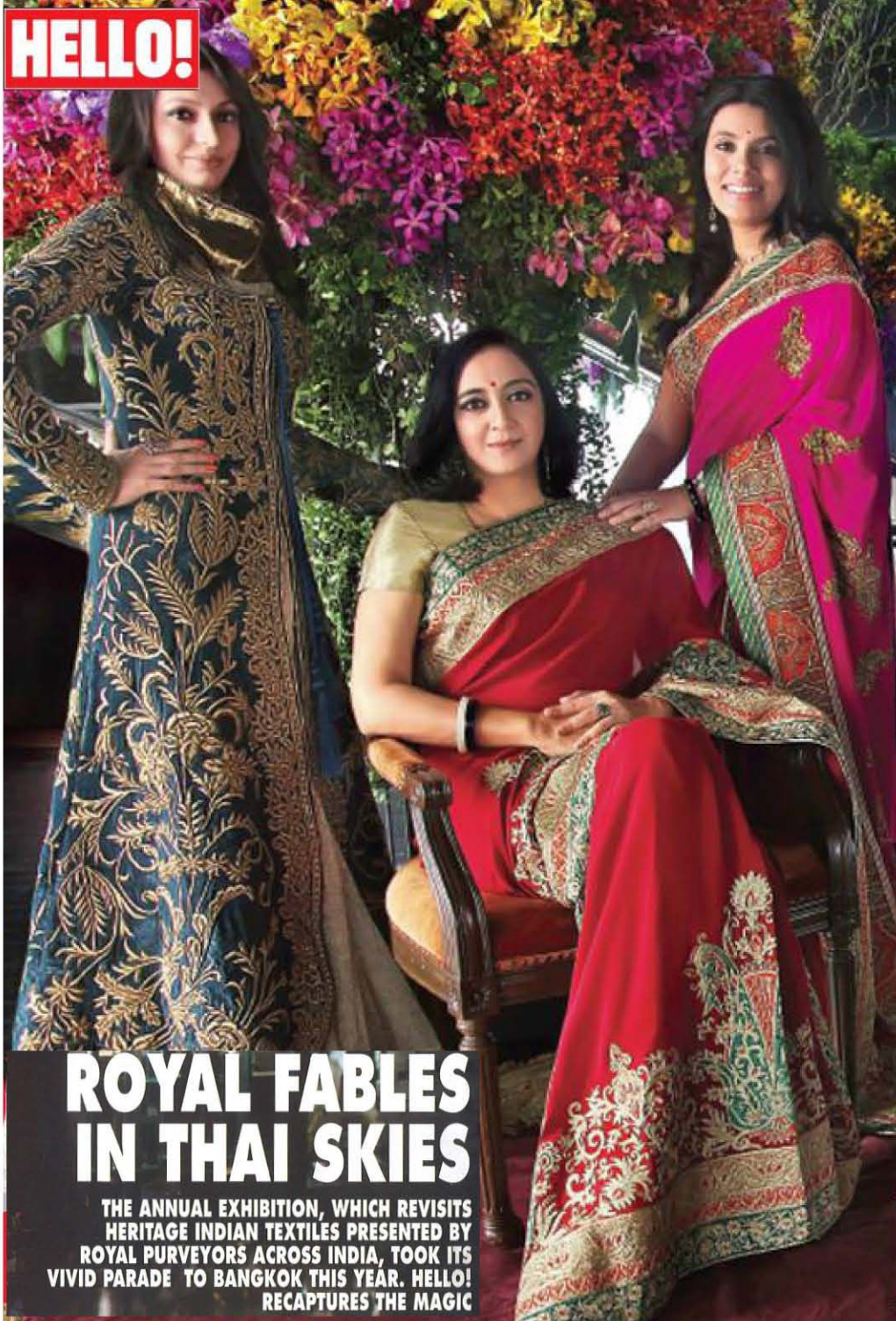


HELLO!



# ROYAL FABLES IN THAI SKIES

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION, WHICH REVISITS HERITAGE INDIAN TEXTILES PRESENTED BY ROYAL PARVEYORS ACROSS INDIA, TOOK ITS VIVID PARADE TO BANGKOK THIS YEAR. HELLO! RECAPTURES THE MAGIC



Indiritta Singh D'Mello, Founder Hospital Guide Foundation

Orchids of the rarest, vibrant hues, the richness of Indian heritage textiles, a restaurant perched amidst the clouds and an evening in regal company – literally. It was indeed an ethereal evening at Lebu's Sky Towers where Indian royal scions, visiting Bangkok, decided to enjoy an occasion permeated by style. Dressed in couturiers Harpreet and Rimple Narula's *kin khwaab* collection, the ladies seemed to give competition to the carefully designed tutti-frutti hued orchid installation.

Princess Diya Kumari of Jaipur, leader of the delegation got together with Gitanjali Singh, textile revivalist and a scion of the Mandawa royal family, Indiritta Singh D'Mello, Founder, Hospital Guide Foundation of Kuchaman, designer duo Rimple and Harpreet Narula and Rohini Singh Gupta, born to the Kachhi Baroda family and designer of *gossamer*-like chiffon sarees that she presents under her brand, Just Chiffons.

In the spa city to showcase their heritage design at the Siam Paragon 'Incredible India Week' wherein the Royal Fables exhibition was the highlight, the ladies delighted in playing ambassadors to the elegant drape of the Indian saree.

"No one does better justice to the saree than these beautiful women born into Rajput families who look so at home in this draped form," said Harpreet. Agreeing whole-heartedly with his statement was Gitanjali, who works with her mother Rani Darshana Kumari of Mandawa and her sister Priyanjali on the project Sri Tana Bana for the revival of the traditional weave technique of Mandsa, Gujarat (her mother's parental State).

"The ladies of my family have always been democratic and forward-thinking. My grandmother was the first Rajput woman in Rajasthan to come out of *purdah*." Hence this revivalist project not just gives a new avatar to traditional Indian textiles but also provides livelihoods to ►



Princess Diya Kumari of Jaipur

Indiritta, an Oxford graduate who is the grand-daughter of Raja Pratap Singh of Kuchaman and daughter of Rajkumari Priti Pratap Singh, one of the last descendants of Mira Bai agrees that, "People who have the privilege of a good education must work towards bettering the world we live in." Dedicating herself to improving healthcare facilities in her country, Indiritta founded the Hospital Guide Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that offers a free advisory to its members, offering health care providers and doctors who are driven by ethics, compassion and competence. Forming unbiased referrals, the Foundation ensures that its members entrust their lives in the right hand. "Medicine is the most noble profession. Unfortunately many forget the oath they took in the path of commercialisation. Through my hospital guide I ensure that I not just help patients find their doctors but doctors find a forum where they can discuss new technologies and discoveries."

Thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to present her chiffons through this platform to saree lovers, the petite and pretty Rohini, dressed in a very Gothic coat worn over an earth-toned net saree, insists that, "My designs simply take me back to my roots where women of slender frames walked around in the most delicate chiffons." Working with her mother Dipti, Rohini, married to her best pal Sumit, also enjoys seeing her father Tripureswar Pratap Singh, famed vintage car restorer work his magic. He partners with his best friend Manvendra Singh of Bharwani for Cartier's Travel with Style Concourse, (an annual showcase of the finest of vintage cars). He collects cars in his home in Indore and the first in Kachhi Baroda and Rohini is always the first one to drive any car he restores!

Loving the chance to dress all these beautiful women of noble lineage, Rimple feels that, "it's nice to see them keep their roots alive yet blend into the modern democratic world." As Harpreet puts it, "The royal heritage tradition has not just inspired European ateliers, it is a constant source of rich referrals for Indian couturiers."

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