



American actress and dancer Christina Applegate attended the 1989 MTV Movie Awards with Brad Pitt, but dumped him at the event and left with someone else.



OFF WITH THE SHOW OFF

On World Interiors Day, we discover how more people are roping in interior designers to make their house to look like a 'home'

RAJKUMARI SHARMA TANKHA

One are the days when the interiors of a house were organised by home owners after scouring markets at Panchkuian Road or Karol Bagh in the National Capital. While the former offers everything—furniture, paintings, small fountains and decorative knick-knacks, the latter has fairly sizeable home furnishing showrooms. But today, you can comfortably sit at home, click a picture of the room/ home that needs to be redone and upload it, and then be bombarded by a plethora of options. You can design your space with these virtual filters and finalise the colours of the walls, furniture, colour of the furnishings and the carpets as well.

Interior designers in vogue

For a more personalised option, you can rope in an interior designer. Again here, you have two options. One, you can completely rely on the professional to take the final call with the decor selection. Or two, you buy most of what you want in a home and get an interior designer to arrange these artistically at the most appropriate spots. "Earlier, people used to design their own home, but now many are seeking profes-

sional help. This has resulted in specialisations in interior designing like interior architecture, interior decorator and interior facade development," says Siddhant Gupta, Founder of Blue Door that specialises in interior designing solutions.

Agreeing with Gupta is Shailendra Kumar, Founder of fanusta.com, a curated marketplace of home decor and furniture. "In the past year-and-a-half, we have seen a change in the way people do their homes. At least 60 per cent of people who shop with us ask for an interior designer to do up their home."

Gupta feels interior designing is not just about decoration but about happiness. He says appropriate use of materials and attention to small details are the key aspects of interior designing. "A good interior designer can make someone aesthetically, emotionally, psycho-

logically and visually happy. And it's not that one has to spend a huge amount of money. A good interior designer can work wonders with the existing products," he says.

Understated and traditional

Talking about the changing tastes in home décor, Kumar says that earlier people opted for shades of rose gold, bronze and silver. But now, pastels are the norm. "Pastel colours on walls give a lot of freedom to design furnishing items. They can help change the looks frequently and keep the novelty factor alive," notes Nameeta Vasudev, an independent interiors professional.

Stressing that traditional art and decor products like blue pottery, terracotta and ceramics lend a personal feel to the space, Kumar says these items are much in demand. This, in turn, means people don't want a Western or European look in their home. They want to feel 'at home'. "Even for table tops, vases etc., people want motifs from our old traditional art and design," he says.

Interior designers are all for having indoor plants. "Plants are very important as they make the interiors look alive. Plus, they bring



a lot of positivity to your home," says Gupta.

Recycle to redesign

Similarly, when it comes to furniture, most interior designers say that one must play with the existing items rather than randomly going ahead with purchasing new ones. "A wooden table that's been in your home since your grandfather's time can be redesigned to look aesthetic and contemporary, and still be functional," explains Gupta. The demand for painted furniture is on the rise says Kumar, which means people don't throw their old furniture but paint it with traditional designs and turn it into new.

Agrees Vasudev, "There is no need to throw old items that were earlier in use like huge brass vessels as these can add a personal touch to your home."



BEAUTY IN A BOX

Sweeter than your chaiwallah's chai

SHILAJIT MITRA

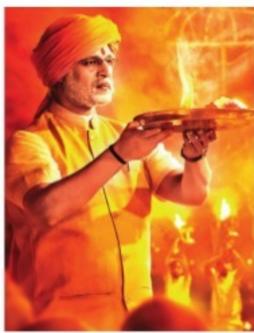
SOME films dramatise facts. This one dramatises drama.

The first time we meet Vivek Oberoi in *PM Narendra Modi*, he is acting in a play. "Women are the real strength of this country," he tells the crowd, speaking in that briskly compensatory manner adopted after a massive social media fail. Watching this great performance from the wings is RSS founder Laxmanrao Inamdar (Yatin Karyekar), who is enthralled by young Modi's talents, but also upset that he is wasting it on community theatre. "You are such a fine speaker..." Laxmanrao ventures backstage, unaware of what he is about to set off. "Why aren't you in politics?"

The film begins in 2014, but quickly shifts to Modi's childhood. As a young nationalist coming from a humble background, Modi finds himself at a crossroads. *Sevak, sadhu or saint?* Unable to choose a career path, he sets forth on a journey to blend all three—becoming a people's leader with a hard eye on terror. In contrast to the dynamic hero, the Opposition is presented as corrupt and irresolute, a heinous pack of Emergency-imposers and minority-appeasers.

Writer (and co-producer) Sandip Singh goes soft on key events in the Prime Minister's career: Like his fleeing to Delhi in 1979 disguised as a Sikh man; the *Ram Rath* and *Ekta Yatra*; the Gujarat riots; the Akshardham attack—are approached with almost Tarantino-esque revisionism. Unlike the Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer *Thackeray*, which owned up to its politics, this film makes no room for scruples or faults. In fact, so focused are the makers on painting a pretty picture that a reference to *Na Khaunga, Na Khane Dunga* is made in context of adding sugar to tea.

The cast merits no *charcha*. Not one performance sticks, except Prashant Narayanan's, who plays his bespectacled vil-



REVIEW

PM NARENDRA MODI

CAST: Vivek Oberoi, Zarina Wahab, Manoj Joshi

RATING ★★☆☆☆

lain like a Yakuza boss. Oberoi takes his time to work up the Gujarati accent, hard on the 'z' and soft on the 's'—as in *beznesh*—but lacks Modi's distinctive zing. The only romantic track is introduced by Manoj Joshi, playing the part of his loyal friend. There is one impressive shot in the film—a bird's-eye view of moored boats in Varanasi—but overall the film has the visual mood board of a Gujarat tourism ad.

It's irrelevant now to call *PM Narendra Modi* a propaganda film. Victory has been served with or without its aid. It can thus be classified as a sort of echo chamber, a cinematic soundtrack playing a collective *Namo Namō* to the world. It's a sound we shall ponder long and hard, irrespective of what our eyes tell us. 2019 has been a year of *Endgames* and *Winterfells*, and in the scene where Oberoi hugs a little child before walking away with tears in his eyes, India gets its own.

How to choose the right wig & hair extensions

FOR thinning hair—and even the case of balding—one can consider options like hair extensions and wigs. Wigs are especially useful for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy as they face hair loss during this time. Wigs and hair extensions can also be worn for special occasions to add a touch of glamour. However, certain things need to be kept in mind. The wig should not only suit your face shape but also your lifestyle. For this, get in touch with a hair dresser as he/she would be able to guide

you better. The chosen wig should also be in keeping with your personality. For example, for a quiet and introverted person, the wig should not be too stylised. The age of the wearer is also important. A younger person can go for a trendy style while a mature person would like something more natural.

In case of partial balding, you can go for hair extensions, but take care that the hair of the hair extensions match with your natural hair in colour and texture. Hair extensions come in many forms—some are clipped on and temporary while others are permanent. These are pop-

ular these days because they add length and thickness to the hair and help you look stylish.



SHAHA NAZ HUSAIN
Founder, Chairperson of The Shaahnaz Husain Group

Hair extensions can mean a fall, ponytail, switches, braids or toupees. One can also use hair extensions of a different colour to provide streaks, which add glamour.

Wigs can be made of real or synthetic hair. A real hair wig will be affected by seasonal changes—in humid weather, it may turn frizzy. Wigs and extensions made of real hair have a more realistic look than synthetic hair. Synthetic wigs are easier to style and the style lasts longer.

There are many kinds of wigs, so one has to take advice

from a hairstylist and then decide before going ahead with one. For instance, there are cap wigs and capless wigs, based on the way they are made. Capless wigs are more popular these days as they do not give complete coverage to head, which allows the pores of the scalp to breathe and prevent perspiration. One has to ensure that the wig fits very well and is comfortable. Tape, fasteners and straps are used to make a wig more secure.



Signature designs get a new canvas

AYESHA SINGH

INTERIORS to apparel, the distance may seem to have traversed medium, scale and technique, but for renowned architect and interior designer Raseel Gujral Ansal, the transition was only a natural extension of her creative savoir-faire. With seamlessness in execution, she launched her resort wear collection under the brand Casa Pop, at her newly launched store at One Style Mile, Mehrauli.

Applauded for her archetypal kitschy patterning, she has

always managed to catch the pulse of the youth with her vibrant colour palate and motifs that reflect an urban sensibility, witnessed through her wall-papers, fabrics, tableware, incidental furniture, accessories, and now clothes.

This endeavour is born out of Gujral's organic carte blanche approach towards design. "The only thing that's changed is the canvas. The art remains the same," she says, in a gentle voice.

Different forms of silk have been fashioned into kaftans, long dresses, coverups, tops, py-

jamias, running shorts, and shrugs bringing out an eclectic in prints, all in a dramatic diva-like glamorous avatar.

On one end of the spectrum, you have flower and bird prints and on the other, you have leopards and cheetahs.

A progressive feather in Ansal's creative hat is customisation. You can pick your own silhouette and print style, and receive a personalised garment in two weeks. "We're an easy wear design merchandise, not a volume-based business. And I also realise that people want to be a part of the creative process."

The adaptation to the medium of fabric came during a recent fashion week wherein a friend of Ansal's casually remarked about exploring the apparel medium. Because Ansal is always scouting for new inspiration, she immediately took to working out the details. "I don't know what I am going to work on next, but it is going to be what my heart tells me. Creativity is not about being boxed but flying free with one's ambition, and that's exactly what I am doing."

Availability: Casa Pop, One Style Mile, Kalka Das Marg, Seth Sarai, Mehrauli; Casa Pop, MG Road; Casa Paradox; The Chanakya; Casa-pop.com