

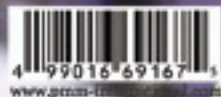
VALEUR

PART & PARCEL OF MODERN SPIRIT

3
February 2010

SPECIAL
INDIA

EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT



SPECIAL INDIA

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This little girl, living in one of the poorest slums close to Jaipur, is a symbol for India. She combines the characters of the multifaceted country: The beauty side by side with the dirt and misery, the youth and the old, the laugh and the tears and the potential to grow up, to become adult, to mature. She is also an embodiment for the thousands of homeless and poor children of the most impressive and aspiring country: India.
Her eyes will tell you her story!

THE HELPING HANDS

The world grows together.

In order to produce this special edition to help the project Childs Rights, we had to ask photographers around the world for their support. We were really touched by their enthusiasm and engagement to help. Without any limitation everybody was ready to encourage our aim to provide you with a highly qualified issue. None of them asked for any kind of benefit for their own.

With this pages we want to introduce you the helping hands who devoted their pictures and time to the purpose of fulfilling our mission. We are truly grateful. Unfortunately not everybody, whom we asked for help was so selflessly and helpful. We hope these pages are a sign that friendship and help are not only old, but current values of the next decades.

Shanmugam Sriraman (Chennai / India)

I was born and brought up in Chennai (previously known as Madras), the capital of the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. I am a software professional with an avid interest in photography. Profiles and architecture, more than anything else, inspire me and hence have become the focus of my photographic endeavors over the past three years. In my spare time, I contribute to eMoksha, a non-partisan non-profit organization focused on stronger democracies and better societies. I also spend time with underprivileged children and help them in any way I can.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/shanmugamsriraman>



Erin Givarz (Ballwin, MO / USA)



I am a recent college graduate from St. Louis, Missouri. I shoot manual film with a Minolta X-7A. My interests include playing ukulele, mentoring kids, traveling, spending time in the sun, painting, collaging and generally focusing on the more beautiful things in life. I have a Bachelor of Art in Art and have been avidly pursuing photography and gaining experience counseling children since graduating. When I think about India, I think about all of the beautiful children and staff. I had the privilege to work with an orphanage in New Delhi for two months in the Fall of 2009. In my short volunteership, I was able to work with newborns to teenagers, teaching them English, Mathematics and life skills so that they may all work for a better life. Some of my memorable experiences included celebrating Diwali with the children and her host family and taking the entire orphanage on a field trip to the zoo. I also had the privilege of traveling around North India; witnessing and photographing the profound beauty the incomparable county had to offer.

Sonia Maggioni (Bosisio Parini (Lc) / Italy)

I'm a travel agent and I live in the North of Italy. I travel for work, but, above all, for passion. Travelling allow to meet people, to see wonderful places and to feel unforgettable emotions. ...and the best way to fix these images is to take pictures... so every time I look of them I can remember a face, a smile, a moment...

Yes, the photography is my second passion.

This year I discover a wonderful country!

I spent three weeks in the north and in the south of India and I met lots of smiling people very curious about me and my life. It has been a great experience to talk with them and to try to understand their unusual country. India is a mass of various landscapes, different cultures, spicy smell...a world in our world. I hope that this charity initiative will help lots of unlucky children.



Ammar Asfour (Austin, USA)



My life story is one of confusion. I was born in Saudi Arabia to Palestinian parents. My family later moved to Jordan where I went to Middle and High school. I attended college in Austin, Texas. I speak Arabic and English. Usually I dream in a language different than the one I speak when I wake up. Currently I live the life of a nomad in the US, which is wonderful. After recently graduating with High Honors with a degree in Aerospace Engineering from the Uni. of Texas at Austin, I embarked on a career in business technology consulting. Describing what I do is the hardest part of my job. But in simple words, I help big companies implement and install big softwares. Trust me. It is not as easy as it sounds. On the weekdays I am at the client site, but on the weekends I do personal travel. A year ago, I decided to get into photography. I really wanted to carry a camera while wandering around in my travel. Only so I can look busy rather than lost. I actually liked photography. More like I got obsessed with it. I am not sure why, but I think it is because of the boundless possibilities of what a photograph can convey. I hope for my photography to reflect the true feeling and experience of a place, country, city, or even a park. Over the years, I accumulated a number of hobbies. I am a certified private pilot, an avid motorcycle rider, film enthusiast, sports and health advocate, travel addict and outdoors devotee as well. Though, I admit I am a workaholic, and recently have been getting to do much except traveling and photography, which I enjoy every second of it.

I went to India to volunteer in a day care center, which was located in Old Delhi's (pigeon)

Kabutar Market. It offered the street children a bathroom and showering facility and food at lunch time. During the day time, fifteen to thirty children of ages between 4 and 16 years old came to the center. The children spent the time between learning English, Hindi, dance, or any combination of play-learn activities. These kids lived in the street. And on different occasions I ran into them on the streets. Like many kids, they wanted to play. They were keen for a hug, a helping hand. But the streets left its mark on them. They have to survive and they must learn the streets way. It is sad that these kids have to be in such situation. I am proud that I helped even if it was as little as making one kid smile for a second. On my first day in India, I went to Old Delhi. I realized then that India is too much for the senses. So many things are going on around you. Barbers were giving hair cuts on the road sides few feet away from chai-wallahs. Street food vendors were everywhere, and for that matter, people are everywhere. The smells of spices, food, chai, and cars fumes saturated my lungs. Though life standards are some of the worst I seen, and in dire need for help, I saw human ability to adapt. They are dealing with life to their best, because they have no other options. The experience was a mesmerizing one, and it raised many questions and thoughts.

Anne Leroy (Paris/ France)

I got my first camera when I was 8 years old, and since then I never stopped taking pictures. What I enjoy in photography is this excitement you feel when you take a great shot. I love being a witness of the world. I went to Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in India for the first time in December 2008 during three weeks and really liked it. I was impressed by the freedom people have, and the incredible number of smells, sounds, movements, colours India can offer. I hope to come back again to meet the children of Jaipur and discover more of this amazing country.



Marcello Scotti (Barcelona/ Spain)



Before telling you some words, I'd like to thank Marco Kokkot for having invited me to participate in this great magazine. My name is Marcello Scotti and I am 49 y.o. and I'm from Barcelona, Spain from an Italian (Milano) family. Even if I have travelled to many many countries, especially in the so called Third World or developing countries (both terms don't sound nice and real as for every person his world is first and all countries are always -hopefully- developing, it's been my first time to India, a dream from my teenager years. As they say, with India you either fall in love or you never come back ... and the first option is definitely what happened to me. It's an amazing country/sub-continent, with very polite and friendly people, where most people live even below poverty, under the rule of a very corrupted government and institutions. A place where even the poorest share the smallest piece of food with other starving people. Where religion is a way of seeing the world and embeds their every day life. Of course you will also find people that try to make a coin or even as much as they can out of our typical "naive" western way of acting and living, as in any other poor economy, or people that try to live out of someone else's disgraces, or "sadus" (holy men) living out of the tourist's photos, but MANY MANY others don't fit into these parameters. I would advice people that go for their first time in their life to this amazing country not to expect to easily find the romantic ideas we usually have from the 60's, nor a typical "National Geographic" (so to speak) wonders. What you find in India is tough, hits your heart deeply, and in many cases it is unbelievable and difficult to keep up with. But hold your breath, try not to see them from our western minds, get in touch with them in a friendly way, and you'll be repaid in a warm and open hearted attitude. And when seeing the insanity and incredible amount of garbage, unhealthy living conditions, hunger and despair, don't think that your help won't be more than a drop in an ocean, for each person, it may let him/her live another day, or even change his/her life. Namasté!

Steven Goethals (Wilrijk / Belgium)

I am an salesman of photography. Having noticed a couple of times how short life can be, I decided that if there are things you want to do really bad you have to do it while you can and not postpone it. So I have decided to start travelling. Now I have been to China, Vietnam, Cambodia and India. Botswana is on the agenda for next year. Combining this with my love of photography is a dream coming true. Every time you're visiting a new country, you start noticing that your photography skills are getting better and that is exiting.



I didn't know what to expect from India. Now I can only say that the people of India are wonderful. They are very friendly. Maybe a little to busy in some moments, but you learn to live with that. What makes India really special it is the way to combine their every day life with religion. It is an incredible sight seeing on a boat on the Ganges looking at people washing themselves and praying in this holy river. It is something you will never forget. India will always surprise you...

Marcus Fornell (United Kingdom)



I am a student of BA International Business in Cambridge, UK.

Since my first visit four years ago I am intrigued by the country India in general and the people, the culture and the variety in special. I completed an internship of three month in a solar company, nothern of Mumbai. With it I combined a four month journey through India, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. While the last trip in November 2009 I have supported with a group of German pupils and students a project for street children. How was one time in Inda will see the world in a different light. You will learn to appreciate the usual prosperity which we can enjoy in Europe every day. Things which are normally for us, are not as a matter

of course in India. For example medical health, electricity, Internet etc. are not accessible for millions of Indians.

Suyog Gaidhani (Bangalore/ India)

My name is Suyog Gaidhani and live with my beautiful family in the southern Indian city of Bangalore. By profession I am a software engineer like so many others in this city that proclaims itself to be the Silicon Valley of the East. However, the creative part of me is more interested in capturing life as it happens through my camera viewfinder. And what better place than India to indulge in this. The vivid colors all around, the fusion of countless cultures, the everyday contrasts of life, the diverse landscapes and finally the common man on the street who never forgets to smile despite the hardships that he encounters - all these make India a most special home for me."



Abhishek Mishra (India)



I am a 24 years old pharmacy graduate, born in Gwalior-Madhya Pradesh. Now I live in Indore. First I used a camera when I was 14. Besides photography in which I prefer architecture and macro photography, my interests includes house and techno music, reading and tech news. As for my thoughts about India - Its my country! We cope with the opposites. Thousands of years old culture and tradition entwined with modern lifestyle. A melting pot of different cultures and religions - Unity in Diversity. We have riches right next to abject poverty, beautiful landscapes mingling with slums. We have made tremendous strides since our independence. We do have some minor creases to iron out but the future is bright and belongs to us.

Jörg Kemmler (Germany)

I am an instructor of IT specialists and I love photography and travelling as well. My passion is Asia. I visited India last year for the first time. Hardly another country bids such a diversity of cultures, religions, traditions and humans as India.

To describe the numerous facets and extremes is not possible. You can try it but better you have to experience it yourself. Because of my journeys I have established the webpage: www.photoreise.de



Karl Honemann (Germany)



India is an Eldorado for photographers. It is a breathtaking and alluring country. A land of differences and diversity, which is a stage for encounters of any kind and intensive experiences.

Dr. Lars Göhler (Germany)

I am a journalist and PR copywriter. Besides, I work as Adj. Professor of Indology at the University of Cologne.

I have visited India as a scientist and journalist for several times and many years. I was and I am fascinated by the liveliness, colorfulness and the great cultural inheritance. My visuell impressions I capture in a lot of pictures, which you can find at: www.india-picture.net



Pitopia (Agency / Germany)

Pitopia is a young on-line picture agency which provides licence-free pictures for a fixed price. The right to use the pictures in high-resolution and quality of professional and semi-professional photographers can be gained with fixed prices. The smart marketing concept of Pitopia is aimed at editors, small and average agencies and companies. Furthermore Pitopia supports the social institution. Currently the child's foundation Hänsel + Gretel for abused children is supported. Therefore with each picture purchase a fixed sum is transferred to this project.

Pitopia

Laif (Agency/ Germany)

The picture agency for photos & reports laif belongs to the trendsetters in Germany in the field of photojournalism, magazine and travel photography. The portfolio results from image research, order productions, exhibitions, gallery of agency, web gallery and print sales. Furthermore the cooperation with the international agencies creates an extremely great repertoire from more than 5 million pictures. laif offers individual photos and report photography for instance to editors of daily papers and weekly and monthly magazines, corporate clients or associations and advertising agencies. laif puts on creativity and innovation without rejecting the conventions in this case.

agentur für **laif**
photos & reportagen

Ulrike Lugert (Germany)



I am a telecommunication engineer. Viewing the impressive pictures of some photographers aroused my interest in India. Since then I was nearly magically attracted by this country. I wanted to experience meetings with the people of this country by myself. I love to take pictures which show the soul of the people, the mood of the moment and the intensive colour and special lighting atmosphere.

Jeannette Merguin (Switzerland)

I am an assistant in the International Office of the Fachhochschule Nordwest-Schweiz (University of applied sciences).

My work is dedicated - also because of personal interests - to other cultures and international projects, as the study project 'Focus India'.

I am interested in people, cultures and their forms of society. I like to know how people live together with the nature. It is an inexhaustible potential to learn, associated with marvel and respect for the humans. With my pictures I try to convey seen and experienced in combination with my feelings.



Günter Zöhrer (Germany)



I am an architect. During my trip through northern India and Ladakh I met two different Population groups, but with similar cultural and social roots. You can find this commonalities in the amazing architecture and these buildings surrounding mythology.

The cordiality and beauty of the Indians but also the ubiquitous poverty are the two faces of India. I was impressed by the knowledge that all people find confidence and footing by the believe in the super mundane world. This is reflected in the architecture of northern India.

Editorial

It is the end of a year which changed a lot. Not only because of the business problems but also because of the ways which we are going. We have to change a lot or we will not survive!

Everywhere, all over the world people know that is something wrong with this world. For decades the mentality, especially in Europe, changed in a negative sense. Aspiration for success, using and cheating people for own advantages were and are our real religion. We think that we have to be better than the other everytime and that we do not need anybody else to reach our targets. To ask for help is a sign of weakness and to be weak is not allowed in our world. More and more people who can not stand this situation anymore are leaving our countries or do sad things.

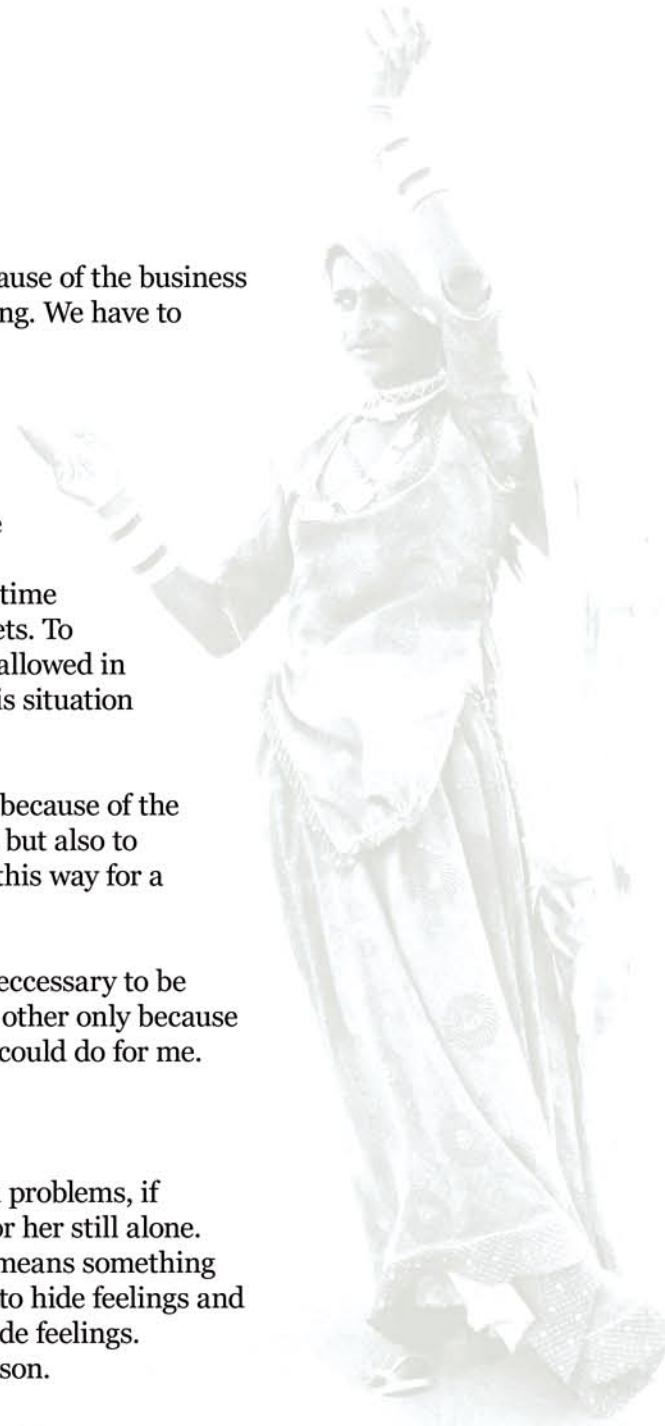
It is time to open minds and to change acting. Not only because of the economic crisis or suicides of well-known personalities, but also to survive in general. We should not and we can not walk this way for a longer time.

Today friendships are defined by advantages. It is not necessary to be kind, to love and to help each other, to feel well with an other only because of the feeling. Today its more important what the other could do for me. To often we think "me, me, me" instead of "you, we, us"! Selflessness doesnt exist anymore or its really rarely.

If somebody is weak or not in the situation to solve own problems, if somebody feels bad or alone the society will leave him or her still alone. Only strong people will survive today. But to be strong means something different than in our history. To be strong means today to hide feelings and to be egocentric. And it means to be cold, to forget or hide feelings. It is too dangerous because I could hurt by an other person.

Of course friendships are still exist, but they are really seldom. Actually on the one hand it could be good to value the special things in live, but on the other hand wouldn't it be better to could trust every people and to live in a real community?

We are whining about some lost Euros or Dollars, because of a crisis but we do not recognise the crisis in our heards! We are living in a comfortable throwaway society. We have warm home and good food. And we have entertainment. But it is a fake. The poor people on the streets of India have nothing but their smile but with it they have more than we. They are living closer together than we in our own families. We can learn a lot from them.



So meanwhile, beside our self-destruction, the old mega-giants are awaking again. China and India are the new economic powers. They overtake rapidly the old business areas. And why not. They work trustful, efficient and high quality (!?!? orientated??). The people are looking for continuity and sustainability. These old cultures offering both and much more. But not everybody can enjoy the new prosperity there. So we should start to recognize that its important to live, to work and to exist together and to help each other in any case, only without any material advantage for myself.

Because of that we have decided to dedicate this issue to India in general and to support in special the sincere project Child's Rights in Jaipur. The next pages will show you all sides of the live in India, which can find space on 150 pages. Of course we will show you the beautiful fashion from there, we will ask models what they are thinking about India and we will present you the project Child's Rights.

This charity project takes care for homeless and poor children. To often kids or poor people were used to make money or to soothe own consciences. We met the head of this project, Christiane Gey and we were completely overwhelmed by her heart and commitment. Please take time to read, what she has to say.

But more: To help other people is not only a question of an advantage for one own. To thinking about an aother is not a question of a single moment, it is a question of the everyday life. With a little trouble we could help the hole world without to waive a lot. With some care we could make a better world.

Its time to share. So we will donate the advertising revenues of VALEUR issue 3 to 5 to Child's Right. So with your commercial ad you will change the world!

We do not help for any advantage, we help to see the children smiling! Read the current issue of VALEUR to get to know our inspiration.

Help us, to help the children!

Yours

Marco Kokkot
Chief Editor

Planned as a special version of
organisation Child's Rights,
release date the first time.
about the breathtaking country
where the causes we had to
We fell in love with the beauty
friend, the land has its good and
they are depending on the
So we can and we want to show
touch, hoping, that many
following us in the deeper grounds
culture of our world, where

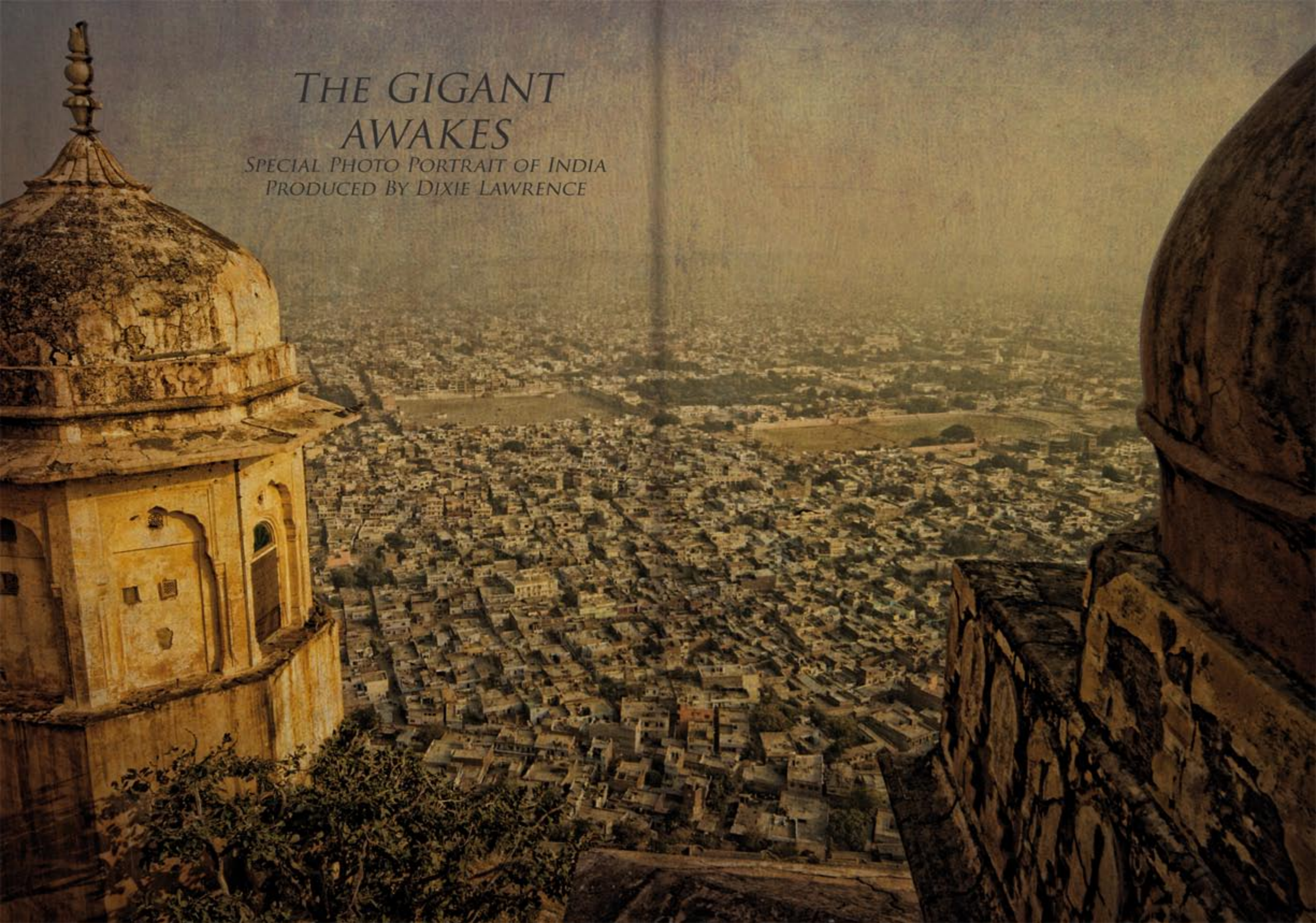
Everything

VALEUR to support the aid
we were required to shift the
More and more thrilling content
and our growing fascination for it
produce our first e-book.
India and as every partner or
bad sides and as every time,
individual points of view.
only a surface with our special
people will be interested in
of the oldest but still existing
you will experience that:

Is Different!

*THE GIGANT
AWAKES*

*SPECIAL PHOTO PORTRAIT OF INDIA
PRODUCED BY DIXIE LAWRENCE*





TAJ MAHAL MIST





SHAILA
GUEST HOUSE

विजय होटल
शुद्ध शाकाहारी भोजन
PURE VEGETARIAN FOOD

ATITHI DEVO BHAVA
TOURIST INFORMATION
RESERVATION CENTRE
BOOKING
टिकट टूर, खेतल बुकिंग, कार, बस टिकट

TOURIST INFORMATION
&
RESERVATION CENTRE

रोयल दुर्स
TOURIST
INFORMATION
&
RESERVATION
CENTRE

डीलक्स शौचालय
सुविधाएँ: शौचालय, स्नाबघर, क्लाककम व पेशाबघर

Koblesor
XTRA Time

शुद्ध शाकाहारी भोजन

हैप्पी रोमिंग!
अब मेराबल रोमिंग दरे 60% तक घटी.
• कोई प्रतिबन्ध नहीं
• कोई निमित्त नहीं
• कोई लागत नहीं

Airtel

विजय होटल
शुद्ध शाकाहारी भोजन
PURE VEGETARIAN FOOD

TOURIST INFORMATION
RESERVATION CENTRE

शुद्ध शाकाहारी भोजन

STD
ISD

TRAIN STATION



ROAD TO GALTA



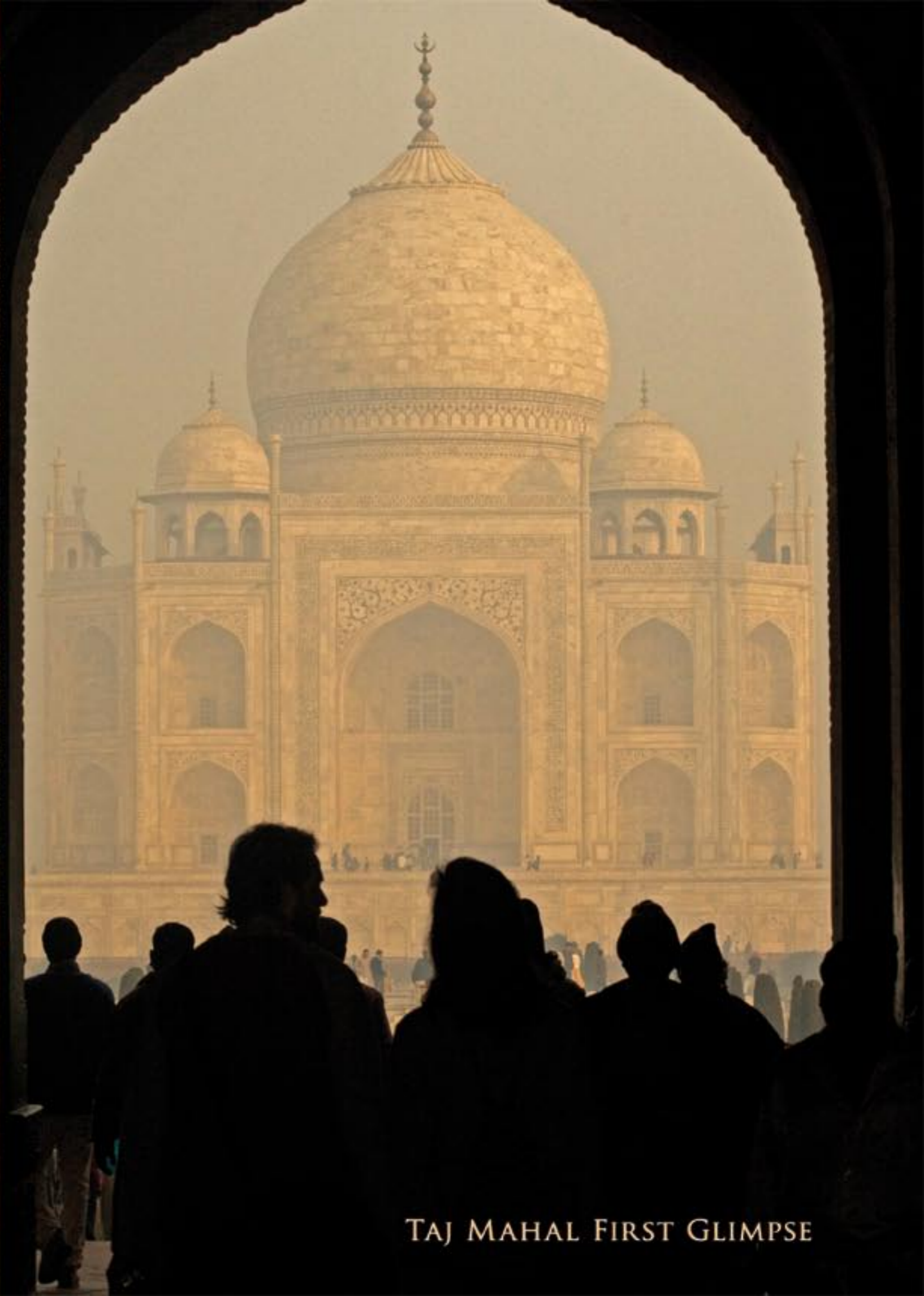
RESTING AFTER WORK.



PEDESTRIAN RUSH HOUR



FOUNTAIN AT GALTA



TAJ MAHAL FIRST GLIMPSE



FOREST RANGERS



BARBERSHOP



INSIDE JAMA MASJID



INSIDE JAMA MASJID



ॐ
श्री
सतगुरु
की
जय हो

श्री
हरि
चरण
मन्दिर
श्री सत गुरु
बाबालाल दयाल
जी की जय हो

प्राचीन श्री सत्यनारायण मन्दिर श्री गुरु गौखनाथ जी श्री हरि शरणम नमः

श्री गंगा जी यमुना जी सा... ती काली म...

स्ती स्थल

GETTING READY FOR ARTI

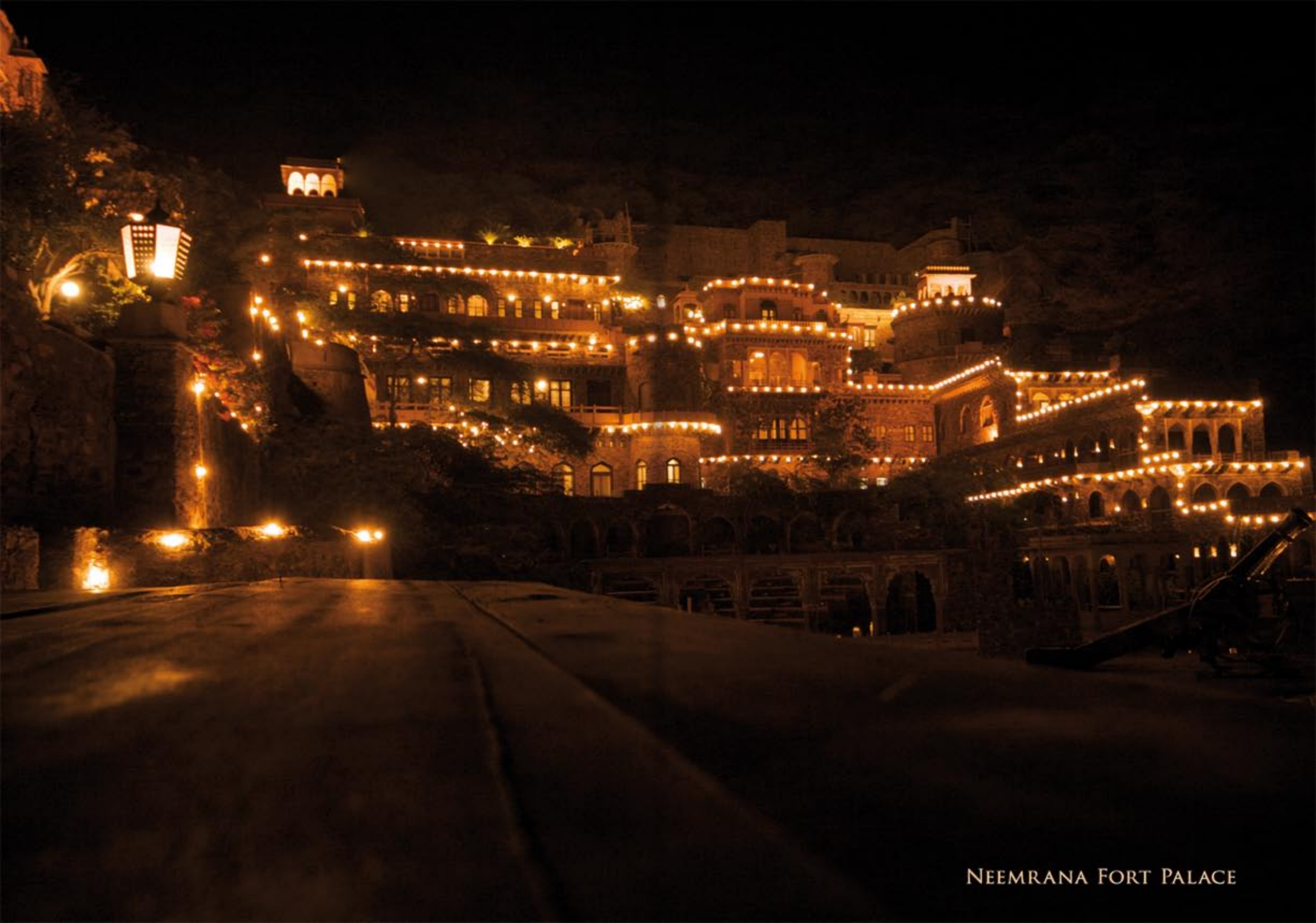
नमः शिवाय



JAMA MASJID



NEEMRANA FORT PALACE



NEEMRANA FORT PALACE



BLOW HORN

जलो मगर दीपक की तरह

STOP

देसा मगर प्यारक

RJ-35
A 3515

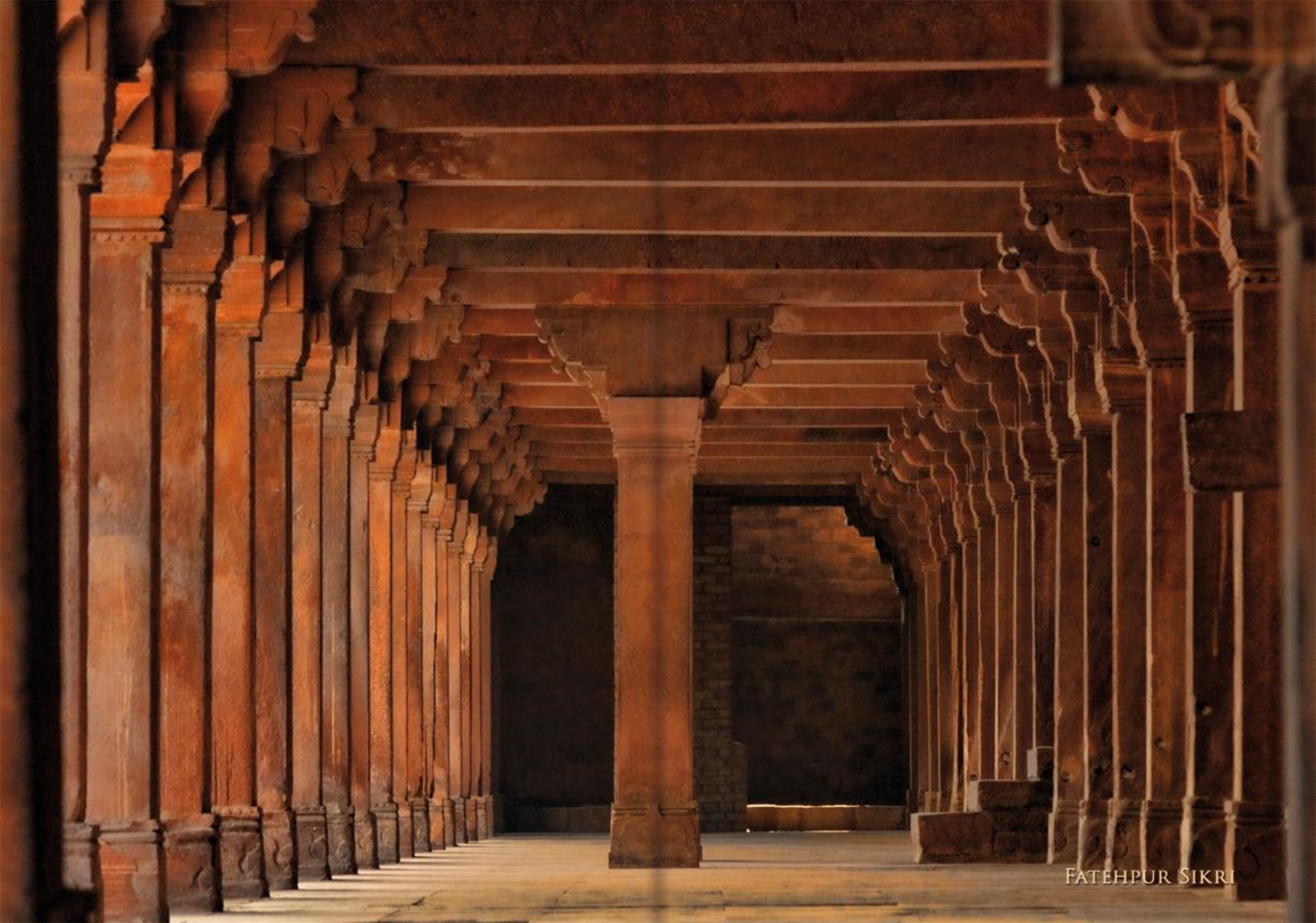
BLOW HORN



DETAIL FROM CITY PALACE



ABHANERI STEP WELL





GAZING OF JAIPUR

Jaipur is also known as the "Pink City" because many of the homes and buildings are painted or "washed" with a pink color. This is a view of Jaipur from Nahargarh Fort. Despite the haze and smog, the views from up here were spectacular. Nahargarh means "abode of tigers", so this place is more widely known as Tiger Fort.



TAJ MAHAL MIST

During the winter months the smog and mist surrounded almost everything in the early mornings. The atmospheric conditions gave this scene an almost dreamy quality. This is truly one of the most stunning buildings I have ever seen and needs to be viewed in person to fully appreciate it.



JAIGARH

This is a portion of Jaigarh (Victory) Fort on the hills above the city of Jaipur and is home to the worlds largest cannon on wheels. It is connected to Amber Fort at the bottom of the hill by passageways. The views aren't as spectacular from here, but the walls have a wonderful architecture. Notice the wild, green parrots in the trees.



DELHI TRAIN STATION

The train station in Delhi is an insane and chaotic jumble of activity. There are taxi drivers, train porters (luggage "wallas"), beggars, travelers and even animals all winding their way through to their destinations. We actually missed our train and I got separated from the rest of our party trying to jostle my way through the crowds.



ROAD TO GALTA

The drive from Jaipur to Galta follows a road surrounded by these ruins. It was almost like driving back through time. These buildings must have been spectacular in their day and it was sad to see them falling into ruin.



RESTING

As I drove between towns I saw flashes of color as women worked in the fields wearing these beautiful saris. They often gathered in groups like this on the side of the road to rest and visit.



FOUNTAIN AT GALTA/ FIRST GLIMPSE

Thousands of apes live in the hills that surround the complex of the Monkey Temple Galta. It has three pools for ritual bathing - this one is at the base and was originally meant for men only. Nothing can prepare you for your first glimpse of the Taj Mahal. The entrance is through a beautiful gated archway which frames your view.



PEDESTRIAN RUSH HOUR

It was a very common scene in every small town we passed through to see crowds of people mixed in with all the traffic. No matter where I took pictures of people in India, I always caught someone looking at me.



FOREST RANGERS / BARBERSHOP

In the Rajaji National Park we encountered these park rangers. They were carrying rifles to protect themselves and it was probably a good thing since we found fresh tiger tracks on this very road. We were fascinated by this old fashioned barber shop with its quaint 1930's drawing of fashionable haircuts.



GETTING READY FOR AARTIS

Haridwar was my favorite place in all. It is a holy city where Hindus come for a religious ceremony call Aarti on the banks of the holy river Ganges. As the sun sets, incense burns, bells ring, priests are chanting, songs are being sung, bells are ringing and hundreds of people float their offerings of flowers and lighted candles down the river.



JAMA MASJID

Inside the courtyard of Jama Masjid in Delhi. A little boy couldn't resist running into a crowd of pigeons making them all take flight.



BLOW HORN

All modes of transportation are madly dodging around each other with no regard to lanes or stop lights or speed and all the while everyone is constantly blaring their horns. At first we thought they were angry or crazy, but they actually use horns instead of turn signals to let each other know they're coming.



ABHANERI STEP WELL

Step wells were created to collect water during the rainy season. During drought, the water would slowly dry up so they built steps into the sides in order to reach the water at any level. The Abhaneri Step is the largest and oldest step well in India built in the 9th century, has 3500 steps, is 13 stories and 100 feet deep.



FATEHPUR SIKRI

Fatehpur Sikri is a ghost town originally built by Akbar the Great. It was built too far from any reliable water source and was abandoned after he died. There are many buildings here whose original function has been lost to the past.

beautiful The of Faces India

To talk about beauty implies a lot of views and tastes. Some of you may think first of a car, a diamond, a dress, a delicious meal, a smile or the nature. But independent of any culture all people have one thought in common.
A beautiful woman.

Due to its history India has to offer the most different, indescribable beautiful faces. No one is able to evade their mystical fascination. During the last years the role of women in the Indian society has been constantly improving but still they have to fight for their rights. Especially in the lower classes changes are of utmost importance.

We are proud to present interviews with representatives of modern women born and working successfully in India or of Indian origin. Without them the introduction of this breathtaking country would not be complete.

Picture: Jatin Singh/ ibibo
Text: Marco Kokkot



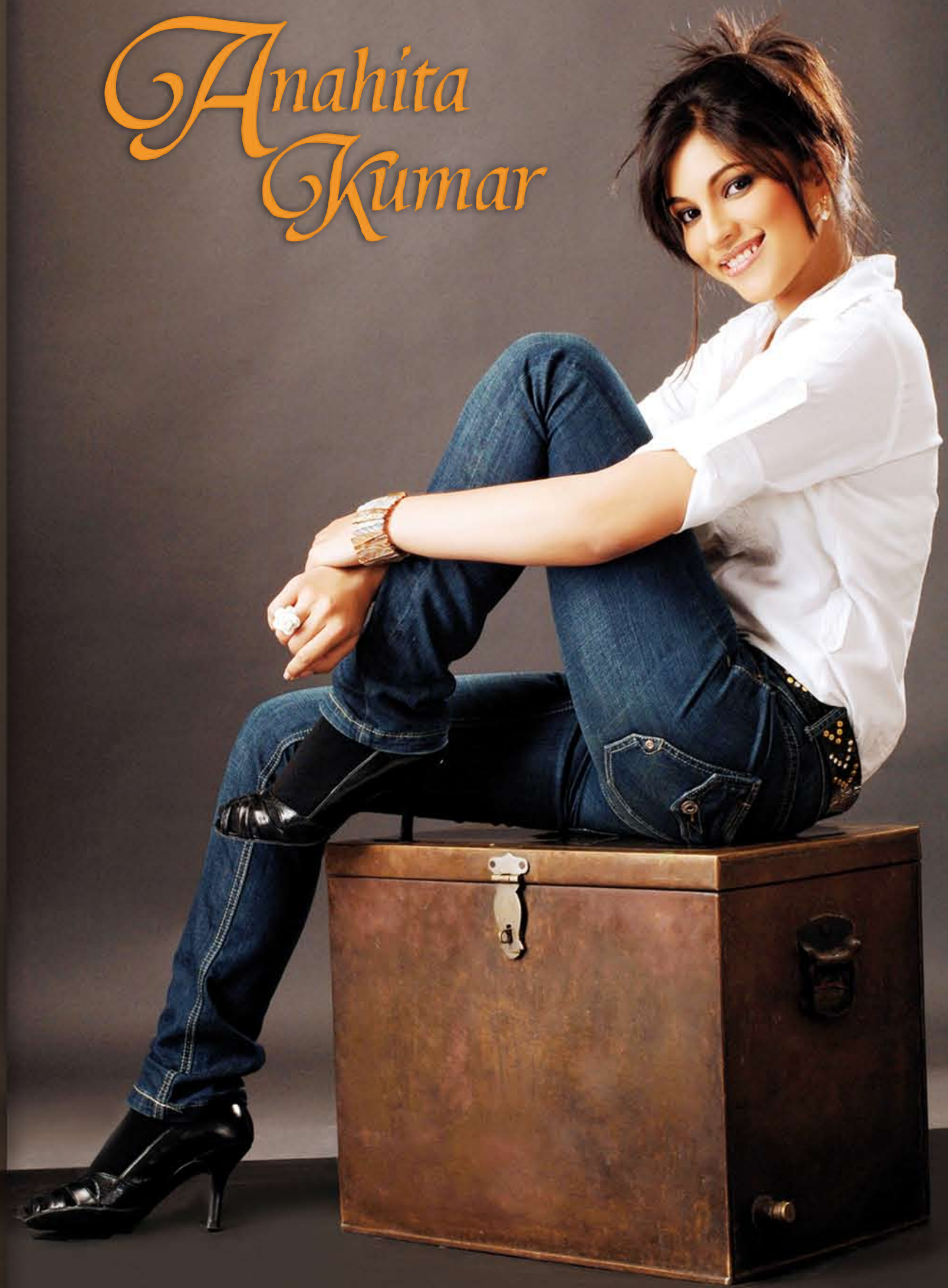


The Model

Anahita means goddess of water and purity, the Immaculate One, the Graceful Venus. In the Hindu culture it has also the meaning pure and untouched, sweet at heart and not greedy.

Following Pictures:
ATIANA STUDIOS

Anahita Kumar



A close-up portrait of a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a soft smile. She is wearing large, ornate, multi-tiered earrings made of many small, round, metallic pieces. Her top is partially visible, featuring a sequined or beaded border. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Anahita Kumar

„I am currently doing my 2nd year Bachelor of Business Administration and I am a member of the Students Council that oversees nearly 5000 students in the college. Most models in India are educated as urban parents ensure education for children takes precedence over anything else. And the same trend is now prevalent in villages too.“

Anahita was born in Pune (located up in the Sahyadri Mountains). At the age of 42 days, she boarded her first international flight to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in a crib! Two years later, her folks relocated to Dubai, UAE where she lived for the next 10 years.

„I enjoyed my first Europe Trip at the age of 3, crisscrossing London, Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland etc. Imagine traveling by plane, ship and Bus at this age! But I was one of the best traveler, promptly waking up in the early morning, getting ready, taking breakfast and while on the bus ride, dozing off...just in time to be woken up when the next attraction arrives! Whew!“ Anahita says. Not satisfied with this, her folks took

her on a USA trip at the age of 9! „And while I am not traveling, I use my flighty feet to help out on my passion - dancing and choreographing! I was in the age of 10 when I surprised my family and their guests one day by banding together two other kid-friends from the guest, locking up in a room to teach these kids to dance on a hindi hit song. We trained about half an hour or so. And, try to imagine, we three surprised everyone by walking into the living room, creating on the fly, in perfect coordination, rhythm and synch, one of our best performances. Due to once more request, we did it again and again much to the delight of everyone! Right there & then, I was labeled a future celebrity!!



And what about education?

At the age 12, I returned back to India and joined Rishi Valley School, founded by J. Krishnamurthi, the renowned writer and speaker on philosophical and spiritual subjects, in a remote rural village setting. Since then, I have performed as well as choreographed many shows at several locations including Dubai, Pune etc. Some of these have been covered on newspapers and Television too! Last year, I was crowned first runner-up for Ms. Pune Times Title for pulling off a Katrina Kaif Singh is King number with oomph as the news release stated. I have also walked the ramp for MTV/ West-side sponsored STYLE SHOW-DOWN held in Pune. Most recently, I was crowned as ibibo Freshface.

You work as a model. How did that come about?

My friends suggested I would have all traits to be a good teen model. So I got the opportunity to model

for IDEA Cellular Billboard Ad. IDEA CELLULAR is one of the largest mobile operators in India. You can still look me up on these Billboards in many cities of India. It was such a thrill to see me so big on those Billboards while on a drive to Goa!

That sounds easy. Is it not hard to become a model in India?

It is easy to become a Model. However, it is extremely difficult to clean up the 'unholy' image that 'models' have. It could be perhaps due to traditions. But, as I belong to the new generation, the media industry in India has just blown up immense chances for modeling. Many Indian models have succeeded lately in Europe and USA. I believe it is only a matter of time when agencies from USA & Europe will see the potential of Indian Models. In fact they already have, considering so many well-known agencies are opening their offices in India and working very successfully.

What is the special on India? Why the people of the other continents could be hungry for Bollywood, Indian fashion and industry?

As I said before, now India is the special focus of the World. Really, big business, growth, youth force etc. India has a 5000 year history and no place in India is the same as the other. There are so much history buried in different parts of India that it may take a lifetime to really travel all over India's roots and understand them.

Which one is the place to be in India and why?

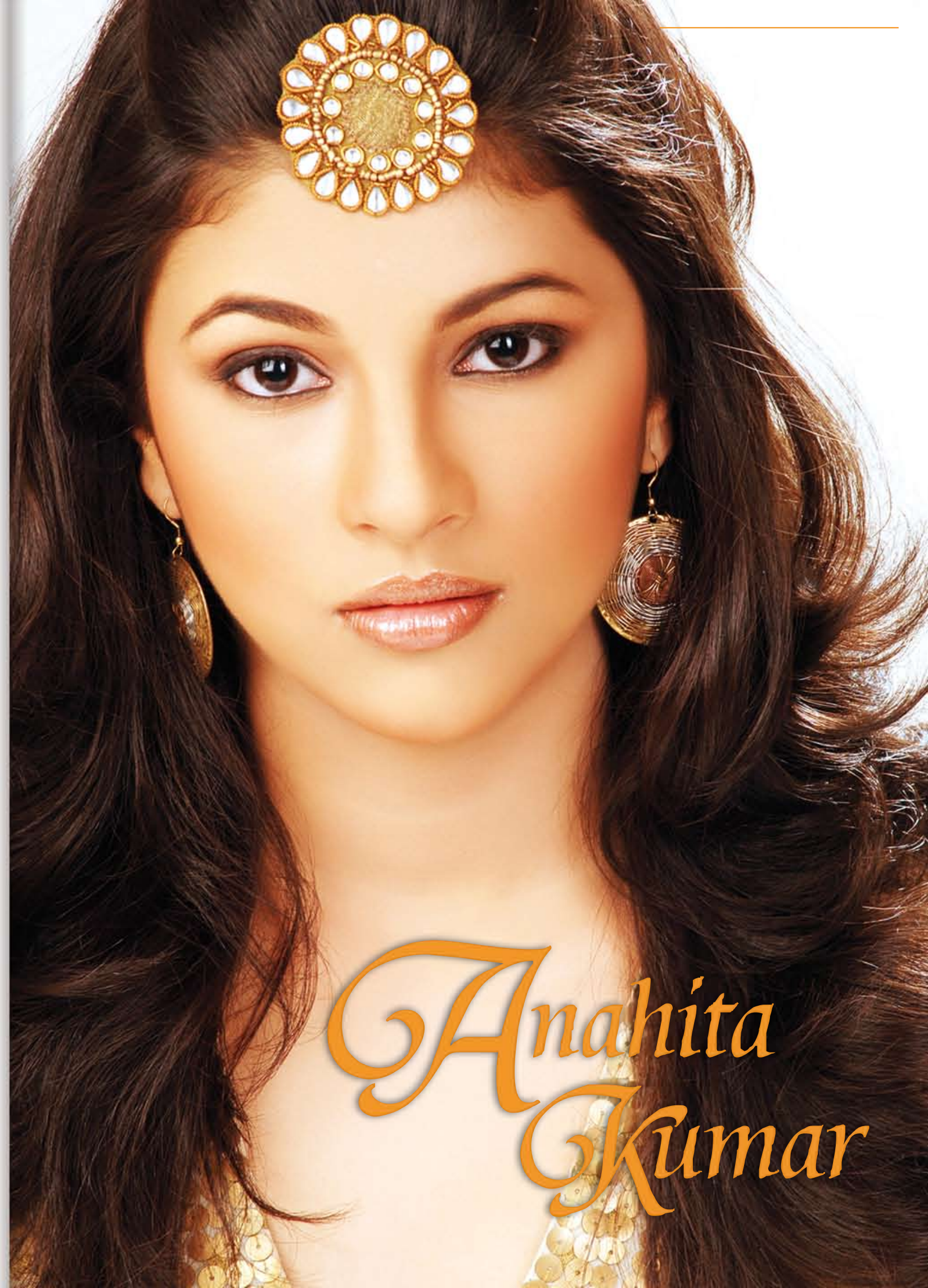
From a living perspective, I find my hometown Pune is ideal. It is up in the mountains so the weather is comparatively serene, pretty close to the commercial capital of India which is MUMBAI (just 3 hours away). Lately many models and Bollywood actors have originated from Pune.

Which problems are to solve?

India has many problems and in my opinion, the main problem is to change the mindset of people. Every country has problems of corruption, poverty, housing shortages, lifestyle complications. And so does India. Except the scale may look more denser due to the sheer size of the country and the population. In the villages, the mindset of people is more positive than in the cities.

VALEUR supports the project Childs Rights in Jaipur which takes care for orphanges and street children. What are your thought on the problem that so many children have to work or to live in the street?

It is really a good initiative. India needs more people and organisations like these. It is a matter of pride that you have taken such a great and bold initiative in addressing the needs of children and their development. There are many reasons for these problems and we need the experience and help of others to solve them all. Children are the future of our nation and you have rightly gone to the root of the issue.



Anahita
Kumar



TV The Host

Nandini is one of the names of the Goddess Ganga and means to have and to enjoy bliss. And bliss is what the very likeable TV host enjoys every day, but she gives it back to children in need.

*Pictures:
Ray Rehmann/ raypictures
Nandini Mitra (right)*

Nandini Mitra

For viewers interested in wellness and lifestyle, the friendly presenter, is a household name, known particularly for being the competent and adventurous FIT FOR FUN TV expert. In the much-loved german TV show, Nandini Mitra accompanied her as a fitness and lifestyle expert to the most beautiful places on earth. She dived with sharks in the Bahamas, rode rodeo in Wyoming and went water-skiing in Senegal - and always presenting live. She reported from exotic beauty temples, tried beauty treatments, tested health foods - revealing what was new and trendy.





Nandini Mitra was born on 25th February, 1975 to a German mother and an Indian father in Hamburg. As a young girl, she dreamed of becoming an opera singer; she danced ballet and jazz and, up to the age of 18, in the "standard" and "Latin" disciplines at dance competitions. She had voice coaching from Jeffron Ismael in London and studied at the Stage School of Music Dance and Drama in Hamburg. Out of fun, Nandini Mitra auditioned at an MTV casting in 1997 - and won. In the years that followed, she presented the shows, "Beach House", "50:1", "In Touch", as well as the live shows, "Select", "Fashion Zone" and the MTV Europe Music Awards. Between 2001 and 2006, she was on air with FIT FOR FUN TV on VOX.

At the same time, she began to study journalism in 2005 in order to pick up the skills of editorial work. Thanks to passing the course with flying colours, Nandini Mitra decided to take a break from appearing on TV. Being so sporty, she developed her passion for Pilates, which she had discovered whilst working as a TV fitness and wellness expert, and took a course to become a fully fledged Pilates teacher at the world-renowned

Power Pilates Institute Studio 1880 in Hamburg. Currently, she is providing inspiration as a wellness expert in the online magazine, "The Healthy Day", from the Allianz Private Health Insurance Company, for weekly training routines in the form of short video podcasts, as well as offering nutritional advice. Furthermore, Nandini Mitra can celebrate success through weekly repeats of her much-loved TV magazine show, FIT FOR FUN TV, on the subscription service, Sky.

The Glamour...

The TV camera accompanied Nandini Mitra during filming in the metropolises of New York, Cape Town and Miami, and on shopping trips to Paris, London, Barcelona or Milan. She sent back entertaining reports about musicals or VIP events and, as a presenter on the fashion and lifestyle show, "Fashion Zone", on MTV, she conducted many interesting interviews with designers such as Roberto Cavalli or Jean

Paul Gaultier. Especially amongst younger audiences, Nandini Mitra has gained a high profile thanks to her fresh and lively presenting style.



Nandini Mitra

Hamburg Harbung out of commitment and conviction. The project run by the Arbeiter Samariter Bund, looks after children from Years 1 to 6 with problems at school, or who would otherwise be on their own when school finishes.

... and the social ideals

Nandini Mitra embodies sportiness, healthiness and vitality. As a promoter for Manhattan Cosmetics, the attractive TV beauty presented, amongst other things, "Brand New Make Up Hits from Nandini". She has advertised for the natural cosmetics manufacturer, Lakshmi Ayurvedic Beauty, and appeared in the advertising campaign, "Fire and Flames", alongside Johannes B. Kerner, Uwe Seeler, as well as Vladimir and Vitali Klitschko, to promote the Hamburg Olympic Bid 2012.

Her charm, here repartee and her talent of carrying the whole auditorium with her joyous enthusiasm, has set Nandini Mitra apart not just in front of the television camera. In addition, she has competed in a friendly and knowledgeable way at selected events for companies such as Audi, Adidas, Arcor, Deutsche Telekom AG, BMW Williams, Nike, Nespresso, Phillips, Volvo, Coca Cola, the Office of the Federal President and the Metro Group. She has presided confidently over the 50th Anniversary celebrations of LTU, the Sport Bild Awards 2007, the Karstadt New Generation Awards 2008 and the German Dialogue Marketing Prize 2009.

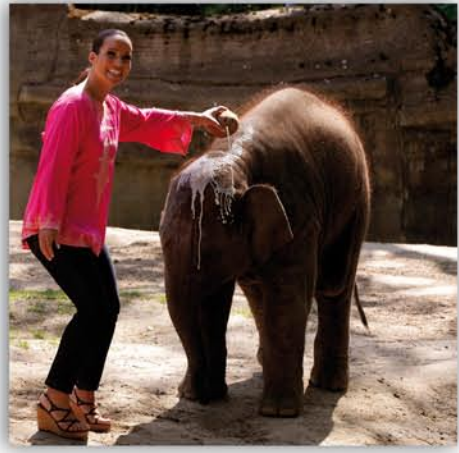
Being a knowledgeable journalist, happy talk-show host, attractive anchorwoman or fluent English-speaking interviewer are just some of the many strings to Nandini Mitra's bow. The pretty all-rounder can also boast experience as an actress and singer: whether playing the nurse in the long-running, successful soap, „Good Times, Bad

Times", or as a singer in Rolf Zuckowsky's children's choir, "Rolf and his Friends". Just as Nandini Mitra willingly takes on professional challenges on the stage or in front of the camera, and is ambitious in sport, she has also got involved with the "Lion House" in

Nandini Mitra regularly helps the kids with their homework, cooks them a warm meal, helps with craftwork, organises gymnastics or simply acts as a person to whom the children can relate.



Pictures: Society Relations



Nandini is an Indian name, isn't it? Do it has any meaning?

Yes, that's right. My father is Indian and my mother is from Germany. The literally meaning is 'the Daughter of the Himalaya'. But I guess it has more meanings as well.

You live in Hamburg. Did you have spent most part of your life there?

Yes I did. I was born and grown up there. I have a family in India and I love to visit them regularly, but Hamburg will remain the centre of my life.

Have you often been to India as a child?

Yes, as a child I spent my holidays there and later on, when I was older, I stay there even longer. All of my cousins are at the same age as me and it's wonderful. When I go to Kolkata, I have always tried to use a time frame when my cousins will have holiday too. Most of them have studied abroad and some of them are even still living there. So it's not easy to meet them all at the same time. When we are all together, it's a real big clan as you possibly can imagine. Then we have a lot of fun. We chat a lot, eat, celebrate weddings, gaze at the new babies and the things like these, as you do in big families. Of course my family leads me through Kolkata to show me the changes. And everything changes fast. It's surely really exciting, because they show me not only the tourists sides but the real authentic life. We visit the markets, take the tuck-tuck to go along and they show me the

places which are hidden for the common tourists.

What is the special about India?

Due to my job I travel a lot, but to travel to India is something special for me. I didn't grow up there, but anyhow it's a part of me. To go to India it is always thrilling for me and something like a discovery of the unknown parts of my roots.

Would you say that you know India well?

No, surely not. I know the north of India only. I have never been in the south of India. It is on the top of my travel list. Beside that you cannot discover the entire country with one visit as well as in your whole life. Every journey will bring new experiences and impressions.

Would you explain the differences to Europe?

India is completely different as Europe, where you know everything and where everything is easier accessible. India is a country of extremes: wonderful nature, fascinating people, modern towns, spices and an amazing culture, but you will find also poverty, corruption, streetchildren and slums. Those are very extreme contrasts, which you have to face when first arriving in India. There are people I know, who talk only about to experience the spirituality and culture of India and their happiness. But they are not aware about the other side of India. I must confess it confuses me. Everyone has always to face both sides to understand a complex country as India. **You said, you had grown up in Germany and your father had been from India. What brought him to Germany?**

My dad was born in Kolkata and came to Germany for education. He started to work here afterwards. When he met my mother he has decided to remain here. Now he is living for 40 years in Germany.

Do you speak Hindi or any other Indian language?

No, unfortunately not. I can say only a few words in Bengali. Actually India's official language is

Hindi, but the most federal states have their own one. So you will speak the most time English which is the second official language, that all areas have in common. It is a question of education in India to speak English. The people love to prove their knowledge and status. Additionally in the current times it is very important to speak English to get a good job. So I do it with my family also.

You work as TV host and you have worked for several years for the German Fit for Fun Channel and traveled a lot. Which other places beside Kolkata are fascinating for you and where would you like to go?

That is a tough question. Due to my job I have visit a lot of beautiful places. So it is difficult to choose the cream of them. I love Canada. It is a fantastic area. Some of my relatives are living in Montreal. But I guess at most I love Asia, especially Thailand. It is funny, but there are living also some of my relatives. Probably I love the venues at most where my family and friends are living. Of course you can get a deeper relation to an area, when you will know people there. Besides, Thailand is a very enjoyable place, because of the relaxed and friendly people, the delicious food and the breathtaking areas and cities. But the best place is at home finally. I love it to travel but I love it also to come back at home.

Let's suppose that we could unite the good things of India and Germany. What are the best properties of each country?

The best and important properties of India are easy to explain. I love

Nandini Mitra



being there for each other. Generally speaking, the tolerance, also the religious one, is a very positive thing. The Indian are really open minded. Of course there are fights between the religions and casts, but India has more than one billion people and most of them are peaceful and very friendly and the fights steadily diminishes. Finally, the spirituality is a positive thing, that keeps the society together and is a part of the everyday life. To believe in something is a good thing in my opinion. I am sure, this characteristics are missing in our country. They would be an enrichment for all of us.

The easy life and the good income are some of the advantages of Germany. Everybody has the opportunity to study or to find a good job and a partner by its own. But to enjoy this prosperities could be a disadvantage also. We have to be active and vigilant to keep our prosperity in the future. Another positive German character is the straightness. We adhere to our confirmations. Hindi is a flowery language, characterized by philosophy and religion. To say "no" is not easy. One philosophical principle is: "There is no Yes without No and no No without Yes". A refusal will be friendly paraphrased. Because of this, it is very difficult to understand, if someone means no or yes. It is a funny situation and a creative chaos when my family starts to make an appointment. To know when and where to meet is more luck than anything else. But somehow it works always. So to make an appointment and so on is much easier in Germany.

Pictures:
Tierpark Hagenbeck (above)
Andrea Müller-Schulz for
Society Relations

Do you think that our cultures have much in common?

I guess they complement each other in many ways. I can recognise it in my own family. I grew up very open minded and cosmopolitan. The culture and views of my father in combination with mothers German traits were an enrichment for my whole life.

Do you have a spiritual or religious everyday life?

In my case it is a mixture of two religions. I have a Buddha in my house as well as a cross, which I have got to the confirmation. We celebrate Christian holidays and Indian ones. Every single day is a spiritual thing for me as well as to have respect for the nature and other people. It is also spirituality to enjoy the little things in life and to be thankful for every second which you can spend with the people you love. I think everybody has an other way to live spirituality and I love the many different ways, which exist for everybody.

It is estimated that about one third of the population are living below or short of the poverty line. How do you experience the poverty in India?

I have to get accustomed to the hard pictures anew over and over again. It's very difficult to handle this situation. We talk about this problems also within the family and everybody has its own way to cope with it. My family supports some Nature Conservation projects and friends who have not an easy life. But India has not so much projects supported by the government as Germany, I mean projects that help people in need and who are not a part of the social network.

And what about women?

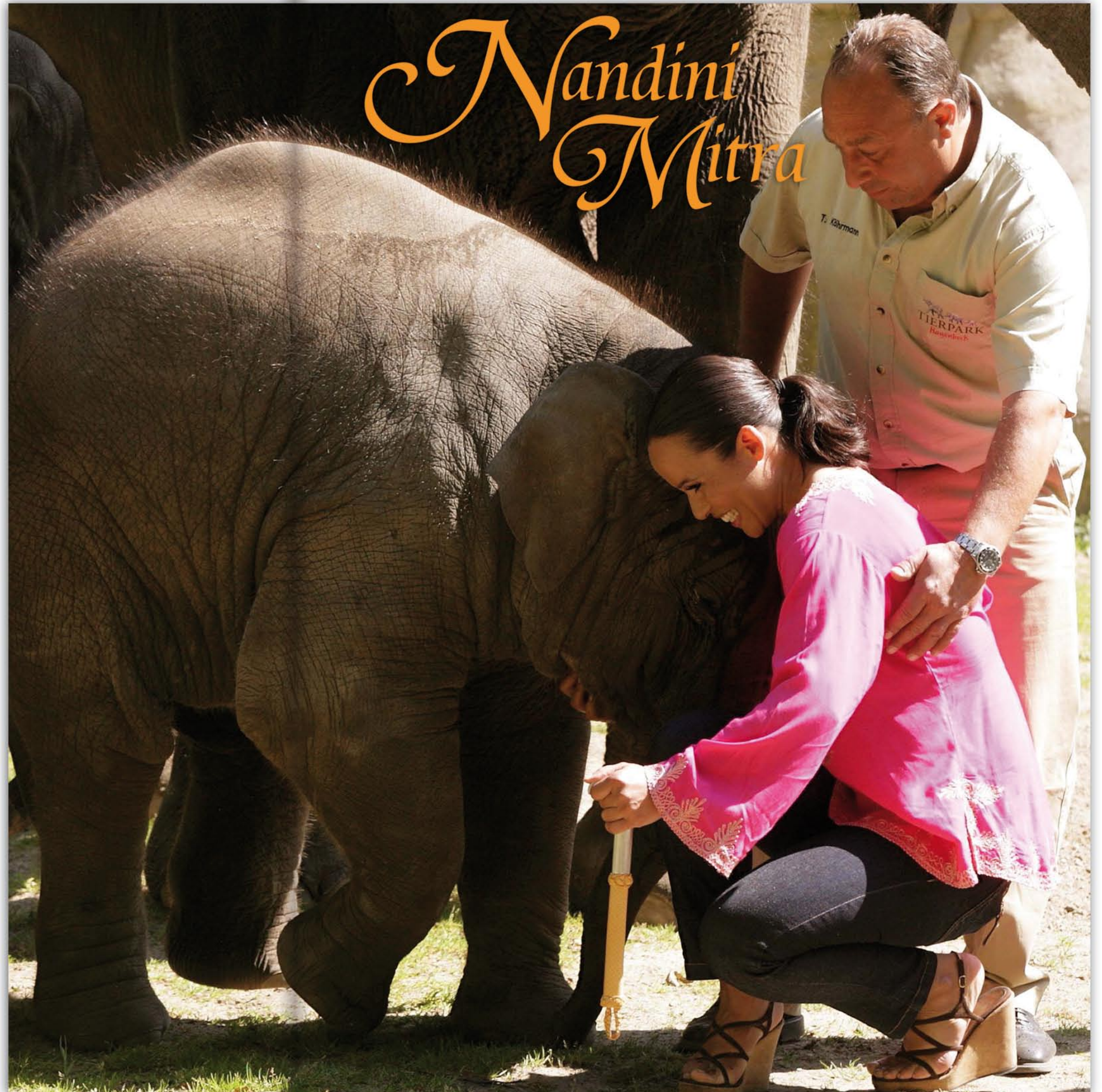
A very difficult aspect which depends on the general education is the role of women in the society. This question my family handles completely different from the traditions. My cousins live alone, they are looking for a husband by themselves, they study abroad. They are modern and liberal women. It was

already the same in times of my fathers generation. But as mentioned before it is a question of education. Generally the role of women and girls is really difficult in the entire country. On the one hand, many Indian women work as doctors, teachers, engineers and scientists. They are very successful. On the other hand, many women are not aware of their rights. They will be discriminated and they do not get the same opportunities as men. Furthermore it is a problem for poor families, that daughters will leave the family when they get married. So they cannot help to feed the family anymore. This is a known and very important problem of many countries and it is a huge challenge to solve it. When mothers and women will not be respected and supported by the society, the entire country will have huge problems sooner or later. Sad procedures as mentioned above are everyday occurrences.

VALEUR supports the organisation Child's Rights! What do you think about this project?

Children are the weakest part of the society and need support and education. But so much children live on the street or have to work in India. Because of this I love the project *Child's Rights*. It is really honourable that Mrs Gey helps the girls and boys by herself without state or commercial aid. The world needs more people like her. To provide the children a future and to give them love and a home is the most important thing. On the pictures I can see the enthusiasm of the children. They are such as sponges, which eagerly absorbed everything good. Everybody can see that the children are healthy and happy. When you will see the children on the streets you will recognise the difference. This is the positive part of this story, that people exist who face the problems and trouble and who try to help without thought about own advantages. In my opinion it is a really great aid organization, which needs support of everyone.

Nandini Mitra



Picture: Tierpark Hagenbeck

The orphanage project Child's Rights is located in Jaipur, where riots and bomb attacks happened in the last year. Also in Mumbai and other places. How do you experience the tensions between Hindus and Muslims?

My whole family is throughout Hindi. I wanted to go to Mumbai last year. Three days before my flight the bomb attacks happened. I was shocked and of course I did not make the flight. It is a permanent topic in my family, which is very politically interested. Of course we are worried about our family and friends. But the Indian are durable and used to solve problems. They do not waste time to think about too much and they avoid dangerous places. The life goes on. As I said, it is a country of extremes and so you have to establish a special mentality.

We talked about a lot of problems. Bollywood shows glamour and opulent scenery. Do you think it is a completely wrong image, which is conveyed?

I do not think so. As I said, India is such a multifaceted and huge country, full of contrasts. And of course it has a lot of beautiful parts, which you will see mostly as a tourist. It is difficult to present a huge country with all aspects. Anyway the Indian want to forget the everyday life when they go to cinema. They want to escape from the problems for a while. Due to this I guess films which would show only problems, poverty, violence would not have any success in India. But of course it is difficult for foreign people to get the full picture of this country. It's fundamentally a limited point of view.

You support the "Löwenhaus" in Hamburg. How did that come about?

I have read about it in a newspaper and I was shocked that this kind of poverty exists right up to my own doorstep. Of course I know poverty from Africa, India and Thailand but I did not know that it exists on such a scale also in Germany. So I went to the Löwenhaus (ed. note: a social project for children in need from 5 up to 12 living in Hamburg) to get more information about this project and to talk with the leader, Mr. Rainer Micha. I loved the concept and the children from the very first moment. So I have started to spend time with the kids continuously. We tinker together, do homework or train Pilates. Also in this case I can recognise the enthusiasm of children. They enjoy the things which are normal for the most of us and that I took for granted when I was a child. Things such love and attention are so important for the future life. The kids have a lot of energy and they are really intelligent. Each of us knows how it is difficult to survive in the society, also as a well educated person. Those kids wouldn't have the chance without any support. In general children are the adults of tomorrow. To train them, to feed them, to give them motivation, to keep them away from drugs or violence will be our own advantage. Some weeks ago I was shocked. Some kids came to late to the lesson. The most important question of the others was: "Could we eat the food of the others when they will not come?". I was deeply touched. Hunger and privation still exists everywhere, also in Germany.

You came back from working in the Caribbean yesterday and you have given Pilates instructions on "Mein Schiff". I hope you have recovered even through? Could you tell us something about your future plans?

In principle, it was an exciting year. I made some pilots and my program runs still successful on Sky. Now I am anxious to the new year. I look forward to it. In addition to my show I will make a wellness- and fitness special and I will proceed the advertisement campaign for an insurance company. I will visit many galas

and events. The flexibility and activity are the beautiful things in my profession. Finally I will be focused to promote Pilates more and more. I was asked very often in interviews, what makes fit and beautiful. My answer is: Pilates! I strongly believe that Pilates is the answer to a lot of physical and psychological problems. I recognise that the people pay more attention of themselves and that they are looking for some preventive measures. Pilates is simply a nice thing, which is very good for the health. Especially in case of children, Pilates is a good therapy against

postural damage, as a result from lack of exercise. I recognise it also by the children in the Löwenhaus, who have partly difficulties with coordination and motor skills.

You have moderated the program special "Model for One Day" of the telecast "Punkt 12" last year. What do you think about the model job?

My job implicates that I work as a model from time to time. It is a nice thing, because its versatility. You can play different roles and it is exciting to be on stage in front of an audience, whether as a model or moderator. It demands discipline,

good posture and body control. I understand, that a lot of young girls want to be a model. It is a great feeling to be the centre point for a while. I enjoy it every time when I have to present designer clothes.

Would you like to make a recommendation to our readers?

The attention to children, to meet them generous, with respect and understanding. Children should be the major part of the society. They should have more places to develop all their talents and to play. We shall endeavour to protect and to help the children of our neighbourhood, to keep the society alive.

Nandini
Mitra

Picture: Löwenhaus

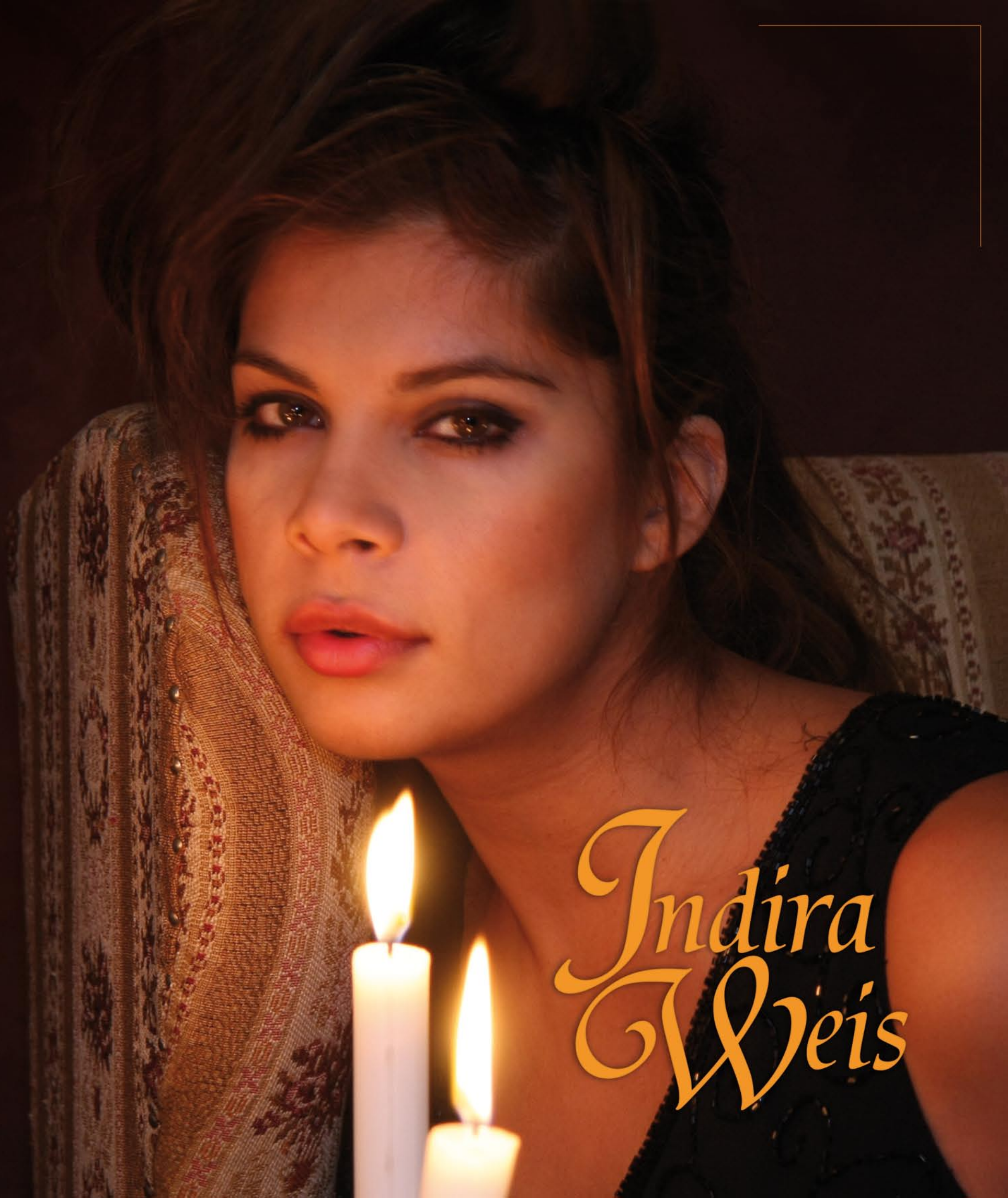


The Singer

The name says it all. Indira – „The Body of Water“ - is lively and a source of inspiration.

Due to her dependant from Kolkata, the German multitalent of Indian origin has a lot to report about India.

Indira Weis



Indira Weis

Indira grew up in the near of Frankfurt/ Main, Germany. Already as a child she convinced with her musical ability and began with piano and guitar instruction in young years. After she completed the final examination, her way led her onto the international drama school Munich.

There she specialised in the field of singing and dancing and could already prove her abilities in a Hip-Hop band. After one year she ended the drama school. Her way kept on leading to *Planet Radio* in Frankfurt. At the same time a casting for *POPSTARS* took place and Indira convinced from round to round. At the end she was a member of the pop stars band *Brosis*. This was the breakthrough of her career. On top of that she

received the *New Faces Award*, in 2002. Unfortunately, only one year later Indira left the band because of musically differences. Hereafter, she concentrated completely again on acting. On TV she was to be seen in different broadcasts. Later the semi-Indian went to Jerusalem to study religion. She converted to the Judaism. In 2009, she started her comeback as a singer and is now concentrating on her acting and singing career.

Would you like to tell us something about your roots and your family?

Sure. My mother is Indian and my father is from Germany. The relatives of my mother are living in Kolkata, which was completely different 30 years ago than today. For example there were a lot of lepers. My mother is an orphan and her foster parents – who we called granny and grandpa - lived in poverty. We helped them over the years. Actually you will not help only your family, but the entire village. The nice thing is, that everybody helps everyone in India, especially in the small villages. The people there have neither health insurances nor any other social support by the state. When somebody needs a treatment or surgery, the family will knock on each door to collect the money which is needed.

When did you visit your family in India the first time?

My first journey to India I did at the age of 2. Because of some diseases, which are dangerous for children and which could not be treated so well in those days as today – I mean the seventies – my parents have waited until I was old enough for a trip like this. Furthermore, from a certain age the immune system is stronger. But the first visit went well and from this time on I spent my vacations over there almost every year. At those times could not always enjoy it, because I thought of my friends who spent their time on the beach. At times, I slept on the floor, while they stayed in fancy hotels. Today I am grateful for the experience to see not only the sweet life and to get a relation to people who need help.

Did your mother come to Germany because of your father?

Yes, indeed, they married in India, but my father had a job in Germany and so my mother went with him. She studied here and got the best out of her life. She would not be any woman which is doing only the domestic work, speaking broken German and not involved in the social life. It was very important for her to use her opportu-

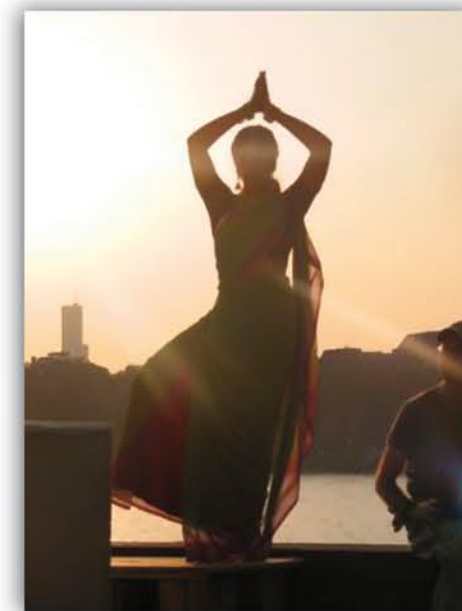
nities. Because of her intellect she made it and became a role model for other women who came to Germany from India and other foreign countries. Her German skills are self-taught in such a high level, that she could study. Nowadays, she is government-bonded interpreter and works with asylum seeker and helps to integrate immigrants.

Does your mother and father support any aid organisations in India?

This question is very often asked by people. But when you know the people and their needs there, you should and you will start to help by yourself. My parents built up the village of my grandparents. Additionally they brought medicine to the people or glasses and stuff which the people required. It was strange that somebody had to live with their weak eyes. When we brought the glasses to them, anyhow they started to live again and they could work much better than before. My parents bought land to cultivate vegetables. My father founded a school finally, because most important is the education in any case. Especially in smaller villages you will miss schools or teachers, so the people there have not any chance for a better life, to get good jobs, to develop themselves or their place. Nowadays, it is fundamental to speak English to get jobs. Because they cannot speak English or they are illiterates more and more Indian fall to the wayside.

Do they get English instruction in the school of your father?

Yes, of course! This is the most important thing. But, it is not so easy to grant development aid in the small villages. First of all, you have to convince the parents that not the work is most important, but the education. You have to imagine, that children of different ages from the entire village go to the school. They have no separate classes, they learn all together. The older pupils help the younger ones and finally everyone is able to speak and read English, to count, to write and so on.



So, you are accustomed to the poverty in India. Would you say that it still touches you or are you immune against it, when you visit India today?

It is difficult to say. I am immune in no case when it means emotionally dulled. People who visit India the first time come back and say: "Hey, it was so terrible to see the poor people. Now I know what I have to appreciate here!" I do not like to think this way because it is wrong. Of course the situation is not easy. The people have to handle problems as the forced marriage or worse diseases. It is very difficult to pay the treatment and often the families are indebted for generations hereafter. Also other things are not easy, but they are satisfied. The Indian are not whining all the time. They are not interested in compassion. They smile. I guess, when some unemployed German would go to India, he would not like to change with an Indian citizen. But you can believe me, in reality the Indian would not like to change with him. They have a social structure which we miss more and more. The community helps a lot to stand the situation, not only monetary but also emotional. So, to answer your question, I have to say, that I do not measure India by the standard of us. Not everybody has a TV or a phone, but they do not need them, they live another life and so I am more touched in a good than in a bad way.



Indira
Weis

But a large problem is the child labour. What do you think about it?

Yes, this is really bad. When children are abused to do adults work it is a real inhumane tragedy. But there are often no alternatives and there are differences which you have to realise. Some children are used by their own parents, when the family incurred debts for example. In poor families everybody has to work to survive. So this shows a common family situation, where the work of a child is still questionable, but in that particular case understandable. Another question is the kind of work. Some kids do easy jobs such as folding little bags from newspapers. Better to do bearable jobs than to die of hunger. In some sad cases children are used for prostitution or physically hard work on the field or in textil industry, which should not be tolerated by the government in any case.

The government has taken a number of measures to protect women and especially children. So far, they were not properly implemented. What do you think, what could help in order to prevent child labour?

There is a clear answer to this question, because I am focused on this problem for a while! Of course there are a lot of reasons for child labour but in some cases our western civilisation is the major problem. We want to buy high quality for low prices. A cheap product is only possible, when the cost of manufaction is so low, that the western company can still make profit. So people in India including children are working for starvation wages. It is a huge problem in entire Asia. We can help, by not buying brands, which are responsible for this inequity. There are more and more courageous journalists from large journals and publishers, that reveal the backgrounds and catastrophic circumstances. One magazine flew to Bangladesh and visited a huge tailoring. Inside they saw children, that worked so hard until their

hands were bloody and they were beaten up by the supervisors. So, when you buy a dress, shirt or something else, which is disproportionately cheap and labelled with "Made in Bangladesh" or any other Asian country, you should count one and one together. Why it is so cheap? Because the textile companies are producing under inhuman conditions, they underpay their workers and force on them overproprtional working hours. The companies advertise with claims like: cheaper is not possible. But how should a worker be properly paid, when we ask for high quality cheaper than ever. Be sure that the textil industry is not willing to pay the price for our demand.

Do you think the government of India could do something?

Unfortunately, it is not so easy. It is a long way. India has to solve a lot of problems on its way into its successful future. The government is responsible for everyone, but its

not in possession of means needed to solve this problem. We all have to help and to assume responsibility. Closing one's eyes wont help. **There are still many traditions in India, which we judge as oldfashioned. Did you make any experiences with that?**

There are many traditions, as not having sex before marriage. I have to smile when people tell me, that this doesnt exist in the western world. Not 50 years ago, my German granny had to get married as a virgin, too, and it wasnt tolerated by the society to act differently. Nowadays, we put our finger on countries, where this tradition is still held high. Of course u should force nobody to marry. Nevertheless the situation for women in this huge country is improving slowly but surely. You can see it in the government, media and inside many companies. And by the way, we had a female premier long before Germany.



You are well informed, maybe you could tell us more about the following topic. The dowry is prohibited by the government since some years. But it is still a common practice and you can hear about murdering in connection with dowry. Is it the reality?

Maybe I am wrong, but I guess the kills have nothing to do with dowry. Again we get pictures presented by the media, which show only the point of view of one side. Because of marriage-contracts and agreements the family and particularly the husband knows what the woman will bring with her. I guess when a man kills his wife not the dowry is the reason, but he want her not any more. The man was often forced to marry also. Of course, its totally crazy and sure a problem, that women have not so much rights than men. Furthermore I do not know any Criminal Investigation Department in India, which would follow the traces of violence in this cases. To my knowledge, this tragic cases does not happen so often and the same problems we have in Germany. Last year alone we had 7 acts of domestic murder. Maybe the reasons are the same: unemployment, debts, alcohol, drugs; whatever. So, I think it is totally wrong to talk about culture or religion in this case.

That sounds logic. What do you like about the culture of India and Germany?

In case of the Indian culture I like at most the hospitality. It goes beyond that, someone will offer you only a cup of tea, but the Indian are endeavours to create an atmosphere where you can feel comfortable. They do not think about their own, when they offer you help it is a question of respect for each other. They are very kind to everyone and its not important if you are a friend or a foreigner. It is completely different to Germany, where the most people want to go their own ways. But the best thing of the German culture is the accuracy. I like it very much when people are right in time and you know that you can convide in an appointment or agreement.

Do you have an religious everyday life?

I am Jew, thus I am not a member of the large number of Hindus. The Judaism is a fringe group in India. But yes, I have a religious life. Because of my study I have dealt with all kinds of religions.

Where did you study and why?

I studied in Jerusalem. When you grew up in the western culture and you want to study religion, you will be focused on Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Jerusalem was the centre of all of this religions and the university has a high standard. There you can see the religious history everywhere. I have completed my study successfully in 2008.

What are your current projects?

I will continue to focus on my career as actress. As people know I am an educated actress, but not a singer actually. After my exit from BroSis, I looked for an agency and worked for TV and theater productions. Since a few years from now I cooperate with an artist management in Berlin. I have written a book during my time in Israel. Additionally I have released a new single at the Oktoberfest in Munich called: *When Does It Become Summer Once Again Correctly*. But I am open minded to do new things, also when they will have nothing to do with the entertainment business.

Are you interested in Bollywood films? What do you think about them and do you like them?

Of course, I love Bollywood films. I played a role as a Bollywood star in the TV series "Soko Kitzbühl" and "Soko Köln". I do not have the style and look of an Austrian farm girl or a typical German, so I will be mostly cast as an Indian or exotic. Some years ago, I was in India in connection with a film production. The Indian crew liked me very much, because they love mongrels. But at the time it did not work to play roles there, because of the language barrier. In those days the films were produced in Hindi, but not in English as today. Maybe, I will produce some motion pictures in the future in India?



Indira Weis



INDIA

THE SPECIAL

WHERE SHOULD ONE START TO REPORT ABOUT A COUNTRY, THAT REPRESENTS TODAY WITH MORE THAN ONE BILLION INHABITANTS THE OLDEST EXISTING CULTURE ON EARTH?

WHEREAS EUROPE AWOKE, INDIA COULD MEASURE UP – AT LEAST REGIONAL AND TEMPORARILY - TO THE OTHER ADVANCED CIVILISATIONS.

MATHEMATICS, ASTRONOMY, MEDICINE, TECHNOLOGICAL MASTERPIECE, AS IRRIGATION PLANTS IN ORDER TO BE INDEPENDENT OF THE MONSOON, FLUSHING TOILETS, SEWER SYSTEMS AND MUCH MORE, WERE OF A VERY HIGH QUALITY.

THEY WERE ADOPTED LATER BY OTHER CULTURES UP TO THE ROMANS.

THE STORY OF INDIA READS LIKE AS WOULD HAVE THE COUNTRY COLLECT, CALMLY AND ANALYTICALLY, A LOT OF GOOD AND BAD EXPERIENCES TO WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT, TO SHOW THE WORLD ITS POWER. BUT FROM WHERE COMES THIS POWER? IN ORDER TO DISCUSS ABOUT THE ATOM POWER OR OTHER POLITICAL AND EVERY HISTORICAL DETAIL WOULD TO GO BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS MAGAZINE. SO THIS VALEUR ISSUE WILL BE CONCENTRATE ON EVERYDAY THINGS, WHICH ARE IMPORTANT FOR EVERYBODY. WE WILL DISCUSS THE ECONOMIC BOOM, THE NEW MEGA TOWNS, THE CULTURE AND THE LIFESTYLE AS WELL AS THE POVERTY AND PROBLEMS. ALSO THE FURTHER RELEASES OF VALEUR WILL CONTINUE THE SPECIAL TO ADOPT THE ISSUES WHICH CONCERN THE PUBLIC. ONE THING IS VERY CLEAR, IN ANY CASE INDIA WILL BE THE NEW WORLD POWER.

IT IS AN AMAZING COUNTRY
WHERE EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT.

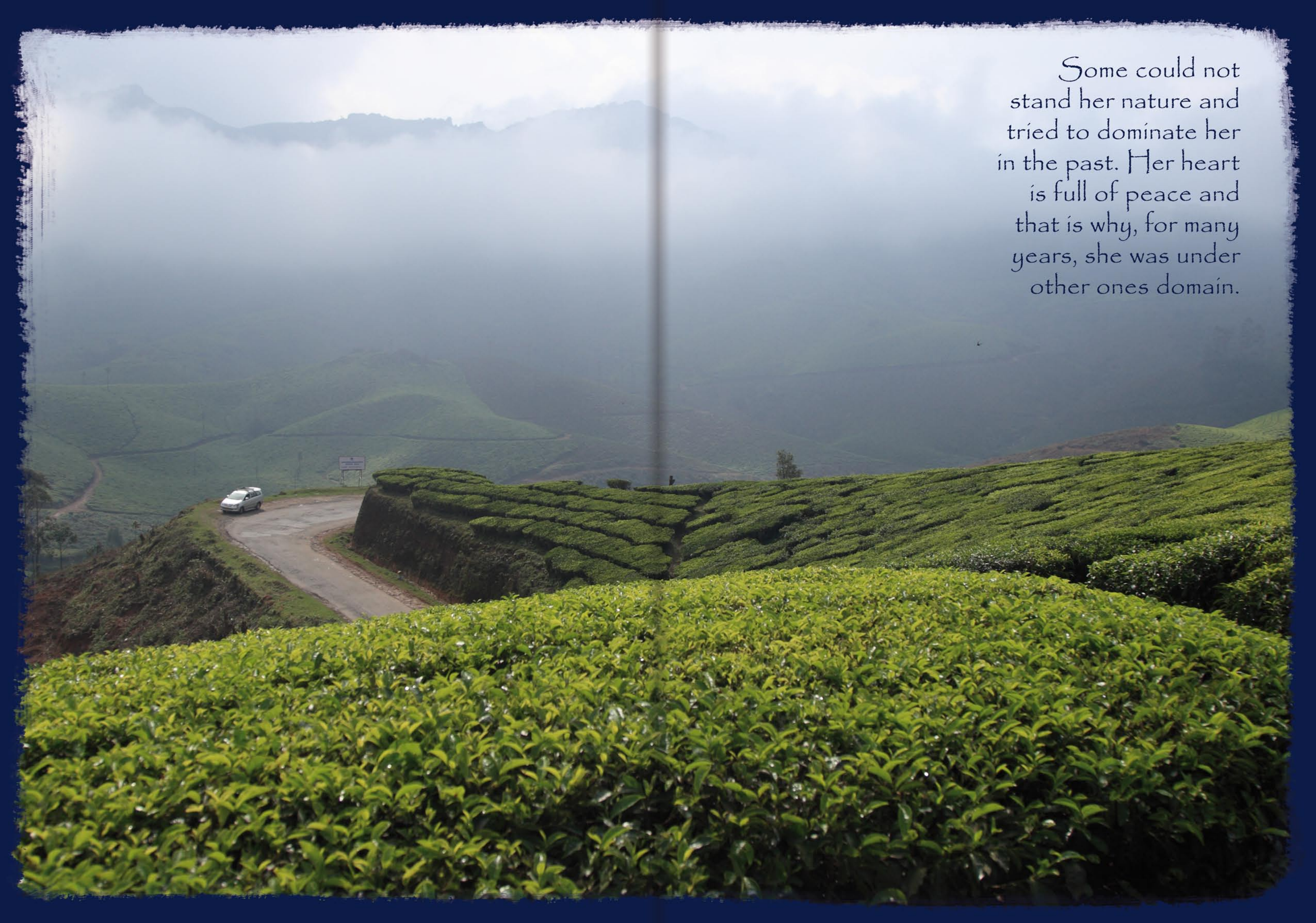
Once the world started to turn and the sun kissed slowly every spot, a little girl opened her eyes. When others woke up one morning, the girl called India was already awake. At that time - while her little sister Europe has not been born yet - the girl learned, before many others how to write and calculate, how to cultivate land and bring technology to her family. She could already measure up with the brothers and sisters from Mesopotamia.

a date with
INDIA

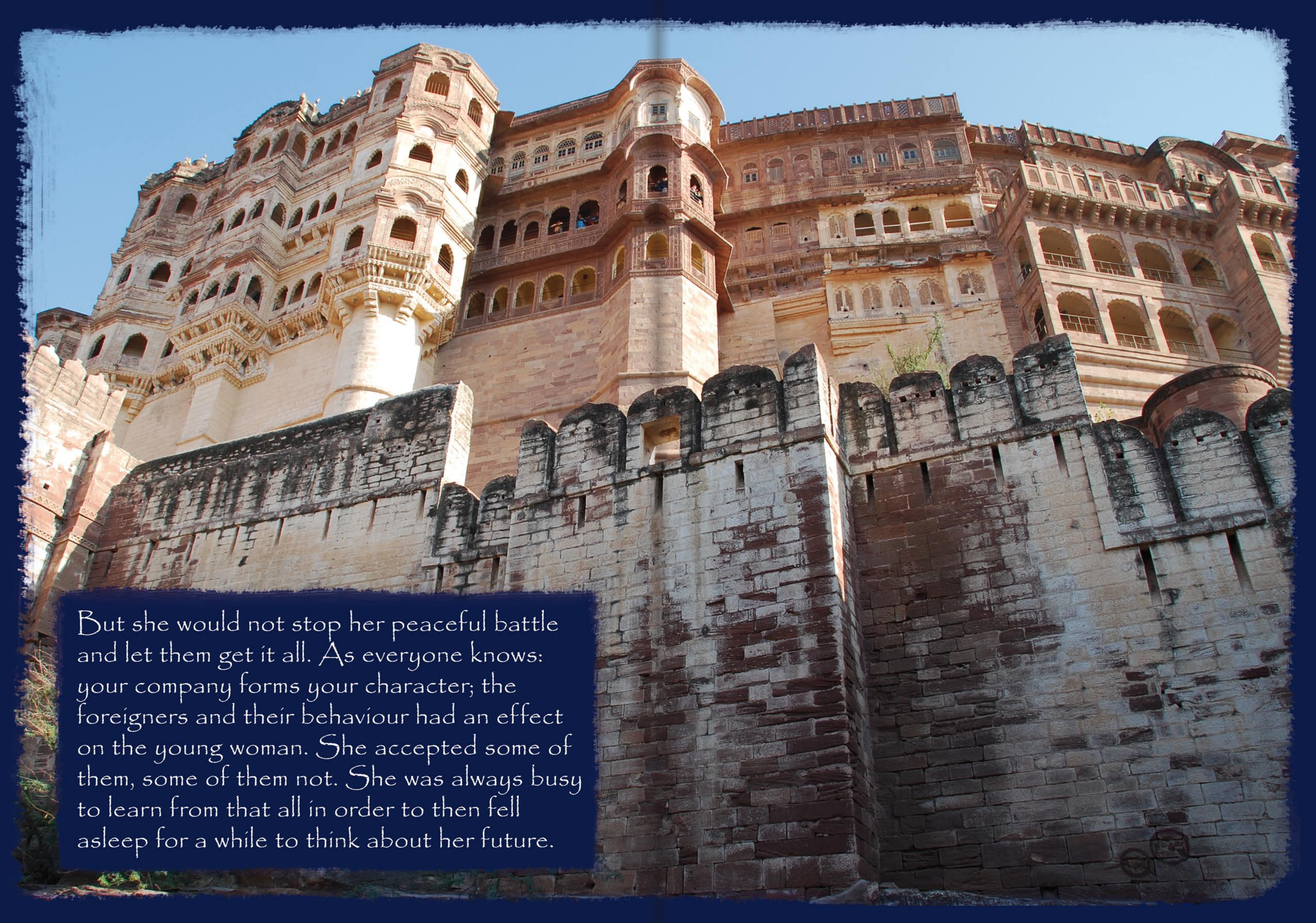


India developed fast into a young, beautiful smiling woman, who became wise. Because of her amazing look and the exciting and important things she had to offer, many people had been courting the girl. They tried to forge a relationship with her and unfortunately some of them used her.



A wide-angle photograph of a tea plantation. The foreground is filled with rows of vibrant green tea bushes. In the middle ground, a paved road curves through the landscape, with a white car parked on the left side. The background shows rolling hills and mountains shrouded in a light mist or fog, creating a soft, atmospheric scene. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Some could not stand her nature and tried to dominate her in the past. Her heart is full of peace and that is why, for many years, she was under other ones domain.

A photograph of a massive, multi-story stone fortification, likely a palace or citadel, built on a hillside. The structure is composed of light-colored stone and features intricate carvings and numerous arched windows. In the foreground, a thick, crenelated stone wall with battlements runs across the frame. The sky is clear and blue.

But she would not stop her peaceful battle and let them get it all. As everyone knows: your company forms your character; the foreigners and their behaviour had an effect on the young woman. She accepted some of them, some of them not. She was always busy to learn from that all in order to then fell asleep for a while to think about her future.



Today her bright eyes have nothing to say but but the simple truth. She is like a little rosebud. She is the most beautiful girl living in the suburbs of Jaipur as well as in the mega cities Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi. India knows who she is, enjoys the sunbeams and is mostly smiling. She is bright by nature but she needs the right places and a strong hand to get to get to bloom.

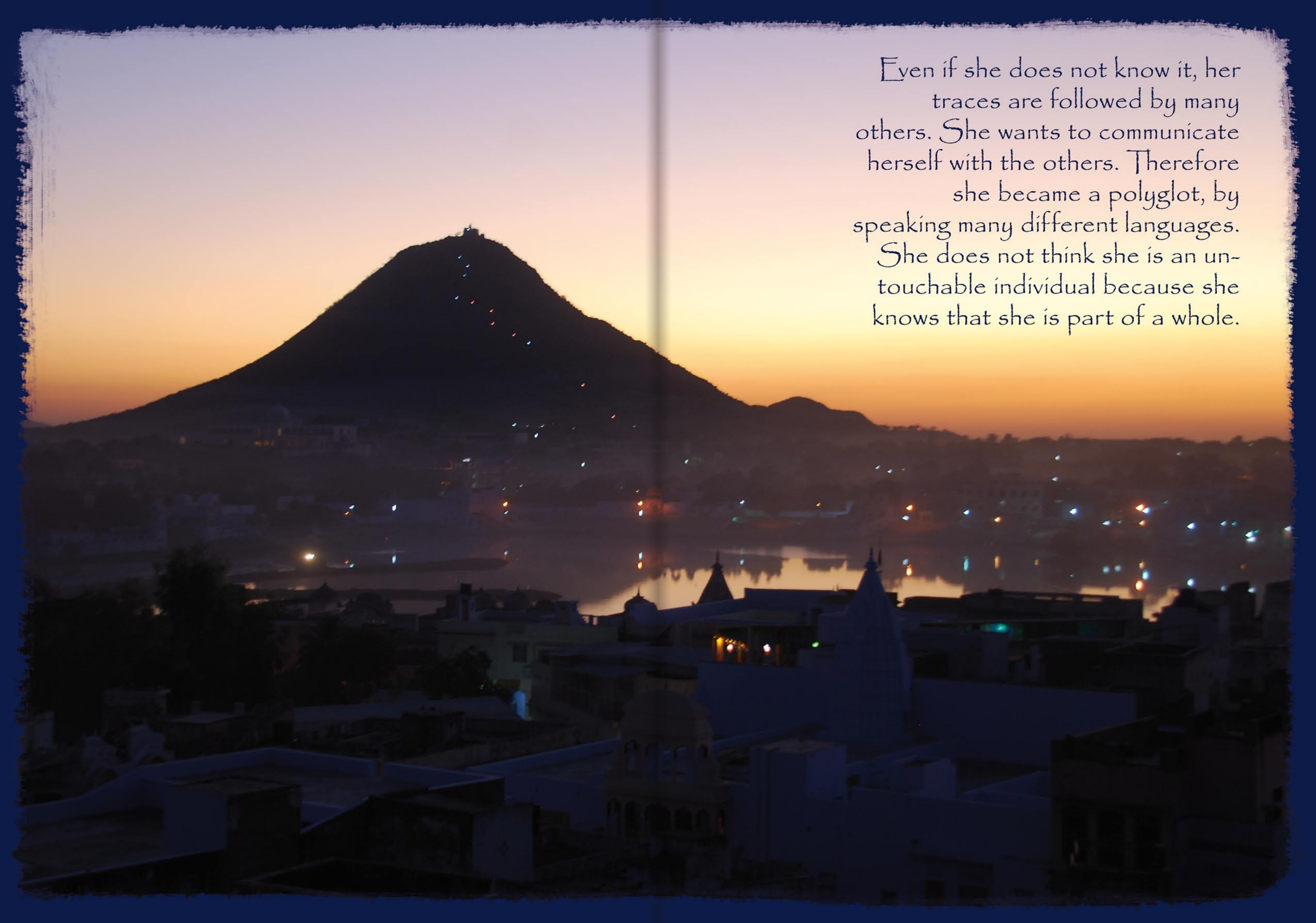
She is an adult woman, but her heart is young and strong, because of her experience. She might have thousands of years, but her beauty never dies. On the contrary, it looks as she would start to live and to exploit her full strengths from now on.

Her expressive eyes, looking as gems, have many colours. Her body has thousands of smells. Her lips taste as candy and her skin smells as a lotus. Her sari is dusty from the desert, but she wears it with the grace of a queen.



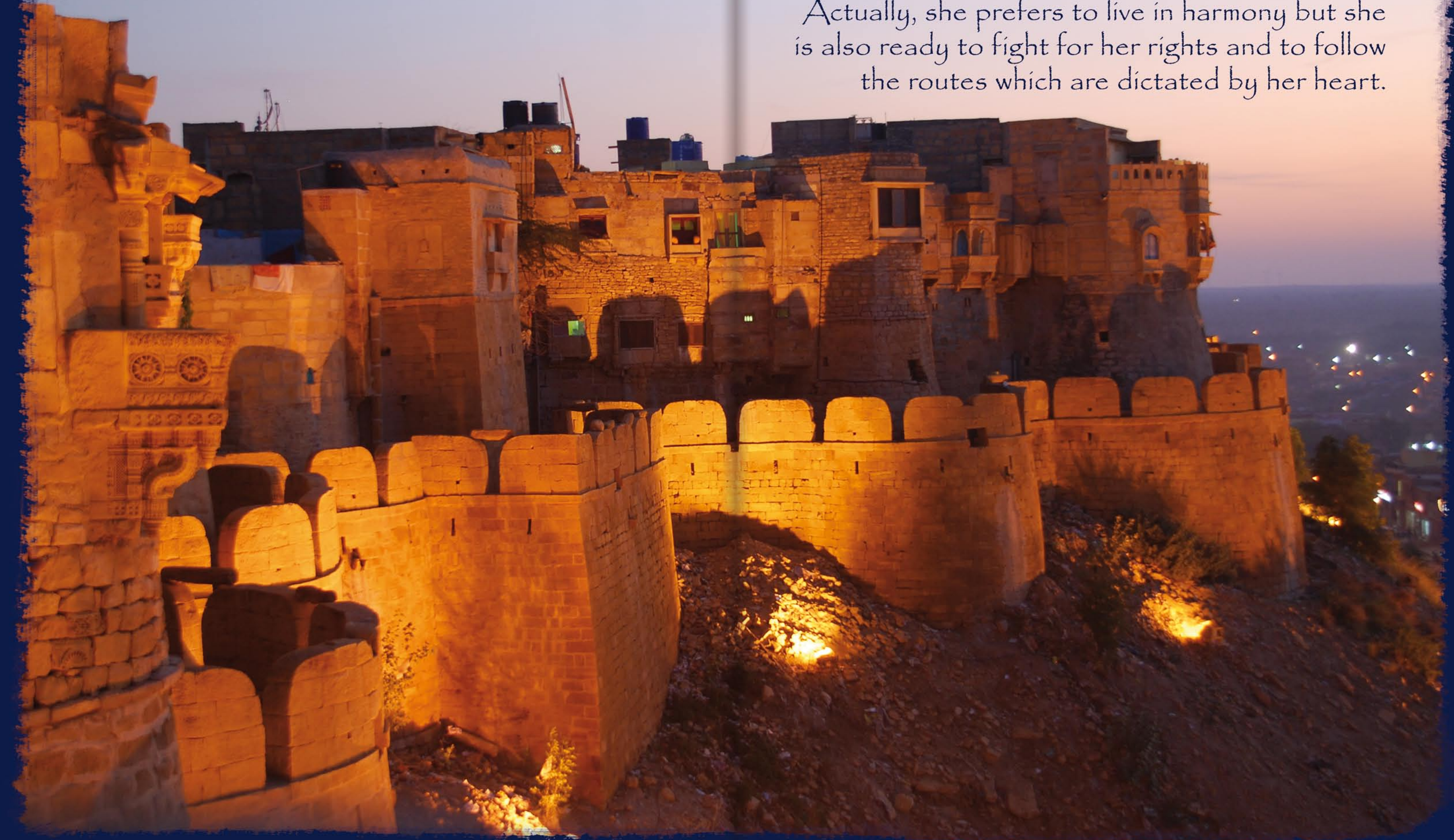
Her crown opens to the air to get the drops of the future dew. Drop by drop, she becomes stronger, bigger and more skilful. From now on, she is not following others but leading them. With her eyes immerse in heaven, a star crosses the sky and shows her the way to be a powerful woman, which could choose her partner and friends by herself.



A night photograph of a city with a large mountain in the background. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The city lights are visible, and the mountain is silhouetted against the sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Even if she does not know it, her traces are followed by many others. She wants to communicate herself with the others. Therefore she became a polyglot, by speaking many different languages. She does not think she is an un-touchable individual because she knows that she is part of a whole.

Although, she would rather live in the community, she keeps on being an independent girl, with own thoughts and ways, which she is following. Actually, she prefers to live in harmony but she is also ready to fight for her rights and to follow the routes which are dictated by her heart.

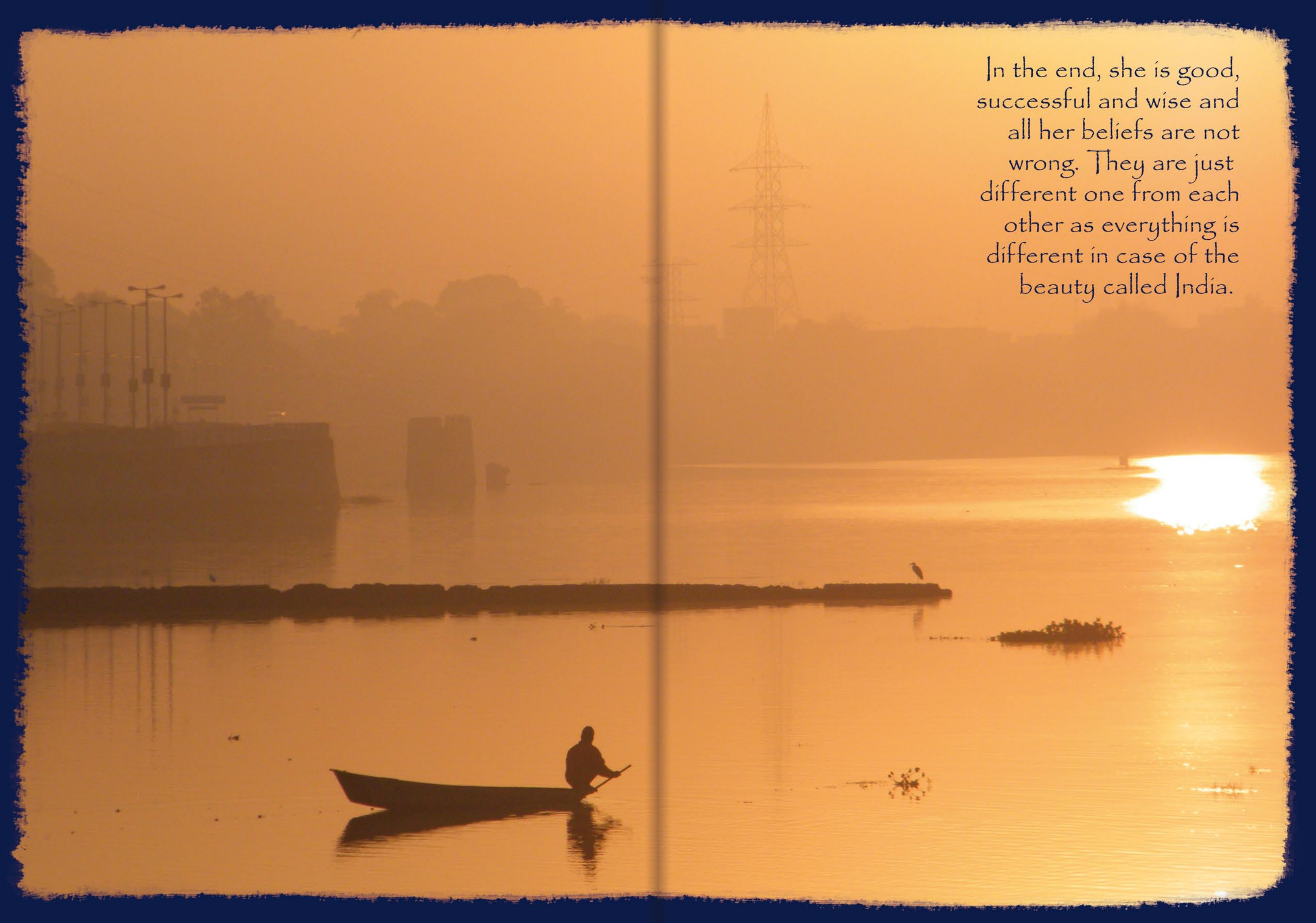




India is carrying an artist in her soul. She dances – also on the overcrowded, congested streets – and goes through ages and ages with elegance and light feet. She loves welcoming visitors and her home is big enough to have them all. She is kind and enjoys the company of the others. Brotherhood and friendship are since the beginning values in her home.

However, as in everyone's life a beautiful woman has also been affected by problems as well as ups and downs. Her needs are for real and she needs some care. She needs a protecting hand by her family. Her siblings, the older and younger ones, are obligated to support her and to lead her on the right paths.





In the end, she is good,
successful and wise and
all her beliefs are not
wrong. They are just
different one from each
other as everything is
different in case of the
beauty called India.

WHO HAVE FOUND ITSELF
WILL START TO LIVE,
WILL START TO SEE THE THINGS
AND THE WORLD
IN A DIFFERENT,
CLEARER LIGHT.

CHRISTIANE GEY, THE GERMAN
JEWELLERY DESIGNER, WHO LIVES
AND WORKS IN VALENCIA/ SPAIN
TODAY, FOUND HERSELF AND HER
DESTINY ON HER TRIPS THROUGH
INDIA. SHE HAS REVEALED

THE EARTH'S REAL JEWELS ARE THE
CHILDREN

FEEL THE FORCE OF
SMILING CHILDRENS, WHEN
YOU JOYN THE PROJECT



Christiane Gey, the founder of Childs Rights, with her "family", the girls from GANGA III in Jaipur/ India

Every donation - no matter whether material or monetary - is necessary to keep the project alive. I visit always sponsors and donors and control every investment personally. One should help because of the assistance, not because of its own benefits!

THE HEAD CHRISTIANE GEY

THIS ARTICLE AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE
MAGAZINE ARE DEDICATED TO THE
CHILDREN OF CHILD'S RIGHTS
AND ITS HEAD
CHRISTIANE GEY.

HER GREAT HEART, HER ALTRUISTIC
WILL TO HELP PEOPLE AND TO
SHOW THE WORLD HOW IMPORTANT
IT IS TO THINK OF OTHERS
ARE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL.

GIVE A SMILE TO CHILDREN AND
YOU WILL GET MUCH MORE BACK!





SUSMITA FROM NEPAL IS AN AMBASSADOR OF THE CHILDREN OF CHILD'S RIGHTS. SHE INVITES YOU TO FOLLOW HER INTO THE WORLD OF THE SINCERE ORPHANAGE PROJECT, WHICH IS NOT BASED ON PUBLICITY OR FAME BUT ON HONESTY AND CORDIALITY.

CHILD'S RIGHTS

THE SAME PROCEDURE AS EVERY YEAR: AT THE END OF IT THE MEDIA OUTDO EACH OTHER WITH CHARITY SHOWS AND DONATION APPEALS. BUT MANY ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED! WILL MY DONATION PROPERLY USED? WHERE TO START AND WHY? VALEUR MET CHRISTIANE GEY, THE HEAD OF CHILD'S RIGHTS. SHE SHOWED US THE TRUE SENCE OF AID AND CONVINCED US, THAT THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW POWER INDIA NEED OUR ATTENTION AND HELP. WHY? BECAUSE THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET BELONGS TO THEM. THEY HAVE THE HEART TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD.

IF YOU LOOK INTO THE EYES OF THESE KIDS, YOU WILL RECEIVED THE CONFIRMATION ABOUT THIS.



THE HEAD CHRISTIANE GEY

Christiane Gey, the founder of the NGO Child's Rights, was born in Germany and moved to Valencia/Spain when she was 26 years old. She completed her studies in Economy and Jewellery Design, which is her current occupation. For many years she has travelled to India frequently where, due to the great poverty which affects million of children, she decided to help out with all her energy, always believing that "the real jewels of our earth are the children".

A young boy, living on the street beside a bus station, who explained the problems of children and his own story to Christiane, was the final touch. Therefore she set up the NGO Child's Rights and, after a lot of effort, she finally opened the first orphanage Ganga III in February 2008, which provided shelter and education to homeless girls, which number is growing steadily. The project is focuses in offering a worthy future to the children living in the streets of India.

So she has opened the second orphanage for boys in 2009. In order to take care of the children Christiane spends a lot of time in India. Step by step the project keeps growing and receiving support from different private entities. But Christiane is still working very hard to help the abused, homeless and abandoned children. She invests her own money and power without any thoughts about fame or publicity and she is looking for help around the world.

Christiane, you have graduated from university in Spain. Why there?

I have completed 2 courses of study. I graduated the business study in Germany and took my exams in jewellery design in Spain, where I live and work today. I was looking for warmth and cordiality and I found this as well as a new home and my love in Valencia.

energy, I go to the children in India. Their smiles open hearts and mean the world for me. It helps and motivates me immediately. When I can see the kids, everything is well and I know for whom I do this all.

You can see the Indian influence on your work.

Yes of course, I am about 4 month in India every year. This country

bright sides. It enables me to do something good, to change the world a little bit and to find peace. It is completely different to Europe and it has so much faces. India is like a dream, sometimes a beautiful one, sometimes a nightmare. I love the colours and contrasts and for me it is necessary to go often there, to visit the kids and to check the situation there, to talk with partners



Who are your customers?

I have a jewellery shop in Valencia. My clients are Spanish people but also tourists from Germany, England, Netherlands, France and Italy. I produce in order jewellery for private events as birthdays, weddings, baptism etc.

Where do you get your motivation, what helps you to keep your creativity?

My creativity is a part of me. When I am looking for motivation or inspiration, when I have to find new

has a major impact on my life. I find inspiration and freedom. My work is a result of my feelings and dreams. They lead me to the creations and designs. Because of this I love my work.

Why are you there so often? Is it because of your project?

Not only. Of course I am often there because of my organisation: Child's Rights. I lead 2 orphanages in Jaipur, one for girls and one for boys. But I love India in general. It is a part of me. I love its dark and

and donors personally.

How did that come about?

Oh, it's a long story. First I did not like the country. I felt bad and sick. But after my return to Spain I realized that I missed something. I cannot explain but I guess it depends on the people there. They are thinking about the society, about the wellness of other people and not only about their own ones. They do not think: "I am", "I want", "I need" "Me, me, me".



The word "me" does not exist there. "We" is the way to think. It fascinates me very much and so India became my second home. Europeans could learn a lot from the Indian culture and mentality.

Could you tell us more about the project?

Actually it is a long story. I was standing at a bus station in India 5 years ago and met a little boy with poliomyelitis. He moved by means of his hands and addressed me directly. We talked about one hour. He told me his sad story. He said that he would be an orphan and would try to survive between the garbage close to the bus station. When he explained me, that nobody has given him a name I was deeply touched. It was too much for me at this moment. I said good-bye to him, went home and cried for 2 days. But to feel bad helped nobody. So I decided to find ways and means to deliver aid to the children on the streets of India.

Could you explain your philosophy in 3 sentences?

This is easy:

1. My own luck is the result of happiness of other people.
2. The real jewels of this world are our children, they are our future!
3. To be vigilant about the children. They can teach us more than we can teach them, for example how to take right and honest decisions from the bottom of the heart.

What is the average age of the children?

They are between 3 and 18.



I guess it's not easy to lead this project besides your work?

No indeed. But I love to do it. We do not need any big administrative machinery, so the donors can be

sure that their money will reach its target. I check every time that the donations and resources are being used correctly. The most money we have to spend for furniture, education, toys and clothes etc. But it is really difficult to help the children and to lead this project. India does not have a law that protects the children. The parents have the last word, even if they use the child for prostitution or begging or something others. Apparently it is better that children die of hunger than to protect them in an orphanage or to put them up for adoption. But I will keep fighting against this bad and wrong situation and I hope I will find some lawyers in India as well as internationally who are able to support my target to help the kids.

So, there is no possibility to put them up for adoption?

No. There were some good situated young families who were interested to adopt the one or other child but unfortunately it is not possible

at the moment because of the law. No chance. India does not want to "sell" its children. It is a good point actually, but it is better to pass them into good hands than to let them die of starvation.

Of course we have to check the respectability but it makes me sad, when I know, that one kid could have the chance for a better life and because of the wrong rules, it has to continue its live in the orphanage or on the street.

Do you get any support?

Not really and not from the state. But Mr. and Mrs. Goswami, an Indian couple, help me a lot. They devote themselves to children in Jaipur since 16 years. Without their support I could not control and lead this project. They succeeded in opening of 5 orphanages in the last years.

Are the kids coming to you or do you find them?

Partly yes, partly no. Some of them have too poor parents, who cannot

feed their children. They bring them to us. Other kids are orphans, being completely alone on the street. A lot of children are living without home or future. On the streets and in the slums we find them also.



You have established a workshop called Ladli, where the children can learn something about jewellery making. And you try to sell the pieces. What would you answer to people who talk about "child labour"?

Actually it makes me really angry when I hear that people try to compare the project with child labour, but I would try to explain it in a good way. There are two opportunities for the children:

The first one is that the kids proceed their life on the streets between rubbish and rats, that they still have hunger. The second option is, that they work in a well sheltered workshop, with school lessons, singing, dancing and food finally. They are in the age of 15 to 20 and they come voluntarily. They find a home for a while. With the revenues we pay the rent, the education and the food. None of my team gets a part of the profit. What is left is for the kids. Their own money! You should see the proud on their faces, when they get the money. So I think it is the best way to help the children and to prepare them for the future in a way which helps them.

What are your plans for the future?

Since 2008 I helped 19 girls and 21 boys to find a home. It is just a beginning for me!

Thank you for the interview! We wish you the best for 2010!



THE GIRLS OF  **CHILDS RIGHTS**



Here I am again, Susmita. I would like to introduce you some friends of mine and to tell you my little story. I am 8 years old girl from Nepal. My parents have left me on the street years ago because they were very poor. I do not know when and how I came to Jaipur. I was not used so much traffic, so I have been run over by a bus. It drove over my feet, which is broken since then. I cannot walk. I have to move on my tiptoes. Unfortunately a surgery will be necessary very soon because it hurts a lot. But it will cost a lot of money. I hope the doctor and my new family which I have found in Ganga III will help me. I know the surgery and the time after will be very painful but I would love to dance and to walk with my friends without any pain. I am sure I will stand it. Sometimes I must cry because I miss my mom and dad. But I am happy that Nane have found me and that she helps me so much. I feel well and at home. Everybody is kind to me. Everyday I learn a lot in the house and in the school. I want to learn to find a good job later. When I will earn money I will help my friends in this house or new kids, who will come to Ganga III in the future.

I would like to introduce you my firends on these pages. On the previous one you can see my friend Jyoti on the left side bottom. She is 7 years old and comes from a large family which is living on the street. The father is alcoholic and cannot find any job. But she is very happy, bright and intelligent. She is smiling or laughing all the time. Next to her you can see Laxma. She is 6 years old and came to us in summer. She was abandoned by her parents. How sad a fate. But we do not know her complete story. She is too young to remember all the bad things and she is looking for warmth and security. The third kid Om Baba will introduce himself and the boys, when you turn the page. Finally on the right side you see the 8 years old Preeti. Her mother brought her to Ganga III to be sure that she is safe. Because of the poverty of the family her father tried to kill her. He poured acid on Preeti when she got tired. The doctors in the hospital saved her life but she has deep wounds and burns on the whole body. Now she starts to live again. She started to dance and to draw. Sometimes during the breaks she plays the clown. Simply great!



Kavita is 11 years old. Her father died, nobody knows of what and when. Her mother is also living on the street between the trash.



The little Jeenat lived on the street. She is 9 years old. Her mother is a prostitute and is still living on the street. Jeenat is very smart and loves to dance.



Gaytri is 6 years old. Her parents are really very kind. They love her but they have not the resources to take care for her.



Pooja, the little one, has contact to her father. He loves her but he is completely overstrained with the situation. She is always sad because she cannot understand the world. How could she? She is smart and lovely.



Rajani is 9 years old. Nobody knows something about her mom and dad, except that her father has whacked her over and over. He is living on the street.



This is Poonam, real pretty as a picture and very affectionate and outgoing. She comes from a huge family without income. Instead of walking she is jumping around as a rabbit the most time. She loves everything whatever she does. She loves to sing, to dance, to draw, to go to school. She is very intelligent and cute.

THE BOYS OF 



My name is Om Baba, I am 15 years old. I met Nane 5 years ago, when I lived on the street beside a bus station. It was a very hard time, not only because of the situation itself but because of my disease. I have poliomyelitis. At this time I begged to survive but the tourists were afraid of me. I guess my way to move on the ground with my hands scared them a lot. So each time when the buses came, I was handcuffed and hidden by the police. After the departure of the buses they brought me back to my place. On one day I saw a beautiful lady. Anyway she looked familiar and she was not afraid. So I started to talk with her. She asked me a lot, where I live and what is my name and so on. When I told her that I live on the street and that do not know my name, because I do not know my parents and nobody else gave me a name, I saw that she was very sad. Now I know, that this talk was the reason that she started to help us children. Maybe this first talk helped me also, because I found a new family hereafter. I go to school now, I can go to the doctor, I can take my medicine and so I have got a chance. My new father is caring touchingly for me and I hope other children will have the same luck as me. Nane was looking for me through the last years. This year we met us again finally. We are friends and I am happy and proud to know her, because she is full of love and energy.



This is my friend Sameen. He is 7 years old and he is from a slums. His mother is devoted to prostitution and has seven more children. Surely she can't feed them any longer.



Monu. He is 4 years old and came to us from the railway station. His mum died and his dad is in prison at the moment. So we found Monu and his brother on the street by themselves.

Here comes Sonu. He is 6 years old and the brother of Monu. They have to live and experience the cruel life together.



This is Sahul. He is 12 years old. We have picked him up from the street and he told us that he was left by his parents.



Sonu is 8 years old. His mother died and his father is irresponsible alcoholic. He treated him and his other 5 sons brutally, that's why the children escaped. Their elder sister lives by us and asked us for a help.



Amir is 8 years old. His family has not taken care of him any longer and he escaped. We found him alone on the street. He was one year long cleaning the trains' departures for living.



Jumna is 8 years old. His dad died and his mother lives on the street as a prostitute.



THE EVERY DAY LIVE



It is a normal day, when the children wake up the early morning and the "fun" in the bathrooms starts. This procedure reminds quite often as you would have to control an anthill. But the kids love it, because it is the start of a new exciting day. After the breakfast they set out for school. Only a few weeks ago most of them did not believe to get this opportunity.

It is virtually impossible to get a good job without command of English. The kids are literally absorbing the information and histories. It cannot be compared directly with the course of an European school. The kids love the school and to learn, they do it with enthusiasm, fun and gratitude. The school ends at 3 o'clock pm. Then the children come back home to eat

near region. Unfortunately, the closer area has not to offer real excursion destinations for kids or they are too expensive, but fortunately there are donors, who provide toys, school materials, books, videos and games. Even though it cannot be considered as sufficient, the kids can play, tinkering and do sports, they can learn and enjoy the free time. The girls love to dance



Now they can learn and they learn very fast, because they see the chance for a better life. The children are exceptionally linguistically talented and they quickly understand the significant coherences. They speak better English than adults from European countries. And this is important, as English is not only one of the official languages but it is the business language.

together. Thereby they talk about their new experiences and adventures. The community provides not only certainty and support, but is typically for the mentality of this country. Here it will be supported and endeavoured to extend it. After the lunch the kids do their homework and then they have time to play or to watch TV. On the days-off the group make, not often but sometimes, excursions in the

all the time, and they do it very well. They feel good and beautiful when they dance and they dreaming of - as girls all over the world - the prince on a white horse. They are dreaming of glamorous dresses or Saris and to show their talent on stage sometimes to delight people due to their talent. They want to feel as something special for some time - rightly - because that what they are, something very special!



THE BASIS FOR THE FUTURE

THE HELPING HANDS AND
NEXT GOALS OF CHILD'S RIGHTS

Nothing would happen unassisted. So Child's Rights is also dependent from help. The organisation offers internships for students from the entire world. Some of them come to visit the country only, but the most of them come to help honestly. Due to this voluntary assistant the organisation can survive. Beside the guest helpers there are some surrogate mothers, who work hard

of the everyday life. The couple has managed to open 5 orphanages in the last years and consult organisations as Child's Rights concerning the Indian bureaucracy and law. Including salaries, school, food, medicine and rent the orphanage can be maintained with about 800 Euros. Child's Rights will be financed by Christiane Gey and her family and friends. They are

Another goal is to expand the workshop LADLI. Because of the sale of the products it contributes to promote, maintain and continue the aid project. Here are stores, labels and commercial networks in charge to help to sell the products. The revenues will be invested in the project and handed over to the children. Last but not least, Child's Rights will continue the fight for the



every single day, because their sincere wish to help the kids. The social worker Mrs. Priyadarshna takes care for the kids 24 hours per day. At the daytime 2 helpers alternate with each other and a cook is responsible for 3 meals per day. She always pays special attention to the healthy and well-balanced nutrition. Additionally, Prabhakar and Abha Goswami, an Indian couple, provide very big support. They have dedicated themselves to the children since 17 years and help to control the investments, to organise a school, food and the

focused to constantly improve the current situation. The expansion of the house, to offer more children a home is the major goal. But first the current projects have to be ensured. In case of the boy's home the financial resources will be exhausted in March 2010. Because of this situation it is really urgent to find help as otherwise 21 boys aged between 3 and 14 would have to go back to the streets. In order to avert disaster, Christiane Gey and her team do everything which is in their power to find donors and sponsors for Child's Rights.

rights of the children. Christiane will call Indian and international lawyers to help. In case of the little Gulabshah and some others it is a real tragedy that the relatives can abused the kids for begging or worse things and nobody has the opportunity or the right to help and to protect them.

'To enlighten the people in Europe and USA about the advantages as well as the huge problems of India and the utmost significance to help the people there - especially the children - will be one of our major goals in 2010.' said Christiane Gey.



THE CREATIVE WORKSHOP VS. CHILD LABOUR



ladli IS LOCATED IN THE POOR DESERT CITY OF JAIPUR. FOR MOST OF THE CHILDREN THEIR ALTERNATIVE IS BEGGING, CHILD LABOUR, OR EVEN PROSTITUTION, BUT AT LADLI THEY LEARN TO MAKE JEWELLERY AND HANDICRAFTS - VALUABLE SKILLS. THE CHILDREN ARE ALSO TAUGHT HINDI, ENGLISH, ART AND DANCE, AND PROVIDED NUTRITION, MEDICAL CHECK-UPS AND COUNSELLING. MOST IMPORTANTLY OF ALL THEY GAIN CONFIDENCE, HOPE AND SELF-ESTEEM. THE ORGANISER I-INDIA BELIEVES THAT IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING CHILDREN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY, LADLI IS A PLACE WHERE EMOTIONAL TRAUMA AND THE STRESSES OF POVERTY CAN IN SOME WAY BE HEALED.

LADLI IS A PROJECT OF I-INDIA, A LOCAL NON-PROFIT, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION WHOSE DONORS AND SUPPORTERS HAVE INCLUDED UNICEF, WORLD BANK, FINLAND, INTREPID TRAVEL, AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. I-INDIA PROVIDES HOMES, STREET SCHOOLS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND A CRISIS HELP LINE TO THE MOST NEEDY STREET CHILDREN OF JAIPUR. IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1993 AND HELPS OVER 3000 CHILDREN DAILY.



CHILDREN ENJOY LADLI. THEY ARE TAUGHT IN SMALL GROUPS AND CAN CHOOSE WHAT AND WHEN THEY WANT TO LEARN. AS WELL AS STUDYING, THE CHILDREN PLAY GAMES AND EXERCISE. THE ENVIRONMENT IS FUN, SAFE AND RELAXED. THE FIRST CENTRE WAS OPENED FOR GIRLS IN AUGUST 2005; A CENTRE FOR BOYS OPENED IN FEBRUARY 2006. CURRENTLY, APPROXIMATELY 100 CHILDREN, AGED 10-18, ATTEND LADLI, BUT WE DESPERATELY WANT TO HELP MORE.

WWW.LADLI.ORG

For several years, Child's Rights and I-India provide a workshop where the children can come voluntarily to meet each other and to learn all about handmade jewellery. Within this workshop called *LADLI* the children produce with fun and under supervision nice individual pieces as greeting cards, necklaces, bracelets, wallets and much more. Christiane make the designs and explains the kids how to handle the different materials. The children are capable to put in their own creativity. Beside the work the children get mainstream curriculum and food. The organisers sell the stuff to keep the workshop alive. Some critics argue, it would be also a kind of child labour. "Blatant nonsense!" Christiane Gey replies.



She continues: "The children are between 15 to 20 years old. They love this activity and they come voluntarily to us. Nobody of the organisation team get money. Every cent will be invested in the project. When we make a profit the children get the money. You should see the proud on their faces, when they get it. It is their own one, without climbing on the hills of dirt and trash. People who try to criticise this kind of support, should visit the workshop. Then they would stop to whine about things which they did not understand before. Nothing is worse than prejudices. And what is the alternative? The alternative would be to send the children back on street, to leave them to their fate. Then they would have to start to beg, to work in the dirty places, to prostitute themselves! Here they find a home, food, a community, protection, education, health care, warmth and love. We are dependent on the sale of the jewellery, to provide this workshop and to order new raw material, to pay the rent and so on. The people who prejudice are invited to assist us to offer more children the basic things of live. Every little donation will help us to protect more children for hard life on the streets."



The name reflects the mission of the organisation. Child's Rights works for social justice. As the weakest part of the society the kids need our assistance to survive. The following example will show a maladministration concerning the legal protection for children and young persons. Child's Rights is asking for help of Indian lawyers and politicians to eliminate this unfairness.

At the left picture you can see Muskan and Gulabshah.

Muskan was born in the street. She is 5 years old. Her father is dead and her mother is a prostitute who forced her to beg or steal. She came to the house totally devastated. But now she is going to school, is very clever and loves to talk.

Gulabshah is 4 years old. She has been born between tracks in train station and was severely mistreated. She was left to her own devices and came with the terrible wounds caused by beats. She is very shy, loves to do sport, especially Yoga. Unfortunately she left the house already, but not because of a positive reason. She was picked up by her mother again, who is still using her for begging and work, probably prostitution also. Christiane got her back in between, again with deep wounds. She brought her to the hospital, because the little girl could not walk any more caused by wounds and weakness. As she felt better her mother came back and taken her away again. "I fight for her every single day, but the law of India makes it impossible to help. It does not exist any institution as an office for legal protection for children or youth people here. The parents can do whatever they want, also bad things. Even though we have demonstrate the misuse of Gulabshah and others, the mother has the right to take her away. We hope that Indian and international lawyers will help us soon to abolish this wrong and to protect the children. Children should have much more rights everywhere!"

LAXMA AND CHRISTIANE GEY
WANT TO SAY THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION.
"ALL INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE
WELCOME TO VISIT GANGA III
AND CHILD-INN 2. WE WISH
YOU A HEALTHY AND
BEAUTIFUL YEAR 2010."





CHILD LABOUR

THE HOT SPOT

**ABOLITION BY PROVIDING A
BASIS FOR LIFE INSTEAD OF
STRICTLY PROHIBITIONS!**

It is a matter of fact that a lot of Indian children have to work. Most Europeans decline this topic with a disparaging gesture. However, when you ask those people, what could be the alternative to child labour in India they will not have a solution. It is easy to condemn something wholesale, things which have no place in our minds. It is a question of ignorance to denounce things which we cannot understand instead to take time to verify the real circumstances. What a shame when even a government takes the easy way out. In case of the children in India it is a question of dead or alive, but not only of human rights violation. It is not enough to prohibit child labour. First the government has to establish a foundation for life. The children of India work, and they work to survive.

Of course, there are political efforts to curb the child labour already, but unfortunately they are more counterproductive than helpful. They are focused only on the prohibition, but the reasons will not be eliminated. What will happen with the children after the prohibition? Where are they going to get the money for the everyday life, to buy something to eat, to pay the books for school, to help the family? There is no official social system which would care for them. The most of working children come from very poor communities or they are orphans, left to their own. The parents are not able to feed them or to pay the school or the material for it. In most cases the families are from the countryside, due to this they are not well educated and unable to find own ways out of this mess.

A beginning could be to start with love and education. One thing is very clear, children should have the right to education, and education costs money. It is an investment into a rosy future, because of the percentage of young people in India. The average age is about 25 years. India will be the most populated country in 2034. The kids of today will be the columns of the future land. Only well educated persons will be able to put the country on the right path. But it should not be a privilege of an upper class. The elite is to less to feed the entire country. Everyone is a part of the society and only a strong community will have the power to solve the problems of unemployment, overpopulation, fitness and health, law and education, infrastructure and logistics. To prevent is better than to heal.

Now it is time to counteract the collapse and to modify the education system, to guarantee the children the right to free school attendance and to ensure well-equipped schools and enough teachers. Besides, education creates motivation. First India has to eliminate the illiteracy. About 35 percent of the Indian population are illiterates. A confident country has the chance to learn from the experiences of others to make it better. Already today, some efforts were made by organisations - for bridging - to combine children work with education or to establish a parallelism. Some organisations provide mobile schools to make it possible for the kids to collect bottles, rags or all the other stuff in the afternoon, to make money and to ensure survival. But it is only the beginning!



*Namaste, Pranam, Vanakam,
God bless you!*

*I hope, you had a nice journey until now,
and you did some time to mediate and
to think about yourself?*

*Please let me introduce you a day
in my life. You will imagine that more
than one billion people enjoying their day
quite different to each other, so let me*

show you my

*Everyday
Life*

E ducation

*"An investment in
knowledge always
pays the best
interest."*

Benjamin Franklin (1706-90)



Sanskrit was the language of teaching.

It was supposed to be the language of learned men. The educational system involved three basic processes, which included 'Sravana', 'Manana' and 'Nidhyasana'. In the first stage of education, students received knowledge, which was passed orally from one generation to another. In the second stage pupils had to think themselves about what they have heard. They have to make their own inferences and assimilate the lesson taught by their teacher into the life. The third stage means complete comprehension of truth and its use in life. Nowadays, the Indian educational system is the second largest in the world and it is an implantation of British rules. The main purpose of it was to prepare Indian Clerks for running local administration. Under it, the means of school educations were the vernacular languages while the higher education was granted in English only. British government started giving funds to indigenous schools in need of help and thus slowly some of the schools became government-aided.

Almost all the primary schools in the countryside are public and about the half of secondary schools and primary schools in the cities are managed as semi-or fully private institutions. Education spending has increased in India, but it is still below the level needed to achieve universal basic education. The literacy rate reaches about 50 percent at the moment. The educational expenditure varies widely by province. The vast majority of expenditures for primary education is absorbed by the teachers' salaries, and there is almost nothing left for basic resources and the maintenance of the facilities. In primary education it is often the fact that the teacher-pupil ratio is very unfavourable (almost a rate of 1:50). The few teachers are often absent and badly educated, and even simple learning tools are not available. For example, half of primary schools do not have any library and many do not even have a blackboard. But the training of teachers, especially at primary level, has been significantly improved. The objects of the endeavours should be to offer more modern teaching methods and attractive teaching areas.

But many children cannot go to school, even if it is free of charge. The reason is not difficult to spot: the schooling of children is in any case a question of costs, e.g. private expenditure on books, writing materials, transportation. The children work to survive, to buy food and water. Thus, they have on one hand no time for school and on the other no money for the school materials. The below-average school attendance is also explained by the lack of interest of many families to invest in training of their daughters. It is a fact that girls are turned off early for housework and care of the younger siblings.

Higher education has a tremendous expansion. The majority of the students select arts, programming, design, law, engineering and last but not least medicine. However, they integrate difficultly into the local labour market. India has a vast pool of professional, powerful and even relatively inexpensive forces. The problem is that these forces often leave the country in search of economic livelihood, because of the significant grade of unemployment in India, thus they result as a false investment.



YOUR HOMEWORK UNTIL NEXT WEEK FACTS ABOUT HISTORY OF INDIAN EDUCATION!

AYURVEDA IS THE EARLIEST SCHOOL OF MEDICINE KNOWN TO THE WORLD AND 'CHARAKA' IS KNOWN AS THE FATHER OF AYURVEDA. HE DEVELOPED THIS SYSTEM SOME 2500 YEARS BACK.

TAKSHILA WAS THE FIRST UNIVERSITY OF WORLD ESTABLISHED IN 700 B.C.

NALANDA UNIVERSITY, BUILT IN 4 AD, WAS CONSIDERED TO BE THE HONOUR OF ANCIENT INDIAN SYSTEM OF EDUCATION AS IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST UNIVERSITIES OF ITS TIME IN THE SUBCONTINENT.

INDIAN LANGUAGE SANSKRIT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOTHER OF MANY MODERN LANGUAGES OF WORLD.

PLACE VALUE SYSTEM WAS DEVELOPED IN INDIA IN 100 B.C.

INDIA WAS THE COUNTRY WHICH INVENTED NUMBER SYSTEM.

ARYABHATTA, THE INDIAN SCIENTIST, INVENTED DIGIT ZERO.

TRIGONOMETRY, ALGEBRA AND CALCULUS STUDIES WERE ORIGINATED IN INDIA.

India's Economy

*In keeping with the motto
Overtake instead of catch up
with the rest of the world!*



India's Economy

In keeping with the motto
*Overtake instead of catch up
with the rest of the world!*

Back in 1991 during the Gulf War India was confronted with a big economic crisis. The prices for oil grew up without limits and the old internal blockades almost ruined the economy. Since then the limitations and regulations were repealed and India succeeded to reach the 10 biggest economies of the world. The country is still developing. India is the IT-Giant of this world. The year 2000 was a cornerstone for the development of the computers worldwide. The well-skilled Indian IT-engineers showed their knowledge and competence. It was the rebirth of the Indian economy and the moment when it became a leading factor to the worldwide IT-business. They worked fast and well for fair prices. But also in other business areas Indian engineers are mostly desirable. India is a symbol for quality and service.

Nevertheless, India is one of the developing countries but still has to fight against poverty, overpopulation and other social problems. About two of a third of the Indian population is affected by poverty and hunger. One reason is the growth-brakes which you will find everywhere in India. With one of them – the traffic – we deal later. The boom is thwarted by the obsolete infrastructure and the bottlenecks in the energy supply, which are signed by power outages almost every day. Nevertheless, besides the multifaceted problems, India is using this opportunity, which is caused by globalisation. It is estimated that the medium to long term growth perspectives are very good. That can be reduced by the age structure of the population.



The large share of population is young people, which will be in a working age in the near future. But, the biggest potential for tensions and conflicts is the poverty, the unequal income distribution and the unemployment between all these people. The rate of unemployment is just about 8 to 9 percent and many unemployed of the rural population have not been covered by the statistics. The prosperity did not reach the rural areas. The new opportunities can be enjoyed mostly by the city inhabitants, who have



established a well funded middle class of well-skilled skilled personnel. Although the foundation of special high yield areas, the use of fertilizer and pesticide, the technology nature of agriculture and the modern irrigation systems have contributed to the ability of India to provide themselves with food, but a comprehensive industrialisation of the agriculture in the most areas still lies ahead. The model of success of the „Green Revolution“ is Punjab, which reached the goal to be independent of food imports.

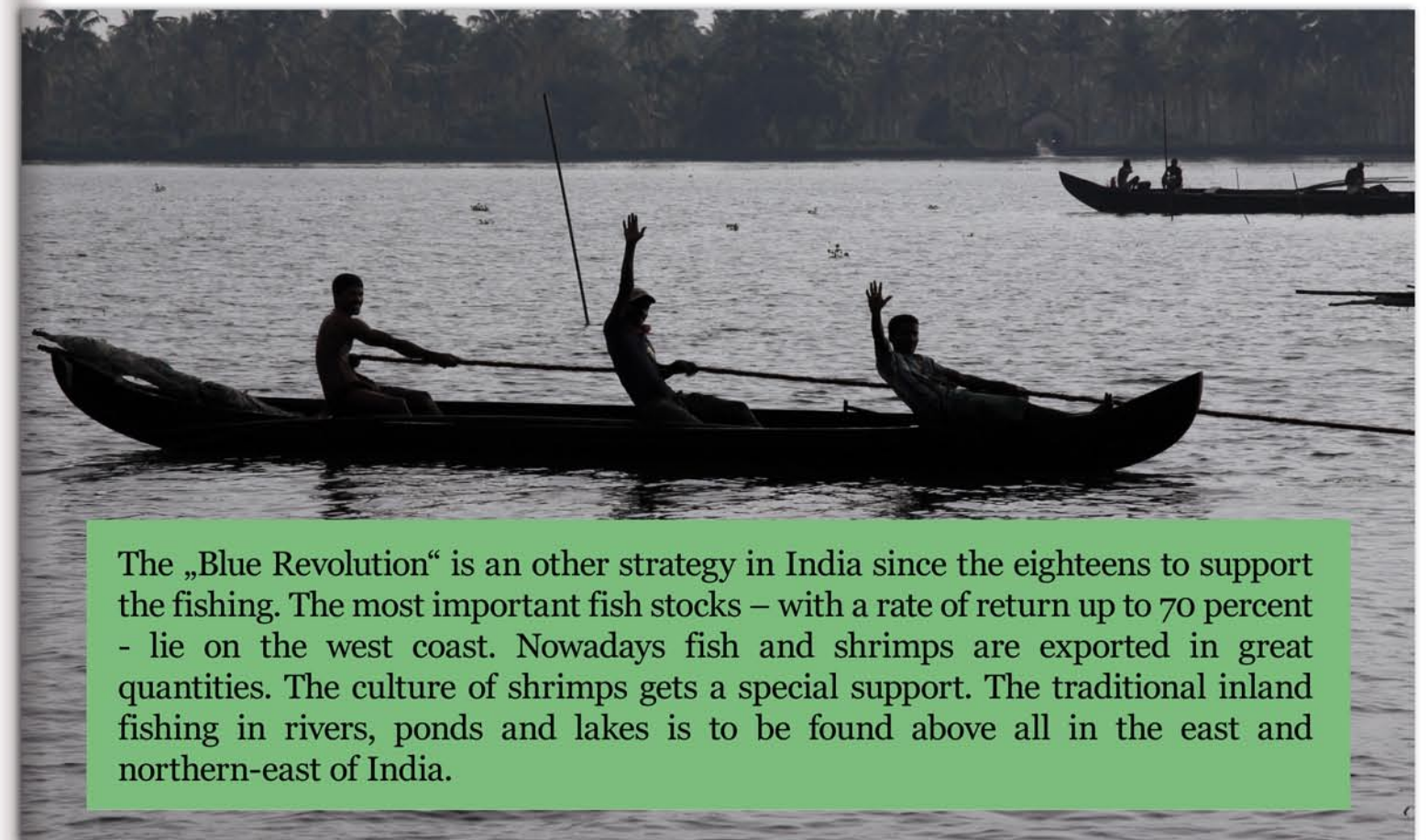
The Green Revolution was established for more productive and high-yield harvests. It brings agricultural technology to developing countries and communicates scientifically-agricultural knowledge to the farmer.

But the whole country cannot be fed by only one region, even if the concept of the *Green Revolution* works. So the price is high. Since years the groundwater level is dramatically sinking and the ground is polluted by pesticides and overuse. The cultivation of grain and mostly rice is the founda-

tion of the agriculture of India. The main areas of cultivation lie in the north, along the coasts and in the eastern Dekkan. India is the worldwide second largest producer of rice and wheat. Other commercial arable products are sugar cane, tea, tobacco, coffee, cashew nuts, spices (mostly chilli, pepper, cardamom,

ginger, coriander, curcuma, cinnamon and garlic) and betel nuts. The meat production plays a subordinate role, because of the widespread vegetarianism.

There is no doubt that India needs to generate more jobs, mostly in the industry sector, to reach a comparable level to western countries.



The „Blue Revolution“ is an other strategy in India since the eighties to support the fishing. The most important fish stocks – with a rate of return up to 70 percent – lie on the west coast. Nowadays fish and shrimps are exported in great quantities. The culture of shrimps gets a special support. The traditional inland fishing in rivers, ponds and lakes is to be found above all in the east and northern-east of India.



Cotton

But most of all, cotton is the primary raw material.

Cotton was first cultivated by the natives of the Indus Valley 7000 years ago. The „white gold“ has the leading position amongst all cash-crops in India. It is the raw material for the production from apparel, cloths, pillowcases, bags and everything which will be made of fabric. Well-known is the Sari, which is worn by almost every woman. A lot of international fashion labels and designers take up this style for some time. Moreover, other top cotton products are batik fabrics and cloths in all kinds of colours and forms, covers for beds, sofas, armchairs and tables.



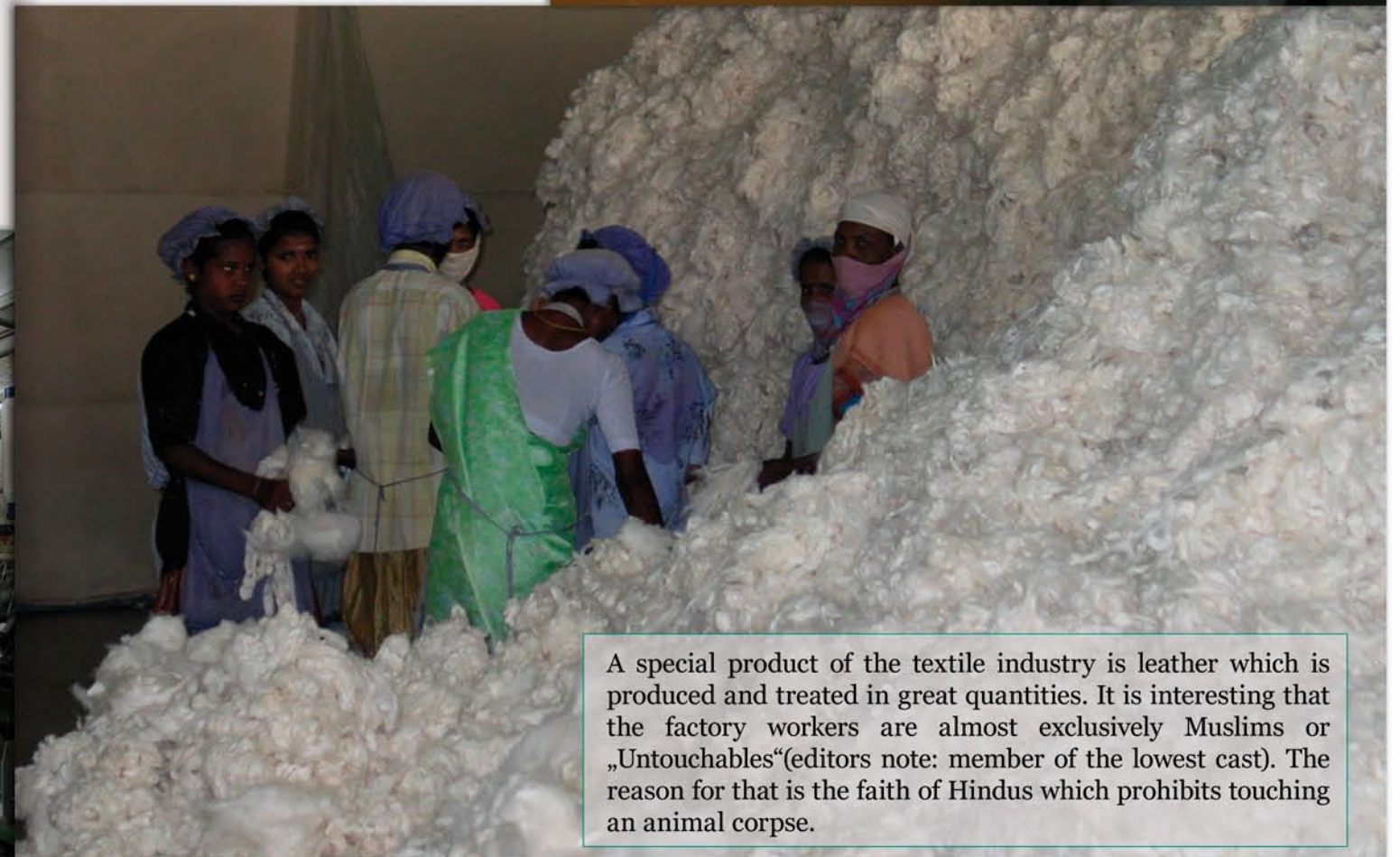
Textile Industry

stem these problems. One innovation is rational manuals for the development and promotion of all sectors involved directly or indirectly with the textile industry of India. Further these endeavours envisages to implement modern and efficient machineries and technologies as well as to bring the disorganized decentralized textile sector at par with the well-organised mill sector.

Because of the huge domestic and foreign demand the textile industry plays a major role in the economy of India. The country is one of the international leaders in this sector.

After the liberalisation of the Indian economy there were a lot of changes which gave the urgently needed thrust. Since then the branch generates jobs and new fields of activity in the ancillary industry. The textile industry generated about 35 million jobs in the last years. It is estimated that it will generate about 12 million new jobs in 2010. The key strengths of this industry are not only the huge production capacity, but also a

large pool of well-skilled and cheap workforce. However, every coin has two sides. India has to face a lot of problems, caused by the increased global competition. The exports of cheap textiles from other Asian countries, the use of outdated manufacturing technology, poor supply chain management and much more are the challenges that must be addressed. The Ministry of Textiles of India has taken the first important steps to



A special product of the textile industry is leather which is produced and treated in great quantities. It is interesting that the factory workers are almost exclusively Muslims or „Untouchables“ (editors note: member of the lowest cast). The reason for that is the faith of Hindus which prohibits touching an animal corpse.



Haute
Cuisine
countless varieties of
healthy food



Of course the colonial times had a huge influence to India. But much deeper changes brought the economic boom. While people in western countries open to the Indian cuisine, western food have among a ritual importance in India. The results are health problems, which were previously unknown at least not in this magnitude. People complain of overweight or diabetes. The pharmaceutical industry has adjusted to this situation and is well equipped. Probably not the treatment of symptoms is the right way, but to find back to the old traditional nutrition. VALEUR shows you only a part of the unbelievable variety of the Indian cuisine.

Since India developed to a tourist magnet, the Indian cuisine is getting more and more popular in Europe. India offers a variety of culinary delights. In connection with this you will find traditional regional differences.

The best international known Indian cuisine is from the north. Its defined by moderately spicy

dishes, a lot of milk products and a high proportion of meat dishes, priority goat meat or lamb. Spices as caraway and saffron lend the food the typical oriental touch. Known as specialities are „Samosas“, delicious stuffed pies in all kinds of variations.

Spicy! It is the answer of the south and spiciness is the specific characteristic of this region. Nothing could be too spicy. Red and green chillies, garlic, ginger and the pepper from Kerala are the typical ingredients and basics of southern Indian dishes. As well as curry, what is not the name for the mixed spice, but the special preparation of dishes with meat, fish or vegetable in sauce. These dishes are comparable with ragout. Did you know, these spicy sauces were the source of inspiration for the curry powder? To the dishes there is rice, the most important staple food of southern India. Coconut milk is used for a lot of meals and it harmonizes perfectly with curry. Not least the tropical temperatures are the reason for the variety of different sorts of

vegetables and fruits in the meals. But also fish and seafood do not have to be missed out.

A treat with its famous sweets and desserts offers eastern India. The rice pudding called „Khir“ conquered the entire world because of its excellent, aromatic, spicy taste. Most of all meals and delicacies are characterised by caraway, fennel, mustard and especially nuts, which are a part of all desserts.

The cuisine of western India could be split in 3 regions. One reason for this is Gujarat with its highest proportion of vegetarian on the subcontinent. Thus, this region is offering the most diversified vegetarian cuisine. Intense spices and meals with pulses as the „Dals“ form the perfectly concerted flavour. Due to historical factors Catholics have a high proportion in Goa. So the consumption of pork is allowed, which specials - marinated with wine, garlic and spices – enjoy immense popularity in the UK and Europe as well. Additionally you can find a lot of fish dishes in this coastal State.

Maharashtra's cuisine is stamped by its fertile landscape, which offers a variety of vegetables and fruits. Most meals will be served on a „Thali“, a big metal tablet with different bowls. People in southern India use banana leaves instead of the Thali. The meals will be prepared in a „Karahi“, which is a little wok-like pan. The in this prepared „Balti“ will be served just in the plate. However, rice cookers and micro waves gets popular more and more. In Mumbai the famous „Dabbawalas“ bring the home cooked lunch from home or a „Dabba-kitchen“ to the workplaces. Besides hygienic and healthy facts, the cast is a reason. The members of higher casts prefer meals prepared by dependents of their own cast. This old tradition which is a basis of Hinduism is still important for the Hindu community in India, which is the largest of all with about 800 million people.

Haute Cuisine

traditional delicacies briefly explained :

- Dal (meals with pulses)
- Murg Tanduri (Tanduri chicken)
- Vindalho (spicy meal, mostly pork)
- Sambar (meal with lentils)
- Koah (creamy milk, boiled down)
- Dahi (Indian yoghurt)
- Masali Chai (tea with ginger and spices)
- Pan (leave of a pepper-like plant, stuffed with spices, sometimes tobacco powder, rolled up and chewed as chewing tobacco)





Textile Industry

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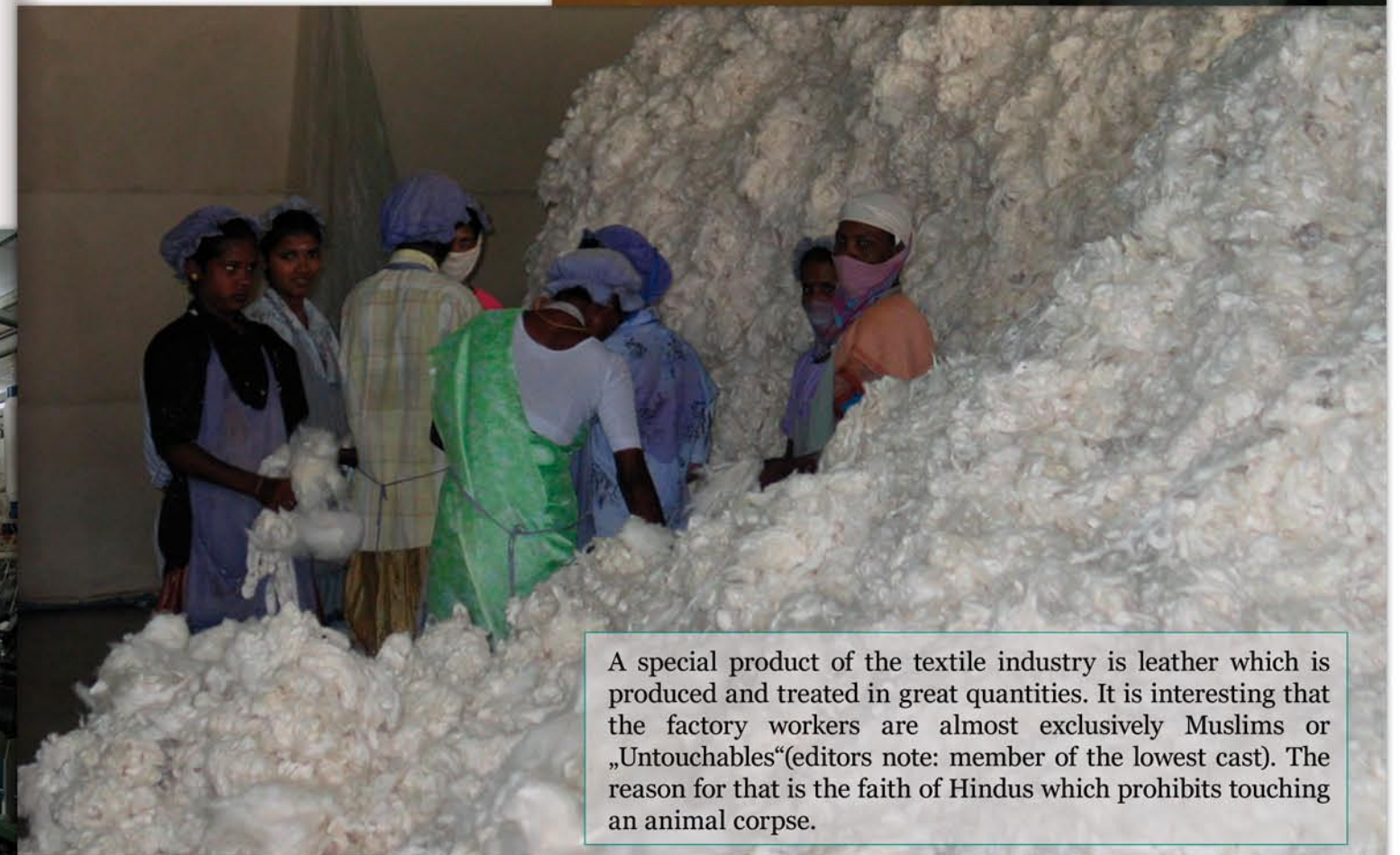
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SHREA

All-Seeing Camouflage
Spring / Summer 2010





Colors & Karma

The Collection of Shreya Sharma

The future belongs to young designers as Shreya Sharma. She shows the fantastic combination of real old traditions with new creative inputs. Looks which touch body and soul.

Shreya Sharma is a young designer based in Delhi. She has graduated from one of London's most prestigious design colleges, - University of the Arts - London College of Fashion, in 2006 with a BA (Honours) in Fashion Design Technology specializing in surface textiles.

After graduation she moved to Delhi and has been working and experimenting with fashion in her own studio since then.

She formed her company called Antidote Fashion Private Limited in 2008 and launched her label Shrea alongside.

Shrea targets the confident contemporary woman of today, who is constantly in touch with her bohemian, feminine self and loves to explore fashion to create her own unique style. The first collection of Shrea was launched for Spring/Summer 2009-10.

Shrea's silhouettes range from structured to voluminous shapes with extensive layering, pleating, and draping. Additionally the garments are often adorned with surface prints and embroidery. The designer aims to launch original concepts to the growing market of alternative couture.



Shrea's Spring Summer 2010 collection is about today's woman of elegance and poise striving through this controversial and misery stricken world. The collection is a story of the Warrior present inside all of us, struggling to survive in this political zoo of a planet scorched with issues and cries of war, terrorism, religion, poverty and the slow manipulation of our mother Earth.



The symbol of the all-seeing eye or the Eye of Providence is the centre piece of this collection. Today's world revolves around being watched by a so called greater good. This collection aims to create an awareness of these issues and represents our hope for a society free from coercive authority that may one day be based on Justice, Freedom and Peace.





This collection has been inspired by the Roman and Grecian goddesses and warriors clad in their elegantly draped gowns and capes. The prints are the language of the garments that communicate the issues the designer is trying to bring to light. The prints and embroidery are inspired from the Baroque motifs on the paintings and architecture of 17th century Rome and Greece.



Within these elaborate prints she has delicately incorporated modern symbols of religions of the world, pollution, peace, justice, totality of the universe with a special emphasis on the all-seeing eye.



The world around us is filled with religious, political and environmental problems and to survive, today's woman has to combat these miseries with grace and the inner belief that this unpleasant situation will end and there will be light at the end of this dark tunnel.





The colour palette consists of monochromatic greys, powdery pinks, browns and deep plum. To highlight these muted tones, the designer has used a splash of bright accent colours such as canary yellow and fuchsia. These colours enhance the fluidity and femininity of the garments.





The silhouettes are based on exaggerated shapes fused with clean lines. Basic patterns have been manipulated, relocated and widened. Techniques like pin tucking along with oscillating meandering drapes have been used to give freedom and flow to the garments.





The main idea behind this collection is to emotionally and physically provoke people to a universal understanding of the world that we live in through Shrea's garment silhouettes and the prints on them.





ANJALI SHARMA'S FRENCH CURVE

French Curve believes in the art of making clothes. The label is about very exclusive high end prêt women's wear.

This label is for an individual who is sensitive toward garment design and crafted garment finish.

Our signature silhouettes are easy and non fussy. Every season at the studio we try and focus on a design, texture, fabric or fabrication detail and work the collection around it.

French Curve focuses on making and retailing garments out of some of the top stores within India. The studio also has an exclusive clientele in India and abroad and specializes in exclusive bespoke clothing.

French Curve believes in developing as an establishment which gives back to society. Our working environment and labor conditions are personally supervised by me. We work closely with a needy Children's' Home and do the best we can, in whichever way we can.

This design line is all about distressing the base fabric and re aligning it to shape up. The collection is all about the fabric texturing and can be clubbed in a few words:

Distress, Sheer
Non fussy
Anti fit, Dressy chic
Shimmer, Effortless
The ,me' collection

The silhouettes are non fussy and anti fit. The look is dressy chic with an edge. The block print on silk is developed without any firm form in mind and the manual process has a freehold. This means that the next lot of printed yardage is totally different in color, form and the look, and that is the beauty...

Out of the box treatment of the dart folds add to the edgy designs. A collection for the individual who is totally comfortable with what she is all about.



Majored in Fashion Design

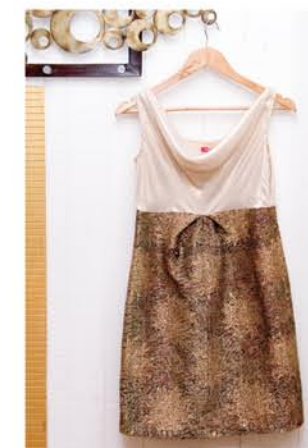
Initial working years were as a Research analysis and Product developer for GAP, NEXT PLC, JOUJOU USA, Liz Claiborne, Principles, Banana Republic and Debenhams. Pioneered and set up National Institute of Fashion technology Kolkata, India in 1995.

Taught design subjects 'Draping for Design' and 'History of Indian Costumes' at NIFT Kolkata and Bangalore for a total of 10 years.

French Curve- my most cherished dream – took shape in Dec 2005.

STUDIO ADDRESS

FRENCH CURVE
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Ashoknagar, Bangalore-560025.
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NEETA BHARGAVA

The excellence of every art is its intensity, capable of making all disagreeables evaporate, bringing out the close relationship between beauty and truth.

Passion for Art

With a raging passion for art and a determination to achieve, Neeta Bhargava entered the world of creativity with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Allahabad University. She started her artistic career in 1993 by specializing in Tanjore paintings. After establishing herself as a Tanjore artist with an innovatively contemporary brush, Neeta merged her artistic talents with her passion for fashion and established her own design studio in 1994, with full support from her family. She is an associate member of FDCI & a member of FDPC.

Style and Inspiration

Neeta's ensembles have an understated elegance marked by a restrained, classic style. But the uniqueness of her style lies in creating a wearable canvas by use of hand paint on fabrics. Her inspiration ranges from Mughal art to Persian architecture, from jewellery to graphic art and from Renaissance to Baroque art. She uses intricate art work on the garments as opposed to the more graphic work available in the market because she believes in remaining true to her tradition of painstaking art work. Neeta successfully combines her flair for fine arts and her inclination towards fashion by designing ensembles for stores synonymous with high fashion.

Aim

Neeta aims at infusing contemporary sensibility into traditional Indian art so that it touches the modern Indian art lovers on a day-to-day basis. She aims at the upliftment of talented young artists through her work and has successfully trained many young artists since the inception of her studio. Many artists from Bengal, Orissa and Benaras have found fruitful employment at her studio.

Her vision is to create a fashion house that surpass expectations, inspires young designers and reflects a positive attitude towards creativity and hard work.

Design-Lines

Neeta currently designs under the following labels:

Ornate: An exclusive collection of rich Indian wear which ranges from salwar kameez, sarees, lehngas & jackets. Rich intricate embroidery & beautiful hand-paint motifs make each piece a specially designed one.

Easel – A prêt collection of tunics, dresses, tops, skirts and kurtis.

Hand-painted motifs & textures enhance this ready to wear collection.







Spa Wear – A collection designed after realizing the need of high valued Spa wear in India, Neeta has completely started a new line on spa wear. Her unique style of hand painting and design aesthetic sense created a very new and refreshing collection on spa wear for the forthcoming season.

This collection ranges from stylish & yet comfortable gowns which a necessary substitute is for the heavy weight towel robes.

Eco-Line: This collection is an embodiment of what Eco-Friendly Fashion really means. With the growing need to make the world “Go green”, she came out with a collection based on natural fabrics treated with natural dyes. The hand-painting motifs are inspired by nature & botanicals.



A&N W W

aparna & norden

wangdi

A classic fairytale of regional diversity, one of the most intriguing aspects of designer couple Aparna and Norden Wangdi lies in their ethnic origins. The intense girl from Madhya Pradesh, who has lived across India all her life and the essential sports boy who spent his childhood in the picturesque Himalayan serenity made for a unique design entity.

That might just explain some of the almost startling allure running across their creations. Shades and colors appear to have a mind of their own. The design techniques conform to no particular principle. The choice of fabrics contradicts convention. Yet the resultant impression is one of feel-good harmony.

After graduation it wasn't long before they realized their dream of setting up a design studio of their very own. Freefalling came into being in 2000, marking the culmination of their joint sojourn across a multitude of fields. The duo undertook contrasting routes in their quest to gather expertise and knowledge.

Norden chose to head overseas to USA, acquainting himself in the areas of merchandising, manufacturing and marketing along with design.

Aparna set about refining her skills in design in theatre, textiles, product and interiors, both of which proved invaluable in defining the standards of their eventual label.

For a label that began life inspired by the stirring strains of a Tom Petty classic, Freefalling by Aparna and Norden Wangdi has earned its share of attention for its presence in the India Fashion Week since 2001. Brazen stunts like wire mesh masks on models, themes as unexpected as Rag Dolls, the saucy shoes which are developed for each collection which accessories their show. Their collections which play with different elements each time have caught the eye of the discerning fashion critics time and again. Elle anointed the duo as being among the top eight talents in 2003. A year later Couture Asia bracketed them two

notches higher. Elle again singled out Aparna in 2005 to honor her with nine other women super achievers.

The label has a distinct look, set apart by the tasteful juxtaposition of fabrics, very vividly contrasting colors put together in an interesting manner to highlight a seam or panel and the silhouette. Instead of using tones and sequins as embellishments, extensive surface texturing creates a persona in their garments. Surface embellishments like fabric rouching, fabric on fabric texturing, gathers, pleats, smocking, panelling, pin trucking, details of threadwork on seams, all celebrate the all-important cut of the garment. Essentially western silhouettes, the cut variations boldly tackle techniques.

Also prominent is the vivid contrast in hues that challenge stereotypes with a stark seam or an unconventional panel. Ombre dyeing, tie and dye, block printing and screen printing with unique prints, developed for each

collection, are used with aplomb. The fabrics which are used by the couple are generally totally natural with an occasional net or velvet detailing the garment.

Cotton viols, cottons, silks in all different weights, chiffons and georgettes are the favorite choice which are subjected to many different ways of texturing before being turned into a garment with its identifying look. Layering of different fabrics in different lengths is an essential look of the label.

Aparna and Norden Wangdi have combined their abilities to achieve the best results which is evident in their success. Their clothes are retailed from design stores all across the country, among them Ogaan (Delhi Mumbai Kolkata), Manan at Delhi, Bombay Electric, Aza Mumbai, Cinnamon in Bangalore and Cochin, Maiah Hyderabad, Collage in Chennai, Sosas in Goa are among the few from the list of stores they retail from in India.









The Hottest Fashion Spot


*The BINDI conquers the
new world*

&

*Traditional fashion follows to
show its everlasting*

Value





When you are thinking of Indian woman, there is something that comes automatically to your mind: A traditional red circular dot worn by the Indian women on their forehead.

Its called Bindi!

Originally the mark showed the marital status of a woman. Nowadays, it is a international fashion accessories, not limited to India anymore. Not only because of the success of Bollywood the people are crazy for the oriental traditions. Trendsetter as Madonna decorate their forehead with a bindi since many years and they wear Indian fashion as well.

But why? Because of the mystical touch? The continuity? The philosophy? The authenticity? The reason is all of that. The Indian fashion is a part of tradition and religion of the oldest cultures of this world. It has a much deeper meaning than a basic trend could allow. The world opens its arms for this wonder of pure and timeless glamour.

Hot Spot

The term 'bindi' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'bindu' meaning "a drop or a small dot". This mark can have several meanings. They symbolise the marital status of a woman and remind her of her wedding vows. It will be worn between the eyebrows, which is "Aghna" is the 6th chakra, is said to be attained through meditation. It is also the central point of concentration and good fortune.

In some places the bindi is a prerogative of the married woman. It is a sign of marriage and guarantees the social status and sanctity of the institution of marriage. The Indian bride steps over the threshold of her husband's home, bedecked in glittering apparels and ornaments, dazzling the red bindi on her forehead that is believed to usher in prosperity, and grants her a place as the guardian of the family's welfare and progeny.

Nowadays, also young girls and even children wearing it. It's the occasion, the colour of the bindi and its shape that determines what it denotes.

Bindi comes in many shapes. The traditional shape is a round dot, but also also a tear drop, a diamond, a thin line, a graceful frozen flame, even snakes, elephants or other exotic adventurous could be worn. The bindi is auspicious with the colours red or maroon, whereby red represents Shakti. Some believe that the red colour symbolise the

ancient practice of offering blood sacrifices to propitiate the Goddess Shakti. More recently, people put an end to this tradition and offered gifts instead of blood, but the colour remained. It is also believed that the colour red symbolise love, while the yellow has the power to influence the intellect. That is the reason why the red kumkum and the

the seat of 'concealed wisdom'. This area called to retain energy and control various levels of concentration. It is also said to protect against the evil eye or misfortune. The base of the creation itself – symbolising auspicious-

yellow turmeric are placed side by side in temples or in any homes during a celebration. It is also believed that the colour red symbolise love, while the yellow has the power to influence the intellect. That is the reason why the red kumkum and the yellow turmeric are placed side by side in temples or in any homes during a celebration.

In the 18th century rich Indian women could afford glamorous bindis made of gold, diamonds and pearls. With these sophisticated styles the meaning also changed from religious to fashionable.

A method to get a perfect round bindi is to apply skilful a pinch of vermilion powder with a practised fingertip. Some women, who are not nimble-fingered, use a small circular disc. They apply a sticky wax paste on the disc, which will be covered with kumkum or vermilion. Then the disc will be removed to get a perfect round bindi. The mixture of different powders as kumkum, kasturi, sindoor or saffron ground together with kusumba flower create the magic. But the bindi of wives still is mostly a red dot and conservative women still use kumkum powder for it. But the self-adhesive "fancy bindis" are becoming more popular and nowadays they are matched to the colours of clothing and accessories.

Today, bindi is more of a fashion statement than anything else, and the number of young performers wearing bindis is growing even in the West.




Within living memory people around the world have always adorned their bodies and faces with colours. Of course, also in India. Up to the present day the colours and shapes have mostly a significance. They show the marital status or the distinction of a person's religion. For example 3 white stripes show a follower of Shiva. The application of kumkum powder is also part of religious rituals. The colour is put on the 3rd chakra to get the attention of the divine power and spiritual enlightenment as well. In earlier days, Kshatriya queens dabbed a tilak on their husband's forehead to bring him luck in the battlefield or to greet him when coming home. You can still find this tradition as a way of welcoming guests.



The red spot enchants anybody. Even poems have been written through the times about a lady's beautiful bindis. Besides Indian fashion, this ancient art of body adornment has developed to a new trend in western countries. It has always been a part of the Indian culture for ages and will persist for all time.

The bindi is the oldest and most sustainable fashion of our world.



A full-length photograph of a woman, Indiria, wearing a vibrant red sari with a gold border and a gold belt. She is standing in a dimly lit room, possibly a hallway or a stage, with other people visible in the background. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.

Indiria – the German actress and singer – wears a wonderful Sari

A close-up photograph of a woman, Anahita, wearing a green sari with a gold border. She has a bindi on her forehead and is wearing a gold necklace with a green and red pendant. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. A badge is pinned to her sari that reads "Ms. ANAHITA KUMAR Student's Council Member".

Anahita – the Indian model – is wearing a Bindi and the Students Council 'Badge n Saree' uniform.

No matter if you visit a college, an office, a glamorous gala or an other event in India, you will meet lovely colourful dressed women with the famous spot on the forehead. The Sari and Bindi are indispensable tools of the Indian everyday life. They are a part of the old culture and also a sign of modern style.

GRACE & GRANDEUR

The 1001 Styles of the Indian Culture

Everything is different. Various climatic and historic conditions are the base for a multifaceted country. In all spheres of Indian life the facets are visible experience. These diversities have made the Indian lifestyle unique in the world. The countless colours and flavours, the spirit and religion are combined in the harmonious culture, which flagship is the dance. Like all other aspects of life, the dance forms of India are varied and very different. But all of them have one thing in common, they are the platforms for beautiful and talented people, who present their natural grace and grandeur to an overwhelmed audience.



GRACE & GRANDEUR



Khataki is one of the most famous among the classical dance forms.

Khataki is the classical dance form of Kerala. The word Kathakali literally means "Story-Play". It is known for its heavy, elaborate make-up and the colourful and fascinating costumes. Kathakali is considered as one of the most magnificent theatres of imagination and creativity. It presents themes derived from the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and other Hindu epics, mythologies and legends. The dance aspect of it

consists of pure dance (nritya) as well as mime (abhinaya). Initially Kathakali was thought to be the sole domain of men but now women also perform the dance. It is interesting to note, it is the only Indian dance form in which the entire body, both skeleton and muscles, down to even the smallest facial muscle are used to portray emotion. When Kathakali dance is being performed the text of the drama or the story is sung for the dancer and is the baseline for his/her interpretation. In Kerala and some other south Indian states the

Kathakali performance is a major social event, which starts at dusk to continue all through the night. The tradition dates back to the 17th century. Most distinctive characteristic of Kathakali is its dance costume. In Kathakali the make-up is very intricate and the costumes are very large and heavy. There are several kinds of costumes namely, Sathwika (hero), Kathi (villain), Minukku (females), and Thatti. Each character in the dance is immediately recognizable by characteristic make-up and costume. The make-up is so heavy that it looks like a mask.

Karagam

It is believed that Karagam is originated in Thanjavur, a village in Tamil Nadu. The villagers perform this dance in praise of the rain goddess "Mari Amman" and the river goddess "Gangai Amman" as a part of their custom. In this dance, the performers balance the water pot on their head very beautifully. Traditionally, this dance is performed in two types - Aatta Karagam is danced with decorated pots on the head and symbolizes joy and happiness, while the Sakthi Karagam is performed only in temples and is mainly danced for



Khataki

Indian dances are broadly divided into classical and folk dances. The classical dances are usually spiritual in content. The same base have folk dances but their main force is the celebratory mood. The dance is a form of coherent expression of feelings. Like the Indian culture, the classical dances are equally diverse in nature. There are numerous classical dance forms and innumerable folk dances. Each dance form can be traced to different parts of the country and represents the culture and ethos of a particular region or a group of people.

entertainment.

Now it also includes songs. This dance can be performed individually or in pairs, by both the sexes. When men perform this dance, they balance the pots filled with uncooked rice, surrounded by a tall conical bamboo frame decorated with colourful flowers. Drums and long pipes form the musical instruments that add vigour to the dance.

Lavani

It is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra and southern India. Lavani means 'beauty'.

Although beginnings of Lavani can be traced back to 15th century. Honaji Bala developed the baithakichi Lavani, a sub-genre, which is presented by the singer in the seated position. Shringar Lavani is mostly sung & danced on the stage by a female and written by male. Lavani can also be termed as a romantic song sung by lady who is waiting for her lover to accept her, who longs for his love. It is seen that the most of the Lavani dancers are from the lowest castes of Maharashtra- Kolhati, Kumbhar, Matang to name a few.



Karagam

Indian Rhythm

The Indian Performance Group Made in Germany

The pretty pupils Debarati and Nabanita founded the show group called Indian Rhythm to bring the Grace & Grandeur of Indian dance styles to Europe.



Last year you participated in the Pro7 TV-Show "Germany's Next Show Star". Afterwards, many newspaper articles were published on this topic, especially in India. Did that surprise you?

Debi: It was a big surprise for us. We got lots of calls from relatives as well as from my mother's and father's friends, whom I have never met personally. Our family in India is in fact rather big. They called to tell us that they had seen us in the papers. I had the feeling that it was even more widely spread in the Indian news than here in Germany.

Some journalists contacted us for interviews, which also were published in India.

Has something changed for you and your dance group "Indian Rhythm" since the airing of the show or has the degree of your group's popularity increased?

Debi: We had already been popular in the area of Frankfurt, because of some performances before the TV-Show. In Frankfurt there are several associations, cultural programmes and events for many Indian who are living there. But after Germany's Next Show Star

we have also had performances across Germany and other countries and have been booked more often. So, yes, I think our degree of popularity has grown since the TV-Show.

And what about school or friends? Have there been changes, too?

Debi: No, it actually remained the same. They got excited about our success and saw the show as well. When we have performances abroad, we are absent a little more often. But the teachers excuse us from school for two or three days. They help us to live our dream.

Due to their love to dance, they successfully joined the competition "Germany's Next Show Star" in 2009. Even though they did not belong to the final winners, they are well-known since then, not only in Germany, but also in Europe. Besides their relatives and friends in India, a lot of people including media became aware of these two talented girls in the homeland of their parents. Their father proudly collects the articles from "The Telegraph" and "Times of India" and many other newspapers and magazines. Indian Rhythm is booked very well. The European Indian community is very happy to get some parts of home to their adopted country. Indian Rhythm has already performed in Milan, Brussels and Athens.



Debarati and Nabanita mix Indian dance styles and enjoy the enchanting body language visibly.

Indian Rhythm

The Indian Performance Group
Made in Germany



We have no request for this year so far. There could be something in the Netherlands at the end of the year, but not for sure.

Do you perform mostly for an Indian audience?

Nita: It is totally mixed. We are performing for Indian, but also for German events. For instance last year we danced for Indian and German consuls.

Debi: We have also performed in India. During events from the German-Indian relief project of my mother or during events from our relatives and friends in India. I think it is very likewise in Ger-

many. We give our best in India like in Germany and hope that the public like it and have fun.

What's about your dresses? Who sews it?

Debi: We let the dresses be sewed in India. In Germany it is not so easy to get them. It is already hard to get two equal clothes. Unique you can be consistently. The price certainly is very different to India. But to get two complete equal Saris, which are also good to dance, it is difficult. Therefore we ordered them in India. It is also an advantage that we are so often there, because we can be measured

and the dresses be sewed on-site. **Are you born in India? For how long are you or your parents living in Germany?**

Nita: We are both born in Germany and grown up here.

Debi: Our mother has been living for 32 years in Germany, our father for 20 years. My mother completed her school in Germany and her job training. She was younger than me as she came to Germany.

Do you want to make dancing as your business or what is about your plans for future?

Debi: I think, if we lived in India, it would be more easier to earn



How long have you been dancing and who taught you to dance?

Nita: We have actually been dancing since we could walk. My mother used to dance as a hobby and so she taught us. We fly once or twice per year to a village near Barrackpore. My mother's aunt and uncle live there and also our private teacher. He drops everything else when we arrive and teaches us for three or four hours a day. As for the choreography we teach ourselves partly. The next bigger city to Barrackpore is

Kolkata, where we spend a lot of time and go shopping.

Which sort of dances you perform?

Nita: Basically we dance Bollywood, but also Indian folk songs, which are more simply. My sister also learns Bharat Natyam. That is the typical classic dance, which is predominant used in India. We dance mostly to such Indian folk songs, which were written by the most famous poet, musician, painter and composer Rabindranath Thakur, who got the Nobel Prize. We feel so close to India, because

we can be so often there and learn dancing directly in the land it came from.

While your dancing, do you connect this with India or is it a normal performance, where you have fun?

Nita: We connect it with India, but also we have fun. Thus, it is both: the thought of India and the fun to dance and wear beautiful dresses.

How many performances do you have per year?

Debi: Within Germany we perform about every second weekend. Last year we were abroad three times.



money with dancing. You can open a dance school and you have booking requests continuously. Therefore an artistic career with Indian dance is possible. But in Germany it is much more difficult, because the Indian dance or Bollywood also are not so popular and you do not have booking requests consistently.

Nita: But definitely we want to dance furthermore. My sister is doing her exams and I want to make it too. And we want to study. And dancing should be definitely a wonderful hobby, maybe more.

*The combination of philosophy and erotic
- the dance -
is still one of the most important acquisitions
of the Indian culture.
To tell stories on stage, to celebrate traditional
and spiritual rituals, to enjoy the life, to dance
is a part of the everyday life of Indian.*





The Cult of Celebration

The different religions and cultures have influenced the picture of India. It is reflected in colourful and spiritual celebrations. And India has cultivated celebration. Millions of people make a pilgrimage to the Kumbh Mela, which is probably the worlds largest event. But also other festivals as Diwali and Holi touch the senses and hearts.

A woman wearing a purple sari and a matching headscarf is kneeling on a stone ledge. She is leaning forward, with her right hand touching the surface of a shallow well. Her reflection is visible in the water. To her left, a pair of sandals and some small items are on the ground. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Ganga

The legend says that the demi-god Bhagiratha has meditated for almost 1000 years at a time when the earth was dry and uninhabitable.

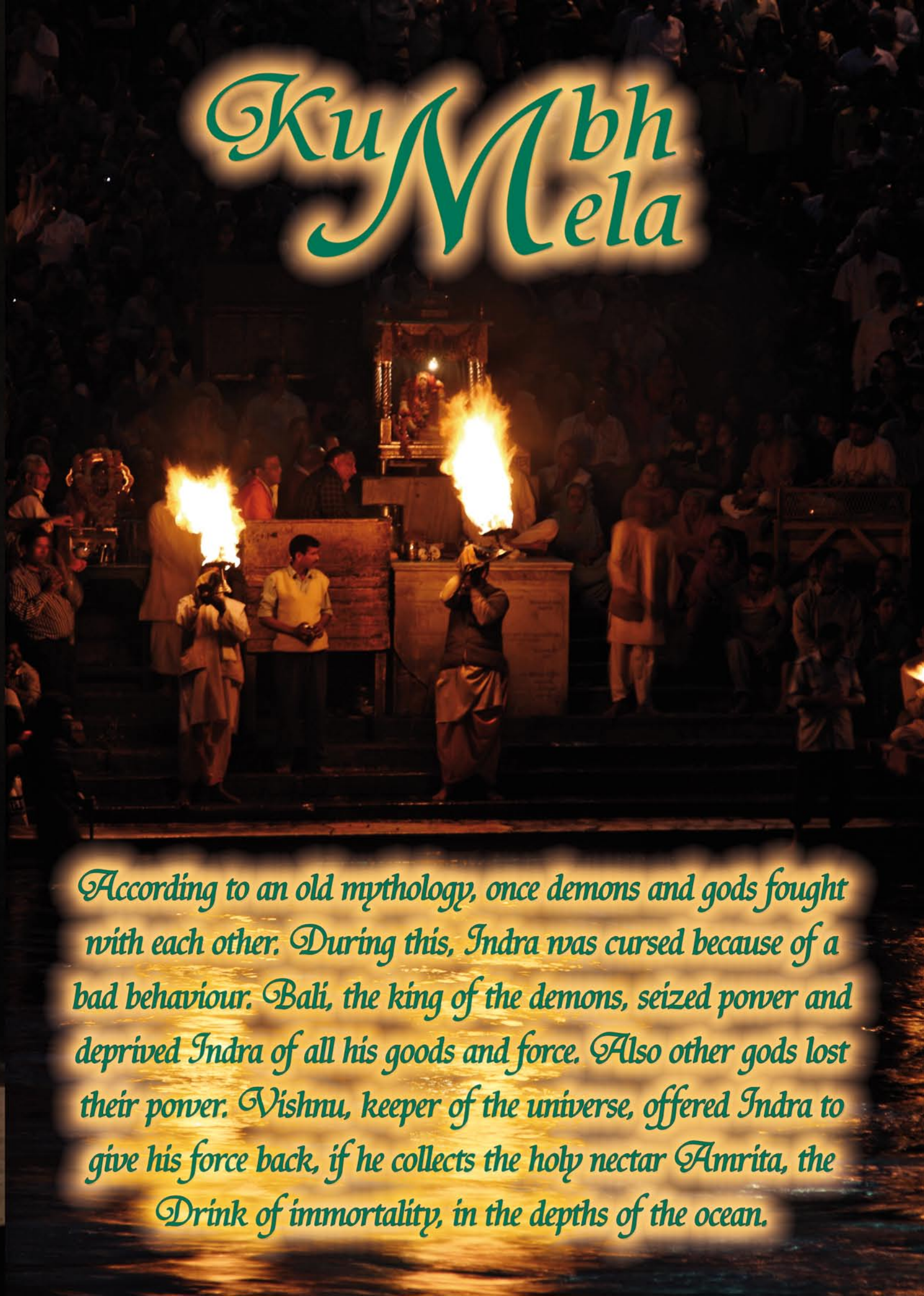
The ascetic Lord Shiva recognised it and granted the wise man a wish. Bhagiratha requested the descent of the heavenly river Ganga in order that the earth becomes fruitful and productive.

But the enormous masses of water of the Ganga threatened to shake the earth to its very foundations and to flush away all life. Therefore Shiva restrained the power of Ganga by catching the falling water with its head. The god steeled the force of the water with its hair.

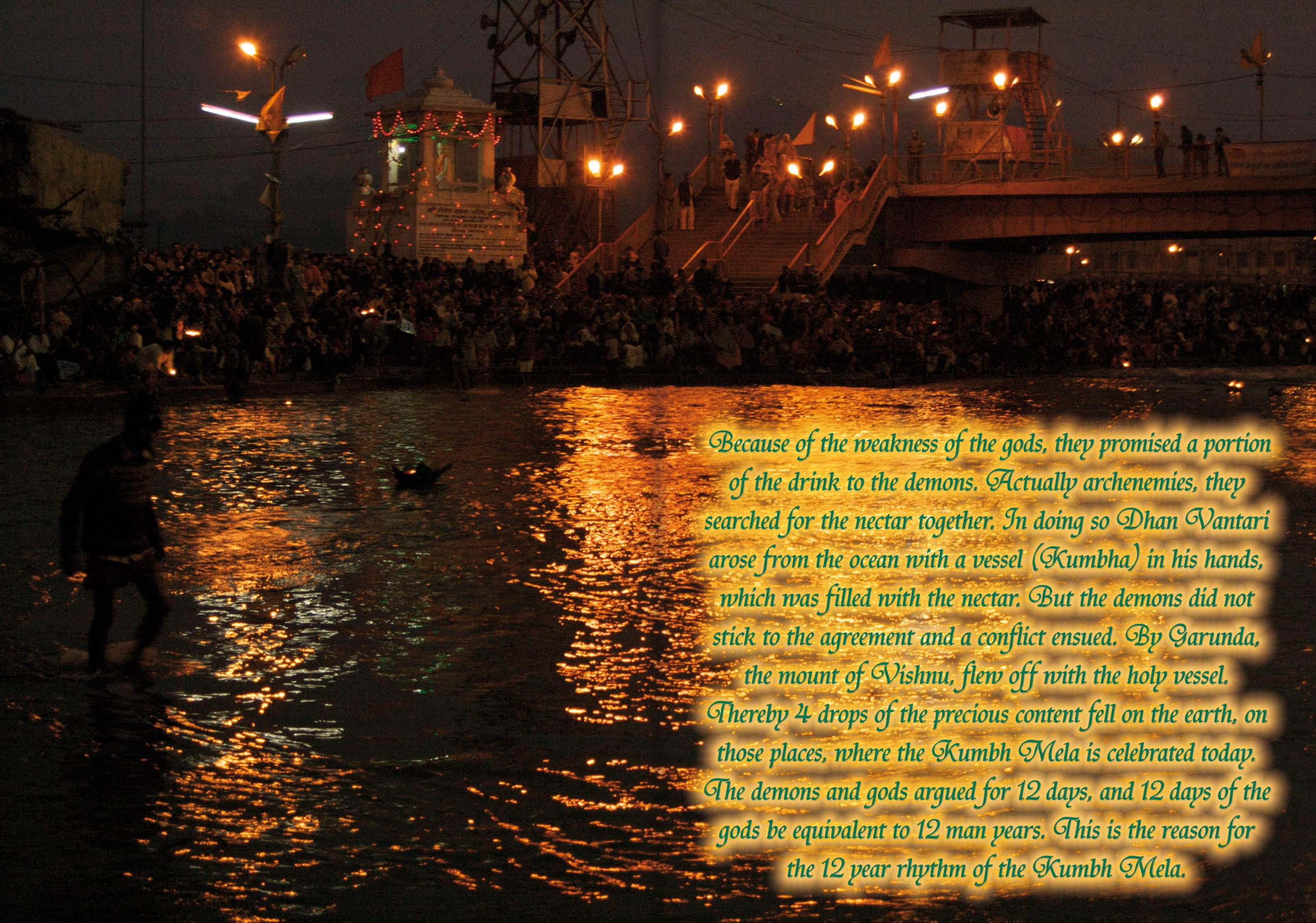
Thus, Ganga streamed down gently from the Himalayas to the Indian plains to bring the life-giving water to humans, animals and plants.



Kumbh Mela



According to an old mythology, once demons and gods fought with each other. During this, Indra was cursed because of a bad behaviour. Bali, the king of the demons, seized power and deprived Indra of all his goods and force. Also other gods lost their power. Vishnu, keeper of the universe, offered Indra to give his force back, if he collects the holy nectar Amrita, the Drink of immortality, in the depths of the ocean.



Because of the weakness of the gods, they promised a portion of the drink to the demons. Actually archenemies, they searched for the nectar together. In doing so Dhan Vantari arose from the ocean with a vessel (Kumbha) in his hands, which was filled with the nectar. But the demons did not stick to the agreement and a conflict ensued. By Garuda, the mount of Vishnu, flew off with the holy vessel. Thereby 4 drops of the precious content fell on the earth, on those places, where the Kumbh Mela is celebrated today. The demons and gods argued for 12 days, and 12 days of the gods be equivalent to 12 man years. This is the reason for the 12 year rhythm of the Kumbh Mela.



Kumbh Mela

Kumbh Mela is an ancient ritual and the biggest religious festival of Hinduism with a special rhythm. The first mention dates back to the 7 century A.D. It is probably the worlds largest religious event. Four places participate in the event in a rotary system. There are 5 different kinds of the event, which are held in a 3-, 6-, 12- or 144- years rhythm. The ceremony basically consists of the ritual ablution with the holy water, concentrated on especially as very promising considered days. But what makes the Kumbh Mela especially particularly is the incredible number of pilgrims. The small Kumbh Melas attract about 3 million, the big ones more than 90 million people. Besides, the colourful and picturesque Sadhus (ascetics) are a feast for the eyes. The spirit of this event touches not

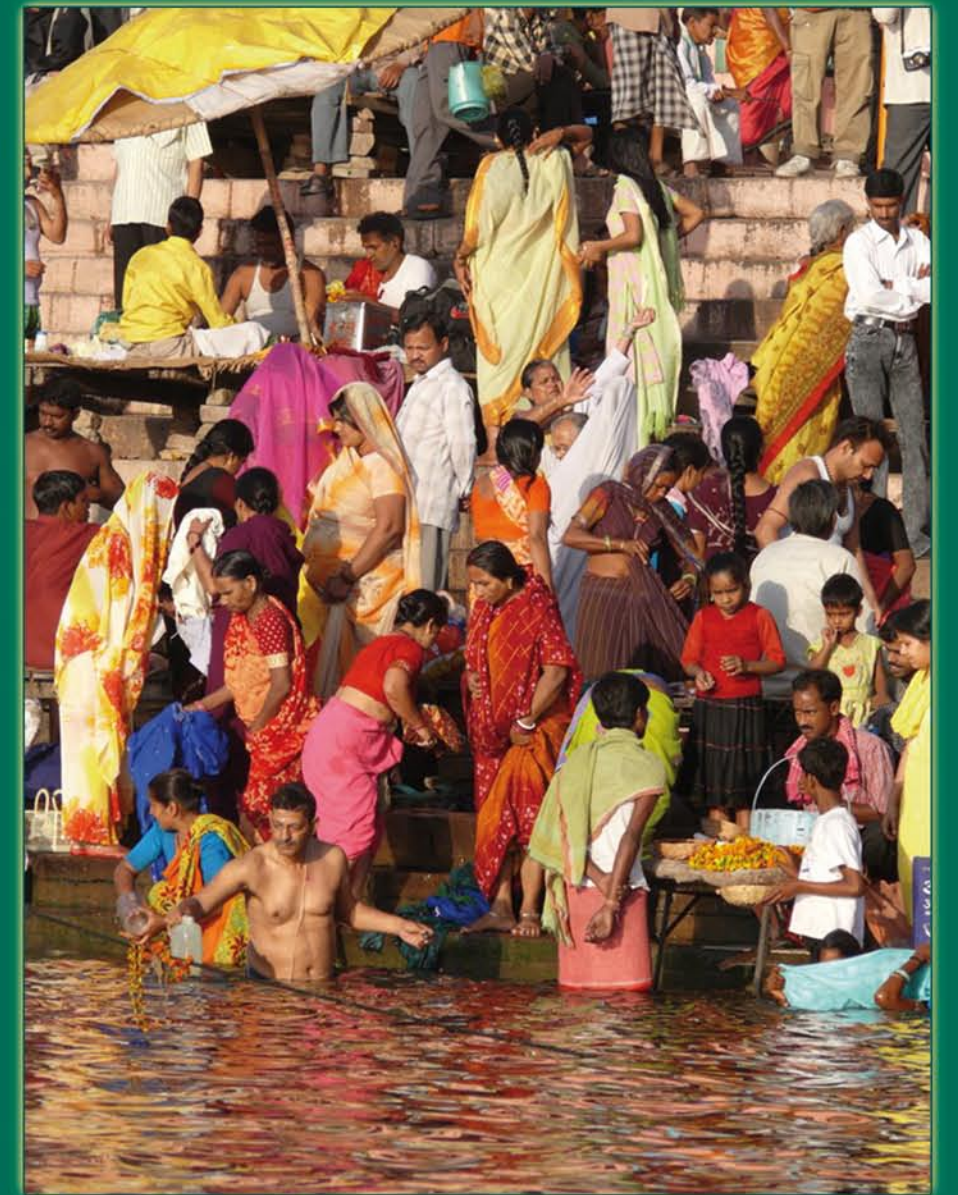
only Hindus or believer. More and more visitors travel to this event. They are seeking the encounter and they want to touch the saints. The festival is held every 3 years in one of the cities, so every 12 year in one town. Besides the mythology a reason for the 12 years rhythm is that the Jupiter plays a major role concerning setting the dates. Its round-trip time amounts about 12 years. Furthermore Guru, the name of the spiritual teachers, means Jupiter. Haridwar, where the Ganges flows down to the plain from the Himalayas in one of the cities. Allahabad is deemed to be the especially holy and chosen one. Here the rivers Ganges, Yamuna and Saraswati come together. Nasik in Maharashtra, in the northern east of Mumbai on the river Godavari is the third one. And the last but not least is Ujjain, west of

Bhopal, on the shore of the river Ksipra.

The Purna Kumbh Mela is held every 12 years in Allahabad and Haridwar. Purna means "full". The next one will be in 2013. It will be replaced every 144 years by the Maha Kumbh Mela, which is the perfection of 12 Purna Kumbh Melas (12 x 12 years). The last one was in 2001, so you have to wait a while for the next. This event is the biggest religious gathering of India and maybe of the world. In 2001 around 75 millions of pilgrims and visitors joined the festival for the ritual ablution or other spiritual reasons. Additionally an Ardhha Kumbh Mela is held in each of the cities at the halftime of a Purna Kumbh Mela or Maha Kumbh Mela, so every 6 years. Ardhha means "half".



The Kumbh Mela is not the only religious event. The art of celebrating is cultivated in India. Because of the most different religious communities a lot of events take place during the whole year. It is not so easy to understand their rhythm because their schedule is oriented to different traditions. So, state as well as Christian festivals depends on the solar calendar based on the Gregorian Calendar. The festivals of the Sikh follow mostly the Sikh Calendar or the Purnimantha Lunar Calendar. The celebrations of Muslims are orientated on the Lunar Calendar, which will not adapted to the Solar Calendar. Hindus and Jain celebrate their festivals in relation to different Lunar Calendars, which will be adapted to the Solar Calendar by leap days. The Makara Sankranti or Baisakhi is oriented to the Indian solar year. Finally the festivals of Parse follow the old Iranian calendar system. Non-religious celebrations as the festivals of Rajasthan follow own rules. At times, that the same festivals are held in some parts of the country at different times. However, Indians festivals are really comprehensive, but you will have steady the opportunity to join them.



A man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a red kurta and a red shawl, sits cross-legged on a pink and gold patterned cloth. He is in a room with a wooden wall and a corrugated metal ceiling. Behind him are two religious paintings. To his right is a table covered with a red Skittles banner, holding a framed painting of Lord Rama and a small lamp. A black fan is mounted on the wall above the table.

Diwali

On a new moon, at the end of October or beginning of November, the festival of lights, Diwali, is celebrated for three days. Dipavali, which is an other name for this event means something like "chain of lights". The festival celebrates the return of Rama and his wife Sita from the jungle to Ayodhya and his coronation. This tradition is established mostly in the north of India. Ramas return became possible after his victory over Ravana, the king of demons. This triumph is a sign for freedom.

In this places Krishna, who rescued ten thousand women for demons, and the goddess of luck named Lakshmi and Parvati are venerated. People wear new clothes, clean the houses and whitewash them. So everything can shining bright. They place a lamp of butter in front of the effigies of Lakshmi.

All in all the promise of luck is a thread running through the cities and villages. Diwali marks also the beginning of winter.

The legend says, that the people placed oil lamps to light Rama the way. Dipas are small terracotta-bowls, in which you give some drops of oil and a cotton thread. There are countless bowls of this kind lightened and crackers are fired to oust the demons, presents and sweets will be spread. Especially in the south the days reminds on Germany at the New Years Day, because of the fireworks.




The background of the image features several vertical garlands of marigold flowers in shades of yellow and orange. Interspersed among these garlands are several large, light-colored, bell-shaped ornaments hanging from the top. The overall scene is set against a dark, textured background, possibly a wall or a backdrop.

Holi

It is one of the oldest and most colourful festivals. As the other religious events, its meaning is very complex.

Five days after full moon is Rangapancami, the second day of the event. Ranga means colour and Pancami means the 5th lunar day. On those day the bounds between the casts, genders, ages and social statuses are tear down.

A decorative arrangement of flower petals on a grey surface. The petals are primarily white, with interspersed orange and red petals. The arrangement is somewhat circular and dense. The background is a plain, light grey surface. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Holi is celebrated wildly and the people sprinkle each other with coloured water and powder, the Gulal. In spite of modern times the old rituals remains in force. So the colours will be blessed on the altar before the celebration. The people convey blessings. Traditionally, the colours are made of blossoms, roots and herbs, which have a healing effect, but today they were made of synthetic colours.



At the first night the people light on a fire to burn a straw doll named Holika in it.

One of the legends says, that the young prince Prahlada was forced by his father to give only him worship. But the little prince continued to venerated only Vishnu.

Due to this, the father tried to kill him in many ways. But he was not successful. So he asked his sister Holika, which was protected for fire by special forces, to help him with a ruse. She should jump into the fire with the young prince on her lap to burn him on these way.



But Vishnu protected Prahlada and so the flames spared the child but all which was left from Holika was a small heap of ash. Since that time the people celebrate the festival Holi to remind of the extermination of the demon.






Furthermore, close connected to the event are the stories from the childhood and youth of Krishna.

According to tradition, he and his companion Radha should celebrated the festival of colours too. The erotic character of the spring festival is expressed by the event Kamadahan, which is celebrated by the people in south India at the same time. Here the legend says, that Kama, the goddess of love, tried to disturb Shiva in his meditation.

The angry god burned Kama to ash. In answer to the pleas of Ratri, which was Kamas wife, Shiva gave him the life back. Since then these day is dedicated to the goddess of love.

As every time in the Indian mythology, the victory of the good over the evil is a foundation of this festival, but it also symbolised the triumph of the spring over the winter in the nature. An other nice and important aspect is to abandon any dispute during these days.

A photograph of two young girls in the foreground, smiling and embracing. The girl on the left is wearing a light green shirt and has pink bangles on her wrist. The girl on the right is wearing a blue shirt with yellow floral patterns and has her arm around the other girl's shoulder. They are standing in front of a large, crowded outdoor area, possibly a market or a public gathering, with many people in the background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting it is daytime. The background is slightly out of focus, emphasizing the two girls in the foreground.

*In any case beside the religious sense,
people enjoy these celebrations to
have fun, to feel the spirit of
live and to be a part of one of
the world's largest communities.*

BLOW HORN

Next exit „Chaos“
But there is a system behind the turmoil,
called Indian Traffic! And it works well!
Everything is different from usual, when
you have to blow the horn!



Have you noticed something special on this picture?
Of course it is a common situation for continental Europeans or Americans, but the left side traffic is valid in India actually. Or may be not?
Yes it is, but it is not unusual to change on a narrow road to the 'wrong' side to share it with other vehicles. So you have to be open-minded, flexible and always alert to cope the intuitive to handle Indian traffic.





BLOW HORN

The Indian Traffic

There are some simple things which are considered to be an Indian peculiarity. They became an every day challenge for everyone: many hours trip in the overcrowded coach, the columns of cars which track their way along the streets. A vestige of the British colonial rule is the left driving in India. However, it is the same which way to take to overtake the cows, which are strolling everywhere and feel at ease.



Narrow, stuffy and impassable – you can describe the road traffic situation like this. Traffic jams all day long are a part of the everyday life. A rolling traffic avalanche consisted of cars, motorbikes, rickshaws, bicycles as well as cows squeeze tirelessly along Mumbai. A mega city with about 20 millions of inhabitants hardly gets an air to breathe. Another cities discover alternative opportunities but Mumbai with its enormous compact planning and headlong growing up population does not leave any place for any resourceful traffic alternatives. The inflow of a rural population in the overcrowded cities as well as an increase of the cars, act as an enormous challenge for an economic growth of India.

To make a traffic situation more bearable, people have to search for a creative solutions and strike an eye to the sea, where there is some place left. So in 2000 the construction of the autobahn bridge has begun. After 9 exhausting years of the construction the “Bandra Worli Sea Link” has been opened accompanied with the gigantic fireworks. Now this bridge connects two parts of the city – Bandra and Worli with only 4 traffic lanes instead of 8 planned ones. You would need only 8 minutes to find yourself at the other urban quarter, whereas before you needed hours of exhausting driving. It is an unheard-of achievement for Mumbai. With a length of 5,6 kilometres it is not the longest bridge of the world but it is already

a quality of life and besides a great relief for many commuters with their everyday struggle against the Indian traffic. Streets are the important passageways in India for the goods transport and motor cars. What is left, will be accomplished on railways. The Indian road network consists more than 3 millions kilometres.

The disastrous conditions are not secret any longer. Only the half of the road is asphalted. Besides, the bad quality of the streets, that normally consist of an one lane. The National Highways are the most important road communications. They connect the big cities with each other. As a main road the Grand Trunk Road is well known. It leads from the Pakistani border

through Delhi to Kalkutta. Indian railways have the same problem. Although they connect the most important parts of the country, the problem is the partially old technique. The railway network is the longest in the world but not dense enough for the millions of people. The state recognized the lack of it and focused on construction of the main routes and on the modernisation of the technique. It is quite hard for a booming country to keep up with the fast growing requirements, like population and economic growth. To keep passenger transport on rails, in 80ies the Shatabdi-Express has been launched. It is a kind of fast comfortable train, that helps people to reach their targets always right in time.

Starting from the big metropolitans as Mumbai, New-Delhi and Chennai, the important big cities and economical regions can be reached. Shatabdi means centenary in Hindi. The Swarna Shatabdi Express applies to a luxury train category. On long range routes you can travel with Rajdhani Express, which connects New-Delhi with other big cities. Moreover, there is the Jan-Shatabdi-Express, however, it is not conditioned. Maybe it is the reason, why people lean out of the train so far. Because of a globalisation, there should be a disproportionate increase by air traffic, but there is not. If we consider the numbers of passengers to and from India, it shows that there is just a little growth rate compared to the

other countries. Some of the reasons are the bad air connection, overcrowded machines and poor supplied airports. India has two air-lines. Air-India operates with international destinations, whereas Indian-Airlines settles the domestic flights. But sometimes overlaps of both companies happen. Problems are preprogrammed. A privatisation of flight companies failed in the past, because of the well-known Indian bureaucracy. Recently, the new private airlines developed successful. These providers, who make up about 40% of the Indian flight market, collect credits. They express themselves through a better performance and service. The state has to learn not to put obstacles in its own way.







The sea and the rivers are an alternative to the congested, overcrowded streets. The state has an eye on these transport routes, to counteract the daily traffic chaos in the future .





Starting in 1853, a train ran between Mumbai and Thane. The railway linked the most important parts of the country only four decades later. Today, the irregular and large-meshed development of the land, the old technique, the different gauges as well as the low level of electrification are the major problems to resolve. The state focuses on electrification and the double-sided development of the mainlines, the conversion of meter-gauge to broad-gauge lines and modernisation of the technical equipment.



Of course the colonial times had a huge influence to India. But much deeper changes brought the economic boom. While people in western countries open to the Indian cuisine, western food have among a ritual importance in India. The results are health problems, which were previously unknown at least not in this magnitude. People complain of overweight or diabetes. The pharmaceutical industry has adjusted to this situation and is well equipped. Probably not the treatment of symptoms is the right way, but to find back to the old traditional nutrition. VALEUR shows you only a part of the unbelievable variety of the Indian cuisine.

Since India developed to a tourist magnet, the Indian cuisine is getting more and more popular in Europe. India offers a variety of culinary delights. In connection with this you will find traditional regional differences.

The best international known Indian cuisine is from the north. Its defined by moderately spicy

dishes, a lot of milk products and a high proportion of meat dishes, priority goat meat or lamb. Spices as caraway and saffron lend the food the typical oriental touch. Known as specialities are „Samosas“, delicious stuffed pies in all kinds of variations.

Spicy! It is the answer of the south and spiciness is the specific characteristic of this region. Nothing could be too spicy. Red and green chillies, garlic, ginger and the pepper from Kerala are the typical ingredients and basics of southern Indian dishes. As well as curry, what is not the name for the mixed spice, but the special preparation of dishes with meat, fish or vegetable in sauce. These dishes are comparable with ragout. Did you know, these spicy sauces were the source of inspiration for the curry powder? To the dishes there is rice, the most important staple food of southern India. Coconut milk is used for a lot of meals and it harmonizes perfectly with curry. Not least the tropical temperatures are the reason for the variety of different sorts of

vegetables and fruits in the meals. But also fish and seafood do not have to be missed out.

A treat with its famous sweets and desserts offers eastern India. The rice pudding called „Khir“ conquered the entire world because of its excellent, aromatic, spicy taste. Most of all meals and delicacies are characterised by caraway, fennel, mustard and especially nuts, which are a part of all desserts.

The cuisine of western India could be split in 3 regions. One reason for this is Gujarat with its highest proportion of vegetarian on the subcontinent. Thus, this region is offering the most diversified vegetarian cuisine. Intense spices and meals with pulses as the „Dals“ form the perfectly concerted flavour. Due to historical factors Catholics have a high proportion in Goa. So the consumption of pork is allowed, which specials - marinated with wine, garlic and spices – enjoy immense popularity in Europe. Additionally you can find a lot of fish dishes in this coastal State. Maharashtra's cuisine is stamped by its fertile landscape, which offers a variety of vegetables and fruits. Most meals will be served on a „Thali“, a big metal tablet with different bowls. People in southern India use banana leaves instead of the Thali. The meals will be prepared in a „Karahi“, which is a little wok-like pan. The in this prepared „Balti“ will be served just in the plate. However, rice cookers and micro waves gets popular more and more. In Mumbai bring „Dabbawalas“ the home cooked lunch from there or a „Dabba-kitchen“ to the workplaces. Besides hygienic and healthy facts, the cast is a reason. The members of higher casts prefer meals prepared by dependents of their own cast. This old tradition which is a basis of Hinduism is still important for the Hindu community in India, which is the largest of all with about 800 million people.

Haute Cuisine

traditional delicacies briefly explained :

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Dal | (meals with pulses) |
| Murg Tanduri | (Tanduri chicken) |
| Vindalho | (spicy meal, mostly pork) |
| Sambar | (meal with lentils) |
| Koah | (creamy milk, boiled down) |
| Dahi | (Indian yoghurt) |
| Masali Chai | (tea with ginger and spices) |
| Pan | (leave of a pepper-like plant, stuffed with spices, sometimes tobacco powder, rolled up and chewed as chewing tobacco) |





Before you take the road, to buy a ticket to India, what did you forget?

As everywhere else you should learn some rules of conduct when you visit a foreign culture the first time. Otherwise, fast you could drop a brick instead of to take a step into another world.

Maybe our “Must Knows” will help you to avoid inconvenience, but to find new friends. It is always a question of respect to follow the traditions as good as you can.

Have fun! You will! Here they are:

**THE MOST IMPORTANT
MUST KNWOS!**

There's no better way to fly. **Lufthansa**
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Bitte auf kurzfristigen Wechsel des Ausgangs
Please observe gate changes at short notice
ITINERARY RECEIPT ON BOARD

MANZANO SCHILANDER
FLIGHT
FL RESTRICTION CHG BA 100 USD CNX

INDIAN AIR
Candori and Curry
Free Dome delivery

Mild food
Good Prices
Children Menu Available
Eco-friendly Environment
Filling and Healthy
Free vegetarian dishes

How to say hello?
To greet an Indian, I join my hands (palms together), bow down in front of the other and say Namaste, Namaskar, Pranam or Vanakam. But to respect the origin and religion of the other, I should ask which word he/she prefer. Why to do this ritual? The Lord dwells in the heart of every human being. This joining of hands symbolises the meeting of two souls, our real self actually meets itself. ->

<- This signifies reverent salutations and unity of souls. Bowing down & joining hands symbolises humility and also makes us humble. Thus when we join our hands and say Namaskar, we actually see the Lord in the other person and believe, "I bow with deep respects to the all-loving, all-powerful and omnipresent Lord in you."

It is customary to respect elders and touch their feet as to seek their blessings. Respecting elders, understanding cross culture traditions, free mingling to accommodate tolerance, staying interested in rural welfare are the values of India.

Staring is okay!
A taboo here; a common practise in India. Many people feel free to gaze at anything or anyone. I will experience gazing as very intense. Interpreting this as rudeness is nonsense. Many people on the streets would have had little contact with foreigners. How I look like, what I do, how I behave will generate interest. Relax. I let people look, it is the chance to find new friends.

Gestures do not always translate! I will quickly realise that the head wobble so common here means "yes" and not "no". Similarly, some western gestures can be misinterpreted. My gesture for come here, palm face up and moving as if I would throwing salt over my shoulder, would be considered rude in India. The comparable Indian gesture is with the palm facing down and moving like I doing the 'dog paddle'.

Do not forget the rules!!

Just Cannot Say No:
Indian do not like to express 'no', being it verbally or non-verbally. Rather than disappoint somebody, Indian will offer me the response that they think I want to hear. I should not consider this behaviour dishonest. On the contrary! An Indian would be considered terribly rude if he did not attempt to give a person what had been asked. ->

<- Indian may give an affirmative answer but be deliberately vague about any specific details. This will require to look for non-verbal cues, such as a reluctance to commit to an actual time for a meeting or an enthusiastic response.

BOARDING PASS

Passenger: ALEXI +

FLIGHT: MUM - SIN

CLASS: V

DATE: 05 SEP

TIME: 1550

SEAT: 32F

STATUS: OK



At table:
 If you have a runny nose, you should never ever blow your nose while sitting at table and surely not loud. This is a misstep which Indian do not like at all. It is possible to dab your nose. The same as eating is accepted only with the right hand, because of "impure" left hand reasons.



Today? Tomorrow?
 Never mind!
 Yesterday, today, tomorrow - it is does not matter for Indian. The word "kal" means not only yesterday, but also have the equal meaning for tomorrow. Kal means the day before yesterday and the day after tomorrow.

Do not forget the rules!!

Left hand right hand:
 It is a very yet subtle but important thing to avoid the use of my left hand when I am interacting with others. In India people use the left hand to clean themselves. Because of that, it has extremely negative associations. Always I give and receive anything with my right hand, or at least with both hands together. ->

<- If I give change, accept or eat something with my left hand, it will be noticed, though politely not commented on. Using the right hand only is one of the easiest things for Westerners to forget to do, but it makes a huge difference.

Be late is allowed!
 The handling with time is different to my usual habits. I should try to be right in time. Because of my origin, people will expect it. But I should be prepared, that the Indian standard time means anywhere from 10-60 minutes late, or more. So it is difficult to managing appointments, but to become nervous would considered to be unbalanced. So, I will stay relaxed.

Be careful of the shoes!
 Shoes, and to a lesser degree, feet, also have unclean associations. I have to keep shoes on the floor. I could put bare feet up on a chair or train seat, but not my shoes. I should try to avoid to touch others with my feet or shoes. It is said that Indian on the train making a simple quick gesture of apology if they accidentally touch someone with their feet. ->

<- It is a gesture where the right hand, palm out, is extended toward the point of contact and drawn back, palm in, toward the chin or chest. I must remove my shoes for places of worship, when visiting people's home, and even in some shops and businesses. I will look around, and if I see shoes arranged near the door, I have to assume that I should take my off too.

EPILOUQUE

Is there any light in the end of the tunnel? We think yes. We hope, we have provided an useful insight into the project Child's Rights and the everyday life in India. There are many aspects why it is an impressive country and its future are – as everywhere – the children.

During the production of this issue, we made very heart-rending as well as appalling experiences. We met two sides. There were many warm people who helped us to realise this project – also continuously – without any thoughts of own benefits. We are thankful from the bottom of our hearts. And there were others, who talked a lot about their social aim but who were interested only in publicity. It is more than sad when people try to use needy children for their benefits. So on one hand something is wrong with this world, on the other it is an amazing and wonderful place! We hope that the future will brings more social aim, more fairness and openness. To talk loud and clear about grievances and constructive criticism these are the motors to keep the world moving. To listen to the own heart with no thought of self but of others, to recognise that to help is one of the most beautiful things in our life, it would lead us to better times. Together, one species is strong and able to survive, but to walk alone will not create any footstep in the ground of the history. To help places as India, will help the world, because it could light on a powerful holy fire.

The chains of cause and effect! We are living in a throwaway society and human values have not the importance they deserve. It is more nice to celebrate ourself, is more important to watch the wedding of a 3rd class prominent, than to help sincere projects. It is not necessary to help with money, but with the own hands or thoughts. Is it good to watch TV and to send some Euros to an organisation, because the broadcast touched me? Or would it be better to stand up to help truly? It is impressive how much money we are able to donate, when the media send reports about catastrophes. Are we slaves of the media or do we have our own minds? It is simple, the children of this world, are our friends and partners of the future. To help them means to help ourselves. And it is necessary to keep it always in mind that every single day people die because of wars, hunger or epidemics. To split the money, to help every day would help them all. Is it necessary to donate 7 million Euros to a single place, because of a catastrophe? When we would start to help every day, every country would have an opportunity to help themselves. But we have it do carefully. Most of the times, donations will not reach their targets. If a priest – killed by an earthquake – is carried to his grave in a very expensive coffin and with an extraordinary procession, while people around him have to find their rest in mass graves, something is wrong with the using of donations. However, small projects, based on heart and soul are the sincere ones.

It is an easy calculation. For example, a donation of 10 Euros, made by every inhabitant of Germany and spread to sincere projects leaded by a visible person, finally one Euro per person to the most needing places, would help them all for a long time. Another easy calculation is, that every company has 100 Euros to donate for one aid project, also if they are actually focused on other ones. This less money could help a lot of people in countries like India.

A project like Child's Rights needs about 800 Euros per month to help about 20 children. So, 50 Euro per kid. 1000 Euros save the kids for more than one month, 10.000 save them for one year. Where is the sincere argument, that it is not possible to help? To save the money for a new car or marketing campaign?

However, people who try to help others have to stand situations which nobody with a sensitive heart could understand. Of course, at the end of every year, a lot of organisations ask for donations. But to ignore or refuse this calls means, to let people die. Everybody is obliged to help and it is not important, that one helped already in an other place. When I have the means, I should assist needy people all over the world, not only in places which are effective for the media.

PMM INTERNATIONAL has produced this magazine to help Child's Rights to provide a better future to the children in Jaipur. Because we recognised that we should do more, we will use our power and network also in the future to save more and more children for misery and to built up a new human society. We have to share only one world and the children are its future! We will do our best to save them both. And what about you?

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