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**CELEBRATING INDIA'S
RICH DESIGN HERITAGE**

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VIBHOR SOGANI

There is a curious abstract nature to his works, which are even sometimes borrowed from the specifics of geometry and nature. But you cannot miss the Indian connection in Vibhor Sogani's works. Known for larger-than-life light and metal installations, Sogani honed his product designing skills at NID, Ahmedabad, after growing up in Jaipur in a setting where he often found himself on the field with his geophysicist father. The processes of mining and the technicalities somewhat imbued in him a love for metals. Our eyes drift towards a massive steel installation resembling a flame. The undulations on the structure are minutely close to the original, and they catch the light of the surroundings to glamorously shine.

Then there is the giant branch with each segment holding a globe that glows with blue and orange light. "I love working with scale. It gives the products a larger-than-life aura. For instance, if you see Kalpavriksha—the wish-fulfilling tree, a 30 feet installation at a golf course in Ahmedabad, you notice how it matches the expanse of the landscape. That it is humongous adds to the appeal," Sogani cuts in. Another instance is his gigantic lotus leaves in steel that sport the intricacies of the actual plant but when viewed aerially they appear as dots on an expansive verdure patch of land. If you have a small pretty fishpond at home, adorn them with the smaller steel lotus leaves. They lend that edgy chic in décor, opines Sogani. A crashing cube, when deconstructed, is a formation of small steel spheres and wires put together with the precision of a mathematician. It's as if the cube suddenly fell on the glass surface and smashed its perfect structure. "What is design without a bit, actually, lots of drama," chortles the designer.

