

TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2016 | ₹50

**WEDDING DESTINATIONS
AROUND THE WORLD**

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WITH LUFTHANSA**

**INDULGE
IN LUXURY WITH
THE LEELA PALACE NEW DELHI**

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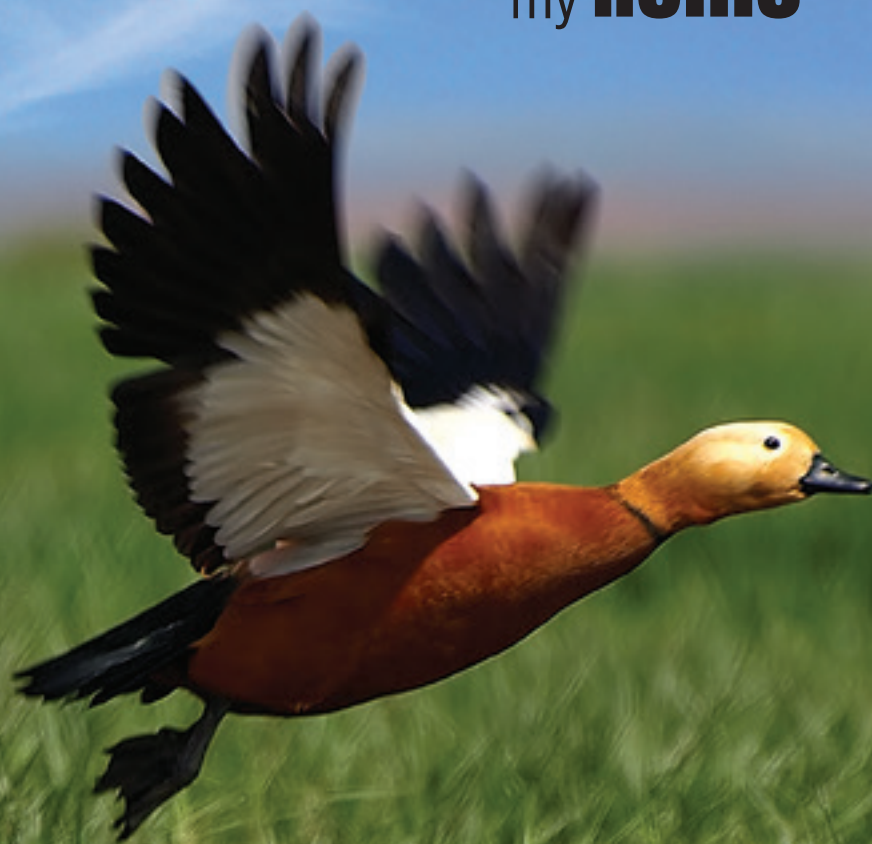
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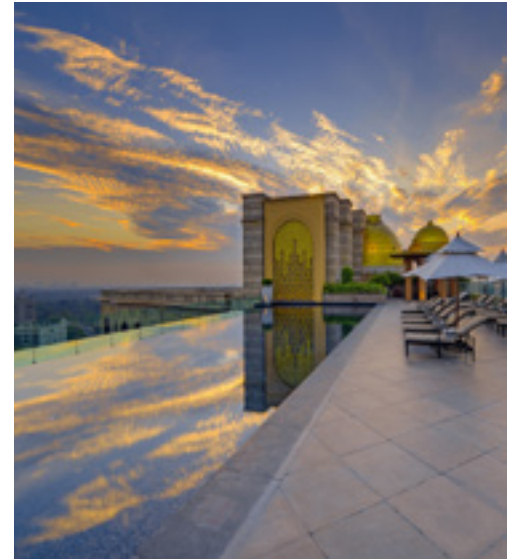
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SEPTEMBER
2016

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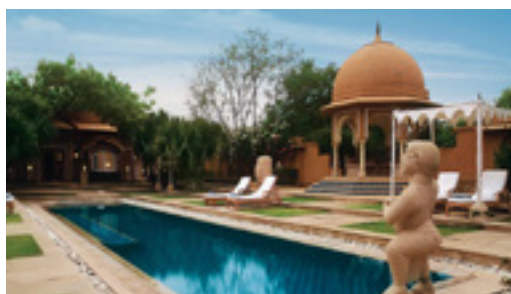
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Lufthansa



LUFTHANSA CELEBRATES INDIA @ 70

To mark the occasion of India's 70th Independence Day, Lufthansa Passenger Airlines made every passenger feel special by extending an Indian reception at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport. On August 15, 2016, Lufthansa passengers were greeted by ground staff donned traditional attire and tri-colour decorations. In addition, passengers were gifted sweets as well as an Indian tri-colour upon check-in. With this initiative, Lufthansa once again demonstrated that it is an airline with a "Soul of Germany and a Heart of India". tt

GOLDEN CHARIOT SHOWCASES ROYAL MYSURU DASARA

Department of Tourism and Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC), are launching a special package on the Golden Chariot, to showcase the world-famous Dasara of Mysuru, from 1st to 10th October, 2016. The specially designed package is priced at an attractive and affordable tariff of Rs 30,000 per person, for two nights and one day.

The tour would start on 1st October from Yeshwanthpur Railway Station, Bengaluru, and would run every alternate day from Bengaluru, ie, on 3rd, 5th, 7th and the last run on 9th October. The Golden Chariot has 44 luxury cabins and will accommodate 88 people. The seats are available for booking online through the Golden Chariot website, www.goldenchariot.org. The seats, for the first time, will also be available through Bookmyshow and Makemytrip.

This is for the first time, KSTDC, is running the Golden Chariot tours for the whole of Dasara exclusively and has offered a very special package price and the bookings have been made available online. tt



UTA ORGANISES ITS FIRST TRADE SHOW

United Travel Agents (UTA) organised a networking event and trade show in Mumbai on August 26, 2016 at Hotel Peninsula Grand Mumbai. The aim was to help the people from the industry to interact and network with each other for business growth. Around 300 travel agents and their counterparts participated in the trade show.

"UTA is a group of 200 plus like-minded travel agents. Each of the travel agencies specialises in their own specific travel segment, be it B2B or B2C. We are organising these events to benefit the travel agent community through constant education on new tourism products which would in turn help them in growing revenues," said Kinnali Vikam, Organiser, UTA Networking Event and Trade Show.

The event saw presentations from DMCs like Royal Gulf LLC (Dubai DMC), Flylink from Singapore, Parivaar India Tours (North East India DMC), Florian Travel (Eastern Europe DMC), Travel Point Holiday (Visa Specialist) and many more.

"This is UTA's first trade show and we have received pleasing responses for the same. We will be planning our next events in Tier II and Tier III cities soon," said, Satyaprakash Gupta, Organiser, UTA Networking Event and Trade Show.

UTA plans to also launch its official website by the end of September. UTA's prime objective is to form a group of travel agents in which there is equal involvement of all the members and to increase internal business between DMCs and Travel Agents in this technological world. tt






KEEP CALM IN KOLKATA

Meet the currents that have helped build this bustling city. As you float under the night sky, the Hooghly will paint a silhouette of the metropolis on both sides. And remind you that in this city, tranquility is just a boat ride away.

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FLY NON STOP WITH LUFTHANSA

In conversation with Wolfgang Will, Director, South Asia, Lufthansa Passenger Airlines, on the strategic importance of the India Market and the memorable journey so far

TT BUREAU

How important is the India market for Lufthansa?

It's been a wonderful journey for Lufthansa, with a history of more than 50 years of operations in India. Lufthansa is one of India's leading European airlines, with India being a very strategic market. Our presence for over 50 years has given us a unique insight into the Indian market, which we have successfully demonstrated through our focussed marketing initiatives that we are an airline with the 'Soul of Germany and Heart of India.'

We are happy that on our entire network to India, we have state-of-the-art products in place. India being a priority market, Lufthansa already operates Airbus A330, Airbus A340, Boeing B747 and Airbus A380 on its routes from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Pune and Bengaluru to Europe and strives to better its product offering for Indian customers. In fact, India has been the first market in Asia to receive Lufthansa's Boeing 747-8, "Queen of Skies," which speaks volumes about India as a strategic market for Lufthansa.

Nothing demonstrates this more clearly than the fact that India is the first and only Lufthansa market worldwide to have a local television commercial. Unveiled in 2014, under Lufthansa's 'Non Stop You' positioning, the television

commercial was delivered through the prism of Lufthansa's "More Indian than You think" philosophy and aimed at letting audiences discover the emotional and Indian side of the brand.

Our aircraft feature latest on-board products and services, including the renowned Business Class seat that can be turned into a full lie-flat bed offering a horizontal sleeping surface measuring 1.98 metres. Thanks to some recent key improvements, Lufthansa offers more personalised services in Business Class, plus greater flexibility in terms of processes as a whole. For instance, we provide services that remind passengers of being in a top-class restaurant, which means that our guests are being served individually.

Lufthansa has a deep understanding of what Indian customers need. We employ cabin crew members from India who speak several Indian languages and are familiar with local customs. After working with the finest chefs in India, we serve Indian meals on board in all classes; these include local vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. In addition, Lufthansa's in-flight entertainment channels offer a choice of latest Indian movies as well as a selection of Indian music, both classical and pop, on the audio channel. A latest feature is the live streaming of important sports events on your individual screens, on board. At Frankfurt, we have people who help Indian passengers to get their connecting flight. So, we are really very much into attending to our customers and making it easy for them to travel with Lufthansa.

We are very happy that we have recently introduced the Premium Economy Class on the above mentioned routes. Customers get up to 50 per cent more space, are greeted with a welcome drink and will find their own water bottles as well as high-quality amenity kits with practical travel accessories at their seats. With a baggage allowance of two items, weighing up to 23kg each, passengers can take twice as much free luggage with them as compared with Economy Class. For an extra fee, passengers can also enjoy the comfort of the Lufthansa Business Lounges at our hubs in Frankfurt and Munich before their departure.

Lufthansa is the only European airline offering a non-stop flight from Pune to Europe. A specially designed aircraft in a 2-class configuration (20 Business Class, 66 Economy Class) connects 3 to 4 times a week with Frankfurt, offering a vast choice of connecting flights to Europe and North America.

Over the last two years, we have totally revamped our lounges. Our Welcome Lounge in Frankfurt offers business amenities including a quick shower so you can start your work day totally refreshed. These things are very important for our corporate customers. We are also the only airline with a terminal only for the First Class, in Frankfurt. Our First Class terminal has everything you need and the special thing is

that it's a small individual terminal with immigration, security checks, customs, and a Mercedes or Porsche to take you to the aircraft. These features are not only tremendously attractive, but necessary.

Lufthansa has been flying to India for over 50 years. What are your plans for further strengthening Lufthansa's position in the India market?

India is a priority market for us and we will continue to invest in new products and services in order to further increase our presence and quality in India. This year, we will introduce the Boeing B747-8 on our Mumbai – Frankfurt route and thus add significant capacity to our operations in India. October end, the "Queen of the Skies" will replace the iconic "Jumbo Jet," which has for a long time been the backbone of Lufthansa's long-haul fleet.

In addition, we are very proud that Delhi will be the first destination within the Lufthansa network that will be served with the new Airbus A350 at the beginning of 2017. We are convinced that this new state-of-the-art aircraft will suit the expectations of the Indian market.

Do you plan to introduce any new experiences for Indian travellers?

Lufthansa has shown strong commitment to India by broadening our services to incorporate specific needs and wishes of our Indian customers which are in line with our 'More Indian Than You Think' philosophy.

Going forward, as part of reinforcing our positioning that we are an airline with the "Soul of Germany and Heart of India," we plan to upgrade our onboard Indian menu offerings by introducing a greater variety. With Lufthansa FlyNet, we were the first airline in India to offer our Indian passengers Internet connection on long-haul routes. FlyNet allows customers to check emails, download documents, chat with friends via Facebook and also send their exact arrival time to their loved ones via SMS.

Lufthansa's Business Class has now introduced a restaurant service, which allows, 7-8 guests to have a dedicated flight attendant who serves guests at their convenience and a choice of food from the menu. This is something very personal and much appreciated by our passengers. We do not ignore the vast demand that there is on the leisure front and we are looking at ways to communicate with different passenger segments and offer features and products to each segment.

As one of Europe's leading airlines, we are also looking at increasing our business offerings for the Indian customers by providing unrivalled connectivity and creating people experiences under the banner, "Non Stop You."

*Punctuality, reliability
and efficiency is the very
image of Lufthansa*

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For more information or to book a stay at any of Preferred Hotels & Resorts' Legend properties across India, visit: preferredhotels.com/indialegends

Legend properties include: The Imperial New Delhi, The Leela Palace Udaipur, The Leela Palace Bangalore, Dusit Devarana New Delhi, The Leela Palaces Chennai, The Leela Palace New Delhi and The Leela Goa. **tt**



JORAM BEDA
Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Tourism



Sougato Bhowmik

BE VIACOM18 APPOINTED TO PROMOTE AP AS A TOURISM DESTINATION

In a first of its kind initiative, media conglomerate Viacom18's brand solutions arm BE Viacom18 has partnered with the government of Arunachal Pradesh to provide strategic consultation services to promote the tourism in the state.

Sougato Bhowmik, Business Head, Consumer Products and Integrated Network Solutions, Viacom 18, said, "We are ecstatic to have inked a deal to boost the state tourism of Arunachal Pradesh. Viacom18 has entered a PPP Model with the state government, wherein we will conceptualise and create the best possible plan of action to make Arunachal Pradesh a 'Must Experience' location."

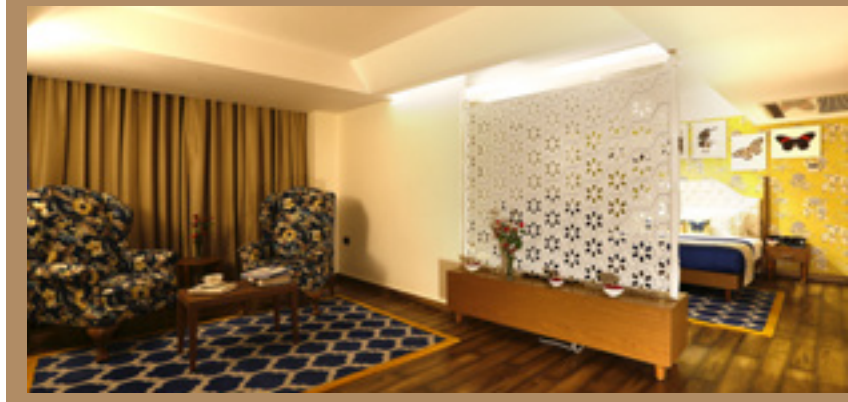
Joram Beda, Tourism Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh said, "The Chief Minister Pema Khandu firmly believes that tourism is one of the areas that can generate revenues for the state. Being one of the biggest media houses, we are pleased to have Viacom18 on-board to help us reach out to the right audience through a robust campaign." **tt**

MOSAIC DEBUTS IN MUSSOORIE

Mosaic Hotels is an ultimate urbane retreat. The hotel is located at the centre of Mussoorie where guests can sink into the leisurely pace of life or walk on to the Mall Road to feel the hustle-bustle of an age old town/city.

Unwind in the hotel's elegant wood floored rooms with spacious bathrooms which have heated floors too. The ambience of the hotel reflects the peace and flavours of the area. Dine at Random, an indoor restaurant. Sip a drink or two at the terrace Restaurant Charcoal and dig into the famous Grilled finger food.

Mosaic Hotels is an aesthetically created hospitality venture of the Shipra Group, a remarkable name in real estate and entertainment industries with prestigious brands such as Shipra Mall, JAM, Shipra Sun City and Shipra Riviera under its kitty. **tt**



ANNUAL CONVENTION OF IATO IN CHENNAI

The 32nd Annual Convention of IATO will be held in Chennai from 18 -21 September 2016. The venue of the convention is ITC Grand Chola Chennai. Executive Committee Pronab Sarkar President, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) said "we were planning to have our convention in Chennai for last couple of years as IATO never had its annual convention in Tamil Nadu earlier. However, this year, it is going to become a dream come true. From the very beginning, we focused to have our convention in Chennai only".

Rajeev Kohli, Senior Vice President, and the Chairman of the Convention was very much enthusiastic in holding IATO Convention in Chennai as Chennai is the Gateway to Southern India.

Rajiv Mehra, Vice President and Co-Chairman of the Convention mentioned that Tamil Nadu offers A to Z of tourism be it beaches, pilgrimage, hill station, wildlife, shopping, ayurveda and medical tourism and these are our main consideration to have our convention in Tamil Nadu and see the products. **tt**

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RADISSON BLU TURNS PINK

Radisson Blu recently announced the “LOVE BLU, BE PINK!” campaign where one room in each participating hotel across the globe will turn pink for the month of October. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the pink rooms will benefit charities that support breast cancer research and awareness.

“Radisson Blu is pleased to announce its support in the fight against breast cancer,” said Rose Anderson, Vice President, Global Branding, Radisson Blu. “In partnership with our guests, we look forward to raising funds for breast cancer research and awareness.” tt

RADISSON BLU OPENS ITS FIRST RESORT AND SPA IN KARJAT

Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Karjat, located in the sub district of Raigad, is now open. Situated in the natural surroundings of verdant greenery and awe-inspiring landscapes of the nearby hills, Karjat is a popular weekend destination for regional tourism and international travelers.

Raj Rana, Chief Executive Officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group said, “We are excited to partner with Suhasish Chakraborty to launch this upper upscale resort. With its unparalleled resort experience and commitment to excellence, we are confident Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Karjat will be a shining success.”

The resort’s owner, Suhasish Chakraborty, said, “Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Karjat offers a beautiful balance between modern design and enveloping natural beauty. It is a first-of-its-kind luxury offering in an upcoming destination, complete with great connectivity, service excellence and quality standards befitting of the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. We are excited to introduce this property to a range of discerning guests.” tt

DON'T MISS

TAAI CONVENTION AT ABU DHABI

Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) at its Managing Committee meeting held at Mumbai has decided “Abu Dhabi” as the venue for its 63rd Annual Convention & Exhibition of TAAI, popularly known as the Indian Travel Congress. The dates for the convention are 14th, 15th, 16th October 2016.

Speaking about the Convention, Sunil Kumar reflected that the Convention would be rich in its content as well as in offering experiential take-home to the delegates. He further added that the content would focus on the importance of a fast changing “today” and the urgent need for members to rise beyond the routine.

TAAI is associating with Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) who have assured of their support to TAAI to hold this event in Abu Dhabi. tt

9TH ICPB CONCLAVE

India Convention Promotion Bureau is happy to announce its flagship event to be held from 13 - 15 October 2016. Its main objective is to bring together potential Conference Planners, Incentive Organizers, Convention Centres, Convention Hotels, Service Providers to one platform providing opportunity of networking and also generating new business. This opportunity is also being used to showcase meetings and conference capabilities of Indian Industry.

This year Convention will focus more on B2B Meetings. Concurrent with the Convention, Indian Exhibitors will have an opportunity to showcase their products to around 300 International and Indian Buyers, Association Heads and Corporate House

The Conclave will be an opportunity for participants from many disciplines, to share their experiences towards the promotion of India’s MICE Business. Also with the aim of strengthening the brand positioning of ‘Incredible India’ as a MICE destination, buyers from overseas will also have appointments with suppliers from India’s MICE Companies. tt

DON'T MISS



FLASH MOB @ MYSORE PALACE

In order to create sense of patriotism amongst the existing young generation and coincide with India’s 70th Independence Day, a group of 12 girls from Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore performed a Flash Dance mixed with patriotic songs and Bollywood Songs at the World famous Heritage Palace at Mysore on 28th August 2016 attracting thousands of tourists visiting on the day. The Girls were attired in Tri Colour portraying three colours of India’s National Flag.

This cultural activity on patriotic theme was performed during the Independence Day celebrations at the hotel this year which was appreciated by esteemed guests staying at the hotel from across the globe and many of the well wishers requested the troupe to perform in prominent places of the city to create awareness about patriotism says Pankaj Saxena, General Manager of Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore.

The Hotel has been actively involved with all sections of Society through different Responsible Business Activities linked with People, Community and Environment. tt



CORPORATE



The HoJo PROMISE

In conversation with
Rahul Rai, Executive Director,
Unique Merchantile Pvt Ltd

TT BUREAU

How has the Indian journey been so far?

The first hotel has been opened at the Silicon Valley of India, Bengaluru, and this was a conscious decision to set up a new hotel brand in Bengaluru as the city has accepted all global brands warmly. HoJo Bengaluru Hebbal offers 117 spacious rooms across four distinct categories. Each room has a well-defined character and style that provides comfort, which is seamlessly blended with finesse. The rooms at Howard Johnson Bengaluru Hebbal are categorised into 81 deluxe rooms, 23 executive club rooms, five premium rooms and eight suites.

How do you look to place Howard Johnson in a competitive Indian market?

The key insight is to fulfill the demand of the upscale mid-market sector which is the least cultured but is in huge demand. In order to promote the hotel as a preferred choice, the hotel has focused on the micro market. Also, the brand has a strong presence in the international market which has actually helped secure the major corporate RFPs. Positioning the hotel clearly, "The Smart Choice for The Smart Traveller" has also helped.

The property right now is completely operational. It has been launched with full services



and is today boasting an enviable occupancy. This is also due to the fact the location itself is in the vicinity of the city's famed IT belt which gives the hotel a clear advantage in terms of attracting a largely captive audience.

What difference in hospitality can Howard Johnson Hotels bring in this region?

The brand believes that happiness is contagious and does not hesitate to go the extra mile to ensure guests are happy. So whether it is an extra pillow, more bathroom amenities, local dining suggestions or free Wi-Fi, they will do everything to keep the guest happy as they believe that the world is a better place when the people in it are happy. The HoJo promise is to give something new all the time.

What are your future plans for growth?

The brand is expected to add 70 more hotels in the next three years. India will have 35 to 40 properties by 2020.



Rahul Rai who has partnered with the Wyndham Group to introduce HoJo to India is naturally excited to unlock the potential of the market





TAJ HONOURS TRAVEL TRADE AT TAJ TRAVEL TRADE AWARDS

Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces organised Taj Travel Awards to honour the excellence of its travel trade partners at Taj Palace, New Delhi. These awards are aimed at recognising the significant inbound Destination Management Companies for their outstanding contribution to the Taj. A first-of-its-kind, The Taj Travel Trade Awards, initiated in 2010, is a platform to felicitate its partners for their relentless support and commitment to promote the Taj hotels.

The event drew prominent trade allies to celebrate this momentous occasion and Rakesh Sarna, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces. He expressed his gratitude to the partners for their unmatched support and commitment to the Taj which has helped them attain new heights and consistently deliver excellence every day. In addition to that he also introduced Tajness – the group's brand and operations philosophy for the future to its trade partners and stakeholders. tt



RADISSON BLU PASCHIM VIHAR LAUNCHES OLYMPUS

Radisson Blu Hotel New Delhi Paschim Vihar, has come up to fulfill the very need of every upcoming wedding in town through Olympus – The largest banquet hall in West Delhi. This icon of sheer excellence is the epitome of beauty. Deriving its name from the Mt. Olympus in Greece which is considered as the humble abode of the Gods of Greek Mythology, it holds a special place in our hotel, to be 'one-of-a-kind' banqueting facility in the nearby vicinity. Being a part of the Radisson Blu Hotel New Delhi Paschim Vihar, it extrudes beauty from within, along with the best in class service standards. tt

OMAN TOURISM TO CONDUCT FOUR-CITY INDIA ROAD SHOW

The Sultanate of Oman in association with the national airline Oman Air will conduct multi-city road show for the travel trade in India during September. The roadshow will commence on September 19 at Park Hyatt, Hyderabad; September 21 at The Oberoi, Kolkata; September 23 at Courtyard by Marriott, Ahmedabad; and conclude on September 26 at JW Marriott, Pune.

Lubaina Sheerazi, India Representative - Ministry of Tourism, Oman says, "In 2015, we witnessed 17 per cent growth in Indian arrivals and in the first six months of 2016 too we have seen a positive growth. Encouraged by these figures and to penetrate better in Tier II cities, we have decided to conduct the road show in Pune, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad. This year, we also identified Kolkata as a new market for Oman and will be conducting our first road show in the city. With this new addition, Oman has made presence in eight Indian cities with Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai being our main source markets." tt



A MEMORABLE AFFAIR

Second Quarterly Knowledge Hour at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi delivers on its promise

TT BUREAU

Referred to as another milestone in elevating the level of standard achieved by the members and the Facility Management Community of North India, the event, saw individuals as well as professionals enthusiastically provide personal views on “Essential Fitness + Workplace Ergonomics = Enhanced Productivity;” the panel discussion for the second Knowledge Hour.

The successful event saw leaders and professionals from various parts of Delhi NCR participate in swell numbers for the panel discussion moderated by Major Avinash Mullick. The event began with motivational speaker Major DP Singh, share his journey from “being in the Armed Forces” to “Inspiring Others.”

The event saw special mention go to Jaideep Anand, General Manager and Leslie Morisson, Director of Sales & Marketing, The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi for being such warm hosts.

Glimpses of the event:





CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

ASIF MIR

**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
INFRASTRUCTURE & ADMINISTRATION
CAPITAL FIRST LTD**

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

I would certainly love to visit Dubai again. It's a beautiful place with ultra-modern bearings.

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

The most memorable family vacation which I experienced was in Dubai. We had a great time together, and cherished every moment we spent there.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

It definitely has to be Dubai. It was a lot of fun being there with my friends.

Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

Travelling is a great way of learning. Apart from many other things, it's the monuments and the lovely climate that should definitely be your priority.



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Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

I remember visiting Port Blair India and being completely overtaken by the soothing beauty of the place. It was amazing.

Q: You dream of going to?

I would love to visit Switzerland someday.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

Without question, I would have to say Thai Airways. The inflight hospitality there is outstanding, and they set the standards in the business.

Q: Best hotel experience and why?

I really enjoyed my stay at The Leela Goa. It offered fine dining, excellent location and an incredible environment.

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

Given the opportunity, I would really like to

visit Port Blair again. I could explore only 20 per cent in a week during my previous holiday break.

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

The family vacation at Port Blair, with its beach experience, sea sports, and the drive through reserve area was really outstanding.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

We had a gala of a time at Goa with its sandy beaches and colourful culture.

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

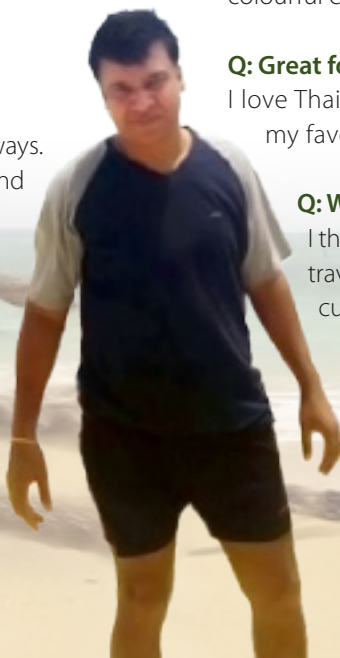
I love Thai food at Bangkok, while sea food has always been my favourite.

Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

I think, the most important factors to watch out for while travelling are the people, flora and fauna and the local cuisine of that area.

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

You must enjoy your travel, trip or vacation to the fullest, go for the best food, get the best experience and treat yourself like a king.





GB SRITHAR has been appointed as Regional Director for South Asia, Middle East & Africa (SAMEA) to be based in Mumbai. Srithar is well acquainted with the Indian markets having worked in India between April 2010 and December 2013 as Area Director, South Asia. One of his key responsibilities will be to

oversee the STB's leisure and BT MICE travel promotions, marketing and developmental efforts in the SAMEA region; and his office will work closely with travel trade and non-trade partners to promote Singapore as the destination of choice among Indian travellers.



HENRY GRAY has been appointed as the Vice President, Operations – Hotels and Resorts at Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas. A graduate of Henley College in the UK and with over 30 years of international management experience in the hospitality world, Gray started his

journey as the Resident Manager of Marina Cay Resort, in the British Virgin Islands. Gray will be based in the Six Senses Home Office in Bangkok.



SUMIT KUMAR has been designated as the General Manager of Hyatt Pune. Over the last thirteen years Kumar has been an integral part of Hyatt Hotels and is responsible for the operational development of Hyatt Pune, including guest and employee engagement and financial performance. Combining

focused leadership with a passion for excellence and an in-depth understanding of the Hyatt Brand, he is responsible for the strategic decision making in the increasingly competitive Pune market.



AVNEESH MATHUR has been designated as General Manager at Park Plaza Gurgaon. Prior to joining in his current position, he has worked as General Manager with Park Plaza Kolkata. Mathur has been in the hospitality business for the last 28 years, starting as Assistant Manager (F&B) with

Hotel Leela Kempinski Mumbai.



VIDUR KAPUR has been appointed as the new General Manager for Rokeby Manor & Residences by Mars Enterprises at Landour-Musoorie, Uttarakhand. Kapur has a rich experience of over 15 years majority of which has been overseas in London, South Africa etc. His expertise lies in sound financial planning and achieving revenue targets. Along with Rokeby Manor & Residences, Kapur will also be in-charge of the other newly launched properties in Landour 'The Little Salon & Spa Shed', 'The Stray Dog Café & Bar' and 'Landour Bakehouse.'



VIVEK MAHAJAN has been appointed as the General Manager of Crystal Sarovar Premiere, Agra. Mahajan brings with him an extensive experience of 14 years in the hospitality industry. Prior to joining Sarovar Hotels & Resorts, Mahajan has been associated with reputed brands like Oberoi

Group, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces and Wyndham Hotel.



DR JAIRAM S NAIR has been appointed Director Spa at Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi, Mahipalpur. Dr Nair comes with an experience of almost 17 years in Wellness & Spa with various industries including hospitality industry. He was earlier

associated with Moksha Himalaya Spa Resort Himachal Pradesh as Director of Spa & Wellness prior to joining Radisson. With an enriching experience backing him, Dr Nair intends to take the success of R The Spa to higher levels. He is an alumnus of Government Ayurvedic College & Hospital, Nagpur.



VIVEK BRAGANZA has been appointed as the Director of Business Development, India at Shangri La International Management. Braganza has over 13 years of hospitality experience in Sales & Marketing, and Revenue Management. In his new role, Braganza will

be responsible for developing business opportunities from India to Shangri La hotels across the world. Braganza holds an MBA in Sales & Marketing from the Indira Institute of Management, Pune.



SUTAPA DAS has been appointed as the Assistant Manager Marketing & Communication (MARCOMM) at Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan. With an experience of almost seven years in the field of digital marketing, Sutapa has served for

all the sectors like, hospitality, IT, health, fitness, restaurant to name some. In this new role, she will be responsible for client relations, PR and marketing strategies, the creative side of promotional literature, advertising and artwork.



iNFHRA's FM 'Xcellence Awards

iNFHRA to host iNFHRA eXcellence Award series for Facility, Administration, Travel, Corporate Real Estate and Safety and Security professionals

TT BUREAU



iNFHRA, an industry body and member based organisation representing Infrastructure, Facility Management, Human Resource and Realty industry, with a member base of more than 1,000 members spread across India, Middle East and Europe, will be organising "iNFHRA eXcellence Award" series for Facility, Administration,

Travel, Corporate Real Estate and Safety and Security professionals.

Speaking of the awards, **Faiyaz Khan, Founder iNFHRA**, mentioned "Facilities management is a critical, strategic business discipline.

Good facilities management can deliver flexibility, adaptability and sustainability. It can help organisations respond to cost pressures and the need for greater security.

iNFHRA's FM 'Xcellence Awards will recognise and appreciate efforts by individuals or teams within the FM industry, from researchers through to facility operators, who have made a positive contribution to the knowledge, practical application

and communication of strategies to improve the workplace environment and sustainable performance of their facilities.

These Awards are intended to award the **"best of the best"** within the FM world and to promote the strategic value and progress of facilities management industry"

iNFHRA recently hosted their Workplace Strategy 2020 Summit at The Lalit, CP, New Delhi on 22nd July 2016, which focused on various key topics impacting the built environment. The summit was well attended by more than 100 leading corporates from North India, and appreciated by all.

The calendar for the awards is as below:

- Bengaluru – 26th October 2016 • Gurgaon – 16th November 2016
- Pune – 9th December 2016 • Hyderabad – 18th January 2017
- Chennai – 15th February 2017 • Mumbai – 10th March 2017

The Award categories include:

1. Real Estate & Space Management
 2. Safety & Security
 3. Technology & Innovation
 4. Corporate Travel, Transport & Logistics
 5. Ecological Sustainability (Waste, Water & Energy Efficiency)
- For more information on the Summit & Award series, kindly write to support@infhra.com

Testimonials – Delhi Summit



Sathish Rajendran, Cushman & Wakefield

Good conference with a wide diversity of delegates, industry experts and presenters representing a wide cross section of CRE & FM industry, providing a good platform to everybody for sharing knowledge. Kudos to the team who had put this together for this wonderful turnout.

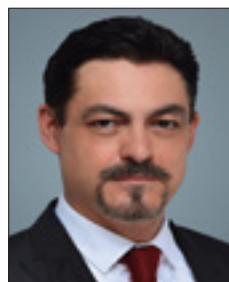


Capt Rajesh Sharma, Resources

It is heartening to see that iNFHRA has created a serious knowledge sharing platform in the industry.

What differentiates iNFHRA from other similar forums is the top down communication model that is followed.

Participation is primarily from some of the senior most industry professionals who engage in very meaningful and insightful discussions on various issues the industry faces. I am proud to be associated with iNFHRA and wish them all the very best for their future endeavors.



Deben Moza, Knight Frank Property Services

A big thank you for inviting me as a moderator for panel discussions on Workplace Efficiency & Design at the Conference. It was a very interesting experience, and it was good to catch-up with a number of familiar faces at the event! The conference had some great thought-provoking topics and I think the sessions were really well attended. So once again, my congratulations and thanks for such an excellent event. With all good wishes, I look forward to attending more events like this.



Meghna Garg, Thomson Reuters

Workplace Strategy Summit is a great initiative, as it brings together the industry veterans for sharing best practices and acknowledging the reality of the daily facility affairs. This eventually helps in concurring the general industry issues with identified innovative yet logical solutions, but collectively.



Lt Col Sanjay Sehgal,
Smartpro Group

iNFHRA's Workplace Strategy 2020 Meet, New Delhi was an excellent awareness, knowledge sharing and networking platform that provided an opportunity to a wide spectrum of Facility Management professionals not only to have a virtual peep into the future workplaces but also put them on the path of futuristic thinking. Congratulations to iNFHRA Board for this wonderful initiative and wishing all success for future events.



Manak Jeet Singh,
Excelity Global

The FM scenario shared by Capt Rajesh Sharma was an eye opener as it presented two extreme position where our country and this Industry stands today. iNFHRA's focus on possible tie up in Middle East and Europe based FM forums will help us interact with people on the other side of the globe parallelly and will help implement best practices. Focus on tie up related to educating filed by iNFHRA is an extremely positive step. Membership growing from 300 to 1000 in a span of one year is really great. The initiative of this body to recognize good work done on this industry by any individuals or group/ teams is a welcome step.



Santosh Upadhyay,
Magicbricks Realty

iNFHRA is growing along with the FM fraternity and is one of the best platform for interaction and knowledge sharing. The Delhi event on 22nd July is one of such successful event and we look forward to many more such events.



Sqn Ldr Neeraj Rathee,
Fullerton India Credit Co Ltd

It was an awesome feeling to be a part of the conference. I got great contacts, discussions and big learnings. All-round it was very rewarding – thank you for including me as Speaker. I want to congratulate iNFHRA for creating a very stimulating and successful conference.



Agnelo Rodriguez,
Air Liquide

Would like to extend my gratitude to iNFHRA for putting up a well informed event with a power packed panelist of speakers and select group of audience with very interesting topics. Looking forward to be a part of more such events in due course of time.



Sanjay Shishodia,
Cairn India Ltd

The session was well organised with the right contributors and participants, giving an insight of the valuable developments and future trends in the Facility Management / Administration Function in the Global Industry, with special reference to India.



Vibhu Narayan,
Reliance JIO

It was both an honour and privilege to be a speaker at such a thought provoking and knowledgeable summit. The discussions were both informative and thought provoking, while giving useful insight on workplace strategy of the future. The panelists in particular and the audience in general shared very useful info on the future workplaces in a constantly evolving office environment.



Nitin Narula,
Proptiger.com & Makaan.com

It was a significant experience to be a part of the iNFHRA event. It is the platform which gives you ample updates about the FM industry and helps you to contribute to the industry as well. iNFHRA gives you an opportunity to expand your network with industry leaders and professionals and to share your brilliant ideas and experiences for implementation at one place.



Dr Kirti Wardhen Sharma,
Silverskills Pvt Ltd

This was one of the best events organised. Not only was it organised at a fabulous venue but the speeches/ talks given by the guest speakers and the panel discussions were truly insightful. iNFHRA is doing a phenomenal job and I wish growth and prosperity to all associated.





UPGRADE WITH ANCHOR DESTINATIONS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Anchor Destinations and Travel Management

now also caters to VIP concierge services for all the travellers and would compliment "The Art of living International Centre's" ongoing activities in India and abroad. Deepika Khanna, Founder and CEO of Anchor Destinations, adds "As Marketing Consultants for Total Airport Services India Pvt Ltd, we now cater to providing comprehensive ground handling services, at all airports in India and Globally across the world. These services under Meet and Greet include porter assistance from the departure gates to Check in counters, assistance right till the aircraft, wheelchair assistance for physically disabled or senior citizens, unaccompanied minor assistance, flowers or chocolates for guests, Lounge services and Charter aircrafts. "A travel agent can easily book these services and can provide its clients not only assistance at Departure points but arrivals as well and at any airport across the globe. An apt product and service for agents dealing with the corporate and MICE sector on Pan India level with express check in facilities. " We have seen a upsurge in demand amongst agents and travellers for the need of these services just within months" adds Deepika Khanna. Further the company shall soon be also providing login ids and passwords to agents to check online inventory of Charter aircrafts flying on different routes within India which can be booked for FIT clients as well. **tt**

APPOINTMENT



Venture Marketing has been appointed as the Sales and Marketing Representative in India for euromic-The Power of Local Knowledge. euromic is a non-profit marketing association founded in 1973. Today, 43 years later, euromic has earned the status of "The association

of the leading Destination Management Companies."

Hasan Dinç, President of euromic, said, "India has been a fast growing market for business events and luxury travel market. We are delighted to have Venture Marketing as our representative partner in India because of their excellent track record for the segment and excellent relationship with the Indian companies."

Nitin Sachdeva, Executive Director, Venture Marketing, said, "We are delighted to associate with euromic, which is reputed as the best brand in the events and high end destination management world."

Venture Marketing represents specific euromic destinations: Argentina, Baltic States, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey. **tt**



OCEAN PARK SUMMER SPLASH 2016

The annual Ocean Park Summer Splash concluded recently with a galore of exhilarating water-themed attractions, scrumptious dishes and "Get Closer to the Animals" activities. Nickelodeon's SpongeBob Square Pants and his friends Patrick Star, Squidward Tentacles and Mr Krabs were present from Bikini Bottom to engage with guests and fans from all over the world in the city's first-ever SpongeBob Water Party.

Tom Mehrmann, Chief Executive of Ocean Park, said, "As one of our signature seasonal events, Summer Splash has become a favourite summer activity for students and a popular outing for the entire family. Riding on our successful experience of introducing popular characters into our festive events in recent years, we have invited SpongeBob who lives in a pineapple house under the sea to join our Summer Splash this year to offer guests of all ages a wonderful summer party experience. Through the SpongeBob Water Party, vegetarian delicacies and time-limited Pop-up Store, we hope to satisfy our guests' appetite for fun, shopping and food in one go." **tt**



ISRAEL CONCLUDES FIVE-CITY ROAD SHOW

The land of creation is gaining impressive popularity in India. Exploring a new country is always on peoples bucket lists and as a destination that attracted over three million visitors last year it is evident that Israel has something excellent to offer.

The Israel Ministry of Tourism Office in India organised the five-city road show in the first week of August to introduce leading Israeli tour operators that are new to the Indian market with the local tour operators and travel agents

to encourage face-to-face interactions and promoting Israel as a preferred destination.

Hassan Madah, Director of the Israel Ministry of Tourism in India, said "Israel has been gaining popularity in India from 2015 and we are happy to see Indians travelling to Israel in big numbers, which can be seen with the increase of 5 per cent from January to June 2016. Israel has something for everyone from adventure, Dead Sea, deserts and mountains, culture, fashion, nightlife." **tt**

EXPERIENCE BENGAL

West Bengal launches new brand identity, Experience Bengal – The Sweetest Part of India; is set to become the most preferred tourist destination

TT BUREAU



Surajit Bose, Former Additional Director and Ex-officio Joint Secretary of WBTDCL Ltd

Recently, West Bengal tourism revealed its brand new identity - "Experience Bengal." It is noteworthy that from the old identity the word "Beautiful" has been replaced with "Experience." West Bengal Tourism feels it would be incorrect to identify West Bengal only with its places of attractions. Rather, visiting West Bengal is a total experience for any traveller. Along with mountains, forests and sea, the experience will include quintessential Bengali culture, cuisine, religion, handicraft, history and lifestyle.

The use of the logo is associated with a new tagline "The Sweetest part of India," not only to remind Bengal's fame and glory for sweets, but to highlight the humility and sweetness of the people in front of international and domestic tourists.

Friendliness and homeliness of the Bengalis are going to be the big USPs of the overall Bengal experience in the coming days.

The Government has come up with a Tourism Policy,

2016 which has laid down the action plan for development of tourism in the state. The policy has laid down six Primary Tourist Circuits in the state namely-(i) Darjeeling Himalayas (ii) Dooars foothills (iii) Bengal Heritage (iv) Coastal Bengal (v) Kolkata and (vi) Sundarbans mangrove within which six primary products have been identified.

After launching the new logo, West Bengal tourism has developed completely new sets of artworks for print and outdoor and FM jingles which are in sync with the new logo. Also a new promotional film featuring Shah Rukh Khan with shorter edits for television are in the making. Based on these artworks, West Bengal Tourism has undertaken a slew of promotional activities to reposition the new brand to the domestic and international audience.

As per the MOT statistics of 2015, West Bengal has scaled up one point to become the eighth preferred destination among the domestic tourists and sixth preferred amongst the international tourists. In 2015 West Bengal recorded a tourist footfall of 7,16,82,950 as against 5,04,15,685 in 2014.



AHA MOMENTS!

Travel has a habit of springing surprises, all kinds of unexpected encounters and experiences – some better forgotten – and some worth celebrating

KAMAL GILL

A recent visit to Goa brings a smile to the face. It was a sold-out weekend. There was no room to be had for love or money. I was straitjacketed between a deluge of never-ending work and must-be-finished-last-month deadlines. Burnout or breakout...it was one or the other.

The hospitality industry is tight-knit. I called up friends, but it was difficult. Finally, I more or less gave up and decided...it was going to be another long working weekend.

Late evening, a call came through. "Book your flight. We have a room for you." It was Farhat Jamal (friend, colleague and rescuer) and Senior Vice President (Operations West) at The Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces. The first Ah-moment! Glee, anticipation, and a bucket of cold water. You've got to be kidding...flight tickets to Goa for this weekend? Technology to the rescue. A search unearthed a pair of tickets on a hopping flight...costing a week's salary, no less. A toss between common sense and the irrational...and the tickets were booked.





Buyer's remorse? I found myself making a call to the hotel...did the room have a sit-out? Had I traded my sealed air-conditioned office cabin for another sealed air-conditioned room? My query was answered with an assurance of 'Yes,' — a sit-out existed.

Anticipation thrives on a bed of thorns...we arrived at the airline check-in the next morning amidst a throng of talkative holiday makers attired in shorts, Hawaiian shirts, beach bags, sandals and sunglasses. The counter attendant informed us with a smile, "Last row available...two seats...on either side of the aisle. We are sold out."

The promised land was 4 hours ahead (remember the hopping flight)... and we had the last seats. Not much needs to be shared in terms of how high frustration levels can shoot. A harassed gentleman approached us with a wailing baby

Aha Moment with US Airways !

One of the USA's most talked-about airline brands, US Airways before it shut-down, flew just 2 passengers on a regular domestic flight schedule – us. The Captain welcomed us with a, "Next time you want to charter a flight...just call us!" We were seated in First Class and provided full First Class service right through the flight.

Stand out the entire 45 min journey with top-end service.



in his arms. "If you don't mind, can you exchange seats with us? My entire family is here in the last two rows...and we have been given two odd seats in the first row."

It was the second outright Ah moment! We were all smiles through the entire bumpy four-hour flight. The arrival at Goa airport was smooth. It was a short walk across the tarmac. The sea breeze could be smelt...two deep breaths and we were in the airport. Baggage in hand, we stepped outside. The courtesy pick-up car was waiting. An hour later, having absorbed

our annual quota of greens through Goa's intense green paddy fields stretching lazily all the way to the horizon, and a wealth of sub-sets of greens in groves of coconut, cashew nut, and fruits like pineapple, mango and banana...we swept into the imposing gates of the Taj Exotica in Benaulim, South Goa.

The fresh flowers and refreshing fruit spritz welcome

were pleasant. But, we were surprised by the personal welcome from the Area Director, Taj Goa and General Manager, Taj Exotica Goa, Ranjit Phillipose, who came forward after the initial formalities and sat with us in the sunlit Mediterranean-style atrium of the hotel. Certainly, a thoughtful touch on the part of the General Manager, who runs his day on extremely tight schedules. Soon after, we were seated in a golf buggy, being driven to our room.

We could see vistas of green all around. Goa in the monsoons





glows like an emerald. Our Guest Relations Officer pointed out that the Taj Exotica offers 56 acres of lush gardens. I wondered, as we passed by the 9-hole golf greens, neat tennis courts, Jiva spa, Ayurveda centre, the horticulture section, the spice garden, the scented foliage lining the path along picturesque villas...where are our rooms? Are we facing inwards or with a little luck...a room with a view? The golf buggy stopped at an arcaded bungalow. It looked beautiful, with a charming old-world patio ensconced in a riot of flowers... I guessed that we were being shown some of the prized villas and suites.

We stepped down to accompany the Guest Relations Officer to see one of the villas, which read Presidential Villa. We disembarked to view the luxurious, chandelier-lit dining and living room overlooking a large private garden that exuded pure relaxation. I eyed the hammock under a shady tree in the personal lawn with interest.

I liked what I saw. Tiled roofs, textured walls, spacious interiors and warm and earthy colour tones understated the ultra-luxurious, so the ambience was one of relaxation...an invitation to another world.

We walked from one room to the other...impressed with

	Aha Moment at Suncity !
	We had a drop-dead moment when we were ushered into the Presidential Suite, The Palace of the Lost City, Suncity, South Africa...our home for 3 nights. It's almost a house with hand-carved walls, frescoed ceilings, foyer, cloakroom, lounge, master bedrooms, dining area for 8, study, sauna, bar and kitchen.
	Stand out? The ensuite Sauna and Jacuzzi!
	◆◆◆◆◆

Suite. We hope you will enjoy your stay with us. Some hot tea is just being served."

"Excuse me?" I asked, looking back at the sun-lit living room

the two immaculately appointed king-sized bedrooms, each with en-suite bathrooms (I noted a Jacuzzi tub apart from a rain shower stall) and deep verandah sit-outs, complete with wall mirrors, loungers, sofas and tables overlooking the enclosed garden – perfect for VIP guests.

I wandered into the lawn and was in for a surprise. Tucked away discreetly was a personal plunge pool with a waterfall, a straw-thatch patio with cane chairs, two orange cushioned loungers and a garden. Oh yes, certainly an epitome of the good life.

The villa sported what I consider another good asset...a private, attached kitchenette with its own entrance, microwave, coffee maker, refrigerator, large sink, crockery, et al.

We were finding our way out when we bumped into the valet bringing in our luggage. "Not yet," I said, "We are only being shown the Villa. We have still to go to our rooms."

The valet followed us out. As we moved towards the buggy, we found the Guest Relations Officer handing us a set of room keys with a, "Welcome to the Presidential



There was no response. I looked around for the lady. She was busy laying out the tea with the butler. First things first. I decided to take that extended hot cup of tea. The Guest Relations Officer went out of the Villa only to return with the valet who carried in our bags. No confusion here. She brought me the check-in folder and I did the needful. It took several sips of tea to seep in before the 'Aha' moment actually registered. What an out-of-this-world surprise! It was a perfect combination of the entirely unexpected with the totally delightful. It was ironical as well. Here I was, not getting a room in the first place, enquiring of the hotel if there was a small sit-out...and as it turned out – what an upgrade! I had three private verandahs, each with its own sit-out view, style and ambience. Amazing grace.

Aha Moment with QE2 !

We were to sail Cunard's iconic ocean liner -The Queen Elizabeth II (aka QE2) - in one of its final transatlantic sailings... South Hampton, UK to New York. We met the Marketing head of Cunard over dinner, a day previous to sailing. Next morning, we were met by a representative, presented fresh booking tickets, ushered to the VIP gangway, cleared through customs and waved into the biggest suite we have seen.

Stand out? Outdoor dining in ocean-fronted, wrap-around balconies, whirlpool baths and a fully stocked complimentary bar.



Just feeling the sea breeze and dappled sunlight on your body while you read a book in your hammock (lapping waves and bird song included)...is therapy as far as I am concerned. But, the hotel had other ideas. A consultation with the Ayurveda doctor, followed by a traditional Indian therapeutic spa treatment at the Jiva Spa brought alive a sense of joie de vivre.

Ramchandra crushing leaves to release fragrant oils. No wonder the breeze here wafts scents and smells incredibly fresh.

A large, modern villa with a swimming pool and a covered patio area. The villa features a light-colored facade with arched windows and a large glass door. The pool is surrounded by a stone deck and a thatched roof structure. The property is lush with greenery, including palm trees and other tropical plants.



meal. I doubt if there is anyone with a liking for Goan cuisine who has not heard of Chef Rego. He has been with the Taj since 1970...and served virtually every Head of State who has visited the country.

We were singularly honoured to watch the master debone the fish, shell and devein shrimp and prawn, clean the crabs and crack the lobster with dextrous strokes that made it look deceptively easy. He created masterpieces with the salad, with simple cuts in tomatoes and vegetables. Fresh kokum, palm vinegar, Goan parboiled rice, fresh toddy, coconut milk, and the masalas to make a Xacuti or Vindaloo, were the main ingredients, with, of course, the fish, fowl and meat.

Chef Rego cooked up a storm literally, with his signature dishes...Tiger prawns in Coriander Sauce, skewered Semolina-fried Prawns, Boneless Chicken marinated in toddy

vinegar, black pepper and green masala and Diced Pork cooked in spicy toddy vinegar, in a red masala gravy, with Goan rice.

Course by course, each dish cleaned, prepared and served right there, in front of you by the Master Chef. What made the meal so special? Chef Rego's simple love for the food being

made, total attention and masterly skill that felt like heaven in every mouthful.

The elements conspired to create a perfect interlude – great weather, long walks by the ocean front, happy tête-à-têtes over iced sundowners, the rustle of leaves, wafting scents, the fresh sea breeze and orange sky above, al-fresco meals and deep slumber in total peace. One longish 'Aha' moment, I suspect.

I've come to believe (with good reason) that if you are at the Taj Exotica Goa, just allow Ranjit and his dedicated team to take the lead in creating an itinerary for you... you get to be the winner every time.

Aha Moment at Lavasa !

Waiting to reconnect us with our deeper selves was the nature trail at Lavasa, Maharashtra, India. The trail offered Alice-in-wonderland features: red sandy pathways that wind through thick shrubbery, gurgling streams, groves, bamboo bridges and sun dials.

Stand out? Wild flowers, rare birds, a wood machaan and sundowners to view the sunset, shots of fresh juices, hot nibbles and tiny desserts served under thatched stop-overs during the nature trail by Fortune Select Dasve, Lavasa.



Aha Moment at Renaissance !

A brilliant instance of 'ambush marketing'. The then General Manager, Renaissance hotel, Hong Kong met us at a conference in Manila. Upon learning we were staying at a well-known hotel during our 3-night stopover in Hong Kong, he insisted we be his guest for a night and proceed with our original plan if we still wished to. Hesitant, we arrived at the hotel and were taken straight up to the Penthouse Suite with floor to ceiling glass panels affording a 180 degree view of Hong Kong Harbour. Forgone conclusion: we were never meant to change hotels!

Stand out? Totally...mind-blowing views - sunset and the all-night lit-up harbour.





AVIATION



Date:	2nd July 2016	A/C Type:	Airbus A320
Route:	London Heathrow to Nice	A/C Registration:	G-EUVR
Distance:	645 miles	Engines:	IAE V2500
Captain:	James D'Silva	Max T/O Weight:	77,400 Kgs



SN-APPY LANDINGS WITH NEW BA PILOT PHOTO APP

British Airways pilots have developed a new photo app for customers to take away a souvenir cockpit picture from their flight – with Denise Van Outen the first to be 'sn-apped'

All British Airways' 4,000 pilots will have the 'View From The Flight Deck' app loaded onto their iPads from the start of August to take photos of customers visiting the cockpit before take-off or after landing. The app automatically sends this special photo, which includes graphic showing facts from their flight, to customers so they have an instant, unique memento of their trip. Customers are encouraged to share their flight deck photos with the airline's social media channels using the hashtag: #BAUpClose. Describing the new British Airways app, Denise Van Outen, said: "I love travelling with my family and want to remember all those precious moments with Betsy as she grows up." As souvenirs go it beats a fridge magnet by a mile.

British Airways' head of flight operations, Captain Charlie Maunder, said: "As pilots we love flying and naturally want to share that with everyone, so we all enjoy welcoming customers up to the cockpit whenever possible. We're always looking for new ways to make sure everyone has a memorable flight every time they fly and our new souvenir photo flight app is a great way to help us do just that."



DON'T MISS

BA SPECIAL SEPTEMBER SALE

British Airways announced its September sale for all its premium customers from India. British Airways is now thrilled to bring exciting offers to the World Traveller Plus (Premium Economy) and World Traveller (Economy) cabins for customers travelling to UK, Europe, USA and Canada.

Indian flyers from all five cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru can now enjoy the comforts of World Traveller and World Traveller Plus cabins at great prices. Under this special offer, all-inclusive fares for

World Traveller Plus and World Traveller tickets to London start at just INR 88,926 and INR 42,777 respectively. British Airways customers can avail this special offer by booking tickets up to till 26th September for travel between 10th September, 2016 and 30th March, 2017.

Moran Birger, British Airways' Regional General Manager, South Asia said, "We are delighted to bring this fantastic offer to World Traveller (Economy) and World Traveller Plus (Premium Economy) travellers from India." tt



16-17 November 2016

JW Marriott Hotel Mumbai Sahar
Mumbai, India

THE GATEWAY TO HOTEL INVESTMENT IN INDIA

Patrons

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The team presented the trophy to Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, IAS, Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the presence of Anuj Aggarwal, Member (HR), AAI and also seen in the picture are T Premnath, Executive Director (Administration), AAI and senior officers of AAI.

AAI CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS WOMEN TT WINS BIG

Airports Authority of India's Corporate Headquarters team represented by Sports Promotion Board, Delhi has created history for the first time bagging all three women titles (Single, Double and Team Event) at the All India Inter Zonal Table Tennis Tournament held at Civil Aviation Training College (CATC), Allahabad. While Bindu, JE(Electronics) won single title, the doubles title was won by Bindu, JE(Electronics) and Saraswati, Supdt(OL) and team event was represented by Bindu, JE(Electronics), Saraswati, Supdt(OL), Archana, Manager (CNS), Shiksha, Assistant Manager (PA) and Kusum, Assistant Manager (PA). The Zonal Tournament was represented by teams from all the Regional Sports Control Boards of AAI ie Western, Southern, Eastern, Northern, Eastern and North-East Regions. **tt**

LUFTHANSA: RUNWAY TO SUCCESS

Rashi Sanon Narang, Founder & CEO, Heads up for Tails outclassed 50,000 most innovative budding ventures and emerged as the new face of the Indian entrepreneur by winning the Lufthansa Runway to Success season 4.

"Seven years ago we took the first step towards building a platform for start-ups and SMEs with the wisdom, support and guidance of our knowledge partners - TiE. The depth of this collaboration reaffirms our commitment to this great country, a reflection of the Indian heart within our German soul, a promise that we are and will always strive to be 'More Indian than you think'. It has been an absolute privilege for Lufthansa to be an enabler in India's entrepreneurial revolution", said Wolfgang Will, Director, South Asia, Lufthansa Passenger Airlines.

Alexander Schlaubitz, VP Global Marketing, Lufthansa German Airlines shared, "For Lufthansa, Runway to Success is a very important initiative as it brings alive our philosophy of Nonstop You – our nonstop commitment of empathy with our customers and our communities, our nonstop focus on the hopes and aspirations of India's young entrepreneurs."

Rashi Sanon Narang, Founder & CEO, Heads up for Tails said, "Lufthansa Runway to Success has been an enriching experience and will continue to inspire me on the journey of my entrepreneurial dream."

As another first for the initiative, Praneet Singh Sahai, Co-Founder & Director, PosterGuy was announced as the winner of "Viewer's Choice" award and won a Lufthansa flight to Europe. The "Viewer's Choice" awards were held concurrently on social media. The winner was chosen through an online voting based on elevator pitch videos by the contestants. **tt**



VISTARA TO ENHANCE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Vistara announced the launch of a suite of ancillary products and services designed to enhance the travel experience and offer more product options at attractive discounted prices. These include, E-Coupon Books; Class Upgrades; Lounge Pass and Excess Baggage options. All of these products and services can be purchased online during the booking process, or added post-booking through the 'Manage My Booking' function.

Commenting on the launch, Sanjiv Kapoor, Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer, Vistara, said "We are pleased to launch this suite of ancillary products and services that are designed to offer customers more choices at attractive rates, and that can be purchased with the click of a button. This is the first wave of several more ancillary products and services that are in the pipeline, to be launched in the coming weeks to offer customers even more options to enhance their experience as they Fly the New Feeling." **tt**

EXPLORER

A vintage-themed still life composition on a brown, textured surface. In the upper right, a silver and black Minolta camera is shown with its lens removed, and a black lens cap with 'HELIOS-22M2' and '28mm' markings lies next to it. In the upper left, there are two Polaroid photos; one clearly shows a bridge and has the text 'TO SOMEONE SPECIAL' and 'always smile! PONY BROWN'. In the center, an open notebook with blank cream-colored pages is displayed, with a yellow pencil resting on the right page. At the bottom, a pair of black-rimmed glasses is laid out. The background is a brown map with visible labels like 'AMERICA', 'EUROPA', and 'INDIA'.



REVISITING HISTORY

The European settlements on the banks of the Hooghly River are a fascinating piece of history which should be revisited from time to time

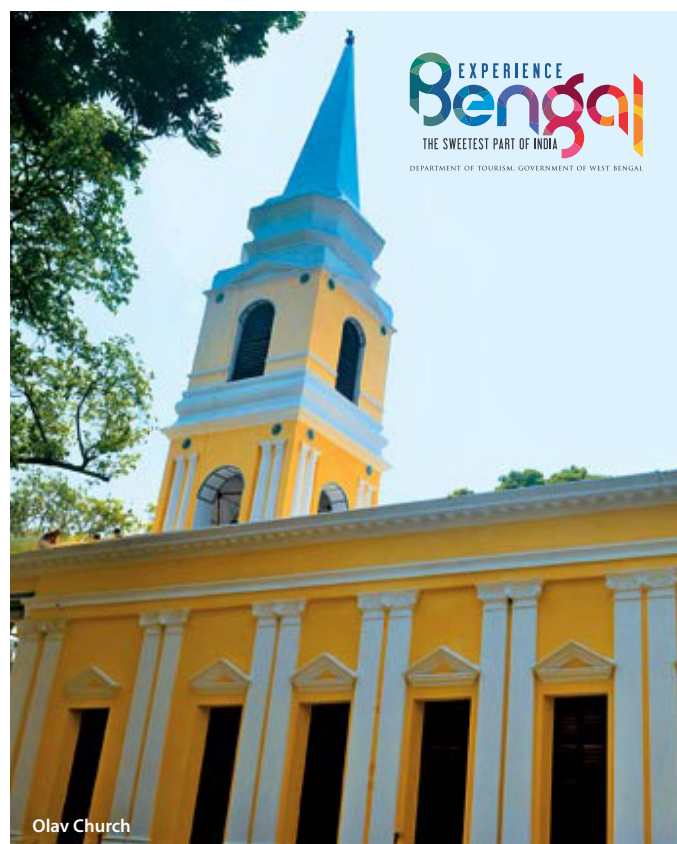
TT BUREAU

There is something magical about sitting on the banks of a river and listening to the gurgling sound emitted by the waters of a carefree river. It soothes your senses and creates an ocean of thoughts in your mind.

One of these, one may wonder, is the fascinating settlements and civilisations that rivers have given birth to. All the great cities, the glories of which occupy our history books, have come up by the blessed waters of the holy rivers. In India, the Ganges has found an honourable mention in its religious scriptures, its origin itself believed to be immersed in divinity.

The history of India is, in a way, synonymous with that of India. Travellers and worshippers, both have found solace in its comforting waters, and speak of the same with that magical glint in their eyes. We find one such instance in the arrival of the European settlers in Bengal, and building settlements around the river Hooghly, a distributary of the Ganges, and known by that name here. Portuguese, Dutch and the French, they all came one after the other, each driven by their peculiar motives.

Their consequent journeys have been well documented in history, and today, the districts built around the serene Hooghly River stand for everybody to see. Each of these districts today are marked and characterised by a peculiar landmark, or a distinguishing piece of architecture built by their creators.



THE DUTCH IN CHINSURAH

The origin of the word Chinsurah is itself shrouded in mystery, some opine that the word is derived from a special cane called chinchira, while others claim that the word is a derivation of the Bengali word "Chura." In the 17th century, this area attracted the Dutch, who were interested in dealing in muslin, salt, spices and opium. This area once held the distinction of being the most important town of Bengal. Several buildings originally erected by the Dutch stand today, however, their original purpose different from the time of their creation. The Hooghly Madrasah and the Commissioner House are examples of these.

The Dutch cemetery, an ASI protected site, is an assortment of graves that rest under the shade of trees dating back to ancient time. The Dutch rule in Chinsurah ended in 1825, with the British exchanging the island of Sumatra in Indonesia for Chinsurah with the Dutch.

DANES IN SRIRAMPUR

Bengal appears to have made its first contact with the Europeans in the form of the Portuguese, who set up a colony as early as in 1635. At the time of the Portuguese and the Mughals, Bandel is believed to have been the port of Hooghly. The one piece of architecture which reflects the spiritual outlook that the Portuguese possessed is the Bandel Church, which also happens to be the first Christian church in Bengal. The word "Bandel" means "mast" in Portuguese. The Bandel church compound today houses a mast, which is a gift by the captain of a vessel which encountered a storm in the Bay of Bengal and was saved by the blessings of Virgin, who today happens to be the main attraction of the church.

THE FRENCH IN CHANDANNAGAR

The French heritage in Chandannagar is quite prominent, which is hardly a surprising fact considering that it remained a French colony till the 1950's. The shape of the River Ganges, which is bent like a half moon, is believed to have given the place its present name. Chandannagar came into existence as a French colony in the year 1673, after Ibrahim Khan, then Nawab



of Bengal, permitted the French to establish a trading port on the right bank of the Hooghly river. For a brief period of time, it served as the main centre of European commerce in Bengal. The French, eminent worldwide as being connoisseurs of art and culture, set up some marvellous pieces of architecture along the stretch of the Hooghly. The Chandannagar Strand is an example of their fine taste in the arts, and is till today, considered to be the most beautiful stretch of the Hooghly.

The Chandannagar Museum and Institute, or the Institut de Chandernagor, boasts a collection of French antiques, besides being one of the oldest in the region. The Sacred Heart Church of Chandannagar, or, l'Eglise du SacréCœur is another prime attraction in the area, and attracts not just Christians but people from other faiths fascinated with its architectural brilliance.



The French Governor's Palace

CALL OF THE WILD



Odisha's various sanctuaries and parks offer you the chance of catching a glimpse of one of nature's best creations – wildlife

TT BUREAU

The perfect manifestation of the quintessential Indian culture is reflected in the land of Odisha, a phenomenon which has come to exist due to the mutual interaction between the various groups of people inhabiting this land, royalty or not. This blessed land has been ruled by successive dynasties, each leaving their distinct imprint, and all the while assimilating and synthesizing the best of Hindu, Buddhist and Jain cultures.

Home to sixty two tribes, Odisha attracts not just visitors but also academics the year round. However, apart from its architectural treasures, vibrant culture and exciting cuisine, it's the amazing wildlife, spread across the many parks and national sanctuaries that ensures a constant inflow of visitors.

Amongst the dense forests, extensive grasslands and meadows, by the banks of rivers and lurking beneath the muddy waters of the mangroves, one can spot a herd of wise elephants, a deer grazing away leisurely, a boastful tiger having his fill or a crocodile lurking stealthily beneath the muddy waters. Catching a glimpse of them in their natural habitat is a real privilege.





GAHIRMATHA TURTLE SANCTUARY

In close proximity to the Bhitarkanika Sanctuary lies the Gahirmatha Turtle Sanctuary. The stretch of beach that is to be found here is breeding ground for the giant Olive Ridley turtles, who travel all the way from the Pacific Ocean to mate and lay their eggs here. Every year, thousands of these wonderful creatures can be seen here. In order to protect the turtles, special arrangements have been made by the Government of Odisha.



BHITAR KANIKA

Widely acclaimed for its biodiversity in flora and fauna, Bhitarkanika is the second largest compact mangrove ecosystem in India, besides being a sanctuary and national park. Extending to more than 600sq.km, it's one of the very few evergreen repository of the most luxuriant mangrove vegetation of the world. Its home to more than 60 varieties of mangrove plants which shelter different kinds of endangered species.

Bhitarkanika is a natural habitat of a lot of wild creatures like Crocodiles, King Cobra, Pythons, Wild Pigs, Rhesus Monkey, Sambars, Spotted Deer etc. There is a crocodile breeding farm at Dangmal. One proud possession of this farm is the White Crocodile Sankhua, which happens to be one of the rare species in the world.

SIMLIPAL

There are many things that make Simlipal a dreamland of nature in the wilderness and an irresistible destination. Covering a vast area of 2750sq.km, out of which 303sq.km is from the main area, this biosphere reserve is a sanctuary and one of the Tiger Projects and National Parks of India. The area witnesses rainfalls in an adequate measure and with its forest type ranging from dry deciduous to moist green, it's perfectly suited for breeding a large species of both flora and fauna. About 1076 species of mammals, 29 types of reptiles and 231 species of birds can be found here.



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THE LEEA PALACE
NEW DELHI

AN INVITATION TO CELEBRATE INDIA





Chronicling the vision and dream of Captain CP Krishnan Nair, The Leela Palaces Hotels and Resorts symbolises the warmth and grace which has been unique to Indian hospitality for decades now.

It was this dream that gave the capital city its very first **'PALACE' hotel – The Leela Palace, New Delhi**, the flagship property of The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts. One of the finest architectural marvels built from ground up in the last thirty years in downtown Delhi, the hotel is built in the shape of a butterfly and is a complete visual spectacle ensconced in the heart of Chanakyapuri, the prestigious neighborhood of the capital's Diplomatic Enclave, blending seamlessly with its majestic surroundings.

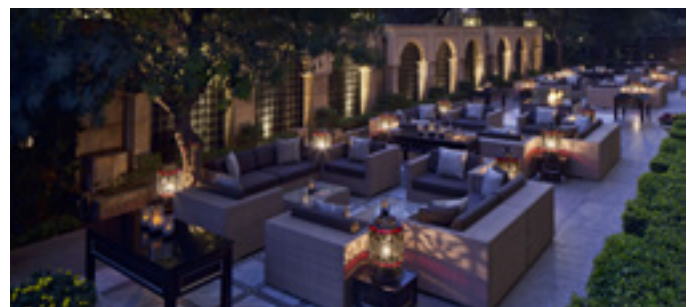
Witness the charm and beauty of 'Incredible India' and experience the finest Indian hospitality as The Leela Palace, New Delhi, takes you on a journey deeper into the unique and inspiring repertoire of experiences. It exemplifies the splendid tradition, grace and elegance of the colonial era with a serene and refined ambience of a personal palace. Embellished with sparkling Murano chandeliers from Italy, hand woven carpets from Turkey, royal viceroy elephants hand-carved in sandstone from Qatar, miniature paintings by craftsmen of Rajasthan, beautiful inlay bidri work from interiors of India and an art collection which is an aesthetical juxtaposition of traditional and contemporary art, the interiors of the hotel make for a priceless cocoon.

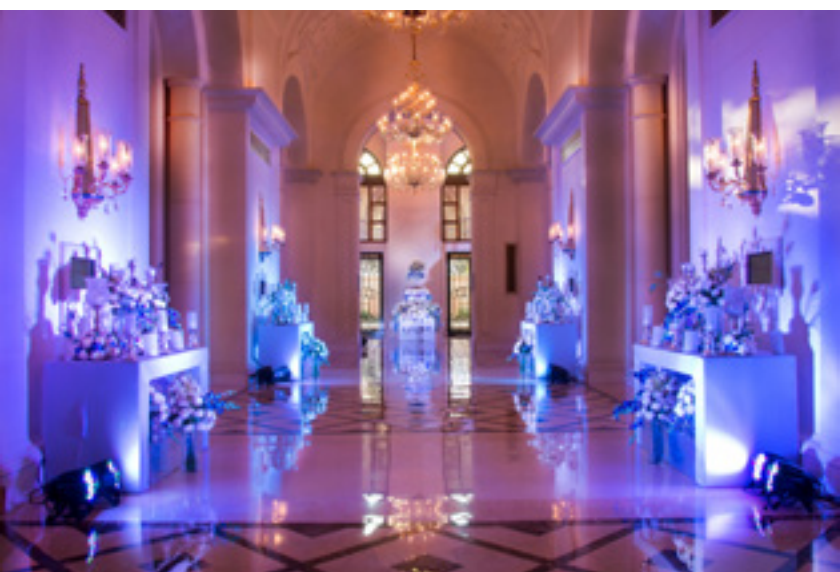
PERFECT SPACES FOR ALL THOSE BUSINESS AND PERSONAL RENDEZVOUS

The most precious treasures are best cherished in exquisite environs and timeless beauty of its banquet spaces both indoor and outdoor. This is what the hotel is famous for. Whether one is looking for a venue to celebrate family milestones, rendezvous with friends or planning corporate events and parties, the hotel spans the entire spectrum to suit every occasion. Award winning, expert chefs that go the extra mile to create bespoke menus and experiences catering to the client's specific preferences and ensure a memorable experience for you and your guests.

THE LEELA PALACE WEDDINGS WEAVE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WEDDING DREAM FOR YOU

A great Indian wedding is a fairy tale that is bejeweled with extra sparkle of jubilation, tinkling of celebratory flutes, avant garde food presentation, enthralling beauty of the venue





combined with seamless service straight from the heart. Here at Leela Palace, New Delhi, witness the magical symphony of modernity and tradition in the elegant banquet venues with an exhaustive compilation of special themes, customized decoration with exacting attention to detail.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Working is a luxurious experience at The Leela Palace, New Delhi with one of capital's most elegant indoor spaces to organise events, private parties and elite gatherings. Spanning over 5,000sq.ft, the banquets overlook the serene calm of celebrated artist Satish Gupta's 'Devi' sculpture nestled in the lush greens of the inner courtyard. The Grand Ballroom offers a bespoke royal setting with the 30ft ceiling adorned with

the gold leaf dome and a contemporary, neutral color palette features two ornate crystal chandeliers from Istanbul.

Located on the lobby level, the Grand Ballroom and the Royal ballroom offer versatile event space and allows the guests to enjoy the elegance of a bygone era teamed up with the modern and technologically advanced audio visuals facilities. Whatever the occasion, the hotel's elegant ballrooms and landscaped terrace gardens are the perfect venue for hosting pre and post wedding functions, anniversaries, special celebrations and meetings. The gorgeous royal terrace is an outdoor space which overlooks the city skyline of the beautiful green city of Delhi and offers a magnificent setting for bespoke experiences with its views of the Lutyens greens and the infinite skyline.

Business and Meetings are best experienced at The Leela Palace, New Delhi. Ideal spaces for hosting all your important members of the board, company presentations, niche

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

- **TRAVEL + LEISURE USA** - THE LEELA PALACE NEW DELHI RANKED AMONGST **'THE 100 BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD'** JULY 2016
- **ROBB REPORT USA** - THE LEELA PALACE NEW DELHI HAS BEEN NAMED AMONGST THE **'10 CITY HOTELS WITH COOL ROOFTOP POOLS IN THE WORLD'** JULY 2016





"We organise the Capital's most luxurious meetings and event facilities. Our dedicated and professional team members meticulously curate and plan every event in sync with the special needs of our customers. No detail is left unnoticed and our exclusive services are experienced by all our guests, leaving lasting memories. Our universe is India – gloriously ancient and bracingly modern."



– Louis Sailer
General Manager, The Leela Palace, New Delhi

conferences and events – the range of bespoke meeting and board rooms are instated with sophisticated technology and features. Celebrate success with the hotel's wide selection of handcrafted and personalised food and beverage presentations that will satisfy even the most discerning gourmand. The passionate and dedicated team promises to render undeterred service with meticulous planning to leave lasting impressions and memories for all guests.

Level one of the hotel is equipped with eight state-of-the-art meeting rooms which have been impeccably decorated and have today become the preferred choice of global board

meetings and distinguished movements of Heads of state. Featuring the latest in wireless, audio-visual equipment, each meeting room has been built with sound proof partitions that enable multiple meetings simultaneously. In five years since the inception, the hotel has organised bespoke weddings, global conferences, exclusive ministerial and corporate meetings, sit down dinners and private events. Today, the hotel's banquet services team continues to uphold the tradition of creating the perfect mood and setting for every occasion with a flawless attention to detail.

IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING GUESTS WITH THE FINEST HOTEL EXPERIENCE IN THE COUNTRY, LOYAL GUESTS COME BACK TO THE HOTEL, FOR ANOTHER REASON – TO INDULGE THEMSELVES IN THE RICHNESS OF INDIAN TRADITION WHICH IS UNPARALLELED AT THE LEELA PALACE NEW DELHI.



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say Yes IN THAILAND

With the pleasant sounds of the waves in the background, delightful weather and exotic Thai cuisines, weddings in Thailand promise to create memories that last a lifetime

TT BUREAU

Thailand celebrates life, a celebration which is reflected in its varied landscape and the culture defining it. With its gleaming beaches, spicy cuisines, beautiful quaint villages and ancient temples, Thailand is one of the most sought after destinations for people looking to tie the knot. A wedding in this relaxed paradise offers one the experience of a lifetime, one that is fondly recalled years later by the fireside, besides making for a beautiful album. Apart from offering a range of destinations to choose from, this wonderful land also enjoys an eminence for its legendary hospitality.

KO SAMUI

Ko Samui is regarded as a premier island destination in Thailand, it's the third largest island in Thailand and the largest in an archipelago of 80 islands. However, statistics are not what endears it to its many tourists, rather, it's the ethereal beauty that defines it, that makes it a most sought after wedding destination. There are various accommodations that lie adjacent to the many beaches, with almost all of them providing a beach wedding ceremony, along with services such as catering.

One may choose to book a standalone resort or have your wedding dreams come alive by booking one of the many luxurious villas at Ko Samui, all of which come with utmost privacy and stunning seaside views amidst an amazing landscape. Ever fancy an over water wedding?

Conrad Koh Samui Resort & Spa, recipient of several awards, allows a couple to celebrate their wedding over the water with the beautiful backdrop of the five islands of Ko Samui and fabulous views of the Gulf of Thailand at the resort's main infinity edge pool.



CHIANG MAI

Nothing is more romantic than a beachside wedding, but how about dressing your wedding ceremony with an authentic feel? Chiang Mai, surrounded by lovely mountains and watery fields, delivers to you the authentic Thai experience, replete with all rituals and customs. One particular kind of wedding that enjoys an eminence here is a traditional Lanna style wedding, which reflects the northern Thai culture and is held in the villages with the participation of the locals, with their traditional customs and local music.

Four Seasons Chiang Mai, part of one of the world's most prestigious hotel chains, is located in the district of Mae Rim. They offer a signature wedding known as the Thai Lanna Wedding. The defining moment of the wedding is when the newly wed couple receive blessings from the village elders. Anantara Chiang Mai Resort, which rests by the river Mae Rim, delivers another amazing experience when it comes to a Thai wedding. Being showered with rose petals with the harmonious rhythms of the river soothing your ears, this promises to be a wedding of a lifetime.



TRANG

How about getting married under water, with the marine life as your witnesses? This exciting thought has been made a reality by the Trang Underwater Wedding Ceremony which promotes an exotic traditional Thai wedding culture to foreign wedding couples, divers and tourists from all over the world.

The first Trang Underwater Wedding was initiated by Khun Yongyudh Vichaidit and Khun Surin Tohtubtiang which enabled lovers to arrange a traditional Thai wedding ceremony, along with a wedding certificate formally signed under the water.

The event has garnered enormous popularity, and attracted massive international interest as the first place in the world which allowed wedding ceremonies to be held underwater. The Guinness World Records awarded this event with being "The Largest Underwater Wedding Ceremony" in 2000.



PALACES & AVANT GARDE LUXURY

Palace hotels are quintessentially heritage- but they are as synonymous with culture and magnificence as they are with avant garde luxury

TT BUREAU

Relive the culture of bygone days as you keep a tab on the present. Take a trip back in time to some of the best heritage hotels in India and the world, hotels which bear witness to the glorious legacy of a royal era. Palace turned luxury hotels are prime tourist attractions and are major players in the luxury hospitality segment.

Time travel to the 18th century, where history is recreated through palaces with timeless hospitality, attention to detail, regal charm, ambience and antique architecture that promise you an experience of a lifetime! Discover the beginning of many journeys with a royal vacation that is historical, reflective, luxurious, rejuvenating, artistic, and romantic, as Lifestyle Living explores the lifestyles of the royals, by recreating the magic of times of yore at some of the most magical palace hotels in India and around the world.

India boasts a collection of the finest heritage hotels. They sweep across the length and breadth of the country, ranging from the grand palaces and forts in Rajasthan to quaint hill resorts in Himachal Pradesh, from the jungle lodges of Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh to serene nature resorts in Kashmir in the north,

to Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the south, from Goa in the west to West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

As history weaves itself around you, a community comes alive, a vivid natural and aesthetic beauty silently greets you at every turn, while you continue to be pampered in a delightful mix of old-world courtesies, sophisticated style and international facilities. This is the charm of fascinating palace Hotels of India and around the world.





OBEROI RAJVILAS, JAIPUR

Experience the distinctive character of this palace hotel which revives the gracious lifestyles of India's legendary Rajput princes. Rated amongst one of the leading resorts in the world, the Oberoi Rajvilas is a unique way to experience Jaipur, one of India's most vibrant and exotic destinations. Located in 32 acres of beautiful gardens, pools and fountains, in the peaceful Rajasthani countryside, the hotel is an oasis of elegance and luxury.

With Jaipur as its backdrop, the hotel recreates the magnificence of princely Rajasthan in a beautiful fort setting with rooms, luxury tents and villas with private pools clustered around private courtyards. At the Oberoi Rajvilas, an attention to detail creates a soothing blend of warm, effortless service and harmonious spaces.

All rooms have four large poster beds and sunken marble baths overlooking private walled gardens. Air-conditioned luxury tents have embroidered interior canopies, old style baths and outdoor decks. Interiors of the Royal Villa highlight the fine



craftsmanship and attention to detail that distinguishes the hotel.

The hotel offers a range of activities to relax and recharge. Rejuvenate yourself with a holistic treatment at the Oberoi Spa, get in touch with your inner self with a yoga session or go on a leisurely elephant safari past ancient forts and monuments. You can also play a game of tennis at the hotel's floodlit courts.





HOTEL PLAZA ATHENEE, PARIS

With fine decor 'à la Parisienne', the Hotel Plaza Athénée features 188 Guest Rooms including 43 Suites, offering views to the chic Avenue Montaigne, the west side of the Eiffel Tower or the charming courtyard. Completely renovated, the hotel mingles glamour and tradition with state-of-the-art technology. At the Hotel Plaza Athénée, the pleasure of luxury is celebrated, cultivated and expressed in four different venues supervised by the world-renowned Chef Alain Ducasse, each combining the art of living with delicious cuisine in a unique way. The intuitive warmth of the 520 staff members also anticipates guests' every need with passion.



FOUR SEASONS HOTEL GEORGE V PARIS, PARIS

Steps from the Champs-Élysées, with private terraces that command all of Paris, 17th-century tapestries, lovingly restored, and a spirit that lives on in thoroughly reborn, highly advanced spaces, Four Seasons George V Paris redefines service in the City of Light. The iconic hotel is an eight-storey landmark 1928 building, offers 245 guest rooms, all with unique architectural details and many featuring private terraces overlooking the world's most romantic city. With beautiful views of the hotel's courtyard and garden, Le Cinq is a very elegant dining room, dressed in grey and gold. The tableware, china and silver were all created specifically for the reopening of this legendary hotel. Whether it is for business or pleasure, the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel George V Paris awaits you.

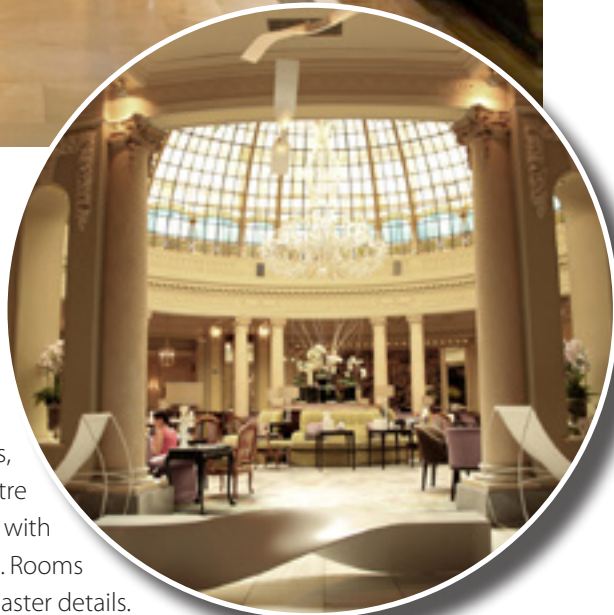




WESTIN PALACE, MADRID, SPAIN

Royal Inspiration comes alive in Madrid's centre, which is known for its spectacular stained glass dome and proximity to the Prado, Thyssen and Reina Sofia museums. Commissioned by King Alfonso XIII in 1912, the newly-restored Westin Palace Madrid is set near the Prado, historic monuments and some of the best tapas restaurants in town.

Topped by an enormous stained glass dome, the regal building has been the centre of Spanish society for almost 100 years. It boasts meeting rooms, restaurants, bars, shops, a beauty parlour and a WestinWORKOUT® fitness centre overlooking the city. The 467 guest rooms and spacious suites have been updated with all modern conveniences and with the Westin Heavenly Bed® and Heavenly Bath®. Rooms are exquisitely decorated with antique furnishings and original mahogany and plaster details.



HÔTEL DE CRILLON, PARIS

This hotel boasts a sumptuous classical decor revisited in 21st-century style. Here is a prestigious setting that can be seen throughout the various bars and restaurants, but also inside the seven exceptional lounges devoted to more private functions. With its 147 guest rooms and suites, this luxury hotel in Paris has been cultivating an authentic 'à la française' lifestyle since 1909.



BLISSFUL SOJOURNS

These destinations, by virtue of their natural beauty, together with the presence of fabulous resorts, attract wedding parties the year round

VISHWAJIT SHARMA

A wedding is the coming together of two souls, a union that binds one to the other in the most beautiful way. Right from the enthusiasm displayed in the decorations to the selection of the venue, a marriage ceremony is an event immersed in excitement and unending enthusiasm. One factor that remains a source of constant anxiety is the selection of a perfect destination, a place that not only plays the perfect host but embellishes the entire experience to no end. The increasing demand for venues that embody nature's paradise equipped with all the modern amenities and comforts has led to the creations of resorts and other options spread across the globe.

THE ST. REGIS BORA BORA RESORT, BORA BORA

The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort sprawls across 44 acres, offers one of the most exclusive island accommodation in the region, and matches blissful Polynesian paradise with flawless signature service. One has the option of saying one's vows either on a white sand beach or in close proximity to the lushly landscaped pool which offers amazing views of Mt. Otemanu. Stay at one of the villas that range from 1500sq.ft to 13000sq.ft and are equipped with facilities

like private terraces, gazebos, whirlpools, private gardens, plunge pools etc, or treat your guests to incredible culinary treats at the exclusive signature restaurant LAGOON by Jean-Georges, where you will find an unparalleled French and Asian-infused menu hand crafted by the celebrated Jean-Georges Vongerichten.





VILLA D'ESTE, LAKE COMO, ITALY

The Villa d'Este, overlooking the glorious Lake Como, is an amalgamation of splendour and magic, and carries a certain intrigue within itself. Set on one of the most romantic lakes of the world and about an hour from Milan, Villa d'Este was built in 1568 as the summer residence of Cardinal Tolomeo Gallo. The property consists of 25 acres of gardens, the landscape of which have been a favourite with photographers. From the moment that your guests enter the gates of Villa d'Este, they will know that they are in a fairy-tale setting. This place was considered to be the playground of the royals, sultans and VIP's of all types, and hosting your wedding function here is like relishing in the rich history that this place possesses. The bridal consultants ensure that the event is executed flawlessly, and assist with everything, from the menus to the big day itself.





CATHEDRAL PEAK HOTEL, SOUTH AFRICA

Nestled in the unspoiled surroundings of the Drakensberg mountain range, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lies Cathedral Peak Hotel, one of South Africa's premier resort hotels. Just 250km from Durban and 400km from Johannesburg, the famous Cathedral Peak Hotel also enjoys a very convenient location. A wedding ceremony held here can be a dreamy affair, with the magnificent Cathedral Peak mountain range serving as the backdrop. Set in beautiful gardens, the charming stone and thatch chapel with its expansive window behind the pulpit provides a breath-taking view of the Drakensberg, besides being able to accommodate up to 120 guests. With its stone blocks and wooden beams from the original farmhouse and pews made from railway sleepers, this venue provides the perfect setting for a country style wedding. Besides, the resident helicopter offers unique opportunities for wedding photographs.

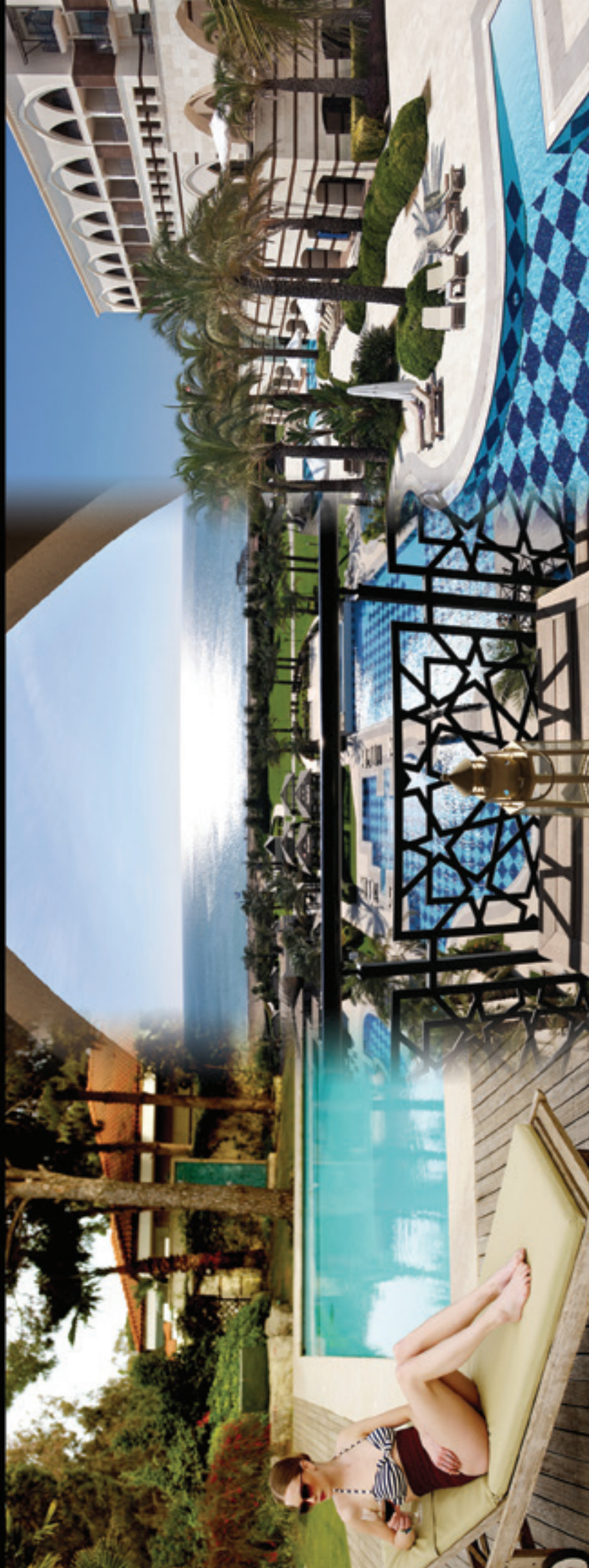
CLOUD 9, FIJI

It's hardly an exaggeration to say that escaping to Cloud 9 for a wedding ceremony is like escaping to an altogether different world. Cloud 9 is Fiji's only two level floating platform with an internationally stocked bar and Italian wood fired pizzeria surrounded by turquoise blue waters and picturesque views. Exchanging your marriage vows in the middle of the ocean, with the vast blue sky above and the clean waters below, on the surface of which sun's ray dance, is a memory that one would recollect for a lifetime. Treat your guests to an exciting choice of food and beverages. Besides international top shelf drinks, one is also given the taste of local favourites such as, Fiji Gold, Fiji Bitter and Fiji Rum Co. And, while at Fiji, why not let yourself and the marriage party engage in some thrilling sports activities that is offered by this hotel, some of which are parasailing, jet skiing, snorkelling gear etc.





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24 HOURS IN Kerala

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TT BUREAU

SHOOTING LOCATIONS

The scenic beauty encompassing Kerala has served as the inspiration for many films. The entire land abounds with several shooting locations that are visited the year round by people eager to relive some of those magical moments on screen. From Kumarakoram to Bekal Fort, from Alappuzha Beach to Munnar, every place exudes its peculiar charm.

THE FLAVOURS OF KERALA

Kerala enjoys a reputation for its cuisine, which is the outcome of an assortment of spices and various condiments. Sadya, which is the traditional vegetarian feast of Kerala, consists of par boiled pink rice, savouries, desserts etc spread on a plaintain leaf. Further, its seafood and meat dishes particularly Appam and Mutton Stew and Aadu Attipathal are deeply cherished by Keralites.



HOUSEBOATS ON BACKWATERS

Kerala is synonymous with its lovely backwaters, while the slow moving, exotic houseboats complete its very existence. These houseboats, or kettuvallams as they are locally called, were the medium of bulk transportations in the past. Equipped with all the modern facilities, embarking on a ride on them takes one to untouched places within the heart of rural Kerala.



LAND OF AYURVEDA

To witness the practice of Ayurveda in its purest form, visit Kerala, where this science of life and longevity has survived invasions, both foreign and native. The practical form of Ayurveda, which is Ashtangahridayam, was compiled by the great Vagbata, and one can experience its miraculous benefits on the mind and body. A session or two will leave you perfectly relaxed and rejuvenated.



MUSEUMS

The several museums in Kerala contain a rich collection of artifacts, with several of them dating back to the ancient era. While the Ambalavayal Heritage Museum, Wayanad exhibits various articles such as clay sculptures and ancient hunting tools, the Bay Island Driftwood Museum, Kottayam displays a unique collection of superior quality driftwood articles.

SOUVENIRS

A visit to Kerala also means collecting a variety of souvenirs items which reflect its history, culture, art and socio-religious aspects. Coming in a wide range of handmade items which are both attractive and classy, the most popular ones are Aranmula Kannadi (metal mirror) Kasavu sari (sari with golden brocade). Go shop some of these, and cherish the memories for a lifetime.



Wheels OF WONDER

The Paris Motor Show to be held in October is one of this year's most sought after car events in the automobile industry

RAHUL SINGHA

The Paris Motor Show (otherwise known as Mondial de l'Automobile) is held every alternate year on rotation with the equally prestigious Frankfurt Motor Show. The Show was the world's most popular motoring event in 2014, when it recorded a whopping 1.25 million people visiting the stands that year. The Paris Motor Show is home ground for major French manufacturers like Citroen, Peugeot and Renault - along with smaller ones like Aixam or Ligier. But it's a global motor show in every sense and pretty much every major car manufacturer will be showing its presence. Check these cars out that are sure to leave you gasping for more at The Paris Motor Show to be held from Saturday 1st to Sunday 16th.

LaFERRARI

The LaFerrari represents Ferrari's most ambitious project yet to push the boundaries of technology on a road car, drawing together the finest expression of the marquee's technical capabilities in both GT and Formula 1 engineering. It boasts the most extreme performance ever achieved by a Ferrari production car and features the most advanced and innovative technical solutions which will, in the future, filter down to the rest of the Ferrari range.



PORSCHE PANAMERA 2016

Sporting spirit – in business and in personal life – found its automotive counterpart – The Panamera. The courage to perform found a matching performer. Now the change continues, on the road, something is happening again. For sporty drivers – and their sporty companions – Porsche engineers and designers have created the next Panamera. With the courage of a new generation, engineers at Porsche have demonstrated their courage with the Panamera concept. By continually re-evaluating and reinventing.





AUDI Q5

Each generation creates its own new ideals. Things change – be they working conditions, recreational activities or even planning a family. And it's a good thing they do, because only changes enable a new way of thinking. Audi has always adhered to this principle and has built cars to set new standards. One of these cars is the Audi Q5. It intends to convince rather than persuade; it is efficient without spoiling driving enjoyment, it is sporty but still level-headed. It combines sensible technologies with traditional qualities such as intelligence, comfort and power.

ŠKODA KODIAQ

The ŠKODA KODIAQ, which will celebrate its world premiere on 1st September 2016 in Berlin, makes a strong statement with an impressive combination of powerful design and generous space. The 4.70-m-long SUV is a real all-rounder. It offers the largest boot capacity within its class. With the optional third row of seats, it has yet another unique selling point in the segment. The ŠKODA KODIAQ represents all of the brand's strengths – expressive design, a high degree of functionality and many 'Simply Clever' features.



BMW X2

It's no secret that BMW has big plans to expand its range of SUVs over the next three years, and arguably the most interesting is the X2. Unsurprisingly, the X2 will join the X4 and X6 in being the sportier and daring version of a straight-laced SUV – in this case the X1. Under the skin, it'll be identical to the X1. To appeal to customers interested in driving green tech, the X2 could also poach the plug-in hybrid system destined for the X1 – a 1.5-litre three-cylinder or a 2.0-litre four-cylinder petrol engine paired with an electric motor.



MERCEDES AMG GT R

The faster, lighter and harder AMG GT R has landed, having been unveiled at the UK at Mercedes-Benz World. Power from the 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 rises from 503bhp to 577bhp, while torque is boosted by 50Nm to 700Nm. The dual-clutch gearbox software has been tweaked for faster shifts, too, helping the AMG GT R crack 0-62mph in 3.6 seconds and reach 198mph flat out – that's two tenths of a second and 4mph faster than the model it's based on. The striking green mango matt paint is unashamedly referencing the 'Green Hell.' The first cars will arrive in showrooms in November.



What: Mysuru Dasara
When: 1-11 October
Where: Mysuru, Karnataka

Mysuru Dasara is the Nadahabba (State-Festival) of the state of Karnataka in South West India. It is also called Navaratri (Nava-ratri = nine-nights) and is a 10-day festival, celebrated with utmost pomp and gaiety in the city of Mysuru. The Dasara festivities have a very long and rich history of more than 400 years.



What: Concurs de Castells (Human Tower Competition)
When: 1-2 October
Where: Tarragona, Spain

Every other October, men and women climb on top of each other's shoulders as part of the Concurs de Castells (human towers competition) in Tarragona, Spain. It's the ultimate exhibition of teamwork as large groups of everyday people from the ages of five to 95, work together to build a living human structure.



What: Dashain
When: 2-16 October
Where: Kathmandu, Nepal

Dashain is an annual festival of Nepal celebrated during early or mid October to mark the starting of a rich harvesting season. The festival is basically a version of Durga Puja which is celebrated majorly in eastern India. The underlying philosophy of the festival is to seek blessings from the revered Goddess in order to triumph over the evil forces of nature. As a part of the celebration people plant barely seeds on freshly prepared soils. On the important day of Fulpati flowers are presented to the king as the flowers represent the Goddess of the royal family.

What: New York City Wine and Food Festival
When: 13 October
Where: New York City, USA

There is no need to delve inside to find something philosophical as the festival is only about raw fun and satisfying the palate. Regarded as the most successful food festival of the world, the New York City Wine and Food Festival is a melting pot of people and cultures to experience sumptuous cuisines and exotic wines. But amidst fun and frolic, the festival is a platform to give back. A major portion of the festival's fund is utilized for relieving the hunger stricken people around the world. The festival promotes 'No Kid Hungry Campaign' and every year raises huge fund for the noble cause.



What: Halloween
When: 31 October
Where: USA

Halloween is a popular October festival celebrated across the US. Though various modern elements have been incorporated, the festival has an antique root.

It is said that the basic practices and customs of Halloween got inspiration from Celtic age beliefs.

The main features of Halloween are uniforms which include activities like trick-or-treating (or the related "guising"), attending costume parties, decorating, carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns, lighting bonfires, apple bobbing, visiting haunted attractions, playing pranks, telling scary stories and watching horror films.

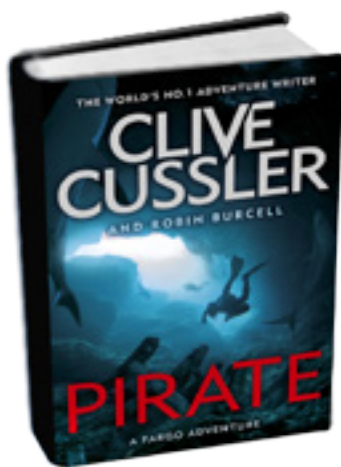


What: Diwali
When: 30 October
Where: All over India

The story of Lord Rama is remembered during the Indian Festival of Lights, Diwali. The festival has deep rooted religious meaning, but is one festival which is celebrated throughout the country. The festival marks the time when Rama defeated Ravana and all such evils to bring Sita back home after 14 years in exile. This victory is marked by lighting the path of Lord Rama with lights and distributing sweets to all.

PICK OF THE MONTH

Stay entertained throughout the month with the latest collection of books, games, audio CD's and DVD's



BOOK: PIRATE (A SAM AND REMI FARGO ADVENTURE)

This fascinating tale revolves around a 800-year old treasure, an ancient cypher wheel, a brutal murder and a man who is determinant at stopping at nothing to claim what he considers to be rightfully his. Sam and Remi Fargo, an adventurous husband and wife treasure hunting team, have embarked on many missions, some foolhardy, others impossible to accomplish. The perils

that they face vary greatly. However, the enemy which stares at them now is quite adamant to be defeated, and the ensuing battle which awaits them, will determine whether they stumble upon an enormous piece of treasure or meet a certain death.

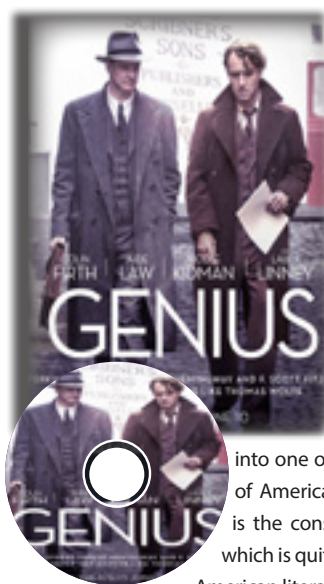
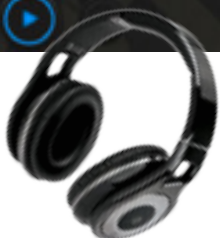
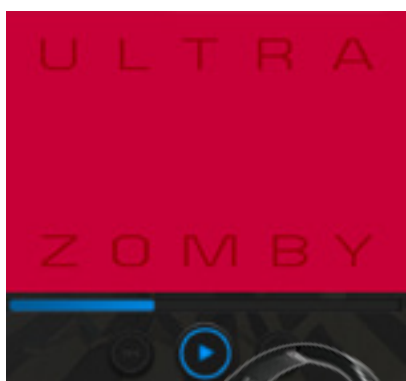
Genre(s) : Adventure, Thrill

MUSIC: ULTRA

Zombie marks his first new gear on Hyper dub in eight years with Ultra. It consists of fourteen tracks that sculpt a neon-lit blend of eski grime, hardcore junglist futurism and cyberpunk UKG blues.

This album bring into light all the varied styles and sounds that are integral to Zomby's sound. It's on Ultra that we find the frozen grip Zomby of his Step 21 collab with Wiley, finger on the trigger grime that manifests the sounds which possess the appearance of a Bow towerblock in 2001, and has that unmistakable late night hoods up walking your dog through the urban streets growl to the bass.

Genre(s) : Electronic, Grime



DVD: GENIUS

The story of Genius revolves around the story of Max Perkins, a famous editor at a publishing company, Scribner, who has over seen the publishing of works by authors like Thomas Wolfe, Ernest Hemingway, F Scott Fitzgerald, and more. The story depicts the dramatic rise of Perkins, who goes on to acquire some of the most eminent writers of American history, which often involve the appearance of some well-known figures, while offering a valuable insight

into one of the greatest characters and personalities of American literature. What keeps this story going is the constant focus on the background character which is quite fundamental for telling the stories which American literature is famous for.

Genre(s) : Drama



GAME: RECORE

In this thrilling game, the game's main protagonist, Joule Adams, volunteers to colonize a world that lies thousands of miles away, and is a world dominated by aliens. After going into a cyro-sleep and awakening from it again, finds that "Far-Eden" has been converted into a deserted wasteland.

Now, with the aid of his robotic companions, Joule must unravel the mystery enveloping this world, and what caused it to exist in its present state while battling the other alien robots. With excellent graphics and a captivating story line, this game promises to be as exciting as ever.

Genre (s) : Action, Adventure

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