

EQUESTRIAN TIMES



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APRIL 2016

05 NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

12 SPORT HORSE
STUD BOOK

19 EXPORT
OF HORSES



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

This issue is proud to announce the launch of India's first Sporthorse Studbook. India has been taking a big leap forward in the sport of Equestrian, with the country producing promising talent and this is indeed a significant step forward.

India's growing presence in the international circuit suggested a need for top quality warmblood horses. However, stringent policies and the cost factor involved in importing horses from Europe, made this difficult. This gave an impetus to the sport horse breeding program in India, which took flight at the Embassy International Riding School. Both warmblood mares which are imported from Europe and thoroughbred mares which have proven their skill in Equestrian, are used for breeding.

The Studbook offers in-depth breeding consultancy, registrations of warmblood foals and issuing of passports for foals born in India. It provides the right pedestal on the international platform, by bringing together the best bloodlines producing the best Sporthorses.

Bangalore's salubrious climate makes it ideal for breeding operations, and it was rightly chosen as the city for the prestigious launch. Under the aegis of Sporthorse Studbook, events like foal championships and auctions, mare registration events, stallion approvals and breeding workshops will be held in India.

Onwards, the Equestrian Times will now be issued by the Sporthorse Studbook India.

Yours,



LARA BECKER

on behalf of the Equestrian Times



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EQUESTRIAN TIMES

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

TOP CIVILIAN RIDERS PROVE TOO GOOD AT SENIOR NATIONALS

Ikram Khan



Despite the fact that the top civilian riders from the top Equestrian clubs in Bengaluru proved too good, it was good to see a couple of army riders too, amongst the medal winners at the Senior National Equestrian Championship in Hyderabad.

The fact that a sizeable army contingent paraded their skills and Major Amit Sinsihar and Sehaj Singh Virk came up with stellar efforts in their events, was a shot in the arm for the championship dominated by the top two civilians, Kaevaan Setalvad from Marcotte and the most promising and highly-ranked Rushil Patel (ECE).

A couple of Embassy International Riding School (EIRS) riders too, made their mark in the individual and team events, which augurs well for the sport, taking into account that riders from different clubs are making the events highly competi-

tive and one-sided victories are now a thing of the past. The talented Kaevaan Setalvad from Mumbai, who trains with Marcotte, produced a near-perfect effort in the NEC Grade II Normal Jumping event, easily snuffing out the challenge of Chetan Reddy, and later astride Cherokee, Kaevaan raised no sweat putting it across Nitin Gupta in the Grand Prix. Kaevaan is one of the most talented youngsters on the circuit today, and it goes without saying that a lot will be heard of Kaevaan in the years ahead.

Like Kaevaan, Rushil Patel (ECE), is also raring to go and knocking at the door to storm into the big league. The 18-year-old piloting Claudette in the Grade I normal jumping event, effortlessly scaled a new high, pegging back Sehaj Singh Virk, while Nitin Gupta on Caprice took the third spot. Rushil is a class act and all

the talented lad needs to do, is to gain the required international exposure to advance to the next level.

Amit Sinsihar (ASC) recorded a good double, winning the Novice jumping and Grade III jumping titles. The major was the best on parade from the ASC camp and he kept his composure to make his presence felt against the best in his class.

Sehaj Singh Virk after finishing second behind Rushil in Grade I, produced his best to come out tops in the six bar jumping, and this brought a great sense of achievement to his camp.

From these performances, it was clear that the top civilian riders have stolen a march and with Kaevaan and Rushil aiming high, it will not be too long before the leader board shows a change in the standing order.



Two riders bring laurels at NEC Show Jumping 2016, at Hyderabad

The Equestrian Federation of India takes pride in intimating all its members that for the first time, two riders successfully completed the Grand Prix Level Show Jumping in NEC Show Jumping 2016, held at Hyderabad from 03-07 Feb 2016. Kaevaan Setalvad of Mumbai bagged Gold while Mr Nitin Gupta of ECE, Bangalore got Silver the Medal. Heartiest congratulations to both the riders and we wish them many more successes in the years ahead.



HERE ARE THE RESULTS:

Novice Jumping Accumulator :	Maj. Ashish Malik 1, Rudrappa 2, Maj. Harmanjeet Singh 3.
Novice Jumping Individual:	Maj.Amit Sinsiwar 1, Shaista Furniturewala 2, Zeeshan Malik 3.
Normal Jumping Grade 1:	Rushil Patel 1, Sehaj Singh Virk 2, Nitin Gupta 3.
Normal Jumping Grade II:	Kaevaan Setalvad 1, Chetan Reddy 2, Lt.Col. Sandeep Dewan 3.
Normal Jumping Individual Grade III:	Maj. Amit Sinsiwar 1, Chetan Reddy 2, Pradeep 3.
Grade III Team:	ASC 1, RVC `A` 2, Marcotte & Embassy 3.
Jumping Top Score Grade III:	Kirat Singh Nagra 1, Mahadev Singh 2, Maj. K D Malik 3.
Grand Prix Normal:	Kaevaan Setalvad 1, Nitin Gupta 2.
Novice Jumping Team:	Preethi Madhu, Manyk Sahney , Zeeshan Malik, Shaista Furniturewala (EIRS) 1, ASC `C` 2, ASC `A` 3.
Novice Fault & Out:	A K Dubey 1, Shaista Furniturewala 2, Tejpal Daber 3.
Six Bar Jumping:	Sehaj Singh Virk 1, Kirat Singh Nagra 2, Lt.Col. Sandeep Deewan 3.

TOP EQUESTRIAN CLUBS PROVIDE HOPE

Ameen Khan

With a number of young and promising civilian riders making their presence felt in their effort to get to the next level, the Equestrian scene in the country looks promising and it is time that the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) and the many clubs spearheaded by Embassy International Riding School (EIRS) provide the young hopefuls with the perfect platform to catapult to fame.

It is no secret that India failed to make a favourable impression in the last Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, a couple of top performers failing to display their true potential for more reasons than one. Unperturbed, EIRS with Jitu Virwani, Managing Director of Embassy Group calling the shots, the three best Indian riders, Ajai Appachu, Fouaad Mirza and Isaack Koshy packed their bags for a long training exercise in the United Kingdom seeking to qualify for the Rio Olympics. It is learnt from a couple of Equestrian pundits in London, that the three Indians

have improved the most and are likely to book their passage to Rio.

While the big three are at it to make it to Rio, a talented and very promising Rushil Patel, another civilian from the Equestrian Centre of Excellence (ECE) is making those who are in the know on the Equestrian circuit, stand up and acknowledge his heartwarming performances in both the senior and junior nationals. The 18-year-old who is the national champion in the 1.40M Show Jumping event and has scaled 1.70 M without really raising a sweat in the Pune Nationals astride Claudette, a bred in the purple warmblood. Rushil who is listed to compete in the FEI World Championship final in Morocco later this month, is confident that he will produce his best against higher ranked opponents in his bid to put India on the international map.

Rushil apart, a sizeable number of youngsters, Gibran Khan, Hriday

and Balaji to name a few, are knocking at the door to make the big league and this augurs well for the sport which failed to hit the high road simply because the Army riders despite making their best efforts, never could attain the qualification standard to showcase their skills on the international scene.

Well now that the civilians, thanks to the many professional training centres and riding schools, have taken the big stride ahead, the onus is on the EFI to support and promote the top guns in the game and to jointly design a master plan with the many top clubs, EIRS, ECE, Marcotte and a couple of others from Mumbai to provide the experience and exposure needed to excel on the international stage.

Jitu Virwani who single-handedly has helped, spending a fortune in his passionate exercise and endeavour to raise the bar in the effort to help an Indian rider stand tall at the podium at the Asian



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Games and Olympics, has taken another giant step, starting the breeding operations and the first foal championship was a big success.

Spurred by the success, a couple of breeders including Dr. Mahendran from Pollachi and a couple of individuals from Mumbai are keen to breed good sport horses and warmbloods in India and the knowledgeable and sprightly Lara Becker who is heading the EIRS breeding operations, is providing the expertise including the Indian studbook.

Lara believes that Bengaluru is a good place to breed sport horses and warmbloods taking into account the ideal weather conditions and she is positive

that in the years ahead, India will not only produce a champion horse but a good number of riders with the ability to challenge the best on the international stage.

“Good horses make good riders. And I’m working to provide good horses for the good riders to match their skills on the international arena,” said Lara.

With EIRS having established a good German connection, many other clubs are looking to procure top pedigree warmbloods from Germany and that’s a healthy sign from the riders point of view.

A couple of parents who have made big investments in the game providing their children the saddle to success, are

immensely pleased with the new plans and designs made by the top clubs and are hopeful that the sport will gain the importance and recognition that is required to make it to the top.

“You simply need to pull the plug and fuse out the opponents. And the Indian riders have the talent to do that. What they really need is the ammunition. And the top clubs are now ready to provide the supplies,” said Lara.

Well we agree with Jitu and Lara and the many others who are tirelessly working to make it possible. A gold medal at the Asian Games and the Olympics. Will it happen? Only time will tell. But the effort is on and that in itself, is a healthy sign.



Fouaad Mirza & Equus India's Touching Wood competing in Portugal.

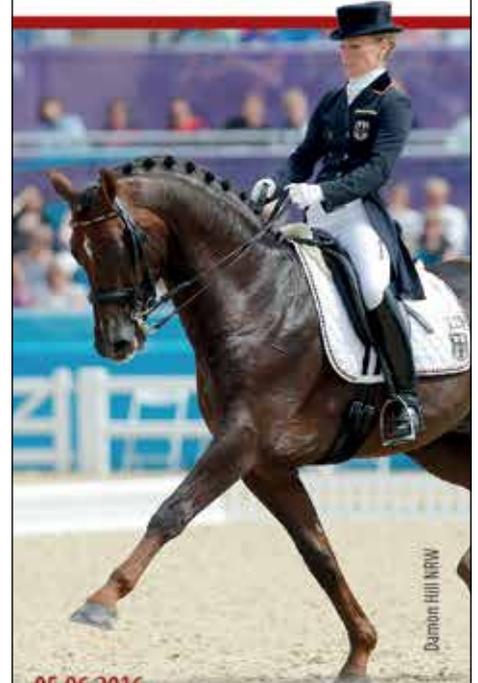


Ajai Appachu & Equus India's Verona competing in Europe.



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26.11-27.11.2016

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A STAR ON THE HORIZON

Ikram Khan

While the three top Indian equestrian riders, Ajai Appachu, Fouaad Mirza and Isaack Koshy are training in the United Kingdom in their effort to qualify for the Rio Olympics, the talented and most promising youngster on the scene, Rushil Patel from the Equestrian Centre of Excellence (ECE) is gearing up to compete in the Federation Equestrian internationale (FEI) World Show Jumping Championship final in Morocco.

The 18-year-old star performer who booked his passage to Morocco topping the FEI zonal championship, will fly out with his coach Nitin Gupta on April 19th for the three-day world championship.

The head coach of ECE, Nitin Gupta disclosed that Rushil who to his credit has cleared 1.70 M in the Junior National Equestrian Championship (JNEC) in Pune last year, is in good form and is a medal prospect in the final in Morocco.

“Rushil is confident and more importantly the boy loves to perform on the big stage. The bigger the challenge, the better he gets

and taking into account that he is at the top of his game, Rushil will give it his best shot,” said Nitin.

The coach, delighted with the prospect of a young Indian breaking into the big league, was disappointed that the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) had refused to fund his trip and cleared his entry only on no cost to the government or the federation.

“The civilian riders who are leaving no stone unturned in their effort to graduate into the big International league, should get the desired support from EFI” lamented Nitin.

ECE director Sanya Khan made it clear that the boy will not miss out on the opportunity and exposure in Morocco. “He has struggled hard to earn his ticket and the Indian national champion should parade his skills in the world championship final,” said Sanya, pointing out that it is time the EFI starts to support and promote the top Indian riders, in their effort to make a mark on the international scene.

The winner of the Grade-1 Show Jumping event at the Hyderabad senior nationals in February, Rushil took a leg-up when he was eight years old, and the student of the Valley school’s journey to the big league has provided an impressive lesson to the many new entrants looking to make a mark in the equestrian sport.

After competing in the FEI final in Morocco, Rushil back home will parade his skills in the ECE Equestrian Challenge in the last week of August. The much talked about open championship in Bengaluru, has generated good response in the equestrian circles and all the top riders from all the clubs and the army institutions are looking forward to competing in what is being touted as one of the major forthcoming events in the Equestrian calendar this year.

“We are preparing to provide top class facilities, be it stabling, jumping arena and spectator gallery and we will also have top international qualified judges for the big championship,” said Sanya .

INDIA'S TENT PEGGING TEAM BAGS 3 GOLDS



The Indian Tent Pegging Team, under the aegis of Equestrian Federation of India, participated in the 2nd World Cup Championship held at Cairo (Egypt) from April 11th to 18th 2016, and bagged three gold medals in :Team Tent Pegging Lance, Team Tent Pegging Sword and Individual Sword competitions. Nb/Ris Ajay Sawant (61 Cavalry) bagged three Gold Medals followed by HC Suresh Kumar and Pardeep Kumar (Haryana Police), who won two gold medals each. Jaswinder Singh (BSF) and Wangtham Lammaty (Assam Rifles) clinched one gold medal each.

Coach : Mr Ahmad Afsar

Chief De Equipe : Col SS Solanki (Retd)



REWRITING EQUESTRIAN HISTORY- INDIA GETS ITS FIRST SPORTHORSE STUDBOOK FOR WARBLOODS

After the start of warmblood breeding operations in India, at the Embassy International Riding school, a couple of years ago, following which four warmblood foals were auctioned last year in the foal championship, a lot of Equestrian horse owners showed good interest to procure warmbloods for their riders, while a couple of breeders looked to produce sport horses with covering warmbloods from thoroughbreds.

The interest sighted led to India's potential to sport a Sporthorse Studbook and to

address this need, Jitu Virwani, Founder of the Embassy International Riding School (EIRS), Chairman & Managing Director of Embassy Group and Lara Becker from Germany, Head, Breeding Operations Embassy International Riding School, set up India's first and only Sporthorse Studbook.

The warmblood studbook will offer breeding consultancy, register warmblood foals and issue passports for the foals which are born in India. Under the aegis of Sporthorse Studbook, events like



Events like foal championships and auctions will be organized by the Sporthorse Studbook

foal championships and auctions, mare registration events, stallion approvals and breeding workshops will be held in India.

The concept of sport horses that first evolved in Europe has yielded good results and India is looking to breed the best sport horses. More than 15 warmblood and cross bred foals (sport horses) will be up for sale this year and this exercise has generated great interest in the Equestrian circles, particularly since the Indian riders are making every effort to make a mark on the international scene.

This shows the clear need for top quality warmblood horses which is compounded by the stringent policies and cost factor involved in importing horses from Europe. And thus the sport horse breeding program in India took flight at the EIRS. Both warmblood mares which are

imported from Europe and thoroughbred mares which have proven their skill in Equestrian, are used for breeding.

The Sporthorse Studbook and the breeding program also helped India to elist itself in becoming a member of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses, getting the horses to obtain worldwide acclaim, opening a gateway for competitions across the globe.

Lara Becker, piloting the Sporthorse Studbook, said “The breeding program aligning with the sporthorse studbook operations gives India the right pedestal on the international platform by bringing together the best bloodlines producing a best sporthorse. Bangalore has been chosen as the city for the breeding operations as it is the best suited keeping the climate in mind, which is highly suitable for breeding.”

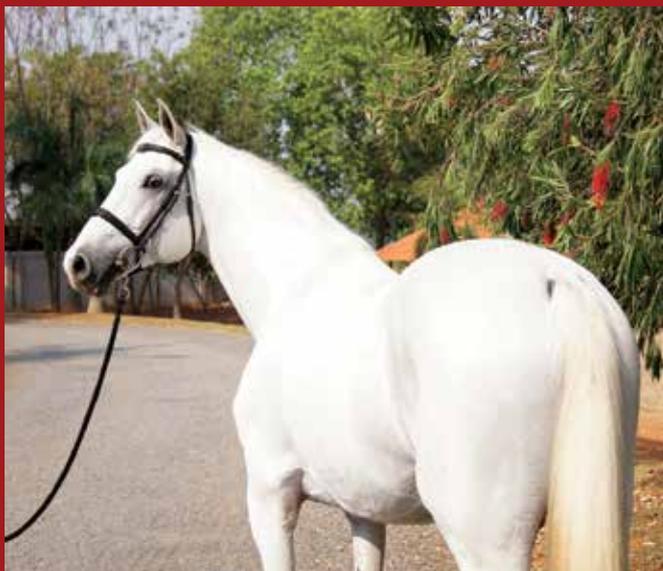
She further added “At the moment, approximately 300 riders and 4278 horses are registered with the Equestrian Federation of India. Even the number of private riding clubs in India is growing, and many sport horses from Europe were imported to India in the last few years.

In addition, there are a few other warmblood breeders and stud farm owners who are keen on investing in warmblood breeding. This shows the interest and catering to this need will ensure that India champions the sport in the years to come.”

The studbook will also issue a quarterly studbook magazine the ‘Equestrian Times’, which gives you a glimpse of all the information you will need on the operations and the riders competing overseas.

BIANCO (CADEAU BLANC)

Westphalian stallion, *2004, by Charisma - Popcorn - Lucky Boy xx



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The Westphalian stallion Cadeau Blanc (sport name: Bianco) is successfully ridden up to Prix St. Georges by Nadia Haridass and at the same time he is successful in advanced level show jumping classes with Ajai Appachu.

Cadeau Blanc's sire Charisma was jumping champion of his stallion performance test in Warendorf (Germany) in 1999. His sire Calido I is one of the most influential sires of Holstein breeding.

Kyara, the full sister of Charisma, is a sister of the dam of Bella Donna, who was successfully ridden by Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum. Dam sire Popcorn is a son of the Westphalian progenitor-legend Pilot. 230 of Pilot's progeny are successful at advanced level and have won 4 million Euro prize money so far.

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INTERVIEW WITH UTPAL TATU ABOUT EQUINE BIOTECH UB

What is the status of Equestrian sports in India, as compared to the international scenario?

The worldwide movement of horses is on the rise, with growing participation from India. In the past, the equestrian sports industry was well known and dominant in the US and Europe. However, a recent trend in Equestrian sports shows that India is becoming a growing participant and a potential key player at the international level. The equine population in developing countries accounts for nearly 60% of the global population, with India standing at number 3 in the density of equines in Asia. A significant number of these are accounted for by horses used for recreation and equestrian sports.

Are we ready to compete at the international level?

The good news is that we have some champions of Equestrian sports such as Mr. Jitu Virwani of the Embassy Group who have taken a keen interest in bringing world-class horse management facilities and even breeding warm bloods in India. This has indeed galvanized Equestrian sports and many equine enthusiasts are accessing these facilities. It is heart-warming to see that India successfully participated in the Asian championship a couple of years back, and that we will have participation from riders from the Embassy Group at the upcoming Olympics!

Despite this potential and interest from Indian consumers, there is a lack of world class equine health care facilities in India. We still depend on other countries for high-tech services that are essential for excelling in Equestrian sports, including racing. I must add that we have very capable veterinary doctors who can look into equine injuries and rehabilitation, but they do not have access to supporting high-tech services, such as monitoring of drug levels, molecular diagnosis and feed evaluation through modern world class methods.

What needs to be done to fill this gap?

As a scientist and an equine enthusiast myself, I have been providing support to



In addition to being a scientist and an entrepreneur, Professor Tatu is one of the founding members of the Karnataka Riding Association, a consultant with the Veterinary Commission and an invited expert for the Royal Western India Turf Club. He is also a passionate horseman and a polo player.

the Equestrian industry as a well wisher. We have been supporting the Equestrian sports industry including racing clubs with super speciality technologies that are usually available abroad. We have now made these easily accessible to discerning Indian clients. Currently, we are operating at a small scale with select clients, but there is a potential to scale this up.

What are these super-speciality technologies?

As a scientific laboratory we have several decades of experience in molecular methods as well as the so called "Omics Technologies" that include Genomics, Proteomics and Metabolomics. These approaches have been mainly used in the realm of scientific research, but we have now made them available for routine analysis to improve horse performance. We call these "Equinomics" approach for improving horse performance. We perform equine parentage analysis by DNA profiling, drug level monitoring by mass spectrometry, feed analysis as well

as some disease monitoring, using modern molecular tools. Even abroad these tests are available only in world class laboratories. We are also collaborating with some of these labs for knowledge exchange.

Can you explain a bit more about these technologies?

We have exploited our 3 decades of experience in genomic research to develop specific tests for equine health. For molecular diagnosis of infections, we typically use 1 ml of whole blood samples and carry out a panel I of 33 different tests by following OIE guidelines for diagnosis. We also have some immunological methods that augment diagnosis. A few years back, we helped track down the cause of neurological deaths among 2 year old horses at the Turf Club using our experience in studying infections. Since then, the club has appointed me as an honorary consultant for help in unravelling causes underlying similar infection outbreaks, that happen in India. Several stud farms, private horse owners and trainers have been using our assistance.

We have recently also started performing parentage analysis, using small amounts of hair sample from horses. This analysis relies on DNA sequences that are common between the parents and the foal. We follow protocols that are also being practiced at the University of California, Davis, for this purpose.

Apart from that, we have also been performing feed contamination and environmental analysis using state-of-the-art mass spectrometry equipment. These are done with the highest quality control that is possible and under our ISO certified laboratory protocols. We have international consultants associated with us, which allows exchange of information.

Dr. Tatu is a Professor at the Indian Institute of Science with research interest on infectious diseases. His emphasis is on developing better methods for disease diagnosis and for treatment. His lab is equipped with state- of-the-art Mass Spectrometry facility, as well as genomic technologies.

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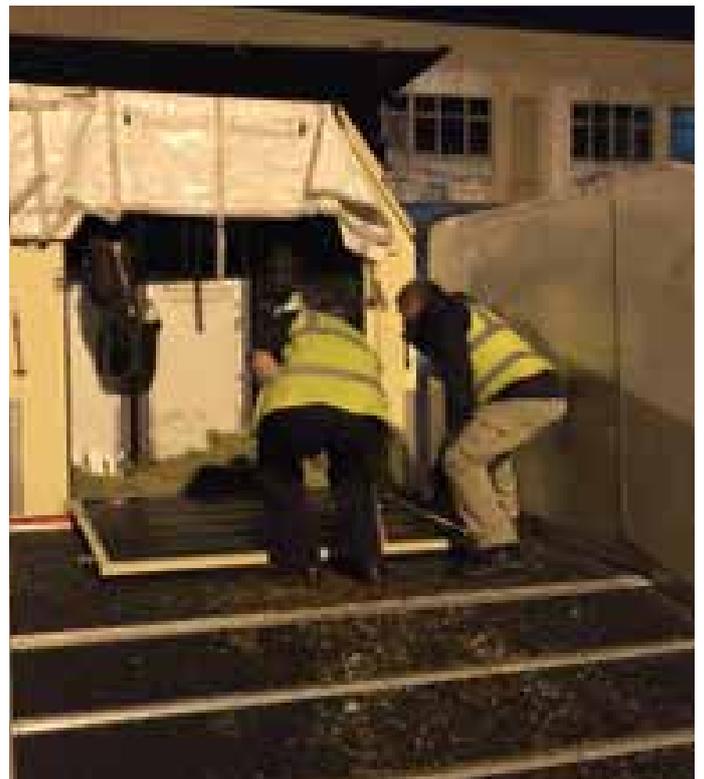
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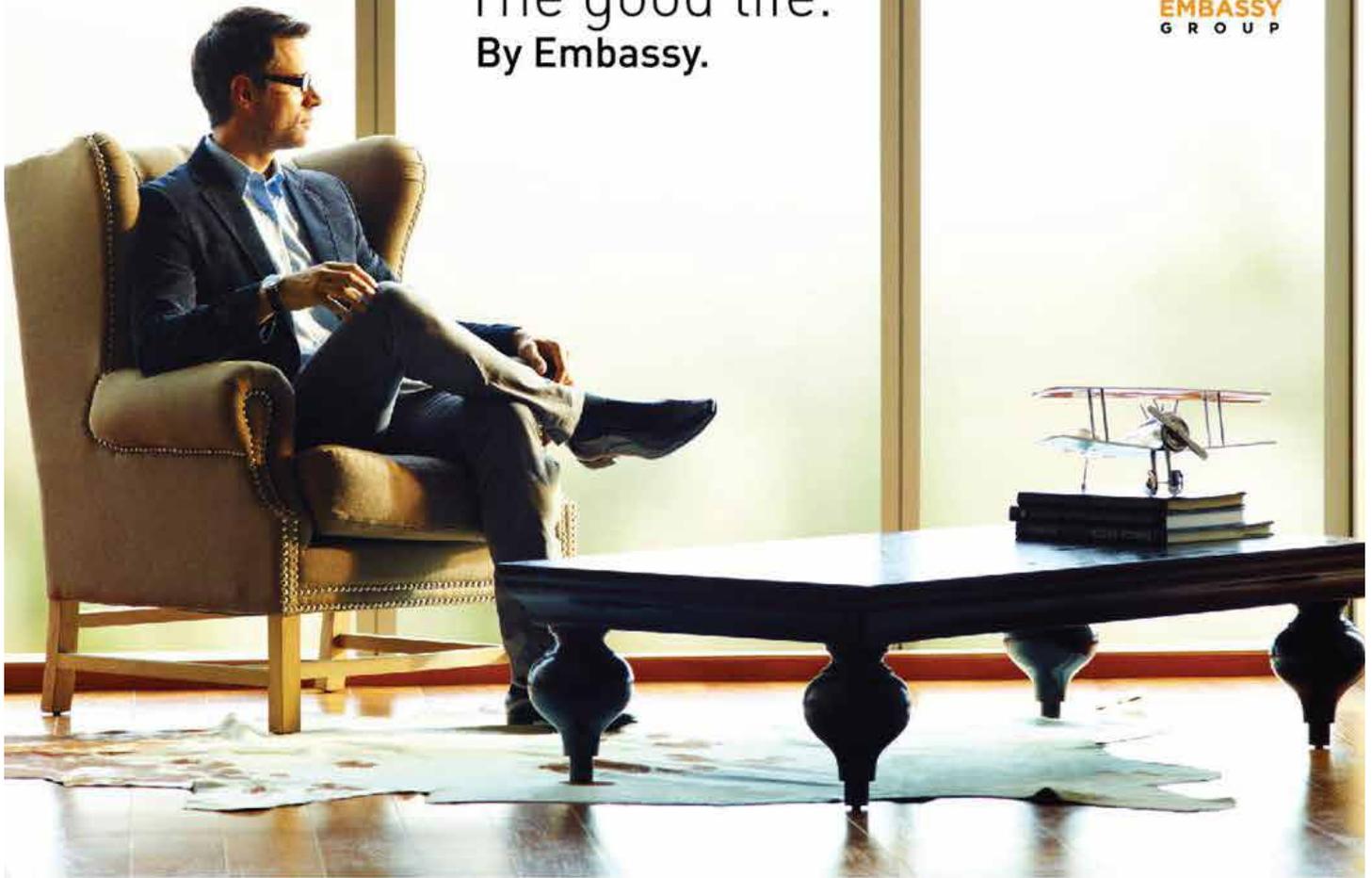
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