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CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2018 | ₹50

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LIVING LEGEND

PR S OBEROI RECEIVES TOP HONOUR

At a glittering event, leading Pusa alumni congregated to celebrate, network and facilitate hospitality veteran PRS Oberoi

TT BUREAU

Doyen of Indian hospitality and industry legend, Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi, Executive Chairman, Oberoi Group, was conferred with the 'Legend of the Industry' award by the Pusa Institute Hotel Management Alumni Association (PIHMAA), in what was a memorable award ceremony, at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi. Exuding an innate elegance, 'Mr Hospitality,' as he has often been referenced, lent a touch of grandeur to the event with his impressive persona.

The quintessential hotelier was presented the 'Legend of Industry Award' for his lifetime pursuit of excellence, developing Oberoi Hotels and Resorts as a leader in global luxury hospitality, setting international benchmarks and enhancing India as a travel destination on the world map. The award was presented by K B Kachru, Chairman, PIHMAA, and Mandeep S Lamba, President, PIHMAA, at the Institute's Annual Conclave & Exchange - PACE 2018.

Having given the service industry his lifeblood for over 50 years, it was time for Oberoi to be at the receiving end of that hospitality. And, he may not have been disappointed, as the third edition of PACE was attended by alumni across graduating batches from 1965 to 2018, and saw the coming together of several of the Hospitality Industry's most distinguished leaders from across the globe.

The Oberoi brand has come to represent fine luxury hotels, thanks to the hotel baron's painstaking efforts. Senior alumni Kachru reiterated this at the forum when he said, "I truly believe that his contribution goes beyond building a world-class Hospitality Industry for this country as he has also set an admirable example for the entire world to follow. I am delighted to see our numerous Pusa alumni working with leading hospitality companies in various leadership roles and successful entrepreneurial ventures today, which is a testimony to the tremendous success of this institute and the influence of our alumni across the world," added Kachru.



Mandeep Lamba, instrumental in organising the event, shared, "I am grateful to everyone for attending PACE year-on-year and making it a success. PIHMAA has helped grow the equity of IHM Pusa and the camaraderie between alumni across all age groups and seniority levels."

PIHMAA Hall of Fame awards were bestowed upon Celebrity Chefs Manjit S Gill (ITC Hotels), Hemant Oberoi (Ex Taj) and Sudhir Sibal (Ex ITDC), besides industry veterans Pramod Mathur (Ex Leela Hotels & ITDC), N S Bhuie (National Council for Hotel Management), M S Manchanda (Ex ITDC) and Rajiv Makin (Ex ITDC).

PIHMAA Student Of The Year award was presented by Kamal Pant, Principal, IHM Pusa, to Urvi Sharma, Final Year student, IHM Pusa, who made the winning presentation on the subject, "How will hotels, especially in the Indian context, need to adapt to the rapidly changing work place for attracting and retaining Gen Y & Gen Z?"

The evening also witnessed a book launch of 'The Art of Plating,' authored by Anil Bhandari, former Chairman ITDC, and an alumnus from the class of 1966. The list of alumni present at PACE 2018 included dignitaries like Puneet Chhatwal, MD & CEO, IHCL (Taj Hotels); Raj Menon, Chief Operating Officer – Asia Pacific (Other than Greater China), Marriott Hotels; Padma Shri Awardee Chef Sanjeev Kapoor; Kapil Chopra, former President, Oberoi Group & Chairman, EasyDiner; Sanjay Sethi, CEO, Chalet Hotels and Charu Thapar, Head Strategy & Platform Asia Pacific, Property Asset Management, JLL, to name a few.

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KAMAL GILL

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MANAGER - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
PRAKHAR BHARDWAJ

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For correspondence and advertising:
504, 5th Floor, Sheetla House
Building No. 73-74, Nehru Place,
New Delhi - 110019
Tel: 011 41029079, 41029979
Email: publications@gillindia.com

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RAISE A TOAST TO LE MERIDIEN GOA CALANGUTE TURNING ONE!



Le Meridien Goa, Calangute, a chic property located on the bustling Calangute–Candolim road in North Goa, recently celebrated its first anniversary. With its family-friendly vibe and close proximity to major tourist attractions, popular beaches, shopping and entertainment arcades, the hotel has become a favourite among travellers seeking unique and authentic experiences.

Achieving a year of success, Le Meridien Goa, Calangute, is a recipient of three prestigious national and international awards.

With a unique design story, the hotel awakens the senses to the sights, sounds and aromas that are inherently local. It undoubtedly resonates with all things Goan through its ambience, and echoes the brand's promise of 'destination unlocked.' Its carefully curated local experiences and engaging brand programmes make Le Meridien Goa, Calangute, a perfect getaway this season.

YET ANOTHER LAUREL FOR GOA TOURISM AT THE NATIONAL TOURISM AWARDS



Goa achieved yet another milestone at the recently concluded National Tourism Awards (NTA) held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, by bagging the prestigious National Tourism Award in the category of Comprehensive Development of Tourism (Rest of India) for the year 2016-17.

The award was presented by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Tourism, KJ Alphons, and was received by the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, Manohar Ajaonkar, along with Managing Director of GTDC, Nikhil Desai, in the distinguished presence of Rashmi Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India.

On receiving the award, the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Manohar Ajaonkar, said, "It is truly an honour for Goa to receive such a prestigious award for the second year, especially in the area of Comprehensive Development of Tourism." He added, "I thank each and every tourism stakeholder who has contributed towards helping Goa Tourism achieve this milestone."

SOUTH INDIA'S OLDEST HOTEL REOPENS IN CHENNAI

Taj Connemara Chennai recently reopened after undergoing a year-long extensive renovation and redesign. Dating back to 1854, the hotel's legendary history has been brought to life with fresh and modern sensibilities. Over a century old, the Taj Connemara is a proud relic of the colonial era and is named after Lord Connemara, the then Governor of Madras.

Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO at IHCL, said, "Taj Connemara is another jewel in the Taj portfolio of iconic heritage hotels. We are committed to continuing our century-old legacy of restoring historical treasures across the globe for our guests. The newly renovated Taj Connemara draws on the hotel's illustrious past whilst offering patrons a distinctive, modern and individualistic experience. We are happy to announce that Taj Connemara will resume its place in the cultural heart of Chennai."



FORTUNE HOTELS NOW OPEN IN DURGAPUR

Fortune Hotels has flagged off its first hotel in the Steel City of Durgapur. Marking this celebration, the chain's senior leadership team, including Samir MC, Managing Director, was present at the ceremony. The hotel aesthetics feature various locally sourced artefacts and wall art to offer tribute to the culture of West Bengal. The hotel is easily accessible from Durgapur Airport, Railway Station and the Junction Mall.

Fortune Park Pushpanjali offers 89 contemporary guest rooms with full services and amenities, a multi-cuisine restaurant, an in-house patisserie and a well-stocked bar and lounge. Commenting on the launch, Samir MC, Managing Director, Fortune Park Hotels Ltd, said, "After Haridwar and Vellore, we are delighted to announce our brand new hotel, Fortune Park Pushpanjali, in the steel city of Durgapur." He added, "We are confident that the hotel will see great success and offer best-in-class guest experience to the travellers visiting the city."



SOAK UP THE MUSICAL ROOTS OF RAJASTHAN



This October, make your way to the blue city of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, to experience the 11th edition of Jodhpur RIFF – Rajasthan International Folk Festival. Music lovers will be mesmerised by this UNESCO endorsed annual music festival, which was set up by HH Maharaja Gaj Singh ji II of Jodhpur to revive the ancient musical traditions of Rajasthan.

Timed to coincide with 'Sharad Purnima,' the brightest full moon of the year in North India, Jodhpur RIFF attracts more than 250 musicians, international percussionists and performing artists from across Rajasthan and the world. Each year, they come together to perform and celebrate their musical heritage all within the magnificent setting of the 15th-century Mehrangarh Fort. Experience the confluence of folk and world music at the Jodhpur RIFF from 24-28 October, 2018.

ITC ACQUIRES PARK HYATT GOA RESORT AND SPA

ITC Hotels recently announced the successful acquisition of Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa. The acquisition is a part of an auction held by Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) for Rs 541 crore in 2015.

The luxurious Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa at Cansaulim, spread across 45 acres, is a beachside plush property comprising 252 charming Indo-Portuguese style rooms and suites and is currently under renovation and will soon echo ITC's standards of excellence. The sprawling property is currently under minor renovation to comply with all the ITC's exemplary sustainability practices to deliver the best of luxury to its customers.

Commenting on the chain's entry into Goa, Nakul Anand, Executive Director, ITC, said, "ITC is pleased to announce the latest addition to its luxury hotel portfolio in the hospitality landscape of Goa. This has been a long-awaited destination for ITC and we welcome the opportunity to be integrated into the multi-faceted culture and ethos of Goa."



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21 GUN SALUTE HERITAGE & CULTURAL TRUST BAGS NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD

The 21 Gun Salute Heritage & Cultural Trust won the accolade of being the 'Most Innovative & Unique Tourism Product' for the 21 Gun Salute Vintage Car Rally at the National Tourism Awards (2016-2017), which was organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, on the occasion of World Tourism Day, at The Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. KJ Alphons, Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism, Government of India, and Rashmi Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, presented the award to Madan Mohan – Founder & Managing Trustee, 21 Gun Salute Heritage & Cultural Trust.

"The very fact that the 21 Gun Salute Concours Show succinctly communicates the unique combination of heritage and motoring makes it a deserving winner, and we are delighted that the event has been acknowledged and rewarded for its successful contribution as the most innovative and unique tourism product," said Mohan.

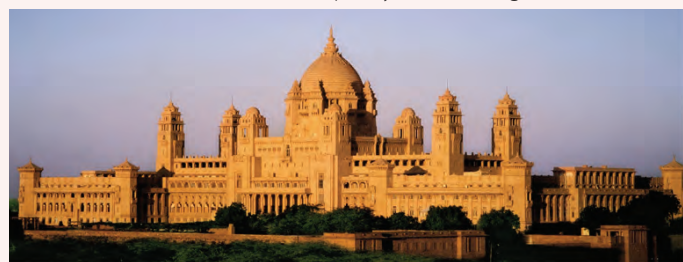


CELEBRATING THE ICONIC ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS OF TAJ

This World Architecture Day, Taj – long heralded as a custodian of Indian heritage – celebrated its rich legacy of restoring India's Royal Palaces. The meticulous restoration and revival of the Palaces reflect the bygone era of distinctive architectural styles from India's glorious past.

The 115-year-old Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, is the only trademarked building in India. The distinctive red-tiled Florentine Gothic dome, which crowns the elegant Indo-Saracenic arches and architraves of the hotel, sits 240ft. above street level and is the defining feature of Mumbai's skyline. The Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur is a four-acre marble vision rising ethereally from the serene waters of Lake Pichola. In the Blue city of Jodhpur, the imposing Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur, is a magnificent Art Deco golden sandstone Palace, which opened its doors in 1942 as the sixth largest private residence in the world. Yet another example of a sensitive restoration by the Taj is the erstwhile home of the Nizam of Hyderabad, Taj Falaknuma Palace. Offering spectacular views of the city, the 18th-century Palace was lovingly restored over a period of ten years.

Taj's latest architectural wonder is Chennai's only heritage hotel, the much-loved Taj Connemara. The hotel reopened its doors after a year-long restoration and redesign, enhancing its rich eclectic architectural influencers with a timeless contemporary interior design.



ITDC INKS MOU WITH MOROCCO FOR STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN TOURISM SECTOR



ITDC under the aegis of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, recently signed a MoU with Moroccan Agency for Tourism Development (SMIT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Kingdom of Morocco, for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism.

The MoU was signed in the presence of KJ Alphons, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Government of India; Mohammed Sajid, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy, Government of the Kingdom of Morocco; Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson & Managing Director (C&MD), ITDC; and Imad Barrakad, Chairman and CEO, SMIT, at The Ashok, a flagship property of ITDC; Rashmi Verma, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Tourism, also graced the occasion, among other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson and Managing Director (C&MD), ITDC, said, "Signing of the MoU is an acknowledgement of the capabilities and core competency of ITDC and the important role it has played in the development of tourism and related infrastructure in the country."

PARK INN BY RADISSON TO DEBUT IN PHUKET TOWN IN EARLY 2020



Park Inn® by Radisson, the upper midscale brand from Radisson Hotel Group™, will make its debut in Thailand with the launch of a brand new hotel in Phuket Town, the island's provincial capital and cultural heart. Scheduled to open in Q1 2020, the three-story Park Inn by Radisson Phuket Town will form part of a mixed-use development, featuring shops and dining outlets.

"Park Inn by Radisson is an exceptional brand that promises world-class hospitality in the upper midscale segment. That makes the brand a perfect fit for Phuket, which is rapidly evolving from an upscale resort island into a diverse, all-year-round tourism destination. Park Inn by Radisson Phuket Town will provide a great option for guests seeking high levels of convenience and connectivity," said Katerina Giannouka, President, Asia Pacific, Radisson Hotel Group.

Park Inn by Radisson Phuket Town will feature at least 130 contemporary rooms, a restaurant and a fitness centre. Park Inn by Radisson Phuket Town becomes the brand's fourth location in Southeast Asia.

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Mahabalipuram is also known as Mamallapuram, built near the sea shore. It is been named after the Pallava King Mamalla. It has various historic monuments built largely between 7th & 9th Century, and has been identified by UNESCO World Heritage site.

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MINISTRY OF TOURISM AWARDS JAYPEE GREENS GOLF COURSE 'BEST TOURISM FRIENDLY GOLF COURSE'



Jaypee Greens Golf Course has been awarded as the 'Best Tourism Friendly Golf Course' for the fourth time at the prestigious National Tourism Awards 2016–2017 ceremony hosted by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

The ceremony was held in the esteemed presence of KJ Alphons, Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism, Government of India, as the chief guest. The event was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, and saw the presence of stalwarts from the Hospitality and Tourism industry.

Manju Sharma, Managing Director, Jaypee Hotels and Resorts, said, "We are humbled and honoured to be recognised as the Best Tourism Friendly Golf Course in India. We thank all our patrons who have helped us achieve this milestone, and we wish to continue adding value to the Hospitality and Tourism industry in India. We at Jaypee Hotels and Resorts strongly echo Atithi Devo Bhava and aspire to continue to welcome and serve guests from all over the world."

IHCL EXPANDS ITS PRESENCE IN DUBAI

IHCL recently announced the signing of a new Taj hotel at the Deira Creek in Dubai, in partnership with Ithra Dubai LLC. The new Taj hotel is a greenfield project slated to open in early 2022, conveniently positioned 15 minutes from Dubai International Airport. An urban oasis, the hotel will have approximately 200 spacious rooms and suites with a selection of rooms cantilevered over the water, with scenic waterfront views. The hotel will include all-day dining and specialty restaurants, a bar and lounge, banqueting facilities and a spa.

Commenting on the signing of this agreement, Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO at IHCL, said, "The Middle East is a significant market for IHCL. We are honoured to partner with Ithra Dubai for this new hotel in Deira – the historical and cultural centre of Dubai. IHCL has a long tradition of managing marquee hotels with rich heritage links across the world."



ABU DHABI RANKED AS THE SAFEST CITY IN 2018

Surpassing more than 300 cities across the world, the UAE's capital has once again topped the list as the most secure city in the world. The index ranked 338 cities globally and is an estimation of overall safety levels in any given city or a country.

HE Saif Saeed Ghobash, Undersecretary, at the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, said, "Safety is paramount when choosing a city to visit or live and work in, and we are proud to be on the top of the list for the second year running. Our capital's strong reputation for safety and a virtually crime-free society is a testament to the ongoing efforts to establish the Emirate as a destination of distinction with international standards of safety. And we hope that adds to all visitors and residents of Abu Dhabi enjoying their time and making the most of our renowned Emirati hospitality."



GRAND CELEBRATIONS MARK WORLD TOURISM DAY 2018 IN GOA



Goa Tourism recently organised a spectacular show on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2018, by organising a variety of programmes and activities throughout the day, both in North and South Goa.

All through the day, school and college students participated in competitions in elocution, quiz and posters in North Goa and South Goa. A colourful cultural programme was organised comprising Goan folk dances and the children participated in the song and dance sessions.

Goa Tourism and India Tourism officials welcomed tourists with flowers and sweets at the Goa Airport, Dabolim, and at the KRC Station in Margao. Similarly, World Tourism Day was also celebrated at all GTDC Residencies. The staff of Goa Tourism, both in North and South Goa, also celebrated the occasion in their respective zones and in keeping with the theme of Tourism and Digital Transformation. A three-day "Tourism Expo", at Goa Science Centre & Planetarium, Miramar, was also inaugurated.



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EVENT

MONACO YACHT SHOW

Monaco Yacht Show presents an incredible spectacle to experience luxe yachting at close hand

TT BUREAU

Monaco Yacht Show (MYS) is a premiere luxury event held every year to discover the greatest aspects of superyachting, against the glamorous backdrop of Monaco. The incredible spectacle is dedicated to luxe yachting and represents the pinnacle of luxury. The 28th edition of MYS was recently organised at the iconic Port Hercules in the Principality of Monaco and was a resounding success for the organisers. The 2018 edition yet again saw an incredible fleet that took to Monaco's seas in a unique exhibition that plunges visitors into a world of floating palaces and majestic sail boats, decked out in meticulous attention to detail, finesse and elegance.

This year's show brought some of the world's leading yacht manufacturers and brokers to attend this exclusive launch of exceptional boats, discover architectural excellence and explore innovative facilities, where ingenuity and high-end yachting met.

Hundreds of the world's most extraordinary superyachts were on display to the delight of tourists, boat aficionados and industry experts alike. Every year, 120+ extraordinary one-off superyachts are on display, of which 40 new launches are unveiled in a worldwide debut. The MYS 2018 involved the Upper Deck Lounge, Car Deck, Captains & Crew Lounge and Starboard that offered food, a Champagne bar and private meeting rooms with representatives from parallel industries like luxury car companies, private jet companies and super toys for yacht owners. The unique experiences and top-of-the-range sailing got guests to celebrate the quintessence of the superyacht lifestyle.



The wide range of Michelin-starred restaurants provides for an exceptional welcome in the Principality's palatial hotels and terraces. Over the four days of the event, Port Hercules was not just the only location to host a slice of action, but all of the Monte Carlo's establishments added to the experience.

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APPOINTMENTS



Alok Chakravarty, who brings in a rich experience of 22 years, has been appointed as the Director of Sales & Marketing (DOSM) at The Leela Ambience Gurugram Hotel & Residences. With over 17 years of acumen of sales and management, Chakravarty has previously worked as the Director of Sales at the The Leela Palace, New Delhi. Prior to this, he has worked with The Oberoi Group, Intercontinental Hotel Group and Carlson Hotel. His last assignment was with Shangri-La's Eros New Delhi as the DOSM.



Bikash Gautam has been designated as the Director of Sales at Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Road. With over 8 years of sales and marketing experience in the Hospitality industry, Gautam believes in possessing a deeper understanding of the brand. Prior to this, he was DOSM at Novotel Guwahati GS Road. In his new role, Gautam will be leading the management staff in planning and strategising for sales objectives, marketing communications and direct sales force activities to increase profits and accomplish targets. Gautam began his career with ITC Fortune Hotels, Pune, as Assistant Sales Manager. Earlier, he was with Courtyard by Marriott Pune City Centre and Courtyard by Marriott, Ahmedabad.



Varun Sahani has been appointed as the Vice President Operations at the Kamat Group of Hotels. Sahani has over two decades of pivotal experience in the realm of Hospitality operations and sales. Prior to this, Sahani joined The Orchid Mumbai as its General Manager. He has held senior level positions with The Lalit, Clarks Inn and Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort. In his new role, Sahani will spearhead the operations, marketing and sales, revenue management and strategic growth initiatives of the The Orchid Mumbai. He has an excellent track record of pre-opening and establishing operations.



Radhika Dewan has been appointed as the Director of Sales for Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway. Dewan comes with over 10 years of experience in sales and marketing domain. Prior to this, Dewan held the position of Director of Sales at Fairfield by Marriott Rajajinagar. Subsequently, she was associated with other Marriott and Accor properties. Throughout her career, she has been involved in various stages right from the pre-opening, during the launch and post-launch of JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity, Grand Mercure Goa Shrem Resort and Novotel Goa Shrem Resort.

BRAND USA ORGANISES INDIA TRAVEL MISSION FOR THE SEVENTH YEAR IN A ROW



Brand USA, the destination marketing organisation for the United States, recently concluded its seventh annual India Travel Mission. This year's mission was the largest to date with 64 delegates from 42 U.S. tourism organisations participating. The delegation included representatives from tourism boards, hotels, receptive operators, tourist attractions, and other services. Delegates visited Bengaluru, Mumbai, and New Delhi, and received an overwhelming response from the Indian travel trade with more than 830 people in attendance.

The 7-day India Travel Mission included B2B sessions, panel discussions, and networking dinners that provided the opportunity for visiting U.S. delegates to closely interact with Indian business partners. One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders allowed both sides to renew or forge new business relationships through interactive dialogue. Indian attendees also enhanced their knowledge of U.S. products and destinations, as delegates comprehensively updated travel professionals on the unique tourism infrastructure and possibilities available in the U.S.

Christopher L. Thompson, President and CEO, Brand USA, said, "We are delighted to announce that visitation by Indian travellers to the United States has been growing consistently year-on-year. With 1.29 million visitors in 2017, India was the 11th highest ranked country by arrival numbers and ranked sixth in terms of visitor spends to the U.S."

Sheema Vohra, Managing Director of Brand USA in India, added, "The 2018 Brand USA India Mission has been a success, with the engagement in each city generating noteworthy opportunities and opening up avenues for future business with our Indian partners. India holds vast potential for increased tourism to the United States of America and we anticipate significant growth in future."



CORPORATE

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

In conversation with Jagdish Gupta, Chairman, and Munish Aggarwal, Managing Director, of Radisson Chandigarh Zirakpur

TT BUREAU

It is a well-known fact that in any industry, investments and strategic partnerships go hand in hand to address mutual interests and benefits. Radisson Chandigarh Zirakpur is one such notable example, making for the perfect scenario, where the global brand value of Radisson accelerated the growth of the property in all directions. Radisson Chandigarh Zirakpur is the new face of hospitality in the Tricity region (Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula), with its world-class facilities and top-notch services.

What attracted you to the Hospitality Industry?

I am always looking forward to invest in the ever-growing Travel and Tourism Industry, and I believe in the tried-and-tested strategies of high-end Real Estate investment. To me, hospitality is "taking care of guests in the best possible way," and the opening of Radisson Chandigarh Zirakpur is like a dream-come-true for me.

How viable are projects developed for the Hospitality and Tourism Industry?

As a part of the global brand, the management team helps us to do a feasibility study to ensure we have a sustainable, profitable business model. The team does this by considering the viability of the project related to the market, location, costs and financing. Being a part of the global brand has helped us tremendously.

Tell us about your new hotel Radisson Chandigarh Zirakpur

Radisson Chandigarh Zirakpur is the first hotel under the Radisson Hotel Group to open in the Tricity region. The hotel is strategically situated just minutes away from the Chandigarh International Airport and Chandigarh-Patiala highway. It is a perfect stopover destination for business and leisure travellers en route to Himachal Pradesh or Delhi. It is also close to Chandigarh's prime tourist attractions, such as the local zoo, museum, the Rock Garden, and bustling marketplaces.

The hotel features 104 contemporary rooms, including 8 Suites, tailored to suit the new generation of hyper-connected



and sophisticated guests. Characterised by sleek architecture and sublime interiors, the rooms are spread across four categories, namely, Superior Room, Deluxe Room, Executive Room and Presidential Suite. Each of these living spaces is equipped with modern conveniences, such as high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity,



Jagdish Gupta and Saroj Gupta



3-hour Express Laundry services, 42-inch LED TV with premium channels, and spacious workstations.

Once guests check-in, they can opt for several unique mealtime experiences, ranging from 'Feast', the multi-cuisine all-day dining restaurant, to 'Upper Deck' a swanky rooftop restaurant to dine in

style while taking in the city views. The hotel's 'Brew Lounge' serves up exotic tea, freshly brewed coffee varieties, and lip-smacking cakes and pastries. 'Fuse – The Bar' is home to legendary service, quality food and drinks, within a welcoming social ambience. For state-of-the-art beauty and wellness treatments, guests can avail the various beauty and wellness facilities at the hotel's 'Nilaya Spa', or workout in quick sessions at the hotel's new fitness centre and rooftop swimming pool.

Radisson Chandigarh Zirakpur is the ideal choice for weddings, MICE events, banquets and other events. The hotel's 34,200sq-ft. of event space includes the exquisite Royal Ballroom, with a large outdoor lawn and pre-function area, ideal for big wedding parties for over 1550 guests; and a mid-sized Platinum Banquet hall for hosting business meetings or smaller social functions. The Sky Hall – the hotel's signature rooftop event space with a view – can cater to an intimate gathering of up to 40 guests. A professionally-styled boardroom is also at the disposal of guests for a quick meeting. Each of these venues is equipped with state-of-the-art A/V technology, complimentary Wi-Fi, bespoke catering services and an enthusiastic team of event planners.

What are your upcoming projects?

We are evaluating various opportunities, both in Real Estate and Hospitality industries, and looking forward to enter into the new rapidly growing markets and preferred investment destinations in Punjab and Tricity area.



Munish Aggarwal and Himani Aggarwal

CORPORATE JET-SETTER

**Group Captain Ramesh Das,
CEO, Naba Diganta Water Management
Limited (NDWML),
A Tata Group Enterprise**

TT BUREAU

Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

I have travelled far and wide in India and abroad. There are quite a few trips that are permanently etched in my memory, so to choose one single destination is difficult. However, Budapest to me, appears as one of the most memorable destinations. Budapest makes for a destination rich in history, landscapes, beautiful buildings, eating places, dance and cultural outings.

Q: You dream of going to?

I dream of visiting Spain and Egypt, as both are great tourist places offering varied culture, sightseeing locations, great food, dance and historical venues.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

My favourite airline is Cathay Pacific. The airline provides good food options, impeccable hospitality and punctual services.



Q: Best hotel experience and why?

In India, my best hotel experiences were with Hotel Ashoka at New Delhi and Pride Plaza at Aerocity, New Delhi.

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

Scotland. The country is famous for its beautiful lakes, meadows, castles, single malt whisky and lovely people.

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

Paignton, UK. The seaside town has a lovely pebble beach, nice and cosy tourist room stays and great sightseeing places in and around. I was accompanied by my wife and son.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

My best holiday with friends was visiting the Sundarbans region. In winter, the ambience in the location, which is the hub of the Royal Bengal Tiger, is electric. A river cruise with friends, and the constant lookout for the tiger, is enjoyable.

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

Chinese food at Tangra, in Kolkata.

Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

I look out for local history, culture, people and wines while travelling. But, local street food in Prague, in the Czech Republic, is something to watch out for.

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

I believe in getting value for money for local items that I procure in each of the places I visit.





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HEDONISTIC LUXURY

BLESS Collection Hotels offers hedonistic luxury, with its slick spaces and innovative services, created to feed the discerning spirit of millennial travellers

TT BUREAU

BLESS Collection Hotels, the new brand of Palladium Hotel Group, is set to introduce the concept of Hedonistic Luxury for travellers seeking exquisite luxury experiences. The first property of the brand, BLESS Hotel Madrid, is slated to launch in January 2019 followed by the opening of BLESS Hotel Ibiza in summer 2019.

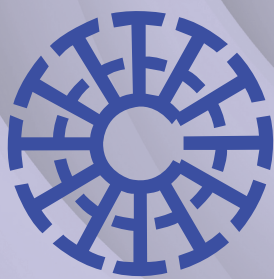
BLESS Collection Hotels will offer its guests exclusive, original and innovative services, created to feed the discerning spirit while enjoying art, music, culture, fashion and gastronomy in the same space. The brand is characterised by an enthusiastic, avant-garde and innovative mentality offering incredible customer service and personalised services catering to the smallest needs of the guests. To this end, it has a wide range of unique experiences with its own "BLESS brand" style, which go beyond satisfying the needs of the modern traveller to fulfil their hedonistic desires. Whether it's through excellent pampering, a gourmet craving or the desire to have an unforgettable entertainment experience, BLESS Collection Hotels will draw on the destinations' cultural agendas to include DJ sets and live music, fashion shows, pop-ups, performance and visual art and photography exhibitions.

Thus, each guest will have at their disposal the attention of a bath butler to advice on the aroma, texture and properties of the daily bath soap and salts based on their needs, moods and preferences, while the hotel lets guests select the linens and pillows of their choice, personalising the experience during their stay. One can benefit from a virtual trainer in the gym and can indulge in gourmet feasts at all times of the day dished out by the most awarded chefs in the world.

FIRST OPENINGS IN MADRID AND IBIZA

The first property under the BLESS Collection Hotels will open in Madrid in January 2019, followed by BLESS Ibiza in summer 2019. There are more properties in the pipeline at elegant districts in cosmopolitan cities and top vacation destinations.

The first hotel, BLESS Hotel Madrid, will be located on Calle de Velázquez and will have 111 rooms and suites, spa, gym, conference spaces, rooftop pool, three bars and a gourmet restaurant. Each room and each zone will be unique with different atmospheres created by the Spanish designer Lázaro Rosa-Violan.



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THE PASSIONATE HOTELIER

Rapidly expanding the portfolio of Wyndham Hotels & Resorts and leveraging the growth prospects of the midscale segment are high on the priority list of Ignace Bauwens, Regional Vice-President of the Middle East, Eurasia and Africa at Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

TT BUREAU

Earlier this year, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts announced the promotion of Ignace Bauwens to Regional Vice-President for Middle East, Eurasia and Africa. In his new role, Bauwens handles the Group's existing portfolio of hotels and will be responsible for driving the growth prospects of the hotel chain in newly emerging markets, such as India.

In the increasingly competitive world of the Hospitality Industry, Bauwens' task is nothing short of challenging. Contending with a market that is primarily domestic in nature (albeit the footfall of foreign tourists in India being approximately 10 million) and with an infrastructure that is still in the making is no easy task. But, Bauwens is upbeat. He comes from a school of belief that seeks to turn every challenge into an opportunity. Today's Traveller caught up with the accomplished corporate, who spoke candidly about the growth prospects in India, the challenges of doing business in the country, and how he unwinds when he manages to get quality time amidst his busy schedule.



Ignace Bauwens

Bauwens begins by identifying the three priority areas for the Indian market that deserved his special attention. Expanding the existing portfolio of Wyndham Hotels & Resorts is clearly at the top of the list. Globally, the hospitality giant has nearly 9,000 hotels with 792,000 rooms in more than 80 countries. In Eurasia itself, the Group has 44 operational hotels, of which 37 are in India. However, though Bauwens wishes to expand his portfolio by adding another 29 hotels with 3,400 rooms within the next 3-5 years, the zealous crusader is more inclined in adding to the experience of his customers.

Bauwens speaks animatedly about Wyndham Hotels & Resorts' rewards programme. "We realized," he says, "how complicated loyalty programmes can be for guests to understand, so we set out to create a programme that was simple and easier for the everyday traveller to use."

Bauwens says, "Wyndham Rewards is the industry's simplest and most generous loyalty programme, offering value to both our guests and franchisees. Wyndham Rewards offers generous perks and points earning structure along with a flat, free-night redemption rate. It is the first of its kind for a major hotel rewards programme. Members earn a minimum of 1,000 points for every qualified hotel stay and can redeem for a free night at any one of more than 25,000 hotels, holiday apartments and villas for just 15,000 points per bedroom per night. Widely acclaimed for its unmatched simplicity and generous rewards, the programme has received more than 50 accolades in the last three years. With a membership of 58 million and growing, our Wyndham Rewards programme continues driving growth for our owners."

Moving on, Bauwens says that each market is different and throws up a unique set of challenges, but he considers each challenge as an opportunity. The astute hotelier has two solutions for challenges – ensuring that Wyndham Hotels & Resorts have a footprint across all up-and-coming destinations and having a tailor-made business model for each, to make the business grow.

Thus, instead of a one-size-fits-all model, Bauwens customises business plans for each franchisee. "If you come to me and say Ignace, I want to build a hotel in Pune, or I want one in Goa or Hyderabad – this, for me, would mean three different business



cases. So, I would enquire what the size of the hotel is and which brand would give the best return on investment. So if it is Goa, I might say go for a Wyndham, if it is Hyderabad, I might say, go for a Tryp by Wyndham, because it is more of a lifestyle brand linked to the idea of being powered by the city. So, this is how we look at each project," informs Bauwens.

A keen observer of Indian market trends and the unique problems related to it, Bauwens states, "In India, there are a growing number of middle-class travellers, who are travelling more than ever before. They will seek out hotel brands they know and are familiar with. Further, there is a need for better infrastructure – better roads, rail and air links to all destinations across the country."

Elaborating on the zest and fervour which he brings to his work, Bauwens says that he is part of an industry that requires him to work 24x7. So, whatever quality time that he gets is spent taking a few laps in a pool or enjoying a glass of wine with friends or listening to stories recounted by his daughters. But, there is no industry in the world that he would like to be in other than the hotel industry, says Bauwens, signing off.

BOOSTING BRAND USA

Christopher L. Thompson, CEO of Brand USA, shares his candid views on the future of the India-US travel market and why the US is so bullish about India

TT BUREAU

As a tourist destination, the United States holds great promise for all travellers. From the glitzy skyscrapers of the Big Apple to the glamorous boulevards of Los Angeles, there is something for everybody in this country.

And, promoting this wonderful destination is Brand USA, a Destination Marketing Organisation, which is dedicated to increase international visitation to the country. Recently, the organisation held its Seventh Annual India Travel Mission in Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi, from September 23-28.

Today's Traveller's team caught up with Brand USA's President and CEO, Christopher L Thompson, to know more about the burgeoning India-USA tourism industry, the theme for this year's conference and the newer avenues that could be explored to further boost US tourism.

At the very outset, Thompson is eloquent about the growing number of visitations from India to the United States. According to Thompson, "Visitation by Indian travellers to the United States has been growing consistently year on year. With 1.29 million visitors in 2017, India was the 11th highest ranked country by arrival numbers and ranked



Christopher L. Thompson



sixth in terms of visitor spend to the US.” The rise in numbers has been made possible by a range of in-market trade and consumer initiatives by Brand USA. The focus of such initiatives has been to promote the rich diversity of travel-related experiences in the country – from shopping to dining to enjoying the scenic outdoors of the country.

Continuing, Thompson focussed on the current theme for 2018, which was music, and noted that the rich musical tradition of the country had shaped the great American cities and defined what may be called the quintessential American experience. “Our theme for this year’s meeting is music. We are focussing on the fact that we are a nation of immigrants and that music is the universal language that binds us all. Our music, especially the pop music culture of the United States, is shaped by the world. A lot of our musical genres have been found in some of the major cities in the country and have defined who we are. Further, our pop culture is still very appealing, particularly to the younger demographics,” explains Thompson.

The organisation is undertaking a range of efforts to further popularise American music, having released a promotional movie in February to that effect, called, ‘America’s Musical Journey.’ The movie features the iconic Bobby Freeman’s 1958 number, ‘Do You Want to Dance.’ Further, the movie allows five contemporary American singers to interpret the song in their own ways. Following their renditions are short interview excerpts, in which the artists talk about the musical heritage of their cities and how that has shaped their artistic endeavours. The movie is expected to be premiered in India before the Fall, and Thompson says he

cannot wait for the reactions to pour in.

When asked about the recent drop in numbers of visitors from India to the US, Thompson seems unperturbed. “The commerce department noticed around the middle of last year, that the numbers were either flat or down. A lot of it had to do with new ways of technology for counting visitors and they realised that there was an anomaly. So, in September, they suspended the reporting to go back to fixing it,” says Thompson, adding that, “visitation in 2017 was nearly 1.29 million visitors and it was up by 6.5 percent. Further, the total spend of Indians in the USA that was nearly \$15 billion was up by 9 percent year over year.”

Thompson is also excited about the young demographics of the country that, he says, is great for boosting tourism, since young people have disposable income and the inclination to travel. “One of the amazing things we learned about India was the fact that there are over 700 million people in India under the age of 35 and by the year 2020, the median age of India will be under 29. Everything that we offer is something that appeals very much to these Millennials,” observes Thompson excitedly.

When asked about the challenges faced by Brand USA in attracting tourists from India, Thompson dismisses the question, stating, “There are hardly any challenges. We share our form of government; we share a language and a natural affinity with India.” Of all the areas of travel, leisure travel connected business, which sees corporate leaders travelling with their wives, is an upcoming area of travel that holds great promise for the future. Thompson signs off by saying that overall the Indian market has a great potential and Brand USA is quite “bullish” about it.



PARYATAN PARV

Paryatan Parv adds a Midas Touch to the already booming Tourism Industry of India, showcasing a potpourri of events and activities held across the country to highlight its rich cultural heritage

TT BUREAU

Recently, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Government of India, in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders, organised the second edition of Paryatan Parv, a nationwide celebration of Tourism, from 16-27 September, 2018. The gala event, amidst much fanfare, stole the limelight for being the best event ever to be organised. The event was undoubtedly organised and conducted quite efficiently, showcasing India's rich tourism prospects.

Paryatan Parv had three main components this year, namely – Dekho Apna Desh, Tourism for All and Tourism & Governance. The main focus of the event was sensitising domestic tourists, especially the youth, and promoting many unexplored as well as a variety of other destinations. Rashmi Verma, Secretary, MoT, directed the states to focus on prime tourist destinations and promote such locations

through Paryatan Parv. Verma also added that the Tourism Sector contributes in a big way to the country's economy with generation of employment to youth, women and also for rural livelihood. Acknowledging that tourism leads to overall development, the programmes were designed to have a festive look to encourage maximum possible participation of the people.

Paryatan Parv was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, at Rajpath Lawns, New Delhi, on September 16, 2018, in the presence of the Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism, KJ Alphons. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary highlighted the importance of Paryatan Parv, which has helped in an 18% growth of Domestic Tourist Visits in 2017, and acts as a strong motivator for the Tourism Sector.

The main objective of Paryatan Parv was to draw focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the

country and reinforcing the principle of "Tourism for All." The three components of Paryatan Parv, were:

- 'Dekho Apna Desh': To encourage Indians to visit their own country. There were several activities that took place across the country, including Photography Contests covering tourism attractions and experiences, promotion on Social Media, Tourism-related Quiz, Essay, Debate and Painting Competitions for Students. General public engagement for the event was promoted through the MyGov platform.
- Tourism for All: Tourism events at dedicated sites across all States in the country were organised, which included Cultural Programmes of Dance, Music, Theatre, Storytelling, Awareness & Sensitisation Programmes for Stakeholders around the Sites, Tourism Exhibitions, Showcasing Culture, Cuisine and Handicrafts/Handlooms, Guided Heritage Walks, and much more.
- Tourism & Governance: Interactive Sessions and Workshops with Stakeholders on varied themes was organised across the country.

The highlights of the event on Rajpath Lawns, New Delhi, included:

- 18 Theme Pavilions of States
- Food Court with 54 Food Stalls
- Kitchen Studio by IHM
- Crafts Bazaar with 76 Handicraft and Handloom Stalls
- Cultural Performances by States/UTs and North Zone Cultural Centre
- Yoga Demo, Training and Therapy by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush
- Exhibition on the theme "Saaf Niyat, Sahi Vikas" by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- Interactive Activities to keep visitors engaged were held across 32 States/UTs, including over 3150 activities and events during the 12-day event

Some of the other engaging activities included Workshops & Seminars, Cleanliness Drives, Tourism & Handicraft Exhibitions, Food Festivals, Yoga Demos, Tourism Runs & Rallies, Adventure Activities, Tree Plantation Drives, Illumination of Monuments & Railway Stations, Focus on Role of Youth in Tourism, Vocational & Skill Training Programmes, Excursion Tours for Students, Nukkad-Natak on Tourism & Cleanliness Themes, Promotion of Environment Friendly Measures, and much more.

In addition, the mega event saw active participation by Cultural Associations and Organisations, Travel & Hospitality Industry, Institutes of Hotel Management, Indian Institutes of Tourism & Travel Management, Service Providers, Students and Youth and the Local Population. Paryatan Parv concluded with the World Tourism Day celebrations on September 27, 2018.





CELEBRATING HERITAGE

The 4th World Living Heritage Festival is set to showcase India's finest art and cultural traditions across the heritage city of Udaipur

TT BUREAU

The stage is being set for the 4th World Living Heritage Festival (WLHF) at The City Palace, Udaipur, from October 17-20, 2018, to bring together a spectrum of artistes and academicians, activists and student delegates from India and overseas.

Organised by the Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation (MMCF), the four-day mega festival will witness the inaugural of the 4th International Conference on Living Heritage, showcasing the art and crafts bazaar for master craftsmen to display their traditional offerings; music and dance performances to enliven the mornings and evenings in the city of Udaipur and heritage walks across interesting trails in The City Palace and the bylanes of the old city.

Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar, Chairman and Managing Trustee of MMCF, said, "Our endeavour to put the focus on 'Living Heritage' is now bearing fruit. The 4th World Living Heritage Festival will once again bring to centre stage the significance of living heritage as an integral part of India's civilizational ethos. As in the celebrations of festivals in the past at Udaipur, our delegates and guests will witness the timeless traditions being kept alive in our city and at The City Palace."

During the international conference, learned speakers and delegates will explore the concept of 'Living Heritage' and the relationship between tangible and intangible heritage. They will discuss the association of oral history, rites and rituals within historic spaces: be it in temples, monuments, museums or public squares of the heritage city.

Keynote addresses and a plenary session promise to



be reflective and experiential. "We want our workshops, interactive sessions and heritage walks to become avenues for learning and sharing the traditional systems of knowledge," said a spokesperson of MMCF.

It is hoped that the conference sessions of the Festival will lead up to a joint publication by MMCF and UNESCO New Delhi. This publication, a compendium of best practices in safeguarding living heritage, will highlight various approaches to living heritage across the world.

Interactive workshops with experts in their fields of heritage documentation, textile conservation, the art of sword making and others will also be arranged for all those who are interested.

A craft bazaar with craftspeople demonstrating their skill and creativity is also planned at the Zenana Mahal of the City Place Museum. Indian Institute Crafts & Design has partnered with MMCF for the bazaar.

Heritage walks into the old city, its temples and cenotaphs are also planned at the WLHF 2018.

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AVIATION

PM INAUGURATES SIKKIM'S FIRST AIRPORT AT PAKYONG, GANGTOK



Pakyong Airport was recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at Pakyong (Gangtok). The inauguration took place in the august presence of Ganga Prasad, Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim; Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim; Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, among other dignitaries.

The new airport at Pakyong has been developed by AAI at an estimated cost of Rs 553 crore. Spread across over 202 acres of land, the area of terminal building of the airport is 3,200sq.m. with a peak hour handling capacity of 100 passengers. The airport has been developed to handle ATR 72-500 type of aircraft operations. It is the first ever greenfield airport in Northeast India located at a height of 1,399m. or 4,590ft, making it one of India's five highest-altitude airports. The terminal building is well-equipped with all modern passenger facilities. Pakyong Airport, would not only promote tourism, open up opportunities for Sikkimese people and bring in an era of economic development, but will also provide airlift during emergencies and disasters and give a thrust to the connectivity of the state with flights to and from Kolkata and Guwahati.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS ENGINEERING HOSTS THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UAE



Etihad Airways Engineering, the largest commercial aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services provider in the Middle East, recently welcomed HE Navdeep Suri, Ambassador of India to the UAE, and Rajamurugan, Counsellor, Embassy of India in the UAE, to its Abu Dhabi base.

The Ambassador was received by Abdul Khaliq Saeed, CEO, and senior executives from Etihad Airways Engineering, and given a presentation showcasing the capabilities and achievements of the organisation. The group enjoyed an extensive tour of Etihad Airways Engineering's state-of-the-art facility, which is located adjacent to Abu Dhabi International Airport.

SPICEJET INTRODUCES DAILY NON-STOP FLIGHTS ON DELHI-HONG KONG SECTOR

SpiceJet recently announced the introduction of a daily non-stop flight between Delhi and Hong Kong, effective November 22, 2018. SpiceJet will deploy its state-of-the-art brand new Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, which provides unmatched passenger comfort and unique features much to the delight of guests, on the sector connecting Delhi to Hong Kong, one of the top tourist destinations in the world. Hong Kong is SpiceJet's eighth international destination after Bangkok, Colombo, Dubai, Dhaka, Kabul, Male and Muscat.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet, said, "We are confident that the flight will be a big success with both business and leisure travellers as well as with the Indian diaspora and student community in Hong Kong. Our convenient flight timings will ensure that our guests will have multiple options for connecting flights, both in Delhi and Hong Kong, thus offering them a seamless connectivity."



VISTARA AND BRITISH AIRWAYS SIGN CODESHARE AGREEMENT

Vistara and British Airways recently signed a codeshare agreement, further deepening their already existing interline partnership. With this, Vistara becomes the only codeshare partner for British Airways in India. Under the agreement, British Airways will add its 'BA' designator code to approximately 60 Vistara-operated flights each day covering 13 Indian cities, including 8 new virtual British Airways destinations, namely Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Goa, Kolkata, Kochi, and Pune. Additionally, the BA code will also be put on Vistara flights between Mumbai and Amritsar, and Chennai and Kolkata.

The codeshare flights will offer convenient connections to and from the seven daily flights that British Airways already operates to Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru, directly from London Heathrow. Vistara flights operate from the same terminals as British Airways at Delhi (T3) and Mumbai (T2), making connections at these airports convenient and seamless.



OZWALD BOATENG TO DESIGN NEW UNIFORMS FOR BRITISH AIRWAYS



Savile Row tailoring expert, Oswald Boateng, OBE, is to be the next in an auspicious line-up of British designers to develop uniforms for the airline. Boateng, who is known for bringing a modern contemporary twist to the classic British institution of tailoring, will be designing a collection for the airline's 32,000 employees who wear a uniform as part of their role. The new uniform will form an important part of the airline's celebrations for its Centenary next year.

Alex Cruz, British Airways' Chairman and Chief Executive, said, "Our uniforms have been an iconic symbol of our brand throughout our 100-year history and our partnership with Oswald will take us forward to the next chapter in our journey." He added, "At a time when we're investing for customers, new uniforms are a visual representation of investment in our people and we want them to feel proud when they wear the new uniform."

Oswald Boateng, OBE, said, "I am really excited about creating this new uniform for British Airways. It is important for me to create something that makes all of British Airways' 32,000 uniform-wearing employees across the world excited." Boateng will be working closely with the airline's employees throughout the development process, from shadowing them to understand their roles and how the uniforms need to perform, to design, testing and final delivery.

AHMEDABAD AND INDORE AIRPORTS AWARDED AS THE BEST AIRPORTS



Airports Authority of India's Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, were conferred with the prestigious National Tourism Awards 2016-17 at a glittering award function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on World Tourism Day.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport received the Best Airport Award in Major Cities category, and Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport received the Best Airport Award in 'Rest of India' category for promotion of tourism at these airports. The award was presented by KJ Alphons, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism, Govt. of India.

Manoj Gangal, Airport Director, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, and Aryama Sanyal, Airport Director, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore, along with Keshava Sharma, Regional Executive Director (WR) AAI, received the award from the Hon'ble Minister and Rashmi Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India.

VISTARA ANNOUNCES FLEET-WIDE AVAILABILITY OF 'VISTARA WORLD'

Vistara recently announced the availability of 'Vistara World', its state-of-the-art complimentary wireless inflight entertainment system, across its entire network and fleet of 22 aircraft that operate over 120 flights a day. The entertainment content is streamed wireless directly to customers' handheld smart devices or laptop computers. In addition, 'Vistara World' offers a live 'moving map' display that allows one to track their aircraft as it flies, as well as engaging reading material, including Vistara's inflight magazine.

Sanjiv Kapoor, Chief Strategy & Commercial Officer, Vistara, elaborated, "We are delighted to roll-out our 'Vistara World' wireless streaming inflight entertainment system across our entire network and all flights, to further enhance the high levels of customer experience that Vistara is famous for. This is a significant addition to our product portfolio and fulfils a much sought-after request from our customers."



AIR INDIA AND LOT POLISH AIRLINES LAUNCH CODESHARE PARTNERSHIP

Air India (AI), the flag carrier of India, and LOT Polish Airlines, the flag carrier of Poland and one of the fastest growing airlines in Europe, both members of star alliance, have commenced offering a new codeshare service on the Warsaw-Frankfurt sector and vice versa. This partnership between Air India and LOT Polish Airlines is unique for the Indian, Polish and passengers from Central, Eastern and Western Europe.

The new codeshare flights, to be jointly promoted by India and Poland, will add a new level of convenience, in terms of travel time and alliance benefits to customers of both Star Alliance partners. Passengers can now travel seamlessly, from Delhi to Frankfurt on Air India, connecting on to Frankfurt and Warsaw operated by LOT under Air India code, using the two premier national carriers of respective countries. Besides the Warsaw-Frankfurt sector, Air India and LOT aim at implementing codeshare flights on other sectors in near future, thus giving a wide option to passengers travelling to other European gateway points.



ETIHAD GUEST PROGRAMME PARTNERS WITH AIR EUROPA



Etihad Guest, the award-winning loyalty programme for Etihad Airways, has announced a new partnership with Air Europa, enhancing the benefits for its members by allowing them to earn and spend Etihad Guest Miles when flying with the Spanish carrier. The partnership allows members to also accumulate miles on codeshare flights operated and marketed by Etihad Airways in partnership with Air Europa. In addition, Etihad Guest members can redeem miles for tickets across the Air Europa network and vice versa.

Yasser Al Yousuf, Etihad Guest Managing Director, said, "We pride ourselves on providing our members with some of the most wide-ranging travel benefit offers available within the industry. It is very exciting to see yet another valued partner like Air Europa join the Etihad Guest programme to further enhance its attractiveness, as Etihad already connects our guests through Madrid, followed by Barcelona later this year."

SPICEJET CONNECTS THE 'CITY OF JOY' LIKE NEVER BEFORE!



SpiceJet recently announced the launch of five daily direct new flights connecting Kolkata like never before. The airline has introduced new daily non-stop flights from Kolkata to the unserved market of Pakyong (Gangtok). Pakyong marks the airline's ninth destination under the regional connectivity scheme, UDAN.

SpiceJet is the only Indian airline to provide air connectivity to Sikkim, effective October 4, 2018, and connecting it to the rest of the country and beyond. The airline is also the first and only airline to offer daily direct flights on the Kolkata-Kanpur-Kolkata route, effective November 1, 2018. Additionally, the airline is also set to operate flights connecting Varanasi with Kolkata, effective October 4, 2018. SpiceJet has also introduced a third frequency on the Kolkata-Bagdogra-Kolkata and the Kolkata-Mumbai-Kolkata sectors, starting November 1, 2018.

ALITALIA POSTS NET PROFIT OF 2 MILLION EUROS IN Q3 2018

Once a symbol of Italy's post-war economic boom but recently in trouble due to low-cost carriers and high-speed trains, Alitalia was put under special administration last year after workers rejected its latest rescue plan.

Indicating that the fortunes of the airline are slowly improving, Stefano Paleari, one of the Commissioners managing Alitalia, said, "Alitalia returned a net profit of 2 million Euros (\$2.35 million) in the third quarter of 2018." In the first nine months of 2018, revenues of the airline rose by 4.6 per cent to 2.35 billion Euros, while its EBITDA loss, excluding non-recurring items, was reduced to a loss of 59 million Euros from a loss of 246 million Euros in the same period last year. Paleari added, "For the full year, Alitalia is expected to post revenues of above 3 billion Euros."



AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA WINS INDIA GREEN ENERGY AWARD 2018

Airports Authority of India (AAI) recently won the India Green Energy Award for the year 2018. Anil Kumar Sharma ED (PMQA & EMC) and Rakesh Kalra ED (Engg. – NR) along with NB Goel Jt. GM (Engg. – NR) received the award on behalf of Airports Authority of India at New Delhi. This award was presented by Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, for award category "Innovative initiative of outstanding Green Energy in transport sector for infrastructure."

AAI has successfully commissioned 15MWp Ground Mounted Solar Power Project at NSCB Airport, Kolkata, and the generation is being used for self-consumption. A total of approximately 33.72MWp capacity solar power plant has been commissioned at 37 different airports. Additionally, 23 MWp capacity Solar Power Plants are in planning/execution stage, which will be completed by the end of this financial year. This will fulfil the projected 17-19% of energy requirement from renewable solar power plants.





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GOLF – A CLASS APART

Golf is no longer only about perfecting your putt, but an inclusive family getaway amidst incredible courses and their off-the-green offerings

INDIRA LAUL

It's a languid misty morning. All's well with the world as your club comes down with a deft stroke and strips a patch of turf off the grass. Life's a cinch as you unhurriedly make your way to the 19th hole and a refreshing beverage and snacks, with the satisfying conviction that your partner is enjoying her time out at the nearby hotel spa, where you are staying, while the kids are doing their own thing at the kids' club.

Golf has come a long way from days of old. Today, the game is synonymous with sun-kissed walks and tranquil skies and allows for travel, family holidays, luxe destinations and plenty of togetherness.

What's exciting about golf in India is the diversity of its courses. Not only does it boast the oldest golf club outside Britain, but also the highest, at Gulmarg – 2,700m – in Kashmir. There are courses in the mountains, plains, deserts and beach resorts, and the ambience of each is unique.

International golfers are blown away by the presence of ancient domes and Mughal structures in the vicinity of golf courses, most notably the iconic Delhi Golf Club, which nurtures some of the best holes. In another dimension are

courses like DLF Golf Club in Gurgaon, Royal Springs in Kashmir or the undulating short-course in Kodaikanal or even the very pristine but challenging course at Aamby Valley, Pune. India now can confidently and conclusively offer some great golf holidays. Golf enthusiasts who journeyed to Scotland, the mecca of golf, now head to India, which not only has some incredible courses, but can most decisively offer some great golf holidays. Take a look at some of them.

PRESTIGE GOLFSHIRE CLUB, BENGALURU

Bordered by an expansive lake at the foothills of an ancient hill fortress, and hidden from the outside world, sits 275 acres of lush greenery – the Prestige Golfshire, a classic golf resort in Bengaluru. Located at the foot of the Nandi Hills, on the edge of Lake Karehalli, Prestige Golfshire is designed by PGA Design Consulting and managed by leading golf course management company, Troon Golf.

The 250-acre course features undulating greens, several of which are two-tiered and deep, with shapely bunkers to challenge any professional golfer. The course is part of a part-residential, part-commercial luxury development with

its own spa, swimming pool, squash courts, restaurants, and crèche, making it ideal for a family day out.

Prestige Golfshire Club offers a complete Stay & Play Golf experience, with eight exquisite villas nestled amidst the 18-hole championship golf course, which are equipped with four luxurious bedrooms, located within walking distance from the Prestige Golfshire Clubhouse.

THE ROYAL CALCUTTA GOLF CLUB, KOLKATA

Affectionately known as the "Royal," the Royal Calcutta Golf Club is synonymous with the game of golf in India. Founded in 1829, Royal is the oldest golf club outside Britain. Boasting an awesome heritage, it was originally located near the Calcutta airport, but moved to the Maidan and finally to its present location at Tollygunge, in 1910.

Since the Royal Calcutta course was originally paddy fields,

the course is therefore undulating. Its conspicuous features are its strategically located water tanks and natural water hazards. The greens at Royal are large by modern standards and their undulations make them tricky. Designed similar to Scotland's famous St Andrew's fairway, its spectacular par-72, 18-hole course is challenging and tests the skills of all golfers. Lift your spirits at the 19th Bar after a long golfing day and enjoy a beautiful view of the first tee.

Stay at The Park, Kolkata, which has a number of great dining and nightlife options, or The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata, which has all the modern amenities you may require.

THE DELHI GOLF CLUB, NEW DELHI

Tee off on the historic trail of a glorious past at the iconic Delhi Golf Club, where peacocks and the ruins of lost empires dot the landscape. One of India's most celebrated





golf clubs, the Delhi Golf Club occupies 180 acres of pristine, verdant turf in the heart of the city.

The present Delhi Golf Club came into being in 1951 and comprises the 18-hole Lodhi Course, which is also a stop along the Asia PGA Tour, plus the shorter 9-hole Peacock Course.

Facilities include an attractive outdoor pool, surrounded by an attractive patio with a seating capacity of 100; a Pro Shop, with one of the best equipped golf shops in the area, which is fully stocked with a wide range of clothing and golf equipment; a beautifully located fitness centre in the Annexe building, which provides a breathtaking view of the 18th fairway and a well-appointed room for indulging

in congenial card games. Adjoining the fitness centre is a state-of-the-art Steam Room and Changing Room.

ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

One of the most scenic golf courses in the world, the Royal Springs Golf Course in Srinagar could put a seasoned golfer's attention to the test. Set against the dramatic backdrop of the fir-covered peaks of the Zabarwan Mountains, the championship golf course also boasts panoramic views of Dal Lake.

The 18-hole golf course, spread over 100 hectares, has practice fairways of approximately 225m in length, with three lakes, two marshes, an underground sprinkler irrigation system,



comfort stations, rain shelters, a full-fledged maintenance complex, a club house, and about an eight-and-a-half-long cart path. If you want to challenge yourself further, head to the Pahalgam Golf Club, just two hours away, for an invigorating game in the shadows of the Himalayas.

Royal Springs offers unique stay and play experiences in their unique Royal Springs cottages, and exclusive Royal Cottages with rooms that look out over the stunning golf course. The setting is great for family outings, out of town tournaments and business trips.

OXFORD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, PUNE

Located just 22km from Pune Airport, the championship Oxford Golf & Country Club is bordered on three sides by the Sahyadri Hills. Voted as one of the Top Golf & Leisure Destinations in India, it boasts Pune's only 18-hole private golf course, Leadbetter Golf Academy, an all-suite hotel, and leisure sports facility set amidst 136 acres.

The 18-hole horseshoe-shaped course is perfect for professional golfers and its world-class appeal stems from its many vantage point tee boxes, which provide splendid views of the silver sand bunkers as you drive your ball down the

hills and over 40 practice bays. The 1,100-acre course houses villas, apartments, a hotel and a country club.

Some of the offerings at the Leadbetter Golf Academy include Head Pro Golf Lessons, Assistant Pro Golf Lessons, Golf Beginner Programmes, Golf Professional Satellite Programmes, Corporate Golf Clinics & Corporate Golf Days. The Pro Shop offers tailor-made rental clubs, Footjoy rental shoes, balls, gloves, caps accessories, as well as resort and academy branded souvenirs and merchandise memorabilia.



THE 'ROYAL' CAFÉ

A perfect place for long, slow evenings, the Royal Enfield Garage Café imbibes the cultural ethos of Goa in its uniquely designed spaces showcasing the brand's romance with the passion of motorcycling

TT BUREAU

Situated next to Baga Creek locale in Goa, the Royal Enfield Garage Café is a port of call for travellers and tourists alike. The place, with its picturesque locale, beckons you to cross its threshold to experience the new 'Royal Enfield' escapade – with your hands resting on the tabletops instead of being on the bike's handlebar. The one-of-a-kind café marries Hospitality with Motorcycling. The unhurried, laidback aura of the café puts you at ease, and transports you to pre-WWII days, with its beautiful museum, featuring dated Royal Enfield motorcycles from the 1960s to the early 2000s.

Studio Lotus is working closely with Royal Enfield to offer a richer, more comprehensive experience of the iconic brand – going beyond mere retail outlets and celebrating Royal Enfield's commitment to 'pure motorcycling' – to develop immaculately curated spaces that pay homage to the motorcycling lifestyle, in key destinations across the country.

The place exudes a sense of spaciousness with interiors displaying the handpicked, chosen fragments of history that are hallmarks of the brand. The design philosophy of the café revolves around the core brand values – timelessness, craftsmanship, and an unadulterated love for motorcycling – weaving a beautiful narrative encompassing elements of traditional Portuguese architecture and artworks by CoDesign, Monde Art and Hanif Qureshi of St+Art, visually integrated with the beautiful landscape of the state.



The well-travelled menu features specialty coffees and teas and a careful selection of fares drawn from local and international cuisines, to satiate the inveterate gourmet in you. Overall, the café is a seamless amalgamation of retail space, a bar and restaurant, a bike-customisation area, and a service centre. The café is also a place to awaken the kindred spirits connection as you break into a cheery singalong with your fellow travel-mates to the music beats of the 60s and 70s.



TODAY'S
traveller

Celebrating

21st
ANNIVERSARY

EXPLORER



INDULGE

WELLNESS WONDERS

Tick your body clock to an overall healthy living by indulging in spa treatments inspired from Balinese, Turkish, and Ayurvedic traditions at these stylish spa destinations

ABHISHEK PATHAK



Designed with life transformation in mind, Wellness Tourism or Spa Tourism is gaining grounds amongst today's millennial travellers. Discover and indulge in some of these holistic retreats that focus on spirituality as well as complementary and alternative treatment techniques to feed your discerning spirit for wellness.

JIVA SPA, RAMBAGH PALACE, JAIPUR

Take a step back in time when palaces and indulgent experiences were the mark of a true royal. At Rambagh palace,

Jaipur, indulge in some of the finest outdoor relaxing hideaways which will give you an out-of-the-ordinary experience. One of many such experiences is the treatment the hotel offers at its exclusive Jiva Spa. Discover wellness in the sprawling vastness of this beautiful relic from an era gone by.

Get ready to feel the weight of the world leave your shoulders with an indulgent experience at Taj Jiva. The select range of exquisite services includes beauty and wellness treatments that befit royals. As always, Taj Jiva combines the best ingredients to offer you everything from glowing skin to a rejuvenated mind and body. Whatever you choose to indulge in, the experience will leave you deeply refreshed and renewed all over.

Jiva Spa offers a range of signature wellness experiences, including Indian therapies, treatments, massages, body scrubs and wraps, spa indulgences, and beauty facials. Experience the Taj special spa features such as Soma: A couple-only therapy, where you both get to experience a romantic candlelit aromatherapy massage and rose petal bath, improving your overall psychological or physical well-being; Soundarya: A therapeutic experience involving a nourishing scrub, wrap, aromatherapy massage and a facial that'll bring back the radiance of your skin; Sukha: Indulge in a deep nourishing scrub and a wrap of your choice followed by a Pehlwan Malish, the powerful Indian oil massage; Vishuddi: A detoxifying massage that eliminates the impurities gained in our daily life, stimulating the circulation of blood, lymph and energy; Ventoz: The ancient Indian treatment using heat in a glass to create a vacuum, to relieve knots and sore muscles; Spa Energising Facial: An energising mini facial for all skin types, this facial cleanses, stimulates and tightens the skin for an instantly radiant look; Pada Mardana: A traditional Indian foot massage, this is a transcendent massage therapy for your tired soles.

KAYA KALP SPA – THE ROYAL SPA, ITC MUGHAL, AGRA

The opulence and grandeur of the Mughal Dynasty that ruled over a major part of India, as well as many traditional influences of Mughal landscaping and architecture can be seen here. There are channels of running water, fountains and outdoor rain water showers, courts full of greenery open to the skies and interiors embellished with stone latticework, mother-of-pearl, inlay and mirror work. This magnificent oasis of tranquillity follows Mughal tradition in its extensive use of greenery and water, both important elements in gardens laid out by the Mughal Dynasty. ITC Mughal brings to the city of Agra, Kaya Kalp – the Royal Spa, recreating in today's context, the opulence and luxurious lifestyle of the Mughal Dynasty. Spread over a vast expanse, this is the largest spa in India and offers therapy based on ancient customs, to create meaningful experiences for the soul.

Experience different Body Treatments, including Pomegranate Sugar Scrub, Indian Aromasoul Rice Exfoliation,



and Revitalising Mud Wrap. Discover the magic of Ayurveda with a 4-step 'Passage to India' spa journey, involving Guided Meditation, Abhyanga Massage, Shirodhara, Mung Bean Exfoliation and the Royal Mughal Hammam.

ATMANTAN RESORT & SPA, MULSHI, MAHARASHTRA

Nestled in spacious 40-acre surroundings and in the lap of the imposing Sahyadri Mountains, overlooking the blue waters of Mulshi Lake, is the novel Atmantan Resort Spa, offering a sea of spa activities for holistic well-being. Relying on the principle that our body has the innate ability to self-heal, Atmantan is a haven of rest, offering an amalgamation of solitude, relaxation, health and well-being.

The Spa menu at Atmantan includes traditional Ayurveda, Western massages, oriental acupressure, aromatherapy treatments, holistic anti-ageing facials, the Chi Nei Tsang treatment, purifying body polishes, cocooning wraps and the Pranic Chakra Cleansing. It also includes specialist treatments such as the Turkish Hammam, Vichy showers, open-colonics and soothing Balneotherapy. The resort has 23 spacious and distinctively designed Spa treatment rooms, a serene outdoor meditation pavilion, Dhyana, and the Prana Amphitheatre, providing inspiring spaces to soul-search, meditate, relax and wake up to self-realisation. Atmantan believes in the complete and sacred unison of atma (soul), mann (mind) and tann (body), for it even provides a specially curated spa cuisine featuring dishes made straight out of earth's bounty (plants, herbs and spices). Such an experience is not only invigorating for our senses, but elevates the energies of our body to a totally renewed level of harmony and tranquillity.



FIVELEMENTS, UBUD, BALI

Situated amidst the wilderness of nature, next to the free-flowing Ayung River, Fivelements is an award-winning healing and wellness retreat, set amid a quiet jungle near Ubud, Bali, offering an oasis of greenery to escape from modern-day stresses. A perfect place for rejuvenating body and spirit, this wellness retreat offers tailor-made, signature wellness programmes exclusively made for that 'spa-craving holiday' you've been wanting for so long. The melange of therapies at Fivelements include Balinese massage, acupuncture, colonic cleansing and chakra balancing, as well as a living foods nutrition plan and sacred arts practices such as meditation, martial arts and yoga for balance and inner strength, amidst eco-conscious settings.

Emanating warmth and care, which are preambles to the ancient Balinese culture, the expert spa staff at Fivelements provide you with a highly personalised experience, with a focus on holistic wellness. The spa therapies include Signature Rejuvenation Retreat ('Panca Mahabhuta' – Five Elements), a complete Balinese-inspired therapy administered by traditional Balinese healers, designed to tune in on the physical, emotional and spiritual levels, allowing an organic healing process to naturally unfold.

The second programme at Fivelements is 'Tri Kaya Parisudha' Retreat, the signature cleansing programme inspired by the ancient Balinese philosophy that promotes living with purity of thought, speech, and action. The retreat includes traditional Balinese healing therapies aimed to detoxify and purify the physical body, sekala, and the non-physical mind and soul, niskala, unifying body and mind towards a natural harmonious state of being, and allowing an organic healing process to unfold.





GRANDEUR BY THE BEACH

Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu's ancient city, offers travellers the whole enchilada – from ancient temples and caves to an impressive beach and crocodile conservatory

INDIRA LAUL

About 50km from Chennai, as you take the East Coast Road, is the traditional and ancient seaside town of Mahabalipuram. Laidback and artistic, it has shore temples, cave temples, and other important historic sites, and therefore sees a high footfall in all seasons.

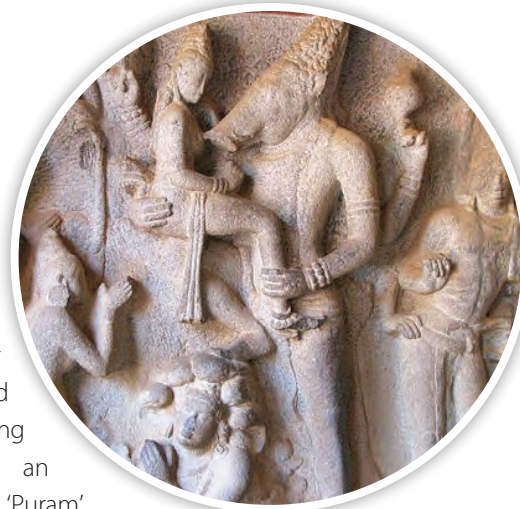
Satisfy your penchant for ancient Indian history and stone architecture as you take stock of Tamil art and culture and other wonderful offerings that this charming place provides. Whether you're looking for a traditional holiday to see age-old places of interest, a city break, or a refreshing beachside vacation, Mahabalipuram is your go-to place.

Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram is a historic city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As far as its nomenclature is concerned, the most popular explanation is that the place was named after the

benevolent King Bali, or Mahabali, who attained liberation after sacrificing himself to Vaman, an incarnation of Vishnu. 'Puram' translates from the Sanskrit for 'city' or urban dwelling. Mamallapuram is the Prakrit version of the original Sanskrit name.

CAVE TEMPLES

Explore the Adi Varaha Perumal Cave Temple, the earliest of all Pallava structures in Mahabalipuram, yet the least visited one. The actual mandapa (pavilion) is grand, but hidden behind a rather ordinary looking latter-day structure. The temple is dedicated to Vishnu.



Trimurti Cave is dedicated to the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva). Apart from the deity, the carved pillars and sculptures depict devotees in various postures. The Varaha and Krishna Caves exhibit mythical tales related to Vishnu and Krishna. Mahishasuramardini Cave, atop a hill, is dedicated to goddess Durga.

ARJUNA'S PENANCE

Popularly known as Arjuna's Penance, Descent of the Ganges is a colossal open-air bas-relief sculpted out of pink granite. The dramatic relief sculpture narrates the tales from Indian epics such as the Mahabharata. Nearby mandapas, particularly the Krishna Mandapa, however, showcase scenes of pastoral life amid mythical figures. Other rock artworks close by have been left unfinished for some unexplained reason.

Located behind Sri Sthal Sayana Perumal Temple, this monolithic sculpture is carved out of two huge boulders, 27m long and 43ft high and is the size of a blue whale, and has been listed as the World UNESCO Site.

SHORE TEMPLE

Located on the seashore and dating back to the eighth century, the Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram houses three shrines, namely, Lord Vishnu and two of Lord Shiva. Constructed like a pyramid by the Pallava rulers, it has a Dravidian-style vimana or dome-like structure above the inner sanctum, measuring 60ft high in basaltic rock and rests on a 50-ft square platform. A Shiva Lingam can be seen on the sea-facing sanctum, while Lord Vishnu reclines on the ground, in his chamber at the back. Being one of the oldest, five-storeyed temples in India, Shore Temple has been named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

FIVE RATHAS

A perfect exemplar of Dravidian architecture, the Pancha Rathas, or rock temples, are constructed in the form of pagodas and resemble Buddhist shrines and monasteries. The brainchild of Mamallan, what's incredible about these rock temples is their resilience, having survived the onslaught of several natural catastrophes through many centuries. Associated with the Mahabharata, the first of the rathas, Queen Draupadi's Ratha, is located close to the entrance gate. Next, is Prince Arjuna's Ratha, which has a small portico and carved pillar stones and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Right opposite,



is the Nakula-Sahadeva Ratha, dedicated to Lord Indra. The huge Bhima Ratha is two-storeyed, with lion carvings on its pillars. The largest of the five rathas is Yudhistira's Ratha.

CROCODILE BANK

About 3km from Chennai, on the outskirts of Mahabalipuram, is the Crocodile Bank, a conservatory and home to hundreds of species of crocodiles. Have close encounters with crocodiles in their natural surroundings. The largest crocodile sanctuary in India that is opened by the state government, it also houses tortoises, turtles and snakes. There is a sound and light show on specific days of the week and a small refreshment shop in the precincts. Souvenirs and books can be bought from another on-site shop.

MAHABALIPURAM BEACH

After hectic sightseeing, hit the beach at Mahabalipuram for some relaxing me-time. For the sporty, there's surfing, as well as turtle walks along the beach to find sea turtles and release them into the sea. Check out the ancient lighthouse close to the beach, which dates back to the times of Pallava rulers. Climb up the lighthouse for amazing views of the city and a glorious sunset.



A TOUCH OF VINTAGE

The classic selection of 25 vintage cars at the Mewar State Motor Garage makes for a memorable heritage walk at the lake city of Udaipur

TT BUREAU



Possessing a vintage car is a matter of great honour and pride for most us, but, for a select few, it's even more than that. It's like a family tradition that's to be preserved, a prized possession that cannot be parted from, a memory that reminds them of their first driving lessons, and it's something that's so precious and close to the heart that it cannot be sold or kept in hibernation in a garage. The owners go to great lengths to preserve these vintage beauties, but some, like the Maharanas of Mewar, make a museum out of their entire collection.

Inaugurated in February 2000, the Vintage & Classic Car Collection, in the lake city of Udaipur, is a feast for the eyes for all discerning travellers and passionate gearheads. The age-old, grand limousines and cars exhibited in the Collection belong to the House of Mewar and are still in perfect running condition.

The iconic collection features all the vehicles possessed by the Maharanas of Mewar, past and present. Although some of the vehicles are extremely old, dating back to 90 years, each one of them has been painstakingly restored to ensure that they are in working condition.

The former Mewar State Motor Garage houses a fine assortment of vehicles, creating an awe-inspiring effect on the visitor. The semi-circular garage museum looks fashionable,

housing these petite 'grande dames' in separate garages in the inner forecourt of the courtyard. What's unique is the presence of one of the original Burmah Shell petrol pumps, used in the olden days, which is not only still standing, but also in running order.

About 25 cars are part of the collection of this museum, and several are ceremonial cars used in the past for 'Princely State Functions.' The highlights of the collection include the four Rolls-Royces, including the 20HP that won a trophy at Pebble Beach in 2012. Other Rolls-Royces in the collection are a 1934 Rolls-Royce Phantom II with coachwork by Windovers London and a 1930/31 Rolls-Royce 20-25 HP with a tourer body by Hopper Fendex.

The collection also has two right-hand drive Cadillacs in excellent condition. One is a 1938/39 Cadillac Series 39-75, and the other is a 1938/39 Cadillac Series 39-61. There are also three original, low-mileage, Mercedes-Benzs – a 180 D from 1956, a 1960 Mercedes 190 and 1966 Mercedes-Benz 200. Other cars in the collection are a 1946 MG TC, 1946 Buick Super Eight, 1946 Vauxhall 12, 1946 Chevrolet Truck, 1947 Chevrolet Bus, 1950 Morris Tiger, 1930 Ford Model A 1959 Morris - Minor 1000 (Traveller), 1961 Austin Cambridge, 1961 Standard Herald, 1942 Ford Jeep and another 1942 Ford Jeep with trolley.



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THE INDIAN FOOD TRAIL

Indian cuisine is as diverse and vibrant as the cities it represents

TT BUREAU



A diverse nation is a treasure trove of cultures and traditions, which also includes a vast spread of diverse cuisine. Whether it is the fiery chillies of Northeast India, or the sweet savouries of Bengal, whether you want a bite of authentic coastal food or love the idea of mountain cuisine, the delicious Mahua of tribal areas to the delicious Goan feni – perhaps the most defining characteristic of Indian cuisine is its diversity.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

They say Kashmir's scenic beauty makes it a heaven on earth for travellers; we say it is also 'Paradise Found' for food lovers. Kashmiris love mutton, so there are close to thirty mutton recipes originating from the valley, the most popular being Rogan Josh. You also have Gushtaba – lamb meatballs in yoghurt curry; Tabak Maaz – lamb ribs with turmeric, cinnamon and saffron; Kashmiri Haakh – a traditional Kashmiri collard green preparation; for dessert, try Khubani ka Halwa, a delightful apricot pudding mixed with dried fruits. The high point of the Kashmiri food experience comes in the form of Wazwan, a multi-course meal with almost all dishes made of chicken and lamb – its preparation is considered an art.

AMRITSAR, PUNJAB

The haven of Punjabi cuisine, it's all about heavy eating and living life king size. Punjab is also home to the delicious tandoori foods, be it chicken or paneer. In Amritsar, one can find the flavours of authentic Punjab, the kasoori methi (dried fenugreek leaves) and butter-laden delicacies. When in Amritsar, do try the authentic and very famous Butter Chicken – chicken in creamy gravy; the ultimate Sarson ka Saag and Makki ki Roti – a traditional dish where spinach and mustard meet corn bread or roti; Fish Tikka – an oven cooked Amritsari delicacy and Amritsari Lassi. Find your way to some tasty Amritsari Jalebi to end the food fest on a sweet note.



LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH

Reminiscent of the Nawab culture, Lucknow is every foodie's delight. What you get in Lucknow in terms of food is better known as Awadhi cuisine and you would be at a loss if you do not try them all. The very first item on your list should be the famous and delicious, Galouti Kebab; Lucknowi Biryani – the version of Biryani found this side of India comes straight out of the kitchens of the Nawabs; Kakori, on the outskirts of Lucknow, boasts the famous Kakori Kebabs – these amazing kebabs are made of minced mutton, mixed with aromatic spices before being grilled, to get the beautiful colour. Try Pasandey – mutton cooked till tender, in spices and gravy, with cream and almonds. Finish your culinary journey at Lucknow with Shahi Tukda – a delicious bread pudding, and Malai Ki Gilori, which is an authentic sweet delight.



KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Once the capital of India, Kolkata was a cosmopolitan city with Jews, Armenians, Anglo-Indian settlers, paving way for some of the most sumptuous foods you can find in the country. Start your culinary journey here by heading to Tiretta Bazaar early in the morning. Home to the Chinese community here, you will be in for a treat, which includes Chicken Momos, Pork Momos, Shu Mei, Sausages, Prawn wafers, Tai Paos, Fried dough sticks and Chicken Rolls. Move on to authentic Bengali dishes later in the day; try the Kosha Mangsho – an aromatic Bengali mutton curry; Sorse Ilish – a preparation of "ilish," (the king of fish) with mustard seeds and green chillies; the quintessentially Bengali Alu Posto – potato with poppy seeds, and while you are at it, try the various green veggies and roots and shoots, most of which are prepared with fish head or small fish. Do not miss out on Kathi Rolls and other street food, and Flury's, the legendary Kolkata tea room.



KANNUR, KERALA

The southern paradise of India has some of the most delicious foods you can ask for and it is not just idlis and dosas. Here, you should try the local style of eating appams with curries, especially non vegetarian ones. Then, there is the out-of-the-world Malabar Biryani; Fish Mappas – a curry cooked in coconut milk, which is also eaten with appams; Pomfret Moilee or any other fish moilee – cooked with curry leaves, tomatoes, mustard seeds and turmeric; Cheera Thoran – a fried dish of fresh vegetables, which is mostly eaten as a side dish. Kerala is also widely famous for its very spicy beef fry, a must try for meat lovers.



TRACKING THE LEGEND

This Gandhi Jayanti visit the Rainbow Nation to experience the life and times of young Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi as an entrepreneur of Indian Independence

ABHISHEK PATHAK

The mention of South Africa immediately brings alive images of the Big 7 safaris, glamping, bungee jumping, shark cage diving, exquisite wines, diverse food and warm people. However, the Rainbow Nation has another aspect to it that is equally appealing – it's rich and diverse cultural history.



It was here that Mahatma Gandhi began his sojourn for freedom.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a young lawyer, arrived in Durban in 1893 and moved in with his family. After the infamous train incident at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station, where young Gandhi was off-boarded for sitting in a 'Whites Only' section, Gandhi stayed on in Inanda, on the outskirts of Durban.

Gandhi may have left South Africa in 1914, but his doctrine on Satyagraha found its way back through the thoughts and ideologies of Nelson Mandela, who echoed the passive resistance concept as he led his country on The Long Walk to Freedom.

From the humble Railway Station that found its way into history books, to reverent reflections in the Old Fort Prison cells at Constitution Hill, to the quaint Phoenix Settlement in Inanda – South Africa offers a chance to follow in the footsteps of this iconic Indian hero.

PIETERMARITZBURG RAILWAY STATION

June 7, 1893, went down in history due to Mahatma Gandhi's refusal to budge from a 'Whites Only' coach on a train to Pretoria. Gandhi was thrown off the train at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station for this act of defiance that set the stage for Civil Disobedience. The historic building stills stands, with a plaque commemorating the incident that proved to be a turning point in Gandhi's fight against racial discrimination. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister for India, recently commemorated 125 years since the passage of this incident by embarking on a train journey from Pentrich to Pietermaritzburg.

PHOENIX SETTLEMENT, INANDA

Situated 20km north of Durban, the Phoenix Settlement is a part of Kwa Zulu Natal's Inanda Heritage Route. Gandhi resided here along with his family in a house named Sarvodaya, meaning 'well-being for all.' It was at Phoenix that Gandhi produced his weekly Indian Opinion newspaper from the International Printing Press – the building of which remains till date. The former home of Gandhi, burnt down in the political upheaval of the mid-1980s, has been reconstructed as a free-for-all museum that pays tribute to his achievements and to the principles of Satyagraha.

OLD FORT PRISON, CONSTITUTION HILL

The Old Fort Prison Complex brings to the forefront the value of freedom. Between 1908 and 1913, Gandhi was imprisoned in various places across the country and served sentences totalling up to 7 months and 10 days for his Satyagraha campaigns. The prison showcases an exhibition titled 'Prisoner of Conscience, that focusses on Gandhi's imprisonment and the Satyagraha campaigns. There is a replica of the pair of sandals Gandhi once gave to General Jan Smuts and several other fascinating exhibitions relating to Nelson Mandela's imprisonment and the Women's Gaol.

BATTLEFIELD AT SPIOENKOP

Gandhi summoned a meeting on October 18, 1899, to persuade Indians to sign up for The Natal Indian Ambulance Corps, formed by Mahatma Gandhi, in order to support the British as stretcher bearers during the Second Boer War. By January 1900, 500 Indians had signed up for the Corps, and Gandhi was among



them, as they attended to the wounded at Spioenkop, in Natal. This well-preserved battlefield site has a self-guided trail that explains how the battle unfolded among the trenches, graves and monuments and is well worth every historian's time.

HAMIDA MOSQUE, NEWTOWN

The Hamida Mosque in Newtown is of great political and historical significance. Under Gandhi's influence, members of the Hamida Muslim Society as well as thousands of Indians, Asians and Chinese publically burnt their passes (which were registration certificates used to control travel and residence) in defiance of the apartheid laws. A symbolic cauldron, called the Burning Truth (created by artist Usha Seejarim), commemorates this first recorded burning of passes that took place in South Africa.

This Gandhi Jayanti, the Rainbow Nation invites you to retrace the footsteps and sequence of events that influenced and moulded The Father of Our Nation.





BE A SMART TRAVELLER!

Want to be part of the slick set? Here are some novel ways to make your journey an effortless one

TT BUREAU

360FLY HD CAMERA

The 360Fly is a cool device, which boasts a 360-degree camera that can shoot a 360-degree panoramic video using a single fish eye lens. Best described as a small black orb/eye, the 360Fly camera's controls are simple as there's just one button. Press and hold it to turn the camera on or off – it also vibrates to acknowledge the command or you can press it briefly to start and stop recording. The 360Fly has built-in memory and battery, and has no Micro-USB slots on the camera, which means you always need the cradle for charging or transferring files to your laptop/computer. The built-in battery lasts for about 1.5 hours of straight recording and the camera's internal 32GB of storage holds up to three hours of 4K-resolution video.



SOL ORIGIN

Redefining the traditional survival kit, the SOL Origin is small enough to fit into the palm of your hand. But, don't let the size fool you. The ABS plastic waterproof case is exceptionally sturdy and houses a handful of tools along with backcountry expert Buck Tilton's survival instructions, containing over 60 survival techniques and strategies to help keep you alive. The Kit is equipped with a one-hand-operable waterproof Fire Lite fire starter, AUS-8 folding blade knife designed for precision cutting, remove button compass, ultra bright LED Light, Rescue Flash Signal Mirror, and a 100dB pea-less whistle that will sound off an alarm that can be heard up to a mile away.

BREMONT WATCH KINGSMAN SPECIAL EDITION ROSE GOLD

The BremontKingsman Rose Gold Special Edition watch was created in collaboration with the box office hit film, 'Kingsman: The Secret Service.' The striking watch uses the modified calibre BE-54AE automatic chronometer certified movement which promises a power reserve of 42 hours and has a beautifully decorated DLC coated rotor that can be watched through the open case back. The 18-carat rose gold case is made with Trip Trick construction, ensuring ultimate durability and scratch resistance. The crisp metal dial is set with Superluminova coated hands, so the watch is effortless to read in the dark and to fasten the piece to the wrist, an embossed calfskin leather strap is added alongside a rose gold pin buckle.



HORIZN STUDIOS' MODEL M

Horizo Studios' sophisticated Cabin Trolley Model M takes smart design to a new level. Engineered in Germany, the Horizo signature aerospace-grade polycarbonate uses lightweight protective casing, making each piece incredibly tough and resilient. The material properties of polycarbonate make for luggage that perfectly reacts to its contents and elastically absorbs any external pressure, always springing back into shape. Its TSA lock is rock-solid, and its front pocket – made of ultra-durable, washable nylon, with space for a 15-inch laptop – ensures the Check-in and security process is an ultra-smooth one.

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RAISING THE BAR

Drink in hand, toes in sand: These classic beach bars do it better than anyone else

TT BUREAU

Imagine yourself sitting by the beach with toes in the sand and sipping a chilled beer as the sun sets over the ocean. Picturesque, isn't it? There is something magical about beach bars, which makes the heart skip a beat as you laze around listening to the crashing of waves. Here are bars that stand out head and shoulders above the rest. With a perfect ambience, ocean views and a lazy seaside vibe, these bars are the first amongst equals.

OVERWATER BAR

Located inside the Maldivian resort of Gili Lankanfushi, this bar is built on stilts over the shallow lagoon surrounding Lankanfushi Island in the North Male Atoll. A pier leads to

the wooden bar which has lounge beds set around a small inner pool with panoramic views of the Indian Ocean all around. Lankanfushi is one of the 1190 islands of the Maldivian archipelago and its clear waters harbour colourful coral reefs and a host of marine life, including spot reef sharks, needlefish and boxfish. The bar rustles up delicious fare made with fresh catch and other local produce. The resort also has over-water luxury villas, some of which can be only reached by boat.

NIKKI BEACH

Located on Miami's famed South Beach, this large ocean front complex comprises a bar and restaurant facing the Atlantic Ocean. Visitors can lounge about in stylish cabanas,



hammocks, day beds and lounge chairs scattered along the waterfront. Part of an international chain of beach clubs, its become the club to be seen at, largely due to its patronage by celebrities and jet-setters. A casual restaurant during the day, it turns into the city's most glamorous club after sundown.

FLOYD'S PELICAN BAR

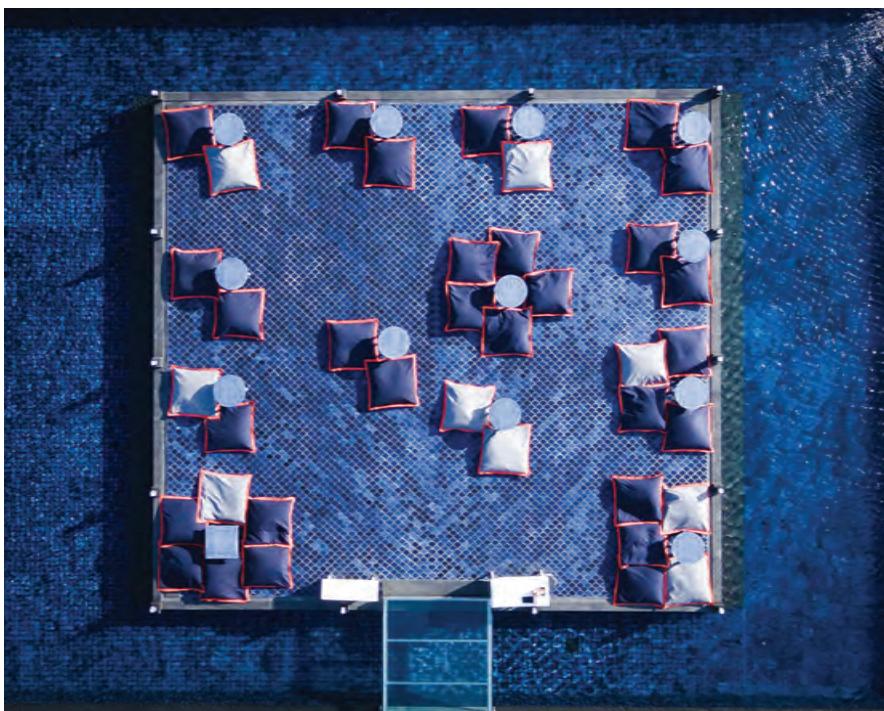
It's pretty no-frill but the Pelican Bar has something else going for it – location. Smack in the middle of the ocean, a mile away from the Parottee Beach in Jamaica, this bar (the brainchild of a local fisherman) is named after the pelicans that circle around the underwater sandbar it's built on. After being razed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, Pelican Bar was

rebuilt entirely with driftwood and palm fronds and runs on electricity produced by a windmill. The tiny interiors are decorated with mementoes left by visitors from around the world. Patrons can enjoy their drink while wading in waist-deep water: regulars recommend the Pelican Perfection – the in-house special.

BABA NEST

With dramatic 360-degree views of Phuket and surrounding islands on the Andaman coast of Thailand, this minimalist bar simply lets the gorgeous scenery take centre-stage. Patrons seat themselves on comfy beanbags scattered about on an elevated wooden deck which is encircled by an infinity pool.





An extensive selection of wines, champagnes and cocktails complements the experience. Baba Nest also has convenient seafacing changing rooms below the deck for visitors who can't resist taking a dip in the ocean.

BARASTI BAR

Located inside Dubai's Le Meridien Mina Seyahi Beach Resort, this award-winning beach bar overlooks the Jumeirah Beach. The wooden deck is ideal for lounging on a beach bed with the stunning views of the Arabian Sea. The bar's casual daytime vibe makes way for a full-blown party fervour at night with a regular DJ and live music getting into the act. There's also an indoor section with large screen televisions screening sports events. The menu is replete with American, Asian and Mediterranean dishes. Barasti is one of the emirate's city's most popular bars, and is choc-a-bloc on weekends.



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HOURS IN ROME

Fall in love with the Italian city of Rome, as you explore its iconic heritage through its magnificent architecture and colourful history

TT BUREAU



THE COLOSSEUM

The elliptical-shaped Roman Colosseum is one of the most imposing structures in the entire world, built in 80 A.D. In Roman times, it used to be a four-floored (about the height of a 12-storey building) amphitheatre and could hold up to 70,000 spectators, coming from 80 entrances. Built of travertine, tuff, and brick-faced concrete, it used to hold gladiatorial contests, animal hunts, ship naval battles and much more. For special effects, there were 36 trap doors below the Colosseum. Partially destroyed by earthquakes and robberies, it is a symbol of Imperial Rome and attracts globetrotters from all corners of the world. Listed on the New7Wonders of the World, it also features on the Italian version of the five-cent euro coin.

THE TREVI FOUNTAIN

A baroque beauty nestled between the historic palaces of the city, the Trevi Fountain is one of the 1352 fountains built in 4th century Rome. Recently refurbished by Fendi, this is one of the most visited spots in Rome, built at the junction of three roads, hence the name 'Trevi Fountain'. Many famous movies have been shot here, including Roman Holiday, Three Coins in the Fountain, and even The Lizzie McGuire Movie. Evening is the perfect time to take a walk around the fountain, where gushing and revitalising waters from the fountain make its beautiful architecture come alive. It is also said that if you throw a coin into the fountain, you're sure to return to Rome.





ST. PETER'S BASILICA

St Peter's Basilica is one of the world's holiest Catholic shrines and centre of Christianity. Built on the tomb of St Peter, the Basilica is a stunning example of Italian Renaissance architecture in Vatican City, the papal enclave within the city of Rome. It is the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture and the largest church in the world. The first Basilica stood for over 1,000 years, after which it fell into a state of disrepair, and Pope Julius II demolished and rebuilt it over a period of 120 years, designed principally by Donato Bramante, Michelangelo, and other famed architects of the time.

PIAZZA NAVONA

Piazza Navona is arguably the most elegant baroque square in Rome, featuring a colourful melange of artists, hawkers and tourists amidst the showy fountains – the grand centrepiece being the breathtaking Bernini fountain. Emperor Domitian built the stadium in 86 AD, for the purpose of hosting games, which could hold up to 30,000 people. For almost 300 years, Piazza Navona hosted the city's main market. The flamboyant Bernini fountain features an Egyptian obelisk and muscular personifications of the rivers Nile, Ganges, Danube and Plate.



IL CHIANTI – OSTERIA TOSCANA

A lovely Italian restaurant, close to the Trevi Fountain, serving Tuscan delicacies with a wide range of Tuscan (and other) wines. Particularly famous for its unique beef dishes, the authentic restaurant also serves other Roman Classics in its artful ambience. Some of the must-tries include smoked cheese carpocio and cold meat starter plate, which features an excellent array of salamis, hams and cheeses, plus a couple of crostini. For the main course, the 'Tiepidina', a plate of rare beef with an aubergine sauce, makes for an outstanding fare.

WHAT: MALTA INDIA FILM FESTIVAL
WHEN: DECEMBER 14-16, 2018
WHERE: VALLETTA, MALTA

The Malta India Film Academy will launch the first edition of the Malta India Film Festival. The festival, a first of its kind, will be open to filmmakers from across the world, who have either Maltese or Indian elements present in their film. Supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Malta, the endeavour is to build a creative bridge encouraging art, culture and entertainment between the two countries. The Festival will invite entries across different genres of cinema and will be in categories of Feature Film, Short Film and Documentaries. The shortlisted set of films will then be screened over three days in Valletta.



WHAT: BATHUKAMMA
WHEN: OCTOBER 10-18, 2018
WHERE: HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

A floral festival celebrated during the nine days of Navaratri, Bathukamma Festival celebrates life and the Mother Goddess Maha Gauri, an incarnation of Goddess Durga. This state festival of Telangana represents its cultural spirit. The goddess is worshipped in the form of Bathukamma, which is a floral arrangement representing a temple tower. On the last day, women take the Bathukammas out in procession to immerse them in water.



WHAT: DURGA PUJA
WHEN: OCTOBER 15-19, 2018
WHERE: KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Durga Puja is a multi-day festival dedicated in honour of Goddess Durga. The festival features beautifully handcrafted statues of Durga installed in podiums in almost every nook and corner of the city. The festival epitomises the victory of good over evil, as people throng to the streets to view the goddess' statues amid mesmerising light shows, drumming, and aromatic food stalls. On the last day of the festival, the statues are paraded around the city before being submerged in the river.

WHAT: DUSSEHRA
WHEN: OCTOBER 19, 2018
WHERE: MOSTLY IN NORTHERN INDIA

The day after the Navaratri festival is known as Dussehra. It's widely devoted to commemorating the defeat of the demon King Ravan by Lord Ram. Huge effigies of Ravan go up in smoke all over India. However, there are other more unusual celebrations of the festival. Some start at the beginning of Navaratri, while others kick-off on the main day of Dussehra and continue on for weeks. Not all are associated with Lord Ram and Ravan –some are tribal and some regal.



WHAT: MOGA FESTIVAL
WHEN: OCTOBER 12–14, 2018
WHERE: ESSAOUIRA, MOROCCO

The festival of electronic music and culture, Moga Festival returns to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Essaouira for a new edition. For three days, fans of good sounds will be invited for a unique trip in the old Mogador. An appointment with electronic cultures, punctuated by intense moments of music, exchange and communion, is sure to delight the fans. For its 2018 edition, Moga Festival will invest several cultural, historical, and essential places of Essaouira by presenting 40 artists from the international and Moroccan scene for concerts. Moga Festival promises locals, tourists and festivalgoers a unique experience!

WHAT: THE MELBOURNE FESTIVAL
WHEN: OCTOBER 3–21, 2018
WHERE: MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The Melbourne International Arts Festival is a potpourri of events, including dance, theatre, music, circus, visual arts, multimedia, outdoor and free events. The 19-day festival is held every October across multiple venues in Melbourne, Australia. The festival is aimed at connecting art forms, people and ideas, to renew the culture of creativity by curating unique experiences that bring people together. The provoking and inspiring festival is one of Australia's leading international arts festivals.



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PICK OF THE MONTH

The latest collection of books, games, audio CDs and DVDs are here to keep you entertained for the month

MUSIC: ATMOSPHERE – MI VIDA LOCAL

Ant & Slug, aka Atmosphere, drop off their new project "Mi Vida Local." First announced back in August, Atmosphere's anticipated new album, Mi Vida Local, has finally arrived. The follow up to 2016's Fishing Blues contains 12 tracks in total and features guest appearances from Cashinova, The Lioness, deM atlaS, & The Dynospectrum, the latter of which appears in the song "Randy Marsh." Mi Vida Local, reflects the ways in which the world – and their place in it – has changed. The idyllic domesticity of the past few

records has morphed into anxiety over keeping loved ones safe during turbulent times. The easygoing collaboration between Ant and Slug has started to feel more like the life-or-death intimacy of two men trapped together on a lifeboat. At times, Mi Vida Local is a heavy album, but it's far from grim.

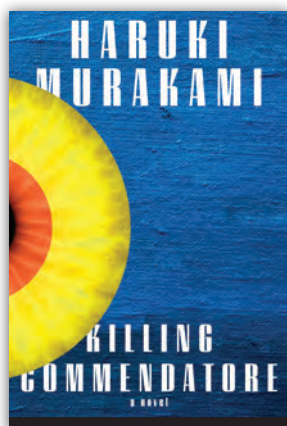


Genre: Hip-Hop/Rap

BOOK: KILLING COMMENDATORE BY HARUKI MURAKAMI

In 'Killing Commendatore', a thirty-something portrait painter in Tokyo is abandoned by his wife and finds himself holed up in the mountain home of a famous artist, Tomohiko Amada. When he discovers a previously unseen painting in the attic, he unintentionally opens a circle of mysterious circumstances. To close it, he must complete a journey that involves a

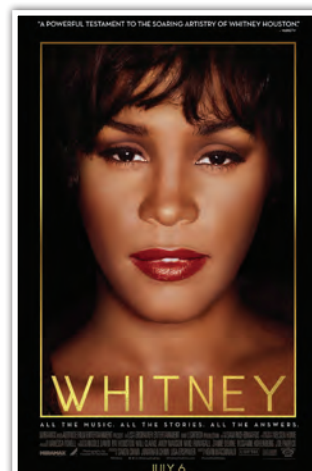
mysterious ringing bell, a two-foot-high physical manifestation of an Idea, a dapper businessman who lives across the valley, a precocious thirteen-year-old girl, a Nazi assassination attempt during World War II in Vienna, a pit in the woods behind the artist's home, and an underworld haunted by Double Metaphors. A tour de force of love and loneliness, war and art – as well as a loving homage to The Great Gatsby – 'Killing Commendatore' is a stunning work of imagination from one of our greatest writers.



Genre (s): Literary Fiction

DVD: WHITNEY

Whitney is a 2018 documentary film about the singer Whitney Houston, written and directed by Kevin Macdonald. It was screened at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival and was released on July 6, 2018, by Roadside Attractions and Miramax. The documentary follows her life and career, culminating in her untimely death at the age of 48. The explosive and controversial documentary sheds new light on her relationship with her friends and family, unparalleled stardom, tragic decline, and her private struggles. Macdonald's super-sized approach to the usual rise-and-fall tale earned the support of Houston's estate, making it packed with insights from friends, associates, hired hands and family as well as never-seen footage.



Genre: Documentary, Biography, Music

GAMES: CALL OF CTHULHU

Call of Cthulhu is an upcoming video game developed by Cyanide and published by Focus Home Interactive for PlayStation 4, Xbox One and Windows. The game features a semi-open world environment and will incorporate themes of Lovecraftian and psychological horror into a story, which includes elements of investigation and stealth. It is inspired by H. P. Lovecraft's short story, "The Call of Cthulhu," while also being an adaptation of the 1981 role-playing game of the same title. The game follows investigator Edward Pierce, who is a private detective in an existential crisis. However, there is a glimmer of hope, when one day, a mysterious case lands on his desk. The detective is asked to solve the death of the Hawkins family, who mysteriously died in a fire. As the only clue is a strange picture painted by the supposedly crazy mother shortly before her death, Edward has to set out to Darkwater Island near Boston, Massachusetts, to find out more about the matter and discovers the impending revival of the Great Old One Cthulhu.

Genre (s): Role-playing, survival horror





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