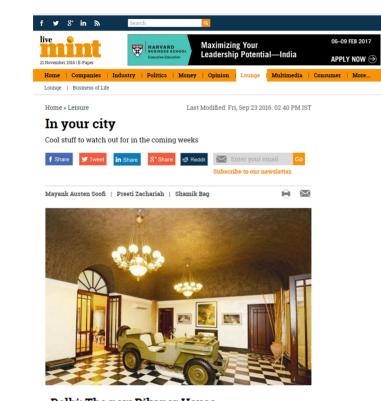
## LIVE MINT

India, 2016



## Delhi: The new Bikaner House

It seems outrageous that a fabulous place like this was being used as a bus stand all these years.

The monumental Bikaner House in central Delhi has existed in the city's collective consciousness as a boarding point for Rajasthan-bound buses. That impression is gradually fading. Although a corner of this erstwhile princely property continues to survive as a transport hub for Jaipur and the cities around it, the main gate today leads to a whole new world.

The building's restoration by conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah began in early 2014, and the refurbished look was unveiled in November with designer Vivek Sahni's boutique, Vayu, and the beautiful Art Gallery—a photography exhibition, *Jawai—Land Of The Leopards*, opened here this week. Last week, author Anoothi Vishal launched her cookbook at Bikaner House. And it was here, in July, that designer Rohit Bal staged his opulent finale to the India Couture Week 2016.

The gleaming new Bikaner House is showing promise of becoming another India Habitat Centre. In the near future, it might become a popular place for parties, launches, exhibitions, concerts and theatre. Coming soon: two restaurants, a café, and a reading library that will be free to all.