

CENTURION

A vinyl record is the background of the entire page. The record is dark with visible grooves. In the bottom right corner, a silver tonearm with a clear dust cap and a stylus is positioned as if about to play the record. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the record and the metallic sheen of the tonearm.

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SPRING 2016



The Motliest Market

India has always been a place of stark juxtapositions, but Delhi's Meharchand Market may be the strangest combination of all, with hipsters and housewives vying for treasures,
By **Sarah Khan**

■ An ensemble from designer Tisha Saksena, who sells such creations at her eponymous Meharchand store

Once a crowded hotchpotch of workaday stalls, Meharchand Market, set at the heart of New Delhi, a stone's throw from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, has been elevated to a must-visit shopping destination ever since designers began moving in with their ateliers and restaurateurs followed to open chic bistros – alongside long-time tailors, doctor's surgeries, hardware stores and even a small temple.

Fashion-forward Delhiites make a beeline for the glossy boutiques lining the strip, and you should follow their lead in search of sartorial statement pieces. **Ekmatra** (ekmatra.com) sells simple handspun men's and women's wear in eco-friendly khadi fabric, while Delhi designer Tisha Saksena crafts the wedding-worthy gilded lehengas with hand-embroidered gota and mukaish details on display at her eponymous boutique **Tisha** (tishasaksena.in). **Manan** (manandesign.com) takes a modern approach to traditional Indian attire: simple chambray tunics, wide-leg linen pants and airy silk skirts in a subdued palette of whites, creams, greys and blues. If you're drawn to the no-fuss outfits donned by local children, head to **Kids Art Carnival** (kidsartcarnival.com) to browse racks of colourful pint-size harem pants and kurta sets for your own tots. →



Designer Gautam Sinha adds a touch of retro romance to the wallets, laptop sleeves and messenger bags he sells under his leather accessories label **Nappa Dori** (nappadori.com) by embellishing them with sepia-tinted vintage photographs.

Even if your abode isn't in need of a makeover, you'll find yourself heading home with plenty of inspiration courtesy a clutch of chic interiors boutiques. Unleash your inner decorator after a visit to **Cottons & Satins by Mala** (+91 114 905 0600), a three-storey fabrics emporium brimming with lavish silks, satins, cottons and more in every conceivable hue and pattern. Tote a few bolts home to upholster

■ Above, left: inside Nappa Dori; above right: a Bullman laptop bag from that store; above: a PlayClan eye mask; below: a Green Artsy Foil pouch and Boho stool from Nur Home



that stodgy sofa if you're ambitious, or let the in-house tailor stitch up cushion covers or roman blinds to your specifications. Two beloved textiles powerhouses from Jaipur have also been drawn to Meharchand's appeal: **Soma's** (somashop.com) covetable jump suits and wrap dresses are worth a browse, and the duvet covers, napkins and bedding in vibrant jewel tones will liven up any home; **Suruchi Jaipur** (+91 141 222 1613) extends its signature hand-block-printing technique to everything from pashminas to furniture to quilts. At the other end of the spectrum, graphic-design focused **Play Clan** (theplayclan.com) and whimsical **Nur Home** (nurhome.in) specialise in quirk, kitsch and colour,

stocking notebooks with playful turban and auto rickshaw motifs, chai mugs emblazoned with moustaches and cushions and benches upholstered in vivid floral motifs – a cornucopia almost as diverse as the market itself. ●

**DON'T MISS:
DILLI HAAT**

Combining some of the city's best street food with an endless array of stalls purveying mostly handmade wares that range from brass bowls to bejewelled baubles, woodcarvings to woollen socks, this pay-to-access outdoor market is a must for any artisanally inclined shopper.