

Postcards by Pinch

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Why We Still Gather



For centuries, gathering around food has been one of the most natural ways people connect, celebrate, and leave lasting memories. In India, festivals and family occasions still serve as anchors - whether it is the grandeur of Diwali dinners, the joy of Holi lunches, or the intimate observances of Raksha Bandhan and Karva Chauth. These moments are about more than food and décor; they are about presence, conversation, and the quiet joy of making each guest feel seen. Across cultures, shared meals are strongly linked to higher life satisfaction and lower negative emotions. A [recent chapter in the World Happiness Report](#) found that people who share more meals with others report significantly higher levels of subjective well-being compared to those who dine alone.

Traditional celebrations continue to hold their charm, yet gatherings are evolving. Smaller guest lists are becoming more common, allowing for deeper connections and richer experiences. A growing number of hosts are embracing themed dinners, private tasting experiences, or shared activities like cooking together or wine pairing. These more immersive, participatory experiences help shift the gathering from a passive event to something more memorable and meaningful.

Food remains the central thread. There is a visible shift toward seasonality and balance: classic festive dishes paired with lighter, contemporary preparations, locally sourced produce, spices, and regional flavours.



Meals are being designed not just to satiate but to delight, refresh, and surprise. Beverages are changing too, with handcrafted mocktails, botanical infusions, and traditional drinks reimaged in lighter formats. [Research](#) into the “influence of food type on human psychological wellbeing” supports this trend, showing that wholesome meals tend to elevate mood more reliably than heavily processed or dense foods.

Ambiance plays a defining role in how gatherings are remembered. Homes are being adapted to host with comfort and warmth, whether through terraces, open kitchens, or flexible living spaces. Lighting is chosen to create mood, seating is arranged to encourage conversation, and music is curated to blend into the evening. Small rituals - a shared toast, a favourite sweet offered at the start, or a collective storytelling moment, anchor the event in memory. These details remind us that hosting is less about perfection and more about the feeling it leaves behind.



As the season ahead brings Diwali, Christmas, and New Year, gatherings become natural touchpoints for reflection, togetherness, and joy. There is a growing inclination to blend the richness of tradition with contemporary lifestyle sensibilities, with intimate festive dinners where rituals sit alongside curated experiences, or celebrations that balance the comfort of home-cooked food with the novelty of new flavours and formats. The emphasis is less on grandeur and more on thoughtfulness, where each detail is considered to make guests feel part of something meaningful.

The warmth of gatherings lies not in lavish spreads or elaborate décor but in the simple act of bringing people together. In a world that often feels hurried and fragmented, carving out time to share stories, laughter, and meals becomes more than a social nicety. It is a way to stay grounded. When we look back, it is rarely the scale of the occasion that stands out, but the feeling of belonging it created. Gatherings, at their best, are an investment in connection, an expression of care, and a reminder that some of life’s richest luxuries are also its simplest.



To Use

Pure Home + Living Tall Hammered Glass Hurricane Candle Holder

A beautiful blend of amber and gold tones, this hammered glass candle holder casts a warm, inviting glow that instantly elevates the ambiance of any gathering. Perfect for dining tables, terraces, or lounge areas, it creates a cozy and intimate setting, encouraging conversation and connection. Its artisanal design also makes it a subtle décor statement that complements both traditional and contemporary interiors.

To Watch

Omnivore (Apple TV+)

This visually immersive series explores the four elements - fire, water, air, and earth, and how they shape the food we prepare and enjoy. Beyond recipes, it delves into the textures, techniques, and tactile rituals that connect us to our meals. Watching *Cooked* is a sensory experience: the crackle of fire, the pull of fresh dough, the smoothness of chocolate melting. It reminds us that the act of cooking and eating is not just nourishment, but a deeply human, comforting ritual that engages sight, smell, and touch.





To Read

An Entertaining Story by India Hicks

In this charming guide to hosting, India Hicks shares her philosophy of creating memorable experiences without the pressure of perfection. Filled with practical tips, personal anecdotes, and styling inspiration, it encourages hosts to focus on warmth, authenticity, and meaningful interactions. Beautifully illustrated and elegantly designed, it also makes for a perfect coffee table book, inviting guests to browse and spark conversation.

To Do

Host a Themed Dinner Party

Transform a simple evening into an immersive experience by curating a themed dinner, whether it's a regional cuisine, a vintage tea party, or a seasonal harvest celebration. Incorporate elements like handcrafted tableware, curated playlists, and locally sourced ingredients to make the evening memorable. Small interactive touches, like a collaborative cooking activity or storytelling round, can deepen connection and create lasting memories for all your guests.





Beyond Money: Sumit Goenka's Journey to Redefining Wealth



When you first speak to [Sumit Goenka](#), Founder of Dhanamartha Financial Services LLP, what strikes you is not his credentials, though they are plenty, but his clarity about what wealth really means. For him, wealth extends far beyond financial security. It is about health, relationships, and the richness of experiences.

Sumit grew up in a business family, where conversations about money and enterprise were always around. Yet, as a student, he considered himself "average" until Class 10, when a switch flipped. From then on, he became serious about his studies and future, pursuing Economics (Hons) from Kirorimal College, followed by CFA and FRM. But even before academics, there was curiosity. As a child, he devoured newspapers and magazines, developing an early interest in global affairs and business stories. This habit of seeking knowledge outside the classroom shaped both his worldview and his career.

The spark for finance came when he first encountered the equity markets around 2000, during the IT boom. While equity was viewed as "gambling" in his family, Sumit was fascinated. He remembers frequenting Delhi's Daryaganj Sunday book market to buy old issues of *The Economist* and *Time* magazine at throwaway prices, learning about global trends and investment practices. His early experiments with the stock market gave him



both the thrill of making money and, later, the sobering lessons of losing it. The 2008 financial crisis, where he lost years of gains due to over-leverage, remains a defining moment. “The real lessons are not in books. You only learn them by trying, failing, and trying again,” he says.

This philosophy of taking risks and valuing experience over outcomes runs through Sumit’s life. He recalls how letting go of a steady salary to start his own venture was one of his hardest decisions. Yet, he knew regrets would weigh heavier than risks. That leap led him to found Dhanamartha Financial Services. Interestingly, the firm’s name and ethos were shaped not just by markets, but by introspection. Around 2019, feeling the pressures of work and life, he turned to Indian scriptures. There, he discovered the word Dhanam, which he understood as wealth that goes beyond the physical. It marked a shift in his thinking.

What began as an experiment encouraging people to value health, time, and friendships as much as financial gain evolved into a company. During the pandemic, when markets were volatile, his disciplined approach to investing and his emphasis on what not to do resonated with clients. From there, Dhanamartha grew into a trusted wealth management and investment banking firm serving HNIs and ultra-HNIs.



But Sumit insists that their approach is not “textbook investing.” Instead, it is personal, bespoke, and holistic. He compares wealth management to a doctor-patient relationship built on honesty, trust, and transparency. For him, a portfolio is not just numbers; it is the reflection of a person’s entire life and aspirations. “Our goal is not just returns, but ensuring clients grow as individuals and families,” he explains.

Outside of finance, Sumit nurtures passions that ground him. A self-confessed foodie, he once ran a food club in Mumbai, organizing monthly lunches that sparked his love for exploring cultures through cuisine. He enjoys cooking on weekends, cycling, and immersing himself in travel and history. These interests, he believes, keep him connected to the human side of life, a reminder that true wealth is about experiences, not just accumulation.

Looking ahead, Sumit foresees wealth management evolving with new asset classes, emerging technologies, and shorter investment cycles driven by younger investors. Yet, he remains rooted in his core philosophy: patience, prudence, and perspective. “Decide early whether you want to make quick money or more money,” he says. “Shortcuts lead to accidents. Long-term discipline leads to real wealth.”

For those seeking lessons from his journey, Sumit offers simple wisdom: don’t compare yourself with others, believe in destiny and hard work, be kind, and stay curious. Above all, he reminds us that risk is not something to fear but to embrace thoughtfully, because the bigger risk is not trying at all.



Make Time for More

