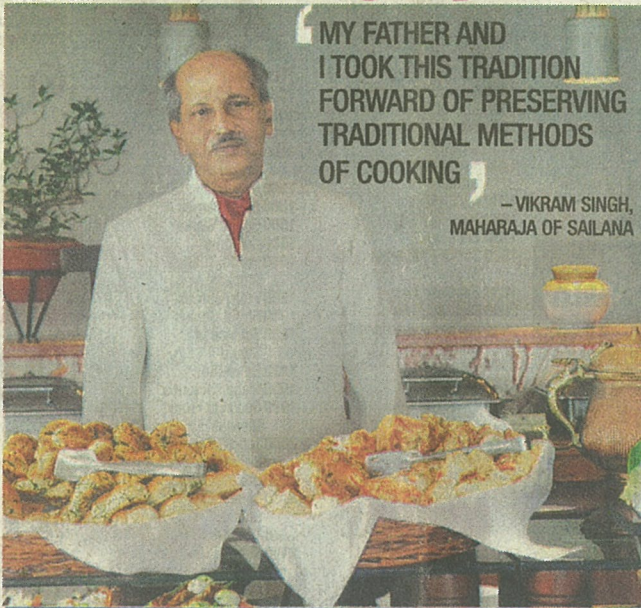


Sailana royalty share gastronomic delights from their legacy during a visit to Bhopal

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MY FATHER AND I TOOK THIS TRADITION FORWARD OF PRESERVING TRADITIONAL METHODS OF COOKING

—VIKRAM SINGH, MAHARAJA OF SAILANA

Royals have always known to patronise forms of art, but for Maharaja Vikram Singh's family, food has always been their passion. Singh's grandfather Raja Sir Dilip Singji, from the princely state of Sailana, collected thousands of recipes during his travels across India, which were later documented in a collector's edition. His love for unique recipes was then taken forward by Vikram Singh's father; him and now his son, Divyaraj Singh. He says, "My father and I took this tradition forward and now, the fourth generation of our family, my son Divyaraj Singh, is proud enough to be a part of this."

Vikram Singh was in the city recently for a food fiesta showcasing Sailana's magnificent gastronomic offerings. These dishes are made using secret recipes that are over a hundred years old and use a mix of exotic spices, rose petals and sandalwood powder.

The Maharaja was accompanied on the trip by Divyaraj, who said, "I have done a course in hotel management and am putting in efforts to carry forward the tradition in the best possible manner. I would feel rather proud to be called a chef rather than be tagged a king."