

# Saluting India

A Republic Day Special



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A CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

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The land of maharajas, vibrant hues and traditions has many wonders tucked away in its shifting sands. India is the epitome of cultural diversity and vibrancy. And if you are passionate about interiors and want to satiate your hunger for beautifying your home, then this Republic Day, join your hands together in namaskaram and invite into your homes the true spirit of India.



PICTURES COURTESY: I'M CENTRE FOR APPLIED ARTS, JAIPUR RUGS, MARSHALLS, THE BIG DOOR



## India@home

This Republic Day, pay tribute to your country by welcoming home Indian elements and ethnic designs

### ●● BACK TO THE ROOTS

Spaces influenced by the west and pieces that are reflective of people's extensive travels are ones that sit pretty in most modern homes. However, the need to still connect to our roots and reflect our 'Indianness' still persists among many home owners. Kavita Chaudhary, design director, Jaipur Rugs, avers, "We can curate the essence of India, and transcribe this loud and colourful experience in a sophisticated style in contemporary Indian homes. From block-printed bedspreads to jewel-toned wall hangings, Indian décor is as diverse as it is beautiful. In many minimalist homes, a piece of Indian artwork in a room is the standout item. It sets the stage for the furniture, fabrics, patterns, styles and the overall vibe. Indian textiles and hand woven fabrics are fascinating. Tribal furniture in organic forms can also be used. If you can get hold of an old-

style door, use it as the main door. Use a simple wood or heavier metal trunk as the centre-piece in your living room. If you want your home to reflect warmth and comfort, opt for tones like terracotta red, orange and rust. Aim for interiors that are not cluttered and combine some good traditional pieces to create interest."

### ●● GLORY OF THE PAST

In a modern home, an interior decorator usually looks for that single, quaint piece, which can add just the right hint of character to an otherwise one dimensional space. Handwoven carpets, an ikat-work curtain, or a tribal artwork/centre-piece can add that charm. Vivek Gupta, founder, The Big Door, shares, "Antique pieces are usually conversa-



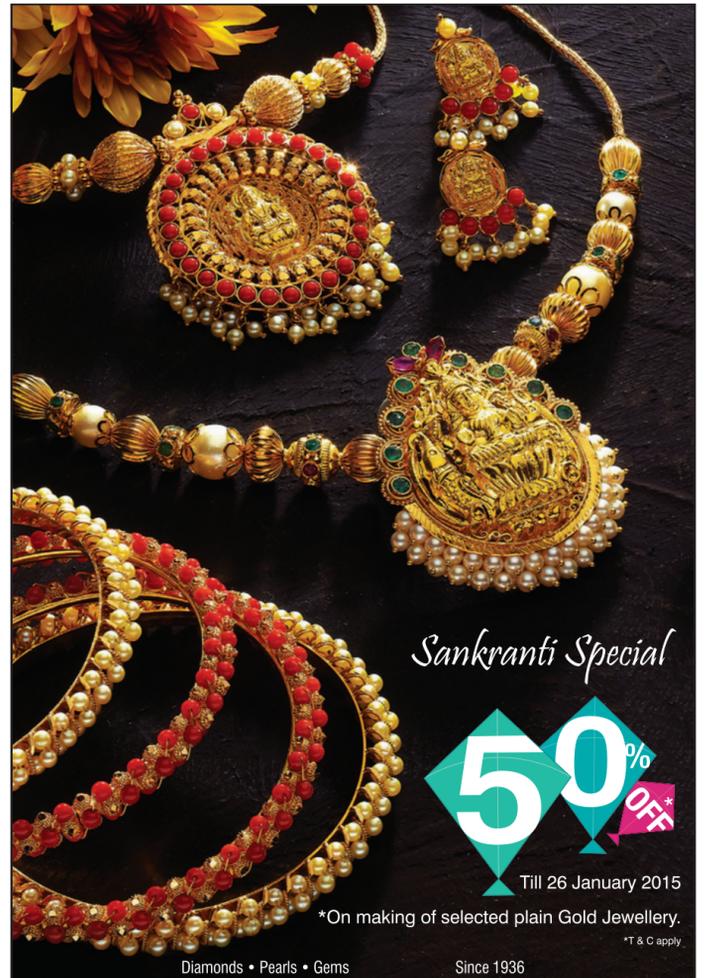
tion starters. Therefore, a big sized period element can be strategically placed to add 'Indianness'. These pieces could be replicas or antiques that have a story to tell and draw inspiration from a bygone era. Having antique pieces such as sandstone sculptures of Gods and Goddesses etc, marble murals with inlay work inspired from the Mughal era placed near the entrance and teak wood consoles made from actual balconies from the royal court make for beautiful vintage additions."

### ●● DESI MUST-HAVES

Any home owner who plans on marrying his existing décor with a touch of India must have certain elements in place for that distinct desi vibe. "Five elements in Indian décor that can complement a modern house are intricately carved wooden furniture, Indian décor fabrics, artwork and sculptures, vibrant colours and an Indian-style dining table," suggests Punam Kalra, creative director, I'm Centre for Applied Arts. Apart from the traditional upholstery and furniture, a new trend that is catching up is wallpapers. "The art and design for these wallpapers keeps India and the Indian aesthetics in mind. These kind of wallpapers have an Indian connect with the interiors of the home, blend well with the rest of the décor and create a beautiful space," shares Krsna Mehta, design director-partner, India Circus.

### ●● LITTLE INDIA

Deeply rooted to Indian sensibilities, artistically designed vivacious corners can be created in a contemporary home. This can be your 'Little India'. "You can decorate a corner using various items like old jamawar shawls hung on the ceiling; patina finish cast iron old bench with beautiful velvet cushions in the living room; gold leafed angels placed on a perfect grid directly on the wall with a wooden frame bordering it," says Gupta. Be it in the foyer, the gallery, or even terrace, a specific space can be used to pay tribute to the antique décor wonders of colonial India.



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