

# A PICNIC FOR TWO

The seemingly dreary chills of winter are in fact the perfect time to set up little outings, especially those that rekindle romance or strengthen bonds with siblings and friends. No glaring sun and no sign of the all ruining humidity make the right setup to enjoy some quiet time. Picnic plans are already underway and even those end up as a gargantuan bustle with little time to sit down and relax.

But, for once, why not try something simpler and nearer to your heart? Just make it your own time away from the world, with a like-minded soul.

## WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

While parks and other outdoor places are long dreamt of fantasies in this corner of the world, rooftops and balconies still exist as a saving grace. If you can manage a simple outing, consider yourself blessed. Make the best use of community parks for outings like these. If you are stuck at home, set up some potted plants for a touch of green to go with the floor seating arrangement.

## HOMEMADE WINTER DELIGHTS

Picnic means food that is not fancy, nothing extravagant either — just simple edibles for a good time. Winter has an additional array of 'pithas' that are meant to warm you up from the inside. Even if you do not have enough time to make them, many stores keep these sweet delights.

Sweets not your thing? Pick something that you and the other attendee will enjoy. If all else fails, grab some soup, pour it into a glass mason jar and you are good to go.

## PACK WHAT YOU NEED

If you are going out, pat yourself



on the back for a decision well-taken. But do not let it end there. Get a large canvas picnic blanket, preferably with prints of nature. If not, a plain one would do great. There is no need to go overboard with cutlery. Simple daily use ones will do fine. You can even put in wooden plates or bowls for a touch of class. Pack them all in a tote bag or something very casual and carefree to fit the outing. And

do pick a small gift for your other picnic partner.

## LINENS, RIBBONS AND FLOWERS

While you have cut down on the excess, do not cut down on other comforts. No tissues or plastic please. Pick out some stylish linen napkins, go overboard with a ribbon. You will thank yourself if you can add a placemat to go with your food container.

You can even pick up some small grass flowers growing nearby for an added touch of simple aesthetics.

## MAKE USE OF 'AIR-PLANE MODE'

No, we are not asking you to fly off. That small icon resembling an airplane on your phone has specific technical functions as well as social ones. This is the time to use it right. The constant 'ting-s' and alerts can wait for an hour or two.

Do not forget that this is as personalised as an experience can get. Have a great time and while you are at it, take enough pictures to remember this little adventure. Maybe you can start an album for your next outing for two.

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Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

