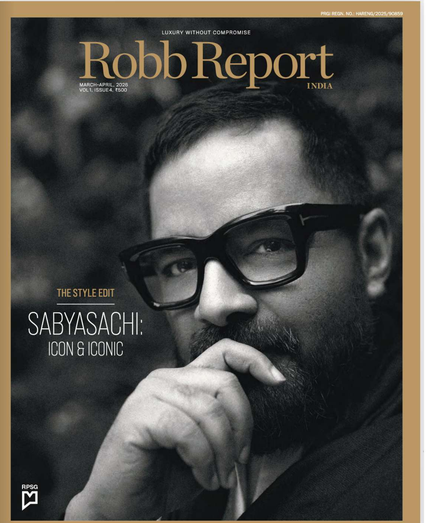

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak." — Rachel Zoe, fashion designer.

Robb Report India's inaugural Style Edit explores what it means to be effortlessly stylish, to be defined by choice and intent, starting with our cover star, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, who has placed India on the global fashion map simply by staying true to his identity for over 28 years. Mukherjee gives *Robb Report India* exclusive access to his home in Kolkata, while writer par excellence Bandana Tewari does a deep dive into what makes him iconic (*pg 80*). Don't miss the exclusive video, *What's Inside My Mind*, feat. Sabyasachi, on our YouTube channel.

Discover who is shaping the fashion story of a new India in our handpicked list of young designers (*pg 112*). Actor and activist Dia Mirza brings a breath of spring to our exclusive fashion spread (*pg 140*). We also turn the spotlight on a personal favourite indulgence, pearl jewellery: stacked or styled simply, elegance comes easy (*pg 24*). If you've wondered what it's like to walk in our shoes, look no further than Berluti's The Shadow (*pg 46*), the everyday shoe for busy lifestyles. Also check out our exclusive shoot with Berluti. In watches, we curate the finest ultra-thin timepieces (*pg 24*). Designer duo Falguni and Shane Peacock share what makes them tick in The Answers (*pg 92*).

In the fast lane, Maserati's design head offers a glimpse into how design reshapes storytelling on wheels (*pg 114*). In Real Estate, we launch *Ultimate Homes* with the latest address in Delhi NCR (*pg 88*), while design maverick Tabu Sultan gives *RRR Report India* a preview of his new space in Jaipur (*pg 106*). In travel, we journey through Ladakh with Geoffrey Kent, founder and chairman emeritus of Abercrombie & Kent (*pg 52*). Get an inside look at the newly renovated Four Seasons Resort Mauritius at Anahita (*pg 88*) and The Ritz-Carlton, Masai Mara Safari Camp (*pg 60*). We also explore how turnaround service is evolving into a thoughtful ritual for the discerning traveller (*pg 64*). And for all the details on our next #RRExperience, stay tuned to *RR India*'s Instagram handle!

Aindrila Mitra

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Ladakh, an Altitude Apart

For one of the world's most travelled men, Ladakh offered something rare. **Geoffrey JW Kent** reflects on a Himalayan kingdom that left a lasting impression.

"We touched down in Ladakh—a place unlike any other on Earth."

Coming from Geoffrey JW Kent, founder and chairman emeritus of Abercrombie & Kent, and one of the world's most travelled men, the statement carries weight. After visiting 171 countries across seven continents and spending six decades shaping luxury travel, it was Ladakh that left a lasting impression on Kent.

Kent visited Ladakh in 2024 as part of his 26-day Inspiring Expedition by Private Jet, a $1,84,000 (₹1.7 crore) journey he curated for 46 guests aboard a chartered Boeing 737. Among the eight stops made on the trip, Ladakh stood out. In Leh, the check-in was at The Grand Dragon Ladakh. "Our three nights in Ladakh, marked by a private audience and high tea with the Gyalsey Living at Stok Palace, watching polo and immersing ourselves in Ladakh's art and culture, were among the most memorable moments of the journey," says Kent to *Robb Report India* from Monaco. It was the land's spirit that lingered. Buddhist chants rising from centuries-old gompas at dawn, prayer flags fluttering against an unbroken blue sky, and the Indus River winding through valleys shaped by time. Beneath the watchful gaze of the ancient Leh Palace, the experience felt intimate and deeply personal.

Tea at Stok Palace, perched above the Indus Valley, came with sweeping mountain views from the 200-year-old royal residence. History, conversation, and stillness unfolded in equal measure.

The journey had been years in the making. For over 25 years, Kent maintained a close friendship with Ladakh's titular ruler Gyalpo Jigmed Wangchuk Namgyal, exchanging handwritten letters long before instant communication became routine. Meeting in person lent rare intimacy to an already exceptional expedition.

Arriving at 11,750 feet above sea level at the age of 83 did not faze Kent. "At this altitude, the air is thin, but the spirit is strong," he says.

At the Shagaran polo ground in Chuchot village, a Central Asian polo match was arranged for the group. Kent had the honour of throwing in the opening ball before posing with the riders. A former captain of the Rolex-Abercrombie & Kent team and a two-time U.S. Open Polo Championship winner, the moment revived memories of playing alongside polo greats, including then-Prince Charles—now King Charles III—when he captained the Windsor Park team. "Polo has always been close to my heart. Seeing it here, in such a dramatic setting, was truly special," shares Kent. The following day in Rumbak village, the group spotted a snow leopard—widely considered the most elusive animal in the wild. It became a highlight of the trip, followed by a visit to Thiksey Monastery to witness the masked Cham dance. At The Grand Dragon Ladakh, artist Ghulam Mustafa presented Kent with a portrait.

Equally enriching was a session led by Monisha Ahmed, co-founder and executive director of the Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation. She traced the evolution of Ladakhi textiles and pashminas, culminating in a presentation celebrating craft as a living culture shaped by geography and trade. **Suyasa Gupta**

Visiting the Thiksey Monastery, where Kent witnessed the Cham dance performed by monks, was one of the highlights of the Ladakh trip.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAHIL MAKHIJA

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: A local women-spin wool; Ladakh has one of the oldest polo cultures in the world; guests receive a warm welcome at The Grand Dragon Ladakh; Kent gives archery a shot; guests watched a Central Asian polo match during the trip.

"At this altitude, the air is thin, but the spirit is strong."
Geoffrey JW Kent, founder and chairman emeritus, Abercrombie & Kent

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY SAHIL MAKHIJA