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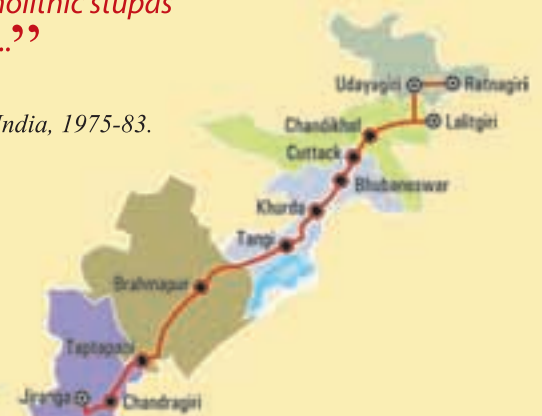
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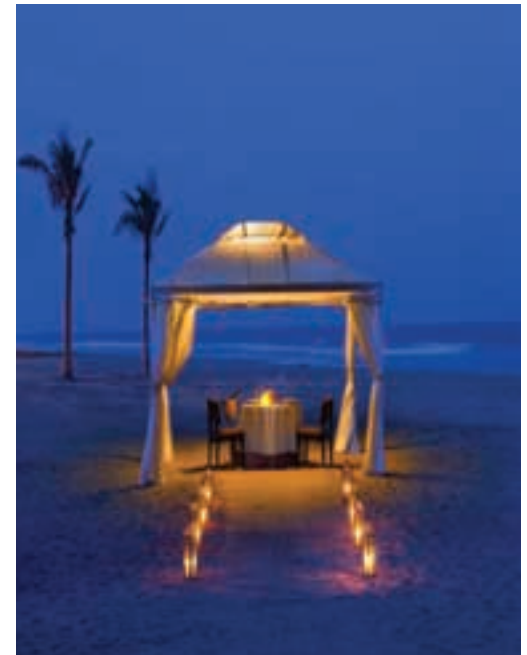
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# CON

March  
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# Q&A

## THE PERFECT MICE PLATFORM

In conversation with

Jalil Gary Khan

Chief Executive Officer, Hyderabad  
Convention Visitors Bureau (HCVB)



**What is Hyderabad's current position in the market as a convention destination and what role does your organisation play in promoting the city?**

As per the ICCA statistics of 2014, India ranks 35th position worldwide and Hyderabad is named as the second best MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) destination city in India for the year 2014. I am certain that HCVB has played a significant role in bolstering the status of Hyderabad in the market, owing to the fact that it is the only regional CVB in the country. For instance, CVBs in Japan have turned to HCVB to gather inference as to what HCVB derives its success from. JTA (Japan Tourism Agency) through the Nomura Research Institute have sent representatives to our Bureau to learn about its growth and stability over the years, as HCVB in the marketplace serves, besides Hyderabad, the nation at large.

**What specific services are provided by HCVB for an event?**

HCVB identifies itself as a destination marketing organisation that aims to promote and position Hyderabad as a leading meeting, conference and event destinations in the world. Among our numerous services, we tailor our assistance to our respective clients' needs and choices. Strategic planning and bidding for a conference, site inspections for clients at all HCVB member properties, free meeting planning services, incentive travel programmes and delegate boosting are the key services provided by the Bureau.

**What are the methodologies used by the HCVB to execute a successful MICE event or an Incentive trip?**

The Bureau underlines the propagating and marketing of Hyderabad as the pro-MICE creator in India, borne out of the efforts and assistance of its esteemed members. We facilitate events that will have a citywide impact. The State Government of Telangana and various synergies (affiliated or relative of the conference subject) are harnessed and all joint efforts result in marketing the congress to the right target audience. This enables awareness of the subject which then again helps in boosting delegate attendance.



Hyderabad Convention Visitors Bureau



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## TAT NEW DELHI ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR

Isra Stapanaseth has been recently appointed as the Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand New Delhi office. He takes over from RunjuanTongrut (who was appointed as Executive Director for East Asia Market, TAT Bangkok Office). His term started from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016. His jurisdiction will cover North and East India as well as Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

Stapanaseth who was previously, the Director of TAT Chiang Rai Office (North of Thailand) has been working with Tourism Authority of Thailand for over 20 years now, since 1994. He is excited and looking forward to his stint with the Indian market. He considers India to be one of the most important tourism markets for Thailand and believes that it has tremendous potential. He will be focusing on promoting all sectors of tourism including Golf, Indian weddings, women travellers, adventure tourism with the focus on luxury segment. Stapanaseth is keen to work closely with the Indian travel trade industry to promote newer destinations in Thailand and boosting arrivals from India to Thailand in the coming years.



## UK IMMIGRATION MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW VISA IMPROVEMENTS

The UK's Immigration Minister James Brokenshire announced a package of new visa service improvements for Indian nationals recently. The improved visa offer was made as part of the Minister's five-day visit to India, where he visited both Delhi and Bengaluru. As part of the announcement, the Minister revealed the launch of a new visa application centre (VAC) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - the first in India's most popular state.

During a trip to a visa application centre in Delhi, Immigration Minister James Brokenshire, said "India is one of the UK's largest visa market and we continue to make improvements to the service here to make it as easy and straightforward as possible for our customers to apply for their visas. We are pleased that more and more Indian visitors are choosing to come to the UK on holiday and for business. Last year we saw a 17 per cent increase in the number of visit visas issued. Indian holidaymakers are very welcome in the UK and thanks to our strong cultural and historic ties I think they feel very home at home there. We hope that this year we continue to see an increase in visitors from India and that these improvements prove useful to those applying for their visas."

## THOMAS COOK INDIA INKS AGREEMENT WITH AIRBNB

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd, has inked a pilot partnership with Airbnb, together, they will offer Indians looking to travel abroad, access to a range of unique accommodation experiences at a variety of price points.

Thomas Cook India's internal consumer research has revealed that for today's Indian traveller, holiday accommodation goes beyond merely hotel categories or room types. Over 25 per cent of the Company's individual traveller segment has stated their growing preference to explore authentic local stays and a desire for deeper engagement and an immersion into the destination, its culture and its people.

Madhavan Menon, Chairman and Managing Director, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd said, "The Indian traveller is evolving rapidly and for many, standard stays no longer find favour. Our partnership with Airbnb for outbound Indian travellers, aims to address this viable and yet untapped market need. Our strategic focus is to target high potential growth opportunities via innovation in products and partnerships and our tie-up with Airbnb reiterates delivery of this intent."

Varsha Rao, Head of Global Airbnb Operations at Airbnb said, "We are excited to work with a leader in India's travel market to give Indian travellers the opportunity to have unique and truly authentic local experiences by staying in one of our more than two million properties around the world."

## ITDC POSTS A PROFIT OF 2.54CR IN Q3, 2015-16

India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), the public sector undertaking under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism, posted a stable performance for third quarter of the current financial year 2015-16. The total turnover in quarter ending December 2015 stood at Rs123.85 cr. The company registered operating profit at Rs17.26 cr and Net Profit Before Tax (PBT) at Rs 2.54 cr in last quarter Oct-Dec, FY 2015-16.

The momentum generated in the last two quarters has continued posting profit in the third quarter as well. In first three quarters of FY 2015-16, the company has registered a turnover of Rs 329.72 cr, while the operating profit was registered at Rs 25.76 cr and net profit at Rs 6.83 cr.

These details were announced in the Board of Directors' meeting of the company, recently at the Group's flagship hotel, The Ashok, New Delhi.





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## ODISHA TOURISM CONDUCTS ROAD SHOW IN MUMBAI

The Department of Tourism (DoT), Government of Odisha, in its bid to attract domestic tourists from an important source state and commercial capital of India – Mumbai organised their road show, recently. The objective was to promote the state and its variety of tourism products in the western part of India.

Odisha Tourism Development Corporation has also been playing a key role in the promotion and development of Tourism in the state. It covers a wide range of facilities to the tourists and visitors with its 22 strategically located hotels and restaurants with fine Odia delicacies, boat riding in Chilika Lake, tour and travels and transport facilities. Above all Odisha is a peaceful state and the people are hospitable. The state capital Bhubaneswar is a modern city having good connectivity (both rail and air) to all major cities of the country. The Airport has opened to international sector and will definitely give a surge in tourist traffic. Hope your journey to Odisha will be a memorable one.

“Odisha has emphasised on promotion of tourism through sincere efforts of hoteliers, tour operators and other stakeholders,” said Odisha State Tourism and Culture Minister Ashok Chandra Panda.



## AGM OF INDIA CONVENTION PROMOTION BUREAU

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of India Convention Promotion Bureau was recently held in Kautilya Hall, at Lobby Level, at Hotel Samrat, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

The AGM was followed by the elections of different positions of Governing Board of ICPB under the supervision of D Venkatesan, Assistant Director General (TT) as Returning Officer for the election.

Chander Mansharamani has taken over as Vice Chairman of ICPB under the Newly Elected Governing Board of ICPB under the Chairmanship of Suman Billa, Joint Secretary (Tourism), Government of India for the year – 2015-17.



## TRENDING

The Ministry of Tourism has launched the “24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Help Line in 12 International Languages, recently. This service will be available on toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363. This will be operational 24X 7 (all days) offering a ‘multi-lingual helpdesk’ in the designated languages to provide assistance and information relating to Travel and Tourism in India to the domestic and International tourists/visitors. The service is available in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish besides Hindi and English languages. The calls made by tourists (both international and domestic) while in India will be free of charge. The international tourists in India and also international callers who speak the aforesaid languages will be directed to the call agents proficient in the respective language.

## ECO RENT A CAR TOPS UP ITS LIMO SERVICE BY GIFTING FURTHER LUXURY

Renowned for its luxurious and premium services, ECO Rent a Car is bestowing a lavish offer on its patrons renting a Limousine. On hiring the luxe machine for 24-hours or more, they will be entitled to enjoy a free night stay in a 5-star hotel.

ECO Rent a Car is offering the special deal at Rs.1,00,000 for a 1 night/2 day’s package and Rs.1,80,000 for a 2 nights/3 day’s package. Both the deals come with a complimentary one-night stay in selective 5-star category hotels in Delhi, Agra or Jaipur.

Aditya Loomba, MD of ECO Rent a Car said, “We have been witnessing a rising demand for luxury cars in India nowadays. In fact, the domestic market is expected to grow at a rate of 15 per cent per annum in 2015-2018. But with ECO Rent a Car, one doesn’t have to own a luxury car to experience its plush extravagance. Our Limo rental service with professional chauffeurs ensures convenience, safety, comfort, style and a hassle-free experience. With this exciting new deal, we want to make sure that the feeling of being pampered doesn’t end for our patrons.”



### 32b FORM IV (See rule 8)

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Sd/-  
Kamal Gill  
Signature of Publisher  
Date: March 15, 2016





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## APPOINTMENTS



**PANKAJ MATHUR** has been appointed as the General Manager at Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity New Delhi. With over three decades of experience in the hospitality sector, Mathur in his new position will be responsible for spearheading the hotel's efforts in making the Pride Plaza Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi a new landmark in the Indian Luxury Hospitality space. His was earlier associated with the successful rebranded and repositioning of two independent hotels, The Suryaa New Delhi at New Friends Colony and The Corinthian Resort & Club, Pune.



**NITIN KAPOOR** has been designated as the General Manager at Optus Hometel Bhiwadi. A dedicated, result driven seasoned professional, Kapoor has over 15 years of experience in the hospitality sector. Prior to this, he was associated with Optus Sarovar Premiere Gurgaon, as Executive Assistant Manager. With strategic business sense and uncompromising work ethic, his areas of expertise include Food and Beverage service and sales, banquet operations and sales and customer service among others.

## HILTON WORLDWIDE LAUNCHES "STOP CLICKING AROUND"

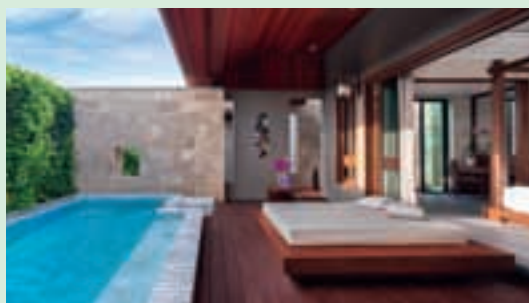
Hilton Worldwide recently announced that members of the Hilton HHonors guest-loyalty programme can now receive an exclusive discount on room rates by booking directly through its brand websites, the award-winning Hilton HHonors mobile app and reservation call centres, or through preferred corporate travel partners and approved travel agents. This guaranteed discount is available at more than 4,500 hotels around the world, excluding hotels in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. This discount is also available at the hotels and resorts operated by the company in India.

Hilton's new "Stop Clicking Around" marketing campaign – the largest ever campaign in the company's 97-year history – will also emphasise the other benefits of booking direct and being a HHonors member. These benefits include HHonors Points that can be used for free room nights, free Wi-Fi, the ability to check-in and choose your own room from a digital floor plan via the HHonors mobile app on a smartphone. In addition, when HHonors members book directly with Hilton, hotels are able to provide more personalised and memorable experiences for each stay.

"Our customers don't need to worry about sorting through a dizzying array of websites, enduring hundreds of clicks and wasting hours of time. They can be assured that booking a room directly with us at any of our hotels doesn't require extensive searching and price checking to find the best prices online," said Geraldine Calpin, Chief Marketing Officer at Hilton Worldwide.

## ACCORHOTELS CONTINUES EXPANSION IN THAILAND

AccorHotels and Avista Resort and Spa Patong Company Limited have signed an agreement for AccorHotels to manage three properties in Phuket. Two resorts will be rebranded as Novotel Phuket Kata Avista Resort and Spa and Avista Hidewayay Phuket Patong, MGallery by Sofitel on April 1, while another newly-built Avista Grande Phuket Karon, MGallery by Sofitel will open in 2018. AccorHotels presently manages 16 hotels and resorts across Southern Thailand. The announcement brings the Group's upcoming pipeline in the area to 10 properties, and reaffirms its commitment to meeting growing demand there.



"AccorHotels is proud to partner with Avista to manage three hotels in Phuket. As more guests visit the ever-popular island, they increasingly seek choice and consistency," said Patrick Basset, AccorHotels' Chief Operating Officer for Upper Southeast and Northeast Asia. "Each MGallery by Sofitel luxury hotel features a unique identity and story through its architecture, interior design and services. Novotel is well-known for its spacious rooms and service standards that stand apart in the midscale segment. Both brands are well positioned to cater to Phuket's diverse guests, particularly as the island further develops its infrastructure and attractions."

## INDIAN HOTEL INDUSTRY REVENUES TO GROW BY 9-10 PER CENT

ICRA estimates pan India Average Room Rates (ARR) to remain flat for 2015-16, nevertheless occupancy improvements of 6 – 7 per cent supports Revenue per available room (RevPAR) growth of 7 per cent. Room inventory in the premium category is estimated to increase by 8 per cent for 2015-16 as compared to 4 per cent during 2014-15. With deferment in construction, supply addition would be lower than earlier estimates at 7.7 – 8 per cent for 2016-17.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) slowed down to 4.4 per cent during Calendar year 2015 (7.1 per cent during 2014); the FTA segment continues to remain far below its true potential. Further, per capita dollar spend by tourists declined sharply in 2015 after remaining stagnant for three years. Given the muted global economic outlook, FTA growth for CY2016 is also expected to be subdued. Domestic travel, going by domestic airline Revenue Passenger Kilometre (RPKM) trends exhibited strong growth during the past 12 months indicating improving consumer confidence.

ICRA estimates the top line growth for the industry to be 8 per cent during 2015-16, with operating margins expanding by 100 – 150 bps. Growth would improve in 2016-17 to 9 per cent-10 per cent aided by pickup in occupancies and ARR traction in a few markets like Mumbai.

# CORPORATE CONNECT





# A MEMORABLE STAY



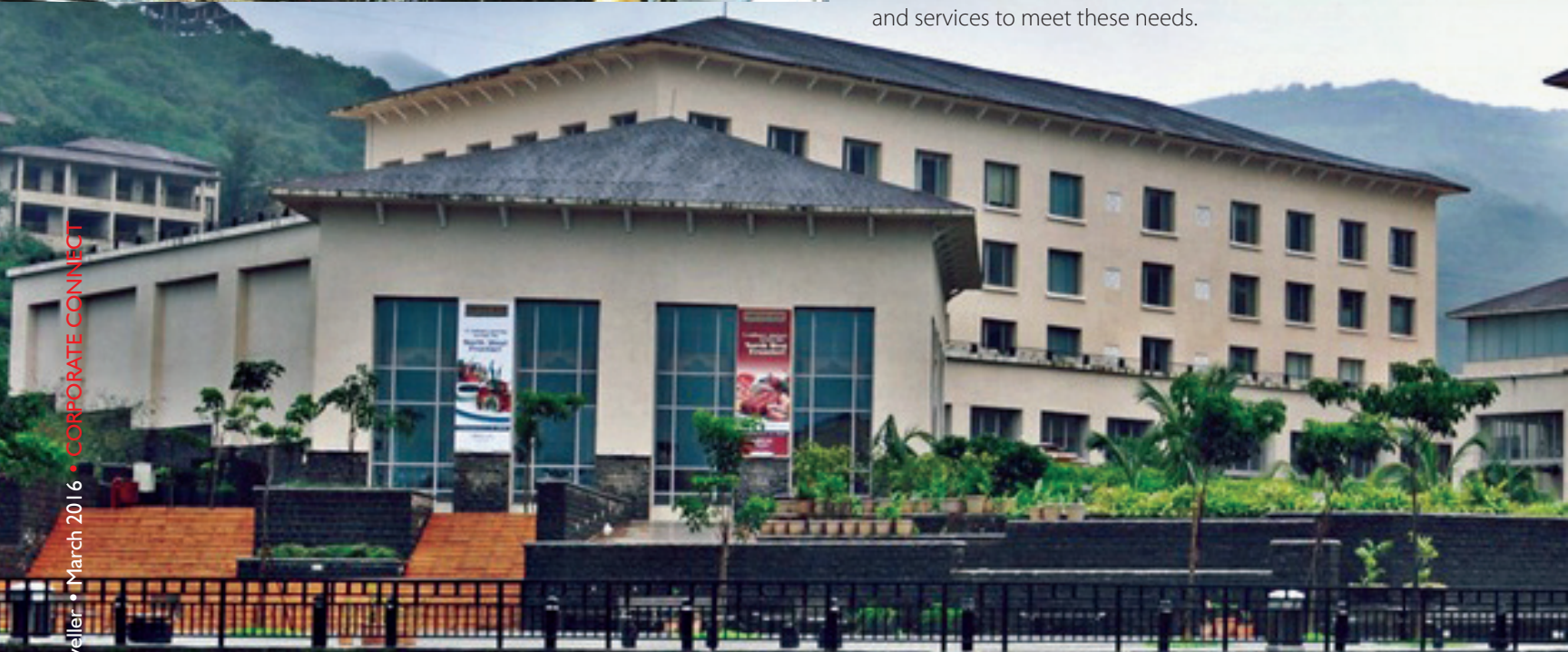
Today's Traveller speaks to  
Avijit Chaturvedi, General Manager,  
Fortune Select Dasve

## TT BUREAU

### What is the role of Fortune Select Dasve in the hospitality sphere of Lavasa?

Fortune Select Dasve is a leader in the hospitality industry in Lavasa. With its whole range of offerings from Suites and Fortune Club Rooms to Standard Rooms, from the 24-hour coffee shop serving world cuisine to the North Indian fine dining restaurant, from a special kids activity area to the roof-top swimming pool and a well-equipped gymnasium, a complete range of banquet and conference facilities with a 24x7 business centre, conference hall and elegant banquet space, the hotel finds itself in the unique position of being the only hotel in Lavasa to offer a bouquet of services to both leisure and business travellers.

The hotel often acts as a host for celebrities, VIPs and high end guests visiting Lavasa. Fortune Select Dasve has set benchmarks for the others to follow in the hill city. This has been made possible by continuously innovating, always staying focussed on guest needs and requirements and consciously reinventing the product and services to meet these needs.





### What are the USPs of the hotel?

The Hotel believes that though its guests may come to Lavasa as tourists, they should leave as travellers with many unforgettable and cherished memories. To achieve this objective, the team at the hotel has created some unique experience packages that combine nature, interactive activities, cuisines and entertainment.

The most popular ones of these packages are:

- Trek @ Nature Trail with Walking Buffet
- Wine Walks with synchronised short-eats from valley to the summit
- Dinner with a thousand lights
- Master Chef Classes with cuisine appreciation
- Drum circles and war games for corporates
- Romantic destination wedding packages

Apart from the above, the other outstanding features of the hotel are:

- Central location next to Town Hall right on the banks of the Lake
- Attitude of the staff who are ever willing to go an extra mile
- Famed Fortune expertise in cuisine.

### What products and services do you offer MICE travellers?

Apart from the regular offerings including comfortable rooms, varied choice of cuisine, well-appointed conferencing and banqueting facilities and state-of-the-art audio-visual equipments, we also offer team building activities, whole range of sports and adventure activities including water sports and entertainment options for the groups.





# STYLE STATEMENT

The recently-opened InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort provides an unforgettable experience by the mighty Bay of Bengal

**KAMAL GILL**

**T**he enchantment sets in the moment you enter the broad gates of the newly opened InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort. A charming property set near the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mahabalipuram, this exclusive beach resort creates a world of relaxed luxury.

The visual delight opens up with the lobby with its huge ceiling and avant garde seating, where the hotel reception is located. It sets the mood for an enigmatic and delightful experience which is taken forward the minute you see a floating deck and alfresco seating overlooking a central water feature. Certainly, the design elements are a stellar feature of the new property.

Much of the charm of the resort emanates from its architectural and design philosophy which is a contemporary presentation of the milieu, climate and history of the region. It takes a while to register that much of the resort's design reflects the local aesthetics of South India's famed temple architecture. Here is a modern take of the unmistakable temple cuboid design, long corridors, pillars and temple-pond with pink-lotus flowers as central design elements. One of the main design elements is the proportion of the 'Golden Mean,' as also mirrored in the interiors.





This oceanfront property at Chennai has been designed by CV Sydney, part of the Kerry Hill design firm in Singapore and is probably one of the first five star beach resorts around the east coast of India, designed with a huge focus on environmental planning and design.

While the living spaces capitalise on stunning views and landscaped gardens, it provides the guest with choreography – the public areas designed to facilitate interaction and social behaviour, while the rooms are spaces offering respite and contemplation. A series of cultural moments punctuate the journey of the guests throughout the Resort.

Says Vijai Singh, General Manager, InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort, "We are thrilled to welcome guests from India and around the world to a truly special East Coast luxury resort experience. We promise to offer our guests personal connect and unparalleled service. The Resort is the owning company's second partnership with IHG® since the agreement with their sister hotel brand Crowne Plaza in Chennai in 2015."

#### CORPORATE RETREAT

The 105 room Resort offers a full range of facilities and amenities to guests, including an outdoor swimming pool, a fully-equipped health club and a spa, Amrtam by Escenza that offers relaxing therapies and signature treatments from across the world, Ayurveda and yoga. The Resort's expansive and versatile indoor and outdoor venues are ideal for conferences, meetings, and special occasions such as wedding celebrations. A great place in Chennai for team outings, corporate groups and families.

#### STAY

In addition to the breath-taking views, the hotel has much else to offer in terms of a luxury experience — world-class accommodation, personalised services and dedicated amenities.

The resort boasts ocean front suites and rooms for those looking to enjoy a quiet time. The East Coast Suites are the last word in luxury with a private entrance, a balcony overlooking the ocean and gardens, a separate well appointed sitting room and bedroom, along with a spacious bathroom. The Club InterContinental Lounge, offers exclusive service for guests staying in the East Coast Suites and a dedicated Concierge.

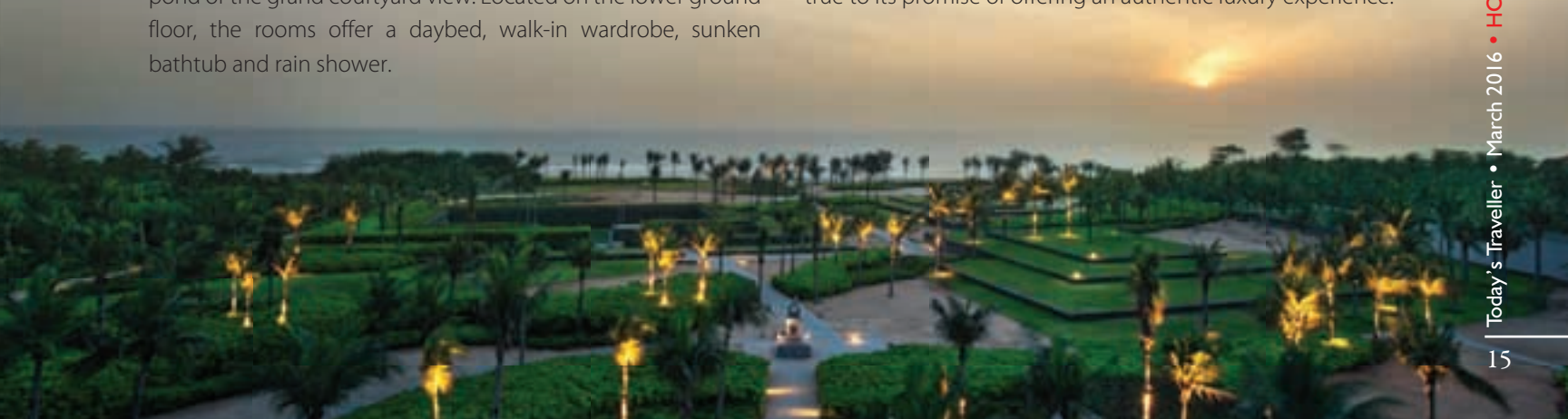
The contemporary rooms provide synergy between the locations and design a tranquil private retreat offering a Lotus pond or the grand courtyard view. Located on the lower ground floor, the rooms offer a daybed, walk-in wardrobe, sunken bathtub and rain shower.



#### DINE

InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort offers three gourmet dining options which includes The Melting Pot: Market Cafe offers the option of dining inside or al fresco where one can enjoy the gentle breeze beside the large expanse of the water body. It has three live kitchens that serves European, South Asian and Peninsular Indian cuisine; a Chinese Specialty Restaurant, Tao Of Peng and Off The Hook, a beachside grill and seafood restaurant. The Gatsby Lounge offers guests classic cocktails and more, in an ambience inspired by the spirit of the roaring twenties and the jazz age. The pub ambience makes for a relaxed experience.

The InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort stays true to its promise of offering an authentic luxury experience.





## BANGKOK TAKES PREMIER SPOT IN MASTERCARD'S APAC DESTINATION INDEX

MasterCard's first ever Asia Pacific Destinations Index, an offshoot of the annual Global Destination Cities Index, has underscored Thailand's premier position among 167 top destinations in the region. The Kingdom of a million smiles took top honours in all three categories.

Thailand has three destinations – Bangkok (#1), Phuket (#5) and the coastal city of Pattaya (#8) – in the Top 20 Asia Pacific Destinations by international overnight arrivals. Interestingly, the Top 20 Destinations of Asia Pacific represent about 50.0 per cent of all International Overnight Arrivals to the 167 destinations covered.

Soraya Homchuen, Director, Tourism Authority of Thailand – Mumbai office said: "It is delightful to see Thailand's destinations showing not only a high number of arrivals but also leading the pack, in terms of total spend and stay. We hope to retain this position in the years to come with the support of Indian travellers and of course the Indian travel trade."

## GTDC INTRODUCES HELICOPTER JOY RIDES

Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) introduced helicopter joy rides from Park Hyatt – Arossim in South Goa, recently. The GTDC and Pawan Hans joint venture, introduced the joy rides giving tourists and Park Hyatt guests a lovely experience.

Fr Conceicao from Taleigao Church blessed the helicopter services in the presence of officials from GTDC, Pawan Hans and Park Hyatt – Goa. On day one, as many as 75 passengers availed of the joy rides from the new site.

Chairman of Goa Tourism Development Corporation

Nilesh Cabral said, "We now have helicopter rides and hot air balloons which will serve as a huge attraction for tourists to Goa. There is a lot more to come in the months ahead and we are optimistic that all these new initiatives will go a long way in putting Goa on the map for world class adventure and leisure tourism."

Shobhit Sawhney, General Manager – Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa said, "For those with exquisite taste luxury is not so easily defined...it's a collection of uncommon indulgences particular to each one of us – and this is the philosophy of curating unique experiences at Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa. The heli- tourism will be an enthralling experience for our discerning guests and visiting tourists and we are looking forward to many more new beginnings with GTDC."

On line bookings will be available on [www.goa-tourism.com](http://www.goa-tourism.com)



## AUSTRIA – A MAJOR FAVOURITE AMONG INDIANS

Travel from India to Austria saw a whopping 40 per cent increase from 2014 to 2015 in arrivals and 34 per cent in overnights as compared to 2005. Arrivals in Austria hence grew about twice as strong as overall traffic to Europe and prove that Austria is one of the most sought after destinations.

The Austrian Tourist Office has recently completed its website re-launch to offer the perfect platform to promote the varied and colourful aspects of a vacation in Austria. The Tourist Office, recently, launched its new marketing campaign "Journeys Through Austria," offering expertly curated itineraries, insider tips combined with practical information which acts as a travel planning tool for the visitor from India to experience Austria ;

Christine Mukharji, Director, Austrian National Tourist Office in India is optimistic for the year ahead – "We will continue our

focus to promote the unique symbiosis of culture and nature. A visit to Austria is not "just another vacation on the bucket list" but a rewarding experience and immersion in Austrian culture and lifestyle. It is easy for Indian guests to feel at home, they quickly feel part of an authentic lifestyle that is rewarding and enriches their lives even back at home."

The Austrian National Tourist Office held its annual road show from the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. Delegates from local tourist boards, incoming agencies, attractions, hotels and travel partners were part of the road show to showcase Austria as a destination for summer 2016. The roadshow was held in 3 cities; Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Delhi and was a huge success, with close to 350 agents attending collectively. Press events were held in Mumbai and Delhi.





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# PARADISE FOUND

Fortune Select Dasve, Lavasa, excites the spirit and rejuvenates the soul; it is for a holiday par excellence

## TT BUREAU

Lavasa, a picturesque valley nestled deep in the Sahyadri Mountains around the 20km long Warasgaon Lake, is a leisure holiday destination for people looking for a peaceful trip away from the hustle and bustle of hectic city life. This picturesque private hill city developed by Lavasa Corporation Limited is very well connected to Pune and Mumbai and is about 65km and 200km respectively from both the cities.

Here, in the heart of Dasve village's rolling green hillside is Fortune Select Dasve, an upscale full-service hotel that has been

created carefully with a blend of contemporary style and aesthetics to provide premium accommodation to its guests. Located 2000-3000ft above sea level, amidst 25000 acres of lakes and hills in the beautiful and scenic locales of Lavasa, Fortune Select Dasve, is the perfect getaway offering a vibrant and a self-contained world. It offers an excellent range of services and a truly memorable experience which will take you to a new level of relaxation and rejuvenation, and will make you come back for more.

Spread over 1.5 acres, Fortune Select Dasve features 60 well-appointed rooms including 36 Standard Rooms, 12 Lake View Rooms, 6 Fortune Club Rooms and 6 Suites. All rooms have been tastefully done up in a contemporary décor, are equipped with modern amenities and offer breathtaking view of the spectacular lake and the lush green hills of Lavasa. The in-room features include 24-hour room service, tea / coffee maker, electronic safe, LCD satellite television, direct dial STD/ISD, high speed Wi-Fi,





Promenade, Lavasa Experience Centre, Lavasa International Convention Centre, Adventure Sports, Nature Trails, Parks, Gardens and Nursery Crèches.

In keeping with the requirements of today's business travelers, the hotel offers a large banquet hall which is divisible into three separate function rooms with an exclusive pre-function area. Located at the ground floor level and equipped to handle up to 200 covers, the Banquet areas offer easy access without disturbing hotel guests. In addition to this, there are four meeting rooms well-equipped with state-of-the-art conferencing facilities. The hotel also has a completely furnished and fully equipped board room for presentations and meetings along with a conveniently located business centre.

The Fortune Select Dasve, Lavasa Team has come up with a novel way for their guests to enjoy natural beauty of Lavasa by combining multi-faceted experiences like Trekking, Bird Watching, Butterfly Garden, Valley Viewing, Photo ops, Picnic, Gourmet dining and creating one unique experience that they call Trekking@Nature Trail with Walking Buffet.

daily newspaper, iron and ironing board and choice of fruits.

Fortune Select Dasve, Lavasa, brings a delectable dining experience for its guests with its two signature restaurants, Earthen Oven – the North Indian specialty restaurant and Zodiac – the 24-hour coffee shop, offering a wide range of cuisine from around the world. And one stylish on-site lounge and bar, Nostradamus, for those who wish to unwind with a drink amid lively music. Other offerings at the hotel include a business centre, swimming pool, well-equipped gymnasium, travel desk, in-house laundry, doctor on call, valet service, 24-hour currency exchange and water sports facility available on request.

Once in Lavasa, you can choose to indulge in an array of recreational activities the city offers or simply experience the pleasure of not doing anything in peaceful surroundings and just relax in the lap of nature. Main attractions of Lavasa include Temghar Dam, Lakeshore Water Sports, Waterfront and

Guests are taken to the start of Nature Trail (about 3km away) in an open top vehicle so that they can enjoy the sights and sounds of the picturesque township on their way. At the start of the trek and on the way, the escort briefs the guests about the unique features of the topography, flora and fauna of the region and what everyone expects to see.

After every 150 to 200m walk up the hill, the guests reach a vantage point from where they can enjoy the views of valley below or look at the natural features of the jungle ( watering hole, waterfall, ant-hill birds' nests, butterfly garden etc.)

The trek continues till the guests reach the summit which offers bird's eye view of the two valleys with lakes. After a final round of refreshments and beverages, guests are led back to the waiting vehicle for a short drive back to the Hotel.

Fortune Select Dasve, Lavasa forms a part of Fortune Hotels, member of ITC's hotel group, India's fastest growing chain of first class, full service business hotels, with 72 signed alliances and 5561 rooms, across 54 cities in the country.





# CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

**ABHIJEET ROY**  
**HEAD - ADMINISTRATION**  
**DCB BANK**

## Most memorable trip to any destination?

I had visited Jammu and Kashmir sometime last year and I had an exhilarating experience there. Beautiful place with some of the best sight scenes one can ask for.

## You dream of going to?

Switzerland, because it is the ultimate place of beauty and I also have a special liking for Scotland, I think a Scottish vacation would be a perfect getaway from the everyday life.

## Favourite airline and why?

I like Singapore airlines and this is simply because I feel they have the best services and hospitality.

## Best hotel experience and why?

The Pine and Spring at Pahelgaon was certainly a fine experience. They have impeccable service which is an important factor for being a reputed hotel.

## A place you plan to visit again?

I am planning to go to Jammu and Kashmir during June and July this time for a nice and cool summer.

## A family vacation that stands out?

The Jammu and Kashmir trip was a very enjoyable one with my entire family. The trip stands out because it was a time when we bonded closely and cherished some great moments together.

## Your best holiday with friends?

We had gone to Pattaya and as one can imagine, it was an absolute blast.

## Great food you enjoyed and where?

Oh, the Rogan Josh in Jammu and Kashmir was absolutely lip smacking. Where will I ever find the very authentic Rogan Josh anywhere else?

## What to watch out for while travelling?

Looking out for the sights and sounds is paramount when travelling. So one should be mindful of the mountains, greenery and the deep blue sea around him or her, try to soak in the experience.

## As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

Every place is unique in itself and we should explore it fully. Travel also serves the purpose of refreshment from daily hectic schedule and stress.

# Lavasa, a city built on smart ideas for smart tourism.



With its diverse opportunities and upcoming pool of qualified professionals, Lavasa is fast moving towards creating a vibrant '365-day' economy. Robust systems, connectivity, technology, excellent roads, security and support utilities required for businesses such as tourism, hospitality, sports, education, entertainment and MICE to evolve are central to Lavasa.

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For more information, please contact  
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Lavasa Community







# CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

**RAMESH MANDALIA**  
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER  
PSL, MUMBAI

## Most memorable trip to any destination?

I loved my trips to the United Kingdom and Australia and among my domestic travels it has to be Goa. Goa is indeed a fantastic place to be.

## You dream of going to?

I would love to go to Dubai, it just seems very fascinating. Also, another place on my list is the Gold Coast in Australia.

## Favourite airline and why?

The two most efficient airlines according to my experiences are Jet Airways and Air India. Besides being on time, they are also very good at keeping their passengers comfortable.

## Best hotel experience and why?

At Goa, I was enamoured by the hospitality of both the Taj and Holiday Inn. Have a lot of fond memories of my stay there.

## A place you plan to visit again?

I would like to go back to Goa and Jaipur, both of them are so beautiful that you need to re-visit them and relive the experiences.

## A family vacation that stands out?

We had gone to Udaipur and stayed at the Lake Palace Hotel. As you can imagine it was a mind blowing stay and we had a great family time there. We simply loved the experience.



## Your best holiday with friends?

Oh well what other place to have fun with friends other than Goa! We had a blast.

## Great food you enjoyed and where?

I liked the food at Ujjain. I think it was very fresh and had lots of local Indian flavours which enhanced the experience of eating.

## What to watch out while travelling?

Well I am a lover of sea, so I definitely look for an alluring sea coast. Other than this, one should be mindful of the historical value of each place.

## As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

It is imperative that we stick to the schedule. Being on time is very important when you are travelling, otherwise you might miss out on a lot of things and that can wreck your trip.



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## DESIGNER MANISH ARORA HONOURED BY FRANCE



His Excellency, The Ambassador of France, Francois Richier, conferred the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur on veteran fashion designer Manish Arora. The award is recognition by the Country for Manish's renowned and critically acclaimed work and contribution to the world of fashion.

Speaking on the occasion Manish Arora said, "I'm thrilled and honoured by the recognition I have received from the country that I love with all my heart. France has been an inspiration always. I now live between Paris and Delhi and for me France is literally my own country. I hope to keep getting inspired by France, the beauty and elegance of the French people."

Ambassador François Richier said, "Manish has a long-standing connection with France, which is like a second home for him. He is a pioneer in bringing the fashion culture of both countries together with his exuberant imagination. I am delighted to confer this high honour on him."



## VISIT INDONESIA TOURISM OFFICE ORGANISES MEDIA INTERACTION AND SALES MISSION IN INDIA

The Ministry of Tourism of Indonesia (MoT) continues to aggressively promote "Wonderful Indonesia" in the Indian market which is considered as one of potential markets for Indonesian tourism. Later this month MoT will hold a sales mission event entitled Sales Mission India 2016 in Hyderabad and New Delhi.

In 2016, MoT is targeting 350,000 Indian visitor arrivals after managed to attract 262,000 visitors in 2015. Part of this optimistic forecast is based on the recent regulation of giving Indian citizens 30-day, visa-free entry into Indonesia for tourism purpose (as per Regulation no. 104/2015). Such growth could actually be higher, but presently it is constrained by the absence of direct flight between India and Indonesia.

Thus, the Indonesian Minister of Tourism, Mr. Arief Yahya took the initiative to ask the Ministry of Transportation authorities to open direct flights from and to the pockets of Indian tourists. This year, Garuda Indonesia, the national airline of Indonesia, also promised to open Mumbai - Jakarta / Bali route.



## 21 GUN SALUTE VINTAGE CAR SHOW NEW DELHI

One of India's most premium Vintage car events, the 21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally & Concourse Show, 2016 was inaugurated amongst renowned national and international car aficionados and connoisseurs of culture, art and history.

Sharing a cogent and influential message, Madan Mohan Founder & Managing Trustee - 21 Gun Salute Heritage & Cultural Trust said, "Through this event, I take forward my passion and my dream that aims at establishing India as a world-classing Motoring Tourism destination and through the 21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally & Concours Show, we will surely make a mark on the Global Vintage Rallies Map, attracting lakhs of international tourists from all over the world, in the future editions of the event."





# AVIATION





## TURKISH AIRLINES CELEBRATES 300<sup>TH</sup> AIRCRAFT, AN AIRBUS A330-300

With the addition of its 300<sup>th</sup> aircraft, Europe's Leading Airline continues to strengthen its position in global Aviation

TT BUREAU



Taking its place as one of the world's major airlines, Turkish Airlines continues to grow its fleet in order to meet the needs of its ever-growing network and expanding customer base. Turkish Airlines also wishes to serve its customers with Europe's youngest and most modern fleet. That process continues as the airline adds its 300<sup>th</sup> aircraft.

The addition of the 300<sup>th</sup> plane was celebrated with a ceremony that was held recently at the Atatürk International Airport in the new hangar of Turkish Technic Inc. The ceremony included the participation of Turkish Airlines' Board Chairman, M İlker Aycı, Turkish Airlines' CEO, Dr Temel Kotil, Airbus' Regional Sales Director/Middle East and Europe, Douglas Anderson, and Airbus' Contracts Director, David Bonnel as well as a large number of business partners and media representatives.

In his address, Turkish Airlines Board Chairman M İlker Aycı noted that Turkish Airlines has set great targets to take measured steps towards becoming the world's leading airline. Indicating that



Turkish Airlines has also acted as a "diplomatic" pioneer due to the far-reaching flight network, Aycı said, "As Turkish Airlines, we are at the top among the fastest growing airlines worldwide. Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircraft, Turkish Airlines today is a 4-star airline with a fleet of 300 (passenger and cargo) aircraft flying to 284 destinations worldwide -235 international and 49 domestic-. Turkish Airlines received its 100<sup>th</sup> aircraft in August 2006, 73 years after its establishment. Nearly seven years later, in March 2013, its fleet reached 200 aircrafts. With 300 aircrafts in our fleet today, we are the world's 13<sup>th</sup> largest airline in terms of fleet size, and with 39 new aircraft to be added by the end of this year, Turkish Airlines will be even more prominent at the international level with its young fleet."

Douglas Anderson, Senior Sales Director of Airbus commented: "We would like to congratulate Turkish Airlines on the milestone of increasing its fleet to 300 aircrafts and we would like to express our gratitude for their confidence in Airbus aircraft. Ten years ago Turkish Airlines was operating with only seven wide-body aircraft and today they have more than 70. We are honoured to be a partner in their growth and look forward to be a part of their growing fleet in the coming years."





# AAI LAUNCHES NOCAS

Government of India has delegated AAI under GSR 751(E) to issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) for height clearance to ensure safe operations at airports

## TT BUREAU

**A**irports Authority of India (AAI) has taken many steps to enhance ease of doing business for real estate projects after it was entrusted to issue, No Objection Certificate (NOC), for building height to ensure the safety of aeroplanes and its passengers, while they are landing or departing from airports.

### COLOUR CODED ZONING MAP (CCZM)

AAI has issued Colour Coded Zoning Maps (CCZM) to the following 12 major cities and builders are not required to apply for NOC for buildings up to the heights permitted in CCZM. All the colour coded zoning maps are available on AAI website. These Colour coded maps can also be opened on city maps so that applicant is able to locate his plot/site and know the permissible height. CCZM of other major cities are being prepared.

States include Mumbai; Navi Mumbai; Delhi; Kolkata; Hyderabad; Lucknow; Ahmedabad; Guwahati; Amritsar; Bengaluru; Nagpur and Chennai.

### Benefits of CCZM

- NOC for height clearance from AAI is not required for the buildings up to the CCZM height. As per GSR751(E), Local Bodies are authorised to approve the building plans up to the height permitted by CCZM. Applicants are not required to contact AAI for NOC.
- CCZM permits building even up to 150m height in certain areas without NOC from AAI.
- As per GSR751(E), SACFA is authorised to issue clearances to wireless / Telecommunication masts as per CCZM permitted heights without referring such mast cases to AAI.

### NOCAS Version 2.0

No Objection Certificate Application System (NOCAS) is an online application system for applying for NOC for seeking height clearance from AAI. The NOCAS version 2.0 has been developed to make it more automated, robust and user friendly. NOCAS can be accessed on the AAI website [www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero).

### Online NOC Application

The applicant shall file online NOC application for height clearance. In addition, the review, appeal and revalidation applications shall also be filed online.

### Paperless Procedures

No hard copy is required from the applicant. He / she will be able to upload the scanned copies of the required documents. NOC letter will be issued electronically through the digital signatures. Applicant is not required to visit



*RN Choubey, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation lighting the lamp*

AAI office at all for any reason. Applicant is able to track the application status through system generated SMS on registered mobile numbers, system generated e-mail and applicant dash board.

### Automated Calculations

NOCAS carries out automated calculations for Aeronautical Ground Aids (AGA), Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) and Procedure for Air Navigation Service-Operations (PANS-OPS) criteria.

### Faster Issue of NOC

The current timeline of six weeks for issue of NOC will be reduced to three weeks from the date of application. The process of NOC committee will be conducted online by AAI officers. In case of auto settle, NOC will be issued within minutes of filing the application.

### Check Approximate Height

This NOCAS tool will enable the prospective NOC applicants, to check what is the approximate building height he may expect from the NOC office. Accordingly, the applicant can plan the proposed structure and apply for NOC.

### Auto Settle

The NOC applications will be auto settled by the system within minutes of filing if the site lies in the following auto settle filter:

- The location of the proposed structure is beyond 20km from VFR airports or beyond 56km from the IFR airports
- For airports / cities where CCZM have been issued by AAI if the requested height of the proposed structure is equal to or below the height permitted in CCZM.
- Wireless telecom masts will be auto settled if the mast is beyond 20km from the airport and below 100m;

For auto settled cases, system generated letter (without signature), stating that NOC from AAI is not required and the reason thereof, will be issued automatically.

It is expected that at least 30 to 40 per cent of the NOC applications will be auto settled.

### NOCAS Ver. 2.0

[www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero), [nocas2.aai.aero/nocas](http://nocas2.aai.aero/nocas)



## LUFTHANSA'S CONTEST SEES GREAT PARTICIPATION FROM INDIA

At the beginning of the New Year, Lufthansa launched an exciting competition for children who enjoy flying. The prizes for the winning child involved stepping into the shoes of a member of the cabin crew aboard a Lufthansa flight and making an announcement live on board. On this basis the airline had started up a family competition where the child with the most imaginative announcement could win a flight within Europe for themselves and two accompanying adults. In a preliminary selection a panel of judges consisting of Lufthansa experts selected the 15 best announcements.

Kids from across the world had entered some of the most creatively thought of announcements for this and to our great pleasure, two kids from India, Sashreeka, 8, from New Delhi and Yashas, 8, from Mumbai have been selected from amongst 250 registrations and 63 clips in nine countries. In fact, the contest gained much traction globally with an astounding 22,000 page views on the contests webpage. Children are an important customer group for Lufthansa. In the past year the crews welcomed more than 750,000 children and adolescents on board.

The winning clip is yet to be determined after an online public vote, but it is definitely a pleasant surprise to see such enthusiasm and participation from India. After the winner's announcement, the new "crew member" will make their announcement live on board a flight with their parents to a European destination of choice.



## AAI WINS TTJ JURY CHOICE AWARDS

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been awarded the "Innovative Edge in Enhancing Consumer Experience" by the TTJ Jury Choice Awards in the Airport Category, recently, at the Grand New Delhi. The function was graced by luminaries of Civil Aviation.



RK Srivastava, IAS, Chairman, AAI being presented the award, conferred upon Airports Authority of India (AAI) for Innovative Edge in Enhancing Consumer Experience in the Airport Category. Seen in the picture are S Raheja, Member (Planning), AAI (R), ML Sharma, Executive Director (CP&MS), AAI (L) and GS Bawa, General Manager.

## EXECUJET SET TO ENTER INDIAN MARKET



The Zurich Headquartered Global General Aviation leader ExecuJet Aviation Group is set to expand into the Indian market for the first time, following a successful tender bid. Together with its Indian partner, The Bird Group, ExecuJet will develop, construct and operate India's first fixed-based operation (FBO) and maintenance, repair and overhaul

(MRO) facilities at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, India.

Mike Berry, VP ExecuJet says "This is a significant win for ExecuJet as we have had India on our radar for many years. It will provide us with the platform to expand our geographic footprint and service proposition, in line with our growth strategy. I would congratulate Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) for running a transparent process. Headquartered in New Delhi, with over 40 years of experience in India and expertise in aviation services, The Bird Group is our perfect partner for this expansion programme."

Chairperson The Bird Group said, "ExecuJet has already established a leading global aviation business and we are delighted to be announcing partnership with them. In line with the "Make in India" programme we shall be creating state-of-the-art world class infrastructure for Private Aircraft Operators."

## ETIHAD AIRWAYS PRESENTED AIRLINE OF THE YEAR 2016 AWARD



Etihad Airways, the Abu Dhabi-based national airline of the United Arab Emirates, was presented with the Airline of the Year 2016 award by US-based aviation industry publication Air Transport World (ATW).

James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer, said: "This award recognises what we set out to do as an airline 13 years ago – to be safe, profitable and simply the best. It is a reflection of our strengths – a robust business model and innovative products and superior service delivered by our 27,000 dedicated employees. I am delighted to accept this

award on their behalf. As an airline, we have offered a unique proposition to the travelling public and expanded our business to help shape the changing global aviation landscape."

Karen Walker, Air Transport World Editor-in-Chief, said: "Etihad Airways is clearly an airline apart from the pack and one that sets its own course. It is a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of the Etihad Airways team at the 2016 ATW Airline Achievement Awards in Singapore. Etihad is highly deserving of our top award, Airline of the Year. James Hogan puts it best - it's not about being the biggest, it's about being the best."



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# EXPLORER





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The world in all its glory belongs to the one who travels, who looks beyond the surface of society and discovers the new

**ARKA ROY CHOWDHURY**

**A**rgentine poet Jorge Luis Borges' poem *Limits*, starts with – "Of all the streets that blur into the sunset, there must be one (which, I am not sure), that I by now have walked for the last time..." Discovering these lines years later, in a brand new world where travellers often walk their last, is nothing short of a revelation. To know that a foreign street below the crimson sky, on which I had walked one summer evening wishing for the breeze to freeze that moment for eternity, might have in fact been my last. This realisation is a call to nostalgia, for the last city, the last coffee, the last leaf that quivered in rain, nostalgia – a growing disease for a traveller, that, which will only aggravate with the passing of each new destination.

Travelling is a sort of love which emancipates the mind and forgives the harshness of the world. When leaving the known world and entering into the edge of unbridled romance, take with you these words that best define the heart of travel.







**Resfeber (word of origin: Swedish) – restlessness within a traveller, before the journey begins**

The final hour arrives; as an unbearable lightness wraps the heart, waiting has never been this long before. That lonely corner of a train station or the airport, the expectations, the overwhelming ecstatic rush is simply undeniable. It is finally time to move.

**Musafir (word of origin: Persian/Arabic) – a traveller**

In the depth of a brand new place all one can ever be is a traveller. To be a *musafir*, who explores new sights and sounds and preserves its memories, no matter how ordinary. Like the empty balconies of near-empty homes in quiet afternoons, which evoke the seminal sense of future nostalgia. I am a child of five, gasping at all things new, for me, everything here is new.



**Fernweh (word of origin: German) – the aching desire for travel**

The rolling clouds of October often play host to wandering birds who travel to far off places in search for a winter home. As the eyes set upon the flock of birds making their way into the ethereal world, a sudden ache for a never-been-before land awakes.

**Flaneur (word of origin: French) – an idler who wanders aimlessly**

With a hint of frenweh, the idler walks in search for the new in old quarters, with dishevelled appearance, a seer of all things mundane. In search for wisdom of the new, the mind plays a thousand symphonies and the aching morbidity transforms into an indefinable thrill.

**Trouvaille (word of origin: French) – a lucky find / a valuable discovery by chance**

Drinks for the evening at a quiet street corner while charming little dandelions fly in from the gardens nearby and without warning; an entrant of quiet disposition. A significant encounter leads to varied conversations, laughable stories, myriad anecdotes of life, a whirlwind of interests binding the conversationalists. May be a decade later in another part of the world, the remembrance of that beautiful person will flood the heart with great nostalgia.

**Saudade (word of origin: Portuguese) – a nostalgic longing to be near to something or someone**

Returning is a curse and years later, as I remember Borges and all the last walks in blurry evenings and faced with the forlorn rags of getting old, my memories fade into nothingness. All I am left with is a terrible longing, upon which I rest my grieving mind. All things once found in journeys immemorial are now all things past.

**An epitaph on the traveller –**

*Here lie the limbs that tread,  
the eyes that saw,  
the ears that heard.  
Here lie the ineffable memories of a wandering soul.*



# A GAELIC TRYST

Enjoy the serenity of Scotland and its beautiful islands with quaint locales and stunning beaches

## TT BUREAU

A charming country located in Europe, Scotland is an asset for tourists who are looking to explore nature's bounty. Sharing its border with England in the south, the North Sea to the east and the North Channel and Irish Sea to the south-west, the nation has over 750 beautiful islands. With Edinburgh as its capital, the country has a host of stunning locales which are sure to mesmerise tourists and leave a lasting impression in their minds. The islands of this Gaelic nation are fascinating to say the least, here we list down and take a peek at some of the popular ones.

### ISLE OF SKYE

A magical place to be, it is the largest of the Inner Hebrides, home to Scotland's famous landscapes. With a host of mountain ranges and an idyllic coastline, the Isle of Skye is sure to enchant you in numerous ways. Although the main attraction here is the stunning scenery, the Isle of Skye also has plenty of castles, museums and Scottish pubs and restaurants to entertain you. There are also numerous art galleries and craft studios. The weather here happens to be unpredictable, so one must come prepared.



### ORKNEY ISLANDS

A magical place to be, the Orkney Islands are known for its wildlife, beaches and rich historical background. Orkney is basically an archipelago of 70 islands which is located in the north of mainland Scotland. The green-topped islands boast a heritage that dates back to the Vikings era, an influence which is still strong to this day. The Orkney Islands also have ancient standing stones and prehistoric villages to mesmerise tourists and give them a taste of real Scotland.

### SHETLAND ISLANDS

Another archipelago of more than 1000 islands, the Shetland Islands happen to be closer to Norway geographically than to the Scottish mainland. Shetland was once under the Norse rule until 1469 and later gifted to Scotland in lieu of the dowry of a Danish princess. The islands are ruggedly handsome and secluded from the madding crowd. With miles of breathtaking coastline dotted with beaches and blue shores along with astounding sea lochs, heather-clad moorlands, monumental rock formations and towering cliff tops sculpted by millennia of wind, sea and sand.

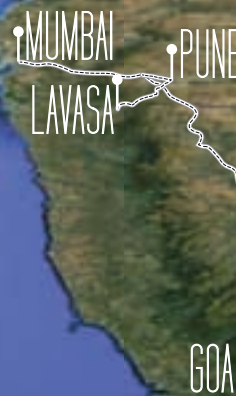
### ARGYLL AND THE ISLES

With stunning sceneries, the islands are just the right place for tourists to escape into awe-inspiring landscapes. There are about 23 inhabited islands and each of them offer quiet beaches and have their own unique cultures. There are about seven National Nature Reserves (and many more parks, gardens and wild spaces in between), Argyll and The Isles is one of the best places in Scotland to see iconic wildlife, including golden eagles, red deer, otters, seals, puffins, red squirrels, porpoises and rare white tailed sea eagles. There are some world-famous distilleries found here.



# JOURNEY FOR THE SOUL

GOA-MUMBAI-PUNE-LAVASA CIRCUIT



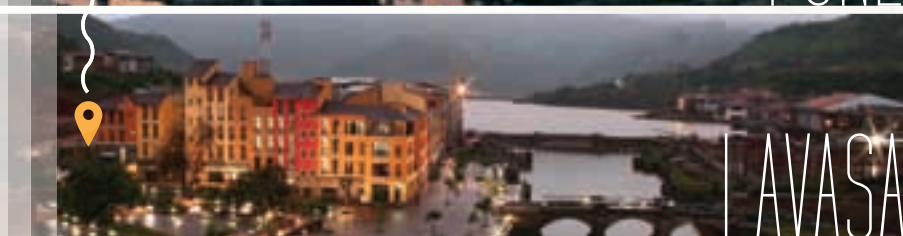
GOA



MUMBAI



PUNE



LAVASA

## The journey... is the destination

The magnificent splendour of nature is an exquisite experience for the cluttered mind, for the weary hearted mankind, trailing behind success. Luckily, India is a country of many wonders and the Goa-Mumbai-Pune-Lavasa circuit is a splendid manifestation of that spirit. While the Konkan spirit comes alive in this route; engaging you in all its glory, are the Fortune Hotels and the WelcomHeritage Hotels, delivering one of the best stays of the region.

The Fortune Hotels and WelcomHeritage Hotels' Goa-Mumbai-Pune-Lavasa trail presents a host of comfortable stays where visitors can enjoy the serenity of Goan beaches, the charming metropolis of Mumbai, the quietude of Pune and the natural hue of Lavasa. A range of special amenities provided by the properties at each of these locations further enhance their charisma, alluring visitors into a world of exclusive disposition.







*The ultimate vacation destination for Indians and foreigners alike, Goa is all about sun and sand. Add a dash of Portuguese colonialism, some authentic Goan sea food, a bottle of good old feni and some 'susegad' (quiet). Do not forget the holy Basilica of Bom Jesus, Fort Aguada, Braganza House and Goa Chitra, besides the obvious beaches.*



### Fortune Acron Regina, Candolim, Goa

A contemporary upscale full service hotel located off the main road to Fort Aguada in Candolim – the leisure Riviera of Goa. The 102-room hotel is only 7 minutes walk from the Candolim Beach and offers a complete range of guest facilities for a memorable holiday in Goa. **Distance from:** International Airport: 34 km | Candolim Beach: 1.7 km | Fort Aguada: 4.5 km | Anjuna Flea Market: 11 km | Mayem Lake: 28 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 5,999/-\*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of buffet breakfast. Taxes extra.



### Acron Waterfront Resort, Baga, Goa

Sprawled across an acre, Acron Waterfront Resort is a boutique resort property strategically located right where the Baga River meets the Arabian Sea. The hotel offers 29 well-appointed meticulously designed rooms with modern amenities, providing views of the river, the sea, and the courtyard. Guests can relax and rejuvenate at The Spa and indulge in a variety of treatments and therapies available. Not to miss, the highlight of the property is the infinity pool where one can disconnect from the world and recharge the body and mind. There's also a temperature-controlled Jacuzzi to complete the experience. **Distance from:** International Airport: 40 km | Baga Beach: 1.7 km | Anjuna Flea Market: 5 km | Candolim Church: 7.5 km | Fort Aguada: 11 km | Mayem Lake: 25 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 9,999/-\*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.



### WelcomHeritage Panjim Inn, Goa

WelcomHeritage Panjim Inn is amongst the primary colonial mansions nestled in the heart of Latin Quarter of Fontainhas. It is also Goa's first classified Heritage Hotel. The property is further classified in three categories namely Panjim Inn, Panjim Pousada and Panjim Peoples, that offers 37 rooms. Each room is a fine blend of old world charm, elegance and modernity defining a unique character. The period furniture, antique interiors, exotic art and fine furnishing remarks the era of romance, charm and nostalgia. The Verandah Restaurant at the hotel offers local cuisine of the region and continental cuisine with its in house farm Feni and scrumptious Goan meal. **Distance from:** Airport: 35 km | Thivim Railway Station: 20 km | Madgaon Railway Station: 45 km. **Packages starting from @ Rs. 7000/-\*** per night inclusive of Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner and all Applicable Taxes.





## MUMBAI

*Step into the world of glamour, the beaming city of hope and fortunes, Mumbai. The financial powerhouse and fashion epicentre of the nation, Mumbai still has a rustic old world charm that can never be alienated from its modern allegory. Here in Mumbai one must visit the Gateway of India, the Elephanta Island, EsselWorld, Bombay Panjrapole and the bastion of secret romance, Marine Drive.*



### Fortune Select Exotica, Navi Mumbai

Situated in Vashi, one of the most developed nodes of the city, Fortune Select Exotica provides a perfect blend of contemporary world class facilities with traditional Indian hospitality and is the preferred destination in Navi Mumbai for travellers. The hotel offers 85 well-appointed rooms along with a host of dining, meeting and recreation options to the guests. **Distance from:** International Airport: 25 km | TTC MIDC area of Mahape, Turbhe, Pawne Industrial Area: 1.5 km | Inorbit Shopping Mall and Vashi Business Hub: 2 km | Airoli Tech Park: 8 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 5,099/-\*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.



### Fortune Park LakeCity, Thane

Fortune Park LakeCity is a first class full service hotel conveniently located in the heart of Thane. The 46-room hotel is only 23 km from Mumbai and is also in close proximity to popular malls and Upvan Lake in Thane. The hotel is a perfect amalgam of comfort, convenience and great value. **Distance from:** Mumbai Airport: 28 km | Thane Railway Station: 4 km | Jupiter Hospital: Walking distance | Viviana Mall: Walking Distance | Korum Mall: 1.5 km | Upvan Lake: 3 km | Elephanta Caves: 54 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 6,999/-\*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.



## PUNE

*The epitome of 'Young India' and the centre for Indian academia, Pune is the after-party of Mumbai, with an energetic vibe. The city has welcomed globalisation to evoke a world-class disposition in its heart, making it one of the most sought after cities for Indians. Visitors to Pune should visit The Aga Khan Palace, Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Osho Teerth Gardens and the Pataleshvara Cave Temple.*



### Fortune Inn Exotica, Hinjawadi, Pune

Fortune Inn Exotica is a contemporary hotel located within the Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park in Hinjawadi, with aesthetically designed interiors and a lively ambience. The hotel offers a selection of 51 comfortable and well furnished rooms, first-class meeting and dining options with a range of guest facilities and business services, combined with traditional Indian hospitality for a pleasant stay in the city. **Distance from:** Pune Airport: 27 km | Railway Station: 18 km | Pune-Bangalore Highway: 1 km | Pune-Mumbai Expressway: 8 km | Major IT Companies: 5 km | Pataleshwar Caves: 14 km | Shaniwarwada: 15 km | Osho Commune: 19 km | Aga Khan Palace: 20 km | Shinde's Chhatri: 25 km | Mulshi Lake: 35 km | Panshet Dam: 45 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 3,499/-\*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.







## Fortune Inn Jukaso, Pune

Fortune Inn Jukaso is strategically located in Viman Nagar, near the industrial hub of the city. The hotel offers 44 comfortable rooms with delectable dining, and a range of amenities to ensure a pleasant stay for business as well as leisure travelers who seek quality accommodation with value for money.

**Distance from:** Pune Airport: 3 km | Railway Station: 6 km | Weikfield IT Park: 1.5 km | City Centre: 6 km | Aga Khan Palace: 3 km | Osho Commune: 5 km | Pataleshwar Caves-10 km | Shaniwarwada: 12 km | Raja Kelkar Museum: 14 km | Pashan Lake: 18 km | Khadakwasla: 25 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 3,499/-\*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.



*Enter one of India's highly developed planned cities, Lavasa. It is here where guests learn to explore all aspects of travel and live, work and play in paradise. With a robust infrastructure and verdant environs, Lavasa is the hidden gem of India. Those looking for a quiet haven and lots of nature activities, Lavasa is the last stop for them.*



## Fortune Select Dasve, Lavasa

Located 2000-3000 ft. above sea level, amidst 25000 acres of lakes and hills in the beautiful and scenic locales of Lavasa, Fortune Select Dasve is the perfect getaway, offering a vibrant and self-contained world. The hotel offers a selection of 60 beautifully furnished rooms with excellent range of guest facilities and services for a peaceful trip away from the hustle and bustle of hectic city life. Guests can choose to indulge in the array of recreational activities the city offers, such as trekking, water sports, bird watching etc. Or, simply experience the pleasure of not doing anything in peaceful surroundings and just relaxing in the lap of nature.

**Distance from:** Mumbai Airport: 193 km (5 hour drive) | Pune Airport: 72 km | Lavasa International Convention Centre: 0.8 km | Temghar Dam: 18 km | Other Tourist Spots: within 3 km from the hotel. **Packages starting @ Rs. 8,499/-\*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner. Taxes extra.



*\* Valid till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. T&C apply*



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# ODISHA'S TRIBAL FESTIVALS

A treasure-trove of cultures and traditions, Odisha's very own tribal festivals are exhilarating, to say the least

TT BUREAU

Nature has blessed the pious land of Odisha with all its bounties. The mesmerising landscape, the natural topography in all its varied and captivating forms and prosperity sweep the region in abundance. But, apart from the eminent Sun Temple of Konark, or, the architectural magnificence on display at the Lord Jagannath temple in Puri, Odisha also boasts a lively and thriving tribal culture. Numerous tribes with prominent differences, in terms of their social and cultural living, economical state and linguistic variations, have inhabited this land since days immemorial. Indeed, at certain times of the year, the entire region of Odisha reverberates with the flowing notes emanated from the peculiar musical instruments prized immensely by the tribal folk. Dances performed in perfect synchronisation, depicting some of the popular episodes selected from the preeminent epics and the other holy scriptures, portray the various facets surrounding the everyday lives of the tribal people in all their generosity.

During the month of January, Odisha hosts the Adivasi Mela, or, more commonly referred to as the "Tribal Festival," in the



capital city of Bhubaneswar. It is an opportunity for the tribal folks to showcase the various artefacts, culture and arts that are so fiercely adored and prized by them. Take the intriguing jewellery adorned by the various tribal groups for example. Be it the Hansuli, the neck ring of the Oraons, or the Andu, a brass anklet wrapped round the ankles of the Dongria Kondhs, all of them catch the eyes of the perpetually curious visitors to this wonderful fair. Pottery and crafts, which serve both ornamental as well as a functional purpose and is intrinsic to their daily routine, grace the exhibition with their architectural precision and design. Odisha has become synonymous for large scale cultivation of the resilient bamboo plant and the various products derived from it and exhibited at the fairs and festivals, clearly highlight this dependence on the bamboo.

The Koraput district of Odisha is famous for containing an enormous amount of mineral deposits and other natural



resources. However, it is also equally famous for hosting the renowned festival of Parab, organised yearly by the District Council of Culture, Koraput, involving the exclusive participation of the tribal folk inhabiting that region, primarily, the Bonda tribal group. Held during the month of November, this festival witnesses the showcasing of their unique culture, harmoniously performed dances, and stimulating music, all performed ardently and heartily. Declared to be a State Level tribal festival, this festival has endeavoured to preserve and protect the indigenous way of lifestyle and habitat of the various tribal groups inhabiting this beautiful region. Apart from the various facets of the tribal lifestyle on display, the event also witnesses a couple of other activities like Craftmela, Pallishree Mela, Book Fair etc, all held with the distinct purpose of providing a credible platform for the interexchange of tribal activities and tribal cultures.

The Chaitra Parva Chhau Festival, observed during the month of April, is celebrated with much gusto and fervour by the descendants of the Bhuiyan tribe. It is observed on a grand scale in the districts of Mayurbhanj and Koraput. It extends for

a period of three days, replete with merrymaking, revelry, and unmitigated enthusiasm. What marks out this festivals apart from the usual ones, in terms of the events on display, is the performance of Mayurbhanj Chhau, a synchronistic dance form whose movements are quite akin to shadow playing. Mayurbhanj Chhau is a splendid combination of classical dance, folk dance, drama, and martial arts, drawing heavily from each, and creating



an outcome that is absolutely fascinating to watch. Lovers of the dance art, and those enamoured of the tribal way of life, throng to these districts to get a taste of all that the festival has to offer.

The festival of Bija Pandu, lovingly called by the Koya peoples concentrated in the Malkangiri sub division, resting in the district of Koraput, is one of its kind. Women wait for the arrival of their better halves, all the while amusing themselves by dancing around with heavy steps, while the men folk participate in hunting and fishing in small clusters, and conveniently returning home before sunset. The strikingly exciting dance form practised by the Koya people, is a treat for the eyes. Men adorn their heads with Bison horns, bedecked with peacock feathers, while the women wear brass caps, with brass sticks fitted with jingling bells, all the while singing paeans to love and fascination.





# WONDERS OF INDIA

The diverse land of India brings together the celebration of cultures, making it one of the most spellbinding nations of the world. Today's Traveller looks at some of its many wonders

**TT BUREAU**

India is a nation of great diversity, a confluence of cultures, dating back to thousands of years. Mohammad Ali Jinnah rightly summed up the spirit of the country in the following words, "India is not a nation, nor a country. It is a subcontinent of nationalities." In a region of varied nationalities the embracing factor is the idea of a unified nation with a profound historical importance that has played a pivotal role for paving the way for modern civilisation. India has seen numerous emperors and foreign rulers, thereby contributing to a rich treasure trove

of cultures and customs. With the varied cultures come the various eras in history, each with their own particulars in various forms and shapes, thereby creating a nation of varied interests. In the vast land of India, one can find historical relics, scattered across its length and breadth, standing in the modern times as testimonies to the concept of a subcontinent of nationalities.

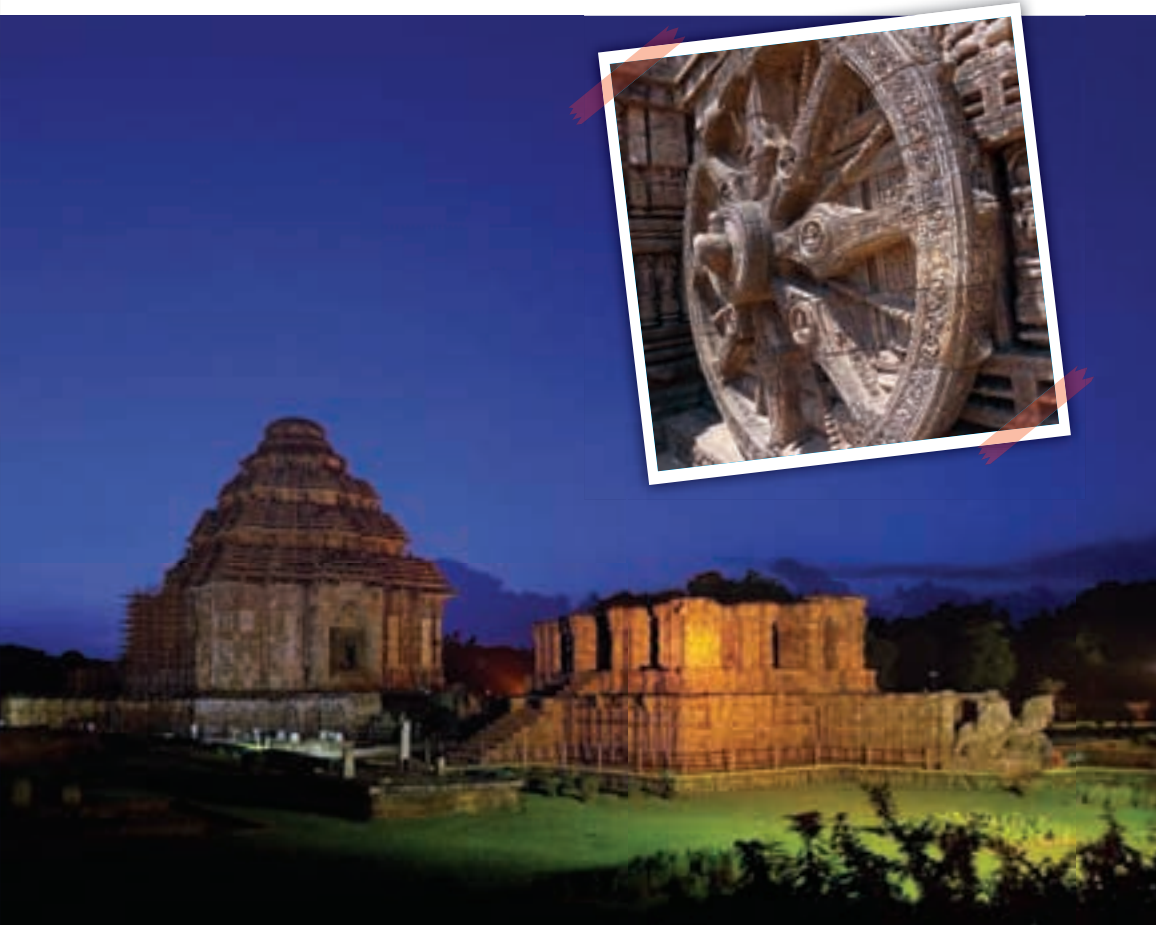
Taking a leaf out from India's many wonders; we have brought to you a few that present a historically and culturally diverse nation.





## AJANTA AND ELLORA CAVES

Significant discoveries in the history of India, the Ajanta and Ellora Caves have been inducted in the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. The caves depict paintings beginning with the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and continuing to the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, inspired by Buddhism. The Ajanta caves are located 107km from Aurangabad and 60km from Jalgaon. With 32 caves, it is a protected site under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Ellora caves consist of 34 caves which are Buddhist, Hindu and Jain religious monuments carved in rock. The caves consist of Chaitya shrines which are dedicated to Lord Buddha and Viharas (monasteries) used by Buddhist monks for meditation and the study of Buddhist teachings. Also, Cave 16 in Ellora consists of the famous Kailasa temple, the abode of Lord Shiva.



## KONARK SUN TEMPLE

The Sun Temple of Konark is a fascinating old structure, which is a culmination of Oriya architecture. Built in 13<sup>th</sup> century by King Narasimhadeva, the temple is designed in the shape of a colossal chariot with seven horses and twelve wheels, carrying the sun god, Surya, across the heavens. The name Konark comes from the amalgamation of two Sanskrit words, Kona meaning corner and Arka meaning Sun. The Sun temple is of a sanctum with a lofty (over 68m high) sikhara, a jagamohana (30m square and 30m high) and a detached nata-mandira (hall of dance) in the same axis, besides numerous subsidiary shrines. The temple used to be referred to as the Black Pagoda in the olden days by the Europeans.

## KHAJURAO GROUP OF





## TEMPLES

Located in the state of Madhya Pradesh, Khajurao is a fascinating temple complex that is visited by tourists from across the world. These are built by the Chandella rulers between AD 900 and 1130, during the golden period of the Chandela dynasty and are believed that every Chandela ruler built at least one temple here.

The carved erotic designs are much revered and considered to be one of the finest examples of temple carvings. The images sculpted on the temple walls actually represent the divine Shakti and Shiva, the male and female principles.

The temple is scattered over an area of 9sq.m and some are dedicated to the Jain pantheon and the rest to Hindu deities – to God's Trio, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva and various Devi forms, such as the Devi Jagadambi. The temple complex is under the UNESCO World Heritage's protected sites.

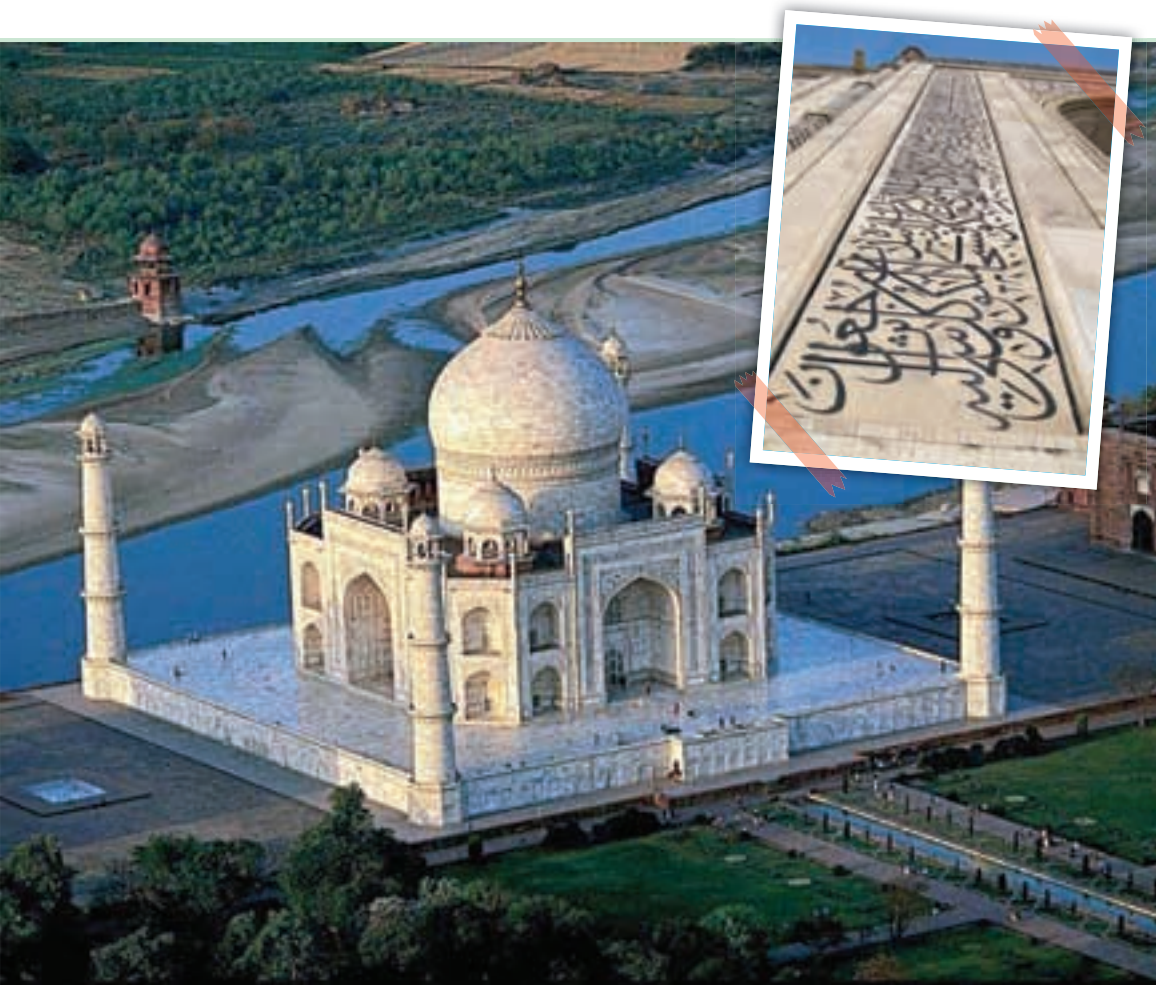


## HUMAYUN'S TOMB

Built in the year 1770, the Humayun's Tomb is of great cultural and as well as historical significance. It is considered to be the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent.

The fantastic architecture of this tomb has inspired many others, including the famous Taj Mahal. The tomb stands at the centre of the square garden and is divided into four main parterres, known as *charbaghs*, in the centre of which ran shallow water-channels. The high rubble built enclosure is entered through two lofty double-storeyed gateways on the west and south. A *baradari* (pavilion) occupies the centre of the eastern wall and a hammam (bath chamber) in the centre of northern wall. The tomb has many rulers of the Mughal dynasty buried here, including Humayun for whom it was built. The tomb has now been restored and is open to visitors.





## TAJ MAHAL

Located on the banks of the River Yamuna in Agra, the Taj Mahal is widely revered in India and abroad. The ivory-white marble mausoleum was commissioned by the then Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, in 1632 AD to house the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Initially, the mosque, the guest house and the main gateway on the south were completed in 1648 AD; later, the outer courtyard and its cloisters were added to complete it in 1653 AD.

Considered to be the epitome of love, the Taj Mahal is a hot favourite among couples coming to visit India. In the sense of architecture, the structure is in perfect balance of composition, the octagonal tomb chamber in the centre, encompassed by the portal halls and the four corner rooms.



## GOLDEN TEMPLE

Also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib, the Golden Temple is the spiritual abode of Sikhs located in Amritsar, Punjab. The central focus of the Temple is the tank around which the shrine stands. The tank, known as Amrit Sarovar, from which Amritsar takes its name was excavated by guru Ram Das, the fourth guru of the Sikhs, in the year 1577.

The holy book, Guru Granth Sahib is installed every morning inside the temple and is later returned to the Akal Takhat at night. The Golden Temple has an elegantly carved marble section at the lower level, above which is the shimmering second level in gold panels. The tip of this is a golden dome of 750kg of gold. Inside one will get lost in the music and chanting from the Guru Granth Sahib, as performed by priests and musicians throughout the day.



# SUMMER TIME MADNESS



Being the embodiment of natural diversity topographically, Kashmir presents before you an overwhelming range of options to indulge in your adventurous pursuits

## TT BUREAU

**T**he arrival of summer in Kashmir reveals the lush greenery and ethereal beauty residing in the meadows, valleys and the rolling pastures, presenting a veritable explosion of intermingling colours. Aesthetical magnificence aside, this season also presents the perfect setting for indulging in some of the most adventurous sports, guaranteed to shoot your adrenaline rush several notches high. Being the embodiment of natural diversity topographically, Kashmir presents before you an overwhelming range of options to indulge in your adventurous pursuits.

Pahalgam, or the shepherd's abode, resting peacefully in the picturesque district of Anantnag, reverberates with the beautiful echoes of the mighty Lidder River speeding through it with impressive velocity. Stretching across 73km, it's rapidly flowing frosty white water has made it a popular venue for water rafting. Rafting enthusiasts, ranging from the amateur to the experienced, are provided with sports guides who provide the necessary instructions and safety precautions. Dashing through enormously deep gorges, dense forests, and landscapes representing immaculate beauty, river rafting on the Lidder River requires precise manoeuvring and an unlimited sense of adventure.





Inaccessible during the winters and inherently remote, to the point of being secluded, Sonamarg is a popular hill destination immersed in history, as well as, in the minds of the visiting tourists who long to caress and explore its virgin beauty in all its elegance and warmth. The Kashmir Great Lakes Trek, has earned the indisputable reputation of being the most sought after activity for trek-lovers. With the Nichinai Pass as its starting point, located at a height of 13,387ft, it gradually proceeds through the various mesmerising alpine valleys and magnificent lakes, finally finding its halting point at Narang, the valley wrapped in yellow flowers. The pious Gangabal Lake, located at the base of the Haramukh Mountain, is itself a marvellous site to contemplate on, while also offers an exciting opportunity for trout fishing. The



trekking route also covers some of the other equally respected and spectacular lakes such as the Kishansar, Gadsar, Satsar and Nundkol Lakes.

You aren't a passionate golfer if you haven't visited the enormous, sprawling and historical Gulmarg Golf Course, the highest green golf course in the world. Majestically spread across 6,762 yards, this 18-hole golf course, first established during the time of Sir Neville Chamberlain, has served as the mecca for all golf enthusiasts and lovers. It is a sprawling beauty covered with diverse alpine flowers, lively streams gently cutting their way across the enormous surface and gently curved slopes dressed in naturally soft moss. Created by Peter Thompson, it's hardly surprising that it also holds the record for possessing the longest hole in the world, at par five 610 yards. Reaching the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, which requires a downhill travel from St Mary's Church to the Club House, happens to be a par five, can be quite an enthralling experience in itself.

Mother Nature must have been passing through one of her exotic moments when she decided to bless Ladakh with all the heavenly bounties

at her disposal. Perhaps, that is the only way, all other being indescribable, to describe the gorgeous display of beauty that envelops the length and breadth of Ladakh. And, what better way to absorb every passing moment in the midst of the surreal landscapes, than to embark on a camel safari. Popular in this region as far back as the 17<sup>th</sup> century, camel safari is a worthwhile and adventurous undertaking, with the objective being to view this fabulous "natural portrait on a canvas," in all her surpassing magnificence. What distinguishes this camel safari from the others is the use of Bactrian camels for the entire course of the ride. These proud, resilient and hardy beasts carry you along the various points lying along the historic Silk Route, some of which are the Yulkam, Tiggur, and Pinchimik, among others. Capturing the typical beauty that Ladakh has been associated with is best done by taking a ride on the ship of the desert. With Hunder as its starting point, it takes you all the way to Turtuk, which serves as the last village on the Indo-Pak border.

The roaring waters of the Indus, soaring skywards with ferocity and subsiding with methodical grace and calm, is the perfect destination to go river rafting. The stretch of white water dancing intensely between Spituk and Saspol, provides a daring challenge to even the most experienced of river rafters, while the area above Spituk, and up to Karu, delivers the adventurous experiences without the associated risks to the amateurs. Rafts on hire can be had from the Tourist Office situated at Leh. And, those willingly to earn the tag of being a daredevil, should absolutely go rafting along the Zaskar River, between Padum and Nimo.







# WEDDINGS

# IN

# Paradise



Let your wedding be a memorable affair, a story to be told and re-told; choose to tie the wedding knot in these amazing destinations

## TT BUREAU

**T**he magnificent display of resplendence that accompanies weddings are matched only by exotic destinations that lend a surreal experience to the event. When it comes to exotic locations that provide the ideal setting for a grand celebration, India and Europe seem to have absolutely no dearth of those – from stunning landscapes, to majestically built forts and beautiful beaches. These wedding destinations deserve special mentions, not just for their infinite sense of grandeur, but also, because they seem to cherish and live the special moments, just like you!

## KERALA

Be it the incredibly beautiful beaches painted with the sun at the backdrop, the aromatic fragrance of tea leaves in the air, or the tranquil atmosphere of the Kerala backwaters, one is simply spoilt for choice when it comes to selecting the perfect location for hosting a wedding here. The Varkala and Kovalam beaches, in particular, are the ones that ideally define the true spirit of coastal Kerala. On the other hand, the vast expanses of tea plantations, located at Munnar, really tend to overwhelm one's senses. Holding your nuptial celebrations in the midst of this sublime environment will certainly prove to be an

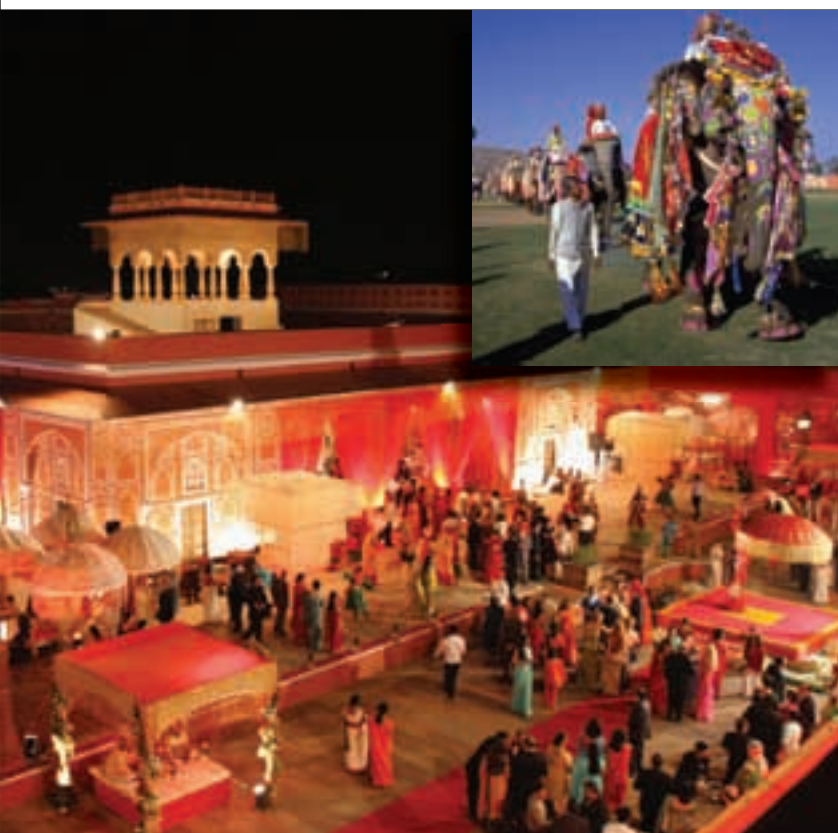




enthraling experience. However, if you possess a desire to lend an atmosphere of elegance, then, the gracious backwaters of Kerala beckons you.

## RAJASTHAN

Captivating Rajasthani folk music, massively spaced courtyards enclosed by large walls and intricate decoration in accordance with the authentic local culture and traditions, Jaisalmer promises to provide that authentic touch to your entire wedding experience, one that you will covet for a lifetime. The Suryagarh Palace, Fort Rajwada and the Himmatgarh Palace, are some of the popular venues which play host to some of the most expensive and royal weddings throughout the year. Jaisalmer has also gained eminence for being the land of sand dunes that can lend a picturesque backdrop to wedding celebrations. Exciting camel rides, lively folk dances and mouth-watering delicacies which are native to the region, all of these promise to transform your wedding into a truly gala event.



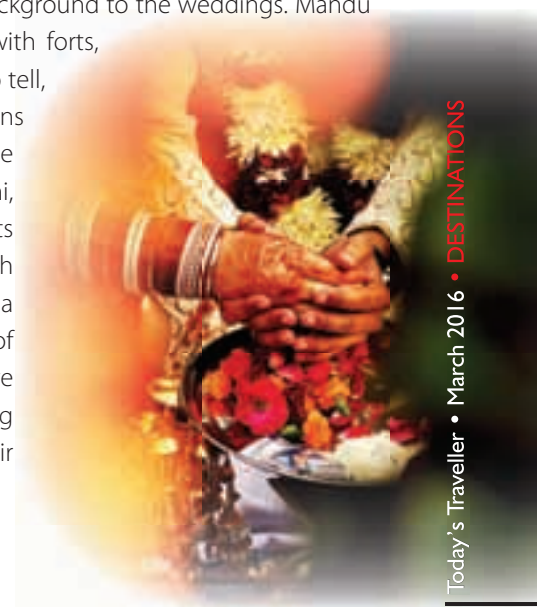
## GOA

Landmark beaches flanked by sparkling blue waters, on whose surface the rays of the sun dance along merrily, pleasant weather that keeps you company at all times, and the festive environment that shows no signs of abating, Goa is the veritable paradise for vacation seekers and others looking to submerge themselves in an ocean of bliss and happiness. Goa is also the ideal location to tie the knot and begin your journey towards unending marital happiness. Scattered with various resorts overlooking the magnificent beaches which provide a spectacular view, and all of them competing with international standards when it comes to their services in terms of the quality provided, Goa has the ability to turn any event into a festival!



## MADHYA PRADESH

The heart of India, the background for many epics, fables and legendary tales, Madhya Pradesh is an ideal wedding destination for couples looking to combine the exotic with the historical. Mandu and Panchmarhi are the two most sought after wedding destinations, not only because of lavishly built pieces of architecture dripping with extravagance, but, due to the unique settings that serve as the background to the weddings. Mandu is a historic town, dotted with forts, each with its unique story to tell, fabulous baths and pavilions welcoming you with a sense of grandeur. Panchmarhi, an idyllic hill resort, with its stupendous waterfalls, lush surroundings and literally a place stuck in the history of time, is another attractive destination for those taking the first steps towards their new journey.





## ITALY

Unquestionably, the custodian of art, culture, theatre, history, excellent cuisines, vineyards and captivating landscapes, Italy naturally dominates the list. Some weddings create long lasting memories, while, some are memories in themselves. Indeed, the entire region of Italy, with its lakeside villas, regal hotels and luxuriant farmhouses, is dotted across the country. Those curious to imbibe some elements of that aristocratic lifestyle with all its fanciful pretensions and charms, should book the Villa d'Este, a luxurious villa with the beautiful lake overseeing it. Those desirous of exhibiting a sense of highly developed sophistication, while avoiding any of the rigorous demands placed by a wedding, should rush towards Hotel Principe di Savoia. The San Domenico Palace, offering breath-taking views of Mount Etna, and the Massimo Plaza Hotel are some of the other wedding venues which carry grandiosity in abundance, and, are exceedingly elegant for a memorable wedding.



## FRANCE

Apparently, romance is all that the French know and vigorously care for. Perhaps, this is why romance has come to occupy an omnipotent position in their lives and is reflected so prominently in their novels, chateaus and charming estates. Naturally therefore, hosting a wedding in France exudes the spirit of romance in all its everlasting beauty. Curious to know how a wedding held in the serene, calm and dignified environment of an estate feels like? Well then, Chateau Les

Crayeres invites you. Located in the midst of a magnificent park, it serves as an idyllic location for a fabulous and lavish ceremony. Port Of The Moon, located in Bourdeaux, and built during the Renaissance Period, this spectacular destination is the repository of numerous attractions. Tucked away comfortably in the heart of Southern France, it enjoys perfect weather, which apparently, also contributes towards it being referred to as a wine country, and the prime location of memorable wedding destinations.



## GREECE

Visit, relive and float back into the nostalgic moments of history by embarking on a sailing trip with Sail la Vie, an incredible fleet that promises to deliver the best that Greece has to offer. Let the famed Greek islands serve as your witness, and the Greek gods shower you with unending benevolence. Leave all your wedding woes to the dedicated and smart team of Sail la Vie, as they bring together an amazing list of some of the most incredibly built chapels, along with the collaboration and participation of their clergy. Mykonos and Santorini, as well as, Elafonisos and Monemvasia, are among the most popular wedding destinations worldwide, and, they are all accessible to the wedding guests through an island hopping cruise. To add a dash of style to the entire event, let a yacht be the host for your wedding celebrations.







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# LET'S GO SHOPPING



With mega-shopping festivals happening around the world, we bring to you the best that are too good to miss

## TT BUREAU

There are many ways to celebrate oneself, and indulging in a shopping spree is one of them. Perhaps, this is why shopping also enjoys the reputation of being the ultimate stress buster.

While shopping is an activity, we tend to pursue with vigorous enthusiasm the year round, these extravagant shopping destinations are unique in the way that they showcase some of the best attractions and provide a wholesome shopping experience.

### THE GREAT SINGAPORE SALE

This festival brings to you the very best that Singapore has to offer, living up to its reputation of being the most sought after shopping destination.

Massive discounts, coupled with some incredibly attractive offers, greet you on your arrival at this shopping bonanza. Otherwise known as the GSS, it is the perfect time to let go of all your thrifty habits, and indulge in a splurge of spending, as the





retailers offer up to 70 per cent discount on all their expensive products on display. Some of the most enticing shopping destinations that are completely worthy of your time and money, include the Orchard Road belt, Little India, Kampong Glam and Chinatown. However, the best part about it all is that you enjoy the luxury of time, with most of the malls remaining open until midnight.

#### DON'T MISS

- International and national brands providing up to 740 per cent discount on all items.
- A variety of food opportunities to satisfy your taste buds.

#### ISTANBUL SHOPPING FESTIVAL

The Istanbul Shopping Festival, which occurs in the historic city of Istanbul, draws a large chunk of visitors who are left wondering at this amazing amalgamation of shopping festival with historic splendor. Usually held during the month of June every year, it offers a fascinating glimpse into its distinctive culture, arts and cuisine, while offering many other attractions that promise to make your stay a celebrated one.

An exclusivity surrounding this particular shopping festival is the distinctly designated days that host specific events assigned to them. Consequently, you have the Jeans Day, Technology Day, Gastro Gusto Day and Children and Entertainment Day. The numerous cultural events that accompany the shopping festival only serve to enhance the entire experience.

#### KNOW MORE

*During the festival, which lasts 40 days and 40 nights, all the contributing shops offer special discounts. The festival especially attracts foreign tourists as the shops offer tax free shopping. The historic sites in Istanbul also participate in the festival by closing two hours later than usual.*



#### KOREA GRAND SALE

Around 30,000 outlets with approximately 250 companies competing in an enthusiastic display of mind boggling sales, the Korea Grand Sale has justifiably been hailed as the state's tourism festival.

Along with the unprecedented discounts being offered on pricey products, this lively event also witnesses the hosting of several fascinating events, like the Magic Hat event and the Magic Box event. Stretching the concept of discounts to its very limit, it offers tickets to Ever land, at an unprecedented discount rate of 50 per cent, with an 80 per cent discount rate on various brands from "Lotte Duty Free." Oh, and just when it couldn't get any better, this event also promises to surprise you with exciting free gifts on events held on particular dates.

#### TRIVIA

*Korea Visit Committee, the host and supervisor of Korea Grand Sale, has been promoting various projects to lead the "2016-2018 Visit Korea Years" for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang to success.*



#### AMAZING THAILAND GRAND SALE

A shopper's paradise, Bangkok, has for long been hailed as the most glitzy and fashionable destination for shoppers, looking to take the entire experience to an entirely different level.

With enormous discounts and brands on display, along with exquisite jewellery and brand stocked shops, the amazed visitor is naturally let bewildered at the spectacular sight that awaits his arrival. Siam Paragon, Siam Centre, Siam Discovery, and Gaysorn, all of these extravagant shopping malls are turned into sales destinations during the entire course of this event. And, with discounts assuming ridiculous proportions, this is one shopping festival guaranteed to send people into a veritable frenzy.



## DUBAI SHOPPING FESTIVAL

DSF, or, Dubai Shopping Festival, is a spectacular presentation of music, concerts, exorbitantly priced goods offered at incredibly accessible rates and so much more. The hype surrounding it is only exceeded by the ridiculously popular spectacle in full display at the commencement of the festival.

From raffle drawings to fashion flash mobs, DSF has it all. Witness the curious and fantastic transformation of the Dubai Mall's famous ice skating rink into a runway at Fashion on Ice, or, dig deep to hunt for your exclusive gift package at the Market Outside The Box. Treat yourself to the thunder and booming of fireworks that DSF has become synonymous with, or, challenge your luck with a round or two of raffles. Hey, you might just end up with loads of money or the car of your dreams.

### DUBAI SUMMER SURPRISES (DSS)

*Apart from the usual indulgence in shopping that this wonderful event is sought out for, there are a host of other activities which make this event a perfect and ideal family destination, consisting of exciting games, traditional shows and other merry making activities. The distinguishing feature of this event is the opportunity given to the kids to keep them vigorously entertained. Seeking to highlight the traditional Arabian culture in all its glorious tradition, the event also witnesses the exhibition of hospitality tents and heritage oasis. Perhaps, the very spirit surrounding the DSS is best personified by its mascot "Modesh", an Arabic word for amazing, incredible and unexpected.*

## MAURITIUS SHOPPING FIESTA

Exotic dances, thrilling music, and carnivals galore, it seems that the entire island of Mauritius seems to dance along with its teeming visitors during the month long festival lovingly called the Mauritius Shopping Fiesta.

This delightful shopping fiesta brings with it the usual enticing deals that make shopping exceedingly delightful, by offering remarkable discounts on various kinds of beach wear, cashmere sweaters, electronic items of varying ranges, attractive gold jewelry, and much more. During your stay here, you are treated to mesmerizing performances by traditional musicians and dancers presenting the local culture in all its astounding beauty, all the while expecting to win the gorgeous prizes that are offered on a weekly basis.



## ABU DHABI SHOPPING FESTIVAL

Soaring towers, architecturally fabulous mosques and the graciously swaying palm trees have earned this place the distinction of being the "symbol of modernity in the entire middle east". The Abu Dhabi Shopping Festival, held since the year 1996, wonderfully justifies the claims of Abu Dhabi being the cultural capital of UAE.

The glistening malls, some of which are, the Abu Dhabi Mall, the Marina Mall, the Al Wahda Mall, all experience a transformation into shopping hubs which cater to the swarming masses of people curious to grab hold of the exquisite items on display, ranging from expensive jewellery to magnificent carpets to amazing watches, all outdoing each other in terms of their design, appearance and innate qualities. The various souks spread around the entire city display enticing items at a very reasonable price. You'll get it all here at the Abu Dhabi Shopping Festival.





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# DELICIOUSLY INDIAN

The sumptuous Hyderabadi Biryani, the spicy Chettinad Chicken and the luscious kebab, have won the palates of food connoisseurs around the world

## TT BUREAU

India is a vast country, and diversity is its hallmark, whether in culture, architecture, music, or even its cuisine. No one strand can unite the cuisine pattern in India, not even the spices that are believed to be an essential ingredient of Indian food. For example, in the traditional thali, you would never find the individual spices that go towards making the dish, on your plate.

Each region of the country has, over the centuries, evolved and perfected its cuisine which has come to acquire a flavour which is typical of that region. A few of these have

even travelled to foreign countries, with migrating Indians, and become 'national foods' in their 'second homes'. Curry, a rage in Britain, is a case in point. Others, such as the Hyderabadi Biryani, are flown daily to the Gulf countries.

As a matter of fact, the culinary richness of Hyderabad cannot be matched by any other erstwhile princely state. However, contrary to its recurrent image of being a food of the royals, by the royals and for the royals, biryani, actually, had a very ordinary beginning—it was born out of the necessity to feed armies on their march. But, this upstart-of-a-food lent itself to experiments and embraced exotic, aromatic ingredients that elevated its taste to superlative levels, and catapulted it to royal platters.

Soon, biryani became synonymous with Hyderabad, and perhaps, a bigger symbol of the city than Charminar.

Though every part of the country has its own variation of biryani, Hyderabad offers you two main flavours:

The Kachchi (raw) Biryani and the Pakki Biryani.

For the Kachchi Biryani, raw meat is marinated in yoghurt and then dough-sealed along with rice in a handi for slow cooking over a low flame on a coal or firewood oven called 'dum'. You have to be extra careful regarding the duration and temperature of cooking, for even a slight variation in these may spoil the biryani with undercooked or overcooked meat.





For the Pakki Biryani, also, the meat is marinated, but for a shorter period. Prior to being layered with rice and dough-sealed in a handi, the meat is cooked. In vegetarian versions of biryani, meat is replaced with carrots, peas, cauliflower and potatoes.

South India has another culinary wonder to offer: Chettinad Chicken. Originally, Chettinad food is the cuisine of the Nagarathar Chettiars, a trading caste that flourished in the Sangamera port town of Kaveripattinam. During those days, Chettiars were vegetarians. When a Pandyan king abducted a Nagarathar girl, the terrified Chettiar community moved to the region that forms present-day Chettinad. But, very few vegetables grew in this water-starved land, and the Chettiars thankfully, turned non-vegetarians. Thankfully, because from their kitchens emanated the most delicious symphony of spices that culminated in Chettinad Chicken.

The best Chettinad Chicken is the one prepared traditionally at home. What is available in most restaurants is nothing but a hurriedly-cooked, colourful and commercial concoction of spices passed off as Chettinad Chicken. In the traditional recipe, 'kalpasi', 'Marathi mukku', cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, Nellore chillies, fenugreek seeds, cumin, javitri, fennel and pepper corns are gently roasted over a very low fire to remove any moisture. This makes the spices brittle, and hence, easy to pound. It is necessary that the spices are roasted gently, so that their flavours intensify. Most of the spices on this long list are available all over the country, but 'kalpasi' and 'Marathi mukku'



are available only in specialty spice shops in Tamil Nadu. To add body to the dish, 'kari patta', garlic and grated coconut are used. This gives the dish its hallmark punch.



Kebabs are another one of India's culinary wonders. Essentially, kebabs are minced meat, mixed with finely-ground spices and slowly roasted over coalfire. The most famous kebabs in India are those from Lucknow. A famous variety of kebabs is the 'Kakori kebab', attributed to the city of Kakori in Uttar Pradesh. Kakori was made eternally famous by revolutionaries

who, fighting against the British, looted the government treasury on a train.



The paradise on earth, Kashmir, boasts a food that seems to be inspired by the divine. Kashmiri Pulao is a delicious rice dish loaded with dry fruits, and in some variants, even fresh fruits. The fragrant, long-grain Basmati rice is cooked with aromatic spices, dried fruits and nuts. Saffron, the costliest spice in the world, not only adds an extra special layer of flavour and heavenly aroma to Kashmiri Pulao, but also lends a unique colour to the dish, thus making it more appetising.

India is, indeed, a treasure-trove of delicacies waiting to seduce you at every corner.





# 2 hours in MUMBAI

Got only a day in Mumbai? No problem, we got the best activities listed out for you to choose from...

## TT BUREAU

### HERITAGE WALKS

Lose yourself in Mumbai's historic colonial landmarks and architectural marvel around Fort and Colaba, the city's famous precincts. Make sure not to miss the Gateway of India, Taj Mahal Hotel, Wellington Fountain, The Prince of Wales Museum, Elphinstone College, Bombay High Court, Crawford Market and more.



### CINEMA

The birthplace of Bollywood, is today the world's largest film making entity. With 1,000 films being produced annually, Bollywood has taken Mumbai to global standards and have created heroes of normal men. Take a behind the scenes tour, visit an old heritage cinema, peek inside a film star's makeup room and pose for souvenir snapshots with some of today's Bollywood stars.



### ELEPHANTA CAVES

The 'City of Caves,' on an island in the Sea of Oman close to Mumbai, contains a collection of rock art linked to the cult of Shiva. Here, Indian art has found one of its most perfect expressions, particularly the huge high reliefs in the main cave. The rock-cut Elephanta Caves were constructed about the mid-5th to 6th centuries AD.

### HAJI ALI DARGAH

Floating like a sacred mirage off the coast, this Indo-Islamic shrine located on an offshore inlet is a striking sight. Built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it contains the tomb of the Muslim saint Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari. Legend has it that Haji Ali died while on a pilgrimage to Mecca and his casket miraculously floated back to this spot.

### HIGH ON FOOD

From finger licking *pav bhaji* to the must have, *vada pav*, Mumbai is famous for its authentic street food which is widely available on the streets of Mumbai. You can also shift from mainstream and try the Bombay Duck or the Shark Fry recipes close to the heart of Mumbai.

### CHUG ALONG

Quaint old buildings, dilapidated bungalows, isolated railway quarters line the stations from Churchgate all the way to Andheri on the Western Line, enjoy this and much on the notoriously crowded local trains and the BEST double-decker buses that the city of Mumbai is famous for. Travel during the non-peak hours so to avoid maximum rush.

### BANDRA-WORLI SEA LINK

Officially called Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link, the Worli Sea Link opened in 2009 and is nothing short of an engineering marvel. The tall imposing ropes holding the bridge high in the open Arabian Sea, not only reduces driving time between Bandra and Worli but also provides a spectacular view of the city.

### QUEENS NECKLACE – MARINE DRIVE

A 3km long boulevard in South Mumbai, it is a 'C'-shaped six-lane concrete road that links Nariman Point to Babulnath and is situated at the foot of Malabar Hill. The promenade is lined with palm trees and at the northern end of Marine Drive is the Chowpatty Beach. Large crowds of people come to this place to stride along the beautiful walkway and to view the stunning sight of the setting sun at dusk.





# PICK OF THE MONTH

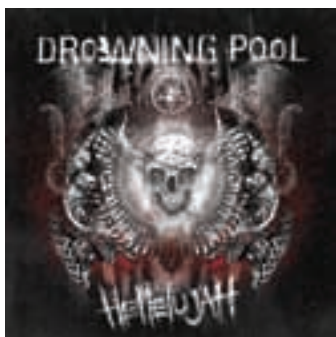
Here are the latest collections of books, games, audio CDs and DVDs that will keep you thoroughly engaged for the month!

## BOOK: THE GOOD LIAR

The Good Liar, by Nicholas Searle, is finally out and has been received with great enthusiasm by the bibliophiles. The story revolves around a conman who goes by the name of Roy. Residing in a small and hidden English town, Roy is about to pull off his final con act. This time, his target is a beautiful woman, whose only asset is her lifelong savings. Roy conspires to rob her of all her money and savings. However, the intricately woven plot gets mysterious regarding the brain behind the entire act, as well as, the compulsion that forces Roy to commit this heinous crime.

**Genre (s): Fiction**

## MUSIC: HALLELUJAH



The immensely popular American heavy metal band, Drowning Pool, have released their sixth studio album, "Hallelujah." Faithfully adhering to their style of muscular drumming, stormy lyrics and stomp inducing riffs, Hallelujah brings you the best of metal madness in all its wicked glory. The theme and the message that this album seeks to convey to its fans is brutally straightforward, self evident and has a downright unforgiving

tone attached to it, which can be deduced with songs consisting of names like, "We Are The Devil", "Goddamn Vultures", "Hell To Pay" and "Meet The Bullet."

**Genre (s): Heavy Metal, Alternative Metal**



## DVD: BRIDGE OF SPIES

Set against the fascinating period of the Cold War, Bridge Of Spies, directed by Steven Spielberg, is a historical thriller which revolves around the astute lawyer James B Donovan, played by the methodical actor Tom Hanks. It masterfully depicts the complex negotiation undertaken by James B Donovan, who is entrusted with the responsibility of securing the release of Francis Gary Powers, a pilot whose U-2 spy plane is shot by the Soviet authorities, in exchange for the release of Rudolf Abel, a KGB spy imprisoned by USA. A highly intriguing narrative, this movie is a classic example of historical thrillers at its very best.

**Genre (s): Historical Fiction/Thriller**



## GAME: FIREWATCH

Firewatch is an open world/simulator game set in the rugged terrain of Wyoming. Based in 1989, you play the role of Henry, who has chosen to leave his messy life behind him, and now works as a fire lookout who must protect the wilderness at all times. However, something strange and unexpected catches your attention when you see plumes of smoke rising far away. With your personal relationship on the line, you are tasked with exploring the unfamiliar environment, with only a handheld radio to keep you company. Developed by Campo Santo, this game has amazing graphics, smooth gameplay and a meaningful storyline to support it.

**Genre (s): Open World/Simulator**







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