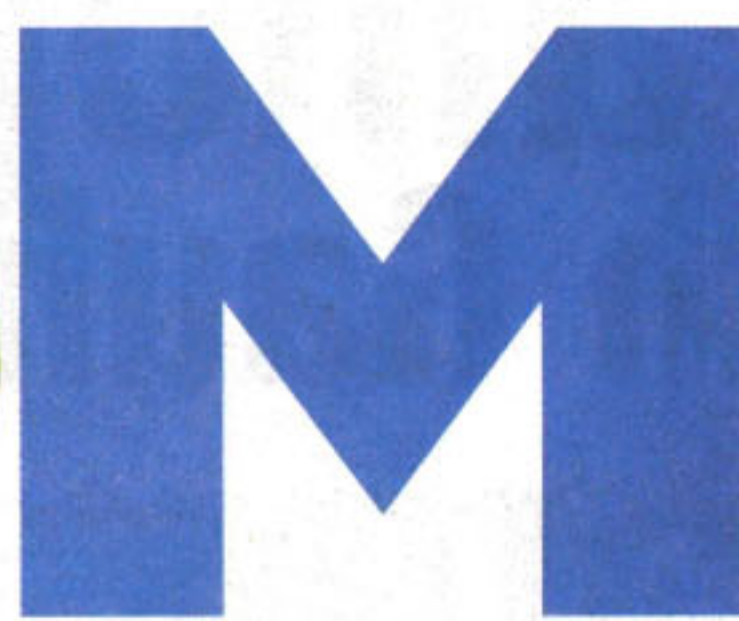
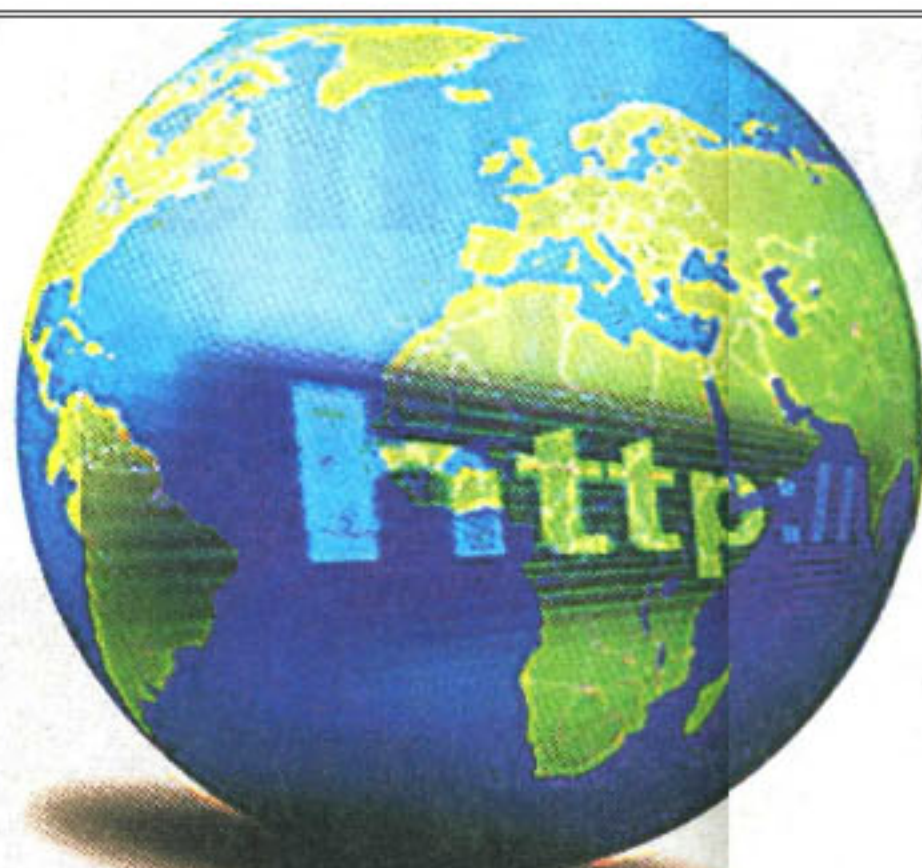


HITS



WEB WORLD
THREE HOURS

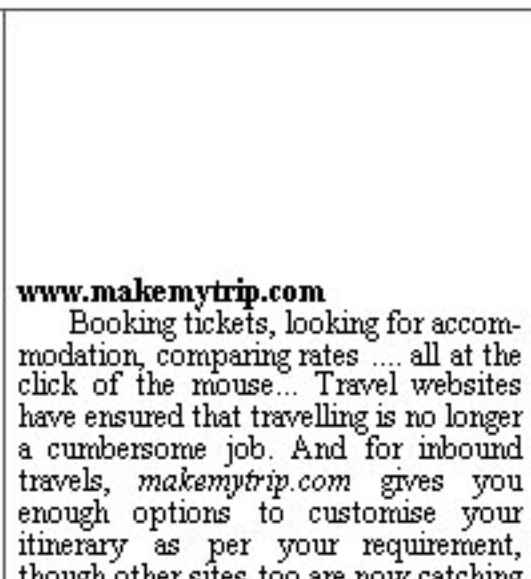
From the way we travel, to the food we eat, the games we play, the dresses we wear and the way we socialise... the Internet has changed it all. learn Viva brings you a list of top 10 websites that have changed the way we live



www.zapak.com
The site has changed the online gaming scenario in the country. Action games, racing games, cricket games, strategy games, arcade games, games for girls, games for kids, multiplayer, free downloads, mobile games ... all arranged alphabetically, making your search easier. You can also put games from the site on your website and even shop here.
USER'S TAKE: Sayan Dey, an avid player of online games says, "More and more youngsters are hooked to Zapak as it is the first one to revolutionise the online gaming scene in India with host of interactive mind games. Besides gaming, it also helps you network and make more friends. I generally prefer playing the games when I am idle. In Zapak, one can play games easily and speed isn't a big issue. Also, one can download their favourite games."



www.youtube.com
Watching and uploading videos never seemed so easy. Thanks to YouTube that has revolutionised the way we share videos today. The embed option available while watching any video is convenient when it comes to posting the video on networking sites, third-party sites or on blogs. The ability to create playlists is another interesting feature here.
USER'S TAKE: "Of late, it has also started offering HD content, where ever available and it's easy to search and buffer for videos and songs," says Samir Naik, a documentary film maker.
When it comes to online streaming of songs, *Musicaonline.com* for its vast collection of songs across all genres tops in our ratings. It is easy to navigate and the search option is pretty fast. However, no downloads are allowed here but nevertheless listening to songs is a pleasing experience here. "The site has a vast range to choose from — Hindustani, Carnatic, Bollywood etc. I can't let a day go without listening to music. The site is a boon for someone like me who is always hooked to music, just log in and listen. Now, I don't have to hunt for classic songs of Kishore, Rafi or Mukesh," says Sunil Kumar, a marketing professional. For movies uTorrents is preferred downloading software and a site titled IFOhunt that caters to movies of all tastes is surely the best.



www.makenmytrip.com
Booking tickets, looking for accommodation, comparing rates ... all at the click of the mouse... Travel websites have ensured that travelling is no longer a cumbersome job. And for inbound travels, *makenmytrip.com* gives you enough options to customise your itinerary as per your requirement, though other sites too are now catching up with it in terms of the services provided.
USER'S TAKE: "Compared to other travel portals and planners, Makenmytrip has higher visibility and offers faster search options. Also, it has greater flight options, accommodations, reasonable budgets, dates etc that gives one a complete flexibility to customise a perfect itinerary. Not only this, its customer service too is satisfactory and the sms alerts are very prompt. You have very few evolved players in this kind of business," says Malika Sinha Kundu, a communication consultant.
She talks about how the online portals have revolutionised the way we travel. "Planning a vacation wasn't an easy task earlier. For example, if you were visiting a destination, you didn't know where to stay, how much it will cost, how to go about (except in few cases), exploring the place, its local culture etc. But today, I can plan my vacation with a click of a mouse," she adds.



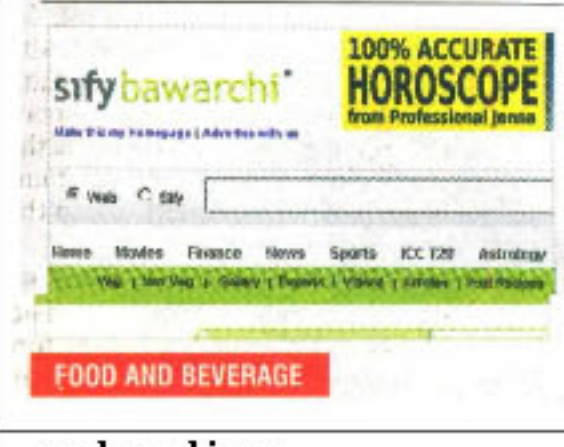
www.bharatmatrimony.com
Online matrimonial sites have virtually changed the way our marriages are arranged these days. The reach has become global but the irony is that the searches are still confined to region, communities, castes and even sub-castes. The matrimonial sites reflect this trend and leading among them is *bharatmatrimony.com* that has profiles of prospective grooms and brides divided according to the regions and castes. And it claims that you can search through its two crore listed profiles.
USER'S TAKE: "My elder (daughter got married through *Bharatmatrimony.com*, so I have a full faith in it and I am searching son-in-law for my younger daughter as well," says Shalini Chopra, a housewife. A bank employee Anand Bharadwaj considers *Bharatmatrimony.com* as one of the authentic and credible sites related to Indian matrimony. "I have created an account for my brother in the portal. I have heard from lots of people about the matches they provide. They are really the good ones' Even in the world of cyber hacking, the profiles are also safe. You get the message alert when somebody visits your profile or sends some request," says he.



www.facebook.com
Orkut seems to have lost its ground among Indian social networkers in the cyberspace. Though Twitter is generating a lot of interest, it is Facebook that is holding prime place. Making friends and professional networking are more done through Facebook than the regular 'offline' methods. Besides that a lot of games, quizzes and various fun filled applications have made it a favourite among net users. The site is easy to navigate and has quite a user friendly layout though its privacy issues are creating a lot of trouble these days.
USER'S TAKE: "I can skip a day's meal but can't sleep if I don't catch up with friends on Facebook on a given day," says Tanya Kaushik. That explains her addiction towards this networking site "I use it for messaging, sharing pictures, and more," she adds further.
Another user Nikita Chopra says, "You can locate exactly where someone is and how they're feeling today. It has in a sense led to a greater bonding. For example, since you can view everyone's friend list or community pages in your list, the



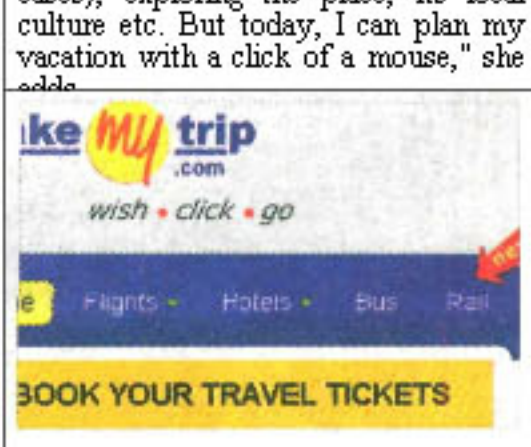
www.style.com
Globalisation has made average Indian quite fashion conscious which is quite evident with the number of fashion shows we see every year. Online, *Style.com* keeps our fashion conscious brigade up to date with the international trends. Launched in New York, 10 years back it is a definitive statement on global fashion offering a comprehensive runway coverage with over 50,000 photos, authoritative trend reporting, the latest social, celebrity and fashion news and interactive forums on every aspect of the fashion industry.
USER'S TAKE: Says Alpna of Azam brand *Style.com* serves as a great help in identifying and highlights the latest fashion trends globally." Agrees fashion designer Parvesh "The site is very quick in updating the latest trends. As it is very user friendly, it is also my favourite."



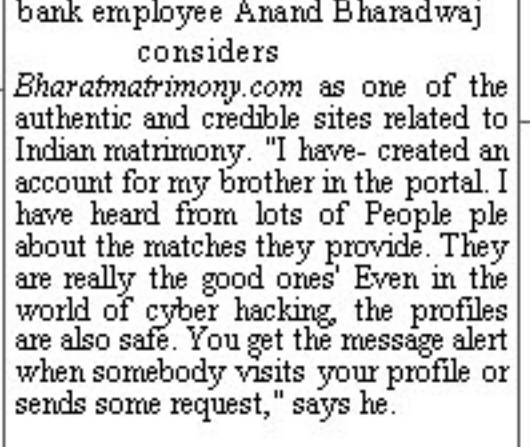
www.bawarchi.com
With globalisation, Indian cuisine too has gone global. Among various portals, *Bawarchi.com* scores highest when it comes to explaining the finer points of Indian cuisine. The site is quite interactive and user friendly. It allows user to share his/her own recipes, the users can download free recipe books, print them and use them for their kitchen, check out the list of English and Hindi food ingredients and measure their calories.
USER'S TAKE: Bakshish Dean, food consultant too surfs through this site and finds it interesting. "One can vouch for the recipes on this site. But for international cuisines, I rely on the government regulated portals. These sites give a great insight into the particular cuisine right from history to the latest innovations in that cuisine," says Dean.



www.makemytrip.com
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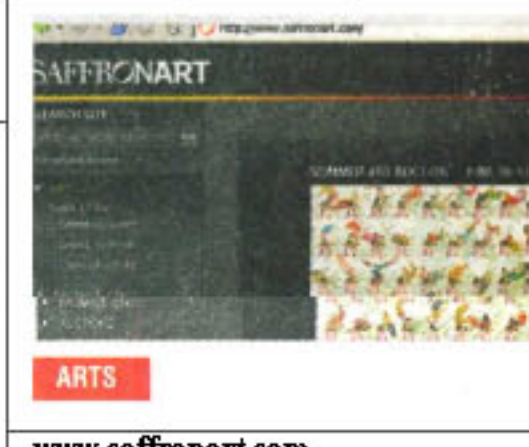
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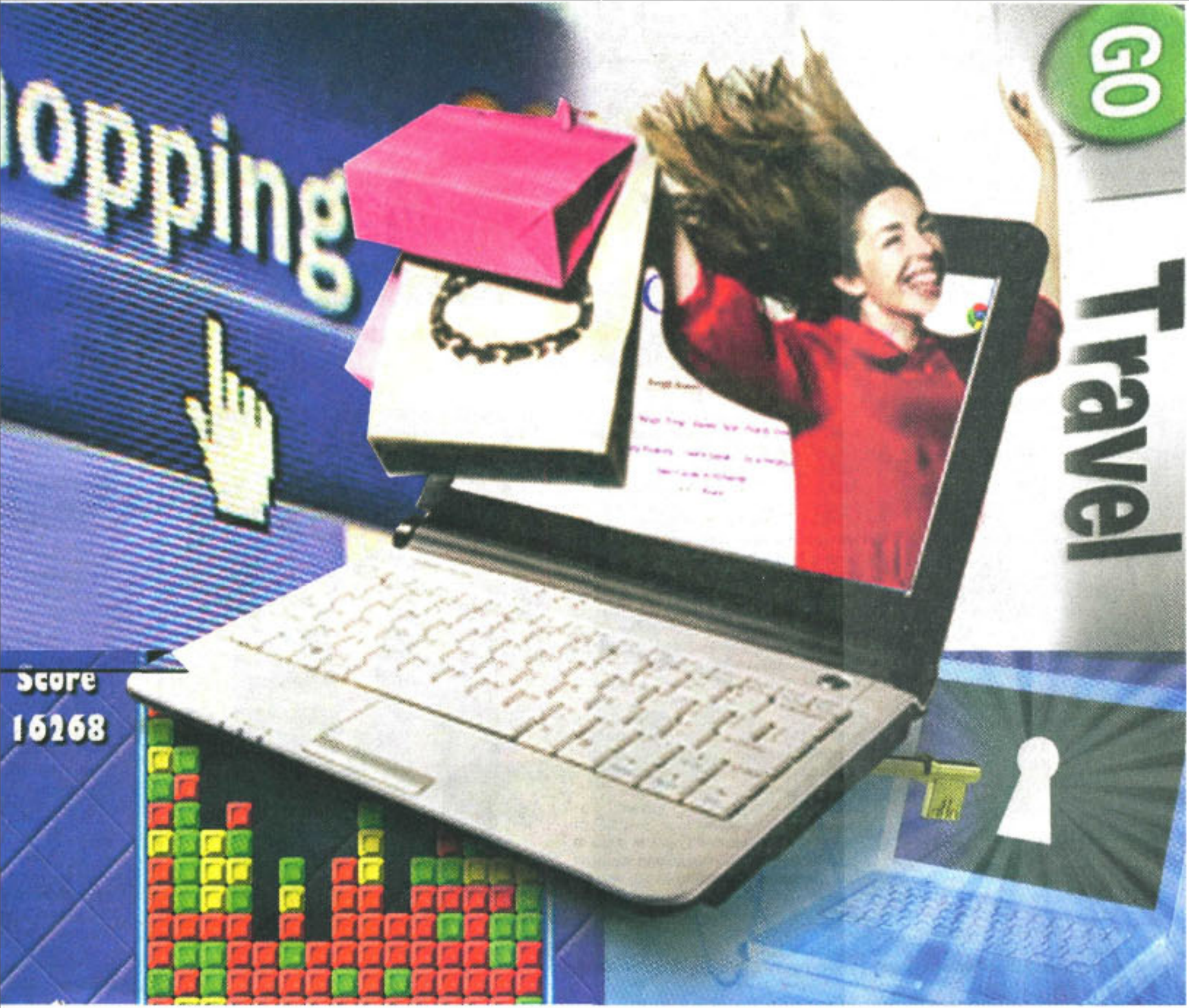
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www.saffronart.com
Art has become one of the prized possessions today. In the recent years, Indian art scene has excelled on world platform. As an online Indian art platform, *Saffronart* provides the growing community of collectors an opportunity to get up close with their favourite works. With online auctions, a host of technology enabled services for clients, and a global presence has broadened and simplified access to World art.
USER'S TAKE: "It offers convenient access to an extensive range of artworks and art-related events," says Payal Kapoor, owner of Arushi Arts Gallery. Adds Seema Kohli, an artist, "The website has launched its mobile auction application, which allows collectors to monitor and bid at auctions from web-enabled mobile devices."



www.rediff.com
Probably the first Indian site to teach the country the advantages of e-shopping, *rediffshop.com* is still a trusted portal for most of the users when it comes to buying things through net. Of course other sites *ebay.in* and *Bagitoday.com* too score on the user's list.
USER'S TAKE: "If you want wide variety, low price and good stuff, *rediffshop.com* is the site I prefer. I recently purchased a Cartier watch from the site and am quite satisfied with their services. Within two days of my booking I got my item delivered at my place," says Vishal Singh. For Varun Gupta *ebay.in* provides a wide array of used technical items in a good condition. "I prefer this site because sometimes there are many items that I don't feel like buying brand new. So I shop it from here as I get them at reasonable prices."



www.dogspot.in
A perfect place that takes care of everything when it comes complete grooming and wellbeing of your pets be it about finding a match for your pet or share its antics with others, the website claims to offer all your needs related to your pets just at the click of a mouse.
USER'S TAKE: Shabnam Gupta and her 11-year old daughter regularly log into website to find information for her Snoopy, a cocker spaniel. Says Gupta, "There are little behavioural changes in Snoopy for, which I can't rush to the doctor everytime. Interaction with other pet owners and even experts through this portal helps solve the matter." She says that this site is also beneficial as they are available 24/7 and even her young daughter can access it "Whenever there is problem related to Snoopy, I look up to this website for parlours, food and even search for a mate for him," says she.