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CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2016 | ₹50

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SANIA MIRZA LAUNCHES BIOGRAPHY ACE AGAINST ODDS

Multiple Grand Slam Champion and World No. 1 in women's doubles, Sania Mirza in association with The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts, recently launched her iconic biography *Ace Against Odds* at The Leela Mumbai. Bollywood star Salman Khan released the book at a glittering ceremony.



Ace against Odds is the story of this most iconic Indian player who beat incredible odds to get to the top of her sport. Mirza writes with candour of the hardships along the way, of the physical and emotional trauma caused by injuries and medical procedures, of the friends and partners who became her mainstay along with her family, of the pressures of constant public scrutiny and, not least, the politics and heartbreaks that inevitably accompany success.

The previous event was held at The Leela Palace New Delhi. Co-written by Sania's father Imran Mirza and Shivani Gupta, *Ace against Odds* is published by Harper Collins India. **tt**

NOVOTEL HYDERABAD CONVENTION CENTRE PRESENTS COLOURS OF NOVOTEL

Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre and HICC unveiled its fifth season of 'Colours of Novotel' recently at the hotel premises. Supporting a community of immense talent - the signature



event series focuses on bringing together artists under one roof and presenting them a platform to showcase some of their best works. This edition is curated by a renowned connoisseur of the field and an artist herself, Rangoli Garg, and showcases over 30 paintings. Neil Paterson, General Manager, Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre and HICC hosted the inauguration ceremony of this edition at the Ballroom.

Neil Paterson, said, "Colours of Novotel", a signature series from the hotel dedicated to recognising arts and artists from across regions, has provided a platform for over 25 artists over the last year, and has entered its fifth edition now. The response to the innovative presentation of this edition is very encouraging, and the artists are pleased for having their works showcased on such a platform." **tt**

TRAVSTARZ HOSTS FAM TRIP TO THAILAND

Travstarz Global Group recently organised an Exclusive Luxury FAM trip for selected travel partners to Thailand covering Hua Hin and Bangkok. The FAM trip was organised by Travstarz in association with the Minor Hotels Group who hosted the Agents at their Luxurious Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa, Hua Hin followed by the All Suite property -Anantara Sathorn, Bangkok and the newly opened Avani Riverside, Bangkok, all leading hotels for Indian Destination Weddings, MICE as well as leisure travel. The participants included leading travel agents from Delhi and Mumbai and enjoyed a well-designed itinerary to cover the best of Hua Hin and Bangkok.

Sucheta Nagpal, the Director & CEO of Travstarz Global Group personally accompanied the group. 'We work very closely with the Anantara Resorts not only for Thailand but even for their other properties at UAE and I personally wanted to showcase these properties to our preferred partners who have been dealing with us already and some of the potential partners who have such luxury clientele that we aim to target for Anantara and our other Luxury Hotel Partners' Nagpal added. **tt**



STREET FOOD IN STOCKHOLM

Stockholm's food halls are an all time favourite with local workers and this is where tourists will get fantastic traditional Swedish food known as *hushandskost*. And Stockholm presents street food with style – grab gourmet herring and artisan hot dogs on the go. Be it the Östermalmshallen at Östermalmstorg, which is jam packed with artisan bakeries, cheese specialists, seafood counters, vegetable and fruit markets, relaxed cafés and lunch restaurants, or the Hötorgetshallen at Hötorgetis, which is the epitome of Stockholm cosmopolitan bustle. The food halls are most popular at lunchtime and definitely a tourist hot spot. **tt**



ECO RENT A CAR BAGS 'BEST GROUND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY IN INDIA'

ECO Rent a Car recently announced that it has bagged the coveted national award for its extraordinary performance in the Ground Transportation domain. The company has received the recognition for the assessment year 2015-16. The award was conferred by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Minister of Tourism Government of India at an event in the city.

Rajesh Loomba, MD of ECO Rent a Car, stated, "This is not just a momentous milestone for our business but in fact a matter of great pride for all of us at ECO Rent a Car. Being hailed as the Best Ground Transportation Company in India and that too by the Government of the country, is a kind of acknowledgement and appreciation that comes second to nothing. This win has played an instrumental role in motivating our team, partners and service delivery associates beyond measures. We are committed to provide our customers with the best-in-class services."

Aditya Loomba, Director of ECO Rent A Car stated "The Ground Transportation industry in India is huge and poses a plethora of opportunities for everyone. We are focusing to partner with more stakeholders and contribute towards furthering the growth of the market." tt



JAYKUMAR RAWAL APPOINTED AS TOURISM MINISTER, GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Jaykumar Rawal has been appointed as the Tourism Minister, Government of Maharashtra on July 8, 2016. Jaykumar Rawal took oath as Cabinet Minister and will also be handling the Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) in Maharashtra in his portfolio. Rawal holds a degree in Bachelors of Commerce from Symbiosis University, Pune and degree in Business Management from Cardiff University, England.

On the appointment as the Tourism Minister, Jaykumar Rawal said, "It gives me immense pleasure to accept my new role in the Ministry. Tourism is one of the key industries which contribute significantly to the economic growth of a nation. Therefore, my key focus would be to advance the current tourism scenario in Maharashtra through implementation of new policies aimed towards tourism growth and skill development."



Satish Soni, Joint Managing Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation said, "We are extremely happy with the appointment of Jaykumar Rawal as the Tourism Minister, Government of Maharashtra. With his knowledge, support and guidance we will be able to implement new strategies for promotion of tourism in Maharashtra." tt

DECCAN ODYSSEY ROLLS OUT ATTRACTIVE COMPANION OFFERS

Deccan Odyssey, the award-winning luxury train operated by Cox & Kings, the outsourced partner of The Maharashtra



Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), in India has announced its exclusive Companion Offer for Indian citizens who are residents in India for the new set of journeys commencing October 2016. Book a cabin and avail 50 per cent discount for your companion. It is time you let yourself immerse in opulence. Visit the iconic symbols, India's architectural wonders, World Heritage sites and relish secret recipes of the royal kitchen.

Deccan Odyssey will embark on its unique journeys from 1st October 2016 covering some of the spectacular sites. The offer is applicable on bookings made from up till 30th September 2016. Besides Indian citizens who are residents in India, Foreign diplomats / Expats resident in India having work / resident permit can also avail of the special offer. tt

LEMON TREE HOTELS STRENGTHENS PRESENCE IN GUJARAT

The Lemon Tree Hotel Company recently announced the formal opening of two new properties in Vadodara and Dahej besides the refreshed upscale property in Ahmedabad,



signalling the group's focus on Gujarat, in their overall expansion plans across India.

Rattan Keswani, Deputy Managing Director, The Lemon Tree Hotel Company and Chairman, Carnation Hotels said: "We are excited at our fast paced growth in Gujarat. Being one of the most progressive and investor friendly States in India, we were keen to spread our wings here."

Shapath Parikh, Owner-Lemon Tree Hotel, Vadodara, added: "Since we opened our doors, Lemon Tree Hotel, Vadodara has established itself as one of the top midscale hotels in the city. This is Parikh Inn Group's first venture in Western India, and we aim to build on our success in Gujarat in the future." tt

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HYATT REGENCY CHENNAI TURNS 5

The landmark Chennai hotel celebrates its fifth anniversary this year. Located on iconic Anna Salai this illustrious and gleaming hotel “Hyatt Regency Chennai”, which still feels brand new, opened five years ago and has already accommodated over two million guests.

“As we celebrate our fifth anniversary in this wonderfully caring city of Chennai I realise how incredible the journey for Hyatt Regency Chennai has been. Over the last five years the hotel has become the place to connect, a place where you are always welcome to make the most of all of life’s connections. We’ve created a place designed around the power of meaningful connections. A place filled with delightful surprises. Where guests come together to share, socialize and collaborate; to exchange ideas with colleagues, reconnect with friends, family or with themselves; and recharge in the course of their busy lives,” said Madhav Sehgal, General Manager, Hyatt Regency Chennai. **tt**

TOURISM MINISTRY TO HOST INVESTORS SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI

Union Tourism Secretary informed that First of its kind event, The “Incredible India Tourism Investors Summit” will be organised in New Delhi from 21st to 23rd September 2016. This three day event will showcase the investment opportunities in tourism sector. The main objective of the Incredible India Tourism Investors’ Summit is to position the Indian Tourism sector for attracting large investments and presenting to the Investors tangible investment-ready projects in the different States/Union Territories of India. This summit will provide a global platform for interaction with investors, policy makers and Indian industry leaders, and other stakeholders.

Highlights of this summit will be State Presentations encompassing all investible Properties, Session on Why Invest in India, MSME in tourism sector, Panel discussions on core infrastructure for tourism, Session on Start-ups, digital India, Investing into Swadesh Darshan, PRASAD, MICE and Niche Tourism Products, B2B meetings and signing of MoUs.

Secretary Tourism announced that this event will be organised annually, and the Ministry of Tourism will set-up an Investment Cell in the Ministry to Monitor and follow up on regular basis, the investment projects in the country. **tt**

YOUNG HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONALS AWARDED BY APH

Association of Hospitality Professionals (AHP) organised the third edition of AHP Hospitality Challenge 2016 for young hospitality professionals from prominent hotels



across Delhi and NCR to display their hospitality skills. The award ceremony for the winners of AHP Hospitality Challenge 2016 was hosted at Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi. The award ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest KB Kachru (Chairman of South Asia) and other renowned names from the hospitality fraternity.

Rajendra Kumar, President AHP & Director Taj Vivanta says, “From last three years, we have been organising this Hospitality Challenge to set up a professional platform for the professionals of the hotels and restaurants to display their creative talent and skills and share experiences in a competitive environment.” **tt**

MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS IN MUMBAI

This year the South African Consulate in partnership with other South African State Entities, Businesses and Partners spent time with underprivileged children of ‘Smile Foundation’ in Mumbai. The Consulate called upon others to take up this challenge too and joined hands to helping those less privileged in India. “Take Action. Inspire Action. Make Every Day a Mandela Day” was the slogan to mark the celebrations.

Maropene Ramokgopa, South African Consul General shared, “We are urging every Mumbaikar to do something good or every day spend some time which would make a difference in the life of somebody.”

“Nelson Mandela is a universal symbol of freedom and sacrifice, an icon representing the triumph of the human spirit. Nelson Mandela believed that Education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world; we at Smile Foundation share the same ethos and are working towards his belief of a better, educated society, shares Santanu Mishra, Executive Trustee and Co Founder, Smile Foundation. **tt**



■ KERALA BAGS 12 NATIONAL TOURISM AWARDS

Riding on a string of innovative measures, Kerala Tourism walked away with three out of the six National Tourism awards for 2014-15 in the marketing category for states, while it received two more awards, including the one for its Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative in the hilly district of Wayanad that has transformed its economy through intensive participation of the local people.

Hoteliers, tour operators and an Ayurveda Centre swelled the kitty of awards for God's Own Country to 12 by winning seven more, including the Best Hotel in Five Star category and the Best Heritage hotel.

The awards were presented by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan in the presence of Union Tourism Minister Dr Mahesh Sharma at a function at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. The awards on behalf of Kerala Tourism were received by Principal Secretary Dr Venu V and Director UV Jose.

"The awards are a heartening and robust reaffirmation of our Responsible Tourism initiative, which has emerged as a trailblazing tourism product for the entire country. We also received three national awards for our brilliant marketing initiatives which are designed to woo travellers from both inside the country and abroad," said Kerala Tourism Minister AC Moideen. **tt**



■ THAILAND OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES WOMEN'S JOURNEY CAMPAIGN

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) officially launched the highly-anticipated Women's Journey Thailand campaign in a grand welcome reception, graciously presided over by HE General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, and HE Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister of Tourism and Sports. The event was presented by Kalin Sarasin, Chairman of the Board of TAT, together with TAT Executives and representatives from leading players in Thailand's tourism industry.

TAT also invited more than 150 famous celebrities, bloggers and photographers from around the world to come to Thailand to enjoy and share their experiences during the one-month campaign till 31st August.

HE General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand said, "We have chosen to dedicate August 2016 as the month for the Women's Journey Thailand campaign as a way of commemorating Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's 84th birthday on 12th August."

HE Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister of Tourism and Sports said, "I am very excited to support the TAT's Women's Journey Thailand campaign, being a woman myself, and I encourage all women to strike a work-life balance by taking the time to travel to recharge your life."

Kalin Sarasin, Chairman of the Board of TAT said, "These five projects are just some of the many exciting activities and events that TAT has been planning to turn August 2016 into an extremely special month for all women travellers in Thailand." **tt**

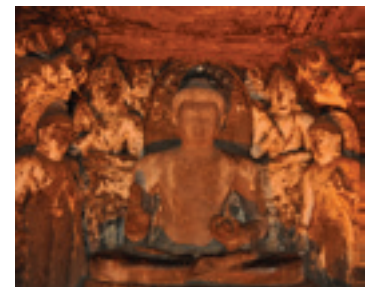


IIFA AWARDS 2016

Nargis Fakhri was spotted in a floor-length shimmery evening gown styled by Allia Al Rufai, at the IIFA Awards 2016 in Madrid. Officially known as the 17th International Indian Film Academy Awards ceremony, the IIFA honours the best in Hindi cinema, annually. **tt**

■ AURANGABAD TO HOST COUNTRY'S FIRST SAARC TOURISM SUMMIT

In a bid to explore opportunities in tourism promotion, the Ministry of External Affairs has decided to hold the country's first SAARC



Tourism Summit in Aurangabad, the tourism capital of Maharashtra in the second week of October.

Valsa Nair Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture, Government of Maharashtra said "The Ajanta-Ellora caves have always remained the biggest tourism attraction in the state among foreigners and Indians. The historical silk route and connect of the place with the Buddhist circuit across world, including China, is significant. Ajanta also has one of the world's best visitors centre with several life size replicas of Padmapani (sculptures of Buddha). All these are reason enough for Aurangabad to be the preferred choice. The conference aims at promoting Aurangabad and other destinations of Maharashtra." **tt**

IS E-TOURIST VISA A SUCCESS?

A total of 36,982 tourists arrived in June 2016 on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 15,557 during the month of June 2015 registering a growth of 137.7 per cent. Commencing from 27th November 2014, e-Tourist Visa facility was available until 25th February 2016 for citizens of 113 countries arriving at 16 Airports in India. The Government of India has extended this scheme for citizens of 37 more countries w.e.f 26th February 2016 taking the tally to 150 countries. Status of achievements in respect of e-Tourist Visa availed by International tourists visiting India last year in 2015 has been surpassed in the first six months of the current calendar year 2016. The following are the important highlights of e-Tourist Visa during June, 2016:

- During the month of June, 2016 a total of 36,982 tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 15,557 during the month of June, 2015 registering a growth of 137.7 per cent.
- During January- June 2016, a total of 4,71,909 tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 1,26,214 during January-June 2015, registering a growth of 273.9 per cent .
- This high growth may be attributed to introduction of e-Tourist Visa for 150 countries as against the earlier coverage of 76 countries.
- The percentage shares of top 10 source countries availing e-Tourist Visa facilities during May, 2016 were as follows:
USA (23.22 per cent), UK (14.16 per cent), China (6.91 per cent), Australia (5.59 per cent), France (4.10 per cent), Germany (4.03 per cent), Canada (4.02 per cent), Singapore (2.62 per cent), Malaysia (2.53 per cent) and Spain (2.40 per cent).
- The percentage shares of top 10 ports in tourist arrivals on e-Tourist Visa during June, 2016 were as follows:
New Delhi Airport (42.15 per cent), Mumbai Airport (22.94 per cent), Bengaluru Airport (9.95 per cent), Chennai Airport (9.80 per cent), Hyderabad Airport (3.76 per cent), Kochi Airport (3.52 per cent), Kolkata Airport (2.72 per cent), Ahmadabad Airport (1.16 per cent), Tiruchirapalli Airport (1.15 per cent) and Trivandrum Airport (1.08 per cent). tt

THOMAS COOK INDIA SEES STRONG MICE OPPORTUNITIES IN SRI LANKA



Thomas Cook (India) Ltd hosted an exclusive corporate event in collaboration with Sri Lanka Convention Bureau and SriLankan Airlines to harness the significant demand for MICE travel to Sri Lanka, across mid and large Indian corporates and SMEs.

According to data from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka is emerging as a high potential incentive destination and corporate venue for employee incentive trips and business meetings, having witnessed an impressive growth of over 15 per cent YOY, with over 233,000 MICE visitors from India in the past six years. Thomas Cook India's internal research and consumer analysis reiterates the significant and growing opportunity of India's corporate segment, with interest for Sri Lanka as a MICE destination having grown by 15-20 per cent YOY over the last three years.

Hence, with a clear intent to leverage India's MICE market, Thomas Cook India had partnered with Sri Lanka Convention Bureau and SriLankan Airlines for an exclusive corporate event, showcasing Sri Lanka's diversity of unique engagements. tt

BANYAN TREE LIFESTYLE SERVICES LAUNCHED IN INDIA



Singapore based international hospitality brand, Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts launches another vertical Banyan Tree Lifestyle Services [BTLS] to cater to the growing demand of luxury products and services in the Indian Market. BTLS encompasses the entire portfolio of hotels, resorts, residences and related services under the Banyan Tree Group.

Banyan Tree Lifestyle Services comes with several added advantages that is designed to augment the guest experience and strengthen the relationship with Banyan Tree hotel group. It targets the lifestyle benefits as a whole. The 3 key offerings are:

Bespoke concierge service providing unique Banyan tree Hotels' packaged tours, including but not limited to family bonding, educational program, exotic honeymoon & destination wedding, cultural and nature tours, MICE / Events and Mini Vac (mini vacations), wellness retreat, golf retreat, sports and adventure, spa and gallery benefits etc besides various individual packages etc.

Banyan Tree Private Collection, an exclusive lifestyle & asset-backed destination club membership in perpetuity for discerning clients. In addition to all Banyan Tree & Angsana properties, the members can enjoy yearly escapes in private villas set in the most sought after locations around the globe, includes Bali, Phuket, France, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Seychelles, as well as Africa, USA and United Kingdom.

Banyan Tree Group Residences sales and owners club. Banyan Tree Residential Brands offer a variety of lifestyle investments; suitable for various budgets and purposes ranging from luxury branded residences to affordably priced holiday homes. These are under Angsana, Banyan Tree, Cassia and Laguna. tt



CORPORATE

CLASSY AND CONTEMPORARY

Anuraag Bhatnagar, General Manager, The St. Regis Mumbai provides an insight into the exclusive facilities offered to the discerning business traveller

TT BUREAU

What is your hotel's corporate positioning?

Mumbai is a key business hub and home to a number of national and international companies' regional headquarters. The city is well equipped with business hotels and convention centres to cater to business visitors. Business arrivals to Mumbai account for about 70 per cent of the total and groups are driven in part by exhibitions, events and conferences taking place throughout the year.

As opposed to standalone convention centres, hotels with a strong corporate infrastructure offer a significantly different experience for guests. Keeping this in mind, we play to our strengths at The St. Regis Mumbai. Our location in the heart of India's financial capital combined with our sophisticated service and state-of-the-art event and conference infrastructure, offers guests an unparalleled meeting experience befitting the destination and true to the St. Regis legacy.

With 395 exquisitely styled and lavishly appointed guestrooms and suites, over 3,906sq.m of flexible event space perfectly situated across two levels of the hotel, the city's highest and most diverse range of restaurants, bars and nightclubs, nine in total, housed under one roof and Equus, an exclusive members only club, the hotel epitomizes hospitality's finest experiences. The Wellness Boulevard is an exclusive bouquet of offerings across health, beauty and well-being spread across 2,323sq.m. Housing The Athletic Club, the Iridium Spa with nine therapy rooms and a couple's suite, The Salon by Jean-Claude Biguine and an Outdoor Infinity

Pool overlooking the cityscape, The St. Regis Mumbai is truly beyond expectation. Primarily being a business hotel, we offer special amenities for single lady business travellers including rooms on a common floor. Another key asset for The St. Regis Mumbai, is the Residential Suites which have been specially created for long staying guests.

From its location at the most coveted address to the legendary St. Regis Butler Service with its revered traditions of bespoke service, this is world-class hospitality at its finest.

What are the facilities that your hotel offers for business and meetings?

Spread across two levels and 3,906sq.m, the Hotel's dynamic banquet and meeting venues lend themselves to opulent and memorable events. The pillarless ballroom, located on Level 9, is spread across 598sq.m and features floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the magnificent outdoor terrace. The generous and dynamic Level 8 banquet floor boasts over 1,000sq.m of opulent space. These 12 event spaces are ideal for VIP meetings and bespoke social events with a series of breakout rooms for large multinational conferences. Each venue provides state-of-the-art technology, including video conferencing, and bespoke options to ensure that gatherings are properly staged.

What are the options for corporate visitors to entertain their guests?

A world of epicurean experiences awaits visitors at The St. Regis Mumbai. Savour a variety of international and local cuisine from the city's most diverse range of restaurants, bars and nightclubs housed under one roof. Gourmets will dine in style and devour the most breathtaking cityscape views from the 38th floor, the highest dining experience in the city.

- The Drawing Room and The St. Regis Bar: Nestled in The Great Hall on Level 9, the venues play host to the signature Afternoon Tea and Champagne Sabering rituals along with serving the Mumbai Mary, the hotel's signature Bloody Mary.
- Seven Kitchens: The signature 24-hours restaurant boasts interactive live stations. A popular destination for Sunday Brunch as well as the breakfast venue for guests to enjoy a diverse morning spread.
- The Sahib Room and Kipling Bar: Award-winning Indian venue with handcrafted cocktails and soulful ambience.



- By the Mekong: Highest Asian restaurant in the city boasting Thai, Vietnamese and Chinese cuisine.
- Yuuka: Modern Japanese restaurant perfect for special celebrations and business dinners.
- Li Bai: Award winning Social Bar & Lounge with Jazz specials and lively weekends.
- EXO: The House Club with a wide range of premium spirits and riveting beats.
- Asilo: The city's highest Rooftop Bar.

What is your corporate outreach programme?

Starwood Hotels & Resorts is constantly striving to create new platforms by offering a variety in our brands to achieve Loyalty beyond Reason. India is a key market for us and we always endeavour to give benefits and offers tailored to appeal and engage with the Indian mega traveller. SPG and SPG Pro together create the perfect opportunity to experience our more than 1,300 hotels and resorts across eleven distinctive brands around the globe.





RAVINDER PAL SINGH has been designated as Chief Information Officer at Vistara. Singh, in his new role, he will lead Vistara's IT and Innovation functions. He will consolidate, identify, acquire, evaluate and incubate the right technology to support the airline's IT and digital platforms. Singh

will also be responsible to induce innovation as core to Vistara's culture thereby creating communities and co-creation projects to realise ideas as true business differentiators.



ASGHAR ALI has been designated as the Group President of the The Claridges Hotel Group. With over three decades of top management experience in major industrial sectors, Ali comes equipped to lead The Claridges Hotel Group as varied in its contributions as he is. An

asset to The Claridges Group, Ali will leverage and enhance the ongoing and future work of the company.



NARENDRA PRABHU has been designated as the General Manager of Brigade Orchards' Signature Club Resort. A passionate hotelier with over 18 years' experience in the hospitality industry, Prabhu joins Signature Club Resort with expertise in national and international

hotel operations. Beginning his career with leading hotels like Accor Group and Poppy Group of Hotels, Prabhu brings with him experience in various aspects of hotel management – from Restaurant Operations and Revenue Management to Corporate Human Resources and Project management.



VAISHAKH SURENDRAN has been designated as the General Manager of Poetree Sarovar Portico, Thekkady. Surendran brings with him over a decade of experience in the hospitality industry. Surendran holds an International Diploma in Hotel Management from Oriental School of Hotel Management

in Wayanad, Kerala and Diploma in Hospitality Management from Educational Institute of the American Hotel & Motel Association in Michigan, United States. Some of his previous assignments include roles as General Manager – Keys Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram among many others.



MOHIT SHARAD has been appointed as the General Manager – Sales Marketing (North & East) Concept Hospitality Pvt Ltd. In his new role, Sharad will be responsible for leading sales strategies and initiatives for the North and East region, managing all group hotels and

business accounts, and maximizing all revenue streams. He carries over 14 years of rich and diverse experience, prior to joining Concept Hospitality Pvt Ltd, Mohit worked with ITC WelcomHeritage, New Delhi. Sharad has also worked with 'Alletia Remedies Pvt Ltd,' 'Sewara Hospitality & Development' in similar roles.

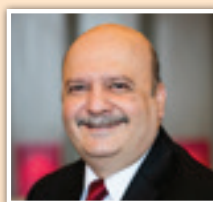


VAIJAYANTHI KARI has been appointed as India Representative, Tourism Fiji. Prior to joining Global Destinations, Vaijayanthi worked in the field of Public Relations for a period of three years. She will be based out of the Mumbai office of Global Destinations.



PREM UPADHYAY has been designated as the Director Sales and Marketing – Delhi NCR at Ananta Spa & Resorts. A professional having more than 15 years of experience in Hotel Sales and Marketing he has been previously associated with Country Development & Management Services Pvt

Ltd. Upadhyay has a Post Graduate degree from Aligarh Muslim University and a Diploma in Travel & Tourism Management from Food Court Institute, Aligarh Muslim University.



HOSHANG GARIVALA has been appointed as the Director of Operations, Oakwood India. An integral member of the Oakwood Group, Garivala has contributed significantly since joining Oakwood in 2011 as General Manager of Oakwood Residence Naylor

Road Pune, where he was subsequently tasked to also undertake the management of the former Oakwood Premier Pune.

HOSPITALITY REASSURED

The Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore is the perfect destination to cater to the needs of both leisure, as well as, business travellers

TT BUREAU

Located in Mysore city, the Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore offers a modern retreat to the business traveller. With 130 inviting rooms including 12 spacious suites, the Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore offers hotel rooms in Mysore that help guests have a relaxing stay. From free high-speed Internet access to a sparkling outdoor swimming pool, the hotel is equipped with the latest amenities and services for the traveller looking to unwind. The hotel's excellent location in Mysore boasts three restaurants and a bar that offers palatable and diverse cuisine suited for every taste bud.

Guests are spoilt for choice with the hotel's 24-hour in-room dining options, state-of-the-art fitness centre for sport enthusiasts' and a well equipped business centre for MICE activities. This attractive lodging in Mysore also provides banquet facilities for up to 300 people and an inviting lawn for parties complete with valet parking for the convenience

of guests. A major favourite among families, the hotel is equipped with a special kids play area, a children's pool and an on-call doctor.

A luxurious spa with simplicity of style, allows guests to relax at the hands of professional therapists who help select the treatment or guide guests through a programme customised to suit their needs. Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore brings a complete sensory experience that is sure to rejuvenate you. Nurturing the consecrated traditions of Ayurveda and imbibing the purities of the Orient, it provides holistic treatments and therapies for rejuvenation, revitalisation and recharging of the body, mind and soul.

Enjoy a swim in the outdoor pool or work out at the state-of-the-art fitness centre equipped with the latest equipments. Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore is definitely going to leave you overwhelmed.





CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

AGNELO RODRIGUEZ
ADMINISTRATION-FACILITIES
& INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
AIR LIQUIDE INDIA

Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

My family road trip which covered the Delhi - Goa - Delhi route from December 19, 2014 to January 2, 2015. We covered almost 2,000km in two full days with one night halt at Vadodara - this will remain amongst my most cherished moments, for a very long time to come.

Q: You dream of going to?

I would like to undertake the Delhi - Srinagar - Leh Ladakh - Manali - Delhi route on my bike this September 2016. And Delhi - Myanmar - Thailand via the new Highway - Asian Superhighway early 2017.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

Definitely Indigo, as its always on time, apt for business trips, where time is an essence.

Q: Best hotel experience and why?

My best hotel experience was in Galle Face, Colombo, with its rich inheritance and comfortable stay in old antique style.

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

A bike trip to Goa is definitely on my wish list.



Q: A family vacation that stands out?

Our trip to South India, amidst the beautiful coffee plantations in a home stay at Coorg.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

We were a group of five bikers riding down to Sadhupul - Chail (Himachal) route, covering over 700km in less than 48 hours. Riding the hills on two wheels has its own flavour.

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

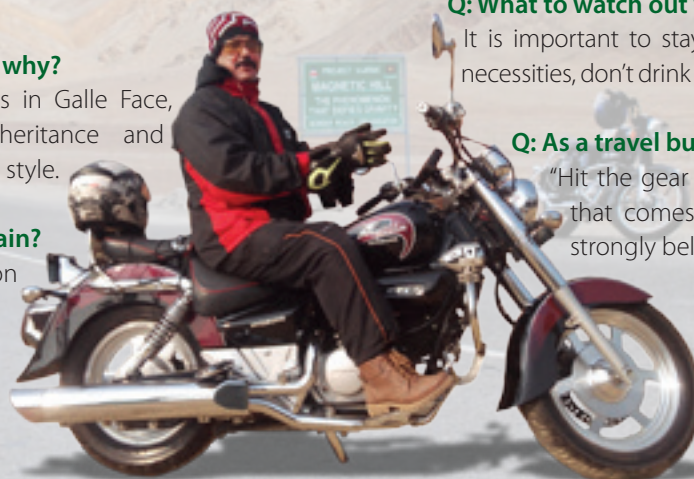
I enjoyed the "Frogs legs" at Martin's corner, Goa.

Q: What to watch out while travelling?

It is important to stay alert. Create a checklist, carry all necessities, don't drink and drive and click unusual pictures.

Q: As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

"Hit the gear & disappear." Enjoy every obstacle that comes in your way is something that I strongly believe in.



UK Visa Services

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VFS Global in partnership with UK Visa & Immigration (UKVI) have introduced a number of User Pay Services to help guide applicants through the visa application process. These services include:



Digital Assist: Providing help to customers by assisting them with filling their application forms at the Visa Application Center or via phone through our User Pay helpline



Certification Service: Enabling customers to keep hold of their original documents by submitting certified coloured photocopies instead of their originals. Customers need to bring original documentation to show the VFS Global staff and coloured photocopies will be taken, certified and submitted to the High Commission along with their application



Walk-in Without an Appointment: For customers short on time or unable to make it for their booked appointment



Group Appointments: Allowing groups to book visa appointments at the same time in the same Visa Application Centre, regardless of the size of the group; ideal for organisations, large families and tour operators



Online Payment Assistance: Allowing customers to pay their visa fees and buy any optional services in cash at the Visa Application Centre. The centre staff will use a VFS Global credit card to make the payments



Get it Right: Providing help to applicants by checking their visa form and documents for accuracy and completeness (strictly in accordance with UKVI guidelines at the centre). Customers also have the opportunity to submit any missing documents to the UK High Commission within a prescribed time frame

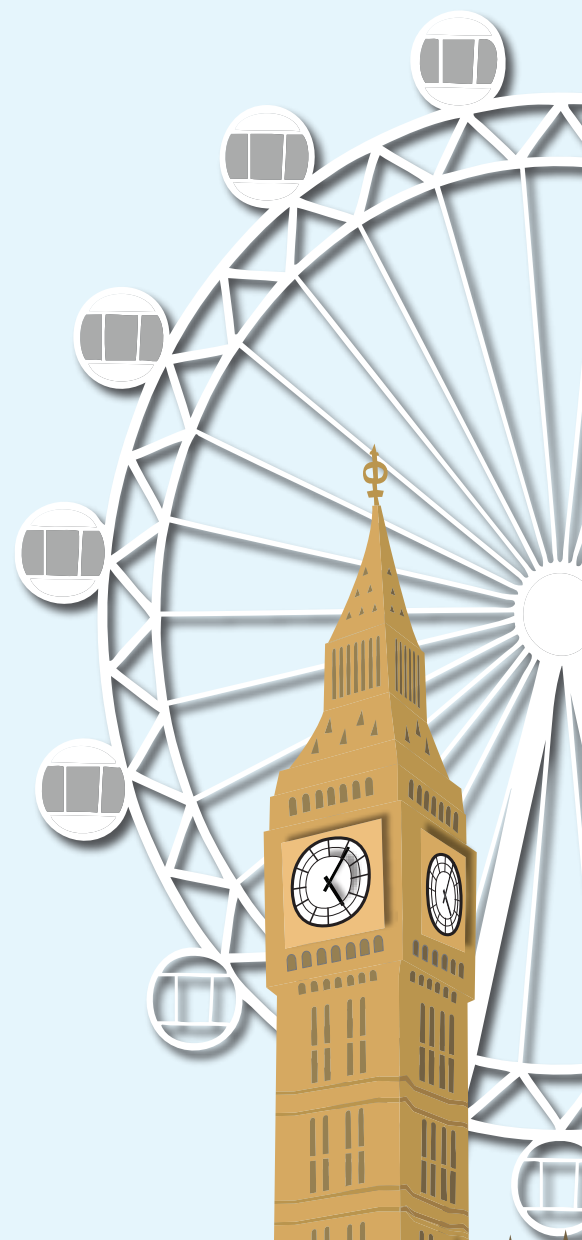
To book an appointment or for more information please call us on +91 22 6786 603 or visit www.vfsglobal.uk/india to avail of our services on offer.

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*VFS Global also provides User Pay Services in the countries of Bangladesh, Nepal & Sri-Lanka.
Please visit www.vfsglobal.co.uk/global/ to know more about the country specific services provided.



CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

SUDEEP GHOSHAL

**HEAD - ADMINISTRATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
RELIANCE CAPITAL LIMITED**

Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

Our trip to Nepal is one which we will cherish for a lifetime. From adventure activities like hiking from Jomsom, trekking and exploring caves with sparkling rocks, wildlife at Chitwan, romantic evenings in Pokhara and fulfilled nights at Casino in Kathmandu, to the historical UNESCO World heritage towns of Patan and Bhaktapur, Nepal has it all.

Q: You dream of going to?

I would love to go on a cruise to Alaska.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

Jet Airways for their good service and connectivity.

Q: Best hotel experience and why?

Our stay at The Leela Kovalam was amazing. The location, excellent hospitality and delicious food added to the experience.

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

Being in Mumbai one can never get tired of Goa; it's a place I can keep visiting time and again and still not get bored of it.

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

A family trip to 'Gods own Country' during the monsoon season covering the breathtakingly beautiful hill station of Munnar with an unending expanse of tea gardens, the hills full of mist, the numerous waterfalls, spice plantations, visit to



the Eravikulam National park to see the Nilgiri Tahr and then to the backwaters of Allepey, staying in a houseboat enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the lakeside and glimpse of the day to day life in the country side. This is one memorable trip I had with my entire family.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

We are a group of friends who like to cover wildlife locations and we have had exciting trips to several National Parks and sanctuaries in India.

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

I enjoy every bit of different taste that Indian food has to offer, however, I truly enjoyed the hot maggi served in the cold windy mountains of Rohtang Pass.

Q: What to watch out while travelling?

An impromptu road trip with friends can be exciting, but when it comes to travelling with family and kids, one should plan the entire travel and stay itinerary well in advance.

Q: As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

Decide on the travel dates and destination well in time so that one can explore getting good travel and stay deals/packages. Please leave your office behind and spend quality time with family and friends while on holiday.



GEAR-UP @ SINGAPORE



Roar into the Lion City's Formula One Night Race with Preferred Hotels & Resorts; enjoy exclusive hotel deals for the Singapore Grand Prix 2016

TT BUREAU

Preferred Hotels & Resorts invites Formula One enthusiasts and avid travellers alike to experience the world's only Formula One Night Race at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in the cosmopolitan city of Singapore this September. Participating hotels from the Preferred Hotels & Resorts portfolio in Singapore are offering Grand Prix packages for the entire month.

THE FULLERTON HOTEL SINGAPORE

Located along the iconic Marina Bay skyline and the racing track in the heart of Singapore's financial, arts, and entertainment district, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore was recently gazetted as Singapore's 71st National Monument in December 2015. The award winning luxury hotel is a stroll away from an upscale shopping, dining, and entertainment precinct featuring modern skyscrapers alongside restored historic landmarks. The 400-room hotel features five award-winning restaurants, an infinity pool, and an exclusive Fullerton Spa among other amenities.



- 1 to 14 September and 19 to 30 September: 10 per cent off Best Available Rate, including American Buffet Breakfast for two persons.
- 15 September: S\$432 per room per night, including American Buffet Breakfast for two persons.
- 16 to 18 September: S\$810 per room per night, including American Buffet Breakfast for two persons and an exclusive F1 Fullerton plush bear souvenir.

** An extra bed is provided complimentary for children under the age of 12 years, when sharing a room with their parents.

ONE FARRER HOTEL & SPA

Situated in the heart of one of Singapore's historic neighborhoods, One Farrer Hotel & Spa, offers three distinct types of accommodation under one roof with its unique "hotels-within-a-hotel" concept. The Skyline Rooms offer breathtaking

vistas of Singapore's inland urban landscape, while Skyline guests enjoy a host of exclusive privileges including private access to their own dining venue at the Skyline Lounge, as well as, fitness and spa facilities.



- Singapore Grand Prix Offer: Package includes five daily complimentary light meals at Skyline Lounge, complimentary Wifi access, and in-room mini bar. Skyline Room from S\$450 per room per night; Skyline Studio from S\$500 per room per night; and Skyline Suite from S\$650 per room per night.

** Minimum of 3 nights' stay required for bookings from 16 to 18 September, both dates inclusive.

ROYAL PLAZA ON SCOTTS

Located in the city's bustling shopping district of Orchard Road, Royal Plaza On Scotts is a myriad of dining and entertainment options available from morning through to the late evening. All rooms in this charming city hotel offer gourmet Nespresso coffee and a refreshment bar that is replenished daily.



- 1 to 15 September and 19 to 30 September: Deluxe Room from S\$278 per night, including daily buffet breakfast for 2 persons at the award-winning Carousel.
- 16 to 18 September: Deluxe Room from S\$320 per room per night, including daily buffet breakfast for 2 persons at the award-winning Carousel, with a minimum of 2 nights' stay.

Travellers can enjoy additional benefits by enrolling in the iPrefer guest loyalty programme, which extends points redeemable for free nights and other expenditures, elite status, and special benefits, such as, complimentary Internet upon every eligible stay at more than 600 participating properties worldwide.

***All prices quoted are subject to service charge and applicable taxes. For more information visit www.preferredhotels.com/SGNightRace2016**

****Governing terms & conditions apply.**



IPW 2016

CONCLUDES ON A SUCCESSFUL NOTE

IPW 2016 attracts record number of buyers, suppliers and media to New Orleans

KAMAL & KEWAL GILL

Over 6,000 attendees from 73 countries, including over 1,300 international and domestic travel buyers and over 500 media from the US and abroad, attended the US Travel Association's 48th annual IPW. The event, which is the largest single generator of travel to the US, convened in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the Ernest N Morial Convention Center.

Over the course of five days, a record of over 105,000 pre-scheduled business meetings were conducted between travel buyers and US travel supplier organisations, who purchased a total of 1,352 booths. According to the independent research firm Rockport Analytics, travel initiated by IPW is projected to bring \$4.7 billion in direct bookings to US destinations over the next three years.

The delegate count at this year's IPW represents a 20 per cent increase since the last time the conference was held in New Orleans, in 2002. In addition to the usual robust number of delegates from the UK, Canada, Mexico, Germany and France, this year's IPW saw tremendous growth in delegates from China, Taiwan, South Korea, Chile and Colombia.

The real payoff for IPW will ripple through the local New



Orleans economy for an estimated three years following this year's event. IPW is expected to generate \$1.7 billion in economic impact to the city of New Orleans and attract more than one million additional visitors to the New Orleans area during that time.



China now represents the third-largest overseas travel market to the US, thanks in part to a bilateral agreement extending travel visa validity for visitors from China to 10 years.

"IPW is a wonderful, unique event in that it brings the world to the US in one location," said US Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow. "We remain dedicated to welcoming ever more international visitors to our country, and maintain that encouraging travel to the US is the best way to keep us open and connected to the world."





IPW brings travel professionals from every corner of the country – including representatives of hotels, destinations, attractions, museums, amusement parks and other travel businesses – together with the world’s top international tour operators and wholesalers that send travellers to the US. At IPW, buyers and sellers are able to conduct business that would otherwise be generated only through an exhaustive number of around-the-world trips.





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ACTE EDUCATION FORUM CONCLUDES IN NEW DELHI

The ACTE Education Forum New Delhi/ Gurgaon recently concluded on a promising note

TT BUREAU

The Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) and leaders of the business travel industry recently held an educational event designed to enhance understanding of the corporate travel market. The event was held at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi and attracted corporate travel executives and travel industry suppliers, from both Delhi NCR and all over India. The event included presentations, educational sessions and discussions on the latest travel trends by travel veterans. The event concluded with a networking luncheon.

The ACTE Education Forum New Delhi/ Gurgaon saw an increase in audience footfall and proved why it is one of the most important conferences on corporate travel to attend.

The Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) has a 25-year reputation for leading the way corporate travel is conducted. As a global association, comprised of executive-level members in more than 100 countries, ACTE pioneers educational and technological advances that make business travel productive, cost-effective and straightforward.





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FLYING WITH THE BIRDS

Go bird watching across locations and capture your share of memories all the while

VISHWAJIT SHARMA

Flapping their wings in delight, they enthusiastically speed across the skies, not bound by any constraints, or boundaries, every distance covered by the birds a manifestation of their free spirit. Every year, flocks of birds undertake long journeys to faraway lands, perhaps influenced by various factors. When a flock of birds, flying in a methodical formation, stoop down gracefully near a lake, presenting a colourful conglomeration of sorts, a sight which inspires a myriad of emotions is created. It's quite fascinating to ponder how a change of habitats for a temporary period is transformed into a celebratory occasion, in this case, bird watching. Ranging across a diverse range of species, the birds can be found in various locations across the country, and each location playing the perfect host for the occasion.



KARNALA BIRD SANCTUARY, MAHARASHTRA

The rustling of leaves on the trees exhilarates you as you run your eyes to catch a quick glimpse of a rare variety of those winged creatures. Karnala is a popular destination for avid bird watchers and ornithologists, while being a favourite with hikers and picnickers. The sanctuary attracts a significant avian population with the changing of the seasons. However, it's the monsoon season which witnesses the conglomeration of the choicest species such as, the Paradise Flycatcher, Magpie Robin and Malabar Whistling Thrushes. Each of them presents a contrast in their taxonomies, yet, each of them share that distinct trait of beauty, making them a rarity, along with their melodious rhythms that makes nature dance with joy. The sanctuary now boasts 150 species of resident and 37 species of migratory birds that can be spotted during the winters.

The sanctuary also offers a number of hiking trails, with the Hariyal Nature Trail being the easiest. This trail extends to about 1km, but, offers a great bird sighting experience. To cover a long distance, take the Mortaka Trail, which covers a distance of 6km. And on your way, watch the lovely dance of the butterflies in the air.

KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK, RAJASTHAN

Keoladeo National Park, formerly known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, is renowned the world over for being a haven of bird breeding and feeding. It originated as a royal hunting reserve during the 1850's and was a game reserve for the Maharajas and the British. In 1982, the park was declared a national park and later, was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the year 1985. The sanctuary is home to over 370 species of birds and animals. The place offers thrilling sights like watch a flock of painted storks immersing their enormous beaks in the water, hoping to land a catch or two. The Siberian Crane, soaring magnificently in the sky with its wings spread royally, is another sight to behold. Pay a visit to the park anytime of the year, and you are likely to find various species like, the Indian Courser, the Sociable Lapwing, Greater and Indian Spotted Eagles etc.

Noted Indian ornithologist and naturalist Salim Ali exerted his influence to garner government support for the creation of the Keoladeo National Park. It gained an eminence for being a breeding ground for the rare and elusive Siberian Crane.

The park also offers well defined treks which can be covered either on foot, cycles or rickshaws. The rickshaw pullers also make for extremely knowledgeable guides.



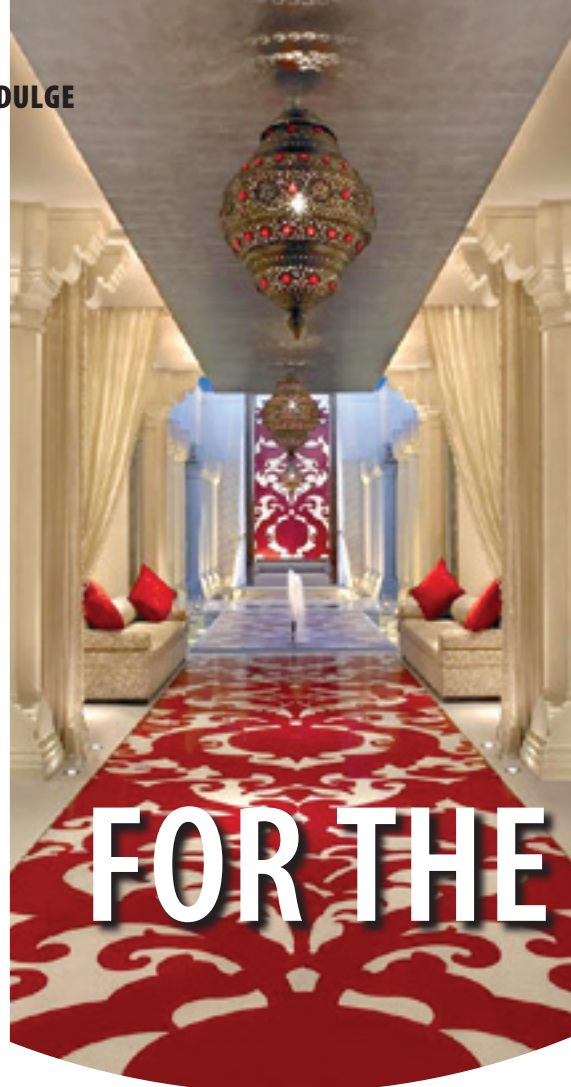
KULIK BIRD SANCTUARY, WEST BENGAL

One look at the sight that greets your eyes at the Kulik Bird Sanctuary, or the Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary, and you would fathom that the migratory birds seem to harbour a deep fascination with it. This sanctuary is renowned for being the second largest in all of Asia.

The sanctuary is graced by the arrival of the migratory birds, some of which are the egrets, open-bill storks, black crown night heron, pond heron, and many others. The place is also home to some residential birds like flycatchers, woodpeckers, drongoes and kingfishers, which can be found pecking and gliding throughout the year. The flora surrounding the place only serves to embellish the entire experience.

The Sap Nikla forest which is located in close proximity to the bird sanctuary, is a major attraction for the tourists. Besides, the forest itself is dense, and contains varied species of flora, some of which are, Jarul, Kadam, Sisoo and Eucalyptus.





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TT BUREAU

There is a magical aura surrounding a spa, perhaps it is the ambience that one would describe to be heavenly, or the soothing touch that relaxes the body and mind, drifting one off to a short and sweet slumber. Relaxation and rejuvenation aside, your body and mind seems to awake from a long slumber after that wonderful session of a spa treatment. Indians have been familiar to the benefits of spas since ancient times, ofcourse, the practise itself existing under different forms and methods. Over the course of time, the concepts of spas have refined and evolved with greater sophistication and refinement. In India, the increasing demand for luxury spas has led to the growth of some magnificent spas that blend the traditional wisdom with modern luxury in a graceful way. Set aside the hullabaloo of everyday life for a while and lose yourself in the dreamy journey created by a spa.

KAYA KALP, THE ROYAL SPA, ITC MUGHAL, AGRA

The Mughals laid their hands on something and it became magnificent. The opulence and grandeur associated with the Mughal era is reflected in its entirety in ITC Mughal, Agra and particularly in its spa. It spreads over an enormous distance and is the largest spa in India, and offers various therapies based on ancient customs, one that creates a meaningful experience for the soul. The various programmes offered are The Royal Hamam, A Taj Mahal Romance, Hamam Pick Me Up Ritual and Royal Kaya Kalp Massage. However, The Royal Hamam is where you relive the royal treatment: Persian inspired body scrub, Kese body scrub, Argan oil and Mung Bean Soapy Wash and a relaxing scalp massage to complete the wonderful programme.





BLUE OCEAN RESORT & SPA, BY APODIS

At the Blue Ocean Resort & Spa, one has the opportunity of experiencing the pleasures of different healing traditions in one spa appointment. You are treated to the pleasures of some of the best elements of a life therapy, such as, warm mud, rose and jasmine baths, massage, anti-aging techniques, and lymph drainage. It's here that your senses feel soothed and the best of pampering is meted out to you in style. Pick your choice from a wide range of massage therapies to one of a kind relaxing body treatments. Treat yourself to a cleansing exfoliation remedy and facial, or calm the sense with one of the extensive aroma therapy sessions.

GOLDEN PALMS HOTELS & SPA, BANGALORE

The residents of Bengaluru sure love their gardens; it's perfectly maintained gardens which contain beautiful gardens, trees and flowers colour the city in green. The Golden Palms Hotel & Spa, a 5-star hotel embodies excellence in its truest expression, where minute detail and maximum efficiency are reflected in every bit of its interiors and exteriors. Tucked away inside the hotel is the spa itself, which promises to blend wellness and relaxation beautifully. One of the biggest spas in town, it has emerged as a favourite destination for spa and medical tourism, with its various revolutionary health and relaxation techniques. Some of the services offered are signature exclusive therapies, aroma therapy massages, Thai massages, hot stone massages, Balinese massages, scrubs, wraps and salon services.





NEEMRANA FORT PALACE, RAJASTHAN

With its close proximity to Delhi, the Neemrana Fort-Palace is one of the most sought after destinations for magical weekend gateways, feasts, celebrations and conferences. This 15th century heritage hotel enables you to create your own history with that historic aura pervading the environment and bringing that feeling of déjà vu. The Neemranagym & spa, spread over 4000sq.ft consists of outdoor sunlight-spectrum yoga and meditation. This apart, there are a whole host of Ayurveda and international therapies to choose from, they settle the unsettled mind and calm the senses beautifully. The many therapists are highly qualified professionals, who are well versed in a variety of therapies, ranging from traditional Indian Abhyanga, Balinese Lomi Lomi, Western and signature Neemrana therapies.



JIVA SPA, VIVANTA BY TAJ, BEKAL

Spread over an area of 1,65,000sq.ft, Jiva Grande at Vivanta Bekal is considered to be one of the finest spas of India. The spa portrays a perfect amalgamation of modern comfort and luxury with ancient authentic and traditional wellness programmes. The spa focuses on long term wellness programmes extending over a period of two to four weeks and includes Yoga, Ayurveda and Spiritual Retreats. The Jiva Spa menu at Vivanta Bekal features signature experiences, featured programmes, Indian therapies, Indian aromatherapy, scrubs and wraps, and other associated beauty rituals. However, what sets the experience apart from the ones offered by the other spas is the Ayurveda sanctuary. The entire concept of Ayurveda is brought out in its literal meaning here; with its Ayurveda Physician, or Vaidya house, relaxation spaces set amidst a scenic background, beautiful courtyards and comprehensive Ayurveda programmes conducted by qualified Ayurveda physicians.





AVIATION

DR GURUPRASAD MOHAPATRA, IAS, TAKES OVER AS CHAIRMAN, AAI

Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, IAS Officer of Gujarat Cadre, (1986 Batch) in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India, took over as Chairman, AAI. He has worked extensively in the power sector, urban development and industry, where he was involved in comprehensive reforms in the power sector and restructuring of the erstwhile Gujarat Electricity Board into several commercial entities. He has rich and varied experience in the chemicals and fertilizers sector, as he has worked as the Managing Director of Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and Managing Director of Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Limited (GNFC). **tt**



EMIRATES NAMED BEST AIRLINE AT SKYTRAX WORLD AIRLINE AWARDS 2016

Emirates was recently named the World's Best Airline 2016 at the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2016, in addition to scooping up the awards for World's Best In-flight Entertainment for a record 12th consecutive year, and Best Airline in the Middle East.

Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline, said: "We are honoured to be recognised by the prestigious Skytrax awards. Emirates has always put our customers at the heart of what we do, and we work hard to deliver the very best experience possible to our customers at every touch point, every day, all around the world. We constantly invest in our product and services, both on the ground and in the air. We listen carefully to our customers, and then relentlessly challenge ourselves to deliver and exceed expectations. The fact that these awards are based on the direct feedback from passengers is gratifying and wonderful recognition for all of the hard work that's gone into creating the Emirates experience."

Edward Plaisted, CEO of Skytrax said: "This fourth World's Best Airline title for Emirates is a fantastic achievement and true testament to the airline's popularity." **tt**

SRILANKAN AIRLINES SIGNS JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ AS BRAND AMBASSADOR

SriLankan Airlines signed on board one of India's top actresses Jacqueline Fernandez as their brand ambassador. The letter of agreement was signed recently between SriLankan Airlines Chairman Ajit Dias and Jacqueline



Fernandez, at St. Regis Hotel, Mumbai. With this collaboration it made her, the face of SriLankan Airlines as the brand continues to strengthen its presence in India.

Jacqueline Fernandez said, "It's an honour to be part of SriLankan Airlines, the brand's heritage and ideology are depicted in its service and strong reputation carried since many years."

Ajit Dias, Chairman, SriLankan Airlines, said "We are delighted to have Jacqueline Fernandez as the Brand Ambassador for SriLankan Airlines. Jacqueline's strong connect, passion towards Sri Lanka and being an iconic profile in Sri Lanka aligns her naturally with the brand, just like our other two brand ambassadors, Mahila Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara." **tt**



16-17 November 2016

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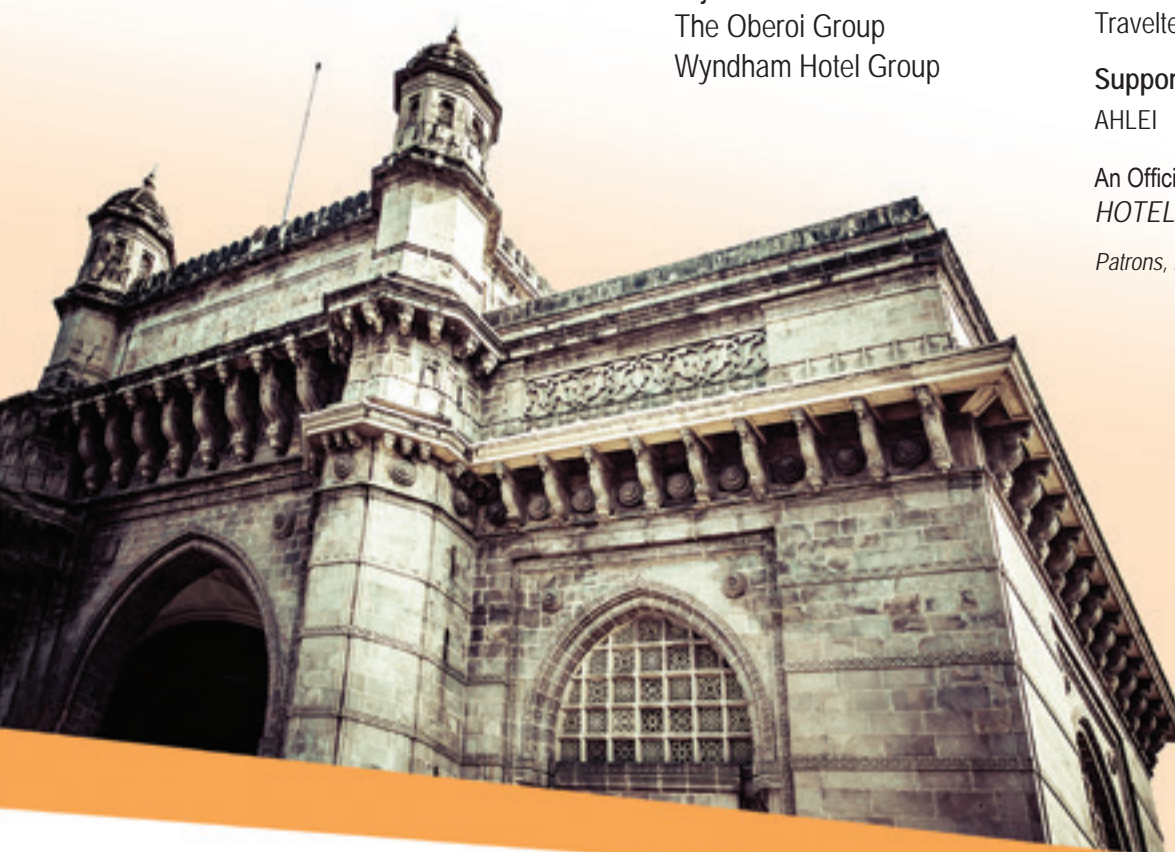
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TURKISH AIRLINES NAMED BEST AIRLINE IN EUROPE

Turkish Airlines has been chosen as "Europe's Best Airline" for the sixth consecutive year in the 2016 Skytrax World Airlines Awards. Turkish Airlines has picked up four awards this year which include 'Best Airline in Europe', Best Airline in Southern Europe', 'Best Business Class Dining Lounge' and 'Best Business Class On-Board Catering.'

M İlker Ayci, Turkish Airlines' Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee states, "The Skytrax World Airline Awards are the result of the largest airline passenger satisfaction survey in the world. Every year it delights us that millions of travellers again recognise Turkish Airlines as the "Best Airline in Europe." The airline continues to be renowned for its seamless services, including our dining and in-flight entertainment experiences. The award marks a continued period of success for us." **tt**



AXIS BANK AND VISTARA UNVEIL COBRANDED CREDIT CARD



Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank and Vistara, India's fastest growing full service carrier, recently launched the contactless Axis Bank Vistara Credit Card on the VISA network platform to cater to the increasingly sophisticated needs of both corporate and leisure travellers.

Rajiv Anand, Executive Director, Axis Bank said, "At Axis Bank, we are constantly innovating to deliver more value to our customers. We are delighted to partner with Vistara to bring to market a very compelling proposition for our customers. Travel is a key spend category for credit cards and the Axis Bank Vistara range of cards will help us further strengthen our travel product suite, as it addresses both the business and leisure traveler segments."

Commenting on the partnership, Sanjiv Kapoor, Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer, Vistara, said, "The Axis Bank Vistara Credit Card accelerates our endeavor to

provide premium services and unique benefits to our growing pool of loyal customers who 'Fly the New Feeling' on our fast expanding network that now covers 18 destinations across India. This new card will help us fulfil our frequent travellers' need for a credit card that not only offers them attractive opportunities to earn points and complimentary tickets, but also provide automatic Club Vistara Silver and Gold membership for higher variants." **tt**

ETIHAD AIRWAYS ENHANCES TRAVEL EXPERIENCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Etihad Airways has introduced a first-of-its-kind senior citizens'



package offering enhanced privileges for the over 60s travelling from India to the United States of America. Senior citizens flying from any of Etihad Airways' 11 Indian gateway cities can benefit from added value services, including a 24/7 helpline number, pre-flight travel and medical checklist support and special assistance at check-in counters.

Also on offer are fare reductions of up to 10 per cent in Business Class and five per cent in Economy until 31 August 2016, for travel by 31 December 2016, together with 60 per cent bonus Etihad Guest loyalty miles on every senior citizen ticket booking. The special package is applicable to guests aged over 60 flying in Business and Economy Class on Etihad Airways.

Neerja Bhatia, Etihad Airways Vice President Indian Subcontinent, said: "Reinforcing our commitment to India and keeping in mind the profile of senior citizens of our country, their needs and special requirements, we have created this special package to make sure that they are well looked after right from the moment they book with us until they reach their destination. We hope our senior travellers can make the most of these privileges and experience our fine hospitality." **tt**

SINGAPORE AIRLINES ANNOUNCES EXCITING FARES TO AUSTRALIA



Singapore Airlines is pleased to announce special Economy Class and Premium Economy Class fares to eight key Australian gateways - Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin and Perth from India.

Economy Class customers travelling on Singapore Airlines or SilkAir can avail of all-inclusive, return fares starting from INR 63,000 per person for travel from Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Kochi, Trivandrum, Coimbatore and Visakhapatnam to Australia; while customers from Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad can purchase tickets starting from INR 66,000 onwards. In addition, travellers can experience extra comfort in the Premium Economy Class with all-inclusive, return fares starting from INR 100,000. These fares are available on sale till 31 August 2016, for the travel period starting 01 August 2016 till 30 April 2017.

Furthermore, travellers can redeem a complimentary S\$40 Changi Dollar Voucher for use at all participating shops, restaurants and lounges when they transit at Singapore Changi Airport till 31 March 2017. **tt**

EXPLORER





MAGNIFICENT PALACES

These embodiments of magnificence, their magical aura will cast a lasting spell on you for a long time

VISHWAJIT SHARMA

The kings and emperors, taking a sweet stroll on their perfectly manicured lawns would conjure up grand visions for their empires, the royalty ambience presenting the perfect setting for the mind to weave a dense web of intricate thoughts. With time, the majestic aura surrounding the royalty dwindled significantly, the seat of power changed hands, but the mysterious charm only increased with the passage of time. The grand columns that touch the skies radiate with brilliance, their glory and splendour hardly affected by the drooling and gawking of their spectators. And yet, there those palaces stand, separated from each other by great distances, yet, sharing that common vein of royalty that attracts visitors towards them. Some of these vestiges of power formerly have been transformed into museums, while some are still inhabited by various houses of royalty.

GRAND PALACE, THAILAND

The land of Thailand is blessed by the Gods themselves, the entire place is a happy conglomeration of culture, arts and festivals. And, nowhere is this festive spirit more reflected than the Grand Palace, which is believed to have been constructed during the reign of King Rama 1 of the Chakri dynasty. The palace served as a royal residence until 1925, and now fulfils largely ceremonial purposes. The Outer Court is one of the zones of the Grand Palace, the major attraction of which is the Temple of Emerald Buddha, or Phra Kaeo Morakot, so named because it was carved from flawless green jade, situated amid gold-gilded sculptures and ornaments. At the centre of the Middle Court is the Chakri Mahaprasat Throne Hall, which reveals an outstanding combination of European architecture influenced from the Renaissance era and traditional Thai roof tiles and spires.



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES, FRANCE

To witness the culture and arts of France in all its unlimited glory, visit the Château de Versailles, or, the Palace of Versailles. For well over 30 years now, this palace has occupied a respectable spot on UNESCO's World Heritage List, and is considered to be the one of the most marvellous achievements of 18th century French art. The history of the palace itself is quite an interesting one, first serving as Louis XIII's hunting lodge, before being expanded and transformed by his son Louis XIV when he shifted the seat of power to Versailles. The Hall of Mirrors, the King's Grand Apartments and the Museum of the History of France has continued to leave the populace awestruck over the years. The Grande Galerie, or, the La Grande Galerie, stretching across 73m, glorifies the economic, political and artistic achievements of France in all its splendour. The 30 compositions in the arch painted by Le Brun, highlight the glorious epoch in the reign of Louis XIV. The 357 mirrors adorn the 17 arches opposite the windows, highlighting that France was the undisputed economic power with its grand scale production of mirrors, while smashing the monopoly held by France. The artistic success is reflected in the Rance marble pilasters decorated with a model of gilded bronze capitals called "French order", which represent national emblems a fleur de lys topped by a royal sun between two French cockerels.





BUCKINGHAM PALACE, ENGLAND

What mortal is there who has come to England and has not heard of Buckingham Palace? This gigantic structure of grandiosity has served as the official London residence of London's sovereigns 1837, and today serves as the administrative headquarters of the Monarch. Statistics concerning its architectural magnificence bring home the vastness of its proportions, it consists of 775 rooms, which include 19 State rooms, 52 Royal and guest bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices and 78 bathrooms.

However, the palatial architecture is not just a venue for holding official functions, but, also has the imprints of family remembrances and histories embedded all over it. The State Rooms serve the purpose of reception for the visiting dignitaries who are received by the monarchs. Upon a visit to the 19 state rooms, one can witness a treasure of paintings ranging from the works of Van Dyck and Canaletto, sculpture by Canova, exquisite pieces of Sèvres porcelain, and some of the finest English and French furniture in the world.

MYSORE PALACE, INDIA

Mysore Palace is built in Indo-Saracenic style, and that peculiar traditions is reflected in domes, turrets, arches and colonnades.

A walk through the palace would reveal the hidden treasure of exquisite carvings and precious works, each a visual treat to stop and wonder upon. The Mysore Palace is also known as the Amba Vilas Palace, and was constructed by Henry Irwin, the British consultant architect of Mysore State. The majestic Durbar Hall, with its ornate ceiling and sculpted pillars, the Marriage Pavilion with its chandeliers and cast-iron pillars and the Belgian stained glass adorned with peacock designs on the dome ceilings, are the main attractions. Witness the magnificent jewel studded golden throne, the pride of the Wadiyars and the symbol of their sovereignty, which are displayed for the public during the festival of Dasara in October. Walk your way amongst a row of souvenir shops, and you will come across the Residential Museum. It houses musical instruments, Tanjore and Mysore paintings, besides an array of personal artifacts belonging to the Maharaja's family.



CHENNAI - TIRUPATI - MADURAI - OOTY - SANDUR

THE SOUTHERN TRAIL

THE JOURNEY IS THE DESTINATION

The southern part of India represents a delightful mix of culture, heritage and natural beauty; celebrating the colourful aspects of life in all its glory. Soak in this wonderful diversity in the cities of Chennai, Tirupati, Madurai, Ooty and Sandur; and enjoy a splendid stay at Fortune Hotels and WelcomHeritage Hotels.

The trail presented by Fortune Hotels and WelcomHeritage Hotels delivers to you the artistic and religious traditions of Chennai, the pious temples of Tirupati, the ancient city of Madurai, heavenly beauty of Ooty and the dreamy environs of Sandur. Guests are pampered with the choicest of facilities and exclusive amenities, thus embellishing their stay here, and earning their loyalty for a lifetime.



Chennai, gracefully seated on the Coromandel Coast, is the capital of Tamil Nadu. It's also known as the "Detroit of India", due to the emergence of numerous automobile industries. Visit the prestigious Fort St. George, the Marina Beach – the pride of Chennai, or the Santhome Cathedral Basilica, one of the Basilicas built over the tomb of an Apostle.



MY FORTUNE, CHENNAI

Beautifully blending the customs of traditional Indian hospitality with the efficiency of modern technology, My Fortune, Chennai, offers 90 spacious guest rooms; choice of delectable cuisine and elegant banquet spaces for gatherings of up to 200 guests.

Distance from: Chennai International Airport: 15 km | Chennai Central Railway Station: 5 km | T Nagar & Anna Salai: 15 mins' drive | Major Corporates: 2-3 km | Marina Beach: 4 km | The Kapaleeshwarar Temple and the Parthasarathy Temple: 3 km.

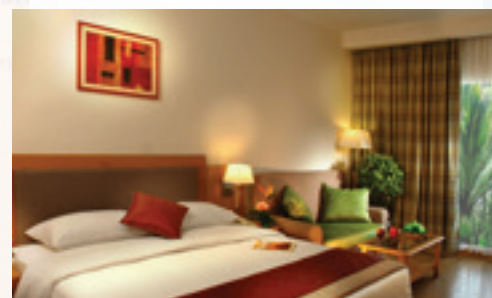
Packages starting @ Rs. 5999/-* per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.



FORTUNE SELECT GRAND, CHENNAI

Conveniently located on GST Road and close to Mahindra World City, Fortune Select Grand offers a wide range of guest facilities along with efficient service to the discerning traveller. The hotel offers 171 well-appointed guest rooms, delectable dining options and banqueting space to hold events for up to 400 guests. **Distance from:** Chennai Airport: 30 km | Tambaram Railway Station: 15 km | Chennai Central Railway Station: 40 km | Mahindra World City (SEZ Area): 3 km | Singaperumal Koil Temple: 700 m.

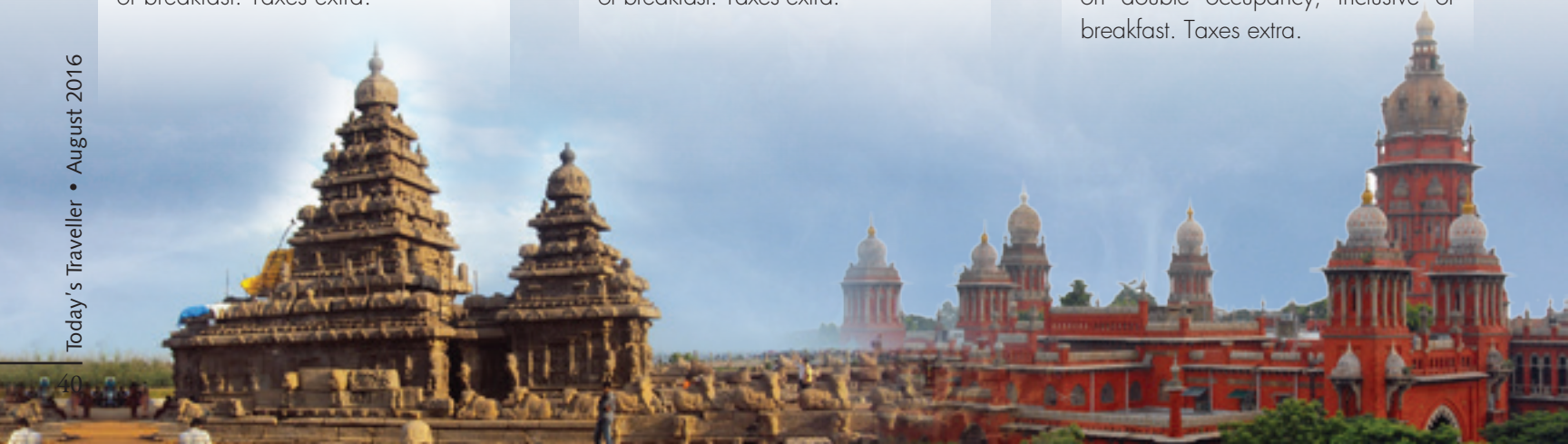
Packages starting @ Rs. 4499/-* per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.



FORTUNE SELECT PALMS, CHENNAI

Strategically located at Thoraipakkam, Fortune Select Palms offers its guests a perfect combination of efficient service and traditional Indian hospitality, while providing them a feel of the vibrant charm of the city. With 129 elegant guest rooms, signature restaurants, a dedicated wellness centre, banquet space and other guest facilities, the hotel makes an ideal choice for a stay in the city. **Distance from:** Chennai Airport: 17 km | Tambaram Railway Station: 20 km | Chennai Central Railway Station: 23 km | Mahabalipuram: 40 km.

Packages starting @ Rs. 5499/-* per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.





Tirupati is synonymous with Sri Venkateswara Temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu and visited by millions of devotees every year. The town offers the perfect ambience for spiritual awakening and gaining religious insights. Stand by the calm waters of Swami Pushkarini, or, witness the beautiful waterfall at Akasa Ganga. However, any visit is incomplete without paying your obeisance at the Tirumala Venkateswara Swamy Temple, one of the most ancient and holy temples.



FORTUNE KENCES, TIRUPATI

Fortune Kences is situated on Renigunta Road enroute to the APSRTC Bus Terminal and provides comfortable accommodation in the pilgrim city. The hotel offers 126 well-furnished rooms, a choice of dining outlets and comprehensive banquet facilities to host events for up to 1000 guests. **Distance from:** Tirupati Airport: 14 km | Tirupati Railway Station: 0.5 km | Interstate Bus Terminal: 50 m | Govindaraja Swami Temple: 1 km | ISKCON Temple: 4 km | Tirumala Hill: 25 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 3499/-*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of buffet breakfast. Taxes extra.



FORTUNE SELECT GRAND RIDGE, TIRUPATI

Located in the holy city of Tirupati, Fortune Select Grand Ridge, offers 138 beautifully furnished rooms, choice of dining outlets and a complete range of modern amenities. The hotel is also well suited for holding meetings and functions, for up to 2000 guests. **Distance from:** Tirupati Airport: 12 km | Tirupati Railway Station: 3 km | Interstate Bus Terminal: 2 km | City Centre: 1.5 km | Tirumala Hill: 25 km | Govindaraja Swami Temple: 3 km | ISKCON Temple: 6 km | Chennai: 140 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 3999/-*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of buffet breakfast. Taxes extra.



Madurai is known simultaneously by many names, the origins of which can be traced to historical and religious sources. The Meenakshi Amman Temple, expanded by Thirumalai Nayak, is one of the five sabhas (divine dance stages) called as Velli Ambalam (silver hall). Chungudi cotton sarees, colour dyeing, motifs, handicrafts, brassware and wooden toys are some products which reflect its commercial spirit.



FORTUNE PANDIYAN, MADURAI

Set amidst landscaped gardens, Fortune Pandiyan is a contemporary hotel offering 57 elegant and spacious guest rooms and a selection of restaurants offering global cuisines. The hotel boasts state-of-the-art banquet facility and a well equipped Wellness Centre. **Distance from:** Madurai Airport: 15 km | Railway Station: 4 km | City Centre: 3 km | Sree Meenakshi Amman Temple: 3 km | Gandhi Museum : 2 km | Samanar Hills: 7 km | Alagar Malai Temple: 19 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 4699/-*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of buffet breakfast. Taxes extra.



Ooty is a picturesque hill station, the slopes of which are decorated with coffee and tea plantations, with trees like Conifer, Eucalyptus, and Pine marking their beautiful presence as well. The Government Botanical Garden presents a contrasting picture of flora, fauna, fossilized remains and the Cork Tree. Revisit and discover history at the Government Museum, or visit the delightful wildlife in the Deer Park.



FORTUNE RESORT SULLIVAN COURT, OOTY

Set on the gentle slopes of Ooty, amidst lush green lawns and a colourful patterned garden, Fortune Resort Sullivan Court offers 67 well-appointed rooms to unwind and relax. The hotel offers comprehensive banquet facilities for up to 2000 guests. **Distance from:** Coimbatore Airport: 100 km | Ooty Railway Station/ Bus Terminal: 2 km | Rose Garden: walking distance | City Centre/ Commercial Street: 1 km | Botanical Garden: 2 km | Ooty Lake: 4 km | Tea

Factories: 6 km. **Packages starting @ Rs. 6999/-*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.



WELCOMHERITAGE FERRNHILLS ROYALE PALACE, OOTY

Located in over 50 acres of estate with sprawling lawns, dense forests, stunning views, overlooking the lush green valleys and tea gardens, WelcomHeritage Ferrnhills Royale Palace offers 19 Regal Suites with sitting rooms, dressing rooms and Jacuzzi baths. The Hotel also extends a splendid multi cuisine dining area and two conference halls, namely, Darbar Hall and Board Room. **City Attractions:** Botanical Gardens | Ooty Lake | Doddabetta Peak | Lamb's Rock | Kodanad View Point | Madumalai Wildlife Sanctuary | Kotagiri, Kalhatty Waterfalls. **Packages starting @ Rs. 10500/-*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of American Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner and all applicable taxes.



Sandur bears the imprints of a princely state, having been ruled by princely dynasties for an uninterrupted period of time. The Daroji Tank, built by Tipu, is believed to be the biggest in the district. The Ramanadurga Hill Station, located 16 km away from Sandur, offers wonderful views of the Sandur valley and the western taluka.



WELCOMHERITAGE SHIVAVILAS PALACE, SANDUR

The luxurious WelcomHeritage Shivavilas Palace, more commonly known as 'The Palace' offers 12 rooms and suites, a multi-cuisine restaurant and a conference hall. For leisure and recreation, the property offers various activities including a Vintage and classic car museum, steam and spa amongst others. **City Attractions:** | Tungabhadra Dam | Hampi | Queen's

bath | Kumaraswamy Temple (Ancient Temple tours) | Sandur Kushala Kala Kendra | Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary | Lotus Mahal | Manganese and Iron Ore Mines | Harishankar Temple. **Packages starting @ Rs. 5000/-*** per night on double occupancy, inclusive of American Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. All applicable taxes extra.

**Valid till 30th September 2016. T&C apply*

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A DIVINE LAND

Take a look at these various pilgrimage destinations that have been the source of divine inspiration for masses

TT BUREAU

The flower of religion has blossomed magnificently in the divine soil of Bengal, its soil being watered by spiritual awakening since times immemorial. It's a land where religion and mythology are interspersed with each other magnificently, and each plays out its own tune with a beauty that enriches the entire tradition of beliefs and rituals. The entire state has been blessed with a variety of pilgrimage destinations, each occupying a coveted spot in the hearts of their visitors. Regardless of the religion they may belong to, each of these destinations radiate an aura that their visitors are known to experience, an aura that serves as a source of guiding strength and hope throughout one's lifetime.

The various spiritual destinations entice one with an unexplained charm, a charm that extends far beyond the boundaries created by philosophically religious definitions and meanings.

BELUR MATH

Belur Math is a monastic order which was brought into existence by Sri Ramakrishna, the great 19th century saint of Bengal who is regarded as the Prophet of the Modern Age. It was at Belur Math that Swami Vivekananda, the foremost disciple of Sri Ramakrishna lived the last years of his life. The campus on Belur Math, which is an abode of tranquillity, includes temples dedicated to Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda. The headquarters of the worldwide twin organizations known as Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission are also situated here.

The distinct architecture of the Dakshineswar temple is the first sight that greets the visitors and devotees to this temple.

Following the style of Bengal architecture, it consists of "nava-ratna" or the nine spires, inside which is housed the main temple. Rani Rashmoni, a devotee of the goddess Kali and a reputed philanthropist, constructed the temple in the year 1855.

The presiding deity of the temple is Bhavaratini, or one who liberates her devotees from the ocean of existence.

Ramakrishna, Vivekananda and other renowned saints found a large part of their religious fulfilment within the overpowering aura of the temple itself.





ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

This magnificent church displays a unique architectural layout in the form of its Indo-Gothic style, and is the largest of its kind in Kolkata, besides being the first Episcopal Church in India. The construction of the church was initiated by the benefactor by Bishop Daniel Wilson in 1839 and completed in 1847. Vast expanses of green surround the church from all sides, in addition to a vast number of trees. The tower of the church is modelled after the "Bell Harry" tower of Canterbury Cathedral, while its interiors are adorned with beautiful floral designs on the walls.

This Anglican cathedral of the part of North India is a part of the Anglican Communion of Kolkata, West Bengal.

KAPIL MUNI ASHRAM

Sagar Island, also known as Gangasagar, is a popular destination of Hindu pilgrimage. Every year, on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sakranti, thousands of Hindus congregate to take a holy dip at the confluence of the River Ganges and Bay of Bengal and offer prayers at the Kapil Muni Temple. The Gangasagar Fair, or Mela, is held annually on the southern tip of the island, the place where the Ganges enters the Bay of Bengal.

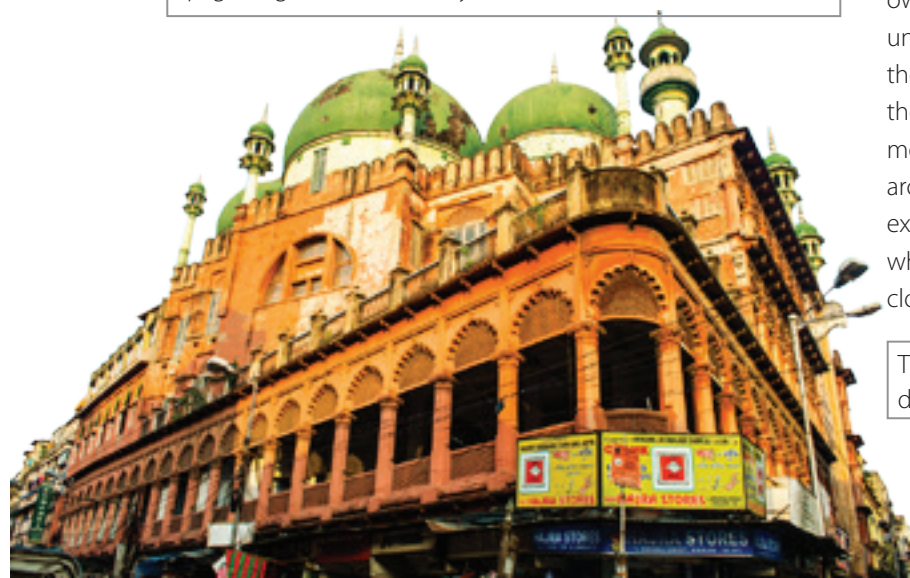
The Gangasagar Mela is the second largest gathering of devotees after the Kumbh Mela. It's commonly believed that taking a pilgrimage to the Gangasagar Mela is equal to taking pilgrimages to several holy destinations.



NAKHODA MOSQUE

Nakhoda Mosque is a grand marvel to set your sights upon owing to its sheer size and the grandeur that it exhibits. Built under the patronage of a Kutch dweller, Abdar Rahim Osman in the year 1926, the mosque draws its architectural inspiration from the structure of Akbar's tomb at Sikandra, which epitomizes the most extensive development and evolvement of Indo-Saracenic architecture. The mosque also houses 25 pillars, each of which extend up to 117ft in length. The inspiration is clearly visible when one glances at the entrance of the mosque which bears a close resemblance to the Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri.

The mosque witnesses the attendance of around 10000 devotees who assemble to perform their daily Namaz, or prayers.





WHERE MAGIC COMES **ALIVE**

Revisit the magic of Mandu and let its mesmerizing beauty transport you back in time

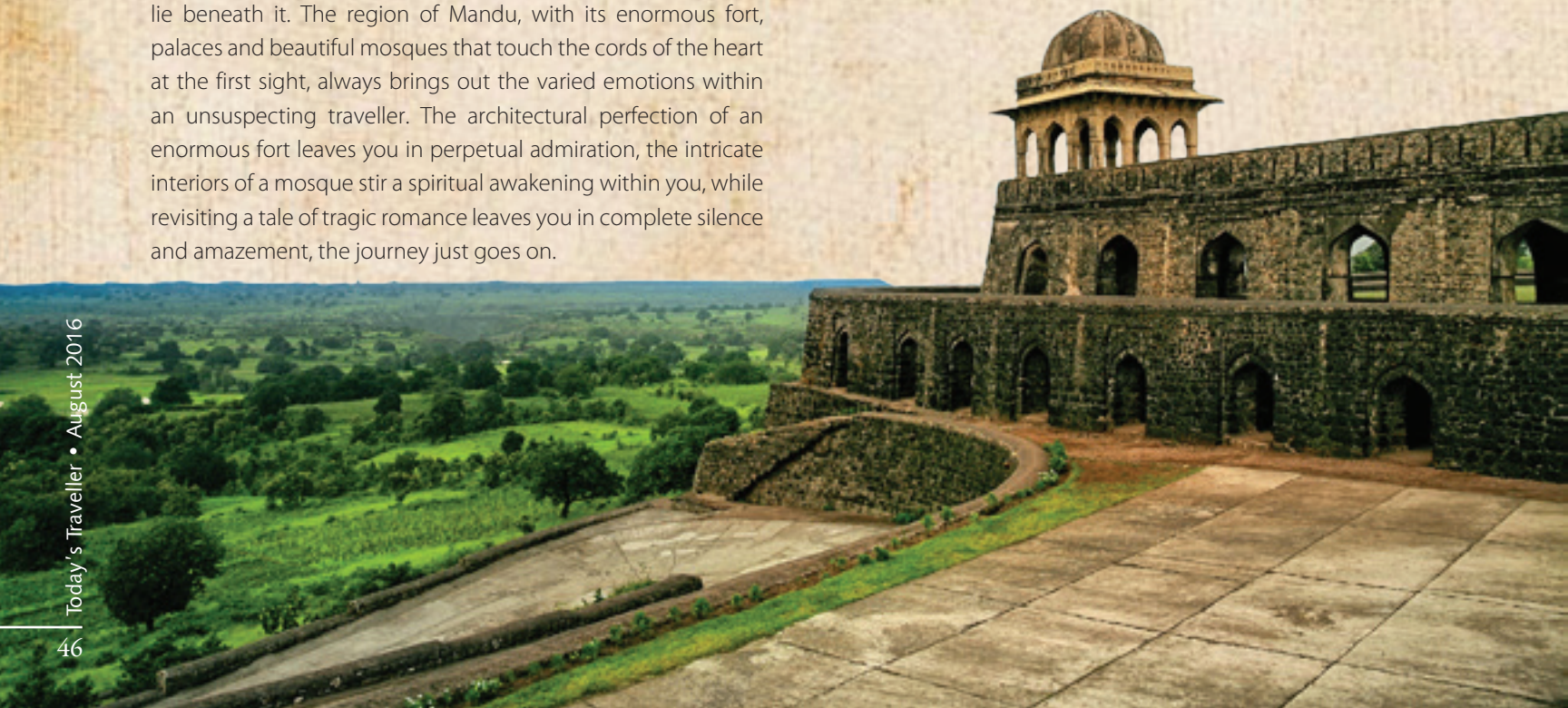
TT BUREAU

Madhya Pradesh is an ancient land which bears the imprints of the first civilisation. Its magic rests quietly in its numerous forts, palaces and other places of heritage, coming to life upon a visit or two to them. One can discover this land in its totality, and yet, never fully uncover the charms that lie beneath it. The region of Mandu, with its enormous fort, palaces and beautiful mosques that touch the cords of the heart at the first sight, always brings out the varied emotions within an unsuspecting traveller. The architectural perfection of an enormous fort leaves you in perpetual admiration, the intricate interiors of a mosque stir a spiritual awakening within you, while revisiting a tale of tragic romance leaves you in complete silence and amazement, the journey just goes on.

ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS

The various empires and dynasties that ruled over Mandu resulted in the creation of some outstanding architectural structures, mostly in the form of forts, palaces and mosques. One such structure that evokes pure awe is the Hindola Palace. Its sheer size does nothing to wean the attention away from the aesthetics that define it. It owes its name to the sloping walls of the audience hall that resemble the trestles of a swing. The various passages located at a lake level were ingeniously aligned to trap the cool winds blowing off a lake, and into a step well, or baoli. It's also referred to as Champa Baoli due to the Champak, or Mangolia like fragrance emanating from it.

Another enchanting piece of architecture is the Jahaz Mahal, named so as it resembles the shape of a majestic ship. It's an incredible piece of architecture with a hint of peculiarity attached to it, with its ground floor consisting of three additional ground floors separated by various corridors, and narrow rooms existing at the far end. This intriguing piece of architecture owes its names to the Afghans who thought it resembled the shape of a ship with two large lakes on either sides of it.



RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Architectural geniuses is a title reserved for the Mughals throughout history, however, one visit to the Jami Masjid reveals that the Afghans too possessed this skill in a great measure. Its overall architecture is inspired by the Great Mosque of Damascus, considered to be one of the holiest of all places.

The initial construction was started by Hoshang-Shah and completed by Mahmood Khilji. The western colonnade or the western hall is an impressive archway with numerous pillars which support the ceilings of the three great domes and the 58 smaller ones. The portion which plays a spiritual tone in your minds and senses is the central niche, or the mihrab, which has been designed to perfection and is adorned along its sides with a scroll of interwoven Arabic letters which contain verses from the Holy Quran.

Hosang Shah's tomb is a pure marble structure which hasn't weathered with time. It acquires gigantic proportions with its roof touching the skies at 100ft, and stretching sideways at 100ft, besides being supported with a terrace that spreads to 6.50ft. Besides, not many people are aware that it's India's first marble monument, which serves as a template to Taj Mahal. This magnificent white mausoleum is accessible from the road that passes both sides to it. The monument reflects a harmonious aura about it, the corridors encircling the grounds have red stone pillars with brackets in Hindu architectural style, a fact which highlights the liberal outlook shared by the then rulers of Mandu.



BALLADS

And of course, which mortal has not come to Mandu and remained unaffected by the romantic saga involving Sultan Baz Bahadur and Rani Roopmati, a story that has been the inspiration of poetry and folklore over the years? Legend has it that the Sultan was love stricken by the heavenly beauty of the Rani, and after a lot of persuasion, brought her to Mandu.

However, unfortunate historical developments brought this blossoming love story to a tragic end.

GETTING THERE

By Road : Mandu is well connected by roads to major parts of India. Dhar, Maheshwar and other towns and cities have frequent buses for Mandu.

By Rail : The nearest railhead is at Ratlam, 124km from Mandu. Ratlam station is an important junction on the Delhi-Mumbai rail route. It is situated 653km from Mumbai Central, 731km from Delhi, 176km from Indore BG. Tourists can disembark at the Ratlam station and avail a bus or taxi to reach the place.

By Air : Mandu is situated in the Dhar district, which is just 98km from the nearest airport, Indore. Pre-paid taxis are available from the airport. The city is also well connected with major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, and Hyderabad.

HONOURING THE BEST



10th Annual Today's Traveller Awards

Vijay Goel, Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, felicitates the winners of the 10th Annual Today's Traveller Awards 2016 at Taj Palace New Delhi

The long anticipated event, the Today's Traveller Awards ceremony and Cover Launch of the Coffee Table Book 2016 Game Changers, was attended by Vijay Goel, Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, who was the Chief Guest for the Cover Launch of the 10th Annual Today's Traveller Coffee Table Book, Game Changers.

The event was presided over by Vinod Duggal, Former Governor of Manipur and Mizoram, Union Home Secretary, Member National Disaster Management Authority who presented the 10th Annual Today's Traveller Awards 2016 at the Taj Palace New Delhi.

Over 300 top-level management professionals from the Travel and Hospitality segment, as well as, heads of the Corporate world attended the grand event.

Chief Guest, Vijay Goel, joined the celebrations and took the stage to personally recognise the felicitated leaders for their achievements. Vijay Goel while congratulating the winners said, "Every award brings both joy and responsibility. The joy of being recognised and the responsibility of setting and maintaining new bench marks."

Today's Traveller Awards, the most respected awards in the travel industry, has always identified and recognised the achievements and accomplishments of progressive companies

and leaders from the industry. The 10th Today's Traveller Awards recognise Game Changers who have changed the rules of the game.

The event was attended by dignitaries like Ashwani Lohani, Chairman and Managing Director, Air India; Vinod Ajmera, IAS, Commissioner Rajasthan Foundation, Department of Industries and Additional Chief of Protocol, Government of Rajasthan; Dr AK Manocha, Chairman and Managing Director, IRCTC; SP Arora, Managing Director, Tourism Finance Corporation of India; Farooq Ahmad Shah





IAS, Secretary & Director General Tourism, Government of Jammu & Kashmir; Nidhi Mani Tripathi IAS, Secretary (Tourism), Government of Manipur; Basanta Rajkumar, Executive Director, Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board; BM Gupta, Executive Director, Tourism Finance Corporation of India; Dr Subhash Goyal, Former President, IATO & Chairman, Stic Travel among many others.

Corporate leaders who attended the event included Sanjay Rishi, President, American Express South Asia; Binoy Jacob, Chairman, Triune Projects Pvt Ltd; Alok Lall, Director, Microsoft India; Rajan Bahadur, Managing Director and CEO, CARE India, and many others.

The event was also privileged to have leading entrepreneurs and leaders from the Hospitality industry, such as, Dr Ramesh Kapur, Chairman and Managing Director, Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi; Ashwini Kakkar, Executive Vice Chairman, Mercury Travels and Chairman Via.com; Rahul Rai, Executive Director, Unique Merchantile India Pvt Ltd; Suresh Kumar, Managing Director - Fortune Park Hotels Limited; Raj Rana, CEO, South Asia at Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group; Sunil Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, WelcomHeritage; Jal Goiporia, Vice President – Development, Rajesh Wadhawan Group (WHPL).

As part of the 19th anniversary celebrations, Today's Traveller Awards Night had the pleasure to



host its first Film Tourism Seminar and was delighted to welcome delegates from the film tourism fraternity for the panel discussion. To grace the event we had, Tanuj Garg, Founder and Managing Director, Ellipsis Entertainment; Aashish Singh, Vice President – Production, Yash Raj Films; Marijke deSouza, Executive Producer, Dharma Productions and Yogendra Mogre, Head of Production, The Walt Disney Company India.

The event was partnered and supported by Film Tourism Seminar Partner and Gold Partner IRCTC; Gold Partner Arunachal Pradesh Tourism, Film Tourism Seminar Partner Gujarat Tourism; Charity Partner CARE India; Health Care Partner Apollo Hospitals; Hospitality Partner Taj Palace New Delhi and Tourism Finance Corporation of India (TFCI).





TODAY'S TRAVELLER

FILM TOURISM SEMINAR



Gold Partner



Gold Partner



Film Tourism
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Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd.



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HON'BLE MINISTER VIJAY GOEL SPEAKS ABOUT BEING A GAME CHANGER IN HERITAGE AS WELL AS IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS



“

I would like to define myself as a game changer, perhaps not in politics, but most definitely in the heritage sector. Before I introduced new elements to recreate the old charm and culture of Chandni Chowk, it was an area that was largely ignored by the people. I have endeavoured to restore a haveli to its original splendour, which was quite a Herculean task, since it was in a dilapidated condition for a long time. I am happy to say that it is now a symbol of pride for the residents of Chandni Chowk.

If someone were to ask me what is closest to my heart, I would say that India's heritage occupies that special place, because I love my country, and I am entirely devoted to it, heart and soul. Some people were, and are, still sceptical and amazed at the seemingly impossible and incredible renovation that the haveli has undergone. Both my daughter and I have contributed enormously to the restoration of the haveli. Finally, after six years, through our cumulative efforts, the building has finally been restored to its original glory.

In our country, we need to encourage the development of sectors like heritage, travelling and tourism. Similarly, it is imperative to encourage the development of sports. In the present Olympics 2016 at Rio, our country has sent its largest ever contingent, which consists of 119 athletes. Recently, we organised a run called 'Run For Rio, Khelo Aur Jio.' As a first step towards achieving this transformation, we involved 30,000 people who participated in the event.

Our aim is to explore newer avenues of doing things. It is this vision that guides the government of today, and this is what our PM actively encourages. We are therefore looking to bring about an enormous change in the way the Olympics are viewed in the country, for ways and means to bring about a greater participation of the people with the Olympics. This is our strategy - we have inaugurated an exhibition of Olympic Games in Central Park on the August 5. A giant screen has been installed, which will enable people to watch the Games all day. In a similar attempt, we have inaugurated a Wall of Wishes at India Gate where people can express their support for the athletes participating in the Olympics. We have set two agendas before us, one of them is achieving excellence in sports and the other is promoting and encouraging the Olympics.

With a view to promoting heritage, we conducted a festival



called Chaudhavi Ka Chand. The event witnessed the participation of about 5 lakh people.

On this occasion, I wish to congratulate Kewal and Kamal Gill for hosting this beautiful event, and at the same time, I also wish to congratulate the award winners. Winning an award in one's lifetime is very significant, since it acts like a motivation for setting higher goals and higher standards, and constantly endeavouring to achieve them.

I remember when I was elected as a Member of Parliament for the first time, I was garlanded heavily by my supporters and well-wishers. Turning towards my neighbour, I asked him to take a look at the garlands that I had been honoured with. In what I thought was a witty reply, he suggested that I view them less as decorations and accomplishments, and more as responsibilities that I had to fulfil in the future. The same thing could be said for awards, that they increase one's responsibilities manifold, yet at the same time, one must prove oneself capable of deserving them.

We must always keep reminding ourselves of the reason the awards have been given. I congratulate the recipients of the awards once again. I've got great plans set up for the future as far as the development of heritage is concerned.

So there is a lot of potential when it comes to showcasing the heritage of this country and promoting it in a way that earns one a substantial amount of revenue. The encouragement of heritage as a factor will greatly enhance the tourism industry as a whole. Our PM is a great visionary and is always welcoming new ideas, if anyone of you may have a new idea or a new concept which would like to share, please share it with the PM. I once again thank everyone and congratulate everybody.

”

HON'BLE MINISTER VIJAY GOEL FELICITATES THE AWARDEES



VK DUGGAL, FORMER GOVERNOR, MANIPUR & MIZORAM GIVES AWAY THE TODAY'S TRAVELLER AWARDS 2016



Microsoft India
Game Changer in the Technology Industry
Received by **Alok Lal, Director Productivity Business Group,**
Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt Ltd



Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd
Best Organisation for Financial Support to Tourism Industry
Received by **SP Arora, Managing Director;**
BM Gupta, Executive Director



American Express India
Excellence in Customer Experience
Received by **Sanjay R Rishi, President – South Asia**



Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC)
Best Public Sector Company for Consumer-friendly Initiatives
Received by **Dr Arun Kumar Manocha, Chairman & MD**



Apollo Hospitals
Best Multi-Speciality Hospital Chain
Received by **Rajiv Misra, Group Chief Marketing Officer**



Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group
Fastest Growing Hotel Chain
Received by **Raj Rana, CEO, South Asia**



Fortune Park Hotels Ltd
Best First Class Business Hotel Chain
Received by **Suresh Kumar, Managing Director**



Manipur Tourism
Best State for Promoting Niche Tourism – Polo Tourism
Received by **Nidhi Mani Tripathi, IAS, Secretary (Tourism), Govt of Manipur**



Jammu & Kashmir Tourism

Best MICE & Golfing Destination

Received by **Farooq Ahmad Shah IAS, Secretary & Director General, Tourism, J&K;** **Sushma Chauhan IAS, Director Tourism, Jammu**



Arunachal Pradesh Tourism

Best Adventure Tourism Destination

Received by **Jigmi Choden, Additional Resident Commissioner;** **Adong Moyong, Resident Tourism Officer, Arunachal Pradesh**



West Bengal Tourism

Best State for Experiential Travel

Received by **Prasenjit Das, Deputy Resident Commissioner;** **Rajdeep Datta, Liaison Officer, Govt of West Bengal**



Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board

Best Heritage Tourism Destination

Received by **Basanta Rajkumar IFS, Executive Director;** **Anmol Nidhi, Deputy Manager Marketing**



WelcomHeritage

Best Heritage Hotel Chain

Received by **Sunil Gupta, CEO;** **Sunil Sikka, Head – Marketing & Business Development**



Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi

Best Business Hotel in Delhi

Received by **Vishvapreet Singh Cheema, General Manager;** **Aditya Singh, Director Sales and Marketing**



Starwood Hotels & Resorts India & South Asia

Best Hotel Global Sales & Marketing Organization

Received by **Dhananjay Saliankar, Regional Director – Sales and Marketing & Starwood Sales Organisation**



Mercury Travels Ltd

Best Travel Company for Customer Satisfaction

Received by **Ashwini Kakkar, Executive Vice Chairman Mercury Travels and Chairman Via.com**



TRAC Representations (India) Pvt Ltd
Best Company for International Tourism Representation in India
Received by **Rajeev Nangia, Chief Operating Officer**



Leisure Corp Pvt Ltd
Best Meetings & Incentives Tour Operator
Received by **Naveen Kundu, Group Managing Director**



Travstarz Holiday & Destinations Pvt Ltd
Best Global Hotels Consolidator
Received by **Pankaj Nagpal, Managing Director;**
Sucheta Nagpal, Director & Chief Executive Officer



The Westin Gurgaon
Best Luxury Business Hotel in Gurgaon
Received by **Sanjay Sharma, Area GM, India,**
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Pvt Ltd



Abercrombie & Kent Vacations
Best Outbound Tour Operator
Received by **Iyishha Jubbal, GM Marketing & Product Development**



South African Tourism
Best Adventure Tourism Destination
Received by **Hanneli Slabber, Country Manager**



InterGlobe Technology Quotient (ITQ)
Best Technology Solution Provider
Received by **Sandeep Dwivedi, Chief Commercial Officer**



Le Méridien Dhaka
Best International Business Hotel in Bangladesh
Received by **Ashwani Nayar, General Manager**



Howard Johnson Bengaluru Hebbal
 Best Business Hotel in Bengaluru
 Received by **Rahul Rai, ED, Unique Mercantile India Pvt Ltd**
Rishi Neoge, GM, Howard Johnson Bengaluru Hebbal



Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore
 Best New Five Star Hotel in Mysore
 Received by **Jal Goiporia, VP- Development, Rajesh Wadhawan Group;**
Pankaj Saxena, GM, Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore



Preferred Hotels & Resorts
 Best Independent Hotel Chain
 Received by **Seema Roy, Director, Marketing, ASPAC**



Radisson Udaipur
 Best Business Hotel in Udaipur
 Received by **Richard Barooah, General Manager**



The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi
 Best 5 star Luxury Convention Hotel in Delhi NCR
 Received by **Jaideep Anand, General Manager**



The Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore
 Best Luxury Business Hotel in Bangalore
 Received by **Nikhil Nair, Marketing & Communications**



Carnoustie Ayurveda & Wellness Resort
 Best Wellness Spa
 Received by **Urvashi Mehta, GM- Sales & Marketing**



Radisson Blu Kochi
 Best Business Hotel in Kochi
 Received by **Mahadevan K., General Manager**



Hyatt Regency Chandigarh
Best 5 Star Hotel in Chandigarh
Received by **Puneet Baijal, General Manager**



Planet Hollywood Beach Resort
Best 5 Star Beach & Meetings Resort in Goa
Received by **Anand Chatterjee, General Manager**



Effotel by Sayaji
Best First Class Business Hotel in Indore
Received by **Kunal Katoch, GM, Effotel Indore;**
Amitabh Ranjan, GM - Sales, Sayaji Hotels Ltd

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



What: Electric Picnic
When: 2 September 2016
Where: Stradbally, Ireland

It's that time of the year when everything in Ireland appears fresh and crisp, the overhead sun freshening the environs. What draws people to this festival in great numbers is the comfortable ambience that it provides. The artists may not be the ones grabbing the headlines regularly, but their numbers are electric enough to get youshoe stepping. Last year, the event saw several big names attending the event, such as, Björk, Arctic Monkeys and Fatboy Slim. Some awe inspiring graffiti, performance art and the various impressive installations, there is a lot to be seen, heard and felt.



What: Telluride Film Festival
When: 2 September, 2016
Where: Colorado, United States

The Telluride Film Festival lets you immerse in its all absorbing spirit, thus living up to its reputation of being the "Festival Capital of the Southwest", primarily for the abundance of festivals that it is witness to the year round, and also the perfect ambience that it creates for those festivals. This festival is unique in that it sets apart all the glamour, and focuses on the pure art of storytelling. Symposium panels, restored classics, tributes to legends, and celebrated authors attending book signings, you will find it all here.



What: Scottish Highland Games
When: 3 September, 2016
Where: Braemar, Scotland

Every major Scottish city witnesses the Highland Games, the one in Braemar that is celebrated the most, due to the fact that it is attended by the English Royal Family. There are events that showcase one's physical prowess, events like, hurling giant logs, tug of war and caber-tossing. Apart from that, the legendary dance competition, one of which is the Sword Dance of Gille Calum, remains a favourite. Pipe bands and solo pipes competitions complete the celebrations surrounding the event.

What: Regata Storica
When: 4 September, 2016
Where: Venice, Italy

It's considered to be Venice's most important boating event, where elaborately designed gondolas dating back to the 16th century make their way through the Grand Canal, rowed enthusiastically by delightful gondoliers. It's the event where romance meets merry making. The onlookers vigorously cheer for their favourite gondoliers; however, the moment that takes it all is the time when the rowers round the paletto, decide the next winner to be.



What: Onam
When: 13 September, 2016
Where: Thiruvananthapuram, India

Onam is a harvest festival that also celebrates the onset of the New Year according to the Malayalam calendar. With the sunny weather in the background, various competitions, songs, folk art and the ever popular Pulikali, where people are dressed as tigers, are held with much fanfare and gusto. The origin of this festival lies in the belief that King Maveli, who had ushered in an era of prosperity, makes his return during Onam to shower his divine blessings upon the community.

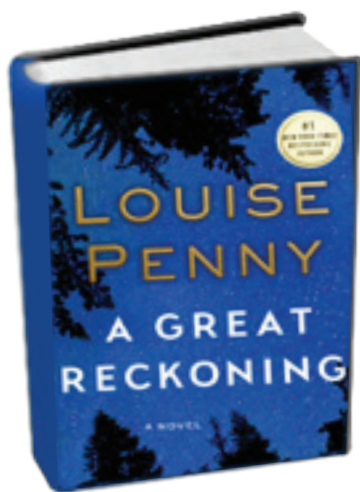


What: London Design Festival
When: 17 September, 2016
Where: London, England

Held over a period of nine days, spread over many cultural avenues, public spaces and business establishments, the London Design Festival witnesses an attendance over 2,00,000. Landmark Projects, which are basically large scale installations, placed in public areas, outside museums or public squares. Tourist hotspots like The Victoria and Albert Museum, Trafalgar Square and the Tate Modern witness several events.

PICK OF THE MONTH

Entertain yourself through this month with the latest collection of books, games, audio CD's and DVD's



BOOK: A GREAT RECKONING

New York Times bestselling author Louise Penny's latest novel gradually reveals the carefully layered structure of an intriguing storyline. An intricate old map, which is found stuffed in the walls of the bistro in the Three Pines, a few eyebrows are raised. However, the situations threaten to take a darker turn when Armand Gamache, the owner of the map, comes across startling secrets contained in it. A

murdered professor, a dubious relationship with Amelia Choquet, one of the cadets and a round of suspects waiting to be interrogated for their possible involvement, this one is a page turner to look forward to.

Genre(s) : Drama, Suspense

MUSIC: EGOMANIAC

The white South African Sixties rocker John Kongos had four sons, and all of them eventually moved to Phoenix. But, in doing so, they brought over with them the cultural influence of Africa, and this is reflected in their latest album, Kongos. The tradition of the south African jibe that inspired Paul Simon's Graceland is reflected in the accordion of Johnny. Jesse's guitar follows the bluesy West African curlicues, Daniel pounding away on the drums looks similar to the Burundi drummers who once influenced Adam Ant, and Dylan's slide guitar betrays a strong indication of Americana.

Genre(s) : Alternative Rock, Hard Rock



DVD: THE PHENOM

There have been many baseball movies, and many stereotypes associated with them, but none like The Phenom. A young man struggles to find his focus back and develop into the athlete that he was meant to be. However, the main focus of the movie is on tapping into the psychological trait of the main protagonist rather than exhibiting his sporting talents.

Johnnie Simmons plays a praiseworthy role for his performance as Hopper Gibson, aka, The Phenom. With his father, Hopper the Senior in the picture, back after a jail stint, his life takes a turn for the worse when he faces a task of overcoming major obstacles.

Genre(s) : Drama Film, Sport



GAME: DEUS EX : MANKIND DIVIDED

The setting for the game Mankind Divided takes place two years after the end of the Human Revolution. It's a world where mechanically augmented people are branded as terrorists, and are condemned to live a life in the ghettos under complete exclusion. Adam finds himself working for the Interpol, after having left Serif industries, his new job now entails racing and preventing terrorist attacks. The game player allows players to focus on their own play style, including lethal, non-lethal, hacking and social manipulation sequences. Players who are well acquainted with the weapons featured in Human Revolution will find themselves at home here, as most of the weapons make reappearance here.

Genre (s) : Role Playing

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