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At 25, Utsav Remains a Rare Home for Bengali Cuisine in Manhattan



In the heart of Times Square, Utsav has quietly held its place as Manhattan's only restaurant devoted to Bengali cuisine. This October, the restaurant celebrates its 25th anniversary, a milestone that underscores its enduring role as both a neighborhood fixture and a culinary outlier in one of the city's most crowded dining districts.



Founded by Nandita Khanna, whose family ties stretch back to Calcutta and Tokyo's restaurant worlds, Utsav offers a menu that reflects both tradition and evolution. The Bengali dishes are its soul — Kolkata Fish Fry with kasundi mustard, Daab Chingri prawn curry served in a green coconut, and Bhetki Fish Paturi wrapped in banana leaf — but the menu extends to Indo-Chinese and Indian specialties as well with dishes like Chili Chicken with green chilies and onions.