



Colours of Navratri

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE



ensures an understated yet festive appeal," explains Mehak Khurana, founder and CEO of a luxury real estate company. She also stresses that textures make a significant difference, advising: "Instead of plain orange walls, opt for fabrics and finishes. Silk or velvet cushions in ochre appear regal, while cotton or linen ones in lighter shades create a relaxed atmosphere."

EMBRACE A RANGE OF HUES
When decorating, deeper tones often work better than bright bursts. Mita Mehta, founder of an eponymous interior styling studio, recommends, "Rather than leaning into fluorescent or pure orange, explore its earthier relatives. Burnt terracotta, saffron, ochre, rust and turmeric tones demonstrate richness without dominating a room."

MARIGOLD RUSH

- Frame marigold and mango leaf garlands over doors and windows to accentuate entryways
- Combine loose petals with white flowers such as jasmine or tuberose to create intricate designs
- Use bowls filled with water and adorned with flowers and tealights to create glowing, fragrant centrepieces
- Use marigold strings and bunches to dress up the altar backdrop, table edges, and surrounding floor space
- Transform flowers into curtains or wall backdrops for a dramatic festive statement

artificial flowers in transparent vases alongside simple glass crockery." Additionally, Priya Maganti, CEO and co-founder of an event planning and decor company, suggests creative ways to spotlight this hue when entertaining: • Orange-tinted tableware: Plates, glasses or serving bowls in this shade add a unique twist to the tablescape. • Artisanal touches: Hand-crafted terracotta pottery, coral-hued candles, or rangoli designs using saffron pigments enhance the festive spirit. • Edible accents: Boondi laddoos, moong barfis and citrus fruits can double up as decorative elements for the table or altar.

Finally, Khurana advises tying everything together with lighting. "Warm, golden accents make this shade glow beautifully, giving the room a welcoming

energy. When paired with soft lamps or diffused lights, it creates a balance of both celebration and calm." When used thoughtfully,

orange can do more than brighten the festivities—it can infuse your interiors with warmth, refinement and, most of all, joy.

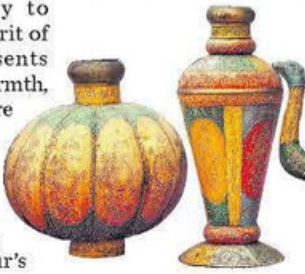
Golden hour at home

Rooted in tradition yet brimming with contemporary versatility, orange brings with it the warmth of devotion and the vibrance of revelry—making it the perfect hue to transform homes into spaces of celebration and charm

■ **Saundarya Jain**
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One of the most featured colours in festive decor, orange is unparalleled in its vibrancy and ability to instantly evoke the spirit of celebration. It represents energy, devotion and warmth, elevating the atmosphere through textiles, floral arrangements and statement accessories. Shroottie Nair, founder of a homeware brand, highlights, "The colour's

essence remains rooted in tradition, but it's being harnessed in more versatile, modern ways in homes. Think vibrant marigold garlands paired with sleek brassware and ceramic uris, or



THE ART OF LAYERING
Decor experts suggest incorporating orange in a way that feels balanced and polished, enlivening your space without overwhelming it. "Add orange highlights while maintaining a neutral background. For instance, a rust-hued rug under a wooden coffee table with brass accessories

bold orange cushions and runners balanced with earthy neutrals."

VIBRANCE ON THE TABLE
Orange and its many variations can play a versatile role when hosting during the festive season. Krati Gupta, an account manager, shares, "During festive soirées, I place a bright orange table cover with multi-coloured patchwork for the dining set-up. Since it serves as an eye-catching base, I use minimal elements—understated

HUE OF THE DAY

Sunday 28 th Sept.	Orange
Monday 29 th Sept.	Peacock green
Tuesday 30 th Sept.	Pink
Wednesday 1 st Oct.	Purple

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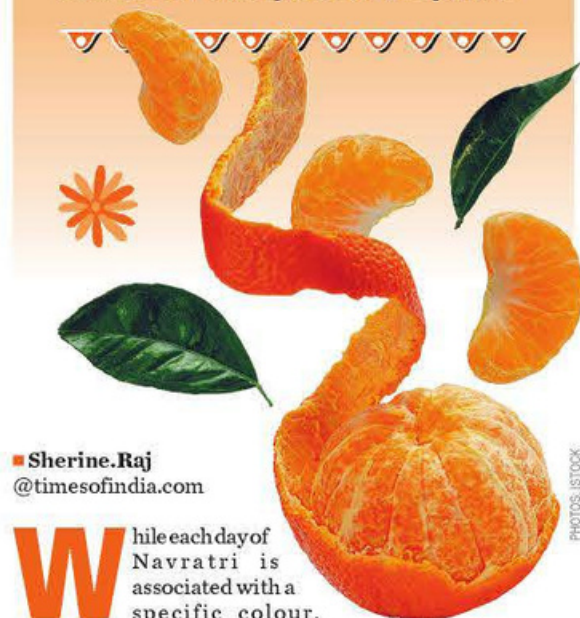
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Colours of Navratri

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Peel into the good times

From pumpkin kheer to saffron drinks, orange turns Navratri into a feast for the eyes and the palate



■ Sherine.Raj
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While each day of Navratri is associated with a specific colour, orange represents warmth and vibrancy. This translates into dishes that are as rich in flavour as they are in festive symbolism. Orange delicacies—such as pumpkin kheer, orange-zest mithai, spiced carrot halwa, and saffron-infused drinks—are both a treat for the palate and a celebration of colour and tradition.

GLOW OF INDULGENCE

Navratri meals follow the sattvic style of cooking—pure, vegetarian dishes prepared without onion and garlic. “This allows for creative use of naturally sweet, seasonal ingredients, and pumpkin is one such versatile star,” says chef Prakash Bidari. “Its vibrant orange pulp lends itself beautifully to kheer, a dessert that’s both delicious and nourishing. Grate the pumpkin and sauté it gently in ghee before adding it to slow-simmered milk with jaggery, cardamom, and a few strands of saffron. Let it reduce until creamy.”

For presentation, he suggests serving the kheer in terracotta bowls, garnished with roasted pumpkin seeds and crushed pistachios. “The mild sweetness and soft texture make this ideal for both children and elders.”



ZESTY TREATS

For homemakers, the festive season provides the perfect opportunity to blend traditional recipes with creative flair. Orange zest-infused sweets and carrot halwa bring brightness to the thali—both visually and in flavour. Tejaswini Khasase, a homemaker, shares her orange mithai recipe: “Mix khoya with sugar and a dash of orange zest and juice to create a citrusy mithai. Shape into modaks or round pedas and top with silver edible paper.”

For carrot halwa, she recommends using orange carrots, lightly spiced with cinnamon and nutmeg, and cooking them in milk and ghee until rich and aromatic.



“Prepare both dishes in advance and store them in the fridge; they not only taste better the next day but also reduce prep stress during the festival,” she adds.

SIP THE FESTIVE SPIRIT

No Navratri celebration is complete without a cooling, flavourful drink—especially after a night of dancing. Saffron-infused bev-

erages and naturally orange-toned drinks bring colour and warmth to any festive menu. “At our Navratri potlucks, I bring saffron almond milk—it’s my



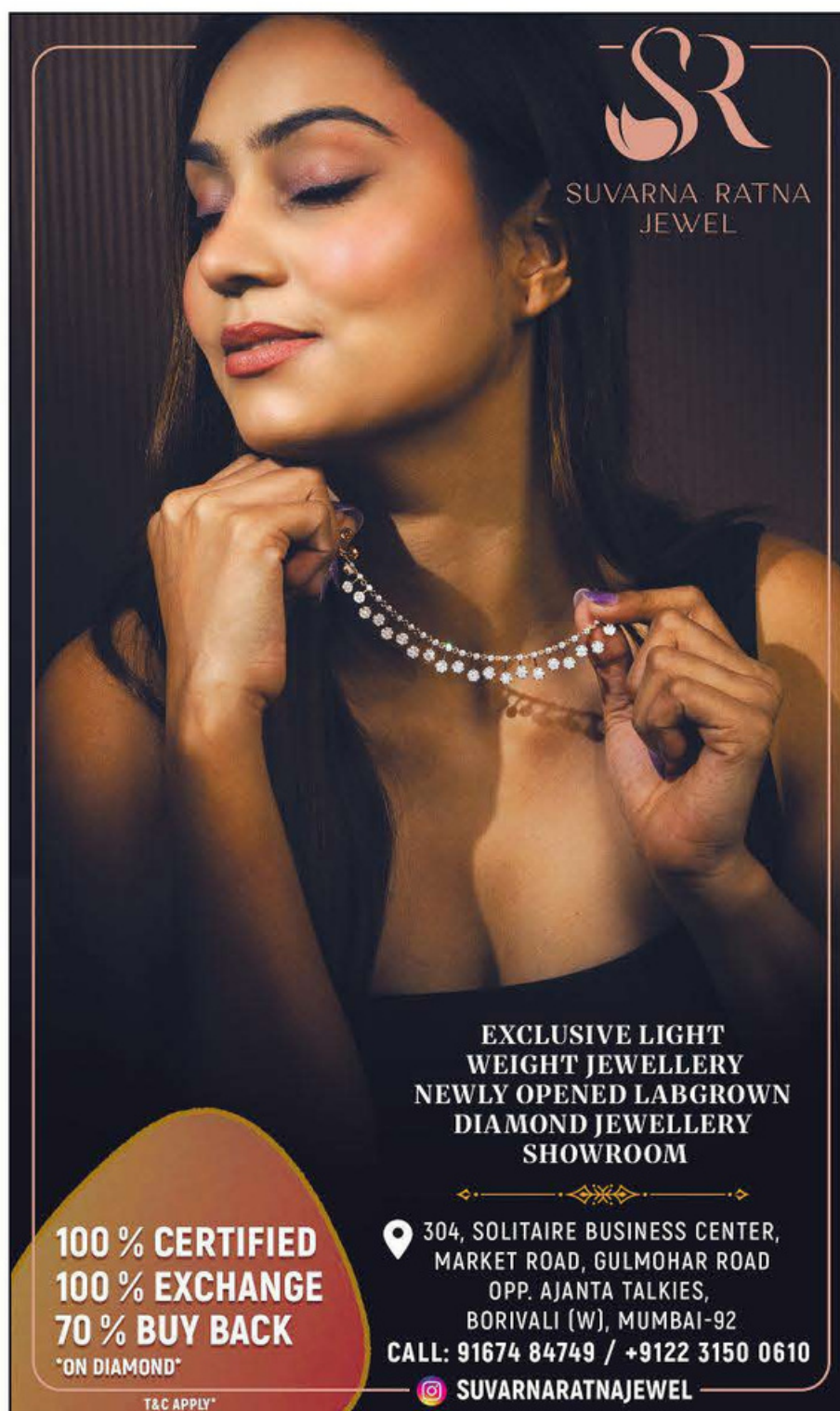
way of offering guests a taste of celebration and comfort. The colour itself is uplifting. It reminds people of sunrise, energy, and starting fresh—which is what the festivals are all about,” shares Rehan Qureshi, a marketing executive.

“To make this drink, steep saffron in warm water and blend with almond milk, cardamom, and a dash of honey. Chill and serve in small glasses for an energy-boosting, post-dandiya refreshment. Use transparent glassware to showcase the golden-orange hue. Garnish with dried rose petals or crushed nuts for visual appeal.” In the kaleidoscope of Navratri festivities, orange stands tall as a colour that

symbolises energy and warmth. Whether dancing under fairy lights or preparing a quiet home aarti, these orange-hued delights promise to brighten every moment.

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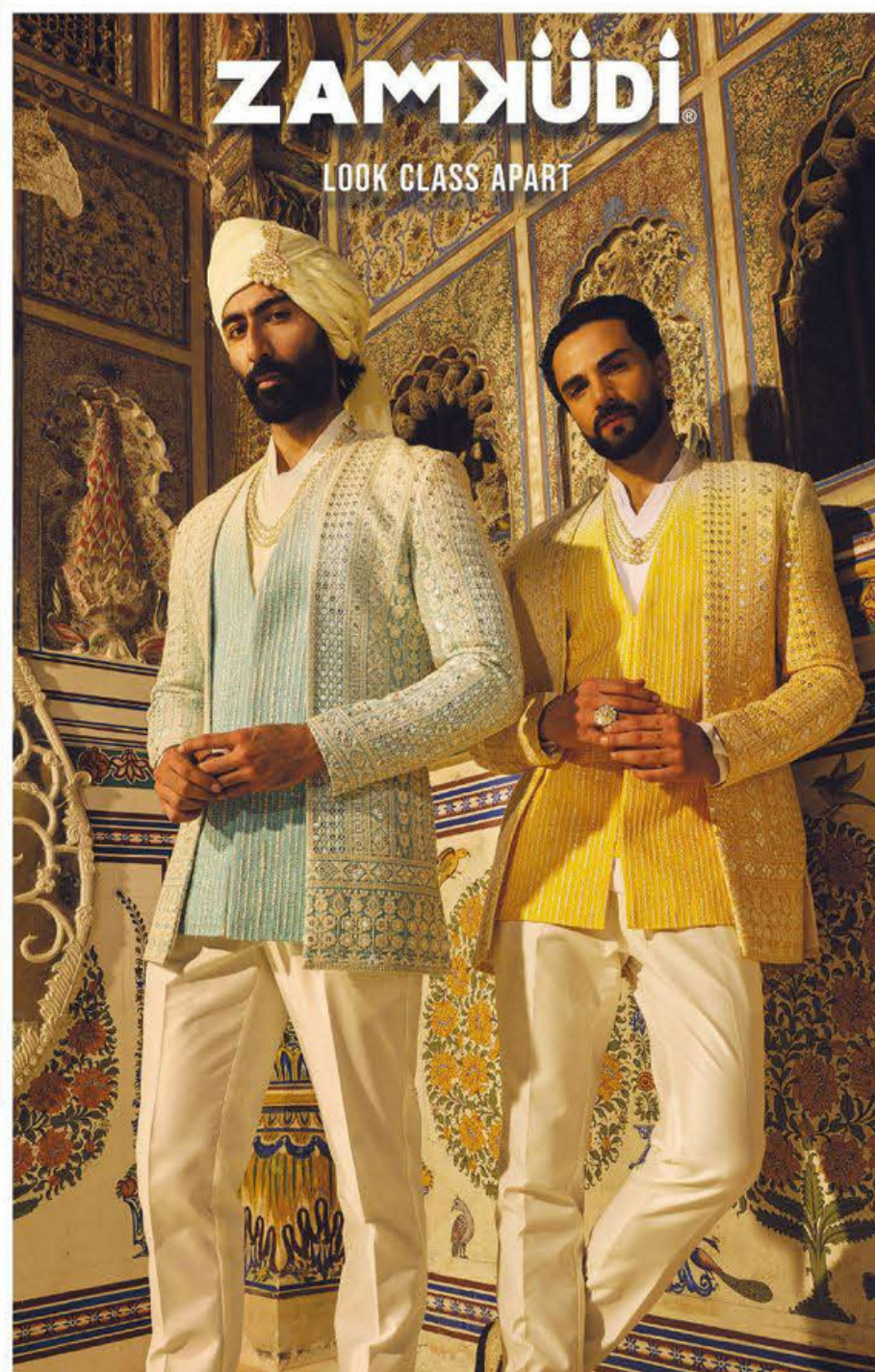


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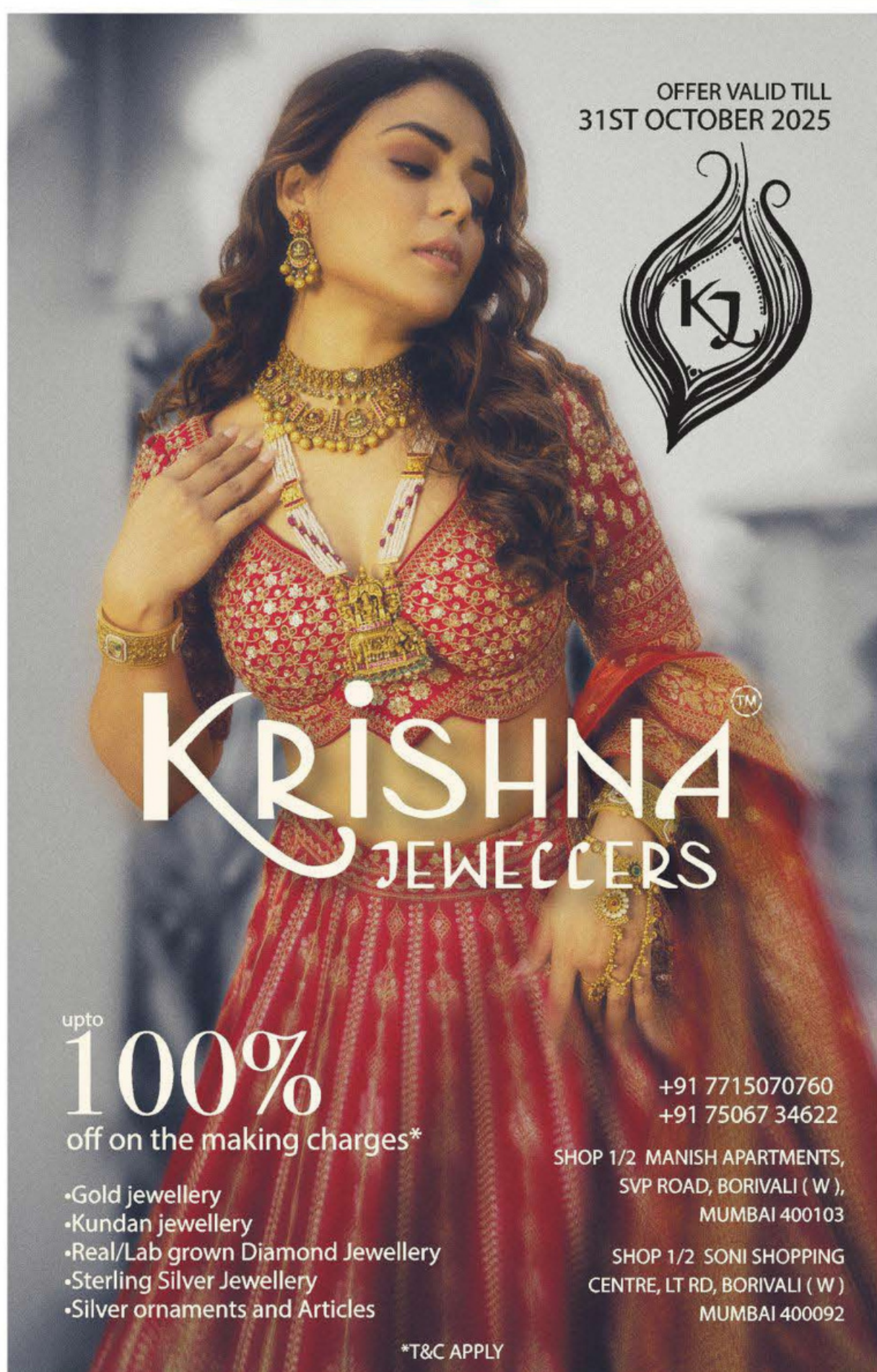
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