

HOBBYIST

WORLD

BET
ON
IT

WHEELS
N
WILD

TRAIL
IN THE
RAIN

WHAT'S
COOKING

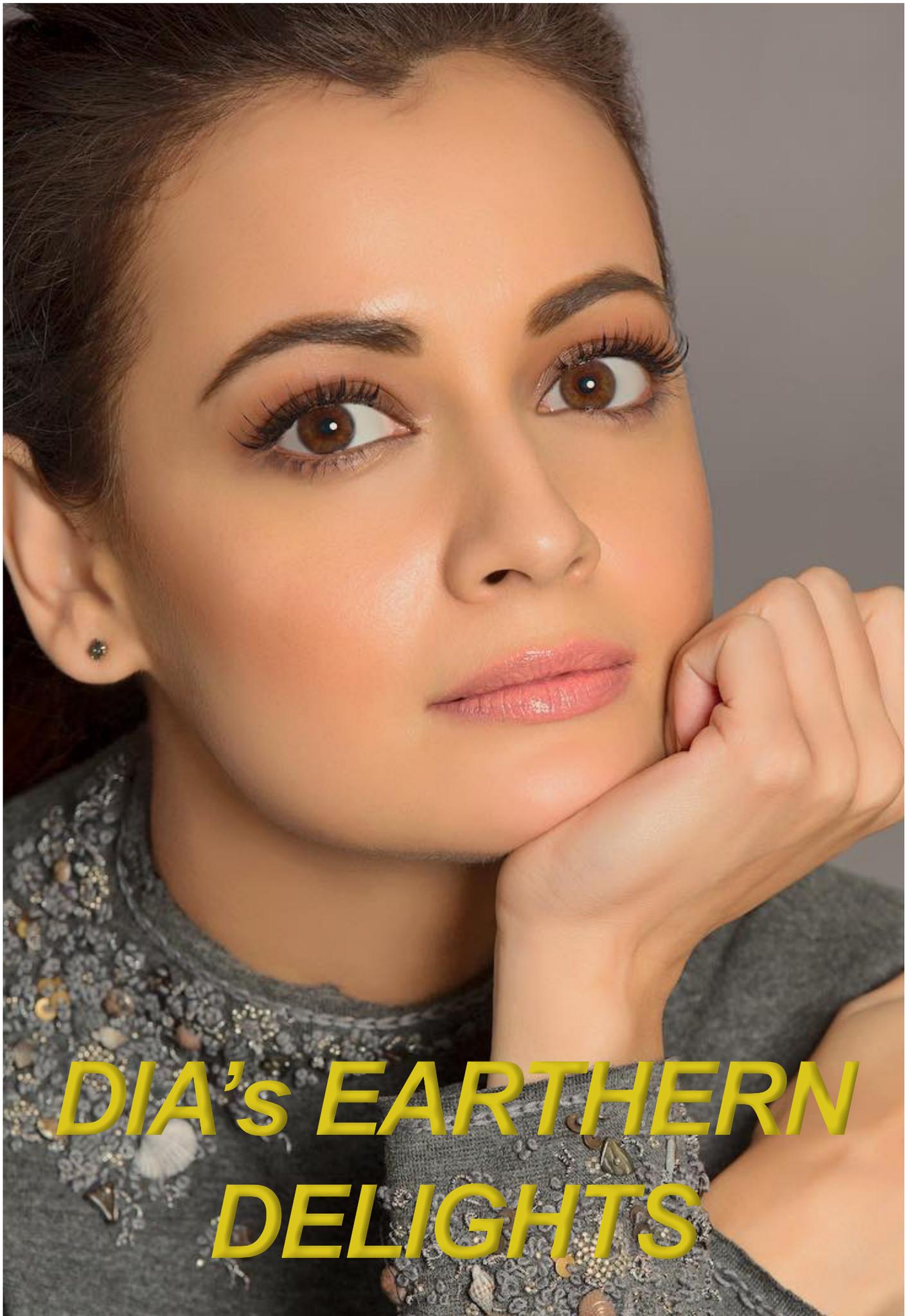
*DIA'S EARTHEN
DELIGHTS*

HOBBYISTTM

● WORLD

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DIA'S EARTHEN DELIGHTS



Since the advent of the pottery wheel almost 10,000 years ago, earthen pots have been used for a plethora of different things, ranging from storage to cooking. Now, however, they have become more ornamental than utilitarian, at least in urban areas. They are a great creative outlet for many, of all ages. Dia Mirza gets candid with Hobbyist World and gives us a little glimpse of her hobby.

Q. How do you take out time to pursue your hobby?

A. One has to just make time! It's so important to be able to create the time to pursue a passion that elevates the spirit.

Q. How and when were you introduced to pottery?

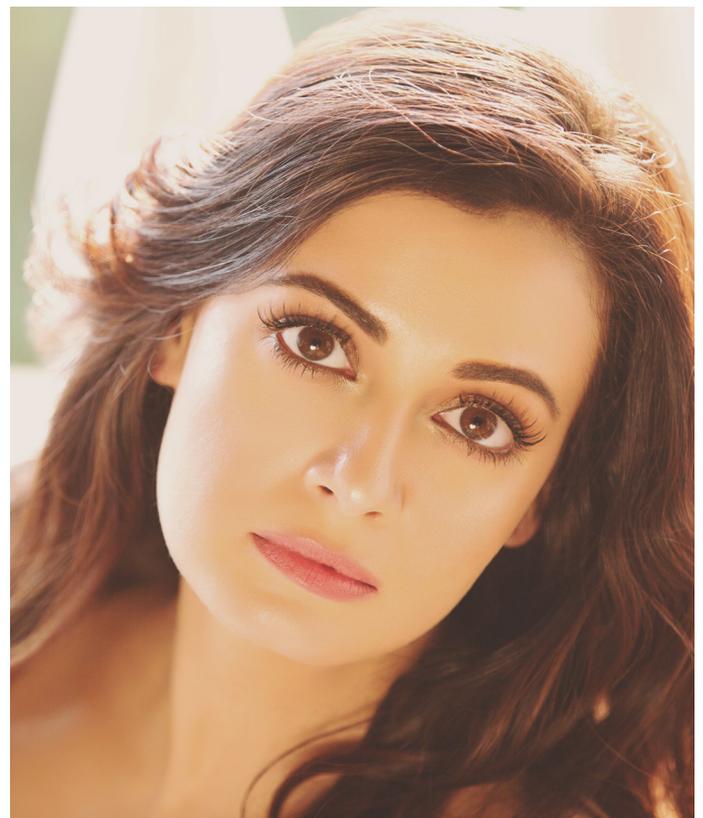
A. I was first introduced to pottery in school but went back to it in the year 2006-7.

Q. Why do you think it's important to have a hobby?

A. A hobby is an important part of self-actualisation, relaxation and fun!

Q. When and how did you get started with your hobby?

A. I started doing pottery for a part I was playing. It started as something I needed to learn for the part but soon became a hobby. So much so that when I broke my fingers from a fall off a horse I managed to mobilise the fingers because of working on the pottery wheel.



Q. What is your favourite kind of pottery to make?

A. I love carving on plates and bowls and painting them. I especially loved working on the 'Tree Ganesha' with Dattatri!

Q. Are there styles of pottery that you would like to try?

A. I'd really love to try my hand at figurines and sculpture!

Q. What is your favourite part of making pottery?

A. The sense of calm and a total sense escape from everything else that I feel while working on the wheel or while carving a piece... it's like joyful meditation!

Q. Where do you draw influence from?

A. I am mostly inspired by nature.

Dia Mirza is an actor, model and humanitarian. You can find out more about her and her efforts on her [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).





Vir Nair and his off-road journey

There are some places that you can't go on foot but are also too narrow or tedious for cars to travel in. If only there was a solution that involved a vehicle that wasn't a car, maybe had half the number of wheels that a car does, maybe something like a motorcycle, perhaps? If these are thought you've had, boy do we have news for you. Vir Nakai takes us on a two-wheeled off-road journey (of words) through the hills and valleys (still of words).

Q. How and when did you get started with Motorcycling?

A. Motorcycling I could only start when I was of the correct age to have a license to ride a motorcycle with gears. So I started really riding when I was 18 and got my own motorcycle much later. But before that, I used to ride the Kinetic Honda around Chandigarh and before the Kinetic my bicycle was the weapon of choice. I used to be all over the city and in the trails behind the lake

and the hills that Chandigarh is situated at the base of.

Q. If you could have any features on a motorcycle, what would they be?

A. Motorcycles are perfect as they are. Now they are very tech-heavy but all one needs is two wheels attached to a frame with an engine in it, some form of breaks and handlebars to steer you in the right direction. I really feel less is better as that means there are fewer things that can go wrong when you are out riding.

Q. Out of all the places you've ridden to, what has been your favourite?

A. This is a loaded question. Where I have ridden all over the world from the US to Russia, Norway to New Zealand there are fantastic bits of all those places but I love riding in India. Why? Because there are still so many undiscovered and

untouched spots you can find. Also in India, we never have to park our motorcycles away for the winter as all we have to do is shift base to another part of the country and everything is gravy.

Q. What is your favourite thing about riding?

A. The freedom of it. Also if you want to travel the best way is on a motorcycle as its all immersive. You are right there to deal with the elements. Smell the fresh pine as you ride through the rain in the forests of the Himalayas or feel the loo on your face while being blasted by a spray of sand in the plains.

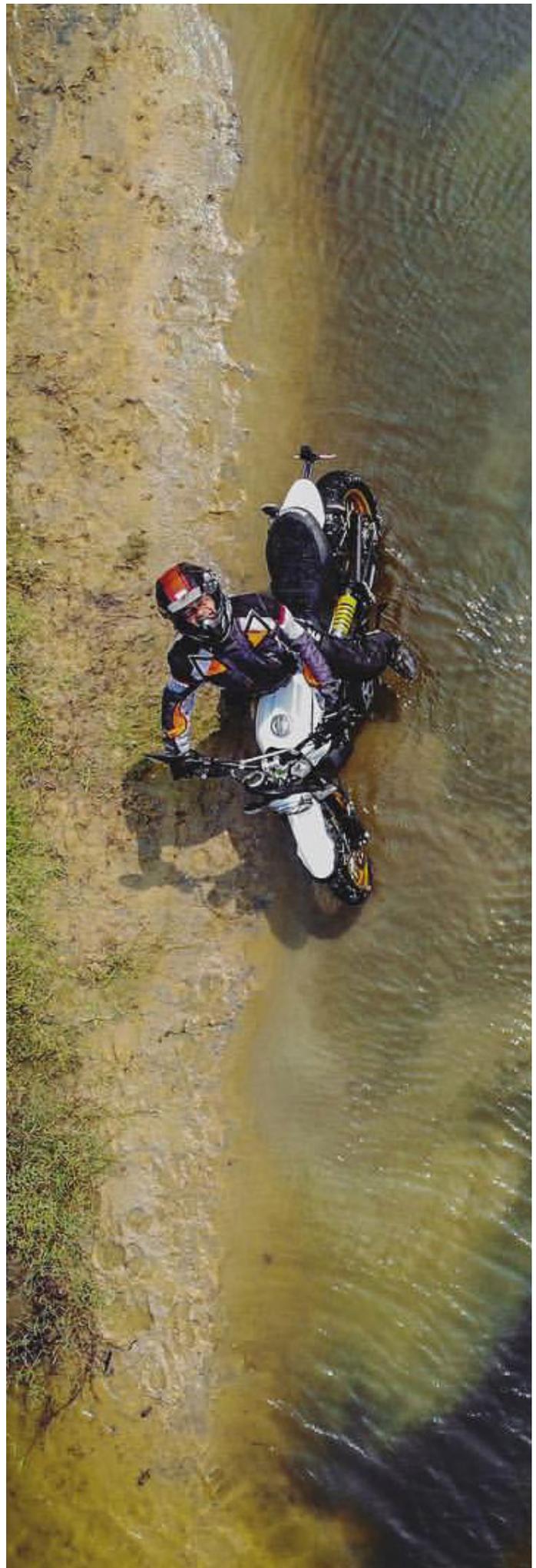
Q. Where would you love to ride to in the future?

A. Everywhere. The idea is to do as much as one can but at a slow pace so you can take it all in.

Q. Does one require any special qualifications/ permits to ride cross-country?

A. Common sense is the only real special qualification one needs. You have to be smart about what you are planning to do. Make sure you ride in the day and rest during the night. There is no reason to ride at night especially if you are riding cross country. Be respectful to traffic on the road and they will respect you back mostly. Always remember, you are the smallest thing on the roads, hence you need to be alert all the time. You have to think everyone is out to get you.

As for permits you require some in some spots where you are in the Inner Line around the border but that is very centric to where you are. The permit differs from spot to spot. Usually, its obtained from the local DC or there is an office dedicated to the permit as you come near the inner line like in Sikkim.



Q. Can you tell us something that people may not know about riding?

A. It's very easy to go fast but damn tough to ride slow!

Q. What's one piece of advice you'd give budding riders?

A. There is no hurry take your time. Start in your own backyard and go riding for a few hours over the weekend. Maybe head out for an overnight trip around your city. You will be surprised to see how much adventure and great spots you will find right under your nose. Motorcycling can give you so much. Ladakh is not the be all and end all of motorcycling. And when you do end up heading there it can be tough for the most seasoned riders so plan well and plan the hell out of it.

Also, safety is paramount when you are a motorcyclist. We are responsible for our own safety. When you do buy a motorcycle remember you need to buy the best helmet your money can buy and you need to wear it all the time and make sure it's clipped on tight. Once you do that start accumulating the rest of the gear you need to wear when you ride. As again we need to take care of ourselves. The other people in their metal cages have a metal cage between them and the rest of the world we don't.

Vir Nakai is part owner of the company Helmet Stories, that offers guided tours of the country to fulfil all your cross country biking desires. Find out more about Vir and Helmet Stories on his website.



BET ON IT

Poker is a hugely popular card game that combines the principles of gambling, strategy, and skill. Expert Poker players often combine the knowledge of probability, psychology, and game theory and the game becomes a lot more than a pure gamble.

Historians and gaming enthusiasts believe that Poker originated in the early 19th century in the United States. Until recently, it was considered to be a derivative of the Persian game of As-Nas. The As-Nas cards pack includes five individual card designs, each with a different background colour and these designs are repeated either four or five times. Thus,

the As-Nas card pack has either twenty or twenty-five cards. Although there is a striking similarity between the gameplay of As-Nas and Poker, the notion that Poker is derived from it was challenged in the 90s by prominent Gaming Historians.

In Poker, one or more players are usually required to make forced bets, either an ante (a small amount by each player into the pot) or a blind (a partial bet put in by one or more players), sometimes both. If at any point during a betting round, one player bets and instead of calling the bet, all opponents fold,

the better is awarded the pot and no cards need to be shown. This is what makes the clever technique of bluffing possible.

Poker as a game The popularity of Poker has seen a surge because of the growth of social and digital media. A number of online platforms such as PokerBaazi, Spartan Poker and Adda52 have made the game of Poker highly accessible and appealing to the masses. Many industrialists and media

companies such as Raj Kundra (PokerRaj) and the Star Group (Pokerstars) have ventured into the online Poker space. now played world-over, a number of variations exist which exhibit a similar pattern of play but not quite. Some of these

variations are straight, stud poker, draw poker, community card poker. The most popular type of poker these days is Texas Hold-Em since it is really easy and fun to make a tournament of.

Although online poker applications and websites have made it much easier to sit on our comfortable couches in pyjama shorts and play to our heart's content, live poker still holds an old-cinema charm that virtual games can never recreate. Live poker games come with an added garnish of socializing,



It is well-established now that Poker is a very appealing and fulfilling hobby to take up, given that one follows the very basic rules of playing it harmlessly. But is it a very affordable hobby to pursue? Well, for a sensible and balanced player, all that is required for a game of poker are poker chips, playing cards, a poker table if one wants to go fancy and a dealer button if one wants to go even fancier.

With increasing popularity, Poker is also seeing a higher level of representation in the media that is different from its stereotypical images of either a casino with classily dressed gamblers or the hoodied, brooding, tech-savvy poker player who always has his earphones on. Pokerface with Gopal Datt is an innovative poker chat show wherein each episode features one actor/celebrity and one poker player, and engages both in a conversation about their journey to fame and fortune. Powered by 9stacks, Pokerface with Gopal Datta is providing more visibility to the hobby and passion of poker and celebrating the love people hold for it.

There have been studies of the relationship between Poker and Mental Health also. It often provides people with an escape from frustrating work environments, family troubles since the game demands a high level of concentration and involvement. As Paul Seaton of pokernews.com puts it, "In a world where escapism is part of aspiration, poker continues to offer some people who have issues away from the table, tools to work through them, thereby helping them become healthier versions of themselves in the process."

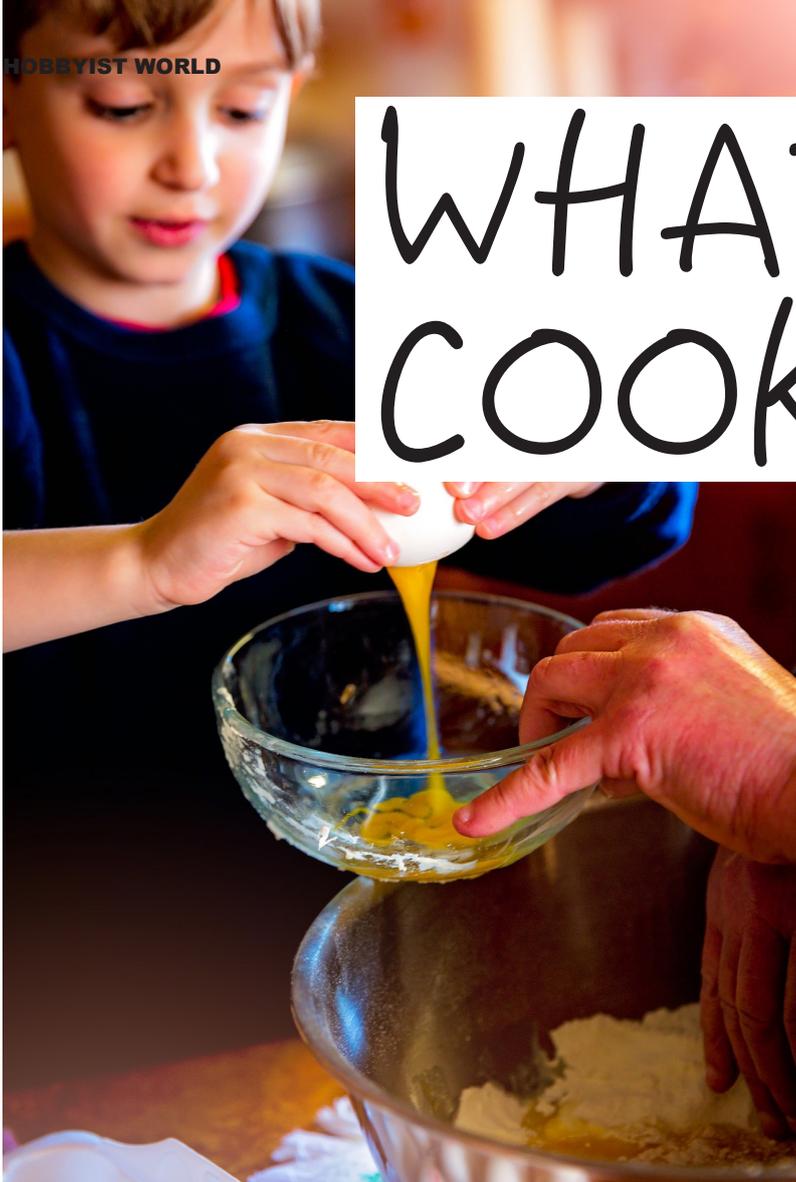
If you are thinking about taking up Poker as a hobby, there are a few things you should keep in mind. Don't bet more than you can afford to lose, are the golden words for poker players just starting out. If you're starting with Poker as a simple hobby to pursue after a long day at work, or if you're looking to turn it into a substantial money-making source, one must remember to not risk their livelihood for a hand of poker. Continued practice will make you better at Poker as it will at every game or activity you take up. Other useful tips for poker players would be to pay close attention to their competitors' behaviour and understand their psychology and base the game on it and to learn the fine art of bluffing.

In recent times, the game of Poker has seen massive popularity. It is more accessible today than it ever has been before, and an almost ideal choice for a hobby. It can be learnt easily through friends or online tutorials requires almost minimum equipment and is the perfect balance of fun and strategy. Next time you're looking for a way to relax, give this wonderful game a chance and you might find yourself with a new favourite hobby.

**'LOOK AT THE
GAME FROM
THE OPPONENT'S
PERSPECTIVE.'**

- GUS HANSEN

WHAT'S COOKING?



Cooking is an interesting hobby for many reasons. Getting to know the basics of cooking can be a great way to eat healthily and cooking at home can be more economical than eating out. Then there is the joy of cooking for your friends and family, trying out new recipes and even coming up with ones of your own. When talking about cooking as a hobby, we mean learning all about cooking, types of cooking involved, how to shop for the ingredients, the utensils and supplies you need and actually doing everything from scratch. Cooking is very useful and can evolve according to you to let you showcase your creativity.

Exploring Creativity

You can play around with fresh produce, grains, dairy, whatever you'd like. Boil em, mash em, stick em in a stew, or you know, whatever else you want to do it anything besides poh-tay-toes too. You can create a vast array of dishes using simple, fresh, and economical ingredients.

Cooking has the widest range, from snacks to breads, soups to sweets. The culinary arts are the dark depth of the ocean, and you the eager explorer.





Pocket-Friendly

Cooking requires few resources, to experiment, to test the waters. Cooking requires few resources, to experiment, to test the waters. Most of us have basic utensils and ingredients at home. It also does not require any specific qualification, only passion for tasty food is enough.

Stress Buster

Cooking is meditative. Be engrossed in an activity that takes your mind off the daily rigmarole of life. Try this when stressed, frustrates or bored. Cooking is also a productive pass time. It gives our mind a break from the routine, it also adds

ownership value to your life in terms of hygiene and timings of meals.

Be Independent

Knowing this art makes us less dependent on others. You can choose to cook whatever you'd like to eat on that day. Of course, YouTube is always there for your rescue when you don't know what you're doing.

Food is one of our most basic needs, and good food is something most of us are willing to spend a pretty penny on. So why not save some money, and change your life for the better, and pick up a knife and some heads of lettuce to decapitate.

TRAILS IN THE RAIN

It's almost the monsoon, and what better than to spend some time getting drenched in the rain in some of the most beautiful places in India? Get out your hiking boots and get ready to plan your next outdoor adventure. Hobbyist World maps out some of the best monsoon treks and hikes that are on offer.

Valley of Flowers

It is only during the rainy season from July till September, that the Valley of Flower National Park remains open making it one of the top treks in India in monsoon. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Valley of Flowers is the second core zone in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve. During the monsoon rains, the valley gets covered with a colourful sheet of beautiful flowers, making the place even more captivating. The amazing weather is an added bonus to the hued scenery. Trekkers can also spot colourful butterflies, birds, and animals like Musk Deer. Do not forget to click some photographs.

Difficulty Level: Easy

Elevation: 3858 m/12654 feet



Kashmir Great Lakes

One of the most popular treks in the Kashmir valley, Kashmir Great Lake Trek has glistening lakes and stunning mountainous scenery as its highlight. This trek offers you a chance to visit some of the high-altitude lakes, boasting off mesmerizing surroundings, and snow-clad peaks. As the rain comes crashing from above, walk along the banks of lakes like Gangabal, Gadsar, Kishangarh, Nundkol, and Vishnasar. Snow-clad peaks, lush ambience and placid lakes, all look captivating.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Elevation: 13,750 feet





Difficulty: Easy
Elevation: 6890 feet

Chembra Peak

This trek is a dreamy trail through mist and cloud covered cliffs of Wayanad, all to end up at the heart-shaped Chembra Lake. Behold the green tea estates of Kerala as you ascend into the forests and go past a watch tower to the magical Chembra lake. This trail does absolute justice to the monsoon magic in South India.



Difficulty: Difficult
Elevation: 13,772 feet to
15,006 feet

Rumtse-Tso Moriri

The magic of Ladakh is best experienced through this monsoon trail that takes you from Rumtse in Lahaul to one of the highest lakes in India – Tso Moriri. A slightly difficult hike, but worth every minute for the sights along the way are just magical. Discover the saltwater lake of Tso Kar enclosed by the stunning mountains. Keep an eye out for the stunning birdlife in the Changthang Plateau that you cross, all the way till you reach this gorgeous blue coloured wonder – Tso Moriri.



Difficulty: Moderate
Elevation: 4603 feet

Torna Fort

Combine heritage with this short hike up the Sahyadris to the Torna Fort. Starting at Velhe village near Pune, this trek takes you across a stream to lush green plateaus, dotted by gushing cascades. Don't miss the abandoned temples and desolate buildings that take you back in time. Get ready for a treat as you spot two valleys separated by a ridge on which you will be walking. A cloud covered hike along this green trail definitely gives you a wet yet magical flavour of monsoon.



Difficulty level: Easy-
Moderate
Elevation: 14,100 feet

Hampta Pass

Highlights: This trek makes one experience the entirety of Himachal Pradesh's natural beauty. The trail starts from the popular destination of Manali and then connects with Lahaul and Kullu regions. Alpine forests, extensive lush green meadows, glaciers, and the mighty mountain ranges are just some of the things that can enthrall any trekker.