

LUXURY STYLE SPORT CARS GADGETS GIRLS

INDIAN EDITION

WHAT A MAN'S GOT TO DO
SEPTEMBER 2014 ₹150

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SPECIAL**

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red hot nightlife

**THE
BATTLE
FOR
BANDRA**

Shahid Kapoor

EVER SO COOL

UPGRADED

GQ Gentlemen's
Club

THE WOMAN
BEHIND
HOLLYWOOD
HIGH STAKES
POKER

SHAHID KAPOOR
PHOTOGRAPHED BY TARUN VISHWA



ROLEX



The Blade Runners

There's a new tribe of skateboarders grinding and flipping around your neighbourhood, says **Bhanuj Kappal**

On International Go Skateboarding Day this June, 120 skaters from across the country assembled at the Play Arena skate park in Bangalore for a day-long party. With loud music pumping in the background, groms (slang for very young skaters with exceptional skill), amateurs and semi-pro skaters showed off tricks and competed for prizes, including the best slam (the biggest fall). They even took to the streets for a mad dash through Bangalore's chaotic traffic. It all felt like a coming-out party, a clear signal that after 10 years of brewing on the sidelines, the Indian skateboarding scene had finally arrived.

Today, we have 11 skate parks or ramps spread across eight cities, with four built just this year. Earlier in January, India had its first ever skate competition – the Third Eye Skate Tour – and is now becoming a regular stop for international pro-skaters. The numbers are still small, but there's already a distinct sub-culture rising – with its own slang, style and a strong sense of community that transcends social and economic barriers. In Bangalore, for example, thirty-something IT professionals skate and hang out with much younger street kids who seem right at home with an “alien” culture. And it's not just about the stickers

on your board or the skate company logo on your T-shirt. It's also about inspiring a rule-breaking, risk-taking spirit, about playing with laws of physics and society alike.

Much of the credit for the rise of the scene goes to Bangalore-based Holystoked Collective, a group that builds free skate parks, conducts workshops and supports young skaters across the country. I spoke to Holystoked co-founder Abhishek, who recently returned from Vizag after building yet another skate ramp.

What is it about skateboarding that appeals to you?

It's never just about the act of skateboarding. Mostly it's about the sense of community, having something to do together. If I meet someone with a board, no matter how different they are from me, we're automatically connected.

Which skaters inspire you?

This skate crew from Germany called 2er (pronounced Zwyer). They came down and visited us a few years ago, and they've

pretty much informed and supported all the stuff we do at the Collective, in terms of building parks and spreading the stoke. They've even inspired the way I skate.

Has any specifically Indian slang evolved in the sport?

The language is pretty global: a kickflip is a kickflip anywhere in the world. So while everyone's picked up those terms – even the kids from the slums here, who love saying gnarly – they're also coming up with their own slang. For example, a 360-degree flip is called a Bombay flip because everyone in the Bombay scene, regardless of their other skills, knows how to do this one trick.

What's your favourite trick?

Right now it would be the Frontside Hurricane (you zip straight up a ramp and then slide your board across the edge before coming down). It's a pretty cool trick. These days I'm trying to master real airs on ramps and bowls. ☺

RAMP IT UP

Play Arena, Bangalore

Officially the first public skate park in India, this one has a 10ft bowl, a 30ft run and is littered with boxes, spines, ramps, half pipes and quarter pipes to practise your tricks.

₹300 on weekends, ₹1,500 for a monthly pass

Freemotion Sk8 Park, New Delhi

Built in a basement in Freedom Fighters Colony, Neb Sarai, this is a small but expertly crafted space with ramps, pillars and graffiti to boot. They also sell boards, stickers and apparel.

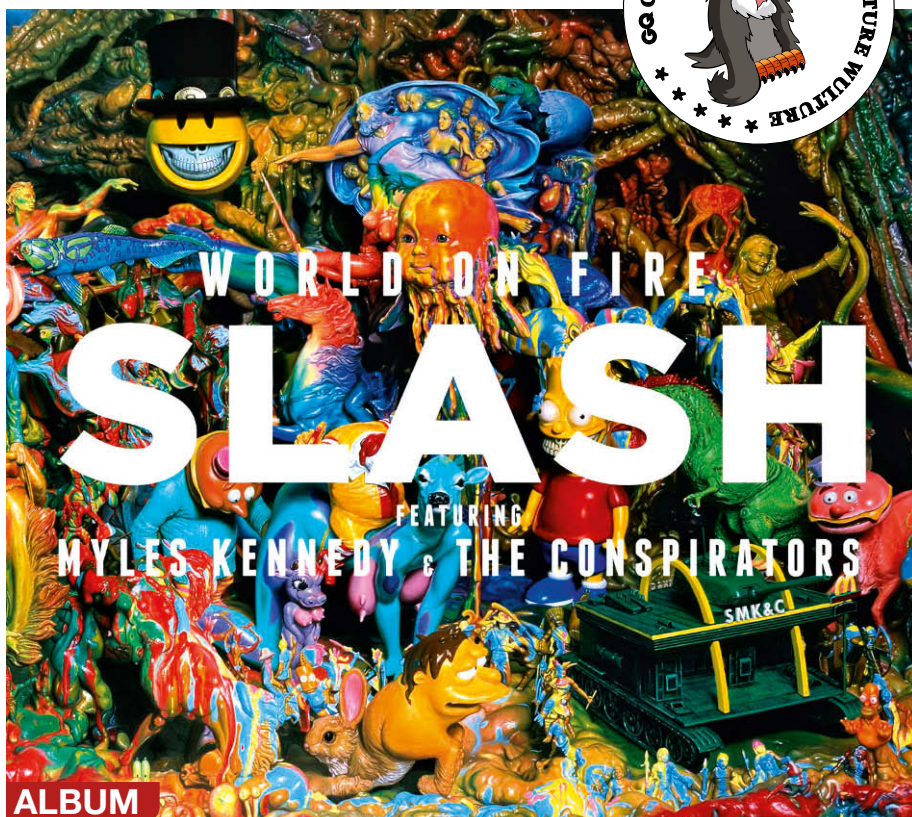
₹200 for a day, ₹1,000 for a monthly pass

Cirrus at Anjuna, Goa

They're cagey about giving you their exact location, so finding this “underground art & music” space might be difficult. But once there, you'll have a rollicking time, skating and rolling around to the tune of alternative, indie music.

Free





ALBUM

WORLD ON FIRE *Slash*

While Axl Rose is busy trying to survive on cameos in bizarre beer commercials, his buddy and ex-bandmate Slash has stuck to doing what rock stars do best: make music. *World On Fire* will be his second album as a solo artist, this time in conjunction with Myles Kennedy (vocals), Brent Fitz (drums), Todd Kern (bass) and Michael "Elvis" Baskette on production. The title track, starring Slash's signature guitar riffs, went viral when it was released in June. In recent interviews, he's said that the album practically wrote itself during the *Apocalyptic Love* tour. There's one man who can turn green room scribbles into anthems, it's him.

THIS IS ALL YOURS *Alt-J*



Band founder Gwil Sainsbury's departure earlier this year was "friendly", but it was clearly a blow to the rest of the band. Because nothing short of post-break-up delirium can explain their decision to collaborate with Miley Cyrus on their first single from this follow-up to the 2012 blockbuster *An Awesome Wave*. Mercifully, they've kept her to a minimum. And if "Hunger Of The Pine" is anything to go by, there's still hope for the band: It's upbeat, fresh and quite the sonic freefall we've come to expect of Alt-J. Tween pop stars, it seems, don't always turn things into wrecking balls.

MOVIES



THE MAZE RUNNER

In the tradition of books adapted for the big screen, few have managed to make it worth our while. But this one holds a lot of promise: First, because James Dashner seemed to have written this book, released in 2009, to be adapted. And second, because director Wes Ball has a talent for weaving nuance and humour into the most sordid of tales – remember 2010's *Beginners*? This sci-fi flick is about a bunch of teenage boys' quest to get out of a futuristic maze – where they live a suspended existence – and back home. Let's hope this is a bit more thrilling than Harry Potter's blubbery dash out of the hedge maze.

EVENT



BESTIVAL

(4-7 September)

This ten-year-old festival at the sprawling Robin Hill country park in the Isle of Wight,

UK, is one of the foremost promoters of English indie music across the continent. The 2014 line-up includes rock band Foals, hip-hop wonder Busta Rhymes, EDM artist Basement Jaxx, psy-rock band Temples, singer-songwriter Kiesza and hip-hop duo Outkast as the headlining act. But it's the Bollywood Field, a makeshift South Indian-style temple where artists like Skream, Ram Jam, Bicep and Faith will be spinning for a three-day-long party, that's got our attention.

TV



SONS OF ANARCHY SEASON 7

After a shocking, bloody end to the last season, *Sons Of Anarchy* is back for a final turn, and it's packing quite a few punches. A lot has changed in the little town of Charming since we were first introduced to it in 2008: SAMCRO, the bikers' club that runs the town, is on the verge of collapse; our hero Jax's moral tussle has intensified; his mother's killed his girlfriend Tara in a drunken rage. The teasers, delivered by creator Kurt Sutter on his video blog, include a lot more of the insane drugs, sex and violence that hooked us in the

first place, hint at a role for Aaron Paul and, most interestingly, a guest appearance by rockstar Marilyn Manson. Prepare to rage one last time before this gangster drama rides off into the sunset.

BOOKS

STONE MATTRESS

by Margaret Atwood

The *New Yorker* first published Atwood's *Stone Mattress*, then just a short story, in December 2011. About a serial widow with a terrible habit of bumping off her husbands for fun and financial security, it was Atwood at her wittiest. Now, it's the title story of a new collection of shorts out this month. Dip into Atwood's dystopian world, where people with genetic problems get mistaken for vampires, others see little people everywhere and still more must contend with hearing dead people.

