



GALAXIA QUEST

Leisurely Yours



STEEL POETICS
Vikash Kalra :
Forging the future
of form



**A VOICE
THAT INSPIRES**
The remarkable
journey of a singer



**LUXURY IN
THE HILLS**
India's finest
escapes



**BRAZIL
UNCOVERED**
Beyond beaches
& carnival



FIFA WORLD CUP
The game that
unites the planet



**PRECISION
HEALTH**
Cycle of Confusion



NOSTALGIC NUMBERS
Manna Dey:
The Soulful Genius

AMIT SHAH: THE MASTER STRATEGIST

INSIDE THE MIND SHAPING
INDIA'S POLITICAL FUTURE



DLENG26A2442

GALAXIA
QUEST
Leisurely Yours

NOT ONE CULTURE. THOUSANDS. WOVEN TOGETHER.
WORN PROUDLY. LIVED DAILY. SEEN NOWHERE
ELSE. THIS IS INDIAN CULTURE.

GALAXIA
QUEST
Leisurely Yours

**HISTORY HAS NO
HOME DELIVERY**

**NEW ISSUE OUT NOW.
TAKE THE METRO. GRAB THE MAG. START WALKING.**

GALAXIA QUEST

Leisurely Yours

RNI NO. DLENG/26/A2442
Vol. 1 | Issue 2 | MAY 2026

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Bhupendra Chaubey

PRINTER & PUBLISHER
Amit Goel

CREATIVE HEAD
Satish C Jakhmola

RESPONSE TEAM
Jetender Rawat, Sweety Verma

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION
Sudeep Mukhiya

**GENERAL MANAGER
(CIRCULATION)**
Inder Rawat

Printed and published by
Amit Goel for and on behalf of BAGC Multimedia Pvt. Ltd., printed at JK Offset Graphics Pvt. Ltd., B-278, Okhla Industrial Area Phase I, New Delhi 110020 and published at Flat No. 303, 14 School Lane, Connaught Place Central, New Delhi, Delhi-110001. INDIA.

Editor-in-Chief: Bhupendra Chaubey.
Entire Contents Copyright © 2026 BAGC Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.
All rights reserved. Reproduction or translation in any language, in whole or in part, without permission is prohibited. Requests for permission should be directed to BAGC Multimedia Pvt. Ltd. Opinions expressed in GALAXIA QUEST are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by BAGC Multimedia Pvt. Ltd. The publisher assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited material or for material lost or damaged in transit. All correspondence should be addressed to:
Flat No. 303, 14 School Lane,
Connaught Place,
Central, New Delhi, Delhi - 110001, India.
Phone: +91 99719 00305
Email: bhupendrachaubey78@gmail.com
amit.goel@galaxiaquest.com

Photo Courtesy: Meta AI generated, Unsplash

Heat, Power, Politics

Amit Shah's Summer Sweep

Summer is upon us, quite literally. With 100 of the world's hottest cities literally in our backyard and temperatures of April-May hitting 45 degrees plus, the odd spell of rain indeed brings welcome relief. But there is no relief when it comes to political heat. In our country, the most intense political battles are often fought in extreme temperatures. Remember Lok Sabha polls of 2024? Something similar was unfolding over the last couple of months. With the spectacular victory achieved by BJP in the crucial state of West Bengal, our cover story in this edition is on the man who is quite clearly, the most powerful *meta* we have seen in a long, long time. Amit Shah, our home minister, simply put is a cut above the rest.

It's not as if we haven't had politicians wielding power earlier. There was the late Ahmed Patel, the sweet talker and tactician for the UPA. Even earlier, there were the kitchen cabinet members of Indira Gandhi. But Amit Shah belongs to a different stable. His belief in data over conventional tactics, his ability

FROM THE EDITOR



to stay focussed over prolonged campaigns, and the tremendous respect that BJP workers have for him, positions him as a heady cocktail. In our cover story, we have gone deep into the making of the magical tactician, who also goes by the name of “India’s electoral Chanakya.”

There is a special calendar we have created for you to see what the major sporting activities are coming up this month. It will sit nicely as a timely reminder for all our sport enthusiasts. A subject close to my heart, how to beat summer heat, has led us to discovering some destinations which will interest you. Consider us to be your guide for a family vacation that you may be planning. All our pages have special QR codes. Feel free to scan them and share the stories with your near and dear ones. Galaxia Quest isn’t just a magazine. We want this to be a part of your family. Feel free to share your thoughts with us.

Happy reading

The **GALAXIA QUEST** way

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bhupendra Chaubey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

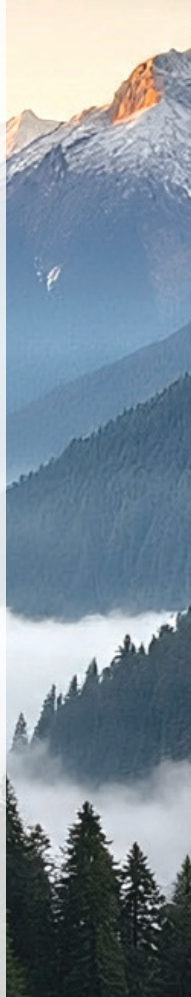
Bhupendra Chaubey

Bhupendra.chaubey@galaxiaquest.com

Visit us — <https://www.galaxiaquest.com/>



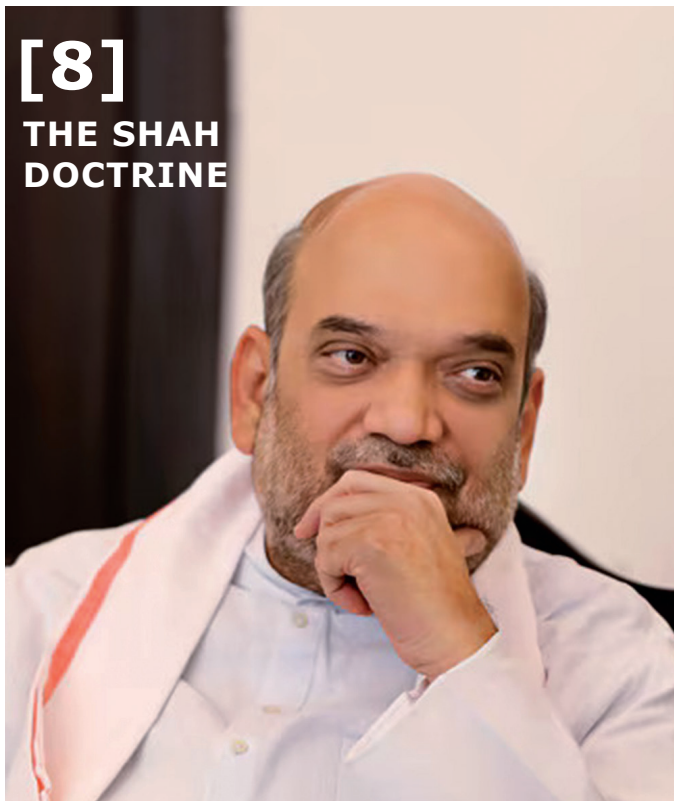
Galaxia Quest #2 decodes Amit Shah's power game, tours Ganga Expressway, reviews luxury hill hotels, profiles Jasmine Sandlas & music icons, plus doctor columns on wellness. From politics to peaks, beats to health — India's boldest stories, one magazine. Out now.



WHAT'S ON GALAXIA INSIDE

Vol. 1, Issue 2 | May 2026

COVER STORY



[8]
**THE SHAH
DOCTRINE**

[14] **Manna Dey:**
The Soulful Genius

[16] **Brazil Beyond**
Billboards





[28]

LUXURY IN THE CLOUDS



[42]

BACKSTREETS TO BRIGHT LIGHTS

- [46] **Vikash Kalra:**
Forging the Future of Form
- [50] FIFA World Cup
Highlights Quiz
- [51] 9 players to watch in 2026



[22]

Ganga Expressway : A 594 km Economic Corridor Transforming Uttar Pradesh

- [26] Cycle of Confusion



[52]

THE STARS WHO DEFINE A NEW ERA

[54]

IPL: THE MONEY MACHINE, BY THE NUMBERS

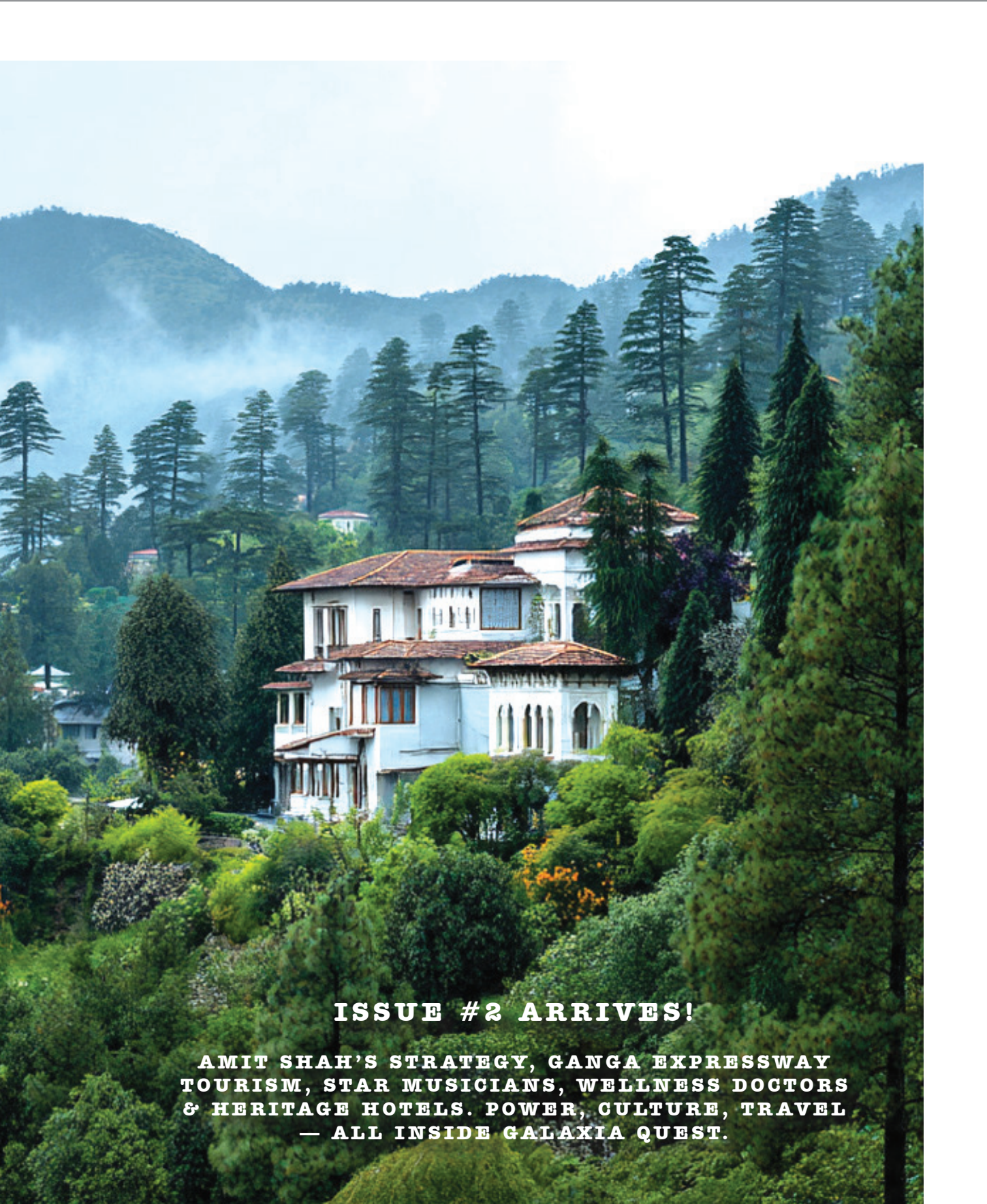


[57]

JASMINE SANDLAS : AN UNVARNISHED VOICE

GALAXIA
QUEST
Leisurely Yours





ISSUE #2 ARRIVES!

**AMIT SHAH'S STRATEGY, GANGA EXPRESSWAY
TOURISM, STAR MUSICIANS, WELLNESS DOCTORS
& HERITAGE HOTELS. POWER, CULTURE, TRAVEL
— ALL INSIDE GALAXIA QUEST.**

THE SHAH DOCTRINE

Why There Is No One Like Him in Indian Politics

BY BHUPENDRA CHAUBEY

In the long, winding theatre of Indian politics—where reputations are built over decades and demolished in a single news cycle—there is one figure who, over the last twelve years, has refused to flicker. Amit Shah is not merely a politician. He is, increasingly, the operating system on which the Bharatiya Janata Party—and arguably the Indian Republic in its present form—runs.

To call him the Chanakya of our times has become almost lazy shorthand. And yet, no other description quite fits. I have spent close to three decades watching this country's politics from far too close a distance—prime ministers come and go, party presidents are anointed and forgotten, kingmakers are crowned and quietly retired. But I must confess: I have never quite seen anyone like Amit Bhai.

THE LONG APPRENTICESHIP

To understand the man, one must first understand where he came from. West Bengal may have happened now, but there was Uttar Pradesh in 2014—when the BJP won 71 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats, a feat that helped the party come to power at the Centre on its own.

So how did Amit Bhai become the Shah of Indian politics?

His journey did not begin in the air-conditioned drawing rooms of Lutyens' Delhi. It





**FOR OVER A DECADE,
AMIT SHAH HAS
OPERATED AT THE
NERVE CENTRE OF
INDIAN POLITICS—
QUIETLY BUILDING,
RECALIBRATING, AND
EXPANDING POWER.
THIS IS THE STORY OF
THE MAN BEHIND THE
MACHINE.**

began in the bylanes of Naranpura in Ahmedabad, where, as a teenager in the late 1970s, he was already running errands for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. His was no meteoric rise. It was a long, almost monastic apprenticeship in the trenches of organisational politics—booth committees, ward-level meetings, electoral rolls annotated by hand in dimly lit party offices.

For years, he was the man behind the man. In the late 1980s and 1990s, the BJP's principal flag bearer was another Gujarati—L.K. Advani, then the Member of Parliament from Gandhinagar. One of Advani's key aides was Narendra Modi, who would later become Chief Minister of Gujarat. Amit Shah was Modi's protégé—his trusted lieutenant. In that sense, Shah was two circles removed from the innermost core of Gujarat BJP politics in those days.

It was during the period when the BJP was transforming Gujarat into its ideological laboratory that Shah came to Modi's notice. The journey was neither smooth nor easy. As Modi rose to become Chief Minister, Shah emerged as his number two—



the crisis manager, the man Modi could rely on in moments of political exigency.

Between 2009 and 2012, Shah faced a litany of charges during the UPA era, largely due to his proximity to Modi. But he never wavered. In recent interviews, he has often remarked that, unlike others placed in similar circumstances, he never questioned the legitimacy of Indian institutions. Ultimately, the relief he received came from the very courts and agencies that he believed had once been misused against him.

2014: THE GAMBIT THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

In 2013, when Modi was anointed as the BJP's prime ministerial candidate, the conventional wisdom in Delhi was simple: the road to 7 Race Course Road (now Lok Kalyan Marg) ran through Uttar Pradesh—and for the BJP, that road appeared to be a *cul-de-sac*.

The party had not formed a government on its own in Lucknow for over two decades. The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party had carved up the state's caste arithmetic with



FROM BOOTH-LEVEL ORGANISATION TO NATIONAL STRATEGY, SHAH HAS RESHAPED THE WAY ELECTIONS ARE FOUGHT AND POWER IS EXERCISED IN INDIA.

surgical precision, leaving little apparent space for the BJP.

Modi sent Shah. What followed was nothing short of a political earthquake.

Shah did what no strategist had attempted in Uttar Pradesh. He moved beyond the BJP's traditional upper-caste base and constructed a new electoral coalition—non-Yadav OBCs, non-Jatav Dalits, and the most backward communities—bound together by a sharply defined Hindutva narrative. The result: 71 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats. The BJP's vote share in the state nearly doubled. It was, quite simply, the single largest contribution to Modi's first majority government.

If 2014 was the gambit, 2017 was the proof of concept. In the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the BJP won 312 out of 403 seats—a sweep so overwhelming that even seasoned party veterans struggled to comprehend it. By 2019, the question was no longer whether the BJP would win, but by what margin. The panna pramukh system—where a party worker is responsible for a small set of voters—had evolved into a self-sustaining organisational machine. The BJP returned to power with 303 seats. Modi was the face; Shah was the engine room.

THE GURU AND THE SHISHYA

Much has been written about the Modi-Shah relationship, and most of it misses the essential point. This is neither a partnership of equals nor a relationship of subordination. It is, in the truest Indian sense, a guru-shishya parampara.

Modi identified Shah's potential in the early 1980s, when both were associated with the RSS in Gujarat. Modi was the mentor—the one who recognised in the young, intensely organisation-driven Shah a rare political instinct. Over four decades, their relationship has been built on absolute, almost spiritual trust. Modi sets the vision. Shah executes it. Modi speaks to the nation. Shah speaks to the booth. They are, in many ways, two halves of the same political organism.



I am often asked whether Shah will one day overshadow Modi. The question fundamentally misreads the relationship. Shah has never sought to overshadow his mentor; he has sought to ensure that the mentor's mission—and the broader ideological project—does not falter. That, perhaps, is both his greatest political insurance and his deepest source of legitimacy within the parivar.

FROM STRATEGIST TO STATECRAFT

When Shah took charge of the Home Ministry in 2019, sceptics wondered whether a master strategist could also become a master administrator. Six and a half years later, that question appears largely settled.

Article 370 was abrogated in a single, audacious legislative move. The Citizenship Amendment Act was passed despite prolonged protests. Colonial-era criminal laws were overhauled. And perhaps most significantly, the Naxal corridor—once a

sprawling insurgent belt across central India—has been pushed to the margins. The Maoist insurgency today is only a shadow of what it was a decade ago.

This transformation did not occur by accident. Shah brought to governance the same methodical, data-driven, deadline-oriented approach that he had refined in electoral politics.

THE EXPANSIONIST MINDSET

Shah does not believe in “safe seats” or “unconquerable territories.” Under his leadership, the BJP's membership drive became the largest in the world, exceeding 110 million members. His

strategy in states like West Bengal, Odisha, and Tripura—once peripheral to the BJP—reflects a willingness to play the long game.

His approach to West Bengal in 2026 exemplifies this. By framing the political narrative as one of “Trust versus Fear,” he sought to challenge entrenched dominance through persistence and organisation.

**HE HAS TRANSFORMED
THE BJP INTO
A RELENTLESS
POLITICAL MACHINE—
DRIVEN BY DATA,
DISCIPLINE, AND
IDEOLOGICAL CLARITY.**

After the setback of 2021, Shah began a quiet, methodical rebuilding process. Conversations within the party at the time reflected resolve rather than despair: return to the drawing board, recalibrate, and rebuild.

The eventual breakthrough in Bengal—marked by a decisive electoral shift—represents more than a victory. It signals a strategic reconfiguration. With expanding influence across regions, the BJP's geographic footprint is increasingly contiguous. This is not coincidence. It is design—Shah's design.

DATA AS THE NEW IDEOLOGY

Behind the slogans and symbolism lies a leader who treats data with near-religious seriousness. Shah's political operations are driven by granular analytics—real-time feedback, caste equations, and beneficiary mapping.

He does not rely on instinct alone; he calculates. This detachment enables swift, often disruptive decisions—replacing leadership, reshaping alliances, or recalibrating strategy with precision.

THE POWER OF IDEOLOGICAL CLARITY

Many political strategists falter because they blur their ideological lines. Shah's strength lies in clarity. Whether on Article 370, the CAA, or the NRC debate, he has consistently backed sharply defined positions.

He understands that a clearly articulated identity often proves more effective than a broad, ambiguous platform. For Shah, political power is ultimately a means to advance a larger ideological vision.

THE QUESTION DELHI IS WHISPERING

Which brings us to the question circulating in Delhi's political circles: is Amit Shah the frontrunner to inherit Narendra Modi's mantle?

At present, he appears not just a frontrunner, but the most prominent contender. As the party's number two and a central figure in government decision-making, his influence is undeniable. Whether and when a transition occurs—and under what circumstances—remains an open question.



IS SHAH MERELY A STRATEGIST—OR THE DEFINING POLITICAL FORCE OF OUR TIMES? AS THE BJP EXPANDS ITS FOOTPRINT, HIS INFLUENCE OVER INDIA'S POLITICAL DIRECTION HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.

What drives Amit Shah, ultimately, is not ambition alone. Indian politics has many ambitious figures. Nor is it intellect alone. It is the combination of discipline, organisational depth, strategic clarity, and an unwavering focus on outcomes.

Simply put, Amit Shah has reshaped the grammar of Indian politics. He has replaced an older, consensus-driven style with a high-intensity, data-backed, ideologically anchored approach.

He treats every election not merely as a contest, but as a defining moment. And long after victories are celebrated, he is already preparing for the next battle.

He is, without doubt, one of the most consequential political figures of his generation. And the next chapter of India's political story, in whatever form it unfolds, will bear his imprint. ▶



Manna Dey

The
Soulful
Genius

Manna Dey, born Prabodh Chandra Dey, was a legendary playback singer whose mastery lay in blending classical rigor with cinematic artistry. Across five decades, he recorded 1,400+ songs, leaving an enduring legacy of musical brilliance.

BY MANOJ K ARORA

May 1st is the birth anniversary of the great master Manna Dey. Born as Prabodh Chandra Dey in a musically oriented family, he was trained in classical music by his uncle who also gave him his stage name Manna Dey. His uncle also introduced him in film music with 1942 film *Tamanna*. However, for the next 12 years, Manna Dey got only religious or situational/narrative songs. One such song from *Mashaal* (1950), however, stood out – *Upar Gagan Vishaal*, composed by SD Burman.

He was brought out as the lead singer by Shankar Jaikishan in 1954 film *Shree 420*. *Pyar Huya Iqrar Huya* and *Mud Mud Ke Na Dekh* were superhits. His last film was *Prahaar* (1991) whose motivational song *Hamari Hi Muthhi Mein Akash Saara* was again a superhit. He was the 2nd, 3rd and 4th top singer during the 50s, 60s and 70s respectively, competing with Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar and Mahindra Kapoor. During this period, he left a legacy of elevating playback singing with over 1400 Hindi songs, a legacy marked by a confluence of art and intellect—where classical rigor meets cinematic expression.

Manna Dey's special ability was to merge classical discipline with cinematic subtlety. His songs, *Sur Na Saje Kya Gayu Main*, *Chham Chham Baaje Re Payaliya*, *Kaun Aaya Mere Man Ke Dware*, *Ketaki Gulab Juhi*, *Laaga Chumari Mein Daag*, *Aayo*

Kahan Se Ghanshyam are counted among the masterpieces in classical hindi film songs. His classical prowess was such that he completed the recording of *Poochho Na Kaise Maine Rain Bitayi* in one take leaving SD Burman and his team stunned.

Manna Dey was equally adept at playful duets. In *Ek Chatur Naar*, he matched comic timing with classical sophistication, engaging in a mock-musical duel that remains iconic. *Aao Twist Karen*, *Ae Meri Zohra Zabeen*, *Yaari Hai Imaan Mera* represent his ability to adapt the depth of his voice to lighthearted songs. He even tried, and successfully so, a raunchy number, *Pyaas Thi Phir Bhi Taqaaza Na Kiya*. His greatest hits, of course, were the philosophical melodies. *Zindagi Kaisi Hai Paheli*, *Phir Kahin Koi Phool Khila*, *Ek Samay Par Do Barsatein*, *Tere Naina Talaash Karen* reveal new philosophical meanings and technical layers each time. *Ganga Aaye Kahaan Se* remains my favourite in this series.

Unlike singers who were strongly associated with specific screen actors, Manna Dey lent his voice to situations requiring musical gravitas or technical finesse. As a result, he became the go-to singer for compositions rooted in classical idioms or demanding vocal dexterity. Where many playback singers leaned into voice texture or screen persona, Manna Dey approached songs like a classical performer adapting to cinema. That's why these pieces reward repeated listening and will continue to do so.

PYAR HUYA IQRAR HUYA AND MUD MUD KE NA DEKH WERE SUPERHITS. HIS LAST FILM WAS PRAHAAR (1991) WHOSE MOTIVATIONAL SONG HAMARI HI MUTHHI MEIN AKASH SAARA WAS AGAIN A SUPERHIT.



Brazil

Beyond Billboards

Brazil dazzles with shimmering beaches, samba rhythms, rainforests, and Iguazu Falls. From Christ the Redeemer to Brasília's modernist curves, it weaves nature, culture, and spirituality into unforgettable adventure.

BY RIMI THAPA

White-sand beaches that shimmer under the sun, the hypnotic rhythms of samba echoing through vibrant streets, and landscapes that shift from dense rainforests to thundering waterfalls - Brazil is a country that seduces the senses at every turn. Add to this, the towering presence of Christ the Redeemer, the awe-inspiring Iguazu Falls, and an abundance of unspoilt natural beauty and it's easy to see why Brazil remains a top destination for eco-tourists and global travelers alike.

Beyond its natural allure, Brazil's cultural and architectural heritage is equally compelling. In the historic town of Congonhas, visitors are transported into a world of artistic devotion. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to the extraordinary works of Aleijadinho, one of Brazil's most celebrated sculptors and architects. His iconic Twelve Prophets, carved meticulously in soapstone, stand as powerful sentinels overlooking the sanctuary, while the Stations of the Cross, rendered

in expressive polychromatic wood, narrate biblical stories with striking realism and emotion.

Further west lies Brasília, a city that feels like a leap into the future. Conceived in the 20th century and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Brasília is a masterclass in urban planning and architectural vision. Designed by Lúcio Costa, the city famously resembles an airplane when viewed from above - though many see it as a bird in flight, its wings stretching across the landscape. Complementing Costa's layout are the modernist masterpieces of Oscar Niemeyer, whose sweeping curves and bold structures define the city's skyline.

For the best panoramic view, visitors can ascend the Television Tower, one of Latin America's tallest structures, offering a sweeping perspective of this carefully crafted urban marvel. Brazil, in essence, is a country of contrasts and harmony - where nature and design, tradition and modernity, all come together in a vibrant, unforgettable tapestry.





Samba rhythms / Mahoba Rezayi (Unsplash)

VALLEY OF DAWN

Brazil is often imagined through its most iconic images - the outstretched arms of Christ the Redeemer, the rhythm of samba, and beaches that stretch endlessly along the Atlantic. But beyond these familiar frames lies a country that reveals itself slowly, through layers of spirituality,

adventure, and untamed natural beauty.

Just under an hour's drive from Brasília lies one of Brazil's most intriguing secrets "the Valley of the Dawn". Often described as the country's spiritual heart, this mystical settlement is home to over 150 religious groups, each practicing unique forms of physical and spiritual healing. Here, rituals



AS EVENING FALLS, RIO SHIFTS GEARS. THE AIR FILLS WITH THE HYPNOTIC BEAT OF DRUMS, AND SAMBA TAKES CENTER STAGE. WATCHING DANCERS IN VIBRANT COSTUMES MOVE WITH EFFORTLESS GRACE IS MORE THAN ENTERTAINMENT - IT'S A WINDOW INTO THE CULTURAL SOUL OF SOUTH AMERICA, SHAPED BY INFLUENCES FROM NEIGHBOURING ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY, YET DISTINCTLY BRAZILIAN IN SPIRIT.

inspired by ancient civilizations - from Egypt to indigenous traditions, coexist in a surreal yet harmonious setting. For travellers seeking something beyond the conventional, the valley offers a rare glimpse into Brazil's deeply rooted spiritual consciousness.

From introspection to indulgence, the journey continues in Rio de Janeiro, where the city's

natural beauty unfolds in cinematic fashion. A drive along the sweeping coastline takes you past legendary beaches like Copacabana, Ipanema, and Leblon, each with its own rhythm and personality, before curving around the tranquil waters of Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon.

As evening falls, Rio shifts gears. The air fills with the hypnotic beat of drums, and samba takes center stage. Watching dancers in vibrant costumes move with effortless grace is more than entertainment - it's a window into the cultural soul of South America, shaped by influences from neighbouring Argentina and Paraguay, yet distinctly Brazilian in spirit.

For those drawn to landscapes that feel almost untouched, the northeastern state of Ceará offers a striking contrast. At Canoa Quebrada, dramatic pink sand dunes rise against the horizon, creating a surreal backdrop for adventure. Whether it's a buggy ride across the dunes, paragliding over the coastline, or simply soaking in the raw beauty of the terrain, the experience feels both exhilarating and remote.

IF YOUR IDEA OF TRAVEL LEANS MORE TOWARDS QUIET LUXURY, THE ISLANDS OF FERNANDO DE NORONHA OFFER AN IDYLIC ESCAPE. OFTEN DESCRIBED AS PARADISE ON EARTH, THIS PROTECTED ARCHIPELAGO IS HOME TO PRISTINE BEACHES, CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATERS, AND VIBRANT MARINE LIFE.

If your idea of travel leans more towards quiet luxury, the islands of Fernando de Noronha offer an idyllic escape. Often described as paradise on earth, this protected archipelago is home to pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant marine life. Snorkeling here reveals schools of tropical fish gliding effortlessly through the ocean, while a visit to Dolphin's Bay offers the chance to watch dolphins dance across the Atlantic. It's easy to see why explorer Amerigo Vespucci once called it a "paradisiacal place."

And then there is the spectacle of Iguazu Falls, a natural wonder that defies description. Spread across more than 240 cascading waterfalls, the sheer scale and power of Iguazu is overwhelming. A glass elevator ride offers sweeping views from above, but it's the motorboat journey toward the



thundering Devil's Throat that truly immerses you in the experience. Surrounded by dense rainforest and enveloped in mist, the moment feels both humbling and exhilarating.

IGUAZU BRAZIL

Through it all, Brazil's culinary landscape adds another layer to the journey. From freshly caught seafood at beachside shacks to refined dishes in luxury hotels, every meal reflects the country's rich cultural tapestry.

In Brazil, every experience feels heightened, nature is wilder, culture more vibrant, and moments more memorable. It's a destination that doesn't just meet expectations, but expands them and making it, in every sense, the perfect escape for travelers seeking soulful adventure. ▶

FROM FERNANDO DE NORONHA'S PRISTINE BEACHES AND DOLPHINS TO IGUAZU'S THUNDERING FALLS, BRAZIL BLENDS WILD NATURE, VIBRANT CULTURE, AND SOULFUL CUISINE INTO UNFORGETTABLE, HEIGHTENED ADVENTURES THAT EXPAND EVERY TRAVELER'S EXPECTATIONS.



GANGA EXPRESSWAY

A 594 km Economic Corridor Transforming Uttar Pradesh

BY AVNISH VIDYARTHI

On April 29, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 594-kilometer-long Ganga Expressway in Hardoi. This is not just another highway—it is a transformative economic corridor that connects eastern and western Uttar Pradesh, reshaping the state's development trajectory. Stretching from Bijauli village in Meerut to Judapur Dandu village in Prayagraj, this greenfield project has become India's longest expressway of its kind.

Built at a cost of ₹36,230 crore, the expressway passes through 12 districts and is designed for speeds of up to 120 km/h. It is expected to reduce travel time between Meerut and Prayagraj from 10–12 hours to just 6–8 hours, significantly improving mobility across the state.

ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE AND DESIGN

The Ganga Expressway stands out with its massive infrastructure scale. It includes 32 flyovers, 7 rail overbridges, 14 major bridges, and numerous smaller structures. The six-lane access-controlled expressway is expandable to eight lanes, ensuring it remains future-ready.

Unlike existing expressways such as the Yamuna Expressway (165 km) or the Purvanchal Expressway (340 km), the Ganga Expressway acts



as a central spine running across Uttar Pradesh in an east-west direction, providing balanced regional connectivity.

STRATEGIC AIRSTRIP AND DEFENCE UTILITY

One of its most unique features is a 3.5-kilometer-long emergency airstrip in Shahjahanpur. This airstrip can be used for both civilian and defence purposes,



द मेरठ से जनपद प्रयागराज तक 594 कि.मी. लम्बाई के प्रवेश नियंत्रित (C

गंगा एक्सप्रेसवे

का

लोकार्पण श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री

के कर कमलों द्वारा सम्पन्न हुआ।

प्रणाम्यी उपस्थिति

श्रीमती आनंदीबेन पटेल श्री आनंदीबेन पटेल



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ganga Expressway in the presence of Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak.



enhancing India's strategic preparedness during emergencies or conflict situations—a feature absent in most other expressways.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

The expressway is not just about connectivity—it is designed as an economic engine. Around 6,507 acres of land have been earmarked for industrial nodes. Already, 987 investment proposals worth ₹47,000 crore have been received.

Integrated manufacturing and logistics hubs are being developed along the corridor, focusing on sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, handicrafts and MSMEs. This will create jobs and accelerate industrialization in regions that were previously underdeveloped.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS DEVELOPMENT

As a greenfield project, the expressway has been constructed on a new alignment, minimizing disruption to existing urban areas. It incorporates flood-resilient design, wildlife crossings, and green belts, making it environmentally sustainable.

Additionally, the project includes 9 wayside

**UNIQUE 3.5-KM
SHAHJAHANPUR
AIRSTRIP SERVES
CIVILIANS AND DEFENCE,
STRENGTHENING
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS.**





amenities, 2 main toll plazas, and 19 ramp toll plazas. EV charging stations are also planned, supporting India's transition toward electric mobility.

A GAME-CHANGER FOR CONNECTIVITY AND ECONOMY

Unlike the Yamuna Expressway, which primarily boosted tourism and real estate, or the Purvanchal Expressway, which focused on eastern Uttar Pradesh, the Ganga Expressway provides holistic connectivity across the state.

It directly connects 518 villages, enabling farmers to transport their produce quickly to markets in Meerut, Delhi and beyond. Religious tourism is also expected to rise with improved access to Prayagraj.

Economically, the expressway is projected to reduce logistics costs in Uttar Pradesh by 30–40%, bringing it closer to the national average. Districts such as Bulandshahr, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, and Pratapgarh—once constrained by poor

connectivity—are now poised for rapid development.

EXECUTION SPEED AND FUTURE VISION

Remarkably, the project was completed in just five years, compared to the typical 8–10 years for large infrastructure developments. It was executed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) under the EPC model. A 14-kilometer link road connecting Meerut to the Delhi-Meerut Expressway is expected to be completed by July 2026, further strengthening the transport network.

A NEW ERA FOR UTTAR PRADESH

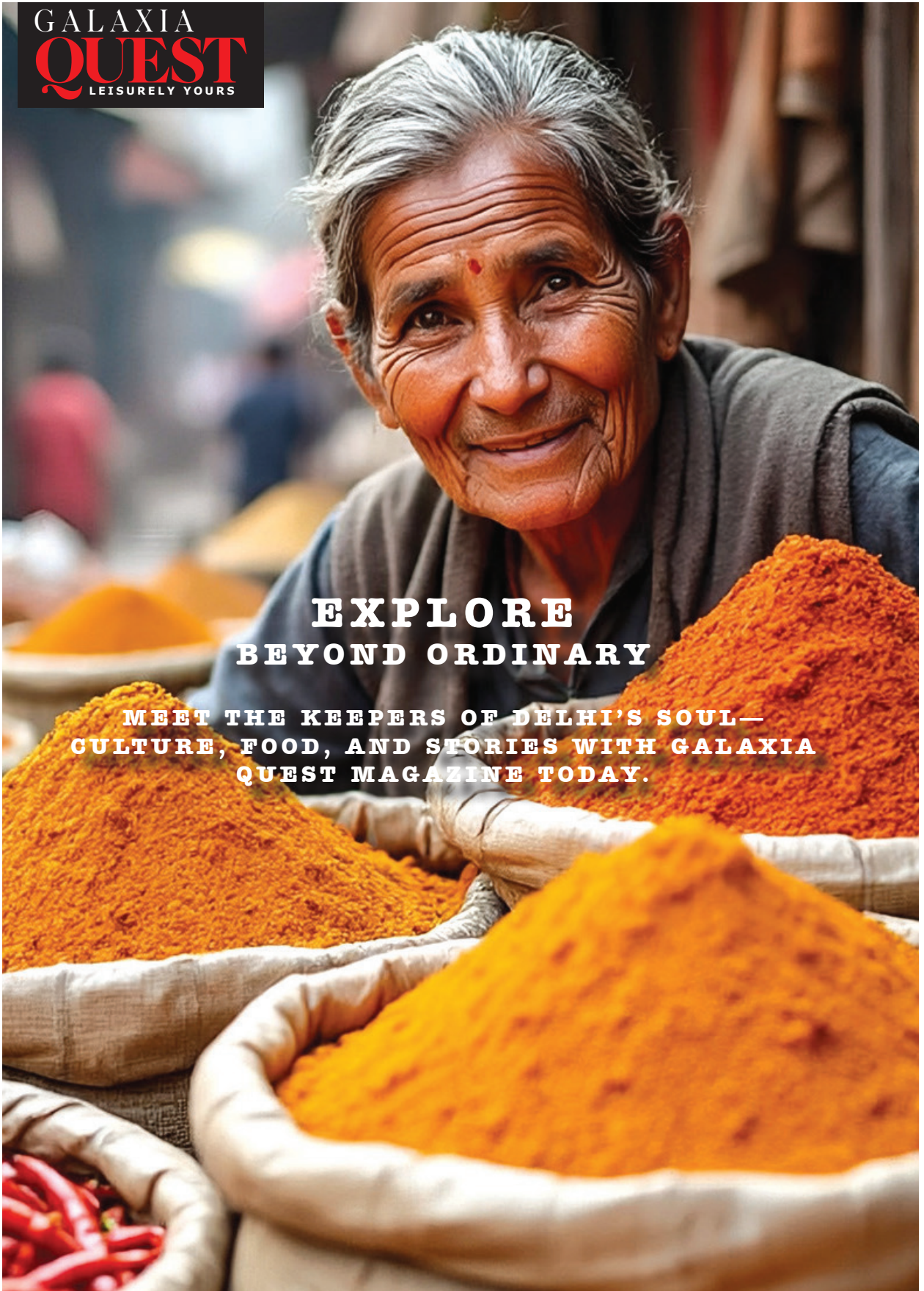
For travelers, the expressway promises smoother, safer, and faster journeys with modern safety features and controlled access. For farmers, traders, and youth, it represents new opportunities and economic mobility.

The Ganga Expressway is not merely a stretch of concrete—it is a symbol of aspiration and progress. It weaves together regions, economies, and opportunities, writing a new chapter in Uttar Pradesh's growth story. Where journeys were once long and exhausting, the road ahead now leads to faster connections and bigger dreams. ▶

GALAXIA
QUEST
LEISURELY YOURS

**EXPLORE
BEYOND ORDINARY**

**MEET THE KEEPERS OF DELHI'S SOUL—
CULTURE, FOOD, AND STORIES WITH GALAXIA
QUEST MAGAZINE TODAY.**



CYCLE OF CONFUSION

WHY MODERN HEALTH IS FAILING— A RATHER IMPORTANT ASPECT WE ARE MISSING

Despite endless health information, patients remain unwell. Dr. YUVRAAJ SINGH explains why fragmented treatments fail, and why true healing demands structure, systems-thinking, and precision before disease manifests.



Dr. YUVRAAJ SINGH

*MD Internal Medicine / Critical Care
Advanced Training in Hormonal, Metabolic
and Regenerative Medicine (A4M, USA)*

“HEALTH MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM—REQUIRING STRUCTURED EVALUATION, PRECISE INTERPRETATION, AND INDIVIDUALIZED INTERVENTION.”

PRECISION HEALTH

We are living in a time where health information is everywhere—abundant, accessible, and constantly evolving—yet people remain miles away from true clarity.

Hence, despite everything they have tried, many people find themselves exactly where they began, sometimes worse.

And so begins the cycle.

They start experimenting. Supplements suggested by friends, vitamins seen in advertisements, hormones prescribed without adequate context, infusions that promise quick results, fad diets that don't work or people cannot adhere to for too long. Yet beneath all of this activity, very little truly changes.

The issue is not a lack of treatment.

The issue is a lack of structure.

If we examine how any successful business operates, there is always a defined sequence: a clear vision, accurate identification of the problem, a structured plan, a roadmap, execution, continuous monitoring, and timely course correction.

Health, however, is rarely approached with this level of precision.

Instead, what we see is fragmented decision-making, isolated interventions applied without a unifying framework. A supplement is added here, a hormone is prescribed there, a diet is modified temporarily—but without understanding how these elements integrate within the individual's physiology.



**The human body does not function in silos.
Organ systems do not operate in isolation.**

Hereditary Genetic predispositions or acquired genetic variations (polymorphisms and/or mutations), hormonal balance, metabolic health, and inflammatory processes are deeply interconnected. A disruption in one inevitably influences the others (“The Butterfly Effect”). Yet, in routine practice, these systems are frequently addressed independently and in isolation from the rest of the body.

Consider a common example: Folate supplementation.

People are often prescribed Folic acid without assessing whether their body can effectively metabolize it. Genetic variations such as MTHFR

polymorphisms can significantly alter folate utilization. In such cases, supplementation may be inadequate—or even counterproductive. Similarly, in conditions like hyperhomocysteinemia, Folate is frequently prescribed to reduce elevated homocysteine levels, a known risk factor for vascular damage, stroke and heart disease. However, we commonly see that follow-up testing often reveals persistently elevated homocysteine levels alongside excessively high folate levels—highlighting a fundamental gap in understanding the underlying metabolic pathways.

This is not an isolated example.

It reflects a broader pattern of intervention without full comprehension—an approach that, over time, may do more harm than good.

Over two decades of practicing Internal Medicine and Critical Care, I have witnessed where this lack of structured understanding ultimately leads. Conditions that appear sudden—a cardiac event, a metabolic crisis, a neurological decline - are rarely abrupt. They represent the culmination of years of gradual physiological shifts that went unrecognized or inadequately addressed.

This is where a different approach becomes essential.

Health must be understood as an integrated system—requiring structured evaluation, precise interpretation, and individualized intervention. It is not about adding more treatments, but about understanding where each intervention fits within the broader biological context.

The goal is not temporary relief. It is restoration of function.

As medicine evolves, there is an urgent need to move away from reactive and end-stage care toward a model that identifies and corrects dysfunction early, before it manifests as disease.

Because by the time the body begins to signal distress, the process of decline has already been underway for years.

The real opportunity lies in recognizing it sooner—and addressing it with clarity, structure, and precision. ▶



Luxury in the Clouds

India's hill stations have transformed from simple summer escapes into luxurious retreats. Misty peaks, pine forests, and refreshing air now frame elegant resorts where comfort, privacy, and scenic beauty blend seamlessly, offering travellers unforgettable mountain experiences amidst breathtaking natural surroundings.

Misty white snow peaks, pine forests with a diverse array of flora and fauna and refreshing mountain air, hill stations offer the perfect setting to relax and rejuvenate. Today, many of these destinations are also home to elegant resorts that turn a simple mountain getaway into a truly delightful experience. As summer temperatures rise across India, travellers often head to the hills in search of cooler climates and peaceful scenic surroundings.

Over the years, several of India's hill stations have evolved beyond traditional holiday spots to become high-end retreats. Elegant heritage hotels, secluded villas and wellness resorts now offer travellers memorable stays surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery.



What were once simple summer getaways have now transformed into luxury mountain escapes where comfort blends seamlessly with nature. Travellers can unwind in beautiful resorts while enjoying panoramic views and thoughtfully curated experiences.

Set amidst misty valleys and forested slopes, India's luxury hill resorts offer the perfect balance of comfort, privacy and scenic beauty. Here are some of India's most exclusive hill station retreats for the perfect mountain escape.

WILDFLOWER HALL, SHIMLA



Nestled in the cedar-covered hills of Mashobra near Shimla, Wildflower Hall is one of the Himalayas' most beautiful luxury retreats. Once home to Lord Kitchener, the estate keeps its colonial charm while offering all the comforts of modern living. With stunning Himalayan views all around, it is a peaceful place for anyone wanting to relax and enjoy nature.

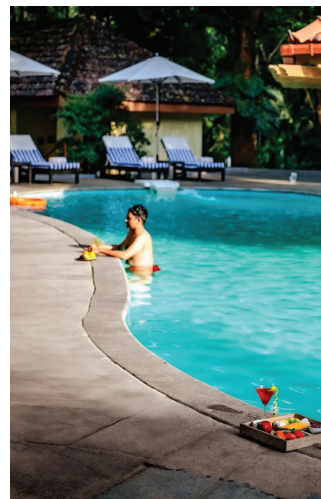
Cost: ₹ 25,000 – ₹ 40,000 per night (Higher on weekends)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Panoramic mountain view
- Open-air heated jacuzzi and luxury spa
- Guided trekking and mountain biking
- Private hillside candlelit dinner experience



THE TAMARA, COORG



Located within a lush coffee plantation in the Western Ghats, this eco-luxury resort harmonises with its natural surroundings. The property has elegant cottages that overlook scenic mountains and provide a peaceful retreat. The resort is known for its eco-friendly practices, luxury comfort and peaceful environment for travellers.

Cost: ₹25,000 - ₹35,000 per night

How to Reach: The nearest airport is Mangalore

International Airport, which is about 140 km away or the Kempegowda International Airport, which is about 270 km away. Both cities offer accessible road routes to the resort.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Plantation walks
- Birdwatching and nature treks
- Indulge in yoga sessions for holistic wellness experience.

EVOLVE BACK, COORG



Evolve Coorg is a luxury resort that is inspired by the traditional culture and architecture of the Kodava community. The resort is in the middle of coffee and spice plantations. The property has villas and offers a variety of activities. Guests get to explore the local customs and enjoy authentic cuisine while experiencing top-notch hospitality in luxurious and comfortable settings.

Cost: ₹35,000 - ₹60,000 per night.

How to Reach: The nearest airport is Mangalore International Airport, located about 140 km away, while the Kempegowda International Airport is around 270 km away. The resort can be reached conveniently from both locations.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Private pool villas
- Tour of the surrounding coffee and spice plantation
- Ayurvedic wellness spa
- Specially curated cultural experiences

TARA MOUNTAIN SARAI, LADAKH



Tara Mountain Sarai is a boutique lodge located near Leh, inspired by traditional Ladakhi architecture. Built with local stone and wood, the property blends seamlessly with the surrounding landscape. It offers panoramic views of the Stok Kangri mountain range and provides travellers with a comfortable base to explore Ladakh's monasteries, cultural sites, and dramatic Himalayan scenery.

Cost: ₹18,000–₹35,000 per night

How to reach: The nearest airport is Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, which is about 10 km away.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Luxury glamping
- Ideal location for spiritual treks
- Fresh farm-to-table meals
- Yoga, adventure biking, and opportunities to spot wildlife

THE ELGIN, DARJEELING



Once the summer palace of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, this heritage hotel offers a glimpse into Darjeeling's colonial past. The property features classic British architecture, antique furnishings, fireplaces, and pristine gardens. Set close to the town centre, it blends royal history with modern comforts, offering a charming hill-station experience amid Himalayan scenery.

Cost: ₹12,000 – ₹25,000 per night.

How to reach: The nearest airport is Bagdogra, which is about 70 km away. From there, a scenic road journey or the famous toy train ride to Darjeeling.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Heritage architecture
- Nature walk
- Curated activities by the hotel
- Proximity to tea estates

THE KHYBER HIMALAYAN RESORT & SPA, GULMARG



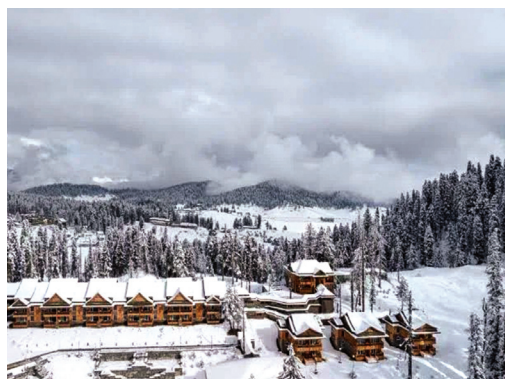
Situated in the picturesque Gulmarg valley, the Khyber Himalayan Resorts & Spa overlooks the majestic Pir Panjal mountain range. The property beautifully blends traditional Kashmiri architecture with modern comforts and offers direct access to the famous Gulmarg Gondola. It is widely regarded as one of India's finest mountain resorts, especially popular among skiing and winter sports enthusiasts.

Cost: ₹30,000–₹50,000 per night

How to reach: Visitors can fly to Sheikh-ul-Alam International Airport, Srinagar, located around 65 km away, and then take a picturesque drive to reach Gulmarg.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Ski access,
- Heated indoor pool,
- Luxury spa



DELLA RESORTS, LONAVALA



Located in the hill station of Lonavala between Mumbai and Pune, Della Resorts is a luxury destination resort known for offering upscale hospitality with adventure tourism. The property features stylish villas, luxury tents, and premium suites. With its large adventure park and entertainment facilities, it attracts leisure travellers, families, and corporate groups seeking a lively getaway.

Cost: ₹20,000–₹45,000 per night

How to reach: the resort is 90 km from Mumbai and 70 km from Pune via road.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Signature spa therapies
- Luxury villas
- World-class adventure park
- Thrilling entertainment and recreational facilities



RI KYNJAI – SERENITY BY THE LAKE, SHILLONG



Ri Kynjai is a boutique resort overlooking Umiam Lake near Shillong. The property is inspired by the traditional architecture of the Khasi tribe and features wooden cottages set in peaceful natural surroundings. It offers a relaxing stay while allowing visitors to explore Meghalaya’s scenic landscapes, waterfalls, and local culture.

Cost: ₹12,000 – ₹25,000 per night

How to Reach: Nearest airport: Shillong Airport (around 30 km) or Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (around 100 km).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Views of Umiam Lake
- Khasi-style architecture
- Peaceful nature retreat
- Access to Meghalaya attractions

ANANDA IN THE HIMALAYAS, RISHIKESH



Ananda in the Himalayas is a globally acclaimed luxury wellness retreat located near Rishikesh. It is set within a 100-acre estate that was once the royal palace of the Maharaja of Tehri. The property focuses on holistic well-being through Ayurveda, yoga, meditation and spa therapies. With tranquil surroundings and personalized wellness programs, it attracts guests from around the world seeking rejuvenation and spiritual renewal.

Cost: ₹70,000 – ₹1,50,000 + per night

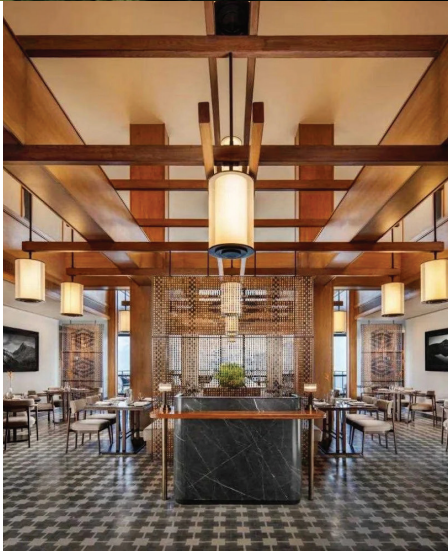
How to reach: Arrive at Jolly Grant Airport around 40 km away, followed by a 1-hour drive.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Award-winning wellness spa treatments
- Yoga and Meditation retreats
- Sunrise treks to the ancient Kunjapuri Devi Temple
- Tailored Ayurvedic meal plan for every guest



TAJ GURAS KUTIR RESORT & SPA, GANGTOK



Set amidst the scenic hills near Gangtok, Taj Guras Kutir Resort & Spa offers a peaceful stay surrounded by forests and Himalayan landscapes. The resort blends traditional Sikkimese design with modern luxury. Guests can enjoy comfortable rooms, peaceful surroundings, and views of the mountains while experiencing Taj hospitality and exploring the culture and natural beauty of the region.

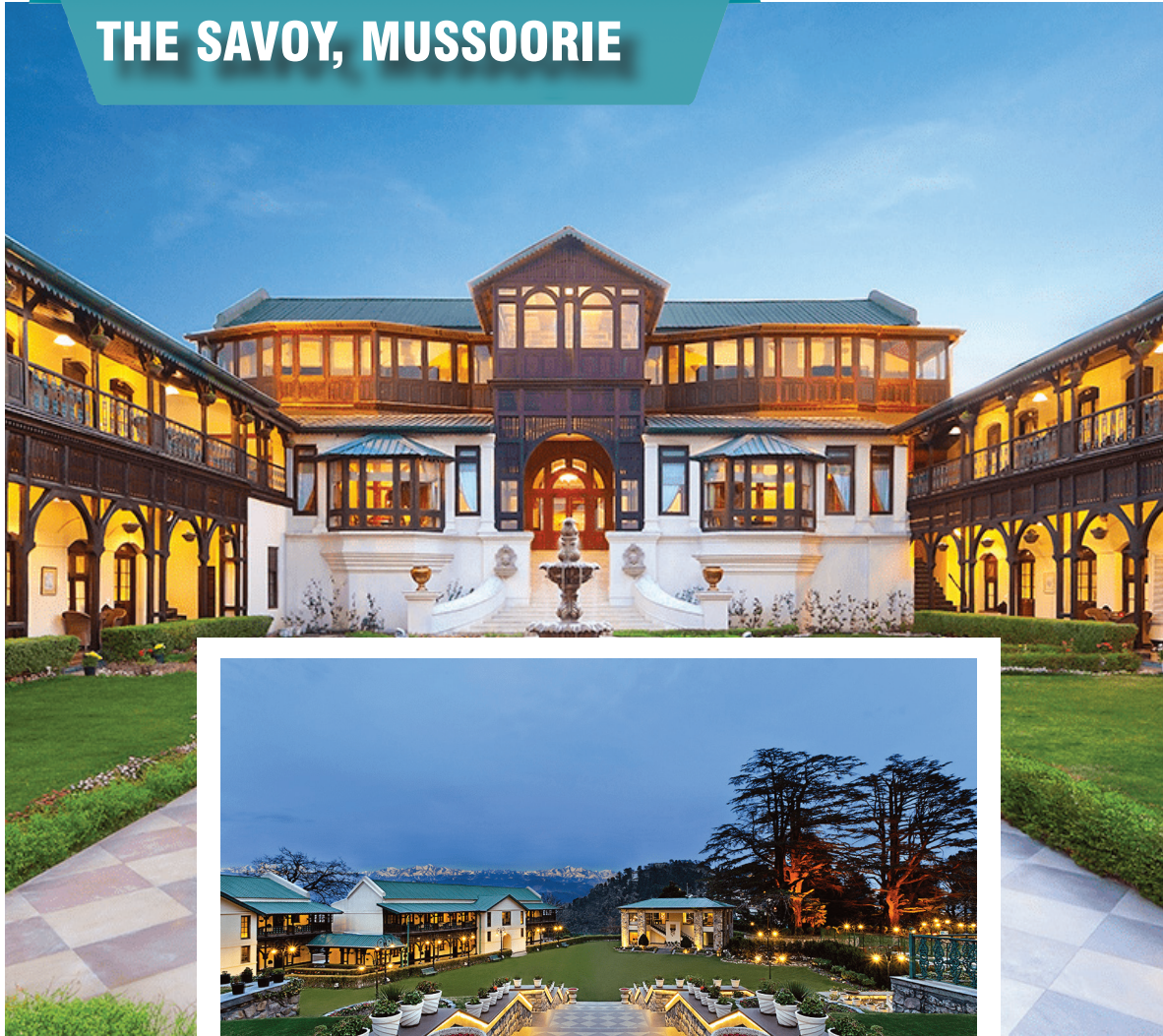
Cost: ₹25,000 – ₹40,000 per night

How to reach: Nearest airport: Bagdogra Airport; about 125 km away, followed by a scenic mountain drive to Gangtok or helicopter transfer from the Airport to Gangtok helipad (35 minutes), followed by a short drive to the resort.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Unparalleled Kanchenjunga views
- Holistic wellness
- Signature dining experience
- Architectural & Cultural Fusion

THE SAVOY, MUSSOORIE



“At Taj Savoy, every corridor whispers stories of a bygone era.”

Built in 1902, this heritage property echoes the colonial elegance of Mussoorie's British-era history. Surrounded by landscaped gardens, the hotel offers vintage charm with modern luxury. Guests can enjoy spacious rooms, peaceful surroundings and scenic views of the Doon Valley while experiencing premium hospitality in one of the most historic hotels in the region.

Cost: ₹18,000 - ₹30,000 per night.

How to Reach: Fly to Dehradun and drive 90 minutes to Mussoorie.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Lal Tibba and Gun Hill for scenic Himalayan views
- A walk along the Camel's Back Road
- Relax with Spa treatments
- Enjoy a heritage dining experience

ROYAL ORCHID FORT RESORT - MUSSOORIE



Nestled amidst Garhwal's Shivalik and Himalayan ranges, Mussoorie, also known as Queen of The Hills, stands above the rest with its deep woods, favourable climate, and mesmerising views. Located amidst the quaint valleys of Mussoorie, is preferred by those who are looking for a quick weekend getaway. Away from the city, yet it is close to the Mall Road and expansive valet-assisted parking. Featuring wooden floors, soothing upholstery, and walls with pastel shades, the resort offers amazing views of the mountains and a bird's-eye view of Dehradun.

Cost: ₹14,000 - ₹20,000 per night.

How to Reach: Fly to Dehradun and drive 90 minutes to Mussoorie.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Soham Heritage Centre
- Jabarkhet Nature Reserve
- Camel Back Road
- Gun Hill
- Mall Road

BACKSTREETS TO BRIGHT LIGHTS



Credit: Stock photos



BY **RAVI V CHHABRA**

Born in Black communities of the American South, jazz fused African rhythms with blues and ragtime. From New Orleans streets to global stages, it remains music of freedom, improvisation, and resilient expression.

Jazz didn't begin in concert halls or conservatories - it was born in the margins. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, across Black communities in the American South, music became a powerful form of expression shaped by hardship, hope, and cultural memory. What started in overlooked neighborhoods would eventually redefine global music.


At its core, jazz carries the imprint of African musical traditions brought to America through slavery. Rhythm was central - layered, syncopated, and alive. So was improvisation, the ability to create in the moment, and call-and-response patterns that echoed communal life. These elements survived in work songs, spirituals, and field hollers - music that gave voice to pain, but also to endurance and identity.

As these traditions met European musical systems, something new began to take shape. Instruments like the piano and trumpet became vehicles for a hybrid sound. Out of this fusion came the blues, rich with emotion and storytelling, and ragtime, marked by its playful syncopation. Together, they laid the groundwork for jazz's distinctive voice.



IN ITS EARLY DAYS, JAZZ WASN'T CONSIDERED REFINED. IT WAS TIED TO NIGHTLIFE AND SEEN AS EDGY, EVEN IMPROPER BY POLITE SOCIETY. BUT THAT EDGE WAS EXACTLY WHAT MADE IT COMPELLING.





BY THE 1920S, JAZZ HAD STEPPED INTO THE SPOTLIGHT. THE SO-CALLED JAZZ AGE SAW IT MOVE INTO STYLISH NIGHTCLUBS AND GRAND BALLROOMS, EMBRACED BY AUDIENCES WHO ONCE STOOD AT A DISTANCE. IT BECAME THE SOUNDTRACK OF A CHANGING SOCIETY - MODERN, DARING, AND FULL OF ENERGY.

In its early days, jazz wasn't considered refined. It was tied to nightlife and seen as edgy, even improper by polite society. But that edge was exactly what made it compelling. Each performance was alive with spontaneity, driven by musicians who shaped the music as they played it. Improvisation wasn't just a technique - it was the heart of jazz.

As the music spread beyond the South, it began to evolve. The Great Migration carried jazz to cities like Chicago and New York, where new audiences and opportunities awaited. Bands grew larger, arrangements more intricate, and the sound more polished - without losing its creative spark.

By the 1920s, jazz had stepped into the spotlight. The so-called Jazz Age saw it move into stylish nightclubs and grand ballrooms, embraced by audiences who once stood at a distance. It became the soundtrack of a changing society - modern, daring, and full of energy.

Yet, beneath the glamour, jazz never lost its roots. Its journey from backstreets to bright lights reflects a deeper story about cultural influence and resilience. Even as it gained popularity, the music continued to carry the spirit of the communities that created it.

Today, jazz is celebrated worldwide, but its essence remains unchanged. It is music that thrives on freedom, conversation, and emotion - a reminder that some of the most enduring art began far from the spotlight. ▶

No city captures this transformation better than New Orleans. Ragtime and blues ruled the streets and in folklore, as much in a myriad ceremonies - sad and happy ones.

By the turn of the century, it was a vibrant cultural crossroads where African, Caribbean, and European influences mixed freely. In the working class districts - often dismissed as rough or unruly - music and revelry thrived! Jazz took shape in bars, dance halls, and on street corners, where musicians experimented without rules. The result was a sound that was loose, energetic, and deeply expressive.



VIKASH KALRA

FORGING THE FUTURE OF FORM

Vikash Kalra redefines contemporary Indian art by forging steel into human emotion. His monumental sculptures blend industrial rigor with poetic fragility, while paintings echo modernist intensity. Speaking a global language, his evolving practice bridges strength, vulnerability, and futurist ambition for collectors worldwide.

BY RITIKA LALL CHAKRAVARTTY



WHAT MAKES VIKASH KALRA PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IS THAT HIS WORK DOES NOT CONFORM TO A SINGULAR “INDIAN AESTHETIC.” INSTEAD, IT ALIGNS MORE CLOSELY WITH AN INTERNATIONAL VISUAL DISCOURSE.

In the landscape of contemporary Indian art, Vikash Kalra stands apart, not merely for what he creates, but for how he redefines the language of material and emotion. Moving seamlessly between sculpture and painting, Kalra’s practice is anchored in a rare duality: industrial rigor and poetic sensitivity.

He is best known for his monumental, life-size sculptures forged in steel, works that challenge the very expectations of the medium. Steel, often associated with infrastructure and permanence,

becomes in Kalra’s hands unexpectedly human. Through bending, welding, and shaping, he constructs figures that appear both resilient and vulnerable, embodying the psychological tensions of modern existence. These sculptures do not simply occupy space; they command it, inviting viewers into a silent yet profound dialogue on strength, fragility, and identity.

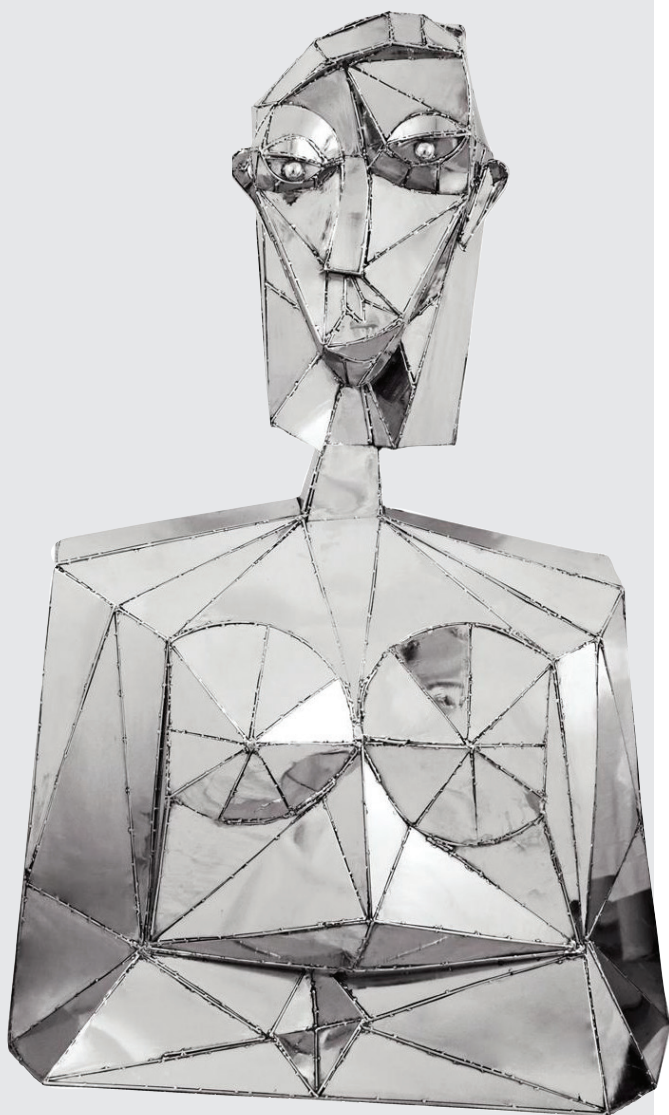
Parallel to his sculptural language, Kalra’s paintings offer an equally compelling extension of his art journey. His canvases resonate with an expressive intensity that recalls the modernist provocations of artists like F. N. Souza and Pablo Picasso, yet they move decisively beyond influence and creates its own strokes. Bold lines, deliberate distortions, and a restless interplay between figuration and abstraction defines his visual vocabulary. His paintings feel capturing not just in the form of the human figure but through its emotional residue as well.

What makes Vikash Kalra particularly significant is that his work does not conform to a singular “Indian aesthetic.” Instead, it aligns more closely with an international visual discourse. His practice speaks a global language, one that resonates with collectors and institutions beyond geographical boundaries. In this sense, Kalra is not just an Indian artist; he is a contemporary artist operating within an international framework of thought, scale, and ambition.

There is also an unmistakable futurism in his vision. Kalra is an artist who anticipates rather than follows; constantly evolving his forms, materials, and narratives to remain in dialogue with a rapidly changing world. This adaptability, combined with a strong conceptual foundation, positions him as a forward-looking voice in contemporary art. One whose work is likely to gain increasing relevance over time.

At the core of his journey lies an uncompromising pursuit of authenticity. Whether forging steel into human forms or constructing layered visual narratives on canvas, Kalra

KALRA IS AN ARTIST WHO ANTICIPATES RATHER THAN FOLLOWS; CONSTANTLY EVOLVING HIS FORMS, MATERIALS, AND NARRATIVES TO REMAIN IN DIALOGUE WITH A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD. THIS ADAPTABILITY, COMBINED WITH A STRONG CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION, POSITIONS HIM AS A FORWARD-LOOKING VOICE IN CONTEMPORARY ART.



continues to build a language that bridges contrasts: the physical and the emotional, the industrial and the poetic, the inherited and the entirely his own.

ART AS INVESTMENT: THE VIKASH KALRA PORTFOLIO

In today’s evolving art market, collecting is no longer driven solely by aesthetic appreciation. It is also shaped by strategic foresight. Vikash Kalra’s work presents a compelling case for both.

His large-scale steel sculptures, given their material permanence and technical complexity, hold strong long-term value. They are limited in production, physically demanding to create, and highly distinctive - qualities that naturally enhance their desirability among serious collectors. As public and institutional interest in monumental and site-specific works grows globally, such pieces are likely to appreciate significantly.

His paintings, on the other hand, offer a more accessible entry point into his practice. Rich in expression and backed by a cohesive artistic philosophy, these works have the potential for steady value growth as his international recognition expands. Early acquisition of such pieces can position collectors advantageously within his market trajectory.

For collectors and investors, a balanced Kalra portfolio could include:

MATERIAL VALUE AND SCARCITY DYNAMICS

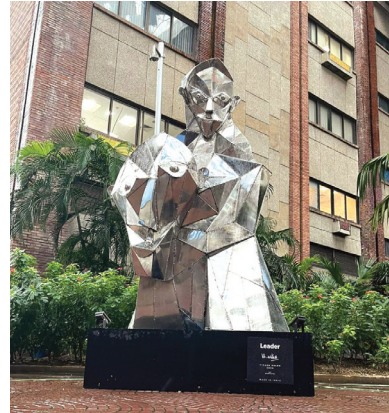
A key driver of Kalra’s investment appeal lies in his material choice and production complexity.

1. Steel Sculptures: High-Value Asset Class

Kalra’s life-size and monumental steel sculptures represent his most significant investment-grade works.

Key value drivers:

- Industrial fabrication process (high technical barrier)
- Limited output due to scale and labor intensity
- Strong physical permanence (durable, archival material)



Photos: Ritika Lall Chakravartty

- High suitability for institutional placement and large-scale collections

These factors create natural scarcity, positioning his sculptures in the category of long-term appreciating blue-chip contemporary assets.

As global demand increases for large-format, experiential sculpture in private estates, public spaces, and museums, Kalra's sculptural works are structurally aligned with rising market demand.

2. Paintings: Growth-Stage Appreciation Assets

Kalra's paintings function as a liquidity and entry-level investment layer within his practice.

Investment characteristics:

- Lower acquisition threshold compared to sculptures
- Strong conceptual continuity with sculptural language
- High emotional and visual appeal for private collectors
- Early-stage pricing relative to projected career trajectory

These works are particularly suitable for:

- Portfolio diversification within a single artist
- Early-market positioning
- Medium to long-term appreciation strategy

INVESTMENT PERSPECTIVE

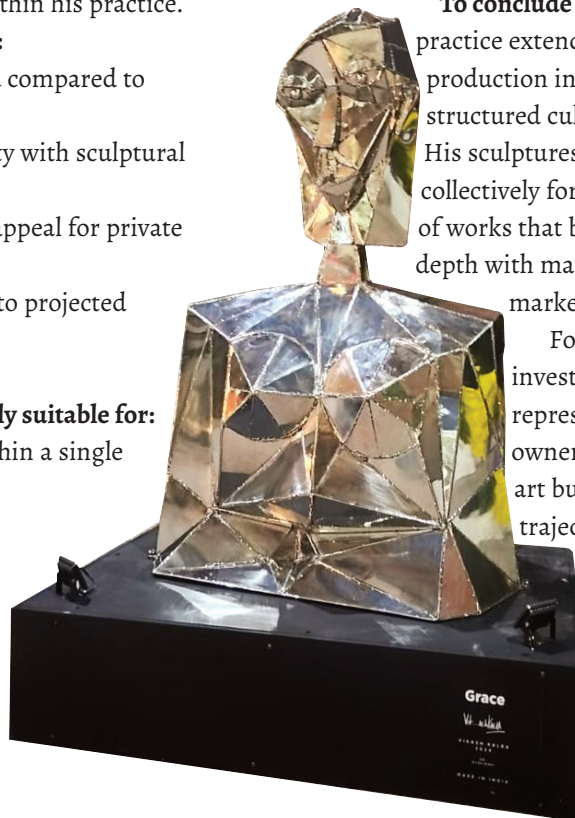
From an art investment standpoint, Kalra's work operates at the intersection of:

- Scarcity-driven value (limited sculptural output)
- Material durability (steel as long-life medium)
- Conceptual relevance (global contemporary language)
- Scalable market demand (sculpture + painting ecosystem)

This combination positions his practice as a multi-layered investment opportunity, where collectors can participate at different financial entry points while maintaining exposure to a single coherent artistic vision.

To conclude - Vikash Kalra's practice extends beyond aesthetic production into the domain of structured cultural value creation. His sculptures and paintings collectively form an evolving portfolio of works that balance emotional depth with material permanence and market potential.

For collectors and investors, his work represents not only ownership of contemporary art but participation in the trajectory of an artist whose language is increasingly aligned with global demand, institutional relevance, and long-term value appreciation. ▀



FIFA WORLD CUP HIGHLIGHTS QUIZ

1. Which player scored the infamous "Hand of God" goal in 1986?

- A. Pelé
- B. Diego Maradona
- C. Johan Cruyff
- D. Michel Platini

2. Which country won the first-ever World Cup in 1930?

- A. Brazil
- B. Italy
- C. Uruguay
- D. Germany

3. Who is the all-time top scorer in World Cup history?

- A. Miroslav Klose
- B. Ronaldo Nazário
- C. Lionel Messi
- D. Gerd Müller

4. Which team defeated Brazil 7-1 in the 2014 semi-final?

- A. Spain
- B. Argentina
- C. France
- D. Germany

5. Who scored a hat-trick in the 2022 World Cup final?

- A. Kylian Mbappé
- B. Lionel Messi
- C. Antoine Griezmann
- D. Ángel Di María

6. Which African nation became the first to reach a World Cup semi-final (2022)?

- A. Nigeria
- B. Cameroon
- C. Ghana
- D. Morocco

7. Who won the Golden Ball (best player) at the 2010 World Cup?

- A. Andrés Iniesta
- B. Xavi Hernández
- C. Diego Forlán
- D. Wesley Sneijder

8. Which country has won the most World Cups?

- A. Germany
- B. Italy
- C. Brazil
- D. Argentina

9. Who scored the winning goal in the 2010 final?

- A. David Villa
- B. Fernando Torres
- C. Andrés Iniesta
- D. Cesc Fàbregas

10. Which country hosted the 2018 World Cup?

- A. Brazil
- B. Russia
- C. Qatar
- D. Germany

ANSWERS

- 1. B — Diego Maradona
- 2. C — Uruguay
- 3. A — Miroslav Klose
- 4. D — Germany
- 5. A — Kylian Mbappé
- 6. D — Morocco
- 7. C — Diego Forlán
- 8. C — Brazil
- 9. C — Andrés Iniesta
- 10. B — Russia

WORLD CUP 2026



9 players to watch in 2026

The stars. The stats. The ones who could define football's biggest stage.

PLAYER	COUNTRY	AGE (2026)	CURRENT CLUB (2026 EST.)	LAST 3 TRANSFER VALUES*	ESTIMATED NET WORTH
 Kyllian Mbappé	 France	27	 Real Madrid	€180M → Free (2024) → €200M (market est.)	\$180-200M
 Jude Bellingham	 England	22-23	 Real Madrid	€25M → €103M → €150M (market est.)	\$50-60M
 Vinicius Júnior	 Brazil	25-26	 Real Madrid	€45M → €70M → €150M (market est.)	\$70-90M
 Erling Haaland	 Norway	25-26	 Manchester City	€20M → €60M → €180M (market est.)	\$80-100M
 Pedri	 Spain	23-24	 Barcelona	€5M → €20M → €120M (market est.)	\$30-40M
 Florian Wirtz	 Germany	23	 Bayer Leverkusen / likely top transfer	Academy → €0 → €120M (market est.)	\$20-30M
 Julián Álvarez	 Argentina	26	 Manchester City	€17M → €30M → €90M (market est.)	\$25-35M
 Jamal Musiala	 Germany	23	 Bayern Munich	Academy → €0 → €130M (market est.)	\$25-40M
 Cristiano Ronaldo	 Portugal	41	 Al Nassr / possible retirement phase	€100M → €15M → Free	\$500-600M

*Transfer values combine actual fees and latest market valuations.
Sources: Transfermarkt, Forbes, Reuters research | Data as of May 2025

WORLD CUP

THE STARS WHO DEFINE A NEW ERA

There's something about a World Cup that makes even the most seasoned traveller linger a little longer over their coffee—the quiet anticipation, the soft hum of possibility. The FIFA World Cup 2026, spread across United States, Canada and Mexico, promises exactly that: a tournament of new horizons, fresh stars, and a few familiar faces rewriting their own endings.

So, as you flip through these pages and wait for your boarding call, here are the names worth circling—players who might just define the summer of 2026.

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ | FRANCE

THE CROWN PRINCE READY FOR THE THRONE

If the last World Cup belonged to Lionel Messi, the next could well be ruled by Kylian Mbappé. By 2026, he'll be in his prime—still devastatingly quick, but with the maturity of a seasoned leader. Expect him not just to score, but to orchestrate, to dominate, to turn matches into statements.

JUDE BELLINGHAM | ENGLAND

THE QUIET CONDUCTOR

Jude Bellingham plays like he's been around forever, even though he's still only just getting started. By 2026, he could be the heartbeat of England—a midfielder who blends elegance with steel, capable of deciding games with a late run or a perfectly weighted pass. Think less flash, more inevitability.



2026



VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR | BRAZIL THE NEXT SAMBA STAR

Brazil never runs out of flair, but Vinícius Júnior feels different. There's a swagger to his game, a sense that chaos follows him down the wing. If he finds consistency to match his brilliance, he could light up the tournament in that unmistakable yellow.

ERLING HAALAND | NORWAY FORCE OF NATURE

Erling Haaland is less a footballer and more a phenomenon. Power, precision, and an almost mechanical efficiency in front of goal—if Norway make a deep run, it will almost certainly be on the back of his relentless scoring.

PEDRI | SPAIN LA ROJA'S NEW GENERATION

Keep an eye on Pedri. He embodies Spain's timeless philosophy—control, patience, and intelligence—but with a modern twist. By 2026, he could be the player dictating the rhythm of entire matches, making the game slow down to his tempo.

FLORIAN WIRTZ | GERMANY RISING ARCHITECT

Florian Wirtz is the kind of player who sees passes others don't. Germany's rebuilding phase might just culminate in 2026, with Wirtz as its creative fulcrum—subtle, precise, and devastatingly effective.

JULIÁN ÁLVAREZ | ARGENTINA MESSI'S NEXT CHAPTER

Post-Messi Argentina will need a new face, and Julián Álvarez looks ready. Tireless, intelligent, and lethal in front of goal, he carries a hint of the old magic while carving out his own identity.

JAMAL MUSIALA | GERMANY THE DARK HORSE DELIGHT

Every World Cup produces a breakout star. This time, it could be someone like Jamal Musiala—a player who glides past defenders as if gravity were optional. Effortless, expressive, and unpredictable, he's made for the global stage.

CRISTIANO RONALDO | PORTUGAL THE VETERAN WITH ONE LAST DANCE

And then there's the romance of it all. Could Cristiano Ronaldo still be around? Unlikely, perhaps—but football has a way of indulging its legends. Even a cameo would turn every stadium into a theatre.



THE BIGGER PICTURE

The 2026 edition will be the first with 48 teams—a sprawling, continent-spanning spectacle. More teams mean more stories, more unknowns, more chances for a young player from an unfancied nation to become a household name overnight.

So as you gather your things and the boarding announcement finally calls your flight, remember: World Cups aren't just about who wins. They're about who emerges. The player you've never quite noticed before, suddenly impossible to ignore. And somewhere, right now, one of them is lacing up their boots—waiting for 2026 to arrive.

IPL

THE MONEY MACHINE, BY THE NUMBERS

The Indian Premier League is more than cricket—it's a billion-dollar spectacle, blending sport, entertainment, and commerce into one of the world's most powerful media businesses.

There are few spectacles in sport quite like the Indian Premier League—a tournament that feels less like cricket and more like a finely tuned financial engine wrapped in floodlights and fandom. The speed of the game, the tight finishes, the intensity of the 40 overs, the superhuman athleticism – all condensed in a four-hour fight club type game.

And everyone loves it – fans, franchises and advertisers. And it's not just the games. The excitement builds up well before that, when the player auctions begin and some eye-popping valuations are thrown around!

If the IPL were a company, it would be one of India's most valuable media businesses. Current estimates place its valuation at \$10–12 billion, but the real story lies in its revenue streams—layered, diversified, and remarkably resilient.

Here's a quick unpacking of the most popular sports franchise in India into some key numbers:

THE IPL'S MEDIA RIGHTS AND GATE COLLECTIONS SHOWCASE ITS IMMENSE FINANCIAL POWER: ₹48,390 CRORE FOR BROADCAST DEALS AND ₹400–600 CRORE IN TICKET SALES, CEMENTING ITS PLACE AMONG GLOBAL SPORTING GIANTS.



BROADCAST & DIGITAL RIGHTS

- The 2023–27 media rights cycle was sold for ₹48,390 crore (~\$6.2 billion).
- That's roughly ₹115–120 crore per match, among the highest in global sport.
- Split between TV and digital platforms, signalling the shift to streaming-first audiences.

For context, this puts IPL in the same conversation as top-tier leagues like the NFL in terms of per-game value.

GATE COLLECTIONS (MATCHDAY REVENUE)

- Average ticket prices: ₹800–₹5,000+ depending on venue
- A full stadium (40,000–70,000 seats) can generate ₹4–10 crore per match
- Across a season, total gate revenue is estimated at ₹400–600 crore











While smaller than broadcast income, this is high-margin, cash-rich revenue—especially for marquee teams like Chennai Super Kings or Mumbai Indians.


SPONSORSHIPS & CENTRAL POOL

- Title sponsorship deals (e.g. Tata): ₹300–500 crore annually
- Central sponsorship pool distributed among franchises
- Each team can earn ₹300–400 crore per year from central revenue share alone

Add to that jersey sponsors, team partnerships, and on-ground advertising—and the commercial ecosystem starts to look like a mini stock exchange.

TOP 10 HIGHEST-VALUED IPL PLAYERS (RECENT CYCLES)

Player	Team	Value (₹crore)
 Mitchell Starc	KKR	24.75
 Pat Cummins	SRH	20.50
 Sam Curran	PBKS	18.50
 Cameron Green	MI/RCB	17.50
 KL Rahul	LSG	~17.00
 Ben Stokes	CSK	16.25
 Rishabh Pant	DC	~16.00
 Ravindra Jadeja	CSK	~16.00
 Rohit Sharma	MI	~16.00
 Virat Kohli	RCB	~15.00



FRANCHISE ECONOMICS

- Original teams (2008): ~\$100–110 million entry cost
- New teams (2022)**
- **Lucknow Super Giants:** ~\$940 million
- **Gujarat Titans:** ~\$700+ million
- Top franchises like Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings are valued at \$1.3–1.5 billion+
- Even mid-tier teams comfortably cross \$800 million
- Not bad for a league that plays barely two months a year.

WHERE THE MONEY LANDS: PLAYERS

The auction remains IPL's most theatrical financial ritual—a rare space where spreadsheets meet adrenaline.

THE LOUNGE TAKE

Here's the real intrigue: the IPL has cracked something most leagues struggle with—predictable revenues with unpredictable sport.

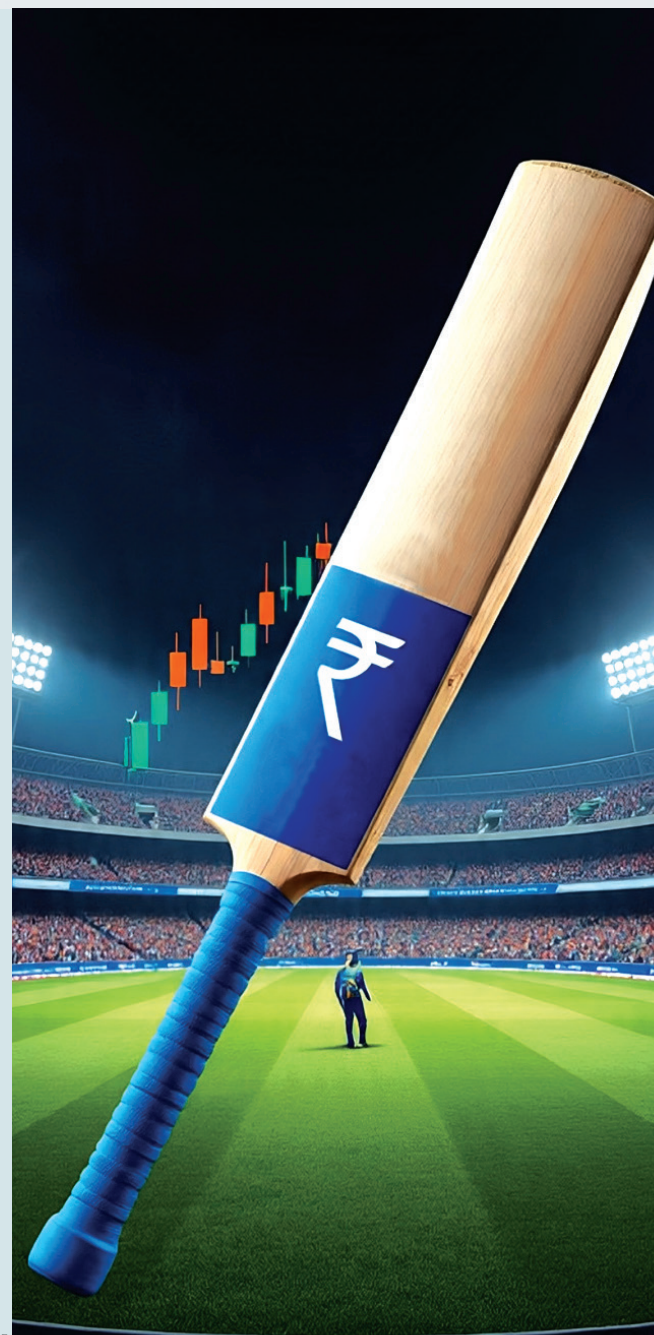
- Salary caps keep costs in check
- Revenue sharing ensures stability
- Auctions inject volatility (and drama)


And then there's brand value. A player like Virat Kohli may earn ₹15 crore on paper—but his total economic impact, via sponsorships and eyeballs, is exponentially higher.

FINAL CALL

The IPL is no longer just a cricket league—it's a media, entertainment, and financial juggernaut compressed into eight weeks.

And perhaps that's its most remarkable trick: In the time it takes you to finish your flight, the IPL generates billions, creates stars, and resets the economics of sport—all before the next boarding call. ▀





Jasmine Sandlas during an early studio-era shoot, capturing the raw aesthetic that would come to define her sound.

JASMINE SANDLAS

AN UNVARNISHED

VOICE

BY **RAVI V CHHABRA**

Jasmine's voice and range of vocals in commercial Hindi Bollywood soundscape comes with a powerful freshness. She didn't smooth the edges to fit the industry. She has made the industry listen anyway.



HUSTLE PRE-HYPE

Before the algorithms, before the streaming numbers, there was instinct. Jasmine Sandlas wasn't shaped by industry playbooks - she was formed in quieter, more demanding ways. Across Punjabi diaspora circuits in North America, where music travelled through CD cases and reputation moved by word-of-mouth, she built her audience face-to-face. No intermediaries, no amplification - just a voice that refused to be softened. It was raw, unvarnished and unmistakably hers.

“Long before streaming, she was building something slower - and stronger.”

A SOUND THAT REFUSED TO CONFORM

Born in Jalandhar Punjab and shaped abroad in California, Sandlas exists at a cultural synthesis that defines her sound. Punjabi lyricism - direct, emotive, steeped in memory - meets the fluid cadences of R&B and hip-hop. The result isn't a calculated fusion; it's instinct. There is a lived-in quality to her music, a sense that it arrives fully felt rather than carefully assembled.

Her voice is central to that identity. Husky, textured, and resistant to ornamentation, it lingers where others might resolve. She doesn't chase perfection; she leans into truth. The effect is intimate, almost disarming - songs that feel less performed and more confessed.

CROSSING OVER, STAYING INTACT

Mainstream visibility arrived with *Yaar Na Miley* from *Kick*, a breakout moment that introduced her to a far wider audience alongside Yo Yo Honey Singh. But the scale changed without altering the core. If anything, it clarified it. The same voice that once moved through small rooms and local networks now carried across larger platforms - without dilution.

That trajectory traces back to 2008, when Sandlas formally stepped into the industry with her early independent work - an entry point that felt less like a debut and more like a quiet declaration. Years later, that same instinct continues to define her presence. Her recent work in the Bollywood's super grosser *Dhurandhar* franchise - including tracks like “Shararat,” “Main Aur Tu,” “Aari Aari,” “Jaiye Sajana,” and the film's title track - doesn't signal reinvention so much as continuity. The scale is bigger, the reach wider, but the voice remains unchanged: direct, textured, and unmistakably her own.

With *Gulabi*, she had already pushed into that space - an artistic identity rooted not in adaptation, but in clarity.

In a landscape that often rewards polish, Sandlas built her identity on something far riskier:



HER RECENT WORK IN THE BOLLYWOOD'S SUPER GROSSER DHURANDHAR FRANCHISE - INCLUDING TRACKS LIKE “SHARARAT,” “MAIN AUR TU,” “AARI AARI,” “JAIYE SAJANA,” AND THE FILM'S TITLE TRACK - DOESN'T SIGNAL REINVENTION SO MUCH AS CONTINUITY.



A contemporary portrait of Jasmine Sandlas, reflecting her evolution into a global Punjabi pop voice

consistency of self. There is a quiet defiance in her trajectory - not loud, not performative, but steady. In an industry long dominated by male voices, she didn't position herself in opposition; she simply refused to be absorbed. That refusal is what gives her work its edge. It's not rebellion for effect - it's authenticity without compromise.

THE PLATFORMS HAVE CHANGED. THE PACE HAS ACCELERATED. BUT HER STORY REMAINS ROOTED IN A SLOWER, MORE DELIBERATE BEGINNING - ONE WHERE AUDIENCES WERE EARNED, NOT ASSIGNED.

PUNJABI POP'S REACH

Today, as Punjabi music moves faster and reaches further than ever before, Jasmine Sandlas occupies a space that feels both current and foundational. The platforms have changed. The pace has accelerated. But her story remains rooted in a slower, more deliberate beginning - one where audiences were earned, not assigned.

If there's a throughline to Jasmine Sandlas' journey, it isn't reinvention - it's refusal - refusal to dilute, to over-polish, to become more palatable at the cost of being real. From those early years of building an audience, one listener at a time to commanding a presence across global platforms, the scale has shifted, but the instinct has not. She still

sounds like herself - unfiltered, self-assured, and entirely uninterested in fitting a mould. And in an industry that is constantly chasing the next version of what works, that kind of consistency doesn't just endure - it defines. ▀

IMAGES SOURCED FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS UNDER CC BY-SA 4.0 LICENSE. PHOTOGRAPHERS: JOKEPIE; NAFISIQBALWIKI.

GALAXIA
QUEST
Leisurely Yours



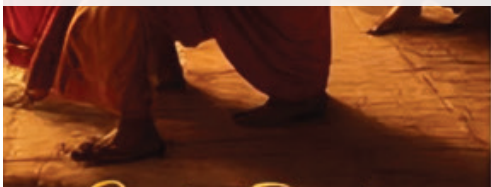
READ. FEEL. LIVE

**FRESH LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE INSIGHTS—OUR
MAGAZINE INSPIRES, INFORMS, AND DELIGHTS
WITH ENGAGING STORIES AND TRENDS.**

GALAXIA
QUEST
Leisurely Yours



FROM RED FORT TO THALI. ROTI, DAAL, JALEBI, GARAM MASALA. EVERY BITE HOLDS CENTURIES. THIS IS INDIAN CULTURE, ONE SPICE AT A TIME.



GALAXIA
QUEST
Leisurely Yours

GALAXIA QUEST

MAY 2026



GALAXIA QUEST
THE ENDLESS JOURNEY OF CURIOSITY