

Strategy reports and *sarod* are an unusual mix. But Jay P. Desai has strung them together. The founder-CEO of Universal Consulting, a Mumbai-based strategy firm, has been playing the *sarod* for 20 years now. On weekdays, he sits down for *riyaaz* between 10pm and 11pm. Desai invites a *tabla* player home twice a week for practice sessions. Otherwise, he simply plugs an iPad application into his Bose system and plays on—like a true consultant. Music was a big part of Desai's childhood since his doctor parents used to learn the *sitar*. He, however, began playing the *sarod* at 18. Today, the *sarod* is truly his own—with the help of a mechanic, Desai has customised his instrument, adding a drum set's metal stand that allows him to play standing up. "The sound is better, there is greater movement and I can play for long," says he. Point taken.

Raga Revelations

- Enjoys playing *Ashwini* and *Bhupali*
- Keen to learn *Meyoni* and *Alav* this year

"The precision and mastery required excite me. I am in a different place after my *riyaaz*."