

Emerging Lifestyle Trends & Products

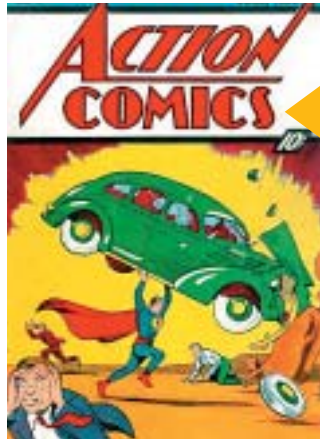


Kingfisher Calendar 2009

It's that time of the year, when the annual Kingfisher calendar is stirring up anticipation.

The Kingfisher Calendar 2009 has been shot by photographer Atul Kasbekar in the exclusive Six Senses Hideaway Resorts at Koi Samui and Yao Noi in Thailand. It features six models from across the globe — including Tamara Moss and Monikangana Dutta from India.

The models sport swimwear from some of the biggest brands in the world like Alberta Ferretti, Jean Paul Gaultier, Diane von Furstenberg and others.



Most Expensive Comic Book

The world's most expensive comic book is DC's Action Comics #1 (1938). The reason is not just that the Action Comics #1 contains the first appearance of Superman, but that it contains the appearance of the very first comic superhero.

A 'very good' condition copy of Action Comics #1 was sold for nearly Rs 1 crore in May 2006, out-pricing the 2004 expensive comic books sale of a CGC-certified 'near mint' condition copy of *Amazing Fantasy* #15, containing Spider-Man's first appearance, by more than Rs 35 lakh.



Most Expensive Pacifier

The world's most expensive pacifier features a silicone nipple sporting over 278 pave cut diamonds totalling 3 carats. The pacifier is also made with 14k white gold and has a moveable handle.

The pacifier can be purchased for Rs 8.5 lakhs and can even be customised with coloured diamonds, the baby's name, birth date and other vital information.

4 Classic Women's Perfumes

Chanel No. 5

Launched in 1921, this classic fragrance has been called a masterpiece by most — and it has never failed to rock the perfume shelves as a bestseller. Perhaps it is because the originator Coco Chanel had requested that a "woman's fragrance that smells like a woman" be created... Top notes include ylang ylang, neroli and aldehydes. Jasmine and mayrose are at the heart, and the dry down consists of vetiver and sandalwood.



Guerlain Shalimar

Created in 1925, Shalimar by Guerlain is simple, elegant, and has a subtle composition. Some have called it the Queen of Orientals, due to its outstanding patchouli, vanilla, bergamot, lemon, jasmine, incense, and rose notes. Classy and sophisticated, it comes with a touch of romance to it that speaks of the mystery of being a woman. The name Shalimar in Sanskrit means Temple of Love.



L'Air du Temps

This is a Nina Ricci creation from 1948. This somewhat heady floral has notes of jasmine, gardenia, iris, carnation, chrysanthemum, musk, and sandalwood. The dry down is soft and powdery but not overly sweet because there is just enough spice to mellow it out. It is unmistakably fresh and feminine and generation after generation has grown on this fragrance.



Miss Dior

Christian Dior created this scent in 1947 and it has recently been reinvented as Miss Dior Cherie. While the newer version has yet to show for sure whether it will last, the original is a popular classic chypre. It's most outstanding quality is its balance, softness, and harmony. It is floral, woody, powdery, and green, coming off as perfectly sophisticated, but pretty and young.



Society's Little Helpers

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Even if it is getting my eyeglasses repaired, buying foodstuff for home from the supermarket or even sorting gifts for each department in the office to be given during Diwali, Vilas is the man to depend on.

He keeps tracks of everything and is reliable, extremely responsible and has an eye for detail. He is always ready to help and do his best at any given situation. For example, if my husband (Niranjan Hiranandani) is rushing off for a meeting without having his lunch, Vilas promptly keeps the lunch box in the car so that my husband can have food on his way. If he notices a crease on my husband's suit, he is quick to get it ironed even without being told. He has an eye for detail and is very dutiful. His sense of responsibility is such that in all these years I have never had any complaint. He is also very hard working and a keen learner. You will never find him idling away his time and indulging in frivolous gossip.

He utilises his spare time very constructively. He learnt operating the computer during his free time and if need be, will learn any other aspect of the job if told. He makes life so much simpler and the day to day office work is so much easier for me."

Ashok Kurien

Adman

"My executive assistant, Bosco Pereira makes my life

smooth and comfortable. Bosco does all my personal work such as booking air ticket, cars, restaurant tables, as well as arranging flowers, sweets and chocolates to be sent to my professional contacts and personal friends. Not to mention looking after all my professional work during office hours.

because he runs a rehabilitation centre for alcoholics by night. So from being an executive assistant by day he crosses over to being manager of *Mary's Plan* the rehab centre and spends the next 12 hours or so completely immersed in doing social work. To the extent that he even lives in the rehab centre."

Neeraj Roy

Entrepreneur

"I would have to say that it is my assistant Savita. From organising my schedules to looking after my travel arrangements to keeping all my appointments, to remembering client's birthdays and other important dates, Savita really does make my life so much easier

"Savita is extremely hard working and often ends up working late. I have received calls from her even on Sundays confirming my travel arrangements and she really does make things so much smoother for me"

— Neeraj Roy



ASHOK KURIEN

Adman

"Bosco does all my personal work such as booking air tickets, cars, restaurant tables, as well as arranging flowers, sweets and chocolates for my professional contacts"

Bosco started with me 20 years ago as a young man and has grown in the job. He is currently assisted by a younger gentleman Bharat and the two of them ably run my professional affairs — which, after all, deal with looking after an entire company.

Incidentally Bosco is a philanthropist at heart

in almost every aspect. She is extremely hard working and often ends up working late. I have received calls from her at 2 am and even on Sundays confirming my travel arrangements. She has been working with me for almost four years now."

The Fountain Pen is Mightier....!

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I attribute a lot of my work to certain fountain pens I've written with at that point in time, which people have given me. A lot of my articles and a lot of my poems have happened because of certain pens, I feel. I talk to my pens and in fact in my next collection of poems, I've also written a sort of eulogy for my pen, because I feel as a writer, if your pen stops, you stop. In fact, I want to dedicate this collection of poems to a particular pen and I may just end up doing it!"

Fahad Samar, filmmaker

"Writing with fountain pens is like harking back to another era. Fountain pens have been a sort of rite of passage and back in school, they always insisted that we use only fountain pens, especially while writing exams. From using cheap Chinese pens to graduating to Parkers to Sheaffers to Lamys to Visconti which was given to me, I've managed to build myself a nice little collection over the years. Just as there are whiskeys and whiskeys, there are pens and pens. I really admire pens for their craftsmanship and their beauty. Moreover, the fact that they can be passed down generations really holds a special appeal for me. My first Mont Blanc, *Meisterstück*, was presented to me by my uncle Ismail Merchant in 1987 when he was busy with his film *The*



Fahad Samar

Deceivers. After that I have gone on to collect several limited edition pens such as *Proust*, *F. Scott Fitzgerald*, and the *Montegrappa*, an exceptionally beautiful pen.

I've always been a traditionalist and reluctant to use the typewriter and also the keyboard. Instead I've always loved to sit and write with fountain pens, especially pens with finer nibs which I use regularly. Earlier, I would request relatives coming from overseas to get me my favourite ink by Parker, Quink and they would double pack it to ensure it didn't break en route.

I always loved Royal Blue as an ink colour and have stuck it. And I don't really carry my fountain pens around, they're mainly for use at my desk. However, if I'm signing an important contract or going to a meeting, I carry my fountain pen along that day. Moreover, Mont Blanc has beautiful carrying cases, so I put them to good use.

I'm not very fussy about paper but I did receive a set of Cartier luxury writing paper which I still have with me and which I will definitely use. If I ever need to get my Mont Blancs serviced I take them to the store at the Taj."

Rahul Da Cunha, theatre director, playwright

"I've always written with fountain pens, since my school days, especially before computers and laptops became such a big deal. Writing with fountain pens is a different process altogether. Even now, I'm writing my forthcoming play using a fountain pen and pencil combination. There is something very sacred about writing with a fountain pen on paper, you cannot delete it, you have to strike it out



Rahul Da Cunha

A lot of my earlier writing is with a thick-nib pen, which makes the writing slightly heavy. My grandfather gave me his old Cross fountain pen which I've really cherished. Right now I'm using a Sheaffer with a mighty nib. I also like

"There is something very sacred about writing with a fountain pen on paper, you cannot delete it, you have to strike it out and then move on"

— Rahul Da Cunha

writing with black ink and find blue ink very wimpy, there is something very definitive about the colour black.

When it comes to paper, I don't really have a preference but I use a moleskin notebook with a typical black cover for writing. Luckily, I haven't required servicing for any of my pens so far, so I guess I have been lucky on that count."

Shashi Deshpande, novelist

"I use only fountain pens for writing my novels and also for writing letters. I cannot imagine writing with anything but fountain pens. I have a couple of them, but I usually use only a pen at a time. I had a

Mont Blanc which was extremely beautiful, but broke a couple of years ago but was replaced immediately by another Mont Blanc! I also have three other great pens, a Cross, a Waterman and a couple of Sheaffers. I like writing with a thick nib very much. I cannot think of writing with fine tipped pens. For me, the flow of ink from my nib is also extremely important. I write in big letters that are scrawled across a page and all my initial drafts are written in fountain pen, and are finally completed on the computer.

My ink preference is Royal Blue as I am not very fond of black. To me black is a very mournful colour. These days, I feel, ink is becoming tougher to find as my pens don't come with a cartridge which can be easily replaced.

I quite enjoy the process of filling ink in my pens and cleaning them periodically. Getting oneself to sit down and actually start writing is so difficult that taking breaks to refill ink in the pen is always delightful. P.G. Wodehouse would sharpen his pencils and start lining them up to distract himself from actually sitting down to start the process of writing. I use refilling my fountain pens as an excuse...

These days, I use computer paper for writing but I have to be economical with it. Earlier I used to order reams and reams of paper from a mill in Madhya Pradesh which truly made the entire process of writing such a pleasurable experience."



Shashi Deshpande

Photo: Pradeep Chandra

Pediatric ophthalmologist
Dr. Deepak Garg at the kids play area within the eye hospital

Doctor in Sight

Dr Deepak Garg's eye hospital at Kemp's Corner is a one stop shop in eye care for children as well as adults. *Life 360°* reports

Does your child complain of blurred vision? Or squint in order to read or see? Does he complain of double vision? If so, then it's time he got his eyes checked. Catering to every toddler and young child's optical needs is Eye Solutions, a 5,500 square feet eye hospital at Kemp's Corner in south Mumbai.

"We have a specialised set up within the hospital focusing on examining and treating eyes of children aged between 0-16 years," says medical director and pediatric ophthalmologist at Eye Solutions, Dr. Deepak Garg.

One of the handful few trained pediatric ophthalmologists in the city who specialise in complete eye care for the young child, Garg's brainchild — Eye Solutions, which opened in August this year, promises to be a one stop shop cure for all eye related problems.

"It is better to treat eye problems at a young age rather than allowing a minor problem to aggravate into a major one," feels Garg. Hence he advises parents to take their children for an eye check up and not wait till they begin complaining about their eyesight. The most common eye problem among kids, Garg informs, is poor vision and squint, both which can be cured if detected early.

To ensure a proper check up

"We have a specialised set up within the hospital focusing on examining and treating eyes of children aged between 0-16 years"

— Dr. Deepak Garg

among toddlers and children who tend to be restless, the two-storied hospital has a dedicated children's play area to keep them occupied. With toys and games in place, the colourful play area is a welcome distraction for kids and enables doctors to get better eye examination done while the child is busy with games.

two operation theatres and a team of specialised doctors to diagnose and treat the entire spectrum of eye diseases — glaucoma, cataract, uveitis, diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachments and strabismus, to name a few. Added features like the jointless steel operation theatre for pure ophthalmic use with laminar air

"I realised the need to make eye examination a happy experience for the young ones and not a scary and routine affair," reasons Garg for setting up the children's play area.

That apart, the dedicated eye hospital has state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment for advanced eye care, a five-bed ward,

flow and HEPA filters ensures a complete infection-free area. Adults coming for eye check up are ensured a complete eye examination and diagnosis at this swank set up with all the latest ophthalmic equipment.

"Our aim is to protect, preserve and restore the vision of any person coming here with a problem," says 31-year-old Garg, a graduate from the renowned Sankara Nethralaya in Chennai who also did a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology from here.

"We want to treat people with eye problems from every strata of society and hence conduct regular eye camps at schools, Rotary clubs, charitable organisations and also offer free eye treatment within our hospital premises for a couple of hours every morning," informs Garg.

With eyes being one's window to the world, it's time we ensure they remain fine, always.