

# WATCH MARKET REVIEW

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# WMR



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## WATCH MARKET REVIEW



Dear friends,

Right now, we see dynamic political activity all around us, which does in some way have an impact on the state of things, economical and otherwise. As I write this, the judgement on the Ayodhya Case has just been passed. On one hand, there is a sense of relief and closure of an issue that had dragged too long. On the other hand, there is also a section of people who question that while judgment is passed, has justice been delivered? In Maharashtra, at the time of writing this, there is political turmoil in the inability of the BJP- Shiv Sena Alliance to form a government together.

Let's take our minds to another direction for a few moments. The world watch industry gathered in Geneva for the awards. The GPHG's independent jury awarded 19 prizes and attributed the "Aiguille d'Or" Grand Prix to Audemars Piguet for the Royal Oak Selfwinding Perpetual Calendar Ultra-Thin watch. Karishma Karer who represented the Watch Market Review Group, was the only official invitee from India. It is heartening to see that Watch Market Review continues to be a highly respected and coveted niche publication. We were enthralled as always to witness the creativity and dynamism of the horological world. You will read more about this prize and why it is so important for the industry.

One of my personal favourite stories in this issue is about Titan Nebula. Titan has been reigning the world of Indian watchmaking for years now. It amazes me to see how the group manages such a wide variety of products right from the reasonable and accessible range to their luxury timepieces, with justice to all their categories and sub brands! We specifically write about the Nebula brand in this issue. Indians have a love-affair with gold, and Titan has channelized this into some really endearing collections which speak of Indian heritage and craftsmanship.

Meanwhile, despite all external happenings in India and world over, the fact remains that this is a busy season with festivities and wedding celebrations in full swing which makes it a bustling time for the industry as well. You will read about various new watches, have a peek into some enlightening conversations and get updated on what's been happening in the watch world!

Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Sunil".

SUNIL KARER  
EDITOR



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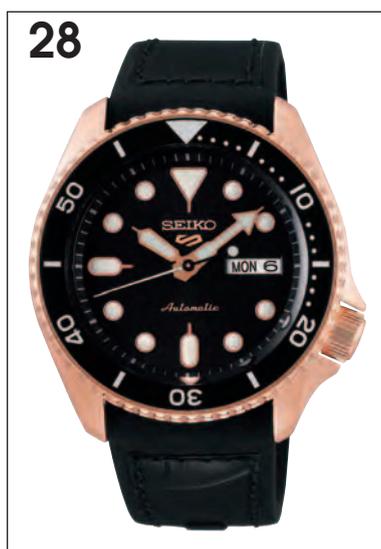
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# NEBULA BY TITAN

The enthralling Nakashi Collection



**N**ebula by Titan has always strived to merge the beauty and intricacy of Indian craftsmanship with the purity and eternal lure of gold. A veritable addition to this spectacular collection is Nakashi 18 K Solid Gold Watches inspired by Temple Jewellery. As we know, Indian temple architecture holds a special place in the cultural heritage of the country. The watchmaker's watch craftsmanship is now evident in the interpretation of this glorious heritage into wrist pieces.



Five exquisite watches adorn the Nakashi Collection. There is one common thread running through each - that is, the inspirational roots all find themselves in elements of Temple Architecture. The collection blends the fine craftsmanship of Watch-making with India's rich heritage in Jewellery making.

Look out for the traditional Gold floral stamping techniques as well as Nakashi, Filigree and Rawa Gold workmanship. You will see these in patterns that blend an old-world charm with sophisticated design and stunning antique-finish watches.



The exquisite 18 K Gold bracelets, inspired by architectural elements in temples, feature Domes, Pillars, Floral and Chakra patterns. These patterns are complemented by the aforementioned Gold craftsmanship techniques, Nakashi, Filigree and Rawa detailing. Each link of the bracelet is held together with an exquisite Gold hinge that lends the watch a timeless, heritage look. These watches feature elegant Mother-of-Pearl dials and Diamonds on the case.

Aanya illuminates floral motifs that adorn the bracelet. The Gold Stamping technique has been used here. The finesse of the Gold Rawa detailing around every bracelet link adds to Aanya's unyielding charm. Another piece, Aadya, carries within it the essence of timelessness. It is inspired by the timeless designs of temple arches and pillars. Aadya

features intricate Filigree detailing around each dome-shaped bracelet link, flourished with Gold Rawa detailing along fine lines of Filigree.

Akshara has a bracelet inspired by mystical Chakra and floral patterns in an exquisite antique solid Gold, while in Atulya, fine 18K Gold threads are pulled into wires that form captivating concentric circles that are an ode to the Chakra. Aeshana is inspired by floral patterns on Temple walls. Each motif is repeated in unique hexagonal patterned links that are encircled with exquisite Gold Rawa detailing.

These are masterpieces of their kind. Eternally encapsulated in gold, they represent the exquisiteness of the skills of watchmaking and craftsmanship that Titan has in its fold.



# TITAN

## In conversation with Suparna Mitra, Chief Marketing Officer, Titan Watches and Accessories, Titan Company Limited



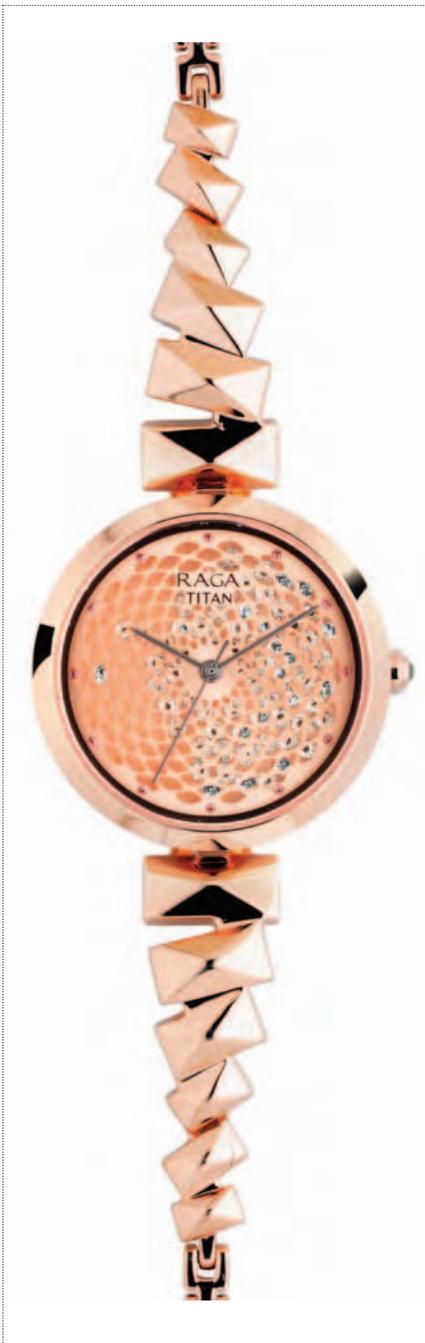
**K**arishma Karer chats with Suparna Mitra, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Watches and Accessories Division, Titan Company Limited about upcoming collections. With the soon approaching festive season everyone is eager to know what India's most loved watch brand has to offer!



What does Titan have in store for us this quarter?

Across our brands, we have a lot of exciting new collections. In RAGA, we have the Diwali Collection. Last year, we were all about asymmetry and imperfections. The collection was called "I Am". This year we take the story forward. The collection that we will launch is called FACETS. It is a large collection! It is an ode to the multi-faceted modern woman of today who has reinvented herself to play multiple roles in her everyday life – family, work, social, etc. She not only balances but enjoys each role and every facet of her personality (pertaining to them to the core.) This is a very innovative collection and we have used many new materials, and a lot of creative mix-and-match. Each crafted timepiece is a striking amalgamation of fine materials (like Ceramic), fluid shapes and finishes (like Sandblast, Circular Satin, etc.) in new plating colors (Forest Green and Deep Plum) along with Rose Gold. The collection boasts of statement pieces with exclusive Swarovski crystals studded bracelets and unique floating crystal dial.

For brand Titan we have a Maritime inspiration. It is beautiful and a lot of the themes take inspiration from the world of ships and sailing. These finely crafted timepieces have satin finished bronze plating, sea green dials and oil pull up leather straps.



There are hints of inspirations from maritime navigation tools like the magnetic compass, sextant and so on. The uniqueness also lies in the multi-layered watch faces. Watch out for the full skeletal automatic pieces in the collection as well as the high-end chronograph that encases an authentic wooden dial.

We have new watches in Nebula and Xyllys as well. Nebula continues the magic with a sleek look and solid gold body. For Xyllys we are proud to have a signature dial inlay made from Muonioalusta Meteorite, which is a million years old! Since the texture of the meteorite is different in every slice, each watch in the collection is unique.

Your views on the youth of today seen specifically through the prism of Fastrack watches?

Reflex by Fastrack, our fitness band, is doing really well in this group. We are now the second largest wearables company in India. It is a separate category that is doing well. There is great acceptance for that. The Denim collection also resonates well with this group.



Titan has taken strong legal steps against sale of counterfeit watches online. Could you shed some light on that?

It's a very big menace. When it comes to counterfeits, people are not aware very often. To me, the price is a give-away. How would one get let us say, a Fastrack watch for 300 rupees? But yes, some people still buy counterfeit, sometimes knowingly. It's hard to pin down as it's an ecosystem in itself. We are doing various things to stop this. We have a system of unique identification for each watch. Moreover, if you buy from a guaranteed source you will get a warranty, which is not the



case for counterfeit products. Customers can easily make out a counterfeit. Yes, the fight is on!

Can you talk about the Titan results?

The Quarter 1 results are out and we're doing really well. Quarter 2 we can't talk about right now. Brand Titan is doing well, and many new products have done really well. Hyper Lume in Octane is a new product that has generated interest. We had a smallish range of Automatics, which was sold out, and so now we're going to be doing more.





Your thoughts on Trade Fairs?

In general, the world has changed. Trade fairs used to be the one place where everyone would turn out and buyers and sellers would meet and see the new products for the first time. Is there a need for the face-to-face interaction? Yes, that need will continue. Recently I heard, those fashion weeks that used to be highly anticipated, are not so anymore. Now, due to social media, it's really not about what is new anymore. Trade fairs are not irrelevant but the relevance changes. The focus is more on

having meaningful conversations. It remains important for different reasons. Trade fairs will become smaller but deeper.

Tell us about four watches you would have in your collection...

The Ceramic Edge in Atlantic blue is a favourite! I would definitely have one of the Raga and Nebula watches! I like the men's Nebulas a lot, but I guess I'll choose a women's watch from the Nebula collection, and pick up one of the men's watches from Xyllys!

*Well, with the range and options that Titan offers it is always going to be a herculean task to pick out our favourite watches. We're looking forward to the new releases as no celebration is complete without a Titan on your wrist!*

# FREDERIQUE CONSTANT

## Ladies Classics Quartz

**F**rederique Constant represents classic Swiss watchmaking coupled with accessibility. The beautifully crafted watches that the Manufacture elegantly brings out are testimony to their allegiance to the spirit of authentic Swiss watchmaking. However, there is one more thing that sets this brand apart. Frederique Constant has always brought out wonderful collections for women. These are not only good looking but highly functional as well. It seems as if the brand truly understands what a woman looks for in a watch.





Recently, the new pieces in the Classics Delight Automatic collection as well as the Classics Art Deco collection highlighted some fantastic pieces for women. With three trendy timepieces within its entry price Ladies Classics Quartz, Frederique Constant further reiterates the commitment to providing accessible luxury in true Swiss watchmaking spirit, to their women clientele world over.

The new Ladies Classics Quartz watches combine traditional style, functionality and beauty. For starters, the new case has been adapted to a 36mm size which looks and feels more feminine and sits very comfortably on the wrist. The watch is powered by the FC-220 quartz calibre. Moreover, it is water-resistant up to 50 metres and each model is

distinguished by a silver colour dial with guilloché decoration, black printed roman numeral indexes, hand-polished black hands and a date window at 6 o'clock.

A simple uncluttered dial offers a timeless look, focusing on the essence of the watch and showing the time in hours and minutes. There are elegant options for the discerning woman. The watch is available in full stainless-steel or with a blue croco calf leather bracelet. The wearer could also choose the rose gold-plated case combined with an elegant black croco calf leather strap.

Frederique Constant continues to add to the repertoire of elegant timepieces that are evergreen classics.

# FAVRE-LEUBA

Milind Soman - a Friend of the Brand



When a Swiss Watch Brand recalls a rich heritage in watch engineering and design spanning over 282 years, we know they represent a spirit that is truly special. India's watchlovers have indeed recognized this and welcomed Favre-Leuba watches with a lot of excitement. To further this, the brand has chosen Milind Soman as a Friend of the Brand.

All of us know Milind Soman as an individual who loves big challenges, like the La Ultra and Ironman Triathlon in Zurich. Then 50 years old, Milind covered the triathlon in a remarkable 15 hours and 19 minutes. He also founded Pinkathon, which has emerged as India's largest 'women's only' running platform to promote women's health and breast cancer awareness amongst women.

The sporty Milind sports the latest Raider Harpoon dive watch, as he remarks, "It is an absolutely wonderful experience for me to be associated with Favre-Leuba. It is a brand that believes strongly in conquering frontiers, aligning perfectly with my way of thinking. The Raider Harpoon timepiece matches with my aesthetic in style but doesn't just get limited to that. The unique timepiece goes beyond to prove useful as a diving instrument as well which I intend to put to test very soon!"

Milind Soman, as an active swimmer, diver and runner needs a device which is not just limited to time keeping but acts as an instrument and stays put on his wrist through the sunniest roads or the deepest, darkest oceans, making the Raider Harpoon the most compatible time piece for him and all his upcoming adventures. The brand has put the timepiece and its performance across challenging environments as an instrument with genuine functionality beyond telling time.

The Raider Harpoon incorporates the heritage barrel-shaped case, and a time-telling mechanism unique to Favre-Leuba. Stylish and functional, with a pop of color the Raider Harpoon has a blue emission luminous display, ensuring great visibility even in the dark. In addition, the watch features a stainless-steel, unidirectional bezel. This has a 20-minute marked dive



scale on it, which is visible on the anodized aluminium insert. An essential tool for keeping track of dive times, making it an apt dive watch.

Overall, the Raider Harpoon is a great device for deep sea divers that have incomparable demands when it comes to design and functionality of a timepiece. Milind Soman will be accompanied by this timepiece, putting it to a rigorous test across all aspects of his life.



**D'SIGNER**  
i love my time

# FOSSIL

Varun Dhawan turns watch designer....

**Y**es, you heard it right! The star has collaborated with FOSSIL to design a limited-edition watch. This aligns itself with Fossil's curator series – a collaborative collection of watches fueled by a creative class of artists and innovation icons. Fossil's timeless style and Varun's personality....now that calls for a dynamic design!

The watch features Fossil's bestselling Machine watch case with a sleek black dial with a polish of Varun's signature red on the three hands that display the hour, minute and second. Varun's initials and birthdate are inscribed on the dial, making this exclusive watch that is much more personal. The watch case comes with two premium strap choices for additional versatility – a black steel bracelet and black silicone strap with croc pattern and red accents. Each timepiece is individually numbered and comes encased in exclusive packaging featuring Varun's signature and a personalized message to all his fans.

Fossil has collaborated with the NGO Magic Bus, whose efforts are centered on helping children develop the necessary life skills to lead a brighter future. The timepiece is the latest iteration of Fossil's commitment to community impact: Make Time for Good. As an organization close to Varun's heart, a portion of the exclusive Varun Dhawan x Fossil watch sales will be donated to Magic Bus to support their mission of ending the cycle of poverty through education.





And here's what the man himself has to say....  
"Fossil is an iconic brand that has always celebrated creativity, authenticity and optimism, everything that I swear by when it comes to my style. I am honored to be associated with a brand that is so close to me, to create a watch that truly personifies what I believe in – something new, exciting, and affordably classy. I hope everyone loves it as much as we do,"! Well, for sure we do!



Varun Dhawan  
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(don't forget to send a card)

**CURATOR**  
SERIES

## How Will You Wear It?

Swap your strap to give your watch a whole new look.



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It all starts with the Machine watch case, sporting details crafted by Varun.

### Steel Attachment

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### Silicone Attachment

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# SIHH (SALON INTERNATIONAL DE LA HAUTE HORLOGERIE) RENAMED 'WATCHES & WONDERS GENEVA'

With a new date, comes a new format, a new audience and most of all a 'NEW NAME'. The Fondation de la Haute Horlogerie, organisers of the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH) recently announced one of the biggest change in its history. For its 30th edition in April 2020 in Geneva, Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH) will be renamed 'WATCHES & WONDERS GENEVA'. A title which was used in the past for two watch showcases, one in Hong Kong and one in Miami, is now being used for the main event in Geneva.

"Because it's about more than watches, we chose a name that conveys a sense of wonder, excellence, openness and discovery; a different way to experience watchmaking. Watches & Wonders becomes the focal point for the exceptional talent, creativity and infinite innovation of the world's leading watch and jewellery maisons," announced Fabienne Lupo, Chairwoman and Managing Director of the Fondation de la Haute Horlogerie.

From April 25th to 29th, 2020, Watches & Wonders Geneva will bring the entire international watch community together. For the very first time, the event will also open its doors by inviting a wider public to venues throughout Geneva – a concept termed 'In the city'. Exhibitions, walking tours, initiations to watchmaking and visits to manufactures, along with boutique presentations, museum open houses, conferences, conversations with industry players and more will make up a rich and varied programme that is open to everyone

– a truly inclusive and immersive event which enjoys the support of the City and the Canton of Geneva.

"With its new name and format, Watches & Wonders Geneva strengthens its international and interprofessional vocation. This is essential for Cartier watchmaking with respect to its partners and its end customers," noted Cyrille Vigneron, CEO of Cartier International SA.

Since 1991, Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH) has set the standard for watch fairs, offering the world's leading retailers, journalists and VIP guests from around the world a level of service beyond compare. Already, recent editions have opened up to new audiences and created an authentic community of watch collectors and enthusiasts.

"SIHH's transformation into Watches & Wonders cements a crucial rapprochement with end customers and watch connoisseurs. For an artisan brand such as MB&F, this broader concept gives us a platform for reaching new audiences. We are very proud to be part of this project which begins in Geneva and extends around the world," commented Maximilian Büsser, CEO of MB&F.

The Salon, hosting some thirty of the most prestigious watch and jewellery maisons, will take place at Palexpo. More outward-looking, more experiential, more interactive and more connected, it will deliver a wealth of original content and experiences. This is also where exhibitors will give exclusive previews of their

new collections to professionals, journalists, VIP guests and other enthusiasts.

Building on the previous year's success, the Lab will showcase even more of the latest technological innovations from the exhibiting maisons, as well as from start-ups of interest to the industry. The Live will offer world-first access to international product launches and exclusive announcements. Keynotes by influential speakers will complete the programme.

"Hermès welcomes this ambition to open up the Salon. It gives a wider audience the opportunity to discover our exceptional watchmaking savoir-faire both in Geneva and internationally," declared Laurent Dordet, CEO of Hermès Watches.

For Patrick Pruniaux, CEO of Girard-Perregaux and Ulysse Nardin, In the City is "a fabulous opportunity to connect the magic and excitement of a temporary event with the powerful, permanent presence of the brands in the world capital of watchmaking, Geneva. As is the case with Ulysse Nardin, and its new lake-front boutique. The prestige of Geneva is further enhanced by the constant innovation, in design and technique, of an industry whose products remain endlessly fascinating and highly desirable."

Already, Watches & Wonders is set to become the hallmark of excellence; a place for professionals to meet and be inspired, and for the public to learn more about, and marvel at, watchmaking and its countless wonders.

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SEIKO 5 SPORTS - SENSE



## 5 Sports reborn

**W**hen a brand has a heritage that spans many decades, it is always worthwhile to dip into the past and bring back classics, updated for the modern era. Such is the story of the Seiko 5 Sports. It has now been 50 years, but the collection has pushed the limits of reliability, durability, performance and value. It is a collection that has won the hearts of lovers of mechanical watches worldwide.



SEIKO 5 SPORTS - SPORTS

#### DOWN THE MEMORY LANE...

As 2019 draws to a close, we welcome a new design and a broad new collection. Yes, it is a rebirth of sorts. The new Seiko 5 Sports retains the same values but takes on a fresh new look. But first, let's go down the memory lane.... back to the birth of the collection. The first ever Seiko 5 watch, Seiko Sportmatic 5, was born in 1963. It was Seiko's and Japan's first ever automatic day-date watch. "5" represented the promise that every Seiko 5 watch would have five key attributes; an automatic movement, a day-date display at the three o'clock position, water resistance, a recessed crown at the four o'clock position and a case and bracelet built for durability. Taken together and in combination with the then new mainspring and shock resistance system, these features gave Seiko 5 its distinctive appearance and its strength.

### SEIKO 5 SPORTS - SPECIALIST



In 1968, Seiko 5 Sports was born. This was a response to a very strong need for a watch that people could trust as they played sports. In addition to the fundamental values of Seiko 5, Seiko 5 Sports offered enhanced water resistance, a strengthened crystal and luminous hands and hour markers.

Thus, began the story of one of the best sporty watches of all time. Throughout the next decades, Seiko 5 Sports found great international favor as a “go-anywhere” watch that offered a unique look and extraordinary value. The design as well was quite noteworthy and offered some remarkably striking colours.

“The evolution of Seiko 5 is brilliantly captured in this new contemporary collection of Seiko 5 Sports. Aesthetically designed and created for today’s passionate individual, Seiko 5 Sports is an instrument of perfection and precision that can be worn for any occasion,” says

Niladri Mazumdar, President and COO of Seiko Watch India Private Limited.



SEIKO 5 SPORTS - STREET



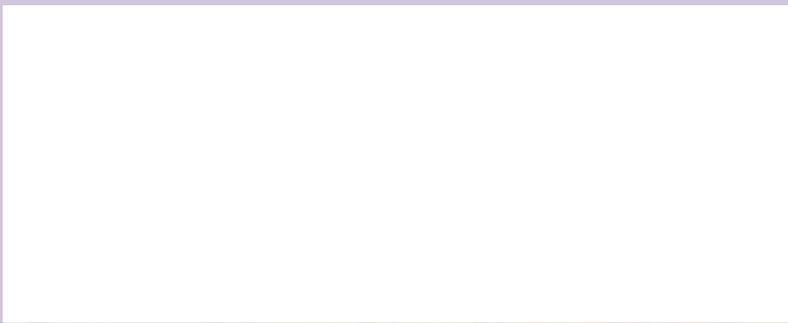
SEIKO 5 SPORTS - SUITS



#### Contemporary twist

The new design of the Seiko 5 is founded in heritage, but created for the modern wearer of today. It is natural and expected that the watch draws its inspiration from the five decades of Seiko 5 Sports' success. Every creation in the new collection shares an updated version of this celebrated case and all have the same arrow shaped minute hands, distinctive hour markers and one-way rotating bezel. The movements are all Seiko's tried and trusted automatic Caliber 4R36, with 24 jewels, optional manual winding, a 41-hour power reserve and a hacking second hand.

With 27 different executions, each in one of five styles: Sports, Suits, Specialist, Street and Sense, there is a great variety to choose from! Indeed, there is something for everyone here. All have new dials with three-dimensional hour markers and the collection embraces a wide range of straps and bracelets. The steel mesh and silicone/leather hybrids have been incorporated for the first time in Seiko 5 Sports.



The HKTDC Hong Kong Watch & Clock Fair has long been on the list of people from the horological industry. The 38th edition of the fair and the seventh edition of the Salon de TE concluded its five-day run (3-7 September) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC). Agreed, these were slightly turbulent times owing to the political demonstrations, but in the spirit of true professionalism, the fair carried on and welcomed close to 18,000 buyers from 104 countries and regions. Jointly organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Hong Kong Watch Manufacturers Association Ltd and The Federation of Hong Kong Watch Trades and Industries Ltd, satisfactory growth was recorded in buyer attendance from emerging markets such as Brazil, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Vietnam, along with established markets such as Belgium and Switzerland.

## HKTDC Hong Kong Watch & Clock Fair

Watching times





#### TALKING TRADE...

The watch industry world over is undergoing a drastic change. On one hand you can sense an economic slowdown. Then, there is the much talked about trade war between the US and China. Finally, specific to the horological industry, Baselworld has encountered quite a few challenges. Having said that, things still look upbeat. According to Benjamin Chau, HKTDC Deputy Executive Director, “Despite the continuation of the Sino-US trade friction, global exhibitors and buyers still view Hong Kong Watch & Clock Fair as a premier one-stop trading platform. The fair has attracted various renowned watch and clock brands, retailers and wholesalers such as Shiel’s from Australia, Chilli Beans from Brazil, Wenger’s of Canada, Germany’s Paul Valentine, Titan Group of India, Tous Watch from Spain, Iduna AB of Sweden, Switzerland’s West End Watch and Armitron from the United States. To assist industry players to expand their business networks and explore more business opportunities amid various challenges, we also expanded our business matching services by putting in place extra resources this year.”



### THE FUTURE...

What does the future look like in context of the present? Like each year, HKTDC tried to get explore this question in a scientific manner by conducting a survey. In brief, the survey sees 2020 sales as steady or growing, as per the HKTDC commissioned independent market research agency report. The agency conducted an on-site survey during the first three days of the fair (3-5 September), interviewing 839 buyers and exhibitors about their views on market prospects and product trends. Regarding the market outlook in 2020, respondents who expected to see the overall sales steady and growing are 48% and 32% respectively. Most respondents view Japan, Western Europe, Taiwan and Hong Kong as the most promising mature markets in the next two years, while the Middle East, Mainland China and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are seen as having the best prospects among emerging markets.





### THE FUTURE IS SMART

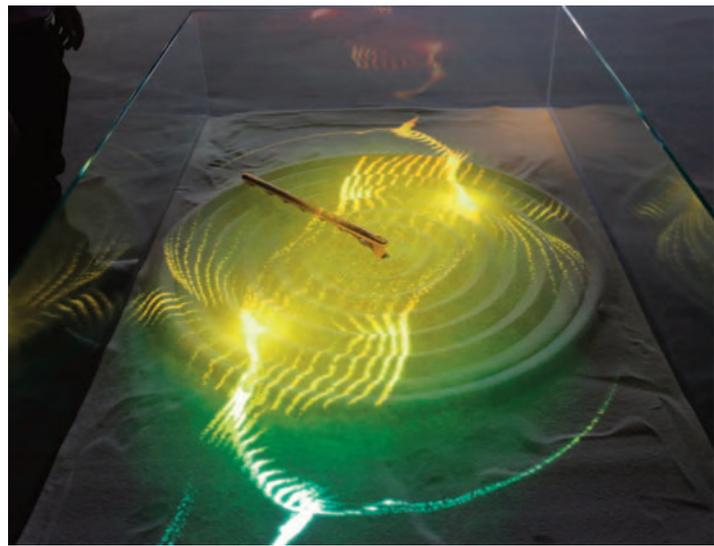
Smart watches remain as the upcoming trend. This was something that clearly echoed even in the past years, across the surveys conducted by the HKTDC, as well as the different analysis and observations by experts. In terms of product trends, smart watches (31%), automatic watches (22%), digital analogue watches (18%) and quartz analogue watches (14%) are viewed as the most popular categories for 2020. Watches interactable with smart devices (51%) are predicted by respondents to be the most prevalent product development strategy in the coming year, followed by collections that align with current season's fashion trends (40%), mix & match watches (featuring changeable parts to match clothing) (39%), limited edition collections (35%) and celebrity-endorsed watch collections (29%).



## SPOTLIGHT ON LUXURY

Some really distinguished timepieces and accessories made an appearance at the Watch & Clock Fair. Pageant of Eternity displayed premium and high-end collection of exquisite finished watches from around 160 exhibitors. Glamorous Timepieces at “Salon de TE” are of course, much awaited every year, and this year was no exception. “Salon de TE” gathered around 140 prestigious watch brands and designer collections in five themed zones. World Brand Piazza being the spotlight featured limited editions and rare timepieces from 13 international renowned brands that included Blancpain, Breguet, Chopard, CORUM, FRANCK MULLER, Glashütte Original, Jacob & Co., Jaquet Droz, Juvenia, PARMIGIANI FLEURIER, Piaget, SARCAR Genève and ZENITH.





#### COVERING THE WATCH WORLD

Chic & Trendy featured trend-setters and fashion-driven watches. Craft Treasure displayed mechanical timepieces and jewellery-laden watches of impeccable craftsmanship. Renaissance Moment was almost like the historic showcase of timeless European classics and the finest pieces. And finally, Wearable Tech showcased innovation with smart watches and tech-savvy timepieces. There were some innovative new designs as well, as illustrated by the Design Competition, the aim of which is to encourage Home-grown Watch Designers.

#### NETWORKING IN THE TRUE MANNER...

Business matching has been one of the key strengths of the fair, especially since it represents the many different branches and wings of the horological industry. This creates opportunities for buyers and exhibitors. There were many examples of some really interesting business matching cases, which have highly benefitted sellers and buyers. In addition to matching, there were diversified events including an array of watch parades, seminars, buyer forums and networking events to share insights on the market and the on the future of the horological industry. This edition of the fair featured more than 30 events.



## ASIAN WATCH CONFERENCE

Industry experts came together at the Asian Watch Conference, themed “Get Connected: Smart Techs for Smart Watches”, on 4 September to explore digitisation trends and opportunities in the mobile Internet era, with a specific focus on smart watches and hybrid watches. Jorge Martin, Head of Fashion Research at Euromonitor International, examined trends in the global watch industry. Emil Chan, Chairman of the Association of Cloud and Mobile Computing Professionals, shared his insights on ABCD (artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud and data) technology solutions for wearable devices. Philip Wong, Vice-President (Technical) at the Movado Group, discussed the latest trends in smart watches. Well, what we can say for sure is that the future is surely digital! It is best for the industry to embrace digitalization with open arms! In the midst of a volatile market, it is heartening to see the skills of watchmaking celebrated and revered, raring to meet the needs of the future! The HKTDC continues to make inroads into the Asian Market, connecting the different branches of the horological world.



## CONVERSATIONS FROM HONG KONG....

In a conversation with Byron Lee, Senior Exhibitions Manager (Exhibitions Department), Samuel Lee, Chairman, The Federation of Hong Kong Watch Trades and Industries Ltd and Harold Sun, Honorary Advisor, The Federation of Hong Kong Watch Trades and Industries Ltd, Karan Karer unveils the spirit of the fair...



### **How has the year been for HKTDC? How do you foresee 2019/20?**

For the watch and clock fair in general, we have a slight increase in the number of exhibitors. Last year it was 830 and this year 832, so we have been able to maintain the presence of the suppliers. It is a very important show as it is one of the largest trade fairs for the watch industry. The watch industry is a very important industry as far as the portfolio of Hong Kong is concerned. Even though the manufacturing base may not be here, many brands are owned, managed and marketed by companies in Hong Kong. Recently there have been social instabilities in Hong Kong but luckily international business has not been impacted that much, though there are disruptions in transportation. Our mission in context of global issues like trade war, Brexit and so on, is to provide better support to our SMEs. We are striving to explore new markets. We have new buyers from other countries such as the central Asia market, a fast-emerging consumer market for our products. We are being optimistic about the business and industry.

### **A lot of fairs have consolidated operations. Your thoughts on this?**

I think the Baselworld fair has lost a bit of momentum since last year. There is a loss of focus on positioning. Some brands have a very exclusive images, while the middle

or lower level ones may have a smaller booth. It is difficult to consolidate it sometimes. Here, in Hong Kong, it is better to promote Asian brands and even some European brands. They have a bigger exposure to the media in Asia. It is a good chance for the show to position in the market.

We continue to provide an improving platform. We respect Basel for the history and prestige it has. We do provide a good choice for brands to choose from. The positioning of our fair and Baselworld is quite different. We have a big contingent of manufacturers of parts, even packaging. The whole supply chain is here. Hence, we provide a lot of value. That is the differentiation. The Salon de TE launch can cater as well to luxury brands. This is great for some really good Independent watchmakers. We are also the number one show for exports.

### **There is a running synergy between Indian markets and the HKTDC...**

We do market specific promotion. We have solo exhibitions that we have done in Indonesia or Poland. But these are not yearly events. For those events, we also cover multiple industries. So, it would be a general promotion of many Hong Kong industries. It has been a part of our strategy. For business-to-business fairs, Hong Kong is still our base. There is a government proposition for creating a single market here with a consolidation of key cities in the Greater Bay area, but that's a big project, and will be a great opportunity for overseas companies to be in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong holds huge potential, which the HKTDC has already started exploring. The next few years may hold unique challenges, but the show goes on, and goes well!



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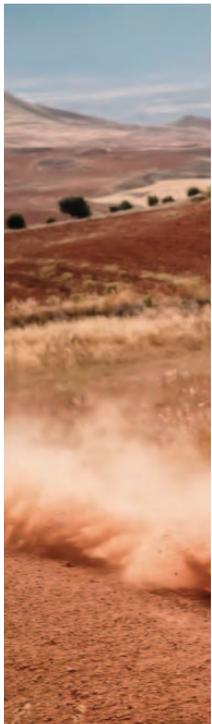
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# LUMINOX

## Navy SEALs 3600 SERIES

**W**e all know about the Navy SEALs- America's premiere defenders, willing to go to any lengths to preserve freedom. Luminox has been supplying to the SEALs and supporting their missions by developing the highest quality timepieces built to withstand really tough conditions.





A new model in the series now purports to increase its functionality even further. The next evolution of the Navy SEAL Series is already here, in a stunning 45 mm rendition. Note the new vertical arrangement of Luminox's proprietary light technology. This results in a different look, opening up the dial while still guaranteeing up to 25 years of ultimate night visibility. Luminox's LLT technology doesn't rely on anything external to provide luminosity.

In keeping with the needs of the Navy SEALs, the 45 mm case is made of Carbonox, a carbon-based material exclusive to Luminox, which is light, hypoallergenic and extremely durable and resistant. The carbon fibres being visible on the surface of the case add a lovely texture to the

watch. The watch is water-resistant to 200 meters, using a stainless-steel screw down crown and case back. Special gaskets and case design mean the watch can dive deep and continue performing flawlessly.

In keeping with Luminox's slogan, American Born, Swiss Made, the watch is designed for use by the American military (and have been adopted by military, law enforcement and first responders around the world) and are Swiss Made, using the best technology in Swiss watchmaking, including a Swiss quartz movement from Ronda.

A great functional tool for the rugged outdoors! Let the light continue to shine!





**I**WC Schaffhausen is a brand that personifies the mélange of heritage, culture and innovation. More than 150 years old, the brand has game-changing history and pioneering craftsmanship evident in the timepieces it creates in line with beauty, perfection, precision and great engineering. Mehdi Rajan, Brand Director for the Middle East, India and Africa talks to Karishma Karer about the manufacture and the recent focus on the Spitfire collection.

# IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN

In conversation with Mehdi Rajan

**We have to begin by talking about the Spitfire. Clearly, that's the rage right now...**

The Silver Spitfire really represents what I would call the bold and very adventurous mindset of the pilots who have decided to fly this historical plane from the 1940s! The plane has gone through everything, and they have decided to push it to the limits and actually circumnavigate the entire world in it. Of course, they would be taking stops all over. One of the significant places is where it all started, the Boulton Flight Academy in England. The Spitfire will go across in the US, and go to Asia as well. This is a true journey. Every time the plane lands and takes-off is a victory in itself. The humidity of South East Asia, the cold of Alaska, and the varied demands of the different places that it goes, speaks of the intense preparation that has gone into this. They have been training extensively for two years now. There are engineers following them all the time, and they make over a hundred stops, since they can fly only about 600-700 kilometers at a go. They have to stop and then refuel and work on the mechanics before taking off again. It is a great adventure and they have so much passion that it's contagious. They are currently in Japan and they are stuck because of the weather. One of the inconveniences of such a plane is that it does not have modern equipment. For example, you need to fly below

the cloud level as there is no navigation instrument. There is no reservoir tank! It is a dare! The whole thing is pretty epic. We love this spirit of adventure and that boldness and spirit is what binds us to them.

**Indeed, this has inspired the Spitfire collection...**

Yes, the collection is a tribute to this great spirit of adventure. The Spitfire line in the Pilot's Watches collection celebrates the unique engineering expertise of the designers of the legendary British fighter aircraft. The design and aesthetic codes of the watch has been directly inspired by the cockpit of the plane. We have a special edition of 250 pieces, called the longest flight edition. It is a Timezoner. It features innovation and a patented movement. Through the bezel one can set the time and the hands automatically adjust to the time of the city you're in. I think this is a rather playful innovation. It is fun and very useful as well. The complication has got tremendous response from the market and we have a waiting list. All the watches are already sold. It's a great feeling to see how the stories that we convey resonate with people worldwide.

**I notice that the size of the diameter is slightly smaller. Is this an upcoming trend?**



The demand has come from clients. In the design process we try to be as customer centric as possible. Having said that, we still launched the Big Pilot and it is a statement piece and an iconic one at that. It holds the story of pilot watches. But we do see a desire for slightly smaller watches and different proportions. I do love big watches personally though! The 41 Pilot Chrono in bronze however, is a perfect weekend watch. It is the first time we used bronze on a pilot watch. The bronze is slightly matte and the patina you get is individual and I think it makes it very personal. The beauty of the patina and the vintage look is something special.

**What is the next movement you have?**

We are focusing on watchmaking expertise. The second manufacture that we opened a little over a year back allows us much more verticality in terms of movement creation, casing and assembly. It enables us to supply to the demand for movements and to have economies of scale. So, we can have in-house movements without impacting pricing. Slowly but surely we are revamping our collection.

**Put together for us a watch wardrobe with a watch from every pillar of IWC Schaffhausen....**

I would start with the Portugieser, as that is our most iconic watch collection. From this collection, I love the Perpetual Calendar. There is a strong emotional connect with the complication as it is patented. It is user friendly. It was invented by one of our historical watchmakers. He made it in 1985 and he made it only using his brain and sketches! It reminds me that the human brain is incredible. Then, from the Pilot Collection, it has to be a Big Pilot that I have. In Aquatimer, I don't own the watch yet, but I've loved one of the Chronographs in blue colour. I think it is a great sports watch. Then the IWC Ingenieur AMG Cassius Marcellus Clay is a specific limited edition that I find impressive. I visited the manufacture and understood the link between performance and design. I don't own a Da Vinci but my wife does! I like the red gold moon-face. I find it extremely elegant and subtle and quite understated. My dad owns a vintage Portofino Moonphase, and it's been three decades but the watch is mesmerizing.

*Well, it's wonderful to celebrate the unique watchmaking expertise of one of the legendary Swiss watchmakers! Indeed, it is the spirit of adventure that binds many watch aficionados to this exceptional brand.*

# MARVEL X RJ

## Spider-Man captured in a tourbillon!

MARVEL X RJ...just the names say it all. For all Marvel fans who are also watch aficionados, capturing their beloved superhero into the fine mechanics of watch may just be the perfect conquest! The new ARRAW Spider-Man Tourbillon channels Spider-Man's iconic style through every component. In a first for the Swiss watchmaker, the highly innovative Spider-Man inspired central tourbillon movement was developed and produced wholly in-house at RJ Studio in Eysins, located on the shores of Lake Geneva.

"It was a pleasure for us to work closely with the team at MARVEL Studios, who has put its trust in our hands for the creation and development of our first complicated watch designed in honour of Spider-Man. For the first time, a character and his universe inspired us not only in the aesthetics, but also in the technicality of the movement. And it is no coincidence that we have chosen a tourbillon: light, rapid and ethereal. Its increased power reserve of more than six days makes a fitting tribute to Spider-Man's own endurance and performance," said Marco Tedeschi, CEO and Creative Director of RJ.

RJ-7000 the in-house central tourbillon is clearly the technical star of the piece. It has a remarkably long power reserve, a unique construction that provides a fantastic view of the regulator, a distinctive peripheral display for the hours and minutes and hands that have been shaped to mimic the legs of the Spider icon...these are some of the enticing features of this watch.

The grade 5 titanium tourbillon cage and the going wheel train feature an openwork design shaped like a spider web, emphasizing lightness. Affixed on the main plate, the black eyes of the Spider-Man mask stand out thanks to their distinctive contrast finishing.

Made in a 45 mm case adorned with the RJ BUMPERS in rubber, the ARRAW Spider-Man tourbillon is available in two materials with each version limited to only 10 pieces. The first, in red, is crafted in a high-performance composite that combines superposed layers of black carbon and red fiberglass. The material is incredibly light and also offers a finely textured matte surface. The second variation is made entirely of carbon in stealth black. Its shimmering grey and anthracite tone impart the piece with a strong yet sleek look, perfectly suited to Spider-Man.

An unconventional watch that has a strong appeal to comics and superhero fans as well as watch enthusiasts!





#### AN INTERCHANGEABLE STRAP

The strap of the ARRAW Spider-Man tourbillon is made of black polyamide and recalls the texture of the superhero's suit. It is embellished with the Spider icon which has been thermoformed on the bracelet in-between the lugs and reinforced with a black rubber inlay for optimal durability and comfort.

The ARRAW Spider-Man Tourbillon is equipped with the interchangeable ARRAW strap system, allowing the strap to be released with a simple 'click' by pressing simultaneously on the two lug screws. On the clasp, a lever releases the strap from the deployment buckle, no tools required.

#### A SPIDER WATCH BOX

For the first time the ARRAW watch box, characterized by its round shape and the iconic four RJ BUMPERS, has been customized with Spider-Man's attributes.

Made of black wood, the watch box resembles a spider thanks to the eight spider legs fixed to the side. Spider-Man's web and logo are also engraved on the lid.

Inside the box, the watch appears captured in a spider web made of steel. This part is removeable, making the watch box easy to repurpose as desired.

Each collaboration represents an opportunity for RJ to reinterpret Haute Horlogerie and to push back its limits. The essence of legendary characters can be found in these watches, from the aesthetic to the very components of the movement. Offering an opportunity to discover Haute Horlogerie under a new light at every turn, RJ is not done surprising us!





# FOSSIL

## Moving with style

The Fossil Group is a name that is recognized world over. The global design company has a range of lifestyle accessories such as fashion watches, jewellery, handbags, small leather goods and wearables. Fossil also has a very diverse portfolio of owned and licensed brands, each adding their own unique touch to the group. Present in over 50 countries and 500 retail locations, Fossil finds many fans in India. Most notably, their smartwatches, in sync with the times have been really popular in India.

When we talk Fossil, we talk style! Indeed, fashion and style is high on Fossil's list of priorities and hence we are always excited to see the latest collections that will add a spunk to watch wardrobes! This time round, they have launched three collections, all limited-edition pieces, that speak to different aesthetics. So, we have the Exotic Range, the Dive Range and the Starmaster Range of watches.

### DIVE RIGHT IN

This collection calls out to all you water babies out there ...loud and clear. This is a comeback collection. Dig into the archives and you will see that this collection was first released as a sportwatch collection in the late '90s.

It has a unique style that combines the traditional look of a dive watch with striking tonal detailing. And yes, it is also about functionality! This timepiece with a depth rating of 10 ATM can be worn bathing, swimming or snorkelling. More accurate than a mechanical movement—this electronic watch movement features a quartz crystal that oscillates when a current is applied to it. Stainless steel watchstraps are extremely durable and can last the lifetime of a watch if properly maintained.

An added style statement in the waters!



### LET'S GET EXOTIC...

Now when somebody says the word exotic, what comes first to mind is exotic wildlife! And indeed, this is the inspiration for this collection. Be prepared for some fantastic animal prints - think tort, python, cheetah, and snow leopard! Dark and bold colours are perfect fits for these watches. For all of us who are fashion buffs, we know that animal prints never go out of style. Yes, they do hibernate occasionally, and that's what makes them fresh each time they are back! The watches in this collection bring out the exoticism of the animal prints that are dark and beautiful and yet bathed in natural light.

This collection is a must for those looking for a bold statement to get them out of their fall fashion rut. These are classics and yet make a modern statement. Come on, gear up! It is time to let your animal instincts run wild!



### REACH FOR THE STARS!

The Starmaster is very elegant and has a hint of the vintage look. Yes, this also belongs to the past and has been updated for the current. This iconic reboot captures the nostalgia of the '90s with its intergalactic glow. Power up, shine on and see vintage in a whole new light.

Brought back exclusively for the Archival Series, this limited edition is now made in two styles, each with a classic electroluminescent (EL) backlit dial that can be engaged with a single press of the pusher. The iconic platform's 37 mm traditional case silhouette and 20 mm classic leather straps mix everyday wearability with heritage style. Those looking for a rooted in the 90's, classic style statement, the Starmaster will light up your wrist. This collection is available in a silver case with clear crystal and black case with amber crystal.

*We know that we can always trust Fossil when it comes to enduring style. So, get a grip on modern style with the best of the past and the current!*

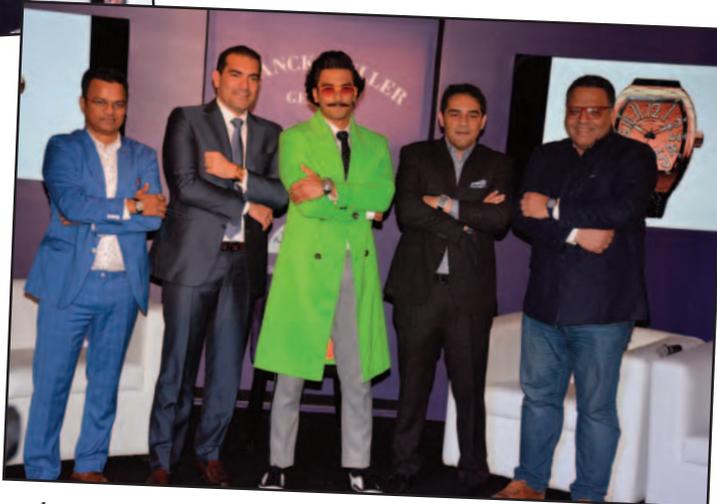
**N**ow for all those of you familiar with Franck Muller, what are the words that immediately come to your mind when you talk about this brand? Fun. Youthful. Audacious. Distinctive. Gorgeous haute horlogerie. Well, we could go on and on! Here is a brand that is clearly a master of complications, but it has a very special way of infusing its creations with style and fun.

So, we're not surprised that to represent these values to the Indian market, Franck Muller has chosen none other than Ranveer Singh, as Brand Master at an event in Mumbai. Clearly, this is one news-bit that has everyone raving! Erol Baliyan, Regional Director Middle East, Africa and India and Viraal Rajan, Managing Director, Time Avenue Pvt Ltd who has partnered with Franck Muller to open the first Franck Muller Boutique in India, were elated to make this announcement.

Erol Baliyan, said "We always aim to impact the customer at an emotional level and create a bond between the customer and the timepiece. As a brand, we are a trend maker with a solid track record." Viraal Rajan expressed his delight on having Ranveer Singh on

board, "We are elated to welcome Ranveer Singh as the Brand Master of Franck Muller in India, Ranveer Singh is synonymous with youth, fun and perfection, just like Franck Muller brand which wows the watch world with boldness, creativity and exceptional know how."

Franck Muller Boutique located at the prestigious Palladium Mall houses some of the most exquisite watches of Franck Muller from the Vanguard, Master Square, Crazy Hours, Colour Dreams to the Long Island.



# Franck Muller

## Ranveer Singh as Brand Master for India



**Buckles :** 1.2mm, 1.5mm, 2.0mm  
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# HUBLOT

## First flagship Boutique in India

**H**ublot has die-hard fans in India, and this is no secret. We witnessed the warm and lively reception that Hublot got when the watchmaker opened its first flagship boutique in India, located in the heart of Mumbai at the Palladium Mall, one of the most prestigious luxury shopping locations in the country.

This is a haven for discerning shoppers and offers an unrivalled mix of traditional elegance and contemporary luxury. Covering more than 45 square meters, on the ground floor of the mall, this brand new Hublot Boutique exemplifies the brand's well-known motto, "The Art of Fusion", blending materials and styles in a truly modern and innovative spirit. Paying tribute to the art world, the boutique is decorated with Pop Art paintings inspired by the iconic Big Bang collection. Hublot Big Bang, Classic Fusion, Spirit of Big Bang, as well as exclusive limited editions will be on display for all watch lovers.

Present at the Opening, Hublot's Brand Ambassador, ex cricket star Kevin Pietersen graced the occasion and interacted with eminent members of media and Hublotistas alike. He taught Ricardo Guadalupe how to bowl on a small pitch designed for the occasion.

Rohit Sharma, the best white ball cricketer opener in the world and Hublot's Friend of the Brand, was unable to attend the illustrious event. However, he addressed the media in the form of a direct telecast from Pune, where he was representing India in the forthcoming Test Match between South Africa and India. He congratulated Hublot for this first boutique in India and applauded the social contribution of the brand Hublot towards saving the rhinos in India, a cause with which he himself is also associated.

Entering with a Big Bang....that's what we call the Hublot spirit!



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# IWC Schaffhausen

## Celebrating the Pilot Collection

The Swiss luxury watch manufacturer celebrated the launch of its 2019 Pilot's Watch collection at Soho House Mumbai, at an event hosted by Mehdi Rajan, IWC Brand Director for the Middle East, India and Africa, and local partner Art of Time. The evening was attended by IWC brand ambassador Sonam Kapoor, along with watch collectors, who celebrated the occasion and also received an exclusive viewing of the Pilot's Watches.

To mark its history and passion for aviation while celebrating a milestone moment in the brand's journey – IWC's support for the "Silver Spitfire – The Longest Flight" expedition in collaboration with Steve Boulton-Brooks and Matt Jones, founders of the Boulton Flight Academy – the brand brought its famed Pilot's Watches to the very luxurious and exclusive Soho House Mumbai.

The guests were thus able to view the timepieces from the Pilot's collection which made their debut in January 2019 at the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH) in Geneva. The collection features three highly distinct sub-lines: the Spitfire, which captures

the outstanding engineering expertise of IWC; the Top Gun, which sports a line-up of models machined from robust innovative materials; and Le Petit Prince, which translates Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's most famous literary work into stunning masterpieces of haute horlogerie.

"We have seen an increasing appreciation and awareness of IWC Schaffhausen among a growing number of collectors across major cities in India. This has fuelled our recent performance in the country and led to exclusive experiences such as this evening's event. The Pilot's Watches form the heart and soul of the brand and we are indeed very pleased to be able to present a special viewing of the collection for our esteemed patrons in India," said Mehdi Rajan, IWC Schaffhausen Brand Director for the Middle East, India and Africa.

IWC brand ambassador Sonam Kapoor said: "I'm proud to have been part of the IWC family for more than three years. Their latest Pilot's collection and the collaboration with the 'Silver Spitfire – The Longest Flight' expedition once again prove their passion, precision and great engineering."



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**O**fficine Panerai combines its Italian roots with Swiss Watchmaking Heritage. The roots of the brand lie in Florence and its timepieces embody the craftsmanship that we associate with the land of the renaissance movements, as well as the impeccable technical prowess of Swiss made watches.

Panerai has a deep presence in the Indian market. The brand's new boutique at the Palladium Mall in Mumbai has already been attracting many watch lovers. On October 4, Panerai and The Malt Legends celebrated an evening of elegance...honouring the two iconic names.

The event was held at the Atrium at Palladium and was attended by the crème de la crème of Mumbai!





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# ROLEX

## Simone Ventures celebrates its first Rolex Boutique

A heritage brand like Rolex is bound to garner a lot of attention. The Rolex Boutique in Mumbai, located on Hughes Road in the heart of South Mumbai, in the beautiful Zaveri House, offers professional expertise in an elegant setting. Indeed, here one can sense a luxurious and comfortable vibe that is consistent with the elegance that the brand evokes.

It takes but a visit here to have a sneak peek into the world of Rolex. Every element of the interior design features the elegant Rolex aesthetic and radiates the values of the Rolex crown. Excellence, precision and attention to detail emanate from the careful calibration of colours and patterns in the fittings and furnishings.

A striking emerald aqua wall highlights Rolex's rich heritage, its wave motif referencing the iconic Oyster, the world's first waterproof wristwatch. This intense green is referred around the boutique, creating accents that harmonize a refreshed colour palette. The walls mix textures from walnut brown wood to beige-coloured stone and include specially developed, hand-crafted stucco panels in a pattern that recalls the peacock – the national bird of India.

Rolex and Simone Ventures continue to serve fans of the brand. "Simone Ventures is proud to be associated with a heritage brand like Rolex and to present its first Rolex Boutique in Mumbai. The brand reflects the highest standards of quality and service, something that we have brought out through every experience in this boutique. We hope to delight our customers and provide an unforgettable experience," said Jay Makhijani, CEO of Simone Ventures, speaking about this veritable partnership.



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# Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève

## Awarding watchmaking brilliance

By Karishma Karer

**W**hen the watch world is an intrinsic part of your life, like it is of mine, you are well aware of the relentless pursuit of watchmaking excellence on the part of manufactures. By fusing age-old skills that have been handed down generations with cutting edge technology that is every bit futuristic, watchmakers have carved their niche in the annals of creativity. Every time I see a new creation I continue to be surprised at so much innovation that just continues to push the bar. Hence, it is pertinent that as stakeholders of this beautiful industry, we award the stellar creativity that we see around us. The Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève has been awarding this dynamic ingenuity for almost two decades now.

It was with a sense of great pride that I visited Geneva for the 19th edition of the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève. I represented the Watch Market Review Group, the only official invitee from India. Indeed, Watch Market Review

enjoys patronage and respect as an authentic publication dedicated to the world of watches! The awards ceremony was a graceful event that brought together stalwarts of the industry. Together, we celebrated the world of watches, amidst an enthralling setting against the backdrop of Geneva. Winter has started making its presence felt as Autumn slowly melts away, but as a fraternity, we were enveloped by warmth!

Here is a glimpse of the prize-winners, all truly incredible watches and deserving indeed! I was also happy to note that the Special Jury Prize awarded to Luc Pettavino, Founder and Organiser of Only Watch, that has combined an element of social responsibility into the realm of watchmaking. I find it difficult to choose and pick my personal favourites from the list of spectacular prize-winners! So, here is the whole platter!

"Aiguille d'Or" Grand Prix: Audemars Piguet, Royal Oak Selfwinding Perpetual Calendar Ultra-Thin

Ladies' Watch Prize: Chanel, J12 Calibre 12.1

Ladies' Complication Watch Prize: MB&F, Legacy Machine FlyingT

Men's Watch Prize: Voutilainen, 28ti

Men's Complication Watch Prize: Audemars Piguet, Code 11.59 by Audemars Piguet Minute Repeater Supersonnerie

Iconic Watch Prize: Audemars Piguet, Royal Oak "Jumbo" Extra-thin

Chronometry Watch Prize: Chronométrie Ferdinand Berthoud, Carburised steel regulator

Calendar and Astronomy Watch Prize: Hermès, Arceau L'heure de la lune

Mechanical Exception Watch Prize: Genus, GNS1.2

Chronograph Watch Prize: Bvlgari, Octo Finissimo Chronograph GMT Automatic

Diver's Watch Prize: Seiko, Prospex LX line diver's

Jewellery Watch Prize: Bvlgari, Serpenti Misteriosi Romani

Artistic Crafts Watch Prize: Voutilainen, Starry Night Vine

"Petite Aiguille" Prize: Kudoke, Kudoke 2

Challenge Watch Prize: Tudor, Black Bay P01

Innovation Prize: Vacheron Constantin, Traditionnelle Twin Beat perpetual calendar

Audacity Prize: Urwerk, AMC

"Horological Revelation" Prize: Ming, 17.06 Copper

The Foundation of the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Geneve has, since 2001, rewarded the most remarkable watchmaking creations in order to contribute to enhancing the worldwide reputation of the watchmaking art. The launch of the 19th edition this year, continued this tradition amongst all the members of the world horological community, who share their passion for craftsmanship and horological creativity. I can't wait for the next edition....and continue to be enthralled by this inspiring saga



Ladies' Watch Prize  
Chanel  
J12 Calibre 12.1

"Aiguille d'Or" Grand Prix  
Audemars Piguet  
Royal Oak Selfwinding  
Perpetual Calendar Ultra-Thin



Ladies' Complication Watch  
Prize  
MB&F  
Legacy Machine FlyingT

Men's Watch Prize:  
Voutilainen  
a28ti



Men's Complication Watch  
Prize  
Audemars Piguet  
Code 11.59 by Audemars  
Piguet Minute Repeater  
Supersonnerie





Iconic Watch Prize: Audemars Piguet, Royal Oak "Jumbo" Extra-thin

Chronometry Watch Prize: Chronométrie Ferdinand Berthoud, Carburised steel regulator



Calendar and Astronomy Watch Prize: Hermès, Arceau L'heure de la lune

Mechanical Exception Watch Prize: Genus, GNS1.2



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Diver's Watch Prize: Seiko, Prospex LX line diver's



Artistic Crafts Watch Prize: Voutilainen, Starry Night Vine

"Petite Aiguille" Prize: Kudoke, Kudoke 2



Jewellery Watch Prize: Bvlgari, Serpenti Misteriosi Romani



Challenge Watch Prize: Tudor, Black Bay P01





Innovation Prize: Vacheron Constantin, Traditionnelle Twin Beat perpetual calendar



"Horological Revelation" Prize: Ming, 17.06 Copper



Special Jury Prize:  
Luc Pettavino, Founder and  
Organiser of Only Watch



Audacity Prize: Urwerk, AMC



## In conversation with Raymond Loretan

The President of the Foundation of the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG), an experienced figure who has continued the development of the GPHG with refreshed momentum, talks to Karishma Karer about the watch world and the dynamics of the Grand Prix.



### **You are entering the 20th year of the awards in 2020. What are your thoughts?**

We are very grateful to the founders of the awards. Without them, we would not be where we are today. Ten years ago, we had a fundamental change in that it became an independent Foundation, supported by the State and County of Geneva. So, we evolved from a private organization to a neutral and independent organization. Next year, we enter into our 20th year. We want to go a step further. We have a plan to create an Academy Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève. This will be for academicians around the world and will further reinstate our values.

### **What is the application procedure for the brands that participate?**

Well, the procedure may change for next year, but, this year the brands needed to register watches to compete. There is a 30-member jury that selects for the categories. We have six watches selected per category. These watches travel around the world. This year we visited Sydney, Bangkok and Mexico. It is a unique way of presenting the watches to various people. Then, we have the exhibition day in Geneva, where the winners are selected. After this, the winning watches again travel, this time to Dubai. We also have scope for feedback. The cycle then starts again. However, in 2020 the process will be slightly different keeping in mind that we will have the Academy in place as well. The new cycle will have a new system.

It will be more sophisticated and in sync with the times.

### **How do you select the jury?**

The jury is divided in different 'colleges' or categories - experts, journalists, collectors, watchmakers, enthusiasts etc. Then we have a geographical demarcation as well. We are also on lookout for experts all over the world and those we are in touch with, help us. The final decision is with the Council of the GPHG.

### **The GPHG travels to a lot of countries. While you have already travelled to India in 2014, are you looking at it again in the near future?**

Yes, for sure. However, do keep in mind that we need to organize the trip, and that has challenges especially with respect to customs and other formalities. It is a logistic exercise, made difficult by the fact that the watches are in our possession for only a month or so, and hence we can have only 3-4 locations. Moreover, we finance a great part of it, but we need a local sponsor for local arrangements. But yes, Asia and India specifically remain a very good market. We do try and include as many places as we possibly can. Sky is the limit!

### **Would you say that the GPHG is the Oscars of Watchmaking?**

Yes! But we also need to update the selection system and to increase our visibility internationally.

### **What are the trends that repeat themselves every year in selected watches?**

There are no trends. The judges are independent and the criteria is related to innovation and technicalities. But having said that, we have observed a lot of innovation. There is a dynamism. There is also a renewal of creativity every year.

### **What is your personal favourite?**

Well, I cannot answer this one! We have to remain neutral. In fact, at the event, we do not wear watches as we do not show any signal of preference. I do have a personal collection of watches, but I've given it to my son now! I wear a Fitbit now to count my steps!

### **Will the selection system change a lot?**

Yes. The selection system will have a big change. It will not only be about selecting watches, but also creating awareness. The academicians will create awareness of the brands as well as the watch industry. I see a huge transformation in this arena. But, we will go forward step-by-step, and the first step is creating the Academy.

*Loretan continues to develop the GPHG, ensuring strict independence and neutrality of the Grand Prix, and also looking at new modes of cooperation to ensure its growth, sustainability and purpose, which is to promote the watch industry as a whole.*



# WATCH TRADE FEDERATION

## *Celebrating Horology*

**C**elebrating the Watch Trade has been a consistent motive of the Watch Trade Federation. One of the occasions that the group celebrates is Diwali. Every year, the festive occasion of Diwali and New Year is celebrated with a get-together of the different members of the watch industry. This year as well, the highly anticipated event was held at the Hotel Westend in Mumbai. This was the 13th consecutive meet.

Vinod Agarwal, President, Watch Trade Federation addressed the fraternity. He welcomed the prominent luminaries and friends from the industry, and made some very crucial points about the state of affairs in the country. "In spite of all the negativity surrounding us I remain positive. Three relevant changes are going to be game changers. First is 'Education for All'. Second, the availability of communication and technology. Third, every home is equipped with satellite television. Everyone has access to information. Our biggest asset is our population. I am positive that the entire scenario of the country will change in positive direction. I urge my friends from the industry to shed all negativity and to build their businesses for times to come," said Agarwal.

This year, the occasion was a platform for sharing some really deep views and thoughts. Everyone acknowledged that there was a slowdown





in the industry, but as a group, positivity for the future was the running theme, since, despite general slowdown, there are opportunities in sight. Some of the issues discussed pertained to counterfeiting, opportunities in other unexplored areas, need to explore new geographies and developments in other parts of the country, looking for scope in the ancillary and linked industries such as clocks, parts etc, need to change old fashioned attitudes and many other points. The talks and discussions were followed by an entertainment program.

Every year, the annual gathering of the Watch Trade Federation provides a great platform for networking with members of the industry as well as for being inspired with stories of those who have achieved great success in the field. This year continued the trend!



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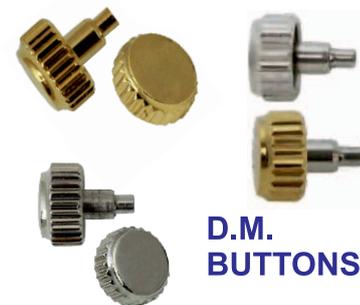


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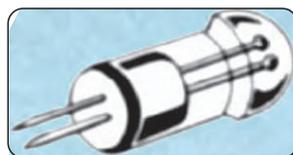
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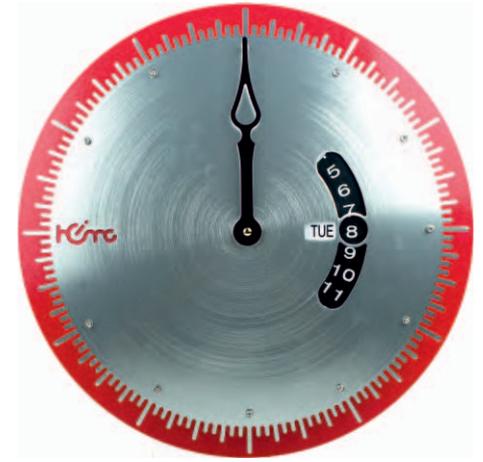
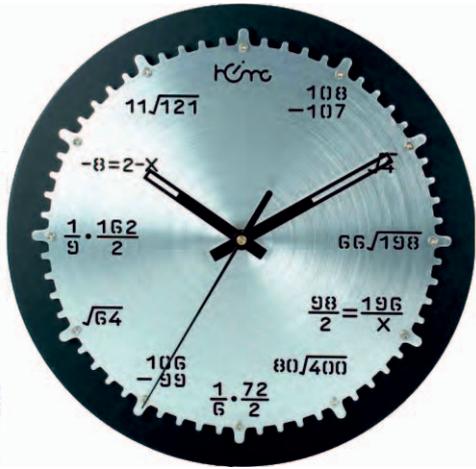


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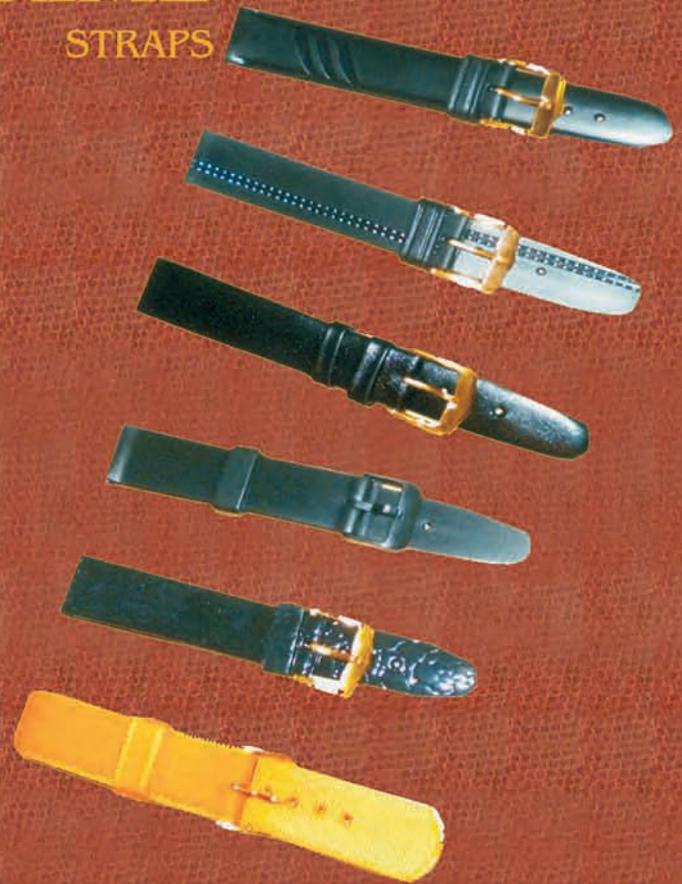
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# SEIKO

## Exiting Baselworld in 2020

**W**hile we have not yet got any official news from Baselworld authorities, many popular watch blogs and news sites have reported that Seiko has decided not to exhibit in Baselworld 2020. Watch Market Review has spoken to a representative of Seiko, and validated the news.

In a sense this is one more casualty for the fair that has lost many key exhibitors in recent past. Seiko and Grand Seiko will hence no longer be part of the watch fair. This comes as a blow to Baselworld which had decidedly reworked on many issues that bothered exhibitors.

The reason for the pull out could well be related to the timing of Baselworld 2020, which is considerably later than in previous years. This may have implications for new launches and the already well oiled system that worked so well for the brand till date. The new date is too late in the year.

There are many speculations. Is this because of a special 60th anniversary celebration of Grand Seiko? Is it because it also coincides with Japanese holidays? Does Seiko prefer to go the way of other manufactures who now host their own events for media representatives and retail partners? What do the other Japanese brands who showcase at Baselworld, that is Casio and Citizen have to say?

Indeed there are many questions but we guess we'll have to wait a while till further details are unravelled!

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