

Family and Community Day

Family and Community Day is a special time to bring families and communities closer together. This day emphasizes the importance of spending quality time with loved ones, building strong family bonds, and fostering community spirit. It serves as a reminder to take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and focus on the people who matter most to us. This day highlights the vital role that family and community play in our lives. Strong family bonds create a supportive and loving environment, which is essential for emotional well-being.



#JADORE

Unique Salwar Suit Styles We're Loving

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Salwar suits are so comfy and pretty, they'll always be a wardrobe staple for us. Whether you're looking to dress up for a presentation at work, or meeting a friend at the movies, you can always lean on a salwar

suit. We like that you can style it down as an everyday staple or up the style quotient to make it special occasion-appropriate. The possibilities are endless, and so, we have rounded up 6 trending 'unique salwar suit designs' as inspiration for the summers.

Frock Style Salwar Suit



Double Layered Anarkali



Kurta, but make it frock! As the name suggests, the kurta is designed like a frock, fitted from the top and flared from the midsection. Pair it with a *Patiala salwar* or *dhoti pants*. With a look so elegant, you'll want to do the twirl!

Bored of the traditional Anarkali? Add flair and flow to it with an extra layer. Pair your double-layered Anarkali suit with a *churidar* or straight pants, and we promise you'll look 'twice' as lovely!

High Low Anarkali Salwar Suit

We love a pretty Anarkali suit, but a unique style that we've been eyeing is the asymmetrical Anarkali! Keep the front seam slightly higher than the back of the Anarkali for a more grand and contemporary look. You can also opt for embroidery or threadwork on the seam of the *churidar*, making the look ideal for any wedding or party that you're attending.



Front Slit Salwar Suit



Sherwani Style Salwar Suit



Add a touch of glam to your *salwar suit* pattern by adding a high slit in front. You can try this pattern for both straight and flared *kurta*s. All about experimenting? Try a one-sided slit. Pair it with a *churidar* or cigarette pants, for a perfectly timeless look!

Whoever said that *sherwanis* are just for men, this classic style of *kurta* looks fab on women, too. Pair your high-neck *bandhgala sherwani* with statement earrings and cigarette pants, for a perfectly timeless look!

Cape Style Salwar Suit



Superheroes wear capes and since you're one too, you need one in your life ASAP! Swap out the regular *dupatta* for a cape on your salwar suit. This style is perfect if you want to rock the *salwar suit* look with a *modern twist*. Play with the fabric and patterns of the cape, from sheer to intricately embroidered ones. You can also experiment with the length, we love the elegant look of a cape that touches the elbow. The best part about this salwar suit design is that you don't have to worry about your *dupatta* slipping. We'd recommend it for a cocktail party or a wedding reception.

Love of two ladies

By the time Virginia Woolf met her, Vita Sackville West was an established writer, consecrated by various contemporary literary awards and approvals by the establishment. She was an attractive asset to the Woolfs', who were then running a successful and a highly reputed publishing house, The Hogarth Press. But then, Virginia was fully aware of her position as a creative genius and seemingly rather had a patronising attitude to Vita as far as her literary persona was concerned. The two were the exact opposites of each other.



Anjan Roy
A renowned veteran journalist, having worked with Business Standard and the Telegraph.

Virginia Woolf remains one of the twentieth century's most intriguing writers, and her novels have still remained irresistible after almost a century. In contrast to her literary durability, she was, in her personal life, extremely fragile, and in fact, committed suicide, eluding constant vigil from her husband, Leonard Woolf. Lesser known than his wife, Leonard was another iconic intellectual of his time, an accomplished editor, and not least, a devoted husband. Leonard Woolf had to cocoon his wife and indulgently accepted Virginia's eccentricities.

Given her literary status, Virginia Woolf was the subject of many biographies and studies of her writings, looking for clues to the characters she had created, and above all, insights into her distant personality. But then, one of her own writings, a biography of a close friend and an admirer, Clive Bell, gives possibly a closer view of the inner working of Virginia Woolf's complex mind. Despite loads of literature on her, Virginia, however, still remains an enigma. She was sensitive to her surroundings and verged on depression to the point of being a psychological wreck

for most of her creative life. And yet, she managed to produce exquisitely delicate and perceptive novels and essays before she prematurely ended her life.

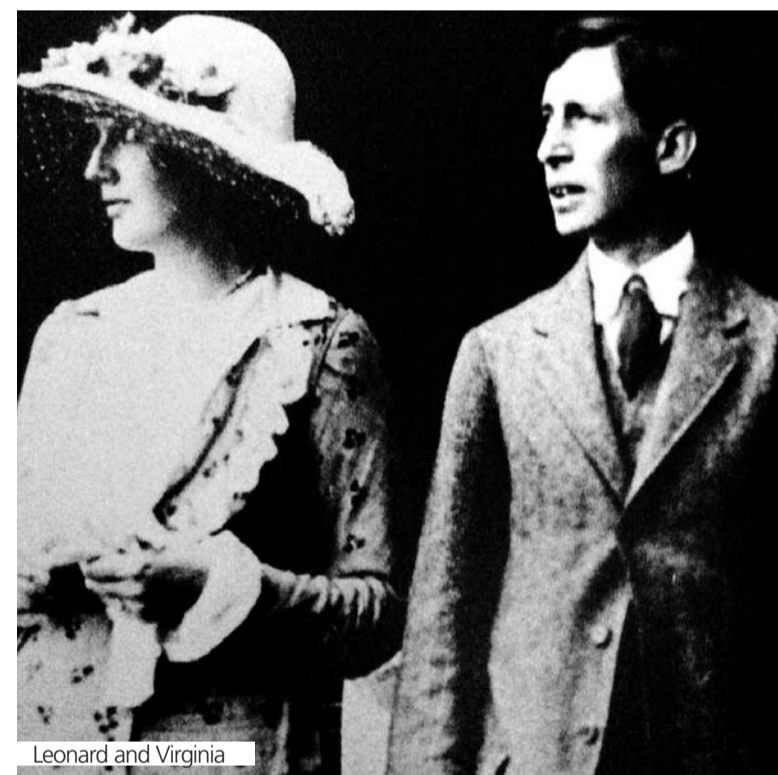
It is a measure of her appeal, reading Virginia Woolf is a pleasure, even close to a century after she published her major works. What comes out from those pages is a highly intelligent person, who is sensitive to the point of being like a young leaf trembling in a light breeze.

Virginia Woolf belonged to the talked-about literary circle of Britain of the first half of twentieth century, which was treated among the intellectual high brows as a cult phenomenon. The members of the so-called Bloomsbury Circle, included Lytton Strachey, Clive Bell, and John Maynard Keynes, among many others.

The friends and acquaintances in the Bloomsbury group were giving new directions to the intellectual life of early twentieth century. Lytton Strachey had introduced a new genre of biography writing with his "Eminent Victorians" and "Queen Victoria." Keynes had reset economics and introduced new tools for resuscitating the capitalist system in the wake of the Great Depression of 1930-31, and still today is referred to as *Keynesian Economics*. Virginia Woolf was one of the most prominent members of his avant-garde group, and certainly, one of the most prolific.

While striking out in their own new ways, they were all assertively non-conformist with current social behaviour. Defiant and arrogant in their intellectual superiority, they yet often suf-

#PERSONALITIES



Leonard and Virginia

fered from fear of social ostracism and even persecution for their deviant behaviour, including homo-sexuality and promiscuity.

It is against this background that the discussion on the love affair between Virginia Woolf and another literary figure, Vita Sackville-West, was one of the most thrilling sessions of a discussion. The lesbian love affair between these two unequal literary figures was brought out in its various unstated dimensions in a session in the Lit fest, this year. Of the three discussants, two were great grandchildren of Vita Sackville West, and their remembrances of Vita gave a kind of immediacy to the discussion.

If you can think of a *jugalbandi* in Indian music, this discussion was of a kind of *literary jugalbandi* among the discussants. When one left a thread of talk on aspects of the relationship between Vita and Virginia, the others would pick up and took these further. It allowed the audience a fuller perception of the elements of physical and spiritual relations between the two women in their contrasting worlds of aristocratic defiance and intellectual insouciance.



By the time Virginia Woolf met her, Vita Sackville West was an established writer, consecrated by various contemporary literary awards and approvals by the establishment. She was an attractive asset to the Woolfs', who were then running a successful and a highly reputed publishing house, The Hogarth Press. But then, Virginia was fully aware of her position as a creative genius and seemingly rather had a patronising attitude to Vita as far as her literary persona was concerned. The two were the exact opposites of each other.

Virginia was quintessentially a woman writer, who came from solid upper middle-class intellectual social background. Vita, on the other hand, was a true blue aristocrat, who behaved so every inch. She was a writer of poems and novels which got acclaim. Her ancestral home, which she dearly wanted to inherit but could not because of the then inheritance laws forbidding female inheritance, had seen many of the important phases of British history over three centuries.

Despite being a deviant in her personal life, it would be wrong to presume that she was in, any way, left leaning. She was an aris-

toocrat to boot and conservative in her attitude. She had a classy self-confidence and nonchalance. She had often disguised herself in a man's clothing. At least, on one occasion immediately after the First War, as the grandchildren recounted, she had dressed as a soldier and even went into a Men's Room. She was tall and her legs were like the trunk of a tree, immensely long.

It was a different personality from Virginia Woolf who appeared feminine to her core. She was dying to escape from the intriguing world of Bloomsbury friends, where "everyone knew who they were going around and slept with." Virginia had fallen into deep love with Vita and had even physical relations for a couple of years. The intense feelings between these two women were reciprocal for a while.

One literary outcome of Virginia's relation with Vita was the former's novel "Orlando." This is a transgender novel in contemporary lingo. It is the story of a man who turns into a woman and strangely fleets between centuries, and meets with all the greatest of English writers. It is believed that Vita had given Virginia a sense of a collapse of boundaries between the sexes as well as discreteness of time. In the novel, Virginia could effortlessly hover over the timescale, past, future and the present, and transform from the male to the female.

But then, the relationship eventually broke off and it was believed to be one of the precipitating factors that led to Virginia's tragic suicide. She was as such prone to falling into bouts of deep depression. The relation-

Virginia Woolf Orlando



RELÓGIO D'ÁGUA

ship with Vita had provided her with the opportunity of overcoming her mental gravitation towards depression, for as long as it lasted. However, as it gave way, she, it appeared, had precipitously moved towards a suicidal end.

If Virginia committed suicide, her female lover, Vita, lived a full life and increasingly devoted herself to creating her garden at Sissinghurst, her ancestral estate, which her grandchildren described as her best 'creation.' In fact, one of the discussants, Alexandra Harris, described Vita Sackville-West's nurturing of her garden in her book "Modern Romantics." Once when she had obtained a literary award, winning her 100 pounds in 1930s, which was a sum not to be trifled with in those days, she blew it up at one go on buying seeds of quaint plants for her garden in Sissinghurst Palace. Vita never inherited the Sissinghurst Palace, but went on to create her garden with her cousin, nevertheless. She nurtured the garden at the Palace with love and devotion, as her grandchildren remembered in their interlucation in the session.

Apparently, Vita had inherited many of her personal traits from her grandmother, who was a gypsy having ankle long hair, which she would keep letting it down free, much to the amazement of most people, as she went around. Vita was in a manner wild and like the gypsies. The discussions had also revealed that one of the ancestors of Virginia was a *Bengali* lady from Chandernaggar, which, in its heyday, was a redolent French outpost.

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'Vita & Virginia' with Gemma Arterton, Elizabeth Debicki

##CULINARY EXPERIENCE

MOUNTAIN FLAVOURS IN JAIPUR



The Leela Palace Jaipur recently hosted a culinary event featuring Chef Prateek Sadhu, who brought the essence of Himalayan flavours to the city. Guests enjoyed a thoughtfully curated menu from his restaurant, NAAR, blending traditional techniques with contemporary flair, creating an unforgettable dining experience.



Chef Prateek Sadhu.



Diners enjoying the unique culinary experience.



Tusharika Singh
Freelancer Writer and City Blogger

The Pink City recently witnessed a one-of-its-kind culinary experience as India's acclaimed Chef, Prateek Sadhu, took over the kitchen at The Leela Palace in Jaipur. For two days, the mountain soul of Chef Sadhu's renowned restaurant, NAAR, situated in Kasauli, was brought to life in the desert state of Rajasthan, offering a rare glimpse into the rich culinary traditions of the Himalayas.

A Culinary Tribute to Himalayan Heritage



NAAR, meaning 'fire' in *Kashmiri*, encapsulates the essence of Chef Sadhu's culinary philosophy, which pays homage to the inner flame that fuels his passion for crafting an exquisite dining experience. His approach emphasizes a wood-fired, grill-centric style, showcasing hyperlocal ingredients that highlight the elemental flavours of the Himalayan region. This unique dining event, organized in collaboration with Conosh, a community of food lovers, gave the opportunity to Jaipur's food enthusiasts to savour the diverse tastes of the Himalayas, a rare treat in a city often associated with the flavours of the desert.

An Exquisite Dining Experience

Guests embarked on a culinary journey, relishing the subtle smokiness of signature dishes that reflected Chef Sadhu's mastery of contrasting flavours. The meal began with *Askhu*, a starter featuring black sesame lung, paired with smoked cheese and tangy orange, setting the tone for the afternoon. This was followed by *Maahi Tuli*, a dish of charcoal-grilled skewers, where chicken liver was served alongside a vegetarian alternative of charred *arbi* (taro). The *Dirty Toast*, featuring *Himachali trout*, was a standout, with mustard and red chili *chutney* oozing from the tender fish, while the vegetarian version cleverly utilized charred

pineapple and brown butter ice cream, encapsulating the essence of the Himalayas in every bite. The event was part of a four-city experience that also includes New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai, showcasing the versatility and depth of *Himalayan cuisine*. Each dish served was a reflection of Chef Sadhu's commitment to bringing the flavours of his homeland to a wider audience, ensuring that every guest left with a deeper appreciation for the culinary treasures of the Himalayas.

Chef Sadhu's Vision and Inspiration

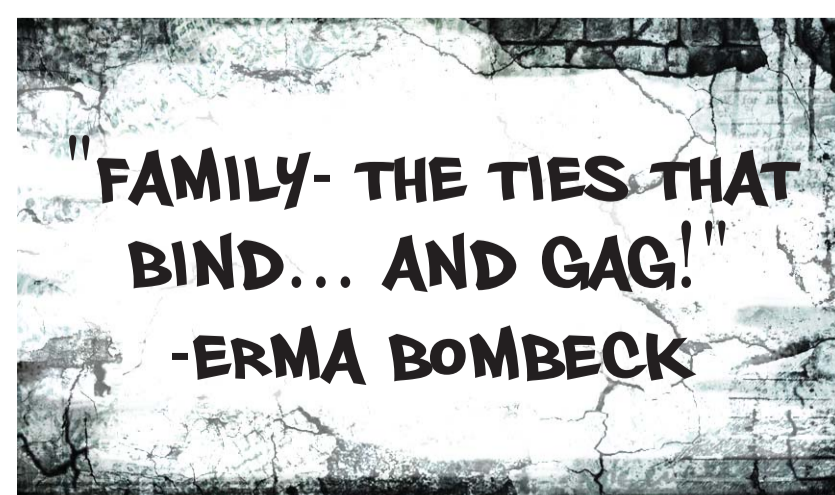
Chef Prateek Sadhu shared his thoughts on this collaboration. "The Himalayas have long been a profound source of inspiration for me, not just for their awe-inspiring landscapes but also for the rich flavours and deep-rooted traditions of the region. Collaborating with The Leela to introduce NAAR's essence to these four cities is an opportunity to share the heart and soul of Himalayan cuisine with a discerning epicurean audience. This partnership allows guests at The Leela to experience a journey through

time-tasting traditions steeped in history while indulging in the finest codes of modern luxury hospitality." The event was part of a four-city experience that also includes New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai, showcasing the versatility and depth of *Himalayan cuisine*. Each dish served was a reflection of Chef Sadhu's commitment to bringing the flavours of his homeland to a wider audience, ensuring that every guest left with a deeper appreciation for the culinary treasures of the Himalayas.



The Leela Palace Jaipur ready to host the culinary takeover.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman