VINSHIVAM | MUSE
PRATIBHA THAKUR | PHOTOGRAPHY
SHOBHIT BAJPAYI | MAKEUP & HAIR
SIMPY SARASWATI

FLUID INCLUSIVE TECH COUTURE

The future of fashion is poised at the intersection of technology, sustainability, and individuality. As we move further into the 21st century, the industry is transforming in ways that promise to revolutionize how we conceive, create, and consume clothing.

Technology is leading this charge with innovations like 3D printing, smart fabrics, and augmented reality. 3D printing allows for the creation of bespoke pieces with minimal waste, tailoring garments to individual specifications with unprecedented precision. Smart fabrics embedded with sensors can monitor health, adapt to temperature changes, or even charge devices, blending functionality with fashion. Augmented reality (AR) is reshaping the shopping experience, enabling virtual try-ons that reduce the need for physical samples and cut down on returns, which in turn minimizes waste.

Sustainability is no longer a buzzword but a central tenet of modern fashion. Brands are increasingly adopting eco-friendly practices, from using recycled materials to implementing zero-waste production techniques. The shift towards a circular economy is gaining momentum, with designers creating garments that are intended to be reused, recycled, or composted at the end of their lifecycle. This focus on sustainability addresses the urgent need to reduce the fashion industry's environmental footprint and promotes a more conscientious approach to consumption.

Individuality and self-expression are becoming more pronounced in fashion's future. The rise of customizable clothing, driven by digital advancements, means consumers can co-create designs, ensuring their wardrobe is a true reflection of their personal style. This democratization of fashion empowers individuals and encourages diversity in fashion choices.

In this evolving landscape, the future of fashion promises to be a harmonious blend of innovation, sustainability, and personal expression, redefining the industry for a more thoughtful and dynamic era. ■



INFLUENCE REDEFINED BOLDLY



With the rise of social media as we speak, Instagram public figures have clinched a very crucial role in the marketing and branding strategies of national as well as global brands. From a Bollywood celebrity's promotional activity to a political leader's election campaign, a social media influencer's reel is a must-stop! Believe it or not,

social media celebrity culture has transposed the media, entertainment, and advertising industries. People might have opposing views, but you may like it or dislike it—but it is not going anywhere! **Apurva Saxena**, a full-time content creator, shares her story, experiences, and content creation nuances with Popp Dapp.

I started when content creation was limited to blogs.

I was born and brought up in Delhi, and I have been a full-time content creator since 2010. I started my journey when content creation was limited to writing personal experiences in the form of blogs. It was also the time when Facebook was still new, YouTube was not that smooth, and we were warming up to the idea of Instagram.

I wanted to be an animator and wanted to create movies like Harry Potter.

By the time I graduated with a degree in English honors and cinematography, the recession had hit hard in India. That is when I stumbled upon the world of blogging when we only had a handful of bloggers in India. It intrigued me, and I started it as a side hobby, which quickly grew on me, I have had phases of doing it full-time and part-time since there was no money involved in it back then. Blogging was a very new concept for the Indian market. Very few brands gave content creation importance, and print media was still the mainstream form of media. In between this journey, I also taught Visual Communication as a guest faculty member at the College of Art (D.U.), assisted a senior fashion stylist at the top fashion magazine in India, wrote articles on fashion, travel, and beauty for many online and offline portals, and explored multiple content genres.

Travel is the solution.

I think if someone wants to ever learn something new, something more in life, travel is the solution. You get to learn many life lessons, survival lessons, lessons on nature, people, and much more. Not only that but when I visit places of historical importance, I gain knowledge about the past too. Most importantly, traveling has humbled me as a person. It is only when you get out of the house that you realize that our world is massive beyond our imagination and that we cannot explore every corner of it in one lifetime. On a more interesting note, traveling has taught me a lot about different cultures, languages, cuisines, and lifestyles.

I cannot get enough of Mughlai food.

I am a big-time foodie, and it is very difficult for me to pick one cuisine as my favorite. But since I am a true Delhiite, I cannot get enough of Mughlai food. The flavors are so rich, the food so hearty, and I leave no opportunity to enjoy a Mughalai meal with my family ever. And if I must pick an international cuisine, then I will say Japanese. I am obsessed with sushi rolls,

sashimi, and the way an Itamae artistically and passionately presents food on the plate.

Loving yourself from within

Beauty for me is first loving yourself from within. Because when you love yourself, the world will automatically fall in love with you. And beauty goes beyond taking care of your skin religiously and feeling comfortable with and without makeup.



Either a trendsetter or an enthusiast

You are either a trendsetter who influences others to try whatever you are wearing, or you are a fashion enthusiast who adapts fashion trends of the season effortlessly and has an eye for the right trends to enhance your style statement.

I am not a supporter of fast fashion.

I guess, being a 90s kid, we were told to reuse our old clothes if they fit us. I still have some 10-year-old clothes of mine that are still in fashion, and I still get compliments for them. So, if I must advise the new fashionistas in town, do not run after every trend that hits the market. Choose the ones that resonate with you, try as much to DIY, and reuse your wardrobe items to recreate style statements as much as possible.

Thrifting comes with its baggage of cons.

You see, thrifting also means that the price tag is dirt cheap, which automatically allows us to buy more, leading to the purchase of clothes that we do not even need. There have been so many of my Sarojini Nagar endeavors where, after coming back home, I have found myself wondering why I purchased certain clothes that will live in my closet forever. Thrifting can lead to hoarding, encouraging the production of more new clothes and ultimately disturbing the eco-cycle even further. ■



STYLING, HAIR, & MAKEUP RADHIKA SETH | OUTFIT JAJAABOR X GATEWAY PR (URJA PATHAK) | SHOES RAYE AT REVOLVE | PHOTOGRAPHY
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CRAFTING A DIGITAL ALCHEMY

When the AGI (artificial general intelligence) is just about to knock on your door, it is time to prepare your creative loins for the battle ahead. **Radhika Seth** is an actor, artist, entrepreneur, and podcaster who is ahead of this finicky race of content creation.

Blogs, social media platforms, YouTube, content creation, fashion, and tech influencers, etc. might have sounded like a crazy lexicon a decade ago, but it has now become the new norm. Conventional career options are steadily being overshadowed by these linear career options, where one can use their creativity to create a job and earn from it. This might sound very simple, but it is not! Where millions of youths are busy creating video, audio, and AI content, there are only a handful who are seriously getting a sustainable livelihood. There was a time when humans were in the technological race; whoever evolved first won it. Now that technology has become the norm, we are in an innovative perspective race; whoever dares to think outside the box wins it. When the AGI (artificial general intelligence) is just about to knock on your door, it is time to prepare your creative loins for the battle ahead. Radhika Seth is an actor, artist, entrepreneur, and podcaster who is ahead of this finicky race of content creation. She says, *"I am lucky that I started putting myself out there before most people realized this could be a job to begin with. So, my audience has a sense of growing up with me and through me, following my journey, and feeling like a part of it from the very start."*

POPP DAPP: How were you as a kid? And how much of that kid have you managed to save in adulthood?

RADHIKA SETH: I was an independent kid growing up because of natural circumstances and being a single child. I remember being extremely curious about everything and not

letting a single thought pass without asking for its reasoning. I would constantly question everything, from the actions of adults to religious practices to textbooks. I honestly think I am still pretty much the same. I believe that the best way to get the job done is to do it myself. And I am still always bugging everyone around me with questions and reasoning.

The Artistry of Content Creation

Content creation, in its most refined form, is an art that transcends mere information dissemination. It is the practice of weaving narratives that resonate on a profound level, transforming mundane details into compelling stories. At the heart of this process is a deep understanding of audience engagement, a mastery of multimedia tools, and an innate sense of creativity. Content creators, equipped with a diverse array of digital platforms, curate experiences that are both visually stunning and intellectually stimulating. They possess the ability to craft content that captivates viewers, drawing them into a carefully constructed world where every image, video, and word serves a purpose. This art form demands not only technical proficiency but also a discerning eye for aesthetic detail and a knack for trendspotting.

PD: Was acting and entertainment always the plan, or did that happen over time?

RS: I was very sure that I wanted to do something in the entertainment industry; I just did not know what it was until I acted in a short film that my friend was producing as part of his college application. Something about being in front of the camera, making a script come true, and making reality ignite so many emotions in other people—it sealed it for me. Shortly after, I moved from Delhi to

Mumbai to pursue my dream.

PD: What is fashion for you? How do you define your sense of style?

RS: For me, fashion is one of the biggest representations of a human being. You can tell so much about a person from the way they choose to dress themselves. Its art, history, movement, and psychology are all blended into one. My sense of style is constantly evolving. I like to dress based on time and place, and if I cannot, I like to carry whatever I am wearing with confidence. I can be dressed in a blazer for a beach day and a bikini in the snow, but if I do it with confidence, people will question themselves before they question me.

Fashion Influencers: Curators of Style and Elegance

Fashion influencers, a subset of content creators, are quintessential curators of style. Their role extends beyond showcasing clothing; they are architects of trends, pioneers of new looks, and arbiters of taste. Through their platforms, they offer a glimpse into their sartorial universe, influencing millions with their distinct sense of style. Fashion influencers operate at the intersection of creativity and commerce. Their content, meticulously curated to reflect the latest trends and timeless elegance, plays a pivotal role in shaping consumer perceptions and driving fashion narratives. These influencers wield the power to elevate emerging designers, spotlight niche brands, and redefine fashion standards. Their influence extends into the realm of brand partnerships, where their endorsement can transform a brand's trajectory.

PD: Do you believe in following the trends of Milan Fashion Week?

RS: I believe in doing R&D and staying updated with what is happening in the fashion world. Whether I follow the trends they are setting is secondary and depends on how much of my core vision aligns with them.

PD: What is your take on the global fashion industry?

The global fashion industry as a whole is extremely dynamic and has significant cultural, environmental, and economic impact worldwide. On one hand, it acts as a form of expression and communication, and on the other, it is one of the biggest polluters. We must understand its effects in full form before passing judgment on them.

PD: What is your comment on fast fashion and ways to curb it?

RS: Fast fashion started as a means to bring the latest trends at an inexpensive price. We as a society love overconsumption, and fast fashion is exactly that. We need to understand the environmental impact it has and promote sustainable fashion, conscious consumption, recycling, and upcycling.

The Intersection of Creativity and Commerce

The synergy between content creators and fashion influencers is particularly evident in their collaborative ventures. The dynamic interplay between creativity and commerce manifests in influencer marketing, where content creators and brands unite to craft campaigns that resonate with target audiences. These collaborations are meticulously designed, blending artistic vision with strategic objectives to achieve a harmonious balance between brand identity and consumer engagement. Influencer marketing is more than a transactional relationship; it is a fusion of mutual aspirations and creative synergy. Content creators and fashion influencers leverage their unique perspectives to produce content that is both engaging and authentic. This authenticity is crucial, as it fosters a genuine connection with audiences, driving brand loyalty and consumer trust.

The Evolution of Digital Influence

The evolution of digital influence is a testament to the growing prominence of content creators and fashion influencers. As technology advances, so too do the tools and techniques available to these digital

architects. The proliferation of social media platforms, sophisticated analytics, and immersive technologies such as augmented reality (AR) has revolutionized the way content is created, shared, and consumed. Social media platforms, from Instagram to TikTok, have become the primary stage for content creators and fashion influencers. These platforms provide a global stage for showcasing creativity and engaging with audiences in real-time. The instantaneous nature of social media allows influencers to respond to trends and audience preferences with remarkable agility, shaping and reshaping digital landscapes at an unprecedented pace.

We as a society love overconsumption, and fast fashion is exactly that.

PD: For your looks and styles, do you ever thrift shop?

RS: I love thrifting, and for clothing, especially, I am always going to vintage stores when I travel. Some of my favorite pieces are ones I picked up at a cute little vintage store in New York or Paris.

PD: With the current obsession with influencership, how do you stand out from the rest?

RS: I think I am lucky that I started putting myself out there before most people realized this could be a job to begin with. So, my audience has a sense of growing up with me and through me, following my journey, and feeling like a part of it from the very start.

PD: At a time when the shelf life of digital content is bleak, what is a strategy to stay relevant to ever-changing trends?

RS: I have always believed that, as an artist, you need to reinvent yourself constantly to keep up with everything that is out there. It

just needs to be done in a way where you do not lose your sense of identity and are still true to yourself through your many versions.

The Power of Visual Storytelling

Visual storytelling is the cornerstone of content creation and fashion influence. Through carefully curated images, videos, and graphics, content creators and fashion influencers craft narratives that captivate and inspire. The visual elements they produce are not mere decorations; they are integral components of a broader narrative that conveys emotion, evokes response, and drives engagement. The power of visual storytelling lies in its ability to transcend language barriers and cultural divides. A single image or video can communicate complex ideas and emotions, resonating with audiences across the globe. Content creators and fashion influencers leverage this power to create content that is both universally appealing and deeply personal.

PD: Does Bollywood look like the next stop for you?

RS: Bollywood was the first step for me internally, but I am going to be honest; it is a rather tricky industry to get into and even more tricky to sustain. While acting as an art form remains my favorite, my pursuit of being an actor is slowly changing. I spent 8 years of my life working towards it, constantly struggling, and failing, and I no longer wish to feel like a loser. I would still love to be on screen, but I refuse to let it define my success as a person.

PD: How has your experience been working with an amazing cast of 'Call My Agent'?

RS: It was honestly really cool to work with some of the most sought-after people in the industry, especially as actors. There was a lot to learn. But it was a rather tough set to be on, personally speaking.

Some days we act like everything is okay when it is not.



PD: As an actor, where do you get your inspiration from?

RS: I find inspiration all around me, and I think we are all constantly acting. Some days we act like everything is okay when it is not. Some days we pretend to be sick so we can skip work. Some days we pretend to be in love when we are not. All of these are forms of acting for me, just off-screen.

“my audience has a sense of growing up with me and through me

PD: What has been the best advice that you have gotten so far in your career?

RS: My dance teacher said to me, “Today you are the youngest you will ever be,” and that sentence changed my life.

PD: Instagram followers roughly translate into the popularity of any artist. How do you react to the fame?

RS: Personally speaking, I do not see it that way, and I think there are a lot of people with half of my following who are so much more creative and hard-working than I am. They influence me to be better than I am, so numbers are just numbers for me.

The Future of Digital Influence

As we look to the future, the role of content creators and fashion influencers is set to become even more integral to the digital landscape. The continued advancement of technology, coupled with evolving consumer behaviors, will undoubtedly shape new paradigms for digital influence. The rise of immersive experiences, such as virtual reality (VR) and the metaverse, promises to open new avenues for creativity and engagement. Content creators and fashion influencers will continue to drive this evolution, embracing new technologies and platforms to enhance their impact. Their ability to blend artistry with technology, creativity with commerce, will ensure their continued prominence in shaping cultural and fashion trends.

Content creators and fashion influencers represent the zenith of digital and stylistic

innovation. Their artistry in crafting compelling narratives and curating exquisite style is not only a testament to their creative prowess but also a reflection of the transformative power of digital media. As they continue to shape the digital and fashion realms, their influence will undoubtedly inspire new generations of creators, ensuring that the art of content creation and fashion influence remains as dynamic and evolving as ever.

PD: What is the story behind the conception of ‘Pawpular’?

RS: ‘Pawpular’ started with my love and obsession for my dog, @BarfeeThePoodle. He is the love of my life, and I think he deserves absolutely the best. I was unable to find things I would like for him or things he would like to play with, so I decided to make them.



PD: How has entrepreneurship evolved you as a person?

RS: Entrepreneurship is one of the most challenging things to happen to me as a person. It put everything I knew about consumerism and human psychology to the test, and every single day of my journey felt like a new battle to me. Hopefully, we emerge victorious.



PD: ‘Frenemies Podcast’ is so much fun and relevant to listen to and watch! How did you and Meghna come up with the plan?

RS: Meg and I would constantly joke about wanting to be in a reality show based on our lives because we had so many hilarious instances happen to us in our lives, and since nobody would produce that, we decided to do a podcast about it.

PD: Are you planning to expand Frenemies Podcast’s journey by inviting other guests in season 2?

RS: YES! OMG! You guessed it! Season 2 is going to be all about guests and learning new perspectives.

PD: What does it take to keep your audience involved and entertained with every piece of content you put out?

RS: It takes every single cell in my body, haha. I think I am still understanding what people like to watch and what they do not. Sometimes content that took weeks to produce and put together does not do well, and sometimes a video that was self-shot in under 10 minutes does well.

PD: As an artist, what fuels you?

RS: The desire to be better every single day as a person directly correlates to mine as an artist.

PD: What are your future plans?

RS: My future plans (the ones I can share) include expanding Pawpular, working on the Frenemies Podcast, learning more about real estate and interiors, and hopefully even working on another brand.



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RESILIENT CHANGE MAKER

Social service is a vital sector dedicated to improving the well-being of individuals and communities. It encompasses a broad range of activities and programs designed to address social issues and support vulnerable populations. This field includes areas such as mental health services, child welfare, housing assistance, and substance abuse treatment. Popp Dapp spoke to **Amrita Yadav**, an advocate, social worker, & an educationalist, about her journey, experiences, & dreams.

My journey is driven by commitment to gender equality & justice

I am a lawyer specializing in constitutional law in India, with a strong focus on empowering women through legal advocacy and social initiatives. My journey in the legal field has been driven by a commitment to gender equality and justice. I have worked on numerous cases that highlight women's rights and have actively participated in initiatives aimed at increasing legal awareness among women. Additionally, I lead various programs to educate and empower women in rural and urban communities, ensuring they are informed about their rights and have access to legal resources. My work is dedicated to creating a more equitable society where women can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Building a career in law was not always my initial plan

Coming from a privileged background, I had various opportunities at my disposal. However, my participation in the National Service Scheme (NSS) and involvement in university social work programs played a pivotal role in shaping my career path. These experiences exposed me to the harsh realities and injustices faced by marginalized communities, making me acutely aware of societal disparities. Witnessing firsthand how legal knowledge and intervention could significantly impact and improve lives, I realized the power of law as a tool for social change. This realization inspired me to pursue a career in law, with a focus on using my skills to advocate for justice and equality.

Social justice and inclusivity in my legal career

My childhood experiences were deeply influenced by early exposure to local governance in our village, as I often accompanied my father to various community meetings and events. This allowed me to interact with people from different classes and castes, gaining a deeper understanding of their lives and challenges. These interactions fostered empathy and a strong sense of justice in me. For instance, listening to the struggles of women seeking basic rights and witnessing the efforts of local leaders to address community issues helped shape my perspective on equality and governance. These formative experiences laid the foundation for my commitment to advocating for social justice and inclusivity in my legal career.



I am deeply inspired by the pioneering couple Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule

Their mutual support and unwavering dedication to social reforms, particularly in the areas of women's education and the eradication of caste discrimination, have profoundly influenced my personal and professional life. Savitribai Phule, often regarded as India's first female teacher, worked tirelessly to establish schools for girls at a time when female education was considered taboo. She faced immense societal opposition and personal threats but remained steadfast in her mission to educate and empower women. Her efforts led to the establishment of the first indigenously run school for girls in Pune in 1848, breaking numerous barriers and setting a precedent for future generations. Their partnership is a powerful example of how mutual support and a shared vision can drive significant social change. The Phules' courage to confront deep-seated social norms and their innovative approach to education and empowerment have left a legacy. They demonstrated that education is a crucial tool for achieving social equality and that empowering women through education can lead to broader societal transformations. Their life stories and achievements continue to inspire me to advocate for women's rights and education in my own legal and social work. Their legacy reminds me that change is possible even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and it fuels my passion for creating a more just and equitable society.

Exposed me to the realities faced by marginalized communities

I realized my inclination towards social service and standing up for social welfare causes during my college years. It was then that I became actively involved in various social work initiatives and volunteer programs. Participating in the National Service Scheme (NSS) and other university-led social work projects exposed me to the realities faced by marginalized communities. I witnessed the challenges they endured and the gaps in access to basic rights and services. These experiences had a profound impact on me. One particularly memorable moment was during a legal aid camp in a rural area, where I helped a group of women understand their legal rights and access necessary resources. Seeing the immediate positive impact of providing legal knowledge and support was incredibly

fulfilling. It was then that I understood the significant role that law and social service could play in transforming lives and fostering social justice. This realization solidified my commitment to using my legal education and skills to advocate for social welfare causes. I saw the potential for law to be a powerful tool in addressing social inequalities and empowering underprivileged communities. From that point on, I dedicated myself to not only practicing law but also actively engaging in social service initiatives aimed at creating a more just and equitable society.

Strengthened my commitment to justice

Being involved in social welfare activities has made me more empathetic and aware of the diverse challenges people face. It has also strengthened my commitment to justice and equality, pushing me to continually learn and adapt to better serve the community.

so that every individual can know their rights and confidently face any injustice

My education in Indian Law has been instrumental in my involvement in social service activities

It has equipped me with a deep understanding of legal principles, rights, and procedures, which are crucial in advocating for and protecting the rights of marginalized communities. With a strong foundation in constitutional law, I can interpret and apply legal provisions to real-world issues, ensuring that the individuals and groups I work with are aware of their rights and have access to justice. For instance, my legal education has enabled me to conduct legal awareness programs effectively, helping people understand complex legal concepts in a simplified manner. This knowledge allows me to provide accurate legal advice, assist in drafting petitions, and represent individuals in need. Additionally, understanding the intricacies of the legal system helps me navigate bureaucratic hurdles and advocate for policy changes that can have a broader impact on society. Moreover, my education has fostered critical thinking and analytical skills, which are essential in addressing social issues comprehensively. It has also instilled a sense of responsibility and ethical conduct, guiding my approach to social service with

integrity and compassion. Overall, my background in Indian Law has been a cornerstone in my efforts to contribute meaningfully to social welfare and justice.

The lack of awareness among people about their rights

Many individuals are not socially aware of their legal rights and often fear the police or any authority figure, which prevents them from exercising their rights. Addressing this issue is very important to me. I aim to focus on educating people about their rights and ensuring they understand how to legally protect themselves. To achieve this, I plan to organize extensive legal education and awareness programs so that every individual can know their rights and confidently face any injustice.

Maintaining a perfect work-life balance is crucial for both personal well-being and professional efficiency

I achieve this balance by adopting a disciplined daily routine. I wake up early every morning, which gives me a head start on the day and allows me to manage my time effectively. Exercising regularly is a key part of my routine, as it not only helps me stay physically fit but also supports my mental well-being. This balance of physical activity and early rising ensures that I start my day with energy and focus. Additionally, I prioritize tasks and set clear boundaries between work and personal life. Taking time for self-care, family, and hobbies is essential for maintaining overall happiness and preventing burnout. A healthy work-life balance is vital because it fosters long-term productivity, enhances personal satisfaction, and ensures that I can give my best in both my professional and personal endeavours.

A strong focus on working for prison reform, particularly addressing the issues faced by undertrial prisoners

I aim to advocate for faster legal processes and better conditions for these individuals, ensuring they receive fair treatment and justice. Additionally, I plan to establish and support Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for women empowerment. These groups will focus on providing women with financial independence and enhancing their social status through skill development, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy programs. By combining my legal expertise with social initiatives, I hope to create sustainable changes that promote justice, equality, and empowerment in society. ■

Saloni Batra is a rising star in the Indian film industry, known for her captivating performances and dynamic range. With a background in theatre and a passion for storytelling, she has made a significant impact through her roles in both independent films and mainstream cinema. Batra's work is characterized by her ability to bring depth and authenticity to her characters, earning her critical acclaim and a growing fan base. Her dedication to the craft and her commitment to diverse, meaningful roles reflect her unique talent and potential as a prominent actress in contemporary cinema.

One thing led to another, and 'Animal' happened.

I continued to do what served my soul, did a lot of theater, kept giving auditions, and worked as a casting assistant to Mukesh Chhabra sir to learn more about the behind-the-scenes of a film. Observing so many actors do the same things differently, co-acting along with them became my favorite thing to do. Slowly, after doing some commercials, a web show, and a ton of rejections later, I got my first feature film as “protagonist” called Soni on "Netflix,” which was followed by Taish by Bejoy Nambiar. Sandeep Sir had seen both films and called me in for a meeting. Our meeting went well, and he cast me for the role. When he mentioned I would have to play 19 years of age to 39, the actor in me was so kicked to have had such a challenging offer come my way. He later told me he was very sure of casting me for the role of Reet, first when we met, since he loved my work and he saw the resemblance I had with Ranbir. I learned a whole new scale with this film. I interacted and co-acted with actors who I had always only seen on screen. It was a new world for me, but my previous experience in front of a camera made me feel stable—to hold my ground and not get overwhelmed. I had some moments like that, but having Ranbir’s calm and helping hand alongside me made me feel at ease. I had to pinch myself a few times to believe that my dreams were taking shape slowly and to remind myself that he was playing my brother (lol).

RELENTLESS, COMMANDING, & FEARLESS

Saloni Batra



I cannot wait to see what is in the store!

My journey has been nothing short of magic. I kept discovering, listening to my heart and hunch, walking the path, and trying to do whatever best I could. I fell, got up, felt lows and highs, and sometimes felt lost, but kept going with belief and love in my heart for what I do. I am still striving every day to become the best version of myself and to truly know myself. This city and profession have taught me a lot, and I feel like this is just the beginning of this journey. But it has made me realize that self-expression in any form, whether acting, music, or design, makes me feel at my most powerful.

Something about the city did not want me to let go.

I was designing and styling for a couple of years in Bombay, and it was time to go home to Delhi. But something about the city did not want me to let go. The hustle of wanting to stay back introduced me to “auditioning for ad auditions,” and it was the last time I thought of looking back. I had not experienced this feeling that performing in front of a camera gave me—just being and expressing myself with the most vulnerability and being praised for what I did. I started doing theater, gave more and more auditions, and continued to do what served my soul. I would still love to work on my design venture, but when the time permits.

Growth as an actor is directly proportional to your growth as a human being.

Working in ‘Animal’, I took a lot away from Ranbir's charm, grace, and curious nature toward life and the people who surrounded him. His approach, which I loved and am a fan of, and his hard work and passion for what he does remind me of why I was there in the first place without getting swayed by what was happening. Anil sir’s willingness to do and towards life was beautiful. That is what makes him vivacious and energetic. His energy was contagious. And Sandeep sir’s passion, clarity of thought, and voice inspired me. Growth as an actor is directly proportional to your growth as a human being, depending on how much you allow yourself to be and soak in. I multiplied in experience, and in life now, when stuck, I do tend to apply some things that I took away from these rockstars.

Love inspires me!

Any form of love, whether broken love, betrayed love, romantic love, platonic love, love for art, love for humans, love for a partner, love for family, or love for living, depth, and emotion in people and their experiences inspire me. Feelings inspire me. Vulnerabilities inspire me. Real stories inspire me. Feeling broken and challenged too.

I feel on top of the world when I am heard and connected with

I feel the purest, most vulnerable, and most honest in my being when performing, whether acting, singing, or expressing through any form. I am not scared of sharing my flaws now. The joy I feel when connecting through pure emotion with people is the highest form of being for me. I feel on top of the world when I am heard and connected with.

It has made me discover myself more and more.

Acting, singing, and performing have made me feel in touch with the purest energy inside of me. With my truest being and most honest self and thoughts, it is like being with nature, but here in the self. It has made me discover myself more and more, and as I tread along this path, every project and every collaboration make me grow in one way or another. Every day I evolve, and that is the beauty of art for me.

I am looking forward to playing an array of roles.

Exploring different characters and getting into their skins is something that makes me feel a thrill. Any form of challenge, whether mental or physical, is what I long to experience and grow from there. I want to be known for the versatility I can bring as a performer, and I want to tell all directors and producers to see different sides of me and help me explore them through stories. I need the main character's energy in life and in the parts I play. Haha

There are lots of goals and plans in the pipeline!

I want to do a lot of things. I am writing a series, which I want to develop soon. I am also writing music and working on my first track now. I want to collaborate with the immense talent in our industry and tell more stories. I want to keep learning, evolving, and getting closer to my truest form of being. I want to reach my fittest self this year, both physically and mentally. I also want to launch my collection. There are lots of goals and plans in the pipeline. My mother has always told me since childhood, “Beta Kya Kya Karegi?” and I always told her mom, “Sab Kuch.”.

Life is short. Keep radiating the love. Wish well for people and your loved ones. Life throws lots of challenges at you. The only thing we can do is fall with the blow, but get up again, slow, and steady, and do it one more time till you reach your goal, and trust me, you will. Listen to your instincts. It is almost always right. Do yoga; it is the best thing. Keep yourselves physically and mentally fit. Eat well and soak in the sun. Enjoy with your loved ones; do what makes you feel the rush. Never back down, because success is a journey.■



STELLAR CRAFT UNCOVERED

Jason Shah – a British actor, & model, is soaring into the world of Indian entertainment with his splendid performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's series on Netflix, 'Heeramandi'. One cannot get away from the multiverse created by Mr. Bhansali without being rubbed off by Mr. Cartwright.

W

e are in a cinematic age when the demarcations and borders between countries and their artists are blurring. Whether it's Citadel expanding its web and connecting different nations, cultures, and artists around the globe or the Spanish web series Money Heist taking on the world like a frenzy, Talent and artists are no longer confined by ethnicity, language, or physical appearance.

They need not conform to a set role written for a particular 'type' of the individual. This process is bringing the world of entertainment to a place where artists can showcase, explore, and expand their flair without fear of acceptance. Jason Shah, a British actor, and model, is soaring into the world of Indian entertainment with his splendid performance in Sanjay Leela

Bhansali's series on Netflix, 'Heeramandi'. One cannot get away from the multiverse created by Mr. Bhansali without being rubbed off by Mr. Cartwright. Whether it's his intense and devious staring or his inescapable charm on the screen, it's a home run for Jason. Popp Dapp speaks to Jason about his journey, experiences, learnings, and much more.



I am grateful for the tough times.

From a couple of minutes in *The Film Partner* to the main antagonist of India's largest Netflix series, I would say it's not a bad start. Although my journey has been a roller coaster ride, I have had my fair share of ups and downs. I have been cheated and lied to by every department of this industry. Casting directors, agencies, agents, directors, accountants—you name it. But guess what? I am still here, so it looks like my endurance level is higher than some would have thought. I used to get so angry and lose my cool until God taught me what it means to walk by faith gracefully and to trust in him completely. And now I am grateful for the tough times because they have made me wiser, and even in the storms, I still maintain my peace. My first dream was to play cricket for India. I was a bowler, and I was quick. I was always in front of people as a kid. And after setting foot on the sets of 'Partner', I pursued it.

New York Film Academy.

A formal education at the New York Film Academy has helped me immensely. Each of my teachers helped me grow out of different parts of myself that were rigid and unwilling to morph into different characters. I remember when I was in class one day and my teacher told the class to pick an animal and act it out, from birth until death. None of my classmates flinched, so I got up, got down on the floor, and started to enact, in a short

frame of time, *The Journey of a Tiger* to the best of my ability. Starting as we, all do, we will eventually fight, be wounded, and die from injury. Now, looking back on it, I realize this was one of those small moments when life calls on you to do something no one else is willing or dares to do. I think the teacher of this specific class fell in love with me so much that some of my classmates even called me the teacher's pet. But this is what acting is all about exploring characters that people will remember; maybe it is something they did, the way they spoke, or their body language that never leaves their memory. None of my classmates or anyone in the entire class of 2009–2010 in NYFA has a body of work from TV, web series, and movies the way I do. So, I guess you can say it paid off.

Sometimes you must do something different to be noticed.

I did not want to do 'Bigg Boss' but sometimes you have got to do something different to be noticed. There are many misconceptions about my exit. The truth of the matter is that I became faint and fell unconscious from being unwell for three days inside the house. As I remember clearly, Bonnie Jain had told me I had gotten sick due to consuming spinach. That was my only alternative. Before entering, I was told I would be given all that I needed. This was not the case, and as I am not accustomed to eating such a high lentil and chickpea diet, something went wrong. I had requested something very simple to cool my stomach for me to remain in the house, such as yogurt, cucumber, or coconut water. Which I did not expect to be so problematic as other house members were going into the secondary room more than 2 to 3 times a day, saying that they were being medicated. The same could have easily been done for me. So, on complete refusal from the team, I refused to go back inside, as my health is worth more to me than that show. But I am still grateful, as this opened the doors for my TV career.

I was always in front of people as a kid

“life calls on you to do something no one else is willing or dares to do

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Heeramandi' was extremely challenging.

It is extremely challenging, as I was briefly told about my character's relationship with any of the other characters. Also, I was given little or no warning at all as to what the upcoming scene would be and who I would be working with before reaching set. And this also includes directors, as there were many. This is very challenging, as you must make on-the-spot decisions on how you will feel about each character as you come face-to-face with them. It is also challenging, as you do not have time to reflect on your character's graph from birth to climax. But working with acting legends like Manisha Ji and Sonakshi Sinha has been wonderful, as both these characters and artists have such contrasts in character.

As you sow, so shall you reap.

Before and after 'Heeramandi,' I have been treated with the utmost respect and have been made to feel like I am an integral part of the production. Even if I have had a small role, on this set, it felt as though at times I was not even present in the room. On a couple of occasions, assistant directors asked me to explain to the Russian junior artists what they should do during the take. I seriously doubt any of these assistant directors would even have the gall to tell an Indian artist to do the same. And there is a beautiful saying: 'As you sow, so shall you reap.' Many people have called to apologize for their lack of normal human courtesy, as they have also not received the credit, they thought they would receive.

Man makes plans; God ordained the steps.

I have a few things that I am working on, and I keep them close to my heart. But I am part of a dharma film, and for others, I cannot say anything yet. ■



SUHAIL NAYYAR UNFILTERED

One of the brilliant performers, raconteurs, stagers, and phenomenal artists is **Suhail Nayyar**, a boy from North India, unshackling his flair and knack for acting!

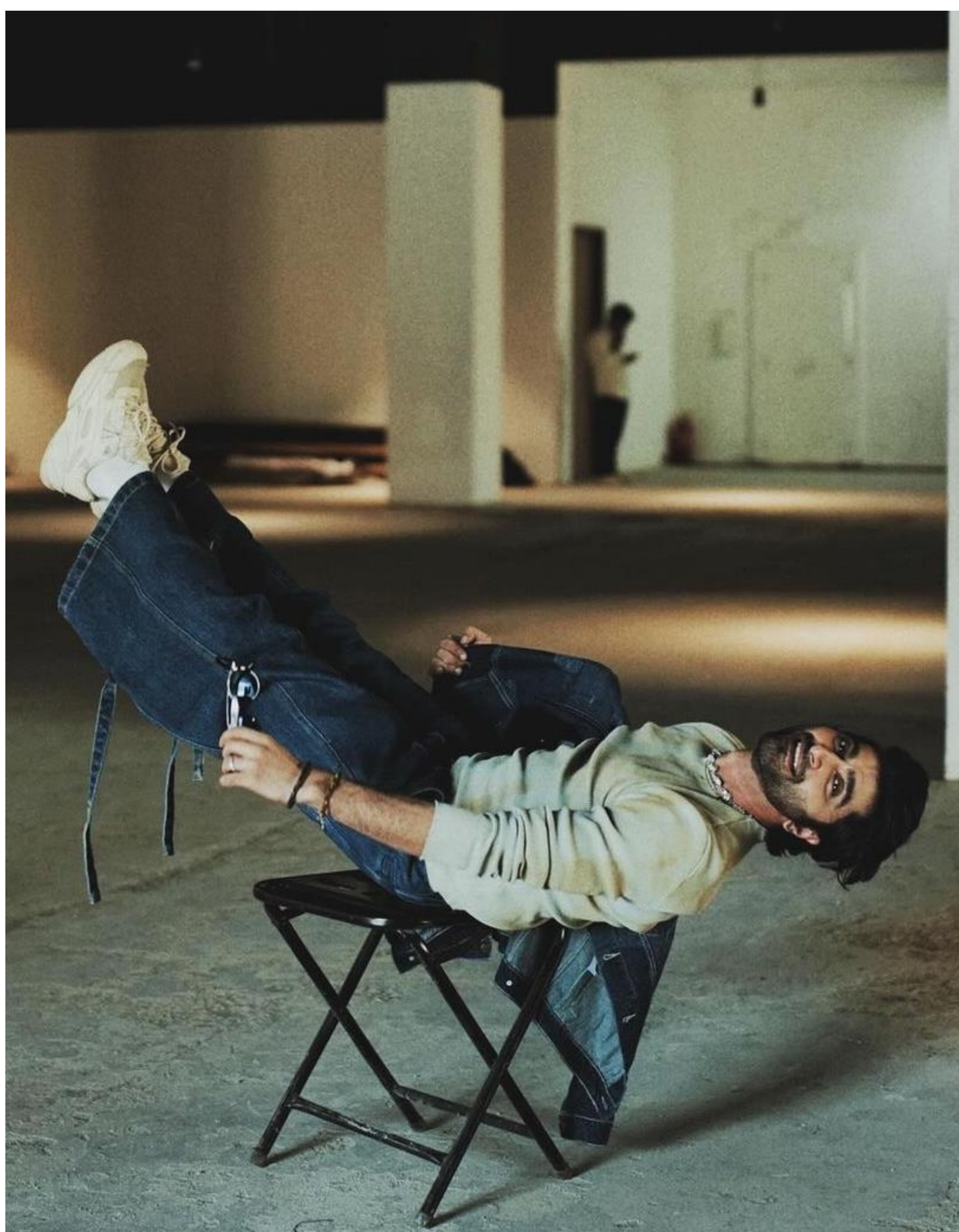
Some actors love the fame and attention that come with being artists, and then there is that other chunk of actors who are hungry to be a part of amazing storytelling. Whether their role is big, small, or bleak, this different set of actors is all soaked in it. Other than critics, there is a

specific niche of audience that can truly understand, revere, and love the efforts put in by these artists. That is what they say: "There are so many beautiful stories that deserve to be told." And till the time the Indian film industry has, appreciates, and retains such actors, there is hope for a

brighter future of storytelling. One of these brilliant performers, raconteurs, stagers, and phenomenal artists is Suhail Nayyar, a boy from North India, unshackling his flair and knack for acting!

It was more than a passion for me.

I was born, and raised, and did my first stage performance in Delhi. While doing my graduation, I started doing theater with Mr. Rajesh Tailang. After taking a long and grueling entrance exam at FTII (Film and Television Institute of India), I scored rank II—suddenly, I got all the confidence that I needed. It was more than a passion for me at that time. I got into FTII, studied there for almost 3 years, got to know about the workings of cinema, did a lot of workshops, and learned about aspects of filmmaking. It was a very enriching experience for me. Then, in 2014, I moved to Mumbai. After a year of going through rigorous auditions, I cracked my first role—in *Udta Punjab*!



Since there are so many beautiful stories that deserve to be told, we have a responsibility to create and express them.

The idea of a film school

Acting was always the plan, for as long as I can remember. While in school, I had a medical degree in mathematics (PCMB), and I was studying to become a pilot, but my interest was always in the arts. As a kid, while I watched “*Jaane bhi do yaaron*,” I used to notice ‘NFDC (FTII) presents’ in the opening scene. I was so fascinated to learn about the idea of a ‘film school.’

I feel too much and too many things.

My inherent need to create something fuels me as an artist. I feel too much and too many things, and whenever I feel certain kinds of emotions, I need to express them in the best possible way—what better than art? Since there are so many beautiful stories that deserve to be told, we have a responsibility to create and express them.

“Murder Mubarak” was one of the best experiences of my life.

I remember that Homi Adajania called me to his office and told me that he had a killer part for me. Initially, I was not very psyched about it, but Homi convinced me that it was an amazing part. Since I loved the guy and trusted his judgment, I said yes. Being on Homi’s set is like going on an outing with your friend and having a blast—it was one of the best experiences of my life. Also, working with Vijay Verma (my senior from FTII), Karishma Kapoor, Tisca Chopra, Sara Ali Khan, Pankaj Sir, Sanjay Sir, and Dimple Ma’am was a great experience. I have always seen them creating magic on screen, and being them on set was a beautiful experience.

Every day on the sets of Udta Punjab was a new reason to be grateful for

It was an amazing feeling when I got ‘*Udta Punjab*.’ Cracking the audition and getting a role in such a big film—I am forever grateful for it. Even when I look back, I feel immense gratitude that I was lucky enough to get that opportunity. Being on Mr. Abhishek Chubey’s (director of *Udta Punjab*) film set is

an experience. Despite being a new actor, Abhishek Sir entrusted me with so many improvisations, and we had a blast on set. Every day on the sets of *Udta Punjab* was a new reason to be grateful for. From the audience as well as from industry people, I have received so much love for *Jassi*!

As you evolve as a human being, you evolve as an actor.

From ‘*Udta Punjab*’ to ‘*Murder Mubarak*’, a lot has changed, and a lot is still the same. I believe that my core is still the same, but as you evolve as a human being, you also evolve as an actor. One needs to be very aware of what is happening around you, as when your responses in life change, it shows in your acting as well. It is a journey and still too soon to say, but it is a work in progress, and I am still evolving! And if I am living, I am evolving as an actor.

That is the real fun of acting and training.

My process of preparing for a specific role is different every time, as I do not follow a set pattern or process, like having set backstories for certain characters but not for all. I have used emotional memory for certain characters, but not for all. For ‘*Hotel Mumbai*’, I made an extensive backstory, and there was so much research behind the character, but that was not the case with ‘*Murder Mubarak*’, as Yash Batra was a very eccentric character. That is the real fun of acting and training; you can approach different characters with different processes.

Nikita Roy

I am doing a psychological thriller with Sonakshi Sinha, directed by Kussh Sinha, called *Nikita Roy*, which is coming out this year.

I try to live in the present.

Life is so random, and these happy coincidences are so dear to me. I am happy with my profession and how things are going. The future will keep getting better. My dreams are like any other actor: I want to lead films, I want to work with directors I revere, and I want to build a home in Mumbai. I try to live in the present as if the present is good—the future is bound to be good! ■

There is only one life; do not give up on your dreams. If you cannot do it right now, wait for a better time and keep your dreams alive. If you can dare to dream, you can achieve it!

UNSTOPPABLE RUNNING SPIRIT

Girish Bindra

A runner athlete embodies dedication, discipline, and perseverance, pushing physical and mental boundaries to excel in the sport. Training involves rigorous workouts, strategic nutrition, and meticulous attention to technique.

Success in running requires both endurance and speed, often achieved through a combination of interval training, long-distance runs, and recovery periods.

The wave that changed me

From being 96 kg fat to 69 kg fit! I am a businessman in transport and logistics now a passionate runner and an avid coach. I was never a runner before; it all started by chance. During my college days, I had more muscle mass and used to train in the gym. After marriage, I gained weight and became fat. I joined the gym again and slowly and gradually increased my muscles and stamina.

In 2006, at my sister's place in Ahmedabad, I had convulsions and seizures three times at night. I was diagnosed with neurocysticercosis, a disorder in the brain, along with blood clots. Timely treatment helped

me; otherwise, I was on the verge of a paralytic attack. The doctor advised rest for around a year with a heavy dosage of medicines.

After around 6 months, I was slowly moving towards the path to recovery. So, I started going for walks as the doctor advised me not to lift heavy weights. I felt very good walking and went regularly. I used to see a few people running and saying, let me also try. On my first try, I could not run even for 100 meters and felt uneasy. After that, I came regularly, did the walk/run strategy, and slowly started building up my stamina.

Running gave me a new boost and motivation.

I was always looking for tasks and goals to train for and achieve. In 2008, the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon was held. I registered for my first half marathon without much training; the maximum distance I ran was 15 km in practice. During the race, after 16 km, I got cramps and finished in 2 hours and 55 minutes. But the feeling I experienced after finishing was full of positive endorphins. I said this was it, and there was no looking back after that.

Running is my passion

It has helped me lose weight along with building my stamina and fitness level. After every run, it gives me a new high and energy to complete all my daily tasks with ease and make fast decisions. It has made me more positive, calm, and composed.

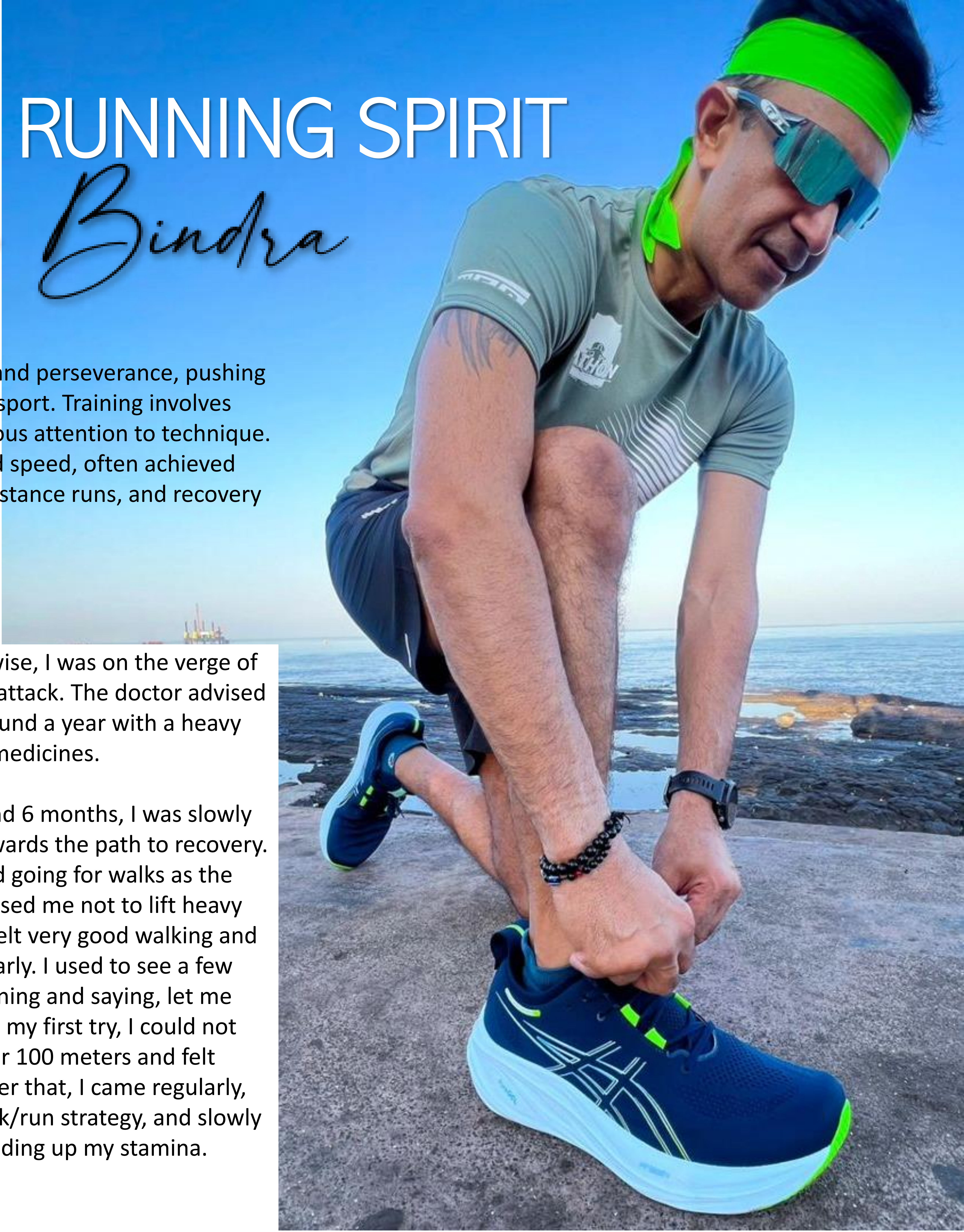
This passion has helped me now to complete 32 ultramarathon races, including a 48-hour Bangalore stadium run covering 252 km. Twice, I did a 24-hour stadium run with the best mileage of 182 km. Seven times I have done a 12-hour run with the best mileage of 103 km. Five times, I completed the Tata Ultra Marathon 50 km run at Lonavala. 31 full marathons with a best timing of 3 hours, 34 minutes. 148 half marathons with a best timing of 1 hour, 35 minutes.

I have completed the Comrades Ultra Marathon Ultimate Human Race four times in South Africa and recently did it in June this year. It is a 90-kilometer race covering many mountains, and you must cross seven cutoffs in 12 hours. I completed all four, with the best timing being 9 hours and 20 minutes. Running has taught me to be calm and composed a good learner, have a positive attitude, and

fight for every obstacle that comes my way, like I experienced during my illness. I also completed my marathon training certification course approved by the American College of Sports Medicine at the Exercise Science Academy. I am the head coach for ASICS RUNNING CLUB MUMBAI, GARMIN RUN CLUB MUMBAI, and Stride with GB Group. Being a coach and using my experience and knowledge, I am very happy to share training with my fellow runners. It makes me feel proud and happy to gauge their progress and improvement. The smile on their faces after they accomplish their goals is my true reward.

My message would be to stay positive.

Be focused and committed, show up and train regularly and systematically, one step at a time, and move forward to achieve your desired goals. Prepare yourself, visualize your success, and I am sure you will achieve it. ■





Ancient cultural tapestry

Indian tribes are living tapestries of vibrant traditions and ancient wisdom, where every dance, song, and piece of art tells a story of harmony with nature. Their unique cultures weave a rich mosaic, celebrating a deep connection to the earth and the timeless spirit of community and heritage.

PHOTOGRAPHY DOMINIC CHRISTIAN | MUSE DIVYANNI SINGH | MAKEUP & HAIR PRITEE CHRISTIAN | JEWELLERY MORTANTRA | STYLING PRASENJIT DAS





Indian tribalism is a vivid testament to the rich cultural diversity and ancient heritage of the subcontinent. Across India, over 700 tribal communities inhabit diverse landscapes, from the dense forests of the Northeast to the arid regions of Rajasthan. Each tribe, such as the Gond, Bhil, Santhal, and Warli, brings its own unique traditions, languages, and artistic expressions to the national tapestry.

Tribal art is a profound aspect of Indian tribalism, offering a window into the lives and beliefs of these communities. Warli paintings, with their simple yet evocative depictions of daily life and rituals, use a monochromatic palette of white on a mud background to convey complex narratives. The Gond art, characterized by its intricate patterns and vibrant colors, often features animals and nature, reflecting the tribe's deep connection to the environment. These artworks are not merely decorative; they are deeply symbolic, representing the tribe's mythology, folklore, and spiritual beliefs.

Music and dance play a crucial role in tribal life, serving as both entertainment and a means of passing down traditions. The rhythmic beats of the dhol, the haunting tunes of the flute, and the energetic dances of the tribes are expressions of joy, reverence, and communal identity. Festivals, such as the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland or the Bhagoria Festival of the Bhils, are colorful celebrations where tribes showcase their heritage through performances, crafts, and traditional attire.


Indian tribalism also embodies a profound respect for nature. Tribes often view themselves as guardians of the natural world, living sustainably and harmoniously with their surroundings. This deep ecological consciousness is reflected in their agricultural practices, medicinal knowledge, and reverence for flora and fauna.

In an era of rapid modernization, the preservation of tribal cultures is crucial. Indian tribalism, with its rich artistic heritage and deep-rooted traditions, offers invaluable insights into humanity's shared past and underscores the importance of cultural diversity in shaping our collective future. ■









THE BEAUTY OCCULT

Anything that provides support for someone's mental well-being can never be a bad idea. Popp Dapp spoke to **Cristian Buca** – a professional Romanian makeup artist with 25 years' experience!

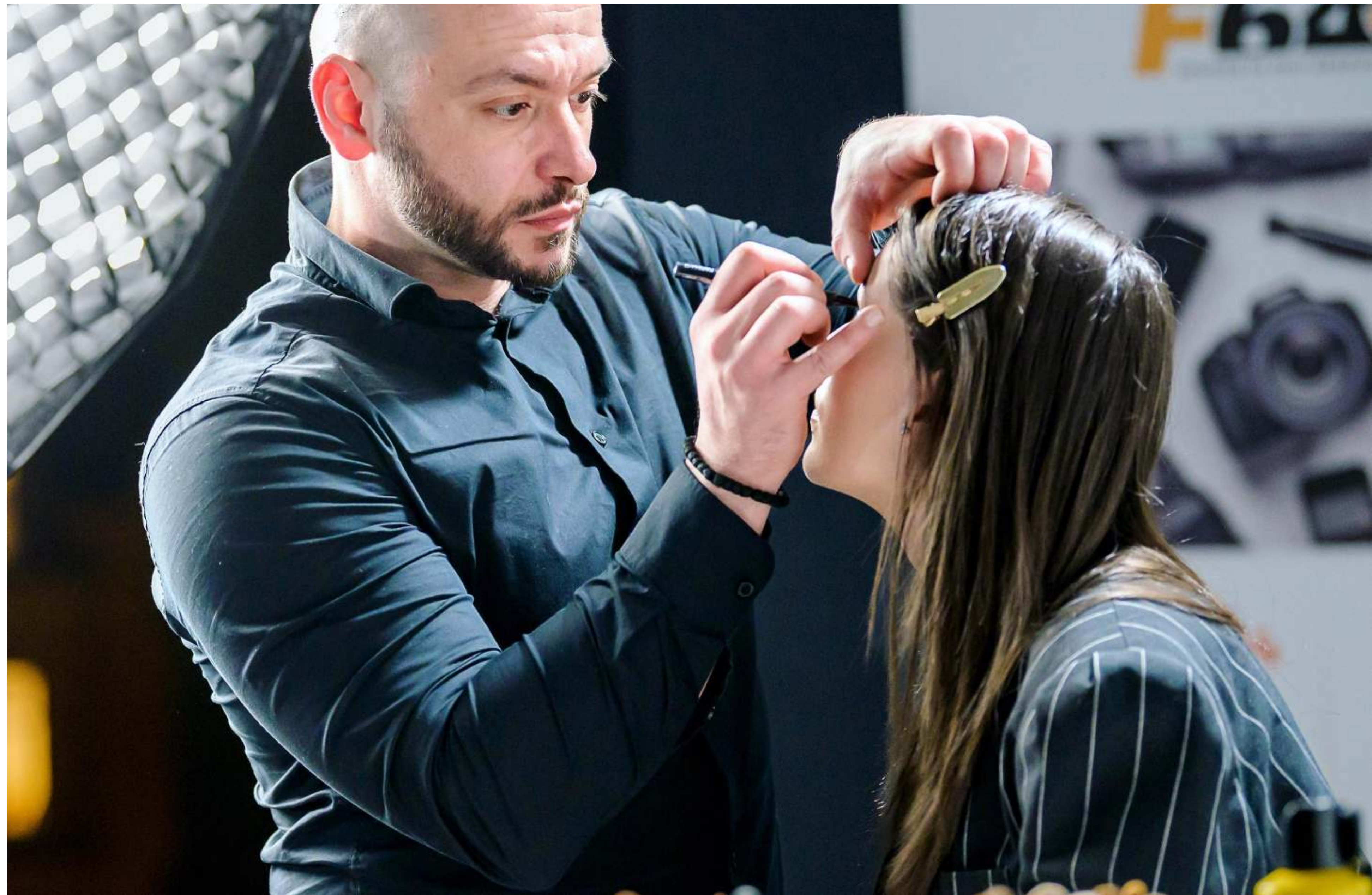
At a time when the world is obsessed with creating an image both online and offline, our exoskeleton plays a vital role—literally and metaphorically. The exoskeleton of our aura, personality, body language, dressing sense, and makeup. Makeup is one of the most explored art forms in this world, as it requires a canvas that is always available in front of us!

Artists have found different ways of enhancing human features and giving a boost to our self-confidence. Though it is a debatable topic, but the optics say—just for it! Anything that provides support for someone's mental well-being can never be a bad idea. Popp Dapp spoke to a professional Romanian makeup artist with 25 years' experience (editorial and commercial), the National Makeup Artist for YSL Beauty Romania, a graduate of Cinema Makeup School Los Angeles, Alejandro Fernandez Makeup School in Spain, Diana Popa Makeup Academy Romania, and Metropolitan Makeup Academy Romania, Cristian Buca.

I am a free spirit, wandering the world to learn, explore, and love.

Since I can remember, I have loved art in all its forms, shapes, and colors. When I was 13 and watching TV one afternoon, I came across a Cirque du Soleil show.

That, for me, was a game-changer. Another dimension opened in front of my eyes; it was that exact moment when I understood that painting can be done on many other canvases than the regular one. Having this in mind, I asked my mom to buy me magazines and to find out where I could study this type of art called makeup.



Artistic path

I always knew that this was the right path for me. Beauty, colors, and textures have always been a part of my life, and I always knew that I was going to follow an artistic path.

Please do not let the makeup change you; just change the makeup according to how you feel.

We as humans have so many veneers, and all of them are who we are, and we need to accept and embrace them. Let me give you an example: when a girl is at home with her family and close friends, she feels comfortable wearing just a moisturizer. When she is going out for coffee, she applies just a tiny amount of makeup to slightly cover some imperfections. When she goes for a business meeting, she puts on a fearless outfit and not-too-overdone makeup, but that

empowers her dress code. When she goes to a party, she puts all the glitter and playful colors on her palate just to have fun and to feel playful. At least that is how we should carry around. In the past few years, makeup has been used to hide a lack of self-confidence and to radically change who that person is. And I just feel that that is not the purpose of makeup. I always say that each face has at least three very strong and unique features that, if highlighted, will accordingly shine through beauty and uniqueness—that is the real goal.

Beauty comes from within.

For flawless makeup, you need flawless skin that is not only flawless but radiant. One can achieve it on the surface with skincare, but on a deeper level, you need to have a healthy, functional body to have glowing, radiant, flawless skin. I always advise my clients and models to have a very healthy diet, to exercise at least 4-5 times a week, and to read whatever makes them dream in positive ways. Because a healthy body needs a healthy, happy mind to be complete. So, I just believe that the connection between mind, body, and soul should be a very, very strong and authentic one, and the exterior should be flawless!

My favorite list

1. Super Serum by NUXE

It is a serum with dry oils that preps the skin instantly, making it the perfect skincare and makeup base for a luminous and dewy effect.

2. All Hours foundation by YSL Beauty

It is a medium- to high-coverage foundation. But what makes it very special is the fact that it has a not-luminous silky finish that makes it look like a second skin without looking heavy on the skin.

3. La Mer loose powder

It is very lightweight, and it also has small, tiny 3-D luminous particles that give the skin a very natural and lightweight finish.

4. Charlotte Tilbury's airbrush flawless setting spray

The best setting spray dries dewy, leaving the skin looking very natural and luminous. At the same time, it seals and locks everything together for very long-lasting makeup.

National Makeup Artist for YSL Beauty

When working with a brand, every artist should take a step back, do a bit of research about the brand's DNA, and adapt their style accordingly to the brand's requirements and the image that the brand portrays. That is how I did it when I was the national makeup artist for YSL Beauty. It took me a few months to go deep into the history of Yves Saint Laurent to understand his vision and the evolution of his creations over the years. After that, I had to align my style with what I had learned about the history of the brand and with the new style and artistic communication of the brand.

Nature is the most inspiring designer of everything.

I feel nature is the vastest and most offering source of inspiration. In nature, I find the most extraordinary color combinations, texture combinations, and inspiring shapes. Nature is, for me, the perfect and most inspiring designer for everything. Usually, when I have a big project and I need to create characters and looks, I take some time to go into nature and spend a few days looking at it in solitude, and after that, I start sketching and creating looks.

Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder. A loving heart sees beauty in everything. Start the change with the one you see every morning in the mirror, and then you can change the world!■



AVIJIT CHOUDHARY

For a personalized reading, dive deeper into the mysteries of the universe with Avijit Choudhary, founder of @yourtarotindia on Instagram. As a block chief of Nichiren Buddhism, Avijit finds solace and positivity by guiding clients worldwide to self-discovery and empowerment

Celestial Trailblazers

Dive into the latest edition of "Popp Dapp," where we seamlessly blend the enchanting magic of tarot with fashion charisma, vibrant hues, and the intricate dance of human connections. Discover your unique style, decode the celestial messages, and embark on an exhilarating journey through the realms of friendship, situationships, and steamy encounters.

This time, we've spiced things up with tantalizing Tantalizing Flavors, seductive positions, and the best days to make out! Unveil the mysteries of the cosmos and ignite your passion with our new, sizzling twist.

Aries

- **Tarot Card:** The Emperor – Dominant and assertive, taking charge.
- **Fashion:** Power suits and daring accessories.
- **Color:** Fiery reds and bold yellows.
- **Relationships:** Sizzling chemistry with Leo.
- **Friendship:** Adventurous escapades with Sagittarius.
- **Situationship:** Spontaneous thrills with Gemini.
- **Lucky Number:** 9 - Strength and stamina.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Thursday
- **Seductive position:** Doggy style for its raw intensity.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Spicy for a fiery kick.



Taurus

- **Tarot Card:** The Hierophant – Sensual and traditional, exploring deep connections.
- **Fashion:** Luxurious fabrics and classic cuts.
- **Color:** Earthy tones and rich greens.
- **Relationships:** Sensual harmony with Virgo.
- **Friendship:** Deep bonds with Cancer.
- **Situationship:** Stable passion with Capricorn.
- **Lucky Number:** 6 - Pleasure and indulgence.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Friday
- **Seductive position:** Missionary for its intimate connection.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Rich chocolate for a decadent experience.



Leo

- **Tarot Card:** Strength – Confident and charismatic, exuding power.
- **Fashion:** Regal and luxurious, commanding attention.
- **Color:** Golds and oranges, radiating warmth and vitality.
- **Relationships:** Passionate connection with Aries.
- **Friendship:** Loyal companionship with Sagittarius.
- **Situationship:** Adventurous flings with Gemini.
- **Lucky Number:** 1 - Assertiveness and leadership.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Sunday
- **Seductive position:** Cowgirl for its bold and commanding stance.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Exotic mango for a tropical twist.



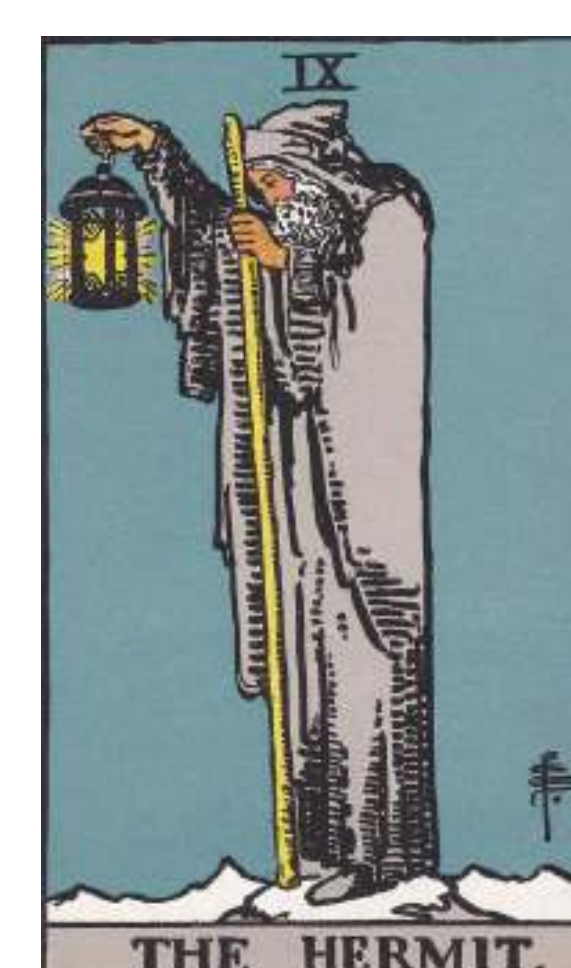
Gemini

- **Tarot Card:** The Lovers – Playful and curious, exploring all possibilities.
- **Fashion:** Versatile and eclectic styles.
- **Color:** Bright blues and vibrant yellows.
- **Relationships:** Intellectual sparks with Aquarius.
- **Friendship:** Witty banter with Libra.
- **Situationship:** Exciting adventures with Aries.
- **Lucky Number:** 5 - Freedom and exploration.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Wednesday
- **Seductive position:** Standing for its thrill and variety.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Refreshing mint for a cool twist.



Virgo

- **Tarot Card:** The Hermit – Analytical and detail-oriented, seeking perfection.
- **Fashion:** Crisp and clean lines, minimalist elegance.
- **Color:** Earthy browns and greens, grounding and practical.
- **Relationships:** Harmonious bond with Taurus.
- **Friendship:** Reliable support from Capricorn.
- **Situationship:** Intellectual connection with Gemini.
- **Lucky Number:** 3 - Precision and methodical approach.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Wednesday
- **Seductive position:** Reverse cowgirl for its analytical view.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Peppermint for a refreshing touch.





Libra

- **Tarot Card:** Justice – Balanced and diplomatic, seeking harmony.
- **Fashion:** Elegant and refined, with soft pastels.
- **Color:** Soft blues and pastels, soothing and serene.
- **Relationships:** Romantic connection with Gemini.
- **Friendship:** Harmonious bond with Aquarius.
- **Situationship:** Intellectual sparring with Sagittarius.
- **Lucky Number:** 7 - Balance and fairness.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Friday
- **Seductive position:** Lotus for its harmonious connection.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Lavender for a calming experience.

- **Tarot Card:** The Magician - Symbolizing power, manifestation, and resourcefulness.

- **Fashion:** Dark and mysterious, with an aura of mystique and allure.

- **Color:** Deep burgundy and black, exuding intensity and sophistication.

- **Relationships:** Commanding and transformative connections that empower both partners.

- **Friendship:** Intense and loyal bonds with those who appreciate their depth.

- **Situationship:** Mastering the art of attraction and magnetic chemistry.

- **Lucky Number:** 8 - Represents strength and achievement.

- **Best Day to Make Out:** Tuesday

- **Seductive position:** Tantra for its intense spiritual and physical connection.

- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Dark chocolate for its rich and indulgent taste.



Sagittarius

- **Tarot Card:** The Wheel of Fortune - Representing luck, destiny, and positive change.
- **Fashion:** Adventurous and free-spirited, embracing bold colors and eclectic styles.
- **Color:** Vibrant purple and turquoise, reflecting optimism and expansion.
- **Relationships:** Embracing the adventure of love, with unexpected twists and turns.
- **Friendship:** Inspirational connections that bring growth and excitement.
- **Situationship:** Embracing spontaneity and exploring new possibilities.
- **Lucky Number:** 9 - Symbolizes completion and fulfillment.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Thursday
- **Seductive position:** Cowgirl for its adventurous and empowering energy.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Exotic mango for a tropical and refreshing taste.



Capricorn

- **Tarot Card:** The Emperor - Signifying authority, ambition, and leadership.
- **Fashion:** Classic and tailored, with a focus on timeless elegance and power dressing.
- **Color:** Deep navy and charcoal gray, projecting strength and stability.
- **Relationships:** Seeking stable and long-lasting partnerships based on mutual respect.
- **Friendship:** Reliable and ambitious friends who share their drive for success.
- **Situationship:** Establishing clear boundaries and expectations.
- **Lucky Number:** 4 - Represents structure and organization.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Saturday
- **Seductive position:** Missionary for its controlled and authoritative intimacy.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Rich coffee for its bold and stimulating essence.

- **Tarot Card:** The Fool - Reflecting new beginnings, freedom, and embracing the unknown.

- **Fashion:** Eccentric and futuristic, with a mix of unconventional and innovative styles.

- **Color:** Electric blue and silver, symbolizing originality and individuality.

- **Relationships:** Embracing unconventional and open-minded connections.

- **Friendship:** Unique bonds with those who share their progressive ideals.

- **Situationship:** Exploring new and uncharted emotional territories.

- **Lucky Number:** 11 - Symbolizes inspiration and enlightenment.

- **Best Day to Make Out:** Wednesday

- **Seductive position:** Standing for its adventurous and spontaneous nature.

- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Watermelon for a refreshing and invigorating twist.



Pisces

- **Tarot Card:** The High Priestess - Portraying intuition, mystery, and inner wisdom.
- **Fashion:** Dreamy and ethereal, with flowing fabrics and soft pastel colors.
- **Color:** Soft lilac and seafoam green, reflecting their sensitive and spiritual nature.
- **Relationships:** Deep emotional bonds rooted in empathy and understanding.
- **Friendship:** Compassionate connections with those who appreciate their creativity.
- **Situationship:** Surrendering to the ebb and flow of emotions and spiritual connection.
- **Lucky Number:** 7 - Represents intuition and spiritual awareness.
- **Best Day to Make Out:** Monday
- **Seductive position:** Spooning for its nurturing and intimate closeness.
- **Tantalizing Flavor:** Lavender for a calming and sensual experience.



ABOUT THE TAROT READER | AVIJIT CHOUDHARY

Avijit is a seasoned tarot card reader with 17 years of experience and the founder of Your Tarot India & Your Crystal India. Inspired by a TV series in 9th grade, Avijit ventured on a voyage into the mystical world of divination, specializing in love, relationships, career, and even situationships. His holistic approach incorporates numerology, signature analysis, and palmistry. As a block chief of Nichiren Buddhism, Avijit finds solace and positivity by guiding clients worldwide to self-discovery and empowerment. Additionally, Avijit is a fitness enthusiast and a gym freak, believing that physical health is essential for spiritual connection and mental well-being.



Khochar Haveli, Sohna

CAPTURING STRUCTURAL ARTISTRY

Architectural photography is not just about buildings; it is about capturing the soul of spaces, the convergence of culture, history, and innovation. Dapp spoke to **Tushar Garg**, an architect, architectural photographer, guide, & a tech freak, talking about his life, journey, passion, & dreams!



Architecture photography is a mesmerizing art that captures the essence of human ingenuity and the sublime interplay between form and function. It transcends mere documentation, transforming structures into breathtaking visual narratives that evoke emotion and admiration. Each photograph serves as a testament to the architect's vision, immortalizing the grandeur and subtlety of their creations.

In architecture photography, light becomes an artist's paintbrush, revealing the intricate dance of shadows and highlights. The photographer's eye meticulously frames each shot, emphasizing the harmony of lines, the rhythm of repetition, and the beauty of asymmetry. From soaring skyscrapers that pierce the sky to quaint historical edifices whispering tales of the past,

every building tells a unique story. The challenge lies in conveying scale and perspective and making viewers feel the immensity or intimacy of the space. Whether capturing the sleek modernity of contemporary designs or the ornate elegance of classical architecture, the photographer's lens bridges the gap between the tangible and the ethereal.

Architectural photography is not just about buildings; it is about capturing the soul of spaces, the convergence of culture, history, and innovation. It invites viewers to embark on a visual journey, exploring the marvels of human creativity etched in stone, glass, and steel. Popp Dapp spoke to Tushar Garg, an architect, architectural photographer, guide, & a tech freak, talking about his life, journey, passion, & dreams!

Nikon D5600

Coming from a middle-class family where every parent dreams of their child being an engineer, I was made to join engineering coaching after I completed my 12th. There I realized that I am not a person who can go through the books too much, and I wanted some practical or design knowledge, so I joined B.Arch. (Bachelor of Architecture). I gained knowledge about angles and symmetry and understood that the principles of photography and architecture are the same. Since I was a gadget freak since the beginning, I had a good camera phone in college. I started doing photography as a hobby. After completing college, I joined a job in architecture, and life got a little bit serious and strenuous, which inspired me to travel. Extensive travel changed me from being an extreme introvert to a complete extrovert. These travels also improved my phone photography, and since I was a tech freak, I could edit those pictures nicely and put them on various social media platforms.

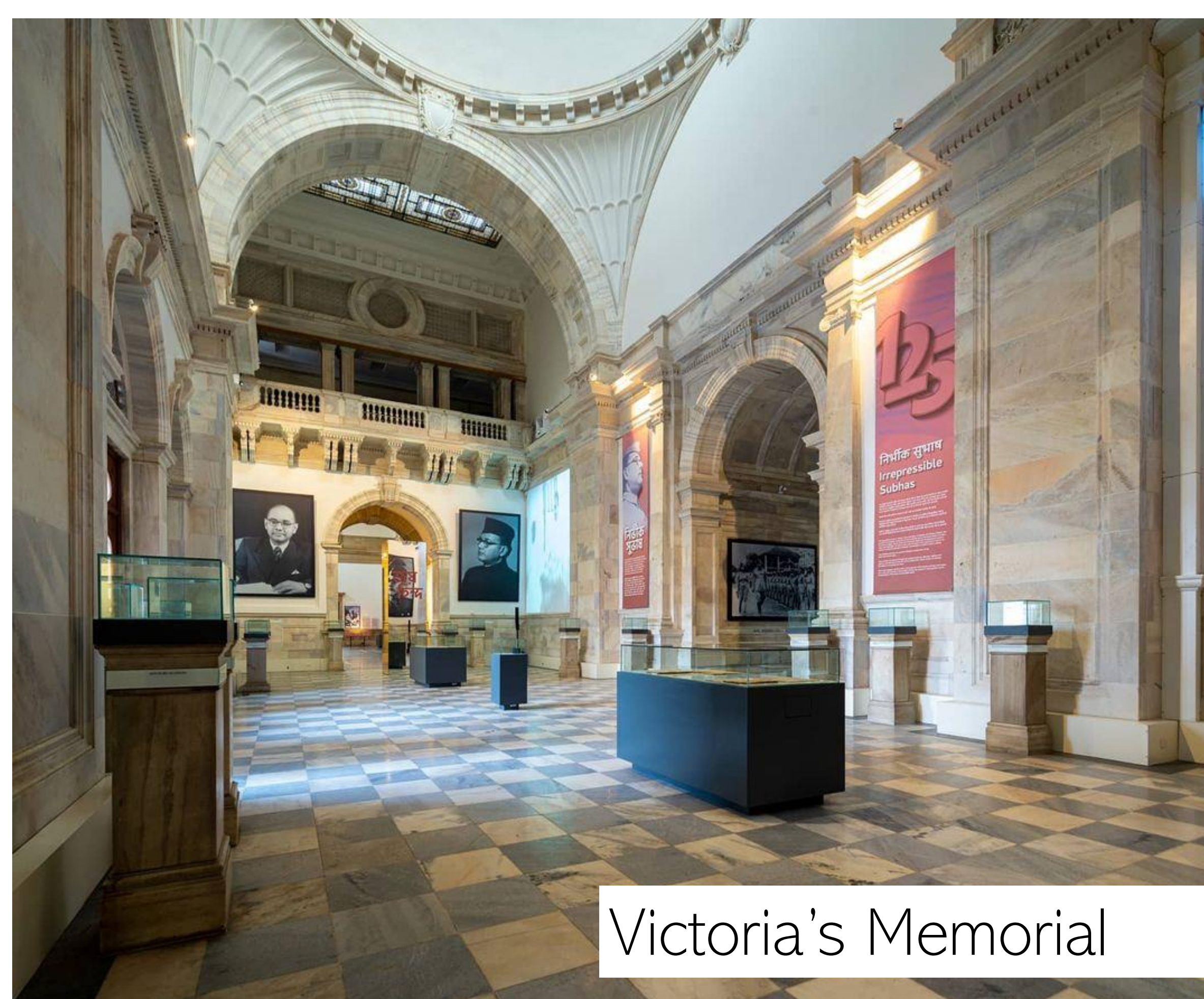
I used to get a lot of appreciation for my work and pictures. My parents helped me out by buying my first professional camera (a Nikon D5600), which gave me a further kick to travel to unknown places in India. This also made me tag along with various travel groups. This continued for 3–4 years along with my contemporary job; I used to work for music artists as well to get exposure. Since I used to talk a lot about my hobbies, the bosses at my work got interested in getting their projects shot.

After a while, the job in architecture got demotivating for me as there was not a proper salary hike. I was too inclined towards traveling, photography, and architecture photography; I finally decided to quit my job to pursue my passion completely. StayVista was expanding in North India, and one of my Instagram accounts pitched me in StayVista—that changed everything; I got confidence in my work.

The reality of travel vlogging and influencership

In my initial days, I also thought of getting into social media influencership, but later I realized that it was not a sure-shot thing. It is like a fluke; you can get high for a year and suddenly vanish! Secondly, as you grow in your life, you seek out better and more stable options to earn money. I knew how my lifestyle was, and I needed money to support

that. This made me realize that you need to first settle for something that makes you content, become stable in life, get some capital for yourself, and then get into the social media influencer field.



Everyone has something to share and teach us.

For my work, I meet impoverished billionaires and listen to their stories. Because everyone has something to share and teach us. A billionaire would teach me how to become successful in life, and an impoverished person would teach me how to be content with what I have. It has made me evolve a lot as a person!

With my camera and a good location, I am always smiling.

Photography and travel are my only inspirations in life. I cannot stay at home for more than 3 days; that depresses me. With my camera and a good location, I am always smiling.

My work speaks for itself.

I pitch very little to clients; I want my work to speak for itself and for them to approach me. I am happy working with those clients who only want my type of work. In architectural photography, so many people are involved, like designers, architects, vendors, etc. At times, goof-ups happen, but I take them with a pinch of salt!



It has made me evolve a lot as a person!

That does not do justice to the space.

Architectural photography got its due recognition very late. Initially, there were only a handful of architectural photographers, and they used to charge bombs. That is why people used to call wedding photographers to get their properties shot—that does not do justice to the space. But currently, looking at the lives of travel bloggers and influencers, everyone wants to get into this field. Big brands also do collaborative work where influencers click on the property for a free stay. This is very sad! People comprehend architectural photography to be a luxury job, but they do not see the hard work that has gotten behind that.

I want to spread knowledge.

Photography is a very physically intensive profession, and with age, your efficiency gets altered. Till 40, I want to do commercial projects; after that, I want to slow it down. I want to teach people and take them on experiential trips. I want to spread knowledge about architectural photography. ■



A BEACON OF HOPE!

Aakash Ranison, an environmentalist and climate activist, dedicates his life to promoting sustainable living. Known for his inspiring talks, Ranison advocates for renewable energy, waste reduction, and eco-friendly practices. His initiatives aim to combat climate change and inspire others to adopt a greener lifestyle, fostering a more sustainable future.

In a world increasingly aware of the urgent need for climate action, Aakash Ranison stands out as a beacon of hope and optimism. Known widely as a climate activist, his approach goes beyond mere advocacy; he embodies the principles of sustainability and positive change, inspiring countless individuals to adopt greener lifestyles. This article delves into Aakash's journey, his philosophy of climate optimism, and his impactful initiatives aimed at fostering a sustainable future.

Early Life and Awakening to Environmental Issues

Aakash Ranison's journey as a climate optimist began in his youth. Born and raised in a small town, he was always fascinated by nature.

His love for the outdoors and a deep-seated curiosity about the natural world led him to explore environmental issues from a young age. However, it was during his college years that Aakash truly awakened to the gravity of climate change. A series of lectures and documentaries on environmental degradation and its impact on human life spurred him into action. Determined to make a difference, Aakash began by educating himself on various aspects of environmental science and sustainable practices. He realized that knowledge was the first step towards change, and he immersed himself in understanding the intricacies of climate issues. This foundational knowledge became the bedrock of his future endeavors.



The Philosophy of Climate Optimism

Aakash's approach to climate activism is characterized by a unique blend of optimism and practicality. Unlike many activists who focus on the doom and gloom scenarios, Aakash emphasizes the positive steps individuals and communities can take to mitigate climate change. His philosophy of climate optimism is rooted in the belief that every small action counts and that collective efforts can lead to substantial change. He often says, "It's not about what we've done wrong, but about what we can still do right." This forward-thinking mindset has resonated with many, making environmental action seem accessible and achievable. Aakash's optimism is infectious, encouraging people to see the potential for improvement rather than feeling overwhelmed by the scale of the problem.

Leveraging social media for Advocacy

In today's digital age, Aakash understands the power of social media as a tool for education and mobilization. He has effectively used platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube to reach a broad audience. Through engaging content, including infographics, videos, and blog posts, Aakash breaks down complex environmental issues into understandable and relatable segments. One of his notable campaigns, "30 Days of Sustainability," challenges his followers to adopt one sustainable practice each day for a month. From reducing plastic use to conserving water, these small but impactful actions are shared widely, creating a ripple effect. His ability to connect with people and present sustainability in a practical and appealing manner has garnered him a large and dedicated following.

Initiatives and Projects

Aakash Ranison's commitment to sustainability is evident in the numerous projects and initiatives he has spearheaded. Here are some of the most impactful:

- 1. Clean-Up Drives:** Recognizing the importance of immediate action, Aakash organizes clean-up drives in various cities. These events not only help in cleaning up local environments but also raise awareness about waste management and the importance of keeping our surroundings clean. Volunteers from different walks of life join these drives, creating a sense of community and shared responsibility.
- 2. Tree-Planting Campaigns:** Trees play a crucial role in combating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide. Aakash's tree-planting campaigns aim to restore green cover in urban areas. Collaborating with local authorities and environmental organizations, these campaigns have resulted in the planting of thousands of trees, contributing to biodiversity and improving air quality.
- 3. Sustainable Living Workshops:** Education is a key component of Aakash's activism. He conducts workshops on sustainable living, teaching participants how to incorporate eco-friendly practices into their daily lives. These workshops cover topics like composting, rainwater harvesting, and renewable energy solutions. By empowering individuals with knowledge, Aakash fosters long-term change.
- 4. Collaborations with Brands:** Understanding the influence of consumer behavior, Aakash collaborates with eco-conscious brands to promote sustainable products. These partnerships help in spreading the message of sustainability to a wider audience, encouraging people to make more environmentally friendly choices.

Challenges and Overcoming Adversities

Like any activist, Aakash Ranison has faced his share of challenges. One of the primary obstacles is the prevalent apathy towards climate issues. Many people still view climate change as a distant problem, disconnected from their daily lives. Aakash addresses this by making the consequences of environmental degradation tangible and personal, showing how it affects health, economy, and overall quality of life. Another challenge is the resistance to change. Sustainable practices often require altering long-established habits, which can be difficult

for individuals and communities. Aakash tackles this by highlighting the benefits of sustainability, not just for the environment but also for personal well-being and financial savings. His approach is to make sustainability desirable and rewarding.




A Vision for the Future

Aakash Ranison envisions a future where sustainability is the norm rather than the exception. He dreams of a world where every individual understands their environmental impact and takes conscious steps to minimize it. His vision extends beyond just mitigating climate change; it includes creating a harmonious relationship between humans and nature, where economic growth and environmental preservation go hand in hand. To achieve this, Aakash believes in the power of collective action. He emphasizes that governments, businesses, and individuals all have roles to play. Policy changes and corporate responsibility are crucial, but so are the everyday choices made by people around the world. His message is clear: sustainability is a shared responsibility.

A testament to the power of positive thinking and proactive action

Aakash Ranison's journey as a climate optimist is a testament to the power of positive thinking and proactive action. His unwavering commitment to sustainability and his innovative approach to climate activism have made a significant impact. Through education, community engagement, and practical solutions, Aakash continues to inspire and lead the way towards a more sustainable future. In a time when the world often seems overshadowed by environmental crises, Aakash's optimism offers a refreshing perspective. He reminds us that while the challenges are great, so too are the opportunities for change. By embracing a mindset of hope and action, we can all contribute to a healthier, more sustainable planet.■

A portrait of Ripudaman Bevli, an Indian athlete, sitting and smiling. He is wearing a blue patterned headband, a brown turtleneck, and a dark blue sweatshirt with several colorful crests. He is also wearing light-colored pants.

Ripudaman Bevli, an Indian athlete, has carved a niche for himself not just through his sporting prowess but also through his unwavering commitment to environmental activism.

CHAMPIONING & FITNESS CLEANLINESS

Ripudaman Bevli, an Indian athlete, has carved a niche for himself not just through his sporting prowess but also through his unwavering commitment to environmental activism. Known as the "Plogman of India," Bevli has seamlessly blended his passion for fitness with a mission to keep the country clean, setting an inspiring example for millions.

Athletic Journey

Born and raised in India, Bevli developed an early interest in sports. His athletic journey began with running, a discipline that demands not only physical endurance but also

mental tenacity. Bevli quickly excelled in long-distance running, participating in marathons and other endurance events across the country. His dedication to fitness was evident, but it was his desire to make a broader impact that set him apart.

The Birth of Plogging in India

Plogging, a combination of jogging and picking up litter, originated in Sweden and soon found a passionate advocate in Ripudaman Bevli. Recognizing the dual benefits of plogging—promoting fitness while addressing the issue of litter—Bevli introduced this concept to India. His initiative quickly gained traction, resonating with a populace increasingly aware of environmental concerns.

"Run to Make India Litter-Free"

In 2017, Bevli launched the "Run to Make India Litter-Free" campaign. This initiative aimed to combine physical activity with community service, encouraging runners to pick up litter during their runs. What began as a small movement soon evolved into a nationwide campaign, with thousands of participants joining Bevli in his mission. Through this campaign, Bevli not only promoted a cleaner environment but also fostered a sense of civic responsibility among citizens.

Impact and Recognition

Bevli's efforts have had a significant impact on both the fitness and environmental sectors in India. His plogging events have resulted in the removal of tons of litter from public spaces, beaches, and parks. Moreover, his advocacy for environmental consciousness has inspired countless individuals and communities to act against littering and pollution. His innovative approach has not gone unnoticed. Bevli has received numerous accolades for his contributions to society. He has been invited to speak at various national and international forums, sharing his vision of a cleaner, healthier world. Through his talks, Bevli emphasizes the importance of individual actions in addressing global environmental challenges.

Challenges and Future Plans

Despite the success of his initiatives, Bevli faces numerous challenges. The scale of India's litter problem is vast, and changing long-standing habits and attitudes is no small feat. However, Bevli remains undeterred. He continues to organize plogging events, collaborate with local governments, and engage with schools and universities to spread his message. Looking ahead, Bevli aims to expand his initiatives further. He plans to incorporate more educational components into his campaigns, teaching young people about the environmental and health benefits of plogging. Additionally, he envisions creating a network of plogging communities across India, fostering a culture of cleanliness and fitness nationwide.

Mission continues

Ripudaman Bevli's journey from athlete to environmental crusader is a testament to the power of individual action in driving social change. His innovative approach to tackling litter through plogging has not only cleaned up communities but also inspired a new generation of environmentally conscious citizens. As Bevli continues his mission, he remains a beacon of hope and a symbol of the positive impact one person can make. ■



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