

## **Gems of Wisdom**

**Anandita Gupta**

WHEN was the last time you opened your locker to take out that gold ranihaar? Or visited your jeweller to get custom-made silver ornaments? Chances are, not recently. For, yellow gold is fast losing its sheen. Silver is popular, but just as sleek, casual-wear jewellery. It's rather the glittering gemstones that are ruling our hearts, be it for making a grand style statement or helping us change our destinies. Today, most of us are eyeing these dazzlers, thanks to their royal look and affordability, in comparison to diamonds.

However, aren't most of us at sea when it comes to picking up the right pukhraj (yellow sapphire) that pandit ji recommends or a ruby necklace for a friend's cocktail? To help choose our gems right, The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) organised a presentation in town this Saturday. The seminar included guest lectures by gemology instructor Amit Kapoor and INIFD director Ritu Kochchar. Besides, city's young gemologist Soli Sethi spoke on how to choose the right gems.

For all those of you who want to get their diamond and gemstone basics right, Kapoor informed about GIA's short-term courses conducted in Mumbai and Delhi. These range from a five-day-programme to six-month courses with the fees between Rs 10,000 and 35,000." Expensive of course, but then it will save you from spending lakhs over a fake diamond or gem?" said Kapoor. Ritu Kochchar offered some interesting style tips. "Team up rubies and garnets with blacks and navys, and topaz, emeralds and sapphires with earthy tones. Gem stone-studded chandeliers and cocktail rings remain hot for evenings while chokers and ranihars are ideal for weddings."

