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CORPORATE BUSINESS, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

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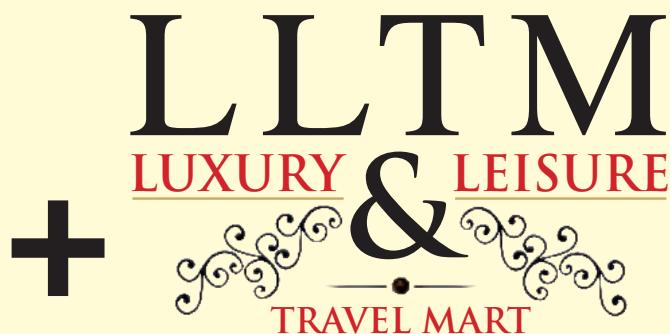
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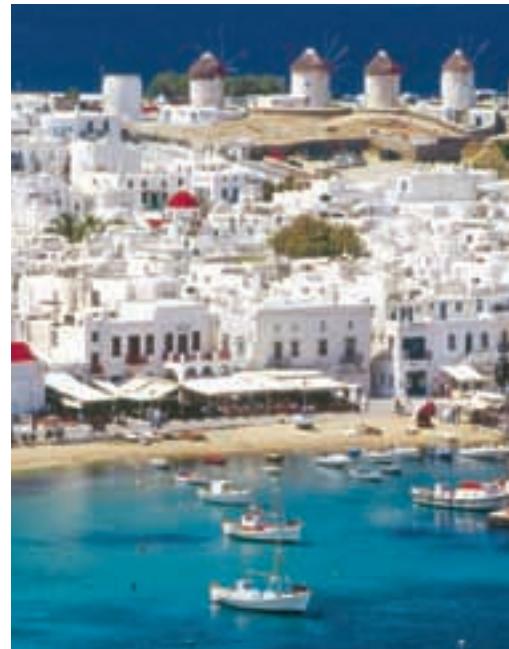
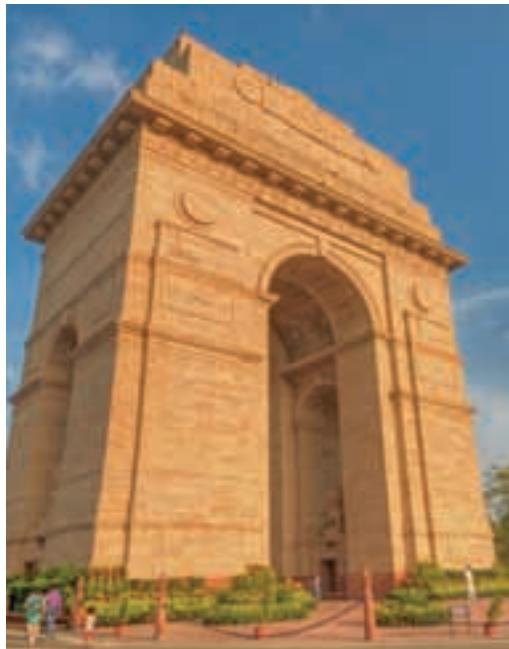
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# CONDE

August  
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## ROAD TRIP



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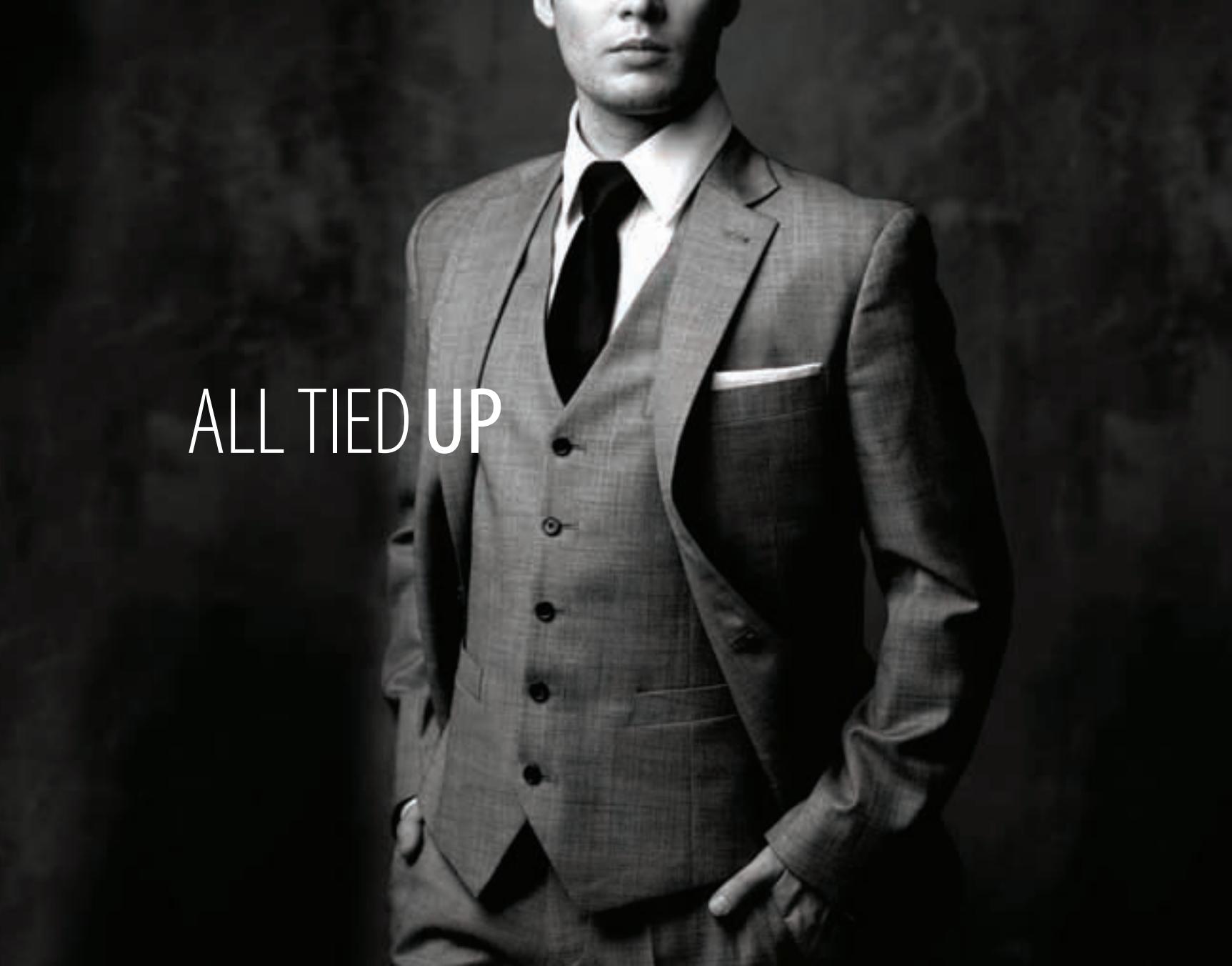
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# ALL TIED UP

The essential in a gentleman's wardrobe however classy is often the least thought of accessory

## TT BUREAU

It has been famously observed that a "A well-tied tie is the first serious step in life." Know then, that a well-tailored necktie collection signifies accomplishment more than anything. To be sure, a fine looking tie speaks of confidence, style and maturity. Whatever its particular width or design, a high-quality necktie will stand out from a not-so-great cravat in any number of ways. Here are a selection of some stylish ties for you to choose from.

## RALPH LAUREN

Ralph Lauren began his career with ties, and today, it's still considered by many to be the cornerstone of his brand. Whether looking for a contemporary piece from the Polo line or a testament to timeless elegance from the Black Label, many young professionals turn to Ralph Lauren to set their style apart. The classic apparel company also uses a variety of fabrics throughout the labels, ensuring you will find the right tie for the knot.

## ANDREW'S TIES

With brick-and-mortar stores dotting the major metros on the east coast, and one outpost in Las Vegas, Andrew's Ties has become a sought after cravat for connoisseurs. Their selection is extensive to say the least, with nearly 5,000 classic silk and cashmere offerings available throughout their shops. Crafted with heavy Italian silk, Andrew's Ties are known for their richer, thicker knots and classic designs. Their tie collections are created in limited edition batches, with each edition focussing on the latest style trends, which also leads to the fashionable gentleman owning an almost exclusive piece.

## LEE ALLISON

Lee Allison Company provides an extensive roster of neckwear designs, from traditional prints to playful patterns, all created from only the best materials. Their ties are handmade from 100 per cent silk that comes from European mills. The silk is then shipped to Lee Allison's Chicago location and cut and sewn by



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hand into neckties, bowties, cummerbunds, pocket squares and other stylish accessories. What's more, the company's original designs are actually woven into the silk, not printed, and the more traditional fabric choices are specially chosen from the archives of their trusted mills and then coloured to become a true Lee Allison piece.

### ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA

Founded in 1910 and still run by the same family, Ermengildo Zegna designs some of the best ties money can buy, thanks to their obsession with quality fabrics. Detail and sartorial excellence are found in all ties across the Zegna line. Their silk jacquard has become somewhat of a trademark of the brand, but by no means keeps them from using other methods, as they have become known for producing neckwear of the same quality featured in their suits.

### BRIONI

Brioni ties are the quintessential accessory for the fashionable male. Each handmade tie features exclusive, original designs, prints and colours. Brioni's silk is meticulously tested for durability so that the ties keep their shape with wear after wear, and is chosen to be the best for both yarn-dyeing and printing. Whether for business or a special occasion, more than half a century of experience lends itself to the unmistakable style of Brioni.

### DUCHAMP LONDON

London-based Duchamp sells the very best and very British ties and men's clothing and accessories. The company was started more than 25 years ago after a chance encounter at a Parisian flea market. Today, its ties and other goods are sold in celebrated shops like Harrods and Bloomingdales. Each of Duchamp's

exquisite ties are handmade in England and from fabric that is woven in one of the oldest silk design companies in the country.

### REEF KNOTS

Reef Knots captures the essence of summer and plasters it across their fun, simple, elegant designs. Created with luxury handmade silk and traditional screen-printing techniques, their ties are inspired by summertime and the ocean. All their designs are screen-printed onto the finest silk twill and are lined in Reef Knots' own customised silk. Each tie is delivered in their signature aqua-coloured box and with it comes a fun twist to a formal occasion and a reminder to take the breeziness of summer with you wherever you go.

### JAY KOS

Jay Kos began his retail career with a shop in a local flea market at 16, and since has gone on to open stores in the swankiest parts of New York City. The neckwear has become incredibly popular amongst tie aficionados, thanks to the unique colour palettes and quality craftsmanship. The delight Kos takes in all that is around him, from farmers markets to fine dining, comes through in his work.

### KITON

Kiton spent half a century as the premier crafters of menswear before introducing their own seven-fold neckwear. They quickly became highly regarded for their work as their attention to detail culminates in the hand-finishing of every single tie produced. This practice even led the founder to start a school dedicated to tailoring. Kiton ties undoubtedly look best when paired with one of their limited-run suits, but are a welcome and sophisticated addition to any outfit.

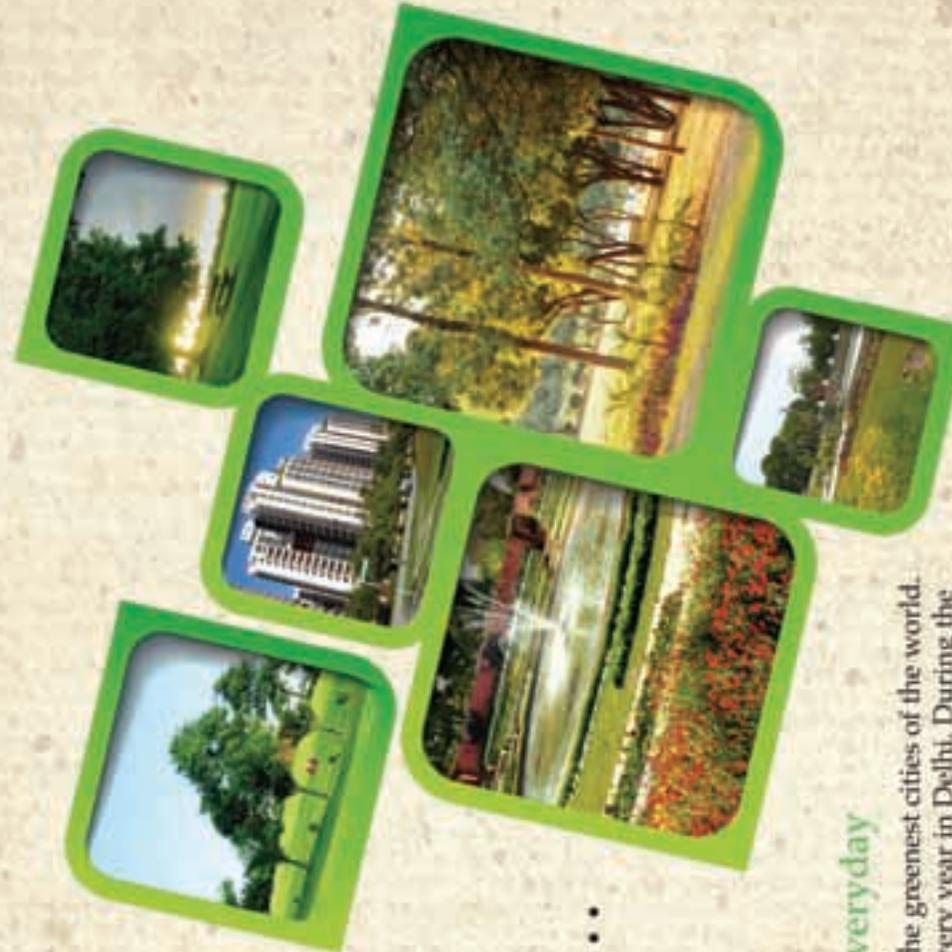




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# SKY WATCH

HERE ARE SOME REALLY COOL WEATHER APPS THAT WILL KEEP YOU ABREAST WITH ACCURATE INFORMATION

## **YAHOO! WEATHER**

This good looking app is just what you need for your phone. The Yahoo! Weather phone app has a fantastic interface that is most informative. With this app you can see images of your location that will sync with the time of the day and the weather conditions. There is also an option for you to view a detailed five-day weather report, along with interactive radar and satellite maps. With Yahoo's accurate presentation of your weather, this app proves to be a user-friendly sophisticated mobile app.

Platform (s):



## **THE WEATHER CHANNEL**

The Weather Channel, as the name suggests, gives you an in-depth meteorological data. This includes the temperature, wind and visibility, on an hourly or daily basis. There is also an extended ten-day forecast that is available in the app. You also have interactive maps that have the ability to display the latest Doppler radar data that forecasts rainfall and weather events, including any severe weather alerts. An added advantage of the application is the social sharing features, such as uploading images, tweets, videos and photos.

Platform (s):



## **ARCUS WEATHER**

Here is a great application that has been built by the Dark Sky team. This application is a detailed and accurate one that forecasts the weather wherever you are. The Arcus Weather app for phone includes widgets and a Dashdock extension, weather reports in the notification tray and weather alerts. If you decide to remove the ads, then you have to have a paid upgrade done, and this also means that you would be increasing the number of custom locations that you can save, along with customising the refresh time of the widget.

Platform (s):



## **WEATHER BUG**

The app provides users with weather information and boasts fast and targeted alerts of a major change in weather. WeatherBug is an app which can forecast accurate weather data and at the same time give lifestyle forecasts, all this with the help of a localised GPS. The WeatherBug app is a stupendous application with loads of features, such as interactive maps, visual forecasts and live cameras. The app is also integrated with your social media.

Platform (s):



## **FRESH AIR**

Here is an application that gives its users minute-by-minute visualisations of a wide range of weather information. This ranges from temperature, precipitation, wind speed and more. One of the most promising features of this app is its calendar integration, which permits the users to import their own calendar events and thereby automatically display an expected weather. There is a Today view widget that picks up weather for any upcoming events. The app also allows users to set weather alerts for their respective events. An additional fascinating function for those using Apple watch is that they can get a quick weather summary beamed to their wrist!

Platform (s):



## **RADARSCOPE**

This application is the ultimate weather app. It means business as it is packed with features and is a powerful weather radar app. This app is especially aimed at meteorologists and weather enthusiasts. There is NEXRAD Level 3 data available with the app from radar stations. There are options for users to fine tune the view with setting that display reflectivity, velocity and more. Also, there are detailed severe weather alerts for natural catastrophes, such as, tornadoes, flash floods and thunderstorms.

Platform (s):



# CORPORATE CONNECT



# STYLISED LIVING



Sunil Ghadiok, President and COO,  
Nidra Hospitality Pvt Ltd, New Delhi  
in conversation with Today's Traveller





## TT BUREAU

### What are the advantages of a mixed brand portfolio?

We are basically discussing the advantages of developing and managing various brands, essentially in similar bandwidth of market dynamics.

Most importantly, this means creating and owning skills that understand brand specifications of various brands, which is essential for both development as well as operations.

Organisations with such skills and understanding are able to offer brand options to developers that aptly fit their development in terms of product specifications and smarter returns.

Such a portfolio is likely to grow faster, giving the operating company quicker returns with a lower risk factor.

### How do you balance operational efficiency with good financial margins?

Operational efficiency is largely based on properly researched development, executed within the projected time

frame. Maximising revenue generating areas with appropriately-sized rooms and public areas and efficient plant and machinery is an absolute must for good operational margins.

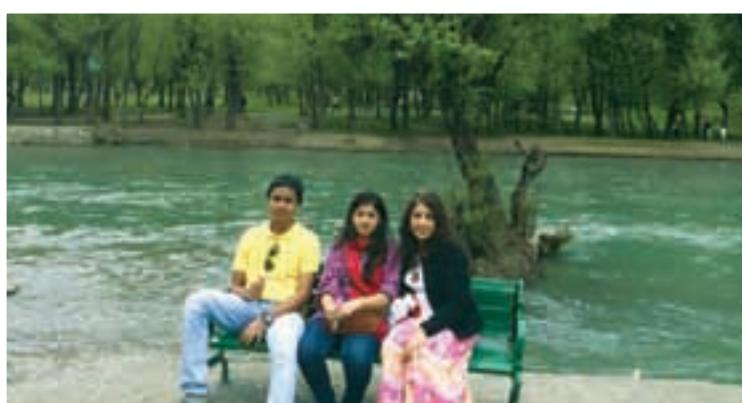
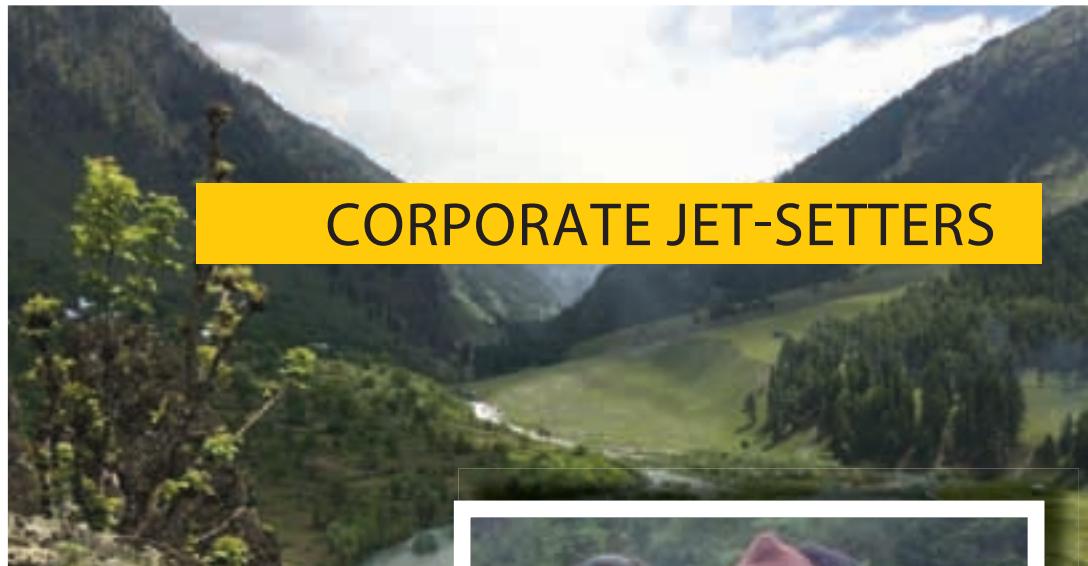
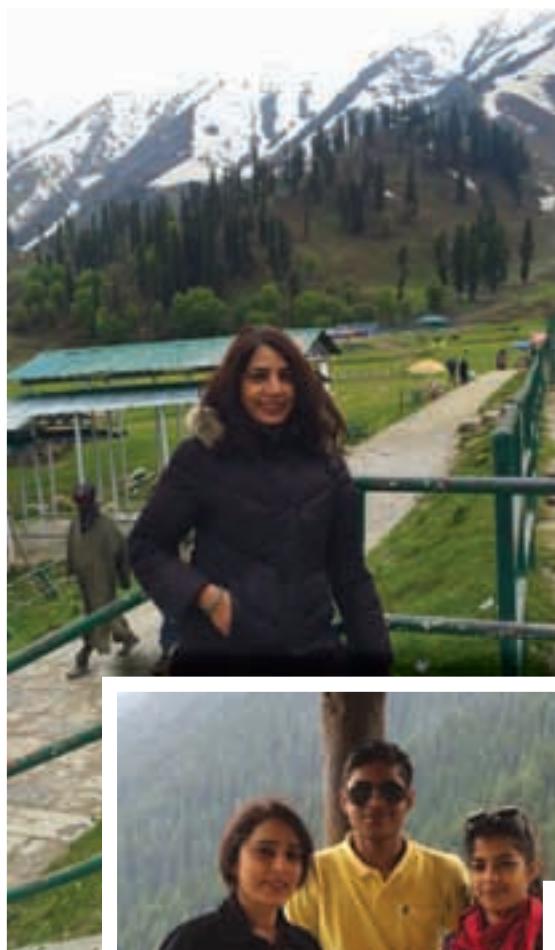
While operating hotels a number of factors control profitability. Key amongst this is meeting or exceeding projected revenues. Major expenses that need constant monitoring include heat, light and power and cost of man power. Other expenses that need to be controlled are cost of food and property maintenance.

### What are the challenges faced while managing different brands under one umbrella?

The principles of hotel management don't really change. Customer expectations do, and brands are extremely conscious of this. Herein lies the challenge. Very often, managers are unable to differentiate the philosophical differences in brand expectations. Success in directing operations means clear understanding of this aspect.



## CORPORATE JET-SETTERS



### SYLVIA FERNANDES HEAD – TRAVEL WELSPUN GROUP, MUMBAI

#### Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

A: Our trip to Kashmir has left a lasting impression on my mind. The lakes, the snow, unbelievable sizes of roses and those sky-touching pine trees makes Kashmir truly a paradise on earth.

#### Q: You dream of going to?

A: I have always dreamt of going to South Africa to see Kruger National Park and experience the Table Mountains. It remains in my bucket list.

#### Q: Your favourite airline and why?

A: I liked flying Singapore Airlines because of their hospitality, service and timely departure.

#### Q: Best hotel experience and why?

A: I loved staying at the Taj for their hospitality, fine dining, luxury and Heritage architecture.

#### Q: A place you plan to visit again

A: I am a spiritual person and Israel is the place where I want to go again and again to see and experience God's marvellous power. In the midst of constant shelling, people hold on to God

for His daily miracles. Here I want to reiterate – If travelling was free, you would never see me again.

#### Q: A family vacation that stands out?

A: My first trip abroad – Dubai, and it was such great fun. It will always remain in my memory.

#### Q: Your best holiday with friends?

A: It has to be the trip to Jaipur where we were simply mesmerised to see the massive palaces, forts, and of course, the gorgeous ethnic jewellery of the place.

#### Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

A: I enjoy eating Mangalorean seafood, in Mangalore.

#### Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

A: One should always look forward to nature and the history of that place. It is very interesting to know why and when something happened.

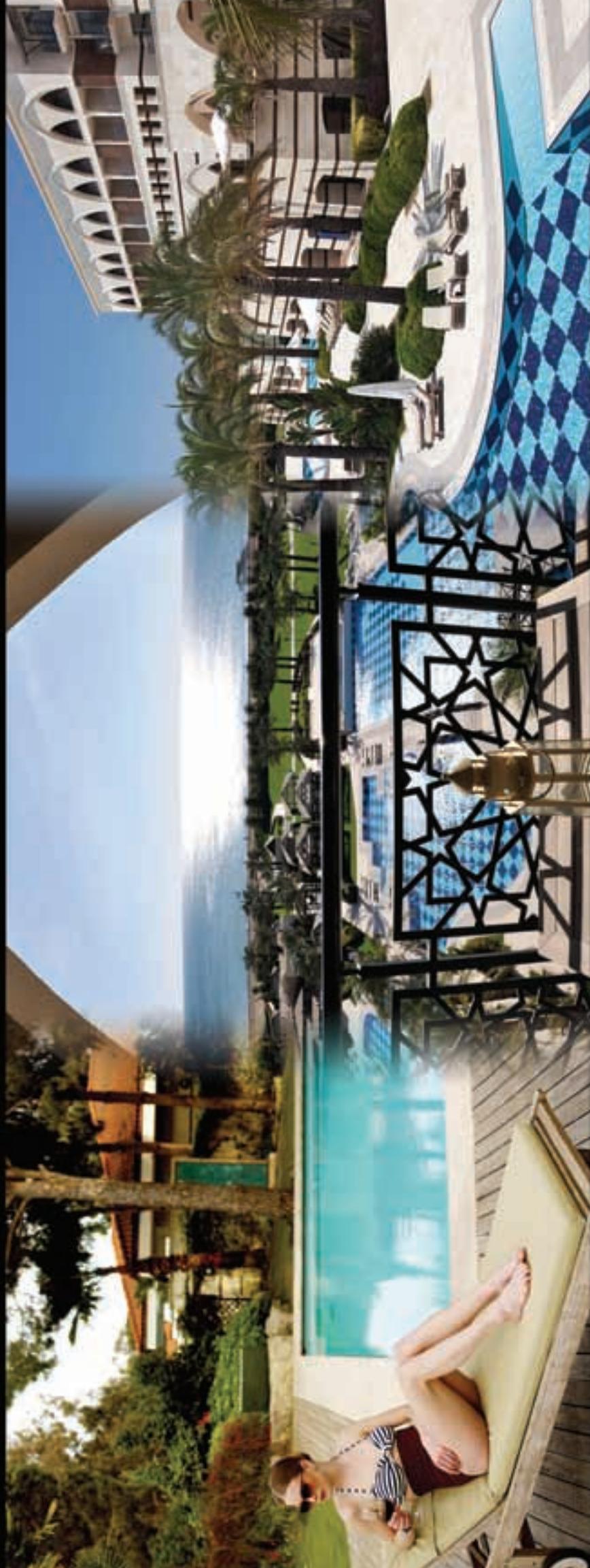
#### Q: As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

A: It is fundamental to explore the local culture. It gives you such great insight into the lives of people from the many regions across the world. I must say that it is educating.



Kempinski Hotel  
The Dome

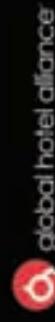
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# CORPORATE JET-SETTERS



**SANJAY HASIJA  
GROUP CFO  
ACB (INDIA) LIMITED**



**Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?**

A: Recently, I visited USA and Canada with my family. I visited Niagara Falls from both sides, i.e., USA and Canada, and I think it looks more beautiful from the Canada side. This was one of the most memorable trips.

**Q: You dream of going to?**

A: I am fascinated with Australia and New Zealand, as both these countries have beautiful places, just the kind that I dream of.

**Q: Your favourite airline and why?**

A: For an International journey I prefer flying Lufthansa because of its excellent hospitality and care on board. For Domestic journeys I always prefer to travel by Indigo Airlines because of its timely departure and arrival.

**Q: Best hotel experience and why?**

A: I have had great experience at the Hyatt Grand Cypress Hotel at Orlando USA. They provide excellent room facilities to utmost satisfaction of guests.

**Q: A place you plan to visit again?**

A: I would like to re-visit Singapore and Goa, because I enjoyed

them a lot. I had loads of fun with my family at these two destinations.

**Q: A family vacation that stands out?**

A: I had a great and memorable experience travelling by Star Cruise from Mumbai-Cochin-Goa-Mumbai for four days.

**Q: Your best holiday with friends?**

A: I travelled to Thailand with my friends, especially Phuket. We had a lot of fun there and the best of times.

**Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?**

A: Recently, I visited USA with my family. We tried various types of food there at different places in the USA, but I liked the Italian food served at Olive Garden, in New York.

**Q: What to watch out for while travelling?**

A: I enjoy beaches and so I always prefer going to such a destination. Also, it is important to look out for the natural and scenic splendour of the world.

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

A: My philosophy as a travel buyer is to get the best deals with the maximum inclusions so that I can spend my quality time with my family, relatives and friends.

# AVIATION



## AIR MAURITIUS OPERATES MAIDEN FLIGHT TO CHENGDU



The first scheduled Air Mauritius flight to Chengdu departed, making it the fourth Air Mauritius destination in China after Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing. Air Mauritius started operations to China with a first flight to Shanghai on 4 July, 2011 as part of its plan to rebalance its network and fuel growth towards emerging markets. The total number of seats on direct flights to mainland China will now reach 132,000 for Financial Year 2015/16, thus providing scope for further growth in this key market.

Andre Viljoen, Air Mauritius CEO, stated: "Air Mauritius, as a national airline, has been investing massively in China over the past four years and is in line with the country's strategy to diversify its tourist markets. Tourist arrivals from China have consistently reached double-digit growth figures since start of operations in 2011. China has now become a leading market for Air Mauritius and the start of operations to Chengdu broadens the scope for further growth."

## KLM LAUNCHES #LETSGODUTCH CAMPAIGN

KLM, widely recognised for being among the most social-media-savvy airlines, is offering its Indian travellers an exciting digital campaign, #LetsGoDutch. With this campaign, the brand offers to help people achieve their travel dreams by 'Going Dutch.' Conceptualised and executed by Mumbai-based digital agency, CogMat, the campaign will extensively leverage on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to create a stir.

The campaign kicks-off with a video which showcases popular and affordable European locations like Amsterdam, Dublin, Prague and many more, sparking a desire to travel. The humour-tinged video shows people from different segments of the Indian market, who want to travel to Europe, but are restricted from doing so due to high travel cost. The

## QATAR AIRWAYS CONTINUE EXPANSION

Qatar Airways is continuing its rapid growth across Africa and the Indian Subcontinent with an increase in flight frequencies to Asmara, Eritrea, and to Dhaka, Bangladesh.

From September 2015, flights from Doha to Asmara will be increased from four to five times per week, representing a 25 per cent increase in capacity and enhanced connectivity, particularly for customers from North America and Europe.

And, on December 2015, flights from Doha to Dhaka, Bangladesh, will also be increased substantially with the number of frequencies jumping from 10 to 14 weekly, effectively increasing capacity by 40 per cent on this popular route. Operated with an Airbus 330-300 offering 30 seats in Business and 275 in Economy, the additional flights will allow even more connection opportunities for customers flying from the Middle East, the U.S., Europe and Africa.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Akbar Al Baker, said: "Qatar Airways is committed to continually enhance the five-star experience we offer to all our customers and this further expansion is in direct response to a growing demand on these popular routes. We are

## AAI CELEBRATES LIBRARY WEEK.



Airports Authority of India (AAI) Corporate Hqrs. Library, recently, celebrated Library Week. On this occasion, a lecture on role of library in preserving Indian culture was organised, besides, quiz competition for executives, non-executives and other employees. An open quiz on Civil Aviation was also conducted wherein employees participated in great numbers. Keeping pace with today technological developments, Kindle eBook reader' for the readers of AAI was launched by Chief Guest Anuj Aggarwal, Member (HR), AAI. A new, unique dedicated library software was also inaugurated for the readers of AAI which facilitates access to the Library Catalogue at odd hours too.

purpose of the campaign, as shown in the video, is to 'Go Dutch' with people and build a sense of camaraderie with KLM flyers.

Commenting on the campaign, Yeshwant Pawar, General Manager, Air France - KLM said, "KLM is proud to launch #LetsGoDutch campaign, with the aim to help people fulfill their travel dreams by offering to 'Go Dutch' with them. It caters to the needs of travel enthusiasts wishing to explore countries across Europe. The campaign will be leveraged extensively across social media, encouraging fans and followers to participate. We believe that our vision and innovative concepts as such will bring us great results and help to build a deeper connect with our customers."

delighted to offer even more opportunities for our customers across the globe to connect through Doha's state-of-the-art Hamad International Airport to both Eritrea and Bangladesh, flying on board one of the youngest fleets in the industry."



## PARIS ALONG THE WAY: OFFERS AIR FRANCE



Air France has launched 'Paris along the Way,' a unique offer for connecting / transit passengers flying from India in Business Class. With this offer, passengers having connecting flights on Air France or KLM can enjoy a free stopover at Paris and explore this beautiful city. The offer includes a complimentary night stay at a selected hotel in Paris, as well as a luxury limousine service from Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport to the hotel and back to the airport. The offer can be availed by Business Class passengers, either on outbound or inbound journey, provided they hold a valid Schengen visa. The said offer is valid for travel till December 2015.

To avail the offer, tickets must be issued for travel ex India and passengers must place a request with the local Air France office at least 48 hours prior to departure. Upon receipt of the request, Air France office will issue a voucher to ensure a seamless experience. An ultimate opportunity for customers to experience the best of Parisian culture and explore the beautiful city that offers endless possibilities in fashion, shopping, gastronomy, history, art and culture.

### Air France announces irresistible fares from Mumbai To New York

Air France India announced the launch of special economy fares to New York at unbelievable prices. Flyers can now explore the cosmopolitan city of New York, famous for its art, fashion and skylines with this 'must grab' offer.

The special fares are available at an unbelievable price, starting at INR 52,000 all-inclusive in Economy for bookings made on or before August 31, 2015. This offer is valid for tickets issued in India for passengers travelling to or from Mumbai between September 10, 2015 and December 15, 2015, and valid only on Air France codeshare flights to/from BOM.

## VISTARA AND MUMBAI AIRPORT LAUNCH MOBILE PHONE BOARDING PASS FACILITY



Vistara and GVK MIAL (Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd.) recently announced the launch of a mobile phone boarding pass facility for Vistara's customers travelling out of Mumbai's T2 terminal to New Delhi, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Goa. The first of its kind initiative at Mumbai Airport helps provide Vistara's customers a truly seamless travel experience.

The mobile boarding pass facility is also a time-saver for passengers and results in reduction in usage of paper boarding passes. Overall, the mobile phone boarding pass facility will lead to another 'Experience Simplicity' feature while travelling through Mumbai Airport by Vistara. Vistara's customers making use of this facility for their travel from Mumbai T2 will only need to choose 'Get Mobile boarding pass/ Collect by SMS' option when checking-in online or on the mobile app. The SMS from Vistara will contain the booking details and the link to access the mobile boarding pass.

Expressing his pleasure on yet another passenger-focussed and eco-friendly endeavour of MIAL, CEO Rajeev Jain said, "With the launch of the mobile phone boarding pass facility, we believe that passengers travelling through Vistara out of T2 terminal will experience another hassle-free feature and eventually the initiative will further enhance the overall airport travel experience in India."

Phee Teik Yeoh, CEO, Vistara, said, "We continually look for ways to enhance our customers' travel experience by harnessing the power of technology and offering operational and service excellence. We are extremely pleased to partner with MIAL and we look forward to offering these capabilities across our existing and upcoming route network."

## TURKISH AIRLINES ADDS KHUJAND, TAJIKISTAN



Turkish Airlines, ranked the "Best Airline in Europe" by Skytrax Survey of 2015 for the fifth consecutive year, added yet another city to its Far East network. The second-largest city of Tajikistan and the capital of the northernmost province of this country, Khujand joined the Turkish Airlines network as the 34th destination served in the Far East. The roundtrip flights between Istanbul and Khujand will be operated two times per week on Mondays and Thursdays from Istanbul, and on Tuesdays and Fridays from Khujand. Introductory round trip fares are available from Istanbul to Khujand (Tajikistan), starting at 352 USD (including taxes and fees).

# Welcome to Turkish Airlines Lounge Istanbul

Turkish Airlines Business Class travellers, Miles&Smiles Elite members with a guest, Miles&Smiles Elite Plus members with their families and Star Alliance Gold members can take advantage of our brand new CIP lounge.

Lounge Istanbul is exclusively designed for your comfort and entertainment. A buffet of mouth-watering sandwiches, croissants, pastries, tarts, soups, fruits, nuts and more await you along with a selection of hot and cold soft drinks, tea, coffee and fresh squeezed orange juice.

Listen to relaxing music as you play a round of pool at our billiard hall. Afterwards, you can surf the Internet on our free Wi-Fi, catch up on your favorite TV shows or even see a movie at our cinema. A business centre is available for those passengers who need a quiet place to concentrate on their work. In the mood for some light reading?

Leaf through local and foreign newspapers and magazines available in the media centre. Private rooms and shower facilities are available for those who need to freshen up or get some rest. Don't forget to ask for your personal bath kit and towel at the reception. Daycare services as well as a diaper changing trolley are available for parents. For your spiritual needs, a prayer room is also available.

While abroad at airports around the world, Miles&Smiles Elite and Elite Plus members and a guest have access to all international CIP lounges that carry the Star Alliance Gold logo.



# BANQUETS & FACILITIES



# Pool lover's paradise

Relax, refresh and rejuvenate at some of the world's most amazing pool bars

## TT BUREAU

We love pool bars. We think they are amazingly cool. The joy of sipping a cocktail after a few laps in the swimming pool is a refreshing feeling. Either the cocktail is stiff enough to make the swim more relaxing, or the view from your deck chair could be breathtaking. The ambience is calm and conducive to striking up a conversation with like-minded imbibers, making some new friends or simply unwinding and relaxing completely. Today's Traveller invites you for some serious laidback living at some recommended swim-up pool bars.

### LOTUS BAR, INTERCONTINENTAL RESORT, TAHITI

Located along the lagoon, the pool gives an amazing view of Tahiti's sister island, Moorea. The vast panorama offers breathtaking sunsets, as you sit back, relax and sip on a delicious pear vodka or MaiTai.



### SERENITY POOL AT FOUR SEASONS MAUI

Aptly named the Serenity Pool, this swimming pool offers everything it promises. Located in the most secluded part of the resort, the infinity pool showcases panoramic views of West Maui's mountain range. The underwater music system and the pool bar serving specialty cocktails will make you want to stay forever.

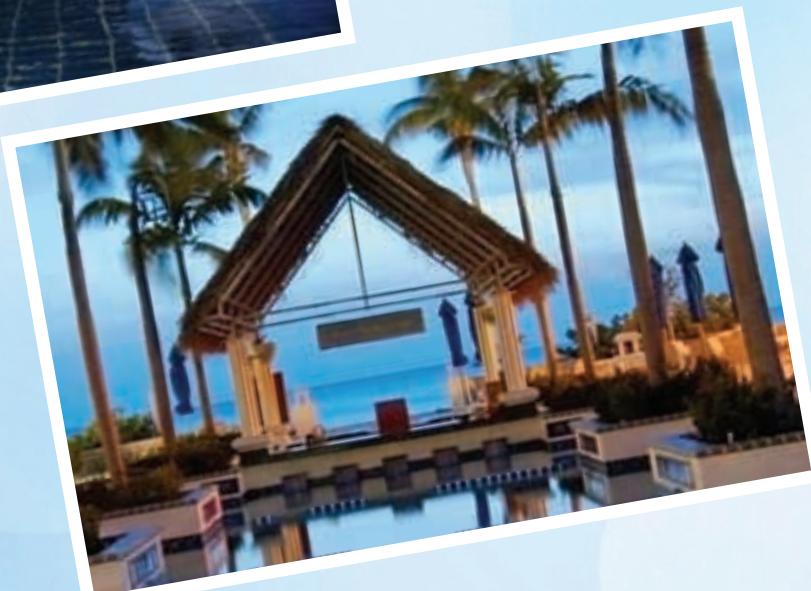
### HOTEL RIU PALACE, CABOS SAN LUCAS, MEXICO

Located at the south of the peninsula, the pool has panoramic views of the beach and the sea beyond. The pool has two sections, a jacuzzi and a pool bar that offers a wide range of Mexican gastronomic delights. Coupled with a few pitchers of chilled Pinacoladas, this is ultimate bliss.



### GRAND CAYMAN BEACH SUITES, CAYMAN ISLANDS

With a breathtaking view of the Caribbean Sea, and a cool swim-up bar, the Grand Cayman pool is infinitely soothing to the eyes. The pool is wheelchair-accessible and boasts a negligible use of chlorine.



### INDIGO BAY ISLAND RESORT IN MOZAMBIQUE

Offering panoramic views of Indigo Bay and an enchanting pool bar with walls depicting early Portuguese trade, this quintessential destination is perfect for every beach lover. Couple that with a chilled Long Island or a Margarita and make the holiday worth it.

# CHOCOLATE FOR THE SOUL



Indulge your sweet tooth with some of these mouth-watering destinations

## TT BUREAU

**V**acations are a chance to indulge—and what better way to truly treat yourself than with chocolate? You can even plan an entire trip around pure, cacao-infused bliss. True chocoholics know that a tour of a chocolate factory or confectioner's shop can be a memorable part of a trip any time of year. In honour of the chocolate fiend, here are some of the world's coolest chocolate destinations you shouldn't miss out on.

## VESTRI

### Florence, Italy

What's better than Italy for some pure, unadulterated chocolate? Make tracks to Italian Chocolate Valley, the area in northern Tuscany, which is known for its dedication to pure chocolate (no added vegetable oils). For a taste of paradise in Florence, visit the tiny Vestri boutique for some of the finest chocolate imaginable. And, strongly consider the dark chocolate and Sicilian orange gelato. Expect crowds, but the luxurious Turin chocolates at Venchi are worth the wait. And, if hitting



the shops isn't enough, plan a visit for next spring's handmade chocolate fair for tastings, workshops, and lots more.

## ANGELINA

### Paris, France

Hot chocolate will never be the same after you partake of the impossibly thick chocolat chaud at this opulent Angelina on Rue Rivoli. Your pitcher is served with some freshly whipped cream alongside. Ceremoniously pour the molten chocolate into your little cup and raise a toast to Paris—and chocolate. If you prefer your chocolate in bite-sized quantities, head to the laboratory of Jacques Jenin where shopping for chocolate is akin to buying jewellery. Select each piece from the display case and have it carefully removed by white-gloved staff.



# More Wings. More Values

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Innovation with industry; Business  
Innovation with industrial revolution  
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role heavy helicopters and  
support planes and MEFs.  
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• Flying in comfort and safety  
• To explore new areas  
• Superb infrastructure  
• Superior facilities and services  
• Superior facilities and services

Flying with the new age.  
Giving you the edge!  
-Latest technologies and Expert  
training institute to ensure the  
best of men and machineries se  
-Better and safer than any  
other with a proven  
track record  
-Expanding its horizons  
with more fleet  
and value workers  
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performer that  
makes the nation  
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The Term "Pawan Hans" Represent Efficiency,  
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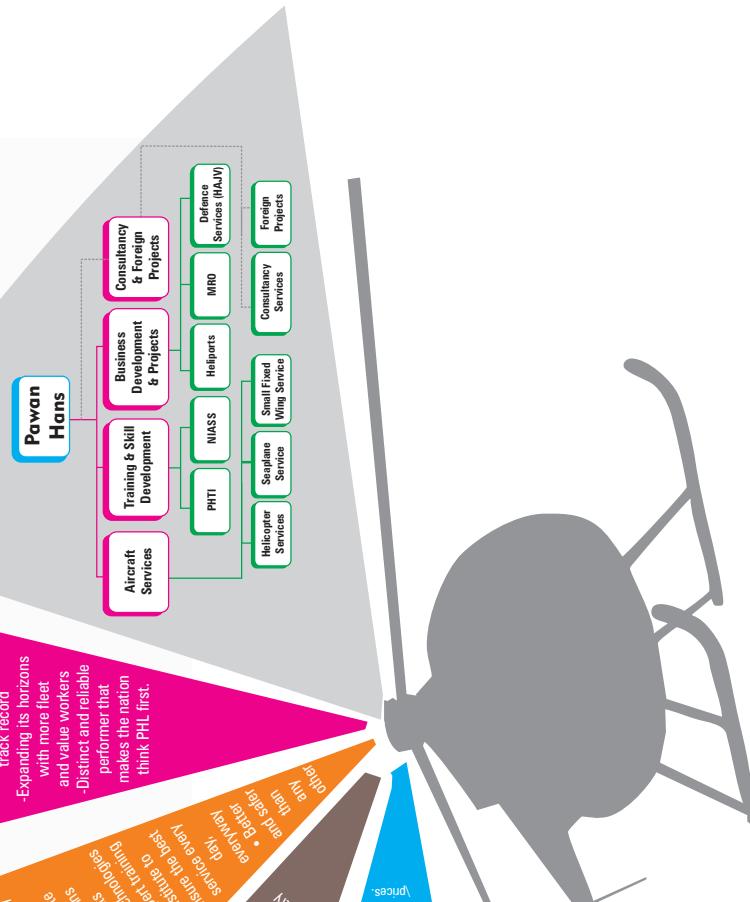
## Marks of Operational Excellence

A profit making dividend paying PSU.	Operating fleet of more than 50 multi disciplinary light, medium and heavy helicopters	Achieved remarkable Physical and Financial performance in last 3 FY.	Flown over 7,00,000 hours with more than 25,00,000 safe landing	Expertise in offshore, Hilly terrain, Inter Island Connectivity, Religious Tourism.	Financial Credit rating is Ind "A+".	MoU rating improved from "Good" to "V.Good" in 2013-14 and further achieved "Very Good" in 2014-15.	Implemented Highest Safety Standard in PHL such as SMS (Safety Management System).	Building shareholder values and client confidence through company wide focus on safety and customer care	Modern Helicopter Maintenance facilities at Mumbai and Delhi equipped with latest technology	Achieved Customer Satisfaction rating of 91% for the FY 2014-15	Implementation of IT Solutions and e-office for efficient governance and transparency	Longest serving services to offshore oil and gas industry	Skill development through its National Institute of Aviation Safety and Services and Pawan Hans training Institute (PHTI).
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...that makes India think Pawan Hans First !



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Longest serving services to offshore oil and gas industry

Skill development through its National Institute of Aviation Safety and Services and Pawan Hans training Institute (PHTI).



## SWISS CHOCOLATE TRAIN

**Montreux and Broc, Switzerland**

For an experience as magical as visiting Willy Wonka's factory, visit Montreux and board the Swiss Chocolate Train, a 1915 "Belle Epoque" Pullman car, for a round trip journey to Nestlé's Maison Cailler factory in Broc, where you'll take a tour and taste the creamy milk chocolate. Bonus: You'll also get to visit the Gruyères cheese factory. Or develop your chocolate tasting skills with the tour at Confiserie Poyet in Vevey.

## MUSEU DE LA XOCOLATA

**Barcelona, Spain**

The Museu de la Xocolata will educate you about how Spanish conquerors brought chocolate to Europe from South America – and its inevitable spread. Imagine, What if nobody ever thought to add sugar to cocoa? Take part in one of nearly 20 of the



museum's activities, many of which are family friendly. Revel in the delicious chocolate tastings, sample wine and chocolate pairings, or even paint with chocolate! Ready to swap hot chocolate for haute chocolat? Try one of bubo's fanciful creations. Or go old school at Pasteleria Escriba, where word has it that Ferran Adrià's favourite chocolate croissants can be found.

## MAST BROTHERS CHOCOLATE

**New York City, USA**

Sourcing their cacao from small farms in Ecuador, Madagascar, and Venezuela, Mast Brothers Chocolate creates delicious chocolate confections from scratch at their Brooklyn artisanal chocolate factory. And, it's all chocolate all the time at Jacques Torres' (also known as Mr. Chocolate)

stores. Chocolate in every expression your heart desires can be yours thanks to this French chocolatier.

## PLACE DU GRAND SABLON

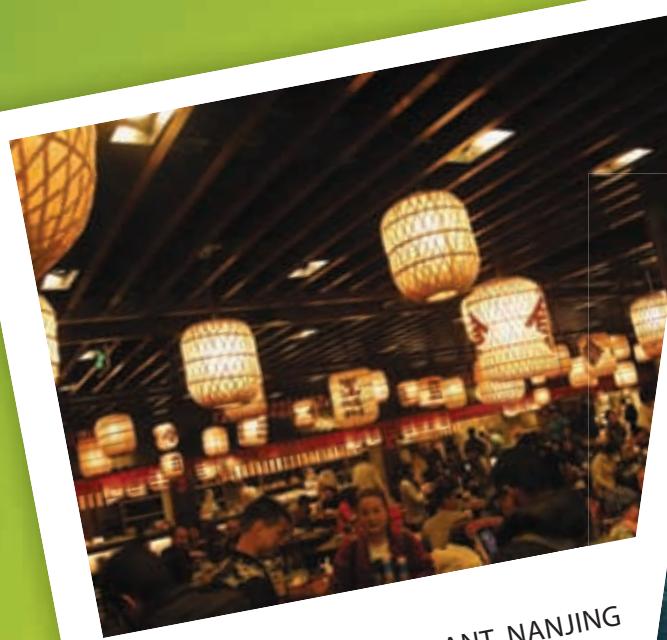
**Brussels, Belgium**

Boutiques ringing the lovely Place du Grand Sablon and its side streets lie in wait for the traveller in need of a chocolate fix. Here, in the heart of chocolate nirvana, Belgium, pick from the likes of Wittamer, Pierre Marcolini and Frederic Blondeel and create your own chocolate-tasting tour – just be sure to try the pralines as well. Choconeers can geek out with the history and exhibits at the Musée du Cacao et du Chocolat, while home cooks will want to try their hand making pralines at the Planète Chocolat workshops. And, if you can't get enough, join this weeklong chocolate tour of Belgium.



# EXPLORER





HUAIYANG RESTAURANT, NANJING



QINHUI RIVER, NANJING



LUXURY  
RESTAURANT,  
NANJING



HUAIYANG  
CUISINE

# NANJING – WINDOW TO THE REAL CHINA

The land of the “Golden Waterway,” Nanjing is a peaceful city away from the humdrum

**TT BUREAU**

**N**anjing is the capital city of Jiangsu Province in eastern China. Simplified as “Ning,” it has another name – Jinling, and is situated in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, at 32°03'N and 118°47'E. It borders the Yangtze River Delta to the East and the hilly areas of South Anhui to the West; on the South it is adjacent to the water network of Taihu Lake and the Jianghuai Plain in the North. With the “Golden Waterway” Yangtze River flowing through the city, it is 380km from the Yangtze River’s estuary to the sea, and about 300km to Shanghai, the largest city of China.

The total area of Nanjing is 6598sq.km, including 4728sq.km as urban area, and its total population is over 10 million. It is in the monsoon climate area of the north subtropical zone, with clearly-divided four seasons. Its annual average temperature is 16°C and the annual average precipitation 1034mm.

In this city, the ancient Qinhuai River of Nanjing curves and extends like a jade belt while Xuanwu Lake and Mochou Lake are situated on both sides. The winding Zhongshan and Qixia Mountain and have continued their guard, like dragons, for

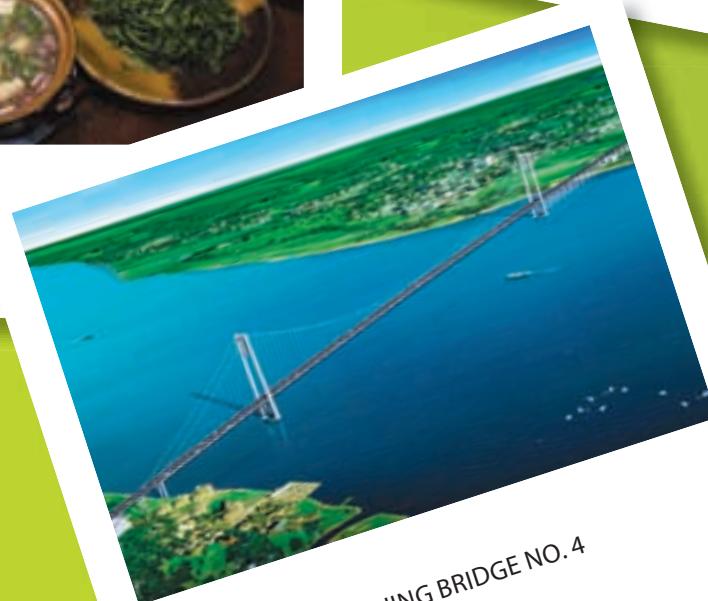
thousands of years. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen’s Mausoleum inspires the spirit of fearlessness in tourists. Located in the south of Nanjing, Fuzimino was a thriving commercial and entertainment centre in the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is also popularly associated with the well-known Confucius Temple. Standing within the precincts of the magnificent Zhonghua Gate, which has been ingeniously designed, you could almost hear the cry of horses during battle.

Nowadays, local life in Nanjing is much slower and more relaxed than in Beijing or Shanghai. It is common to see senior citizens playing chess in the sun or enjoying a radio show next to a busy thoroughfare. Local citizens are chatty and friendly, though most can speak only Chinese. English is better understood in high-end hotels and restaurants or international hostels. Now, more and more Indians are coming to this city for business, education or other purposes.

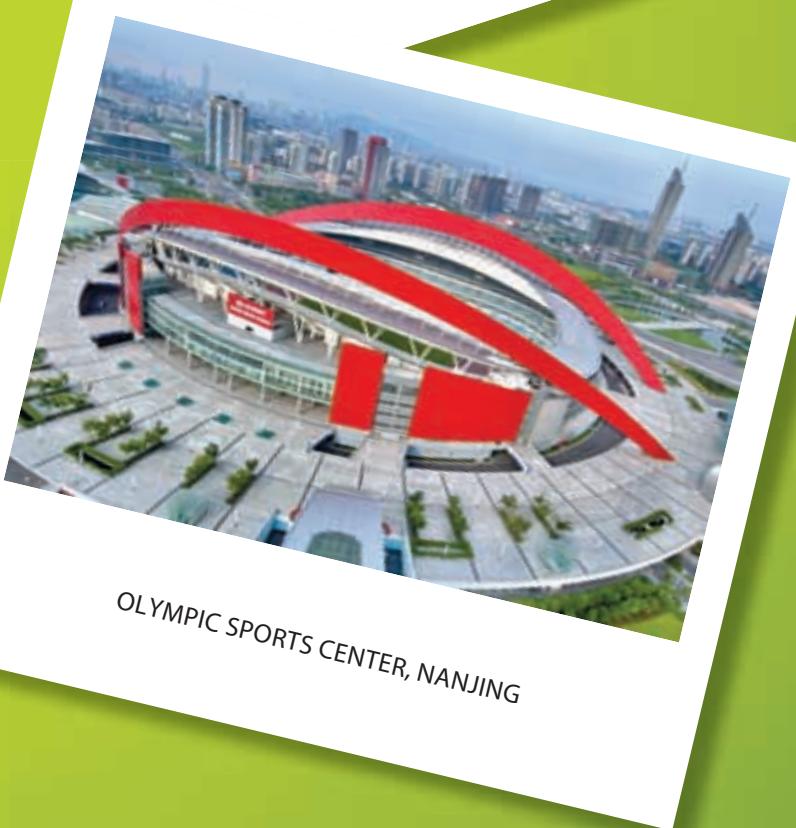
With a history of over 2,500 years as a city and nearly a history of 500 years as a capital, it is one of the four major ancient capitals in China. In 2014, it was the host city of the 2nd Summer Youth Olympic Games. Indeed, Nanjing is a window for foreign visitors to get a glimpse of the real China.



XINJIEKOU  
SHOPPING AREA,  
NANJING



NANJING BRIDGE NO.4



OLYMPIC SPORTS CENTER, NANJING

## HUAIYANG CUISINE, ONE OF CHINA'S TOP FOUR STYLES OF COOKING

Huaiyang cuisine, also called Jiangsu cuisine, is one of China's top four cooking styles, and it enjoys a great reputation at home and abroad. It originates from the dishes and cooking styles of Hua'an, Yangzhou, and Zhenjiang, the cities surrounding the lower reaches of the Yangtze River.

### HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS

Traditional Huaiyang cuisine came into being in the Ming (1368 AD – 1644 AD) and Qing (1644 AD – 1911 AD) Dynasties, and was particularly popular in the Qing Dynasty. Nowadays, Huaiyang cuisine has become a symbol of Chinese food culture, which plays a key role in the banquets for big events, such as the first Grand Banquet for the Ceremony of the Founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the Grand Banquet for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

### FEATURES

Known as "A land of Fish and Rice" in China, Jiangsu Province highlights a variety of food ingredients. Cooking ingredients are often carefully selected; they include tea leaves, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, and pears.

The flavour of Huaiyang cuisine is light, fresh and sweet and its presentation is subtle and elegant. It showcases the freshness and rich culture of the region. Traditional Huaiyang cuisine features delicate carving techniques, of which the melon carving technique is especially well known. Typical cooking methods of Huaiyang cuisine include stewing, braising, steaming, quick-frying, stir-frying, and wine sauce pickling.

### REPRESENTATIVE DISHES

The famous dishes of Huaiyang cuisine include Braised Giant Meatball, Stewed Crab with Clear Soup, Long-boiled and Dry-shredded Meat, Crystal Meat, and Sour Vegetable Fish Pot.

Huaiyang cuisine also includes several snacks and breakfast choices such as Crab Soup Dumplings, Thousand Layer Cake, Steamed Dumplings, Tofu Noodles and Wild Vegetable Steamed Buns.

# ON THE ROAD

Explore the great outdoors by hitting the road, enjoy the beauty of nature and undertake a journey of a lifetime

**ARKA ROY CHOWDHURY**

Man is fearful of monotony, of a dull moment, of inactivity. In his most compelling hour, man is a being who wants to break free and do what he loves best. The stress we face every day at work, in crowded public transports, or even in our inter-personal relationships can heal with a holiday. Just a few days of time off from everything that burns the human spirit and reduces it to ashes. A man on the move is the man who is blessed, who will witness life in various forms, coming alive in different shades. While conventionally we tend to take the flight or the railways to reach someplace, there is always the option of travelling by road. To be on the road is to absolve the spirit of the planet, passing through towns and villages, or mountains and beaches, meeting people who we never knew existed. The myriad images we encounter every day on the road are countless. To create a memory for eternity, take the road, for it is holy and it transcends the world we create in our daily lives. Here are some of the most astounding places one can travel by road in India.

## CHANDIGARH TO MANALI

If you are yearning for a serene Himalayan vacation, then head to Manali via Chandigarh, and there is no better way to it than the Chandigarh-Manali highway. Leave Chandigarh early in the morning and drive up to the hill town, crossing small villages and towns, such as Bilaspur, Kullu, and Mandi. You will come across various eateries to satiate your hunger, with the Beas River running by your side being a magnificent compliment to your journey. Note that you have to stick to National Highway (NH) 21 and not venture into NH 21A. Drive on through NH 21 until you reach Rupnagar and then proceed towards Bharatnagar and then to Kiratpur Sahib. Carry on till you reach a split flyover, with one going right over the river. Keep your eyes open for boards that direct you towards Manali. Follow the road towards Kullu from where Manali is just an hour away.



## GUWAHATI-TAWANG

The beauty of the Northeast is resplendent in this epic road trip. The verdant beauty of nature mixed with the region's cultural heritage makes for an amazing road trip. At the very start you can visit the Kaziranga National Park, famous for the one-horned rhino. The route will then take you through Cherrapunji, which is one of the wettest places on earth; here you will also be able to see the spectacular "living bridges," built from growing roots of trees. At Imphal, Manipur, you can witness the World War II cemeteries. The end point of this trip is Tawang Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh, surrounded by beautiful landscapes, green hills and endless beauty.



## MUMBAI-KOLHAPUR-GOA

Here is a getaway that is enchanting and lively. The road to Goa, one of the most sought after destinations in India is dotted with Nature's magnificent glory. The route you take will make you pass through Kolhapur,

where you can make a pit stop and enjoy the local food. Kolhapur is also very famous for its footwear and jaggery, so for all those interested, it could be a great opportunity to visit this place. Also, Kolhapur has the Siddhagiri Gramjivan Museum and the New Palace

to see. From here, head straight to Goa, which is a four-hour drive. Once you land in Goa, you will enter a world much different from the one you may have come from – an endless coastline with nature all around you. This is accompanied by good food, drink and a pleasant atmosphere.

## GANGTOK-LAKE TSOMGO-NATHU-LA PASS

The beautiful state of Sikkim is part of the Seven Sister States in the Northeast of India, and it is still very much unexplored. Gangtok, the fatal point of the state, is also the capital and pretty much urbanised. The road trip is a good way to unwind, and definitely one of the best road trip experiences you will ever have. It is a road trip that everyone should undertake once in his or her lifetime, with beautiful mountains in the backdrop and a hilly terrain to make it all the more romantic and beautiful. In winter, Lake Tsangmo is completely frozen and a sight to see. Go on further and experience history by visiting the famous Nathu-La Pass. If you really love road trips, then we suggest you take some more time off and go around the entire region, from Darjeeling to Pelling, et al.



## KOLKATA-DIGHA

Digha lies in the northern end of the Bay of Bengal and is a seaside town. A famous place for people around West Bengal, it is a favourite among the residents of Kolkata. The road leading to this seaside town is pleasant, without too many ups and downs, and is dotted with greenery all around. You will also find many 'dhabas' serving food all along the road, the perfect thing you need when hungry. Once you reach Digha, you will be welcomed by the enormous sea, and its sandy beach where you have the option of riding a pony. Drive around to the nearby villages for some rural exploration. It is perfect for those who want to take time off from their busy lives. Digha also has the largest inbuilt aquarium in the country which you could visit.



## DELHI-LEH

This is what they call the "trip of a lifetime." Every hippie's favourite, every youngster's dream, every biker's wish, the Delhi-Leh trip is one of the best biking trips you can take. This trip is your magnum opus when it comes to road trips, and it requires planning; therefore make sure that you have laid out a plan. Leh is located in the extreme North of India and you will have to cross hill towns like Manali to reach your destination. Standing on the alluring Nubra Valley at a height of 10,500ft, with high mountains and clear blue skies around you, it is simply a life changing experience. Most people cover the distance in bikes, but if you are going with family, then of course, you would require a car. From Delhi, you have to drive up to Manali and then from there to Sarchu, and then to Leh.



# ALONG THE WATERS

A staple Turkish experience, the cruise ships take its visitors to some of the most enthralling places of Turkey

**ARKA ROY CHOWDHARY**

The Turkish experience is a superlative one – with its many wonders, the country offers a lot more than visitors can imagine. Cruising along the waters of Turkey is one such experience that is unmatched to any other. Turkey's cruise ships ferry passengers by the timeless shores of this beautiful country, and Today's Traveller takes you on a guided tour to some of these exotic towns.

## TRABZON, BLACK SEA

A very important port which dates as far back as 7,000 B.C., it includes some of the most historic churches and mosques, along with the countryside's forests and monasteries. Sumela Monastery is one such important one, which is perched high above the surrounding forests, on Mt. Karadag. Visitors could also like to visit the splendid lakefront villages on the mountain terrain of Uzungol. Beautiful charismatic village inns here are famous for their traditional Turkish hospitality.

## BODRUM

The chic resort town of Bodrum has one of the most famous attractions – St. Peter's Castle commands a magnificent presence

on the bay. The historic fortress was once used by the Knights of St. John; it stands today as a wealthy treasure trove of artefacts. The Antique Theater, which is located beyond the port, is a remnant of Halicarnassus. Here, one can also see the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus which is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Bodrum also has a bustling market which has a host of local produce. The historical importance of Bodrum also lies in the fact that it is the birthplace of the Greek historian Herodotus. Bodrum is also famous for its vibrant nightlife, which lets you party from dawn to dusk.

## KUSADASI

The cruise ship port of Kusadasi is a beach resort town which is a gateway to one of the most important ancient cities of the spectacular Mediterranean. Kusadasi is famous for the largest archeological sites in the world – Ephesus. Here, you will also find the Great Theatre where St. Paul preached, the Roman Basilica where St. John is buried, the House of the Virgin Mary, said to be the place where Jesus' mother lived out her final days. A town steeped in history, this place also offers breathtaking scenery that shouldn't be missed. The colourful market is a delight and worth visiting.

# Always a little better than the last time.

Just when you thought you've seen the best of luxury, along comes the RS 5. And, with it, a host of features precision-crafted to raise your eyebrows by several pleasant notches. Go ahead, give in to a luxury experience that's exactly how you'd imagined it to be. **Only, better.**



# A TASTE OF HISTORY

For travellers who crave for a sense of history, Odisha's the place to be, with its incredible ruins of Buddhist complexes

## TT BUREAU

The cultural lineage of Odisha spans 2000 years and boasts of a historical hiatus that is unmatched to most other places. Historically speaking, Odisha is unique, and interestingly, it still has a large tribal influence.

Buddhism has a significant presence in Odisha, and this is mainly due to the fact that it was a major seafaring nation that had a strong trade links with most of the sea ports of the Bay of Bengal. Its influence was so strong in Southeast Asia that the temple of Angkor Vat is an example of its architectural influence on Cambodian architecture. It is safe to say that the influx of Buddhism was an easy feat given its capability to reach out to foreign lands.

The state hosts a large number of Vajrayana or Tantric Buddhist images and figurines. This suggests that this form of Buddhism fostered a fertile ground in Odisha. Furthermore, rulers of the kingdom, such as King Indrabhuti and his sister Lakshminkara of Uddiyana were great exponents of this form of Buddhism.



## DHAULI

A prominent bastion of Buddhist heritage, Dhauli hill is located at the banks of the River Daya, some 8km south of Bhubaneswar. The site is known for rock edicts that were left by Emperor Ashoka as far back as 260 BC. The Odishan edicts, consisting of two special edicts not found elsewhere, are essentially public injunctions to the empire's administrators in the area, enjoining them to rule with compassion and justice. Dhauli also houses the Shanti Stupa which was built under the guidance of Guruji Fujii, Founder President of Nipponzan Myohoji of Japan. Here, there is also a monastery called SaddharmaVihar. Dhauli offers a sense of peace to all its visitors.



## RATNAGIRI

Located in the Birupa river valley, in the district of Jajpur, this is yet another famous Buddhist destination. This site went through a major excavation, which led to unearthing of two monasteries, a big stupa, Buddhist shrines, sculptures and many votive stupas. The excavation revealed that Ratnagiri has been a Buddhist centre since the first half of the sixth century A.D. The place has gone through changes since the beginning – it was the centre of Mahayana Buddhism, and later during the 8th-9th century A.D., became the centre for Tantric Buddhism. Currently, this place of Buddhist learning attracts a number of tourists, and is a great centre of learning for art and architectural aspirants. Ratnagiri hosts magnificent ruins of an era gone by.



## UDAYGIRI

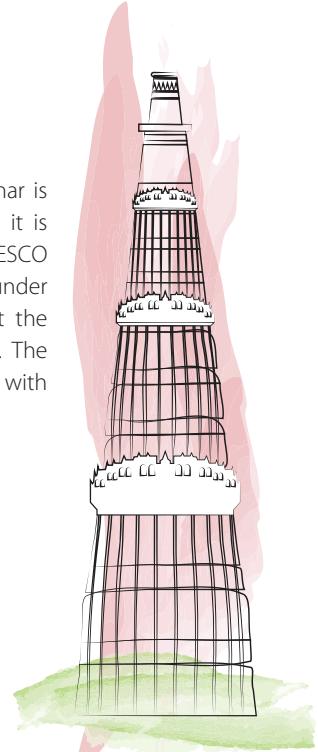
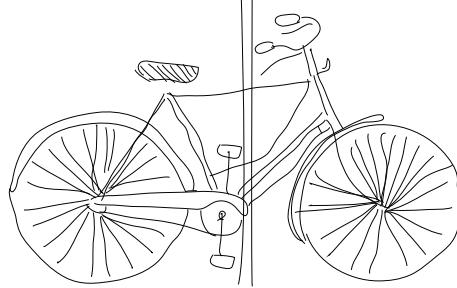
Home to the largest Buddhist complex in Odisha, Udaygiri is a major bastion of Buddhist culture and heritage. The excavation of Udaygiri also revealed a complex comprising a brick monastery, emboldened with Buddhist sculptures. The area is located at the foothills of a large hill. In Udaygiri, the archaeological excavations consist of a brick stupa, two brick monasteries, a stepped stone well and rock-cut sculptures located at the top of the hill. Studies have revealed that the Udaygiri Buddhist complex is later than that of Ratnagiri and Lalitgiri, having flourished between the 7th and the 12th centuries A.D. Udaygiri, however, does not have large a number of Vajrayana sculptures. The sprawling complex is open for visitors and offers a taste of history. Interestingly, still has unexcavated areas, which pose as a sort of mystery to archaeologists and art lovers, with prospects of hidden treasures being buried deep inside. It is the perfect spot for visitors who wish to experience the thrill of the past.

## LALITGIRI

Excavations have revealed Lalitgiri to be one of the most prominent centres for Buddhism, with the earliest Buddhist complex found here dating back to the 1st century AD. The ruins of a brick monastery, the remains of the Chaitya Hall and a number of other stupas are still found here, amidst a stunning rural setting. The museums in Lalitgiri contain a number of Mahayana sculptures like Buddha figures, Bodhisattva statues, statues of Tara and Jambhala, among others, all of which contain short inscriptions on them.



# 24 HRS IN DELHI



## TT BUREAU

### CHANDNI CHOWK

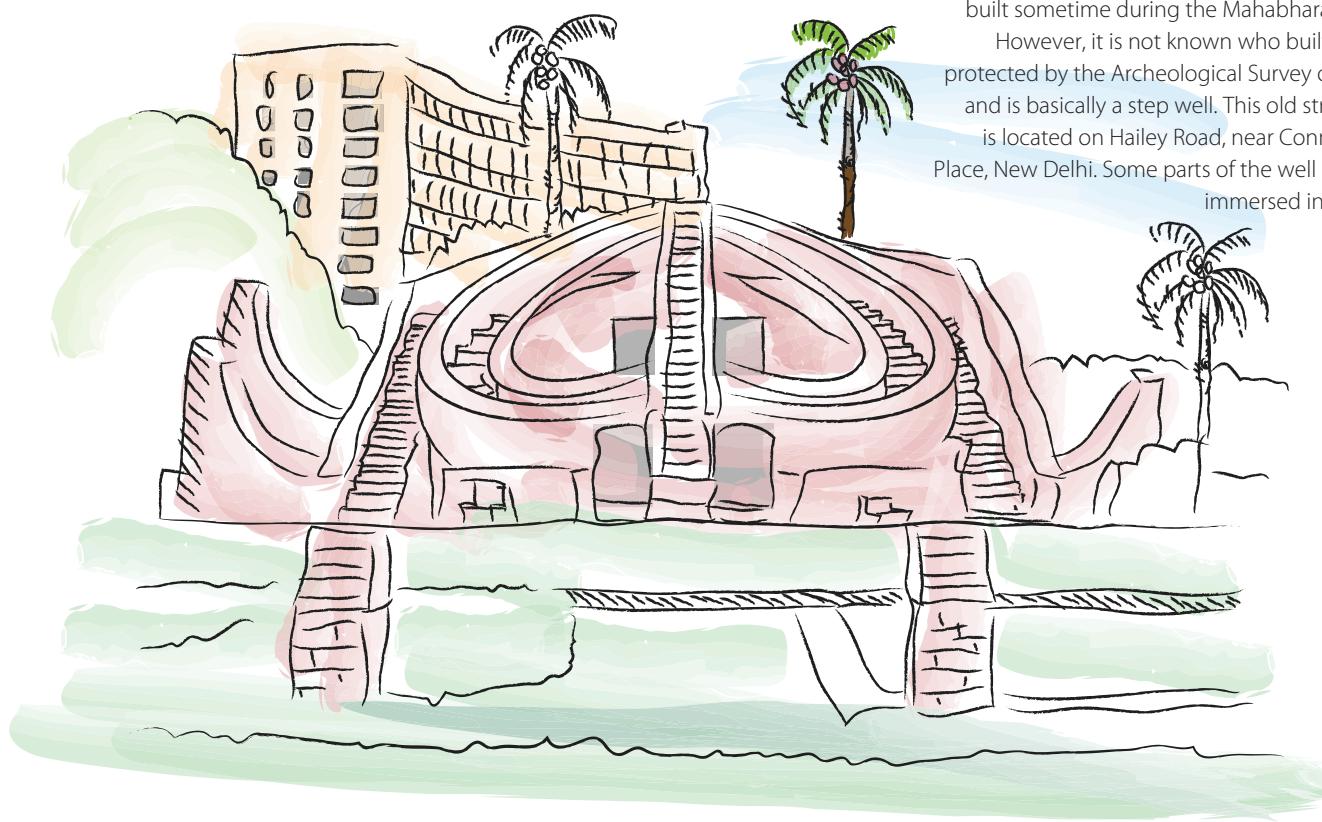
To get a distinct old-world experience of Delhi, this is where people visit. This is the hub of all things old, from the famous Paranthawali Gali to the historic Jama Masjid. This is the quintessential Delhi experience where two worlds meet to relive an era gone by. Also known as Old Delhi, this region houses some of the most famous cloth stores, sweet shops, eateries and provides unbridled experiences. It is located close to the Red Fort.



### AGRASEN KI BAOLI

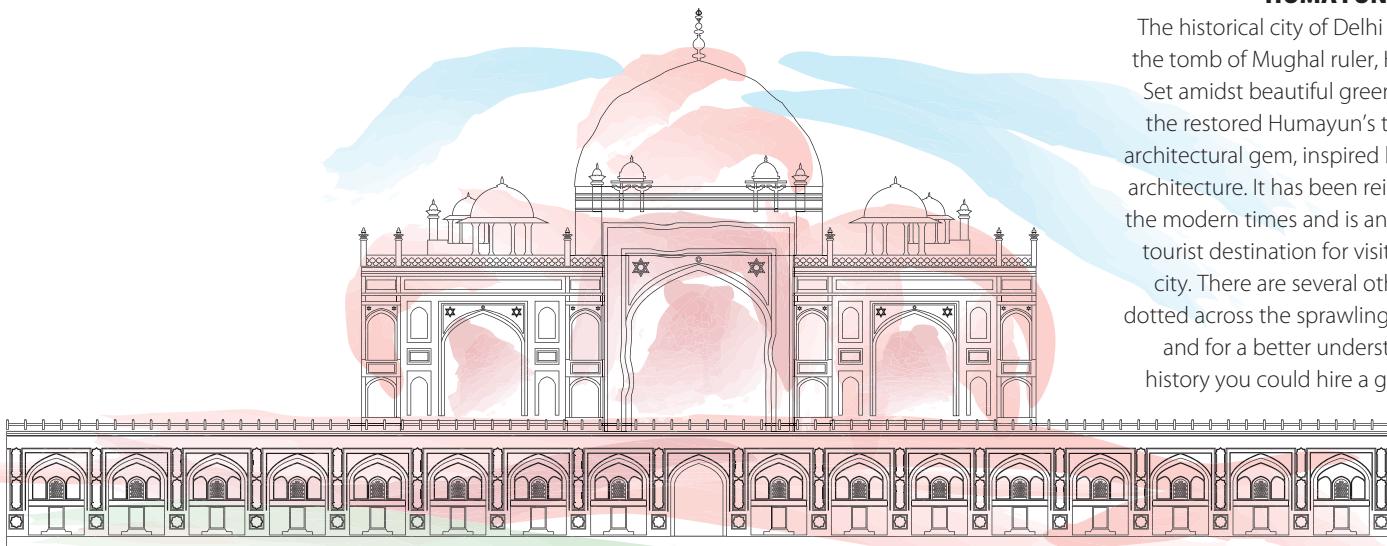
Hidden amongst the sky-high buildings of Delhi's famous Connaught Place, Agrasen ki Baoli is the proof of an era gone by. It is a widely held belief that Agrasen ki Baoli was built sometime during the Mahabharata era.

However, it is not known who built it. It is protected by the Archeological Survey of India and is basically a step well. This old structure is located on Hailey Road, near Connaught Place, New Delhi. Some parts of the well are still immersed in water.



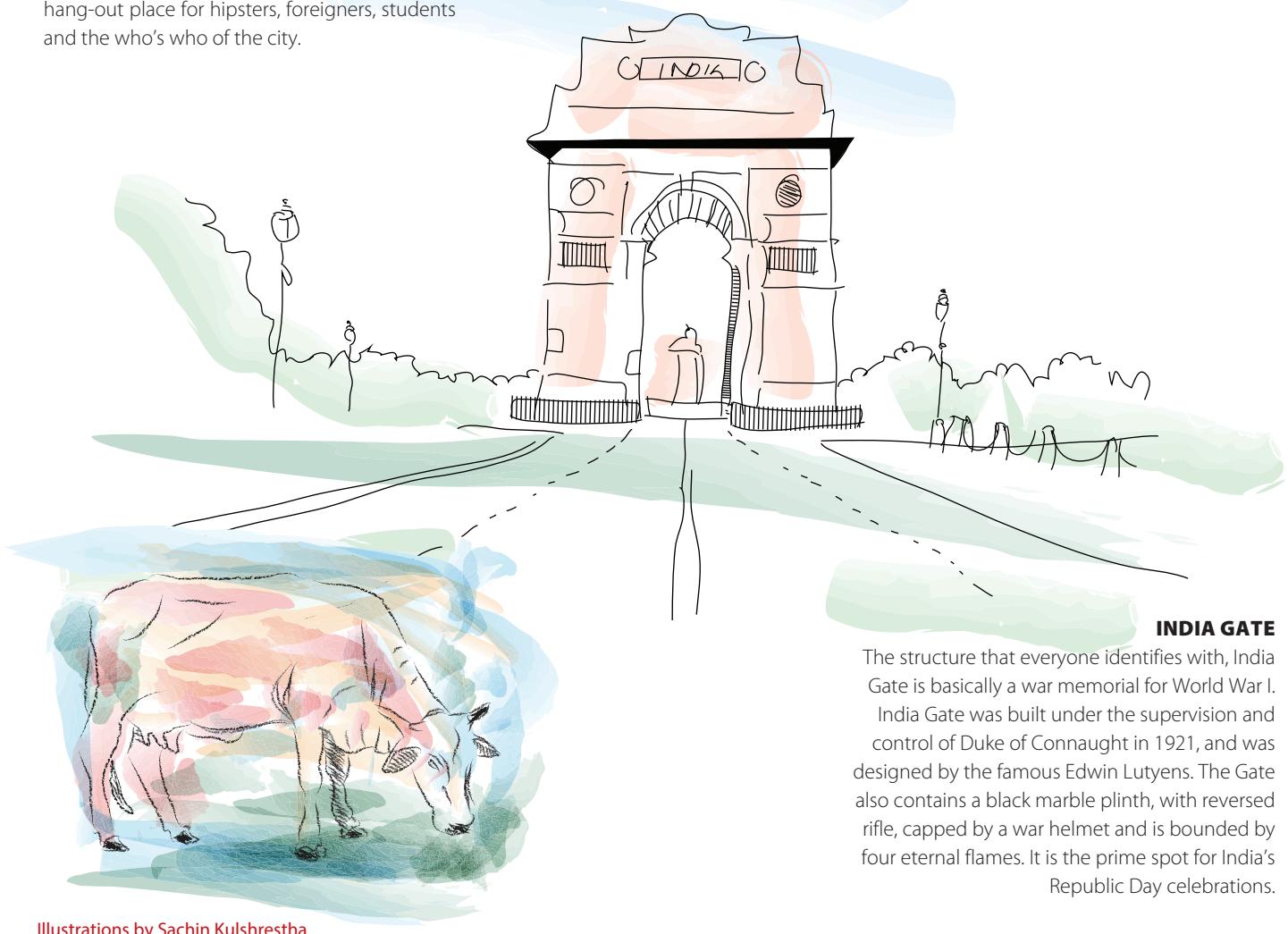
## HUMAYUN'S TOMB

The historical city of Delhi also hosts the tomb of Mughal ruler, Humayun. Set amidst beautiful green gardens, the restored Humayun's tomb is an architectural gem, inspired by Persian architecture. It has been reinstated in the modern times and is an attractive tourist destination for visitors to the city. There are several other tombs dotted across the sprawling property, and for a better understanding of history you could hire a guide here.



## HAUZ KHAS VILLAGE

Another place seeped in history, the Hauz Khas Complex has traces of medieval history that dates back to the 13th century of the Delhi Sultanate. Today, the 'village,' we speak of is the unabashed party spot for Delhi folks. The stretch of road beside the lake houses many pubs, night clubs, bistros and eateries and is the unvanquished hang-out place for hipsters, foreigners, students and the who's who of the city.



## INDIA GATE

The structure that everyone identifies with, India Gate is basically a war memorial for World War I. India Gate was built under the supervision and control of Duke of Connaught in 1921, and was designed by the famous Edwin Lutyens. The Gate also contains a black marble plinth, with reversed rifle, capped by a war helmet and is bounded by four eternal flames. It is the prime spot for India's Republic Day celebrations.

# ON A SHOPPING SPREE

Here are some of the most talked about shopping destinations of the world

## TT BUREAU

They are the New-Age breed. They acquire brands as if there is no tomorrow. From mobile phones, iPods, latest fashion to the newest gizmos in the market— anything and everything is welcome to this generation. They love to travel and they love their shopping and they are willing to spend a fortune if the product caters to their eclectic tastes.

You like shopping too, don't you? We have to admit that between women and shopping there is a close connection – probably the wallet which women always feel the need to empty. If you don't know which are the best shopping destinations in the world, here are some the top places where you can splurge your money in style.

## LONDON

### Where:

Bond Street

We all know that London is quite expensive; this is why we recommend travelling there during sales. Bond Street has many luxury shops, such as the "Shoe King", Jimmy Choo, Gucci or Hermes. The Royal Exchange is another great place to go shopping. It is a building that hosts many famous branded shops and restaurants.

**Tip:** No shopping trip to London is complete without a visit to Carnaby Street, the pedestrianised strip that made London swing in the 60s. Here, you will find kitschy tourist shops and top-notch clothing stores in equal measure.

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## NEW YORK

### Where: 5th Avenue

Who doesn't wish to shop on 5th Avenue, the famous street full of magazines? You will find stores like Prada, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Chanel, and if you are lucky enough to find discounts, you will surely enjoy your shopping session even more. There are also plenty of cheap hotels and motels where you can stay during the night and save money that you will eventually spend on clothes or gadgets.

**Tip:** If you're into vintage, second-hand bargains or just something uniquely 'NooYawk', head to the Brooklyn Flea, an open-air market in the hipster-tastic suburb of Williamsburg. A walk back into Manhattan over the Brooklyn Bridge is pretty spectacular too.



## PARIS

### Where: Champs Elysees Boulevard

I don't think there is anyone who has never heard about the Champs Elysees Boulevard. Here, you will find reputable companies, refined cafes and also the largest Louis Vuitton store in the world. Every Friday, the famous Lafayette Galleries organise impressive fashion shows for tourists interested in news from the fashion world.



**Tip:** The first arrondissement that houses Louvre-Tuileries is quintessential Paris, with the Louvre Museum, Palais Royale and Tuileries Gardens all within snapping distance of each other.

## HONG KONG

**Where:** The Landmark Hong Kong Shopping Mall

Despite having a multitude of outlets to choose from, picking the best shopping mall in Hong Kong is easier than you might think. The Landmark Hong Kong Shopping Mall is the ultimate mall experience, featuring a who's who of fashion's heavy hitters, including Calvin Klein, Dior, Louis Vuitton and Gucci. Apart from housing Hong Kong's Harvey Nichols store, it also has one of the swankiest hotels in town, the Landmark Mandarin. Even if you can't afford the prices, it's definitely worth a bit of window-shopping.

**Tip:** Want a Hong Kong shopping experience that won't melt the credit card?

LAB Concept in Admiralty is a trendy departmental store that specialises in forward-thinking fashion. The 64,000 sq.ft. space has cutting-edge fashion, books, music and beauty products and offers a funky alternative to the glitz, expensive HK malls.



## SINGAPORE

**Where:** Orchard Road

There's practically something for every shopper in Singapore. From international brands to uniquely Singaporean products, stretches of world-class shopping malls and outlet stores offer a wide array of choices. For the latest fashion trends, check out Orchard Road – Singapore's famous shopping street – or take your pick from the diverse international brands that can be found in the Marina Bay Area. If you're looking for more cultural finds, dive into the districts of Kampong Glam, Little India and Chinatown to discover a treasure trove of ethnic products, jewellery, textiles, antiques and more.



**Tip:** If you're looking to buy electrical goods, one of Chinatown's various shopping malls is a good place to find barter-friendly shop owners who can offer competitive prices.

# REIMAGINING TRAVEL

In the modern context, travel is a form of a lifestyle; it is a way towards better living, a way of learning the seasons, the mountains, the rivers and valleys of which we had only just read or heard of until now.

**ARKA ROY CHODHARY**

Long ago, while sitting on a friend's rooftop restaurant past midnight, the conversations steered to my inability to make it to trips. One particular friend pointed out a very seminal point to me – without travel, we would never be good story tellers.

Legions of great writers have written books that are read for generations, and the only reason that makes them good story tellers is that they have experiences to share. When you travel, wisdom seeks you. Ernest Hemingway was a war hero, a Parisian romantic; to him experiences came easy; Rabindranath Tagore travelled the world; Allen Ginsberg was an investigator of his generation because he experienced people and their lives; every good story teller is essentially a rich treasure trove of experiences. It is during your most intimate travel experience that you will see an epiphany of gods; that you will be struck with a great idea.

Wisdom cannot be gained by being a static being, there is no great wisdom my computer screen has to offer, nothing in comparison to the old paintings in caves that I am yet to see.

Our generation is a fast moving, rapidly changing one, our time in this world will not be

remembered because we do not like the iPhone 6 any longer, we want an upgrade, we like change. Every day, we are upgrading things around us, only we aren't upgrading our lives. Ours is not a seminal point in human history, there is no great crisis in our lives, the only experiences left to be gathered is the world. The real world is still the same – the monsoons bring rain and the Arctic Ocean freezes, the bells still toll in old churches of Italy, and the tropical forests still bear exotic flora and fauna. The question is, do we get up and move?

Fortunately, we are a restless lot who require first hand experiences to understand the world. We want to be in Kerala when the Southwest monsoon winds enter its heart, we do not want to be simply reading about it in the papers. With time some of us may happen to witness the splendour of the Indian monsoon in first person, while others will forever try to grasp this sentiment in the form of literature or





motion and static picture.

At the heart of life lies travel, it helps to understand the sensibilities of life, the proceedings of the world. The scope of travel has gone through some major changes over the last few years, and today, it is far easier to dip your toes in the sandy beaches of an extraordinarily beautiful coast line than it possibly was a few years back. All of this has been made easy due to technological advancements, phone applications galore. We can learn about a place, book tickets and hotel rooms for it, and before we know it, we are there.

More and more people of the present generation are turning into full-time travellers. They are hiking, climbing mountains, and guiding each other to watch a new sun rise standing on a new land. In the past, we had parents, extended relatives and the tag along neighbour in the travel photo album; today, we stand alone with the Thames behind us, or looking down at the Teesta from an obscure hill town of North Bengal. How has this changed? We have selectively taken solo trips because we wanted to learn.

Travel is no more just a visit to the Himalayas to see the lofty peaks; it is also about educating oneself about the Himalayas, about cultures, cuisines, religions, and more.

People travel to any given place because it is today, an art, much like the art of painting. When you enter a new place, (much like when you see a new painting) the experience entrails your senses. Every step we take is a progress towards being a citizen of the world, every new word learnt is a progressive step towards being educated. No matter where we go or what we do, we are always going an inch further and enriching our lives. During a particularly rain-washed evening in Gangtok, Sikkim, I was sitting in a shack with my friends in the town, enjoying a nice brew, and it was then that we came across a stranger who joined our table and narrated many memorable stories about college life. It was dark; with just a candle on the table, and it was definitely uncomfortable, but compared to the modern context of life, that was real living.

Perhaps if Alexander Frater wasn't a curious minded traveller who was in awe of the rains, we would never have read the magnificent, "Chasing the Monsoon." Or perhaps, if I heed my friend's spoken word (Without travel, we would never be good story tellers) from that beautiful winter midnight café, I could live every page from the novel in my own way. I think I would choose the latter.

# COMEBACK STAR

The all new Audi Q7 is finally here after a long gap, and it definitely looks promising

TT BUREAU

Audi SUVs have gained a steady market in recent years, for a brand that only began making SUVs recently, Audi has done well in every sense. Now, with the rise of the Q series, Audi is taking yet another great leap into the SUV market. The all new Sportback Audi Q7 is a stylish statement, one that is also high on utility. The second generation SUV launched by Audi is an aggressive looking one, and is a bit smaller than the previous one. But, having taken so long since the original Q7 that came out in 2005, Audi has definitely done a good job. It is a whopping 325kg lesser than its predecessor and gives a far better driving experience than the older version.

## EXTERIOR

As mentioned before, the A7 has reduced in size and weight, but it still remains a success in terms of styling. The car is made up of just over 40 per cent aluminum and 12 per cent hot-formed, ultra-high-strength steel. The car has new joining techniques and structural reinforcements, which are known as 'torsion rings,' that are arranged horizontally as well as vertically. The car has standard steel springs, and a height-adjustable adaptively damped air suspension system, plus a ground clearance of 245mm.

There is an option for a four-wheel steering system that is capable of turning the rear wheels in the opposite direction to the fronts at low speeds – this reduces the car's turning circle. When running the car at higher speeds, the car can turn them to 3.5 degrees in the same direction as the front wheels – this improves the car's cornering stability and steering response.

The Audi Q7 also has a striking three-dimensional grille along with LED lights, and 20-inch wheels.





## INTERIOR

A well-done interior awaits passengers of the Q7. The insides have a minimalist design and materials which gives it a luxurious feel. The car has a high definition 8-inch pop-up screen right in the centre of the dashboard, which displays the navigation system of the car. There is also a virtual cockpit digital display which has come in instead of the analogue dials. These are controlled with the help of a touchpad and control wheel.

The car has three rows for passenger seating – while the second row has three seats for adults, the third row could be more comfortable for children or shorter people.



## PERFOMANCE

The new Audi Q7 continues tip-toeing behind the previous V8 model, but is 67bhp lesser. The car manufacturers claim 6.2sec to 60mph, which makes the car pretty fast. The car's engine, which has a 443lb ft of torque, is possible from 1500rpm. It is also capable of moving the Q7 from 30-70mph in 6.2sec.

Audi Q7 has a right-speed gearbox and it can thrust well, also its V6 doesn't lighten up before upshifting. The Q7 has also made great progress in matters of sound, and is hence a car that is refined and quiet when moving.

## SAFETY FEATURES

The Audi Q7 is a comfortable ride, and this is with respect to being both on and off road. It has an all-wheel-drive system and this distributes the power of the car asymmetrically, making for a pleasurable experience. The SUV also has an optional air suspension and this makes for better handling. The car has many protective features which are available with the model, which gives ample protection to the passengers who are sitting inside. The car also has child-proof safety locks which are on the rear doors and windows. There is a door-ajar indicator, seat belt reminder and few other such important notifications. The car also has battery energy management which helps to control the electrical energy supply, both when driving it and keeping it parked. It also comes with full-size driver and front passenger airbags, and a first aid kit. These features make it a safe car to drive.



# Wall Talk

Graffiti art is a colourful expose of culture, politics and life

## TT BUREAU

While often thought of as vandalism, there are many cities around the globe with beautiful works of graffiti that add an aesthetic flavour to a destination. Sometime around the mid-19th century a bunch of Italians got together and invented the word 'graffiti', or, 'graffio'. It meant 'scratch'. A lot of people would agree that graffiti is nothing but scratches. Especially government representatives, who are always less than happy to see their cities covered in black tags and skanky drawings. But, there are places in the world where 'graffio' is

embraced and even encouraged.

### EAST SIDE GALLERY, BERLIN

The Berlin Wall East Side Gallery is a 1.3-kilometre-long section of the wall near the centre of Berlin. Approximately 106 paintings by artists from all over the world cover this memorial for freedom and make it the largest open air gallery in the world.

### BRICK LANE, EAST LONDON

Stroll down Brick Lane and check out the colourful street art: spray painted and stencilled designs and music festival fliers. Brick Lane is world-famous for its graffiti,

which features artists such as Banksy, D\*Face and Ben Eine. Brick Lane has been used in many music videos, such as 'Glory Days,' by Just Jack and 'All these things that I have done,' by the Killers.

### CALLEJÓN DE HAMEL, CUBA

Callejón de Hamel is an unexpected and refreshing centre of Afro-Cuban art and community life tucked off Aramburu y Hospital, in central Havana. Local artist Salvador González dreamt up this inner-city sanctuary back in 1990 with playful sculptures made of spare city parts and vibrant wall paintings that decorate the



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street from top to bottom.

### GALERIA OBERTA, BARCELONA

Open 365 days a year, this “exhibition space on the street” aims to make graffiti accessible to everyone, by giving artists the perfect spot to showcase their creations on the long brick wall of the Parc de les Aigües. Anyone can reserve a space on the wall by simply filling out a form, but if you do, make sure you don’t graffiti outside the border.

### CLARION ALLEY, SAN FRANCISCO

Next time you’re in San Francisco, make

sure you head to the Mission District and check out Clarion Alley. It’s home to a constantly revolving set of street art that has to be seen to be believed. So much variety, so much style, so much colour: all packed in a narrow, block-long alley.

### LENNON WALL, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

At first glance, the Lennon Wall looks like any graffiti-covered wall you see around the world. But, this wall is special, thanks to its history. In 1998, the wall had to go through reconstruction of its crumbling facade, but the spirit of the wall lives on. It used to be covered with anti-Communist graffiti, now it is covered with messages

of love and peace. The original portrait of Lennon is long lost under the layers of new paint, but if you look hard enough you can still find tributes to Lennon and a yellow submarine!

### 5 POINTZ, LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK

Not a museum or gallery, 5 Pointz is a living collage of graffiti art covering a converted warehouse full of artist studios. The art of famous and novice graffiti artists’ covers the building’s facade, all done with the encouragement of the building’s owner. Admire the art all around the outside, or head upstairs to the roof for more graffiti and great views of LIC and Manhattan.

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# FOLLOW YOUR STAR!

Ever thought of planning a holiday trip according to your Zodiac sign? Do it now!

## TT BUREAU

**T**here is always a sense of hope and excitement as you plan out your holiday itinerary. Here's a vacation plan, that's a little out of the ordinary. Today's Traveller explores the mysterious world of the Zodiac and recommends holiday destinations for each sign. And, it goes without saying that all the Zodiac signs also have unique preferences when it comes to travel destinations!



## WINTER FLAVOUR

**Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21)** people are known to be optimistic and adventurous travellers. While cold winter winds blow, Sagittarians can find a perfect getaway destination on the Galápagos Islands that are situated 1,000km from the coast of Ecuador. Galápagos Islands are known for rare animal and plant species. They offer unforgettable experiences for the adventurous Sagittarius.

**Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19)** people are reserved and shy. They relish peace and quiet and can find a perfect holiday resort in Rayong, situated in the northeastern part of Bangkok, in Thailand. Instead of shopping and going to night clubs, Capricorns could head out for a day trip to nearby Kno Man Nai Island, where they could hang out with protected sea turtles.

**Aquarius (Jan 20- Feb 18)** people are known for their loyalty and strong personalities. When they go on a vacation they look for history and culture. The best getaway for Aquarians is Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. Prague not only has real historical treasures, but is also a great city for shopping, eating and partying.



## SPRING BREAKERS

**Pisces (Feb 19- March 20)** people are dreamers who think with their hearts and enjoy romantic vacations. Venice offers a romantic atmosphere and beautiful sights. Pisceans can either enjoy the city with a loved one, or if they don't have someone to hold hands with already, they may just find a soulmate while taking a walk by the canals!

**Aries (March 21- Apr 19)** persons are fearless, fiery and known for their impatience. A safari trip to Kenya will help keep the attention of the Aries intact. Kenya offers some beautiful natural parks, beaches and tribal villages. Some of the best stays in Kenya can be found in the lively and pulsating capital, Nairobi.

**Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)** people look for good food and beautiful surroundings during their vacation. Tuscany, in Italy, is a perfect resort for Taurus people, who can appreciate its breathtaking views and serene hills. Tuscany is also famous for its delicious food and wine, including the famous local cuisine, Bistecca Alla Fiorentina – a traditional steak of Firenze.





## SUMMER SIZZLERS

**Gemini (May 21- June 21)** personalities are talented and lively travellers. Sydney, in Australia, is a dream destination for Geminis, who are known to change their minds like the weather. While they might enjoy the big city lights today, the next day will see them hit the beach, surf or take a road trip across the country. It is basically adventure that your heart seeks, and this is why you need to look out for all things thrilling.

**Cancer (June 22- July 22)** people are loyal and peaceful and prefer familiar surroundings when they go on a vacation. Lanzarote, in the Canary Islands, is suitable for Cancer's placid way of travel. Lanzarote's sights are shaped by volcanic eruptions and offer perfect surroundings for a relaxing siesta, just like a real Spaniard. People under this sun sign is always calm and composed, and they will love any place that offers them some quiet time.

**Leo (July 23- Aug 22)** persons are proud and seek luxury during their vacation. Dubai – the biggest city of the United Arab Emirates – is a dream destination for Leos. The city is full of skyscrapers, luxury hotels, gourmet restaurants and giant shopping centres – ample reasons for the Leo to celebrate. Look for everything luxurious, that is your calling.



## AUTUMN FROST

**Virgo (Aug 23- Sep 22)** people are perfectionists who want to use their own problem solving abilities while on vacation. Visiting Machu Picchu in Peru would be an ideal spot for them. Virgo will have a chance to give full vent to his/her inquisitiveness by getting to know Machu Picchu, which is located 80 km from Cusco. Make sure you get the best from your holidays, being a perfectionist, you require your sense of satisfaction.

**Libra (Sep 23- Oct 22)** people are usually in love with love! When a Libran goes on vacation the plan is to fall in love over and over again. So, the best holiday destination for a Libran is, of course, Paris. The city offers movie-like romance on the banks of La Seine, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, and among the doves of the Notre Dame cathedral. We are talking about serious love here, and Librans do it well.

**Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)** persons are open to everything. The best place to fuel a Scorpio's desire to try everything is Bodrum City, Turkey. Bodrum has a pinch of East and West, the familiar and unknown. Turkish spas, bazaars and day trips in the sea, combined with great restaurants and a colourful nightlife, equals an exciting and versatile vacation for Scorpions. The point is to enjoy life to the fullest, feel the buzz of the world.



# EVENTS

Who? When? Where? Why? How? What?

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# PROMOTING MICE

India Expo Mart successfully hosted the 8th Conventional India Conclave conducted by ICPB

## TT BUREAU

**I**ndia Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB) successfully closed its 8th Conventions India Conclave. ICPB's flagship event took place from August 7-9, 2015, at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida. The conference also showcased the world-class facilities of India Exposition Mart as India's first international exhibition cum convention facility on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Ltd. while speaking at a key session during the convention said, "Being an immaculate mix of rich social legacy and world class foundation, India is currently seen as a standout amongst the most energising MICE destinations, and India Exposition Mart is the biggest and most preferred venue for exhibitions and conventions."

India Expo Mart, with its effective participation among various other exhibitors, including the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India, Starwood Hotels & Resorts (I) Pvt. Ltd. and many more, was considered as 'The most modern, integrated and flexible MICE destination in Asia.'

India Expo Centre and Mart has expanded this venue by constructing 7 convention options, 15 meeting places, 4 outdoor places and open yards and 8 existing halls, all accessible within the premises with ample parking and other ancillary facilities of F&B and accommodation. The venue is located at less than 40 minutes drive from the downtown area or airport of Delhi. It is India's first venue outfitted with most desired amenities by exhibitors, visitors and organisers under one roof.



## ABOUT INDIA EXPOSITION MART LIMITED

India Expo Centre and Mart is India's first Integrated International Exhibition cum convention centre, featuring a unique mix of state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities, which, along with Marts (Permanent handicrafts showrooms), encompasses more than 32,000sq m area. It is innovatively designed to offer scale as well as flexibility in layout and planning. The destination is actively supported by local authorities and administration. It offers services of the highest quality, at par with international standards.

The permanent complex offers a combination of conference

cum exhibition halls, meeting places, convention options, outdoor areas all with well-appointed facilities beside the expandable areas, making it the preferred premier destination for logically challenging events. Be it international trade fairs or conferences or expositions or consumer shows with huge footfalls, IEML ensures an all-equipped base for almost all possible events. Be it setting up of security systems for heads of states or be it a case of management and control for movement of a million visitors. IEML is also India's first state-of-the-art project for the cottage sector, wherein Round 'O' Clock International Marketing of handicrafts has been conceptualised.



### ANGELINA JOLIE VISITS MYANMAR

Superstar Angelina Jolie Pitt recently made a visit to Myanmar as part of her humanitarian tour. The star arrived in the country with her 11-year old son Pax in her role as a United Nations Refugee Agency Special Envoy.

The actress met with Rohingya community representatives in Yangon on Friday, who spoke with her about the difficult conditions of life in Rakhine State. Jolie said in a statement, "I am looking forward to meeting with many people, including women's groups, civil society, displaced people and youth, to learn firsthand from them about their concerns and hopes for the future of their country."



### LILY-ROSE DEPP AS CHANEL BRAND AMBASSADOR

Daughter of movie star Johnny Depp, Lily-Rose Depp is the new official Brand Ambassador for luxury brand Chanel. The 16-year-old's mother Vanessa Paradis has been an ambassador for the brand since the year 1990.

Depp is the latest choice for designer Karl Lagerfeld, who is known to have an eye for cool, young and rising stars. Lily-Rose Depp is the brand's Pearl eyewear collection campaigner, and as Lagerfeld says, "Lily-Rose is stunning, she's a young girl from a new generation with all the qualities of a star."



### DR. DRE RELEASES NEW ALBUM AFTER 16 YEARS

Legendary hip hop star, Dr. Dre is finally coming out with a new album after a gap of 16 years. The N.W.A rapper announced that his album will release soon and it is called, 'Compton: A Soundtrack by Dr. Dre.' The album has been inspired by the upcoming film, "Straight Outta Compton," the new N.W.A biopic. Dre said in his statement, "I was leaving the set, going to the studio, and I felt myself just being so inspired by the movie that I started recording an album. It's an 'inspired-by' album; it's inspired by Straight Outta Compton."



### SANIA MIRZA TO GET KHEL RATNA AWARD

Sania Mirza has been officially approved for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award. She is the second tennis player to be nominated for this honour. Mirza, in a statement given to PTI, said, "It's a tremendous honour for me to be conferred the Khel Ratna award and I feel humbled with the love and respect showered on me by my country."

Sania Mirza was recently ranked world number one in women's doubles and was the first Indian to win the Women's Doubles Grand Slam title. Mirza, along with Martina Hingis, won the Wimbledon earlier this year.



### CANDICE SWANOPPOEL GETS ENGAGED

South African model and Victoria Secret's angel, Candice Swanepoel has gotten engaged with her longtime boyfriend, Hermann Nicoli. The supermodel announced their union through a video of the couple enjoying a romantic dance. Along with the video, a caption in Portuguese that read, "Meu eterno namorado," was also there. It means, "My boyfriend forever."



### BMW BRIDAL FASHION WEEK

The quintessential Indian bride is the epitome of desire and beauty. Her gorgeous bridal attire, the artwork of her palms, the shinning jewellery, has inspired designers and artists alike. The BMW Bridal Fashion Week paid ode to the Indian bride, with some of the most famous faces of Bollywood. The glitz lehengas, stunning saris and the showstoppers made a lasting impression on all present. Lisa Haydon came glistening in a gilded lehenga, turning into a golden bride for Tarun Tahilani, while newbees Athiya Shetty and Sooraj Pancholi closed the show for Falguni & Shane Peacock. Sonam Kapoor, on the other hand, walked the ramp twice, for Abu Jain and Sandeep Khosla.



**WHAT:** Tango Festival  
**WHEN:** 12-25 August  
**WHERE:** Venues around Buenos Aires, Argentina

Buenos Aires and Tango are about as inseparable as a pair of Tango dancers. In celebration of its sultry and mysterious dance, the Argentine capital stages this annual festival, with events spread out across the city.

**WHAT:** Tomato-throwing Festival

**WHEN:** 26 August

**WHERE:** Plaza del Pueblo, Buñol, Valencia, Spain

For one morning every year, the small town of Buñol, in Eastern Spain, dissolves into the world's greatest tomato fight. Getting pelted with tomatoes may sound like a punishment, but it's all in the name of fun at La Tomatina.



**WHAT:** Raksha Bandhan

**WHEN:** 29 August

**WHERE:** Parts of North and West India

The Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan celebrates the bond between sisters and brothers. Sisters tie amulets on their brothers' wrists, praying for their longevity and happiness while brothers, in turn, promise to safeguard their sisters.



**WHAT:** Notting Hill Carnival

**WHEN:** 30-31, August

**WHERE:** Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill, London, England

The British capital's top summer knees-up, a celebration of the local Caribbean community, has enlivened this part of town since the 1950s.

During the end-of-August bank holiday, the neighbourhood featured in the Hugh Grant film, 'Notting Hill,' explodes with reggae sound systems and Rastafarians.

**WHAT:** Janmashtami

**WHEN:** 5 September

**WHERE:** All over India

Held on the eighth day of the dark fortnight when the moon is waning, this mass pilgrimage kicks off an intense season of festivities. It's a birthday for Lord Krishna, the blue-skinned incarnation of Vishnu. Mathura, the birthplace of Krishna, is the epicentre of the festivities.



**WHAT:** Ganesh Chaturthi

**WHEN:** 17 September

**WHERE:** All over India

Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Lord Ganesh. On Ganesh Chaturthi, Lord Ganesh is worshipped as the god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune. The Ganeshotsav, ends on the tenth day when devotees immerse the idol of Lord Ganesh in a water body after a gala street procession.

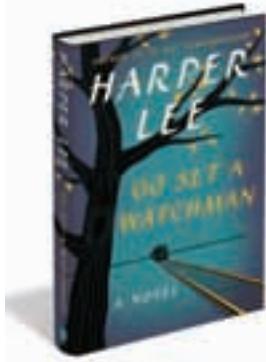
# PICK OF THE MONTH

Pick your favourite from this month's all-new collection of books, games, audio CDs and DVDs

## GO SET A WATCHMAN

From the writer of the phenomenal hit, "To Kill a Mockingbird," this new book has supposedly been discovered after decades. The Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Harper Lee's latest book is set in the mid-1950s and includes many characters from her previous book, "To Kill a Mockingbird." The story involves Jean Louise Finch, who has returned to Maycomb from New York to visit her father and gets involved in personal and political issues as she struggles to understand her father's outlook towards society and her own childhood. For those who would like to read a classic, this is it.

Genre(s): Fiction



## HOMEFRONT

A futuristic game set in the year 2027 when the world is suffering from an energy crisis and the economy has crashed. The US has become the target of North Korea and America has become a battleground for those who are fighting for freedom. This single player story is engaging and exciting, and has been crafted by John Milius of "Apocalypse Now" fame. Homefront is an experience that allows the player to take charge of the situation and change things for the better.

Genre(s): Action Adventure



## STAR WARS

One of the best Alternative Rock bands around today, Wilco, has released its latest album 'Star Wars' and from the sound of it, the album is a gem. It has a carefree spirited music that goes well with Tweedy's innovative lyrics. The album has some very interesting moments, with songs such as "Random Name Generator," or the glam punk take on "Pickled Ginger," or even the ballad called, "Magnetized." It is safe to say that Wilco has done a great job with the album and the songs rejuvenate the carefree spirit.



Genre(s): Alternative Rock

## GONE GIRL

From director David Fincher of "Fight Club" fame comes another psychological thriller starring Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike. The film revolves around a married couple and the deep hidden truths behind their otherwise perfect union that surface after the woman goes missing. The film deals with a lot of issues and has many layers to it, akin to Fincher's classic style. The film reaches its crescendo after the girl is found, and the story plotlines take miraculous turns. Rosamund Pike delivers a stellar performance in the film, which stars Neil Patrick Harris.



Genre(s): Psychological Thriller

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