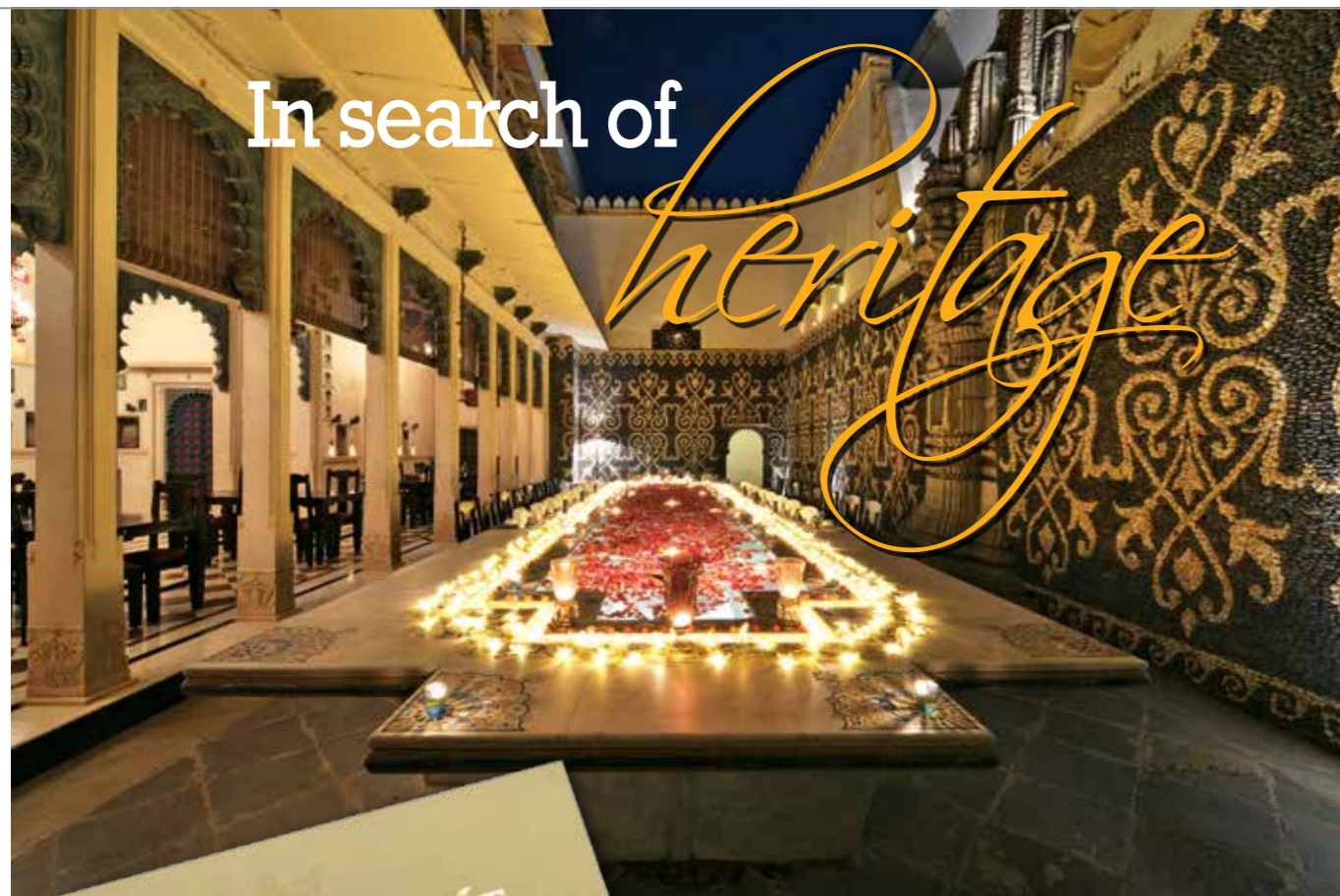
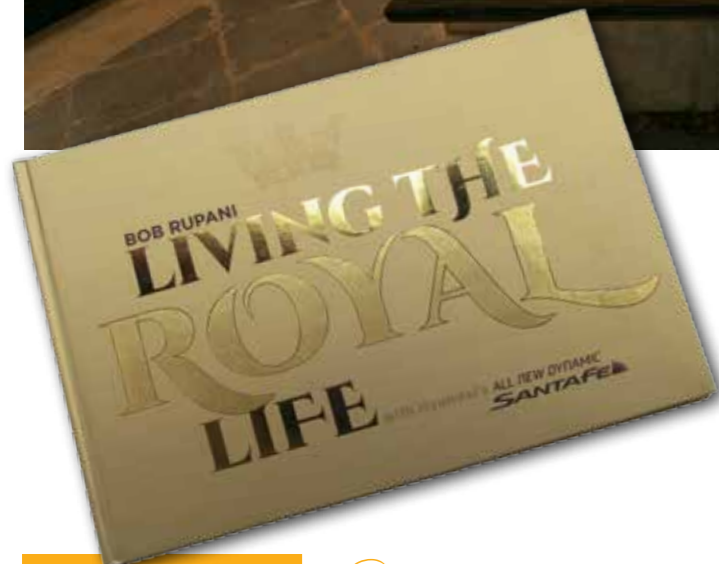


Pooja Mujumdar reviews two books that feature the biodiversity and cultural heritage of our country, all the while drawing strength from a combination of visually striking photos and a comprehensive narrative.



Lavishly illustrated with glossy, colour photographs, Bob Rupani's *Living the Royal Life* explores the lifestyles of the erstwhile royal and aristocratic families in India, and archives the success trail of their business forays, which in the author's words, has enabled these blue-blooded families to continue "Living the Royal Life". Automotive journalist and author Bob Rupani has joined with Hyundai Motor India to bring us these stories from behind the

scenes, while he observes and experiences the lifestyles and culture of many a royal Rajput friend. And what you get is a book that conjures up a vision of splendour and excellence like no other, a feat made easy by the aesthetically pleasing photographs shot by Dinesh Shukla.



LIVING THE ROYAL LIFE
Author: Bob Rupani
Publisher: Rupani Media
Price: ₹ 3,000
Pages: 102

One book pays tribute to the multi-faceted Andaman Islands, a scenic location that's also a historic landmark, and its transformation from a sleepy fishing island to a vibrant, cosmopolitan area. The second book archives the majestic journey of the author to capture timeless lifestyles of several Indian royal and noble families. Read on to peep through a window into the biodiversity and culture of our country at its best.



The first chapter charts the past and present life of His Highness Maharaja Gaj Singh Ji II of Jodhpur, beginning from the year 1952, when he was anointed the 38th Rathore Chief of Marwar at the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur at the age of four years. The Maharaja has converted majority of his palaces into heritage hotels, many of which are the last word in luxury. Rupani goes on to mention the humanitarian work done by the Maharaja in girl child education, rehabilitation of defence personnel and families, medical care for the poor, and his contribution to environmental projects, as Chairman of the Rajasthan Committee For the World Wide Fund for Nature. The narrative then proceeds to Maharaja Kumar Harshvardhan Singh of Dungarpur, and his penchant for classic cars.

The book is also a curtain-raiser on the lives of royal families from Barwani, Madhya Pradesh; Balasinor, Gujarat; Kanota, Rajasthan, amongst others.