## Erony's Celler

CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2016 | ₹50

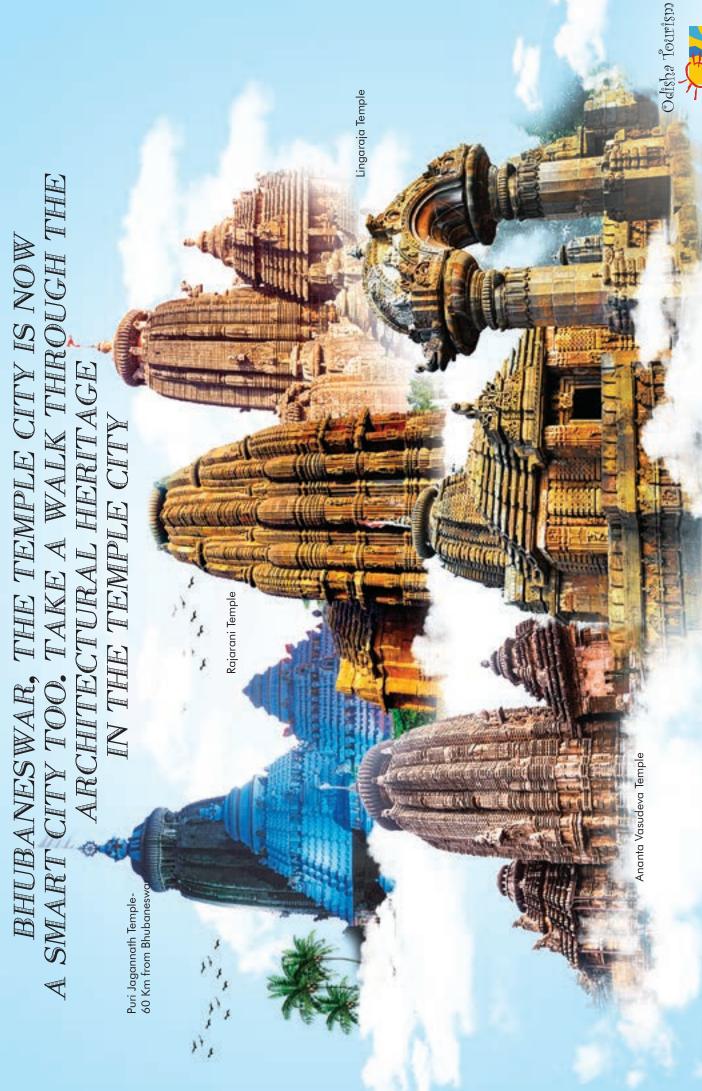


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MTM+LLTM NEW DELHI 2016





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## Today's Traveller • November 2016

#### träveler

CHAIRMAN KEWAL GILL

PUBLISHER/EDITOR KAMAL GILL

MANAGING EDITOR
ARJUN GILL

SUB-EDITOR RAHUL SINGHA

SENIOR VISUALISER ANUP KUMAR PRASAD

TRAINEE GRAPHIC DESIGNER
AMIT SINGH

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER (MKTG)

VAGISH MISHRA

SENIOR MANAGER (MKTG)
SAFAL SAALWAR

GENERAL MANAGER (ADMIN)

AJITH KUMAR LR

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In conversation with Duncan
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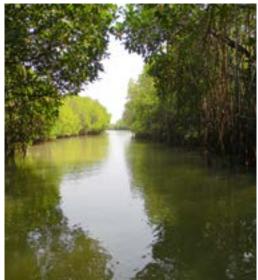
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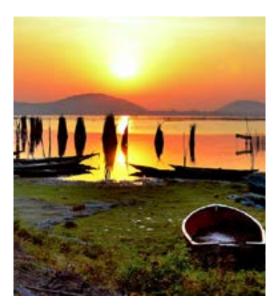
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46 MTM+LLTM: A robust Exhibition
The MTM+LLTM held at The

The MTM+LLTM held at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi concluded on a promising note

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Discover the Berlin Wall, take a vintage selfie, visit the Natural
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## Today's Traveller • December 2016

#### KB KACHRU FELICITATED AT HIFI 2016

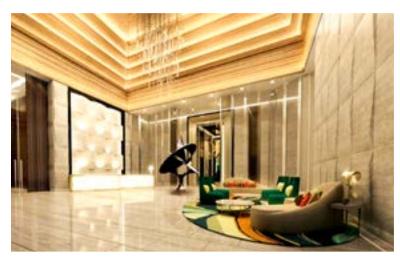


B Kachru, Chairman Emeritus and Principal Advisor, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, was recently honoured with the Aatithya Ratna Award at the HIFI 2016 event. The award was conferred upon him to commemorate

his extraordinary spirit of hospitality and immense contribution to Indian tourism.

Overwhelmed by the award, an elated Kachru said, "It is an honour and indeed a great privilege to be recognised in this manner by the hospitality industry. There are a variety of awards one can receive – some for a particular achievement or a lifetime award, but to have somebody coin this award specifically for me, has humbled me a lot. I am extremely happy to have received this award."

"We, as a company, have always focussed on growth. We have a portfolio of over 140 hotels, either in operation or in running. That in itself keeps us on our toes to move forward. Given that we have our internal targets to grow in the future, at the same pace we have been growing, we would aim at close to 200 hotels by the year 2020."



#### RADISSON BLU DEBUTS IN COIMBATORE

adisson Blu Coimbatore, India, is proud to announce its opening in Coimbatore, the second largest city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, and is known as the "Manchester of South India" due to its industrial activity, extensive textile mills and surrounding cotton fields.

Raj Rana, Chief Executive Officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, said, "Radisson Blu Coimbatore is set to raise the bar on the city's upper-upscale hospitality landscape and bring new standards to the city. We are honoured to be partnering with GBJ Hotels Pvt. Ltd and appreciate their trust in our brand and expertise."

G Balasubramaniam, Managing Director, GBJ Hotels Pvt Ltd, added, "This is our first hospitality venture and we are happy with the strong leadership of Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group and its South Asia team. We are confident that their proven experience and marketing expertise will benefit the hotel and I look forward to a mutually rewarding long-term association with the Group." **tt** 



#### DUBAI PARKS AND RESORTS OPENS ITS GATES TO MOTIONGATE™ DUBAI

he Indian audience has always been enthralled with the vibrancy of Hollywood, be it the storylines, the entertainment aspect, the action; or the thrills and the innovation. Now, fans can literally jump into the big screen action at MOTIONGATE™ Dubai, the ultimate Hollywood-inspired theme park opening this December, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. With 27 action-packed rides and attractions including five roller coasters, plus 15 live entertainment experiences and shows – MOTIONGATE™ Dubai has taken 13 of Hollywood's most memorable blockbusters and brought them to life.

As Dubai is quickly becoming one of the most preferred destinations for Indians, getting immersed into Hollywood will be as convenient as taking a short flight. Really, the road to theme park action is not a far one with MOTIONGATE™ Dubai soon to open as part of Dubai Parks and Resorts, the largest integrated theme park destination in the region.

John Hallenbeck, General Manager, MOTIONGATE™ Dubai, commented, "MOTIONGATE™ Dubai is a world-class, immersive theme park experience, bringing some of Hollywood's most memorable live action and animated blockbuster films to life. With action-packed rides, attractions, live entertainment and themed dining and shopping, there is something for everyone, of all ages, all year round, at MOTIONGATE™ Dubai." tt

At MOTIONGATE™ Dubai, guests can play the role and choose the type of cinematic adventure they want to have, whether you're an adventure seeker, star spotter, film buff, foodie or just young at heart. Spread across five themed Zones, MOTIONGATE™ Dubai immerses you into Hollywood the moment you approach the theme park's iconic movie-reel entrance.



#### SUCCUMB TO THE SUNDARBANS

In the Sundarbans, nature will seduce you. The air is heavy with the aroma of flowers, and the lazy waterways and dense mangrove forests offer tantalizing glimpses of extraordinary fauna. Even the honey is captivating - forest-fresh and served to you as nature intended it - on the comb.



DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL





#### NOW APPLY FOR UAE VISA ON YOUR PHONE

ustomers of Emirates Airline flying to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) can now apply for a visa using their mobile devices. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in visa application, applicants • anywhere in the world can use the mobile app, launched by Dubai Visa Processing Centre (DVPC), to complete the entire visa application process for a UAE visa using mobile devices.

Smartphone and tablet users can download the free DVPC Mobile App from Google's Play Store or Apple's App Store. Customised versions of the app are available for iOS and Android devices. Through the app, passengers can apply for the 96-hour, 30-day or 90-day single entry visas, based on their Emirates itinerary.

Essa Sulaiman Ahmad - VP (India & Nepal), Emirates, said, "The launch of the Mobile App will allow our customers in India an even more convenient way to apply and complete their entire visa process through their phones. At Emirates, we are always looking for initiatives to enhance our customers' experience online." Vinay Malhotra, COO – South Asia and DVPC, VFS Global, commented, "We are in a constantly evolving environment in terms of developing best-in-class technologies, and with this app, we aim to deliver exceptional levels of service and enhanced convenience for travellers. The DVPC Mobile App will serve as a one-stop shop for UAE visa applicants, offering users an end-to-end platform for UAE visa applications." tt



#### WORLDHOTELS MOTIVATES GUESTS TO **CELEBRATE** THE **FESTIVE** DIFFERENTLY

t isthe season to be jolly and Worldhotels inspires all guests to celebrate the season of giving by gifting their loved ones the most precious festive present of all – quality time spent together. Offering an array of enticing travel destinations with invitingly festive experiences to boot, guests now have the luxury of ushering in Christmas and the New Year at a magical destination of their choice

For hotel stays from now to February 28th, 2017, guests can save up to 20 per cent off Best Available Rate for stays of two nights or more. This rate also includes breakfast and either 500 frequent flyer miles or loyalty points from Worldhotels' Peakpoints programme. tt



#### PRESIDENT OF FRANCE BESTOWS NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT ON ZUBIN KARKARIA

🟲 Zubin Karkaria, CEO – VFS Global, and CEO – Kuoni Group, was appointed 'Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite' (Knight of the National Order of Merit) by the President of the French Republic, François Hollande. The prestigious French award was conferred on Karkaria by HE Alexandre Ziegler, Ambassador of France to India, on behalf of President Hollande, at a ceremony at The Taj Mahal Palace, in Mumbai.

Speaking about Karkaria's achievements, Ziegler, said, "France is proud to be the top global tourist destination, as well as a fast-growing destination for the Indian traveller. Over 5 lakh Indian visitors chose France last year and we want to welcome many more."

Karkaria said, "I am deeply honoured and humbled to be judged worthy of receiving this recognition from the Honourable President of France. I have always believed in the

enormous potential France has as a destination, and over the years, it has been my privilege to work with Atout France, France's Tourism Development agency, and many other stakeholders from the travel fraternity in promoting and facilitating travel to this beautiful country." tt

### AIR CANADA GOES INDIAN

In conversation with Duncan Bureau, Global Vice President Sales & Distribution, Air Canada

# Duncan Bureau

#### **TT BUREAU**

#### How excited are you about the India market with the new services?

The new services that we have started daily - YYZ – DEL and the YVR – DEL, demonstrates Air Canada's commitment to provide world-class service between Canada and India. The market has responded well to our schedule, network and the experience on the world's most advanced aircraft – the Boeing 787. We have dedicated our newest and most advanced fleet to service this market. As you know, we have also recently announced a new service which starts in 2017, between Toronto and Mumbai.

#### What are your offerings for Indian travellers?

The overall product we are introducing into the market consists of Indian cuisine designed by Indo Canadian Celebrity Chef Vikram; Air Canada branded lounges, Point of Origin Canada, and access to Star Alliances worldwide, as well as, the newest fleet type with Lie Flat Beds in Business, Premium Economy, and a world-class Economy cabin.

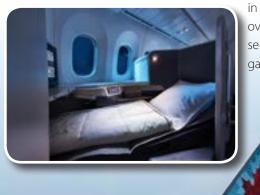
#### What are your future plans?

As you know, Air Canada has grown our network into India aggressively with the introduction of YYZ – DEL, which has grown to daily, and with the addition of YVR – DEL, which is the

fastest service to India from Western Canada and Northwest US with the connection over YVR. Air Canada will add new service from Canada's Toronto Pearson Airport to Mumbai, starting in the summer of 2017. The team at Air Canada will grow from the 14<sup>th</sup> largest airline in the world to being in the top 10. We will start the introduction of our 737 fleet, as well, to replace the A320/A319s.

The Air Canada Rouge brand continues to grow and is now in its third year of operation. Air Canada Rouge will grow to 50 aircraft, comprising both 25 Narrow Bodies and 25 Wide Bodies 767s. Toronto will be Air Canada's superhub, where we will grow our network to the world serving North America. We will continue to increase the ease of transferring in YYZ to all cities that we serve in the US. Air Canada is the largest international airline operating









#### SA'S MEETINGS INDUSTRY: AN ANALYSIS

he South Africa National Convention Bureau (SANCB) unveiled the preliminary results of its three-year study into the South African business events industry at the IBTM World conference in Barcelona, Spain.

Extracts from the study, based on two years of research, were shared at the leading global event for the meetings and events industry, ahead of the final findings being released in 2017.

"We are so excited about this study because it contains insights which will prove to be invaluable to planners looking at South Africa as a potential destination for their business events. It will enable them to organise quality events armed with a closer, more intimate knowledge of our country," says Amanda Kotze-Nhlapo, Chief Convention Bureau Officer at the SANCB. The full report, containing three years of research data and insights, will be made available at Meetings Africa, at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 27 February to 1 March, 2017. tt

#### **INSIGHTS GLEANED SO FAR:**

In 2014 and 2015, the main source markets for business events closely mirrored South Africa's core leisure tourism markets. Delegates chiefly hailed from the United States, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Turkey, India, Australia, Germany, China, France and Kenya. This is a significant finding, bearing in mind South African Tourism's strategy to convert more international business travellers into leisure tourists.

Accommodation market "disruptors" such as peer-to-peer homestay websites have not yet had a significant effect on the South African business events industry, with traditional accommodation options still dominating. Between 69% and 85% of international delegates are still booking into hotels and a growing number are opting for guesthouses, game lodges and bedand-breakfast establishments while attending business events.

The places that were visited most during the period under review were the urban centres of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, but Sandton, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Polokwane and Pietermaritzburg were also in the mix. Tourist destinations such as the Drakensberg, Pilanesberg, Soweto, Sun City, Parys, Rustenburg, the Kruger Park, Hermanus, Franschhoek and Stellenbosch also featured strongly in delegates' itineraries, suggesting an overlap of business and leisure tourism.

Approximately half of the delegates interviewed spent between 6 and 10 days in South Africa on their business trip during the two years under review. During the same period, a significant proportion stayed for between three and five days, but only about 10% visited for 11 to 15 days. This data suggests that efforts need to be redoubled to extend delegates' length of stay by formulating and promoting attractive leisure tourism add-ons to business trips.

About half of business delegates are accompanied by one other person on their trips to South Africa, and a significant number are joined by three or more fellow travellers. Whether they are accompanied by colleagues or family members, these delegates could be encouraged to extend their stay in order to experience South Africa's leisure tourism attractions. tt

#### BEST WESTERN HOTELS & RESORTS INDIA PARTNERS WITH ROOMSXML

est Western® Hotels & Resorts announced a partnership in India with roomsXML an accommodations wholesaler that exclusively services travel agents. "We're pleased to partner with roomsXML in India, providing them with ready access to our more than 4,100 hotels around the world," said Tajinder Singh, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, for Best Western Hotels & Resorts India, Bangaldesh and Sri Lanka. "roomsXML meets our business needs and aspirations as we look to grow our footprint across the region, and we are confident they will help us be successful in our mission moving forward."



"At roomsXML, product development and innovation are key to keep us ahead in this highly competitive segment. We believe this focus has led Best Western Hotels & Resorts to choose us as a preferred direct distribution partner," said Prakash Bang, Managing Director at roomsXML. "We are excited to formalise our relationship with Best Western. The association will bring incredible value to our travel agent partners, who will gain from seamless access to the company's global portfolio of 4,100 hotels."

#### EMBARK ON THE MUMBAI-MALDIVES CRUISE WITH COSTA NEOCLASSICA

tarting this December, travellers will for the first time ever, be able to embark on a cruise from right here in India. Europe's cruising company, Costa Cruises, is launching the Costa neoClassica in India, which will be home porting in Mumbai from December 2016. Costa neoClassica will perform a series of weekly sailings till March 18, 2017.

On this brand new, 7-night itinerary, you can cruise from Mumbai to Maldives over 7 nights, or begin the cruise in Maldives and cruise from Male to Mumbai, also 7 nights. The ship will sail along India's Southwestern coast, with stops at Cochin and Mangalore on the way to Maldives, and will sail via Colombo and Goa on the way to Mumbai.

Nalini Gupta, Managing Director, Lotus Destinations (GSA of Costa Cruises India), says that "The cruises will have an international flavour in terms of the mix of people on the ship, which will be a nice way for travellers to experience the world." the





If it's something different you're looking for – a place with a rich serving of diverse cultures, intriguing traditional cuisine, the buzzing city life that will have your feet tapping to its rhythmic beats, as well as remarkable outdoor and wildlife experiences, then come see the best of South Africa's tourism products. Four days featuring trade professionals from up to 60 exciting South African products, who will teach you more about successfully packaging and selling **#wowSouthAfrica**.

Join us and experience a country like no other at the 2017 South African Tourism Roadshow.

#### We look forward to seeing you there!

Date	Day	City	Time	Venue
30-Jan	Monday	Chennai	10:00hrs - 14:00hrs	Taj Coromandel
31-Jan	Tuesday	Bangalore	10:00hrs - 14:00hrs	ITC Gardenia
01-Feb	Wednesday	Delhi	10:00hrs - 16:00hrs	Le Meridien
03-Feb	Friday	Mumbai	10:00hrs - 16:00hrs	St. Regis

RSVP: Indiaroadshow@southafrica.net or call 022 40144070 for more information





#### ANDHRA PRADESH TOURISM WOOS UK TRAVEL MARKET

he sunrise state of Andhra Pradesh, blessed with some of the finest tourist destinations in India, beckons international tourists to come and experience the hospitality and create a memory that would be etched ever after.

Dr Srikant Nagulapalli, IAS, Secretary, Culture & Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh, said "Our endeavour is to develop Andhra Pradesh as the most preferred destination and under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N Chandrababu Naidu, we are taking progressive steps in that direction. Our vision is to create an all-round tourist friendly environment in the state which ensures a memorable experience for each and every quest every time they visit Andhra Pradesh."

Participating in WTM London as a co-exhibitor at the India Pavilion, Andhra Pradesh will also be hosting a press conference and a roadshow for Tour Operators & Travel Service Providers of UK. India is experiencing a 10% annual growth in foreign tourist arrivals this year, taking visitor numbers to a projected nine million in 2016. **tt** 

#### THE FERN OPENS ITS NEW HOTEL IN MUMBAI

he Fern Hotels & Resorts is pleased to announce the opening of The Fern Goregaon, an upscale business hotel located approximately 0.9km from Bombay Exhibition & Convention Centre, off Western Express Highway.



The hotel is designed on the theme of Mumbai and its culture. The hotel's proximity to Western Express highway, important business and entertainment hubs, and exhibition centre makes it an ideal location for the business traveller.

The hotel offers 89 well-appointed rooms, an all-day dining restaurant cum Coffee Shop and a range of facilities such as banquet hall, rooftop swimming pool,\* Fitness Centre,\* and many more. Located strategically off Western Express Highway in Goregaon East; just 0.9 km away from Bombay Exhibition and Convention Centre, 7km from International Airport, 7.5km from the Domestic Airport. **tt** 

#### SIDHARTH MALHOTRA WRAPS UP NEW ZEALAND TRIP

Sidharth Malhotra has returned from a mesmerising 10-day journey in New Zealand and he doesn't seem to be getting over it. The Bollywood heartthrob vividly recalls his wonderful memories from a trip filled with adventure, food and culture. Sidharth describes his visit as an incredible and unforgettable experience.

Sidharth Malhotra, who kept his fans back home updated with his social media posts full of breathtaking views and fun activities, said, "New Zealand never fails to surprise and impress. The country is gifted with abundant nature's beauty, rich Maori culture and wonderful people. This was my second trip there and I had the time of my life during this 10-day expedition. It's my second home now."

Malhotra is an Indian Tourism Brand Ambassador of New Zealand. **tt** 



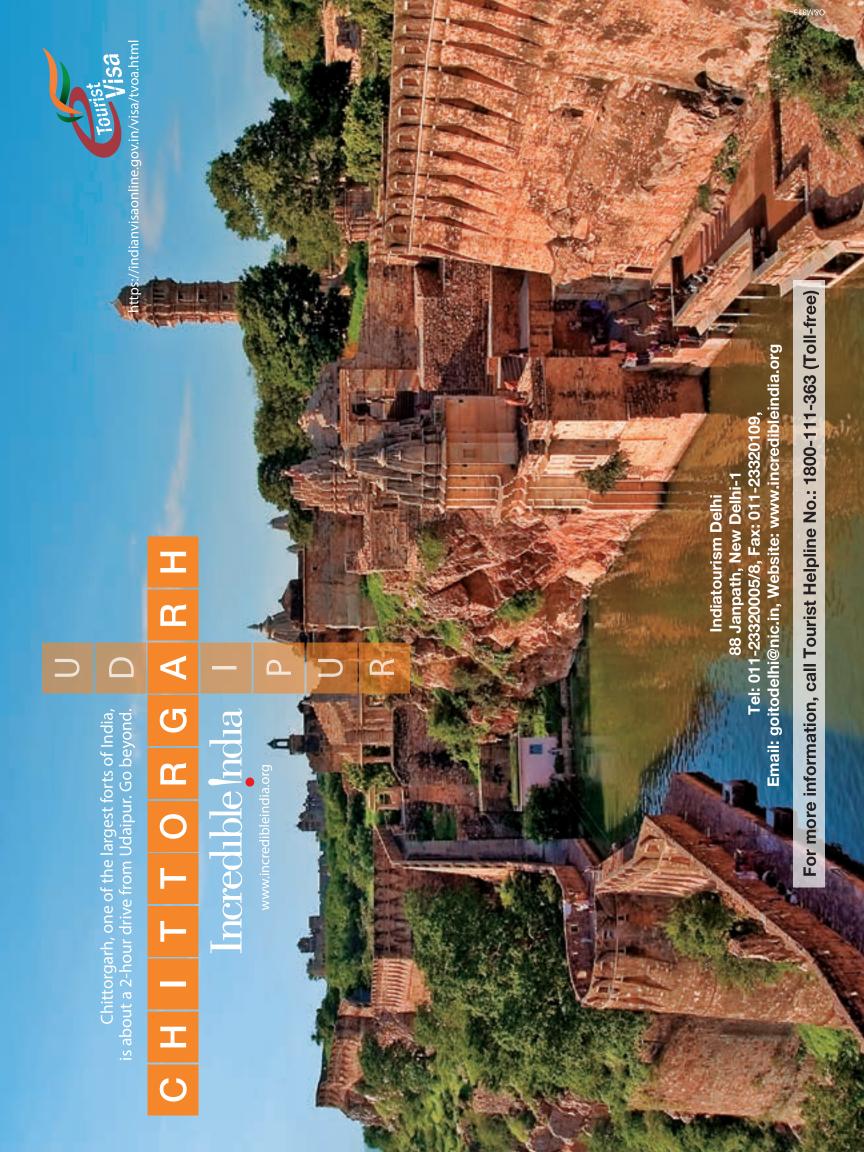
#### COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, AGRA LAUNCHES ANISE

t's news that will warm every gastronome's heart in Agra. Courtyard by Marriott has launched a new fine dining restaurant, Anise, at its property in the city of the Taj Mahal. Anise is a specialty restaurant, offering a delectable selection of authentic Awadhi and Northwest frontier dishes – kebabs, curries, biryanis, and much more.

"At Courtyard Marriott Agra, it is our constant endeavour to provide our guests with the best services and facilities along with the most vibrant Food & Beverage programme in the city. We hope that Anise will completely charm our patrons and bring them the gastronomic experience they have been waiting for," says Abhishek Sahai, General Manager, Courtyard by Marriott Agra.

Executive Chef Vivek Kalia adds, "Now, our guests staying at the hotel don't have to look far for great dining experience. They can enjoy our succulent kebabs, exotic curries and aromatic biryanis in the comfort and luxury of the hotel, at our new restaurant, ANISE." **tt** 









#### TRAFALGAR AGENTS FAM TRIP TO PORTUGAL

rafalgar recently hosted travel partners, agents and media from all over Asia on a familiarisation trip for the Best of Portugal itinerary. The group visited Lisbon, Porto, Fatima, Viseu and Evora. From India, eight deserving agents from Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi and Pune were hosted who experienced Portugal through the eyes of a Trafalgar insider. The local Travel Director, Pedro Pinto, was a treasure trove of information and stories about the country and everyone enjoyed authentic experiences, had lots of fun and a completely hassle-free trip. tt



#### MACAO INTRODUCES CULTURAL & CREATIVE TAIPA VILLAGE ART SPACE

acao Government Tourism Office takes great pleasure in announcing Taipa Village Art Space, with the goal of promoting the cultural and creative industries in Macao. Macao has the perfect combination of rich culture and art to soak in, which makes it an ideal destination for those seeking creativity.

Taipa Village Art Space aims to bring visitors and art lovers on an awe-inspiring journey where they can appreciate an array of art from local and international artists. Located in a traditional shop house in the centre of the historic area of Taipa Village where visitors can savour a rich array of heritage and culture, the Art Space will be dedicated to showcasing the artwork of both local and international artists.

João Ó, President of the Executive Board, Taipa Village Cultural Association, states, "This unique exhibition aims to promote the street art scene by connecting outdoor graffiti murals in the neighbourhood with a number of graffiti works exhibited inside the art space. This is depicted through the exhibited murals, Art-less/full and On the Verge, which express the sense that 'Art is What Matters'.

Our aim is to transgress the boundaries of conventional art and create a unique aesthetic experience for both the local community and visitors to appreciate." tt



#### LIGHTS, CAMERA - ACTION! MADAME TUSSAUDS IS HEADING TO DELHI

erlin Entertainments, one of the world's leading visitor attraction operators, announced its first foray into the Indian market, with the launch of its latest offering – Madame

Launching mid-2017, within the heart of the capital, in the famed Regal Cinema at Connaught Place, Madame Tussauds Delhi will be the only attraction to encourage guests to have fun with the famous by offering a host of experiences spread over two interactive floors.

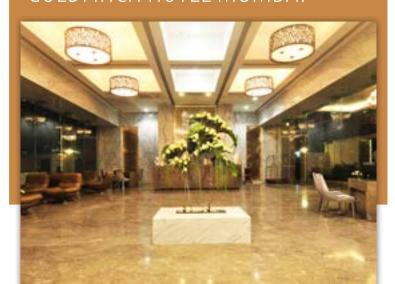
John Jakobsen, Chief New Openings Officer, said – "We are delighted to be announcing that our 22nd Madame Tussauds Attraction will be opening in Delhi. Ever since we introduced Amitabh Bachchan as the first Bollywood figure in Madame Tussauds London, in 2000, we have seen how Madame Tussauds appeals to the Indian consumer, and having a permanent attraction in the heart of the country's capital made perfect sense for the evolution of the Madame Tussauds story."

Visitors will be able to give a speech with Prime Minster Narendra Modi, take a selfie with Kim Kardashian and test their bowling skills and technique with cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar. tt



### A GOLDEN EXPERIENCE

IN CONVERSATION WITH Arvind Shenoy GENERAL MANAGER, GOLDFINCH HOTEL MUMBAI





#### What is your hotel's corporate positioning?

Goldfinch Mumbai, the erstwhile Aura Grande Hotel, was taken over by the Bangalore-based MRG Hospitality and Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, in April 2015. The Group has since then rebranded and renovated the hotel, keeping in mind the needs and wants of today's millennials. Since the renovations, our corporate clientele, both existing as well as new, have responded well to the facilities on offer at Goldfinch Mumbai.





#### What are the USPs of the hotel?

The USPs of the hotel are primarily, the location of the hotel in the popular CBD of Andheri East (MIDC), which is very close to both the international and the domestic terminals. The location provides an edge to Goldfinch Mumbai in terms of catering to transit travellers who have commitments in other locations far off from Andheri East, along with our regular corporates. The Group's core strength lies in expertise in food and we serve one of the finest and most eclectic blend of cuisines in our restaurant, and finally, our hotel delivers value for money to our guests.

#### What are the facilities that your hotel offers to luxury and leisure travellers?

Besides MICE and Corporates, the facilities of Spa, Swimming Pool and the in-house pub (Cafe Mojo) offer facilities to transit travellers/leisure travellers/regular clientele as a relaxed transit point due to the vantage location of the hotel. Since the Group has taken over the hotel it has become a place of culinary interest to the local residential populace.





#### **CORPORATE JET-SETTERS**

#### VIBHU NARAYAN

**VICE PRESIDENT & HEAD CORPORATE SERVICES, NORTH & EAST INDIA RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED** 

#### Most memorable trip to any destination?

I have had some of my best travelling experiences from visiting Dubai, the gateway to the Middle East.

#### You dream of going to?

I have a fascination for desert camps, being deep in a desert with local nomadic natives, watching the night sky and watching shooting stars.

#### Favourite airline and why?

My favourite airline is Emirates. The entire experience from booking to landing is just out of this world. The hospitality, the warmth of the staff, gourmet cuisine, along with the variety of cuisines makes you feel like royalty.

#### Best hotel experience and why?

That would be Atlantis. The hotel is like a fairytale dream coming true in the land of mortals. A fantasy world in itself, coupled with its location, services, entertainment options like the Water Park, make it a unique experience for any traveller.

#### A place you plan to visit again?

I would love to visit Dubai again, and particularly so during DSF 2017, the great shopping festival of Dubai.

#### A family vacation that stands out?

Me and my family had a great time at Dubai, it offers everything suited to every family member, and the options for fun and entertainment are limitless.

#### Your best holiday with friends?

I have to say Dubai again. We travelled there as a group and had the best time of our lives.

#### Great food you enjoyed and where?

The buffet spread at Atlantis is awesome and perhaps the most lavish that I have ever come across.

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

Explore the history, culture and tradition of the place you visit. Reaching one's destination is only the beginning of a journeyone should make it last!

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

We buy what we like and prefer something that is unique and not available elsewhere. Local artefacts and memorabilia are a priority and occupy a prominent position on my must-buy list.

Sell 50 packages by January 2017 and Indian travel agents could win a fam-trip to South Africa in February

**TT BUREAU** 



all of us love fams? Imagine if you could bag one simply by selling satisfaction-quaranteed, marginsguaranteed destination. The 'Fastest 50' is an incentive campaign by South African Tourism specially designed for trade partners in India. All you need to do is book 50 customers to South Africa. The first 20 agents to complete 50 package sales win an all-expense paid trip to the Rainbow Nation.

The campaign, presented as a challenge by celebrated Cricketer Jonty Rhodes, was launched earlier in the year and many travel agents are well on their way to closing 50 bookings, even as new entries are pouring in. Travel agents looking to zero in on this opportunity must get selling immediately to ensure that they complete their sales within the deadline of January 2017.

Commenting on the campaign, Country Manager – India, Hanneli Slabber said, "The 'Fastest 50' campaign rewards destination loyalists with a firsthand experience. We are thrilled with the enthusiasm and participation received so far. As we race towards the deadline I would like to encourage all South Africa's sellers to join in this exciting chase and make the most of it. India is one of our most significant and fastest growing markets. Our trade partners have been the driving force in our success here. We have always strived to engage with our partners in meaningful and innovative ways to allow them to sell the destination and experience South Africa first hand." How do you sign up? The process is simple. Trade partners need to be SA Specialist (Essentials +7 Experiences) and have at least two packages listed on the Chalo South Africa website along with availability for travel in February, 2017.

Packages must be sold for travel from 01 June, 2016 onwards and for a minimum of 9 nights through, any DMC who attended the road show in the last three years, and is still a valid SATSA member.



At Grand Hyatt Goa, enjoy over 100 thrilling experiences, expect the unexpected and be royally indulged as you live out the grandest holiday plan ever

#### TT BUREAU

ith breathtaking spaces and creative cuisines, celebrating at Grand Hyatt Goa will undoubtedly become your very favourite holiday tradition. This festive season, the resort has put together a range of experiences to choose from. With a selection of seven restaurants and bars, an extensive spa, a versatile recreational menu and a sailing centre, the resort makes sure you have all the boxes ticked for a truly unforgettable holiday.

#### **DAILY PROMOTIONS**

DISCOVER THE CHEF IN YOU: Don't just eat like a local; learn to cook like one, too. Let the chefs teach you to prepare your favourite Indian recipe, and then take the opportunity to share your masterpiece with family and friends. Learn to cook at Chulha.

are unlimited. Grand Hyatt Goa just got a little more upscale with the Happy Hours giving you 25 per cent off. Head over to the Capiz Bar for Happy Hours, to indulge in the specially curated tapas selection signature cocktails.

**HAPPY HOURS AT CAPIZ BAR:** At Capiz Bar, the Happy Hours

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GET PAMPERED AT SHAMANA SPA: Magic is when a pair of hands work towards erasing the chaos that's reverberating in your mind. Welcome to Shamana Spa – a peaceful and serene retreat for the ultimate in wellness and relaxation, offering Southeast Asian treatments with a contemporary approach. Indulge in the must-try rejuvenate or glowing package that are offering a 60-minute magical journey of rejuvenation, and experience a new you. Revived. Relaxed. Rejuvenated, and even, Reborn. The Shamana Spa is an experience you'll love to revisit time and time again.



BBQ PICNIC UNDER THE STARS: Let the Grand Hyatt professionals organise an evening or night of a starlit sky, a candlelight dinner, and music to set the mood! Add to the charm of this romantic evening by treating yourself grilled delicacies. A personal picnic coordinator will discuss your likes and dislikes, after that, lean back and let the experts do the rest for you. Everyday, 6:00PM – 11:00PM

CHULHA COCKTAIL BAR: Experience flavours of your much loved buzz in different forms; and if you are in for some fun learn to make them too! The bartenders at Chulha Cocktail Bar will give you an opportunity to learn how to make some of Chulha's Indian-inspired cocktails.

Every evening at the Chulha, 7:00pm - 00:00 midnight





**HIGH TEA:** Enjoy the fabulous High Tea, alongside a creative dainty portion masterpiece served on an elegant three-tiered cake stand, featuring a range of handmade sweet and savoury delicacies from the pastry kitchen. The array of deliciously alluring sweet and savoury treats is accompanied by a choice of espresso coffees or fragrant teas.

Everyday at the Confeitaria Coffee Shop

**SEAFOOD NIGHT MARKET:** If you can't seem to get enough of seafood, walk over to the palace lawns and enjoy an amazing selection of seafood favourites. The weekly Saturday Seafood Night Market comes to the palace lawns with a collection of artefacts, jewellery and handicraft stalls. Select from an amazing variety of seafood delicacies and enjoy an unlimited fresh catch of the day combined with live entertainment. Just wander around until you see what you like, then point and pick.

Every Saturday, 7:00PM – 11:00PM

FONDUE EVENINGS: Equally perfect for an intimate evening or a casual dinner with friends and family, fondue is more than bread and cheese (but it is that, too). Enjoy evenings with a selection of chocolate and cheese fondue at the Capiz Bar.

Every evening, 7:00PM – 00:00 midnight



### INFHRA FM EXCELLENCE AWARDS: A GLITTERING AFFAIR



The Second FM EXCELLENCE AWARD in Delhi on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, at The Pride Plaza, was supported by leading industry bodies like ISHRAE and FM ZONE

#### **TT BUREAU**

NFHRA, an industry body and member-based association representing more than 1,200 members from the Facility Management & Administration, Workplace & Infrastructure, Corporate Travel & Hospitality, Corporate Real Estate, Safety & Security & Procurement professionals, is organising a six-City Award Tour across Bengaluru, Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai.

The Second FM EXCELLENCE AWARD in Delhi, on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, at The Pride Plaza, was supported by leading industry bodies like ISHRAE and FM ZONE.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Amit Vashit, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Gurgaon, and by SK Gupta, Advocate, Supreme Court of India. They discussed and shared the latest case studies, court judgements, and guided corporates on how to effectively and efficiently manage their internal and external compliances.

The day was also graced by the presence of Sam Cuccurullo, Head of Asset Services, Asia Pacific, Cushman & Wakefield, who shared his global experience and wisdom on the Impact of REIT on India and Emerging Markets.

More than 50 corporates from North India had sent their nominations across the five categories of Awards.







The prominent jury comprised industry professionals from Magicbricks.com, Interra Information Technologies, Zee Media, Intertek, Aegis Limited, Ernst & Young, Excelity Global, Air Liquide, Re Resources, Apollo Munich Health Insurance, Aircel and Senior FM professionals.

Below are the Winners & Runners Up across various categories:

Award Category: Corporate Real Estate & Space Management powered by TREEBO HOTELS

**Winner**: Neelam Chhabra, Airtel

1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up: Meghna Garg, Thomson Reuters

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up:** Deben Moza, Knight Frank Property Services

Award Category: Corporate Travel, Transport & Logistics powered by VIA.COM and supported by OLA CORPORATE & GIRIRAJ TOURS & TRAVELS

Winner: Lt Col Sharad Bhargava, Aon Services India Pvt Ltd

1st Runner Up: Vikas Dwivedi, Ernst & Young

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up:** Sahil Sighat, Annik Technology Services

Award Category: Ecological Sustainability powered by ARRAYSTORM

**Winner**: Rahul Prabhakar, ITC Maurya

1st Runner Up: Alok Jain, Vodafone Mobile Services

2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up: Shalender Kumar, Dell

Award Category: Innovation & Technology powered by CARZONRENT INDIA and supported by INNOFITT

**Winner**: Mannu Bassi, Amdocs

1st Runner Up: Paramjeet Vasisht, Sapient Corporation

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up:** Dr KirtiWardhen Sharma, Silverskills Private

Limited

Award Category: Safety & Security Award powered by INTERNATIONAL HOUSEKEEPING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

**Winner**: Saurabh Bareja, Concentrix

1st Runner Up: Ravikant Arya, Micro POLYMET (An Indo rama

Venture)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up:** Jagdish Goswami, Delhi International Airport

(Knight Frank Property Services Pvt Ltd)

The Awards were also supported by Chai Point, Hicare, DMS Designs, Safetrax, The Pride Plaza, Todays Traveller and Industrial Safety Review magazine. Cheers to Life Foundation was the CSR partner for the event.

The next four cities of the tour are scheduled in Pune on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2016; Hyderabad, on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2017; Chennai, on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017; Mumbai on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. For more information on the awards and to associate with the same, kindly email on **support@infhra.com** 



#### GLIMPSES OF THE 4TH NORTHEAST FESTIVAL IN NEW DELHI

he fourth edition of the Northeast Festival – Connecting People, Celebrating Life – recently concluded in New Delhi

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Convener, Northeast Democratic Front, inaugurating the festival, said, "The Northeast Festival is a successful, national platform to showcase the Northeast and make people understand the state. All of us should support this great initiative."

Shyamkanu Mahanta, Chief Organiser, Northeast Festival, said, "We would like to invite all the people residing in Delhi-NCR to come and enjoy the three days of fun and frolic. We are hopeful that the Northeast Festival will create good vibes among the people of the Northeast and the rest of India, and in the process, help in integrating them."









#### SHARJAH TOURISM CONDUCTS FOUR-CITY PROMOTIONAL ROADSHOW IN INDIA

he Sharjah Tourism Board recently conducted a tourism promotional roadshow across four Indian cities

New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chandigarh. The aim of the shows was to increase the visibility of the Emirate of Sharjah as a leisure and business destination amongst Indian travellers, policy makers and the business sector.

HE Khalid Jasim Al Midfa, Chairman, Sharjah Commerce & Tourism Development Authority, Government of Sharjah, said, "India is a very lucrative market and we are aware of the potential it holds in terms of inbound visitor traffic into Sharjah. We are happy to be tapping this important market through our four-city roadshow. We received an overwhelming response from travel agents and stakeholders and we look forward to doing more activities in the near future."

The four-city roadshow of Sharjah Tourism Board in India was promoted by Outbound Konnections, which is a specialist in the field of representation and marketing of tourism products and offers services such as consultancy, sales and public relations, mainly B2B. It focusses on Outbound Tourism and has an industry experience of 15 years.tt









#### MAGICAL MOMENTS IN SINGAPORE FOR DEAR ZINDAGI

singapore Tourism Board joined (STB) hands with Red Chillies Entertainment, Dharma Productions and Hope Productions as part of the launch of the Alia Bhatt-Shah Rukh Khan starrer, 'Dear Zindagi.' The film is directed by Gauri Shinde.

GB Srithar, Regional Director for South Asia, Middle East & Africa, Singapore Tourism Board, said, "We are delighted to be associated with Red Chillies Entertainment, Dharma Productions and Hope productions on their movie, 'Dear Zindagi.' Singapore has long been a popular location for Bollywood movies, showcasing the city as an exciting and friendly destination to the Indian audiences."

Venky Mysore, CEO, Red Chillies Entertainment, said, "We are happy to have partnered with Singapore Tourism Board for this unique association."

#### STAYZILLA PARTNERS WITH ATDC TO PROMOTE HOMESTAYS

fter strategic tie ups with five state tourism departments across India, Stayzilla, the largest aggregator of verified homestays, now gets on board with Assam Tourism Development Corporation for the joint promotion and development of homestays in the state. The MoU was signed in the strategic presence of Ankit Rastogi, Vice President Marketplace,



Stayzilla, and Anurag Singh, Managing Director, Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC). With this association, Stayzilla becomes the first aggregator to associate with governments in the East.

Ankit Rastogi, Vice President Marketplace, Stayzilla, said, "We are extremely happy to announce our association with ATDC to promote tourism and thereby home stays in the state. Well- maintained and quality accommodation is always a concern for tourists and we aim to address the same by associating with different tourism boards in the country." tt

Homestay is a stay option wherein guests (travellers) can rent a room in the home of a local family (host) or the entire house. Staying in a homestay enables the guest to have a personalised and a unique experience. A host presence in a homestay is a great way for guests to make new connections and get first-hand knowledge about the local culture and nuances, which enriches the overall travel experience. The hosts, in turn, can enjoy the company of various guests at their place, showcase their property and forge new friendships while generating income.



#### RANVEER'S SWISS AFFAIR

anveer Singh is in love....with Switzerland! The heartthrob of millions of Indians, who recently returned from his maiden trip to the beautiful country, is completely enamoured with it and has been now named the first Indian ambassador for Switzerland Tourism.

Singh said, "Switzerland has always been known for its serenity and its natural beauty, but what surprised me were the adventures in store for me when I visited. Going to Switzerland has always been my dream."

Claudio Zemp, Director – India, Switzerland Tourism, said, "Switzerland has always made for a picturesque and mesmerising holiday experience with its terrific natural beauty. With Ranveer on board we would like to showcase the multifaceted holiday experience that is Switzerland."

Ritu Sharma, Deputy Director, Switzerland Tourism India, said, "Switzerland is a perfect place for a complete holiday experience that will leave you spellbound for days."

#### MICROMAX PARTNERS WITH 0YO

icromax Informatics and OYO recently announced a strategic partnership to deliver OYO's tech-enabled hotel-booking experience to Micromax customers. Aimed at providing a unique on-device native experience, OYO and Micromax will work together to provide simplified user interface, special discount offers and a seamless booking experience right through the device itself.

Rahul Sharma, Co-Founder, Micromax Informatics, said, "In our pursuit to provide innovative product services hassle-free experiences at the click of a button rather than logging into multiple apps downloaded from play store, Micromax will now offer hotel stay across 200 cities in India with exclusive offers deeply integrated in Micromax in-house platforms, such as Around-Steroid Launcher or /and a full OYO App Experience to Micromax users."

Anurag Gaggar, VP – Product, OYO, said, "We have been consistently working towards providing best in class hotel experiences to our consumers across the country. This partnership enables us to deliver OYO's premium booking and stay experience to our guests and new users through innovative delivery platforms such as AROUND-Steroid launcher, notification updates and other exclusive platforms of Micromax to its 3.3 million monthly active customers." **tt** 



#### NEW YEAR'S EVE @ RADISSON BLU PLAZA DELHI

s the clock strikes midnight, the good times roll at NYC, TGKF, Neung Roi, and The Orb, at Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi. Ring in 2017 with friends and family with the hotel's New Year special offers. The hotel is featuring special spreads at the multi-cuisine NYC, Kabab Haven TGKF, Thai specialty restaurant Neung Roi and the newly opened bar, The Orb, for you to choose from.

NYC, an Epicurean delight for gourmet food lovers, is featuring a lavish dinner buffet, Ocean's Harvest, featuring cuisines from all over the globe. Or you can splurge with a royal feast of Dawat–e–Nizam at TGKF. Alternatively, go 100 degrees east at Neung Roi to enjoy a healthy Thai meal in its relaxed amber ambience. All this and more with unlimited premium liquor, sparkling wine and soft beverages, only for New Year celebrations. And dance the night away with the live DJ in The Orb, the new Bar with scintillatingt music, exotic drinks and captivating appetisers. **tt** 

#### HOTEL DEAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS PRESENTED AT HIFI 2016

he hosts of Hotel Investment Forum India (HIFI) have announced the winners of the Deal of the Year Awards in the categories of Budget & Mid-Price, First Class & Upper Mid-Scale, and Luxury & Upscale. The awards were presented at Hotel Investment Forum India (HIFI), at the JW Marriott Hotel Mumbai Sahar. HIFI is hosted by Burba Hotel Network (BHN) and Horwath HTL.

In the category of Budget & Mid-Price, the winner is the ibis Styles Goa, with 197 keys, opened in August 2016, near Calangute Beach, North Goa. The hotel was developed at a total cost of Rs. 5 million per key by InterGlobe Hotels Pvt. Ltd. and is managed by AccorHotels. Finalists in this category also included the ibis Hotel, Bengaluru City Centre and the Lemon Tree Hotel, Gachibowli.

In the category of First Class & Upper Mid-Scale, the winner is the Courtyard and Fairfield by Marriott Bengaluru Outer Ring Road, with 336 keys, opened in December 2015, in Bengaluru. The hotel was developed at a total cost of Rs. 6.6 million per key by SAMHI JV Business Hotels Pvt. Ltd. and managed by Marriott International. Finalists in this category also included the Mercure Hyderabad KCP and the Novotel Imagica Khopoli.

In the category of Luxury & Upscale, the winner is the JW Marriott Hotel Mumbai Sahar, with 585 keys, opened in March 2015, in Mumbai. The hotel is owned by Chalet Hotels Private Limited and is managed by Marriott International. Finalists in this category also included the Conrad Pune and the InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort.

Uttam Davé of Atmanya Projects LLP chaired the awards committee that comprised hotel industry leaders. The awards committee reviewed the nominees and selected the finalists. Information about the finalists was then sent to HIFI delegates for voting and the winners were selected. ##

#### DILLI HAAT'S BRUSH WITH STREET ART

\* treet Art adds character and a certain charm to the otherwise seemingly nondescript cities across the globe. It amuses, adds aesthetic value and meaning to bricks and mortar. Delhi Tourism, in collaboration with Austrian Cultural Forum, Austrian Embassy, New Delhi, showcased an exhibition

of the works of Jeremias Altmann, an Austrian artist renowned for drawing, printmaking and wall painting, at Dilli Haat, INA Market.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Michael Heinz, Director – Austrian Cultural Forum, SP Singh, MD and CEO, DTTDC, and Naresh Kuparia, an eminent Installation Artist and an International Award Winner, in the august presence of Georg Zehetner, Head of Austrian Embassy, Rajan Sehgal, Co-Chairman, Tourism Committee of FICCI, Cristina Mukherjee, Director, Austrian Tourism Board of India, and Shovana Narayan, a renowned Kathak Dancer, at Dilli Haat. tt





#### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, BENGALURU LIGHTS UP THE CHRISTMAS **CHARITY TREE**

hangri-La Hotel, Bengaluru, ignited the festive season with grandeur and elegance with the ) annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at the Lobby Lounge. Illuminated by the General Manager, the 23ft Christmas Tree Lighting evoked nostalgic memories for guests and employees alike. In-house guests and other city luminaries, including Pavithra Halkatti, Waseem Khan, Aslam Gafoor, Shalini Chopra and Wanitha Ashok, to name a few, were seen enjoying the festive cheer.

"We were very excited to put together an event that embraces the global festive spirit. Bengaluru is a culturally rich city with people from different countries settled here, which further enhances the celebratory mood. We were happy to see guests from various walks of life come and enjoy the celebrations and at the same time generously contribute to our community fundraiser. We look forward to delighting our guest sagain next year." Said Andreas Streiber, General Manager of Shangri-La Hotel, Bengaluru. tt



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### THE STYLISH TRAVELLER

These designer luggage sets redefine the art of travel, be it escaping to a destination hideaway or embarking on a business trip

#### TT BUREAU

oday, travelling is more than adventure, it is about expression or most times, simply to let go. While travelling one is often met with a crucial question: What suitcase will accompany your travels? Take a look at some of the best luxury cases as it introduces you to world of luxury travelling.

#### TUMI'S ALPHA LUGGAGE SET Price: \$5,500

Tumi is an American luxury travel suitcases and bags manufacturer; the world's leading brand of travel and business accessories. Known for their quality nylon two-wheelers that are virtually indestructible, as well as for their numerous stylish classic luggage collections, it is safe to say that Tumi managed to master perfection. Tumi's Alpha Luggage Set Collection will definitely endure the test of time. The continental-style set is comprised of a zippered expandable carry-on, a wheeled carryon garment bag, a wheeled expandable short trip suitcase, a large wheeled split duffel, and a tri-fold carry-on leather garment carrier, all with zippered compartments, interior pockets, and loops.

#### SWAINE ADENEY BRIGG'S WINDSOR HANDMADE **LEATHER LUGGAGE SET**

Price: \$6,500

Swaine Adeney Brigg is one of the oldest luxury goods brands in the world, handcrafting luxurious luggage sets for royalty and aristocrats for over 250 years. Their most famous clients are Prince Charles and the Queen of England herself, and they even have two Royal Warrants to their name. Swaine Adeney Brigg's Windsor Handmade Leather Luggage Set is a traditional English leather suitcase collection made from bridle leather and finished with brass locks. Each piece is cut, stitched, and finished in the company's workshop in Cambridge, and can be custom made to fit the client's needs and requirements.





#### **VALEXTRA'S AVIETTA LUGGAGE SET**

Price: \$7,600

If one is looking for the most experienced leather craft in Italy, Valextra is Milan's most famous high-end luggage and accessory brand. With only the greatest details and quality, the signature of the Milanese luxury brand is the soft leather and the "V" cut of its compartments. Valextra's Avietta Luggage Set is comprised of different size trolleys, handmade from Kevlar fabric and coated with the finest hides out there. The trolleys can be distinguished by their perfectly balanced silhouette and the decorative "V". With Pirelli wheels and finished with exquisite details such as lacquered edges, each piece is handcrafted using an ancient saddler technique.



#### LOUIS VUITTON LEATHER LUGGAGE SET

Price: \$60,000

One of the most famous luxury travel luggage brands in the world, Louis Vuitton, is all about style and excellent quality, all with a matching price tag. The company's history can be traced back to 1854 in Paris, when Louis Vuitton began making travelling trunks. Soon after, his son George took over the company and transformed it into the first designer label. A Louis Vuitton luggage set is a must-have for anyone living large. However, out of all the Louis Vuitton travel sets out there, the Leather Luggage Set stands out as the best designer luggage set in the world. The set includes an armoire, a wardrobe, and steamer trunks, four matching suitcases, a cruiser bag, a jewellery case, and a hat bag, all for a stunning amount.



#### GLOBE-TROTTER'S JAMES BOND SPECIAL EDITION SERIES LUGGAGE SET

Price: \$12,800

A British luxury travel luggage brand with a history of over 100 years, Globe-Trotter's handcrafted luggage sets accompanied the likes of Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Edmund Hillary in their travels. Globe Trotter's James Bond Special Edition Series Luggage Set was launched at the same time as 'Skyfall,' on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first James Bond movie. The set includes a series of attaches, trolley cases, and suitcases, all in elegant black. A slim attaché, two trolley cases, a suitcase, a suitcase with wheels, and two extra deep suitcases with wheels complete the set. Each one of the cases in the set is handmade using original Victorian machinery. For the finish, Globe Trotter used Black Box Grain leather trim and chrome locks.





**DR BETTY RADIER** has been appointed as the CEO at Kenya Tourism Board. Radier brings over senior management years experience in marketing, strategy and operations. Prior to her appointment, Radier served as Managing Director of Scanad Kenya, JWT and Scanad

Advertising Tanzania, McCann Kenya Ltd, and Lowe Scanad Uganda Limited.



INDRAKANTI NARASIMHA MURTHY

takes over the charge of Member (Operations), Airports Authority of India (AAI). Murthy has 31 long years of experience in the Aviation sector by serving different positions in Directorate of Air Traffic Management, Directorate of Aerodrome Planning,

Airport Management & Operations of AAI.



SURAJIT GHOSE has been named Director of Sales at The Suryaa, New Delhi. He brings in a vast and varied experience with the Front Office and Sales and started his career with ITC Maurya. He has been associated with brands like IHG, The Soaltee Crowne Plaza Kathmandu, Holiday

Inn, Crowne Plaza and The Pallazio to mention a few. He was also associated with The Suryaa in the past, in the capacity of Director of Sales Leisure.



MALHOTRA has been appointed as Associate Director of Sales at Crowne Plaza Jaipur Tonk Road. Malhotra in her current position would be leading the sales activities from Delhi NCR. Prior to joining Crowne Plaza Jaipur, she worked with Radisson Blu, Accor Group for over six

years. Her expertise in handling MICE and Corporate Sector would further enhance and open doors to new opportunities for Crowne Plaza Jaipur.



**KUNAL SABHARWAL** joins Crowne Plaza Jaipur as Associate Director of Sales for Delhi region, wherein he will be taking care of MICE and Travel Trade for the hotel. Sabharwal comes to Crowne Plaza Jaipur from The Grand Hotel, New Delhi, where he was working as Associate Director of Sales

and heading the Travel Trade vertical for a 390 room 5-star luxury hotel. He is a Post Graduate of Hotel Management from Annamalai University, Salem.



VINAYAK PATNEKAR has been designated as Director of Operations at Courtyard by Marriott, Agra. Patnekar has been in the hospitality industry for over 16 years and is known for his dynamism and depth and has been associated with leading hotels across India and served in different capacities.

In his current position, he will be in charge of Guest Services, Rooms Division Management, F&B Operations, Administration, Project Management, Events and Revenues, and leverage his experience of managing diverse leadership responsibilities to add value to the property.



SHARAD SHARMA has been made Head of Sales at The Ajit Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur and Rawla Narlai, Narlai. Prior to joining Ajit Group he worked with Radisson Blu Hotel Haridwar, Radisson Shimla, Radisson Khajuraho, HRH Group of Hotels, Clarks Inn Group of Hotels and Ramee

Guestline Hotels in his 15-year-old career.



RAHUL SINGH SISODIA has been designated as Director of Engineering at Crowne Plaza Jaipur Tonk Road and Area Engineering Champion for Central India & Holiday Inn Express. Sisodia is an Engineering Graduate from Rajasthan Technical University. He has over nine years of experience

capturing brands like IHHR (Ista), Starwood, Marriott and Hyatt during his industrial exposure. In his current role, he will be responsible for implementation of IHG standards, Performance Analysis, FLS Audits, Energy Efficiency and Implementation of Green practices in his reports.



AVIATION



P Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal, Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, lighting the lamp at the inauguration of the New Civil Air Terminal at Bhatinda, in the august presence of Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Vijay Sampla, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI, Ashwani Lohani, CMD, Air India, and other dignitaries.

#### NEW CIVIL AIR TERMINAL UNVEILED AT BATHINDA AIRPORT

he New Civil Air Terminal at Bathinda Airport has been dedicated to the nation by P Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, in the august presence of Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries; Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal, Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab; Jayant Sinha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation; Vijay Sampla, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment; Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI; Ashwani Lohani, CMD, Air India, and other dignitaries.

The Union Minister of Civil Aviation took a walk along with the other dignitaries and unveiled the plaque in the Civil Air Terminal. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Raju, said that the new Terminal and the flight connectivity will not only boost passenger travel, but also be a multiplier for the overall economic growth of the region. These new facilities are a fitting tribute to the indomitable Punjabi spirit, he added. **tt** 



#### ENJOY DUBAI SHOPPING FESTIVAL 2017 WITH JET AIRWAYS' JETESCAPES

et Airways has introduced exciting all-inclusive JetEscapes Holidays for guests travelling to the world-renowned Dubai Shopping Festival, which gets underway from December 28, 2016. The five-week-long Dubai Shopping Festival is one of Dubai's premier shopping extravaganzas and a must-visit attraction, offering a fabulous retail experience and extensive discounts on leading brands around the world. Enhancing this remarkable shopping experience further are twin packages from JetEscapes Holidays, which have been specially created to offer guests' easy and convenient access to the Dubai Shopping Festival.

Jayaraj Shanmugam, Chief Commercial Officer, Jet Airways, said, "We are delighted to offer customised, end-to-end travel itineraries to our guests for such a unique festival, which is a magnet for shoppers worldwide. The airline's unbeatable network coverage between India and the Gulf, including Dubai, coupled with our spirit of Indian hospitality, will ensure that guests have the best of both experiences – both on-ground as well as in the air."

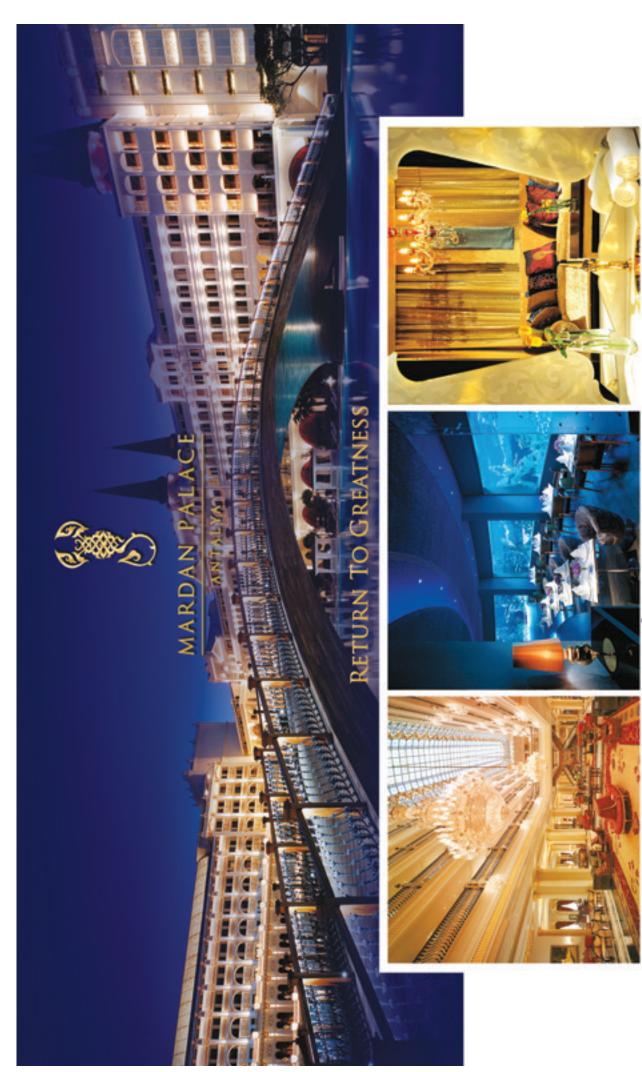


#### EMIRATES ADDS FESTIVE CHEER WITH SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

o celebrate the upcoming holiday season, Emirates has ramped up its product offering, both on board and on the ground, for a superior travel experience. A new Christmas menu has been introduced for the first time across all cabin classes featuring traditional festive meals.

The special menu will be in addition to the wide variety of cuisines available on board and features holiday favourites such as roast turkey and yule log cakes. The festive offering reflects Emirates' commitment to providing regional and seasonal menus using fresh ingredients of the highest quality across its network.

These Christmas meals are available for customers travelling from Dubai to Australia, Europe, the United States or the United Kingdom and will be served throughout December.



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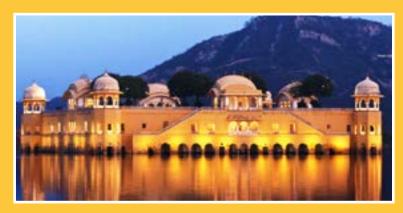




#### TURKISH AIRLINES LAUNCHES SAFETY INFLIGHT FEATURING ZACH KING

Turkish Airlines produced a new inflight safety

purpose of the video is to keep passengers' important safety procedures using the power of



#### THAI SMILE AIRWAYS LAUNCHES DIRECT FLIGHT BETWEEN JAIPUR - BANGKOK

\*HAI Smile Airways continues expanding international routes by launching Jaipur – Bangkok flight to underscore its aviation standards and excellent service that meet world-class standards. The new flight aims at accommodating those targeted groups who are looking for convenient travelling from a full service airline, while opening a new window of adventure for the Thai passengers to explore the Pink City of India. It also offers exclusive travelling experience for Indian passengers with the best services. The new A320-200 Airbus will fly directly from Jaipur to Bangkok, where passengers can continue travel connections conveniently to other cities in Thailand.

Captain Woranate Laprabang, Acting Chief Executive Officer, THAI Smile Airways, stated, "After the launch of the Bangkok – Gaya – Varanasi route in early October, we found that the feedback is very impressive. Today, we are proud and ready to start operating another route to India, that is between Bangkok and Jaipur." tt

#### KOREAN AIR DEBUTS DELHI — INCHEON SERVICES

🖊 orean Air celebrated its inaugural Delhi-Incheon direct flight service with a welcome ceremony at Delhi's Indira Gandhi Airport. Korean Air's maiden flight from Incheon to Delhi, KE481, touched down at Indira Gandhi Airport and was welcomed with a water canon event prepared by the airport. This was followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the inaugural flight departing from Delhi.

Present at the ceremony were Cho Hyun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Shefali Juenja, Director, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA), Pradeep Panicker and Douglas Webster, CEO and COO of Delhi International Airport (P) Limited(DIAL), as well as Song Bo Young, Korean Air's

Regional Director for Southeast Asia. Officials of Delhi Airport welcomed Korean Air with warm greetings and speeches.

Korean Air's Incheon-Delhi direct service will operate five days a week utilising an Airbus A330-200 aircraft capable of seating 218. Equipped with Korean Air's newest seats in both First and Prestige Class and a cutting-edge AVOD system, the aircraft will provide customers utmost comfort.

KE482 will depart Delhi at 19:40 and land in Incheon at 5:50 the next day, which will enable passengers to benefit from Korean Air's extensive global network. The return flight, KE481, will depart Incheon at 12:45 and land in Delhi at 18:20. Korean Air will continue to offer its extensive global network with a wider range of options for each of its passengers, delivering true "Excellence in Flight". tt



At the welcome ceremony were present Cho Hyun (centre), Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Pradeep Panicker (second from the left), Douglas Webster (fourth from the right), CEO and COO respectively, of Delhi International Airport (P) Limited, and Song Bo Young (left), Korean Air's Regional Director for Southeast Asia.





Remote, mysterious and serene, the swampy Sundarbans make for an exciting adventureto sight the Royal Bengal Tiger and explore the lush mangrove forests

#### **TT BUREAU**

he Sundarbans are the world's largest delta formed by the rivers Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. Shrouded in mist, this area is a river-riddled swamp which witnesses regular tide shifts and presents a picture of complete mystery and adventure. This place is said to have derived its name from one of the mangrove plants known as Sundari (Heritiera Minor). It's quite a wonder that despite being enclosed on three sides by the most densely populated countries on earth, India and Bangladesh, it remains largely uninhabited. The mangrove forests stretch over an area of 4,264 sq.km in India alone, and is the largest Tiger Reserve and National Park in India. Besides, it's also a declared UNESCO World Heritage Site. As one ventures deeper along its river channels into its swampy heart, adventure and thrill await in equal measure.

#### **ROYAL BENGAL TIGER-KING OF SUNDARBANS**

The Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarbans is a topic for many great tales and stories, thus elevating it to a legendary status. It lurks in this wild terrain, with incomparable dexterity, and coming across one is a surreal experience. The Sunderbans are home to more than 250 tigers, thus making it the largest single population of tigers on earth. Finding themselves in a saline and aqua environment, the tigers have adapted well to it, their being perfect swimmers demonstrates this point justifiably.



### SUDHANYAKHALI WATCH TOWER

To spot a tiger, head to Sudhanyakhali Watch Tower, which is noted for being one of the best ways to spot the Royal Bengal Tiger. People have spotted their share of tigers from here. The tower is able to accommodate 25 people at a time, there is a pond behind it which is visited by wild animals often, thus presenting a beautiful sight.

### **HALLIDAY ISLAND**

Halliday Island is positioned on the southern side of the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, with the Halliday Wildlife Sanctuary also located in close proximity. What makes this island worth mentioning is that it holds the honour of being the last retreat for the rare barking deer. The Lothian Wildlife Sanctuary, located nearby, is a paradise for bird lovers who delight in capturing the dance and sway of exotic birds.

### **BIRDS OF THE SUNDERBANS**

There are about 248 bird species that are found in Sundarbans National Park, with several migratory birds arriving here from higher latitudes during the winter months. Herons, egrets, cormorants, storks, green pigeons, etc. can be spotted here.

### **WILDLIFE**

Besides the tiger, the mangrove forests are home to some of the most varied and exciting wildlife to be found anywhere. The chital deer, rhesus monkey, among others, plus aqua fauna, including fish, red fiddler, crabs, and crocodiles have made this habitat their home. The Sunderbans National Park is also

noted for its conservation of the Ridley Sea Turtle.





### **HOW TO REACH**

The Sunderbans is only accessible by waterways. The nearest railhead is Port Canning, from where organised group trips start. There are several other entry points, but Port Canning is most popular. The other route is through Basanti ,that is connected by bus service to Kolkata. From here, one can take boats to Sajnekhali. One can also come via Port Canning and Gosaba or from Sonakhali to Sajnekhali. From Kolkata, there are Sunderban trains to Canning and buses to Namkhana, Raidighi, Sonakhali, and Najat, from where motor launch services are available for Sunderbans.



### WHERE TO STAY

Sajnekhali Tourist Lodge, run by West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation (WBTDC) Ltd and forest rest houses are available at Sajnekhali. There are some private lodges also. WBTDC also has exciting Tour Packages to the Sunderbans, starting from Kolkata.



Bhubaneswar's temples, each with a characteristic flavour and the embodiment of elegance and splendour, fascinate visitors the year round

### **TT BUREAU**

disha is an ancient city and finds mention in the earliest history annals. One finds the highest development of artistic and sculptural heritage here, with the magnificent Sun temple at Konark, the majestic temple of Lord Jagannath at Puri, besides the glorious temples of Bhubaneswar. Apart from extraordinary monuments and temples, prolific artists and craftsmen flourish here, and beautiful beaches, wildlife sanctuaries and mesmerising landscape all contribute in equal measure to make Odisha a unique and fascinating land. However, it's the temples here, standing as the most magnificent gems of religious architecture, that have perpetually captivated visitors.

Bhubaneswar, today, is a model of livability, evident by the city's stable growth rate in recent decades. It is one of the few cities that has been able to successfully capitalise upon its assets - be it the city's tangible and intangible heritage (natural, built and people) or its strategic location – into economic drivers that

have shaped the city's growth in recent decades. The history of Bhubaneswar dates back much earlier than the seventh and 13th centuries, making its first appearance in the annals of history in the fourth century BC. Named after Tribhuvaneswar, also known as the "Lord of Three Worlds," the city preserves over 500 temples, and much of the lifestyle of the city revolves around them. The harmonious blending of architecture and sculpture, the intricately designed cravings and the grand repertoire of its motifs make them as enchanting as ever.

### ANANTA VASUDEVA TEMPLE

Ananta Vasudeva temple was constructed in the 13th century, and one can find the idols of Krishna, Balarama and Subhadra installed here. The temple dates back to the period of Chandrika Devi, the daughter of Anangabhima III, during the reign of King Bhanudeva. The idols found in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple have complete structures unlike the images of the Jagannath temple, Puri.

### **JAGANNATH TEMPLE**

Jagannath temple, belonging to the 1<sup>th</sup> century, enjoys the honour of being one of the "Char Dhams," or the four pilgrimage centres which every Hindu intends to visit during his lifetime.

The Jagannath temple of Puri has a rather interesting legend associated with it, and upon a visit to the temple, one can discover this curious tale in all its glory. The residing deity at the temple is offered "bhog," or offering, six times a day, and is then dispensed among the worshippers close to Ratnavedi.

### **RAJARANI TEMPLE**

Set amidst well maintained gardens, the 11th century Rajarani temple is famous for its sculpted figures and the successive tiers of projection rising to form its 18m tower. The highlight of the temple are the fine sculptures of the "dikpalas" or guardians of the eight directions, carved around the shrine. Dressed in diaphanous drapes, they stand on lotuses, with their mounts below. The temple is also famous for the tall and slender "nayikas," or temple figures, carved in high relief on the walls.

### **LINGARAJA TEMPLE**

The Lingaraja temple, dating back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century, is believed to have been built by Yayati Kesari, in the seventh century. The Shivalingam in the temple is a marvellous structure, rising to a height of eight inches above the floor level, and is eight feet in diameter. Besides the Bhagwati temple, which is located in the northwest corner of the courtyard, there are various shrines and temples which can be found in the courtyard as well. A total of 22 worship services are offered each day, and once a year, an image of Lingaraja is taken to the Jalamandir, in the centre of the Bindu Sagar Lake.

### **MUKTESHWAR TEMPLE**

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Mukteshwar temple is an important architectural landmark in Odisha, and is described as one of its jewels, for its exquisite sculptures and elegant looks. The temples is famous for its exquisite stone archway and ceiling with an eight-petal lotus inside its porch. The diamond-shaped latticed windows in the North and South walls of Jagamohana depict enchanting scenes of frolicking monkeys.

The chaitya–windows carved on the sanctuary tower show an arresting ornamental design – bho – the grinning face of a lion with beaded tassels emerging from its mouth, and flanked by two dwarves, the pattern resembling a coat of arms.











Grand Hyatt Goa has a host of unforgettable activities for you this holiday season

### TT BUREAU

t Grand Hyatt Goa, every experience is spectacular, surprises are to be expected, and indulgence is a way of life. Nothing compares to the experience of spending the holidays at Grand Hyatt Goa. With breathtaking spaces and creative cuisines, celebrating at Grand Hyatt Goa will undoubtedly become your very favourite holiday tradition.

If you're someone who enjoys action packed holidays as much as you appreciate peaceful getaways, Grand Hyatt Goa has the perfect vacation lined up for you this winter. A multitude of unusual experiences await you - a chance to go fishing at sunrise with local fishermen and have your catch cooked by expert chefs; rustle up authentic Goan food as well as unusual, India-inspired cocktails at the Chulha Cocktail bar and enjoy a barbeque picnic under the starry sky with the help of a personal







There are several ways to ring in the New Year, but few are as indulgent as the Garden of Dreams at Grand Hyatt Goa. The best way to begin a year full of amazing moments is with memories that will last a lifetime. Like the ones you will make at Grand Hyatt Goa at the New Year's Eve Garden of Dreams celebration. The five-star paradise overlooking the waters of Bambolim Bay transforms itself into a mystical and dramatically



picnic coordinator. Music lovers can take in soulful melodies by talented artists every evening on the resort's sprawling lawns.

This Christmas Eve, indulge in moments of love and togetherness with a scrumptious dinner buffet set up at The Dining Room, especially decorated to celebrate the season of sparkle. The celebration includes live music entertainment that takes you on a nostalgic journey.

On Christmas Day, let The Verandah fulfill your gastronomy wishes as you spoil your loved ones with the special Christmas lunch. Or choose to celebrate the day of love at the Christmas Day brunch in The Dining Room, while your little ones can enjoy the fun-filled afternoon with loads of activities and games at Camp Hyatt. The resort gives you plenty of reasons to unwind with family and friends over a hearty meal and live music.



lit paradise overflowing with delectable food and spectacular entertainment. It lures you in to escape reality and transports you to a world of charisma and fantasy.

From whimsical and captivating performances by local and international artists to dainty and delicious canapés, from enchanting décor that serves as the perfect backdrop for your selfies to a spectrum of colourful cocktails that are unique and unforgettable – experience this larger than life wonderland, this time set out to be even bigger and better than ever before.

Whether you're travelling with family or friends, this magnificent destination resort ticks all the boxes for a truly unforgettable festive season stay.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS** CHRISTMAS AT GRAND HYATT GOA CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER AT THE DINING ROOM

Let the magic of Christmas Eve fill your hearts as skilled musicians bring back beautiful nostalgic melodies. Indulge in a scrumptious buffet of international cuisines and the much awaited Christmas desserts.

What: Christmas Eve Dinner Rs. 2,000 Buffet only

When: 24 December, 2016 **Time:** 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

be amused that your Christmas lunch will be truly special.

What: Christmas Day Lunch | Rs. 2000 Buffet only

When: 25 December, 2016 Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH AT THE DINING ROOM

Celebrate this day of love as you unwind with family and friends over a lavish brunch with live music and fun while your little ones enjoy fun-filled games at Camp Hyatt.

What: Christmas Day Brunch | Rs. 2000 buffet

When: 25 December, 2016 Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

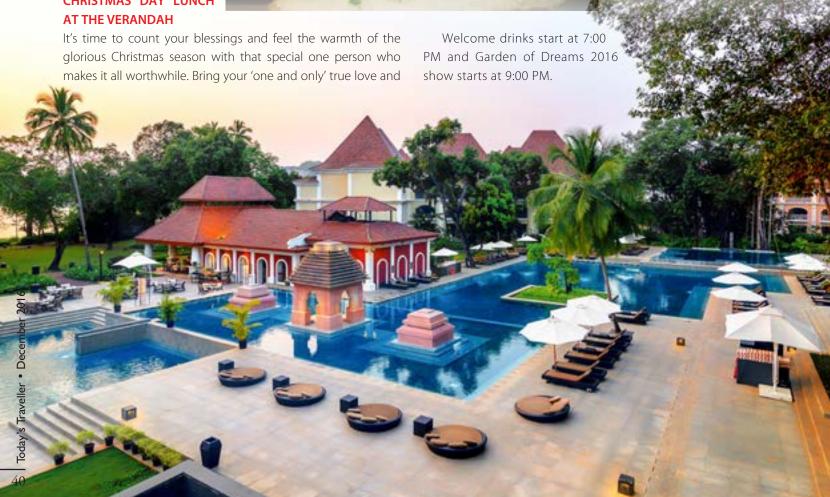
### **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT GRAND HYATT GOA**

There are several ways to ring in the New Year, but few are as indulgent as the Garden of Dreams at Grand Hyatt Goa.

> With exceptional cuisine, breathtaking settings and unparalleled service, you will discover the thrill of #LivingGrand. Garden of Dreams 2016 includes an exquisite theatrical music show with gala dinner and unlimited premium select beverages on 31st December night.



### CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AT THE VERANDAH



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Check out some of these hi-adrenaline alternative winter sports and get ready to hit the snow

### **VISHWAJIT SHARMA**

he arrival of winter is associated with the ushering in of myriad emotions. For some, winter means being snug in a quilt with a hot beverage in one hand and watching the dense fog slowly pass by the window. However, for others, winter signifies activity, and the fresh outdoors refreshes the body and mind in a unique way.

Winter sports have always been popular, in one way or the other, combining the elements of recreation and competitiveness perfectly. Countries which witness a heavy downfall of snow are usually the ones where different forms of winter sports – like ice hockey, skiing, sledding, snowboarding

and others, are enthusiastically pursued. The Winter Olympics Games and other similar events reflect the trend of the ever growing popularity of sports during winter. The adrenaline rush generated from zooming down a mountain slope, running and tackling a ball or watching your sled speed past others, with the onlookers cheering you all the while, is a thrilling experience.

However, the rise of alternative winter sports has expanded the variety of options available to both amateurs and the experienced, sports that require a high level of expertise and those that do not.

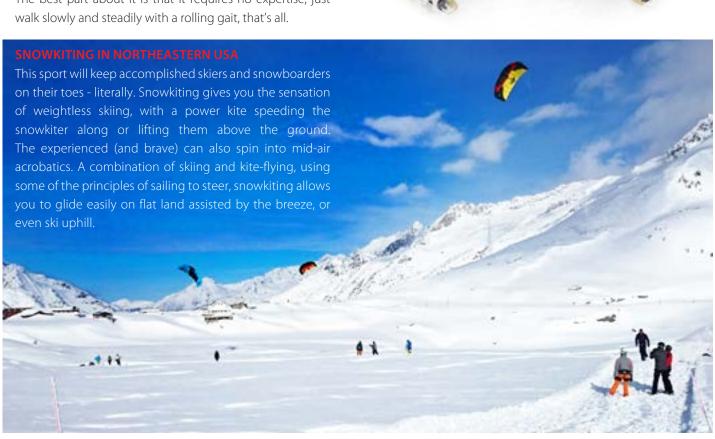




sledding is a sport that is fast gaining popularity, and not without good reason. It's a breathtaking ride and thousands of tourist boards across Scandinavia arrange day excursions for complete beginners. However, your four-legged companions will do half the work, the other half of it will require you to have considerably strong arms, so, watch out for muscle soreness the next morning!

### SNOWSHOEING IN THE FRENCH ALPS

A snowshoe walk is all about treading merrily over frosty plains. The snowshoes distribute the weight of the body over a larger area, thus preventing one from sinking into the snow. Forget those weird looking tennis racket-like shoes strapped to your feet, and strap on stylish models that offer an iron grip. They keep you steady on snowy terrain, leaving you free to take in mesmerising views of the white rolling hills. The workout that your legs receive is an extra bonus. The best part about it is that it requires no expertise, just





### **SCALING ICE FALLS IN CHAMONIX VALLEY**

While snowkiting provides a spectacular bird's-eye view, ice climbing provides one the adrenaline-laced vertigo that you crave. However, scaling ice falls requires both expertise and a tough heart. The ice falls of Chamonix, across the borders of France, Italy and Switzerland, have plenty of sites for ice climbers that challenge one's abilities to the zenith. Beginners, though, would be advised to take a course or two before engaging in this daring sport.

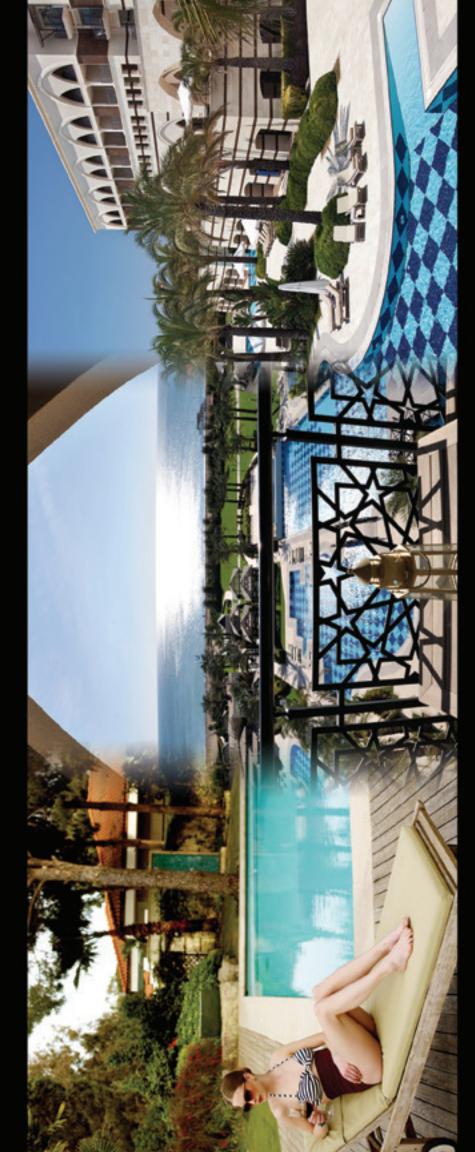
### **NIGHT SLEDDING IN SWITZERLAND**

From the town of Interlaken in Switzerland, travel high into the Swiss alps, under starlit winter skies, and then embark on the sled run that extends up to one hour. The beautiful trail cuts through some beautiful, still woods that appear quite magical during the night, crossing alpine meadows and passes over majestic frozen waterfalls. Night sledding combines the elements of winter fun, nature, and exposes one to various forms of Swiss traditions. This is one sport that makes freezing nights lively.





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The MTM+LLTM held at The Ashok New Delhi, on November 24, 2016, successfully created a business platform for Buyers and Sellers of the MICE, Luxury & Leisure travel segments



### **TT BUREAU**

he 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the MICE Travel Mart (MTM) and seventh Luxury & Leisure Travel Mart (LLTM), organised by OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd, saw a footfall of over 450 people at the Convention Hall at Hotel Ashok New Delhi. The event was thronged by a vast concourse of Corporate purchasers, Luxury and Leisure travel agents, and other travel-service providers, on a single platform, to conduct business across the table.

MTM+LLTM was attended by a bevy of senior executives from the corporate world, leading Hotels, Destination Management Companies, National Tourism Boards, State Tourism Boards, Tour Operators, Wedding Planners and Event Planners.

Among the notable delegates who attended the event were Dr AK Manocha, CMD, IRCTC; Pratima Srivastava, Executive Director, Punjab Heritage Tourism & Promotion Board; Ashwini Kakkar, Executive Vice Chairman, Mercury Travels and Chairman, via.com; Praveen Chugh, President, TAFI; PP Khanna, President, ADTOI; Rajan Sehgal, Chairman, TAAI – North India; Pankaj Nagpal, Director – National Board & Chairman – North India Region, ETAA; Subhash Goyal, former-President, IATO; Chander Mansharamani, Vice Chairman – ICPB and KVN Prasad, President, IEIA, among other delegates. Eminent personalities represented associations like EEMA, IEIA, TAFI, ADTOI, IATO, TAAI and ETAA.







Ashwini Kakkar, Executive Vice Chariman, Mercury Travels and Chairman, via.com, delivered a gripping keynote address on "Dynamic Changes in the Travel Industry."

The event kick-started with the MICE Seminar that included

a Corporate Panel Discussion on, "Are Events the Order of the Day? Do travel managers and event planners need to change their game?" And featured well-known names from the corporate, travel and event sectors, like Vikas Lashkari, India Head Procurement, Ernst & Young; Squadron Leader Neeraj Rathee, Vice President – Premises Infrastructure & Procurement, Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd; Meghna Garg, Associate Director-Facilities & Administration, Thomson Reuters; Ankush Bindra, Manager Travel & VISA, Ericsson Global Services; Naveen Kundu, Founder and MD, Leisure Corp Pvt Ltd; and

Sanjeev Pasricha, Group CEO, CS Direkt Events & Exhibitions Pvt Ltd. The panel was moderated by Captain Rajesh Sharma, Vice President – Office Services, Resources. The seminar took note of disruptive trends in Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) and proceeded on a successful note, promising newer business avenues for delegates.

There were presentations on behalf of Principal Country Partner – Dubai, Platinum Partner – IRCTC, Gold Partners – Bodoland Tourism and J&K Tourism and Feature Partner State – Punjab Tourism. The event was supported by Incredible India, EEMA, IEIA, TAFI, ADTOI, IATO, TAAI and ETAA.

A significant highlight of the event included a Dubai Business Events Focus Session moderated by Carl Vaz, Director – India, Dubai Business Events. The panel included Rajan Verma, Deputy General Manager – Administration, JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd; Vibhu Narayan, Vice President, Reliance Jio; Amit Kaul, Head Corporate Real Estate & Administration, Canara HSBC OBC LIC Ltd and Captain Rajesh Sharma, Vice President – Office Services, Resources.

The Mart also witnessed an ETAA (North India Chapter) Members Meet that was well attended by top ETAA members.

The event saw a rewarding and an unprecedented rush of corporates. Some of the top companies who attended



MTM+LLTM were Ernst & Young, Thomson Reuters, Ericsson, VE Commercial Vehicles, Kajaria, JK Cement, JK Lakshmi Cement, Bisleri International, JBM Group, Fullerton India, Canara HSBC OBC LIC Ltd, Reliance Jio, OSC Services, Max Healthcare Institute, Aircel, Dalmia Bharat Group, Lava International, EXL Services, Mercer Consulting, Magicbriks, Ecom Express, Sapient, Nucleus Software Technologies, Newgen Software Technologies, Birla Sun Life, Birlasoft, Orient Electric, Air Liquide India, Bhushan Steel Ltd, among several others.

The event concluded with a wine soirée in the evening, thereby providing an informal networking opportunity for exhibitors and buyer delegates.



### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ASHWINI KAKKAR**



### An excerpt from Ashwini Kakkar, Executive Vice Chariman, Mercury Travels and Chairman, via.com, on "Dynamic Changes in the Travel Industry"

ost of us, at some point in time or other, have a brush with the travel and tourism industry, and most of the times we come out with happy experiences, but there are times when we are not too happy with the entire industry. The world has taken many centuries to achieve traveller numbers of one billion per annum, and in the next 10 decades that number is going to double from one billion per annum to two billion per annum. This is a voluminous growth. And this pertains to only international tourist arrivals. For instance, going by country to country, take the example of China or India - India, today, has a record 1.2 billion domestic trips year and is moving every

in the direction

of 2.3 billion

domestic

trips a

year. So,

what does

mean

it

on

average for all of us? It means that in the next 7 to 10 years, we will have 1.5 to 1.6 billion domestic trips happening every single year.

Let us focus on the two big trends in the airline and hotel sectors, especially as they relate to our country, and what opportunities they present. Regarding the airline sector, in the last decade, domestic airlines have grown as much as 3.3 times. This is not a small 5%, 7%, 6%, 8% growth, it is a 3.3-time growth in 10 years – the numbers have upped from 51 million to 169 million passengers a year, and continue to grow. Similarly, if you look at the international numbers, they have grown 2.4 times, from 21 million to 55 million, over the same period.

Note that the Indian GDP is growing only at 7% per annum, but the airlines sector has been growing consistently at 20% plus per annum. In fact, in the last month, the growth was in excess of 23%. Therefore, this growth is driving the market size, and opening up endless possibilities for all of us. LCC's have grown dramatically, with Indigo probably leading the way with an average CAGR of 38% per annum, year after year. International growth has been predicated on Jet

Airways, which has grown in the international domain at 28% per annum CAGR.

All aircraft flying in Indian skies number 430 civil commercial aircraft. But, the orders which are expected to be delivered in the next four years would be 783 planes. Therefore we have 430 planes flying, 783 to be delivered, and another 300 which are in the pipeline, perhaps from Spice Jet, Air Asia and others. So, at the end of the next 4 to 5 year period, we are looking at growing from 430 aircrafts to almost 1600 aircrafts – another round of amazing growth. Regarding the hotel sector, in the last couple of decades, there were merely 18,000 star category rooms in all of India. Today, as many as 114,000 rooms are available, and in the next three years, 60,000 more rooms will be added in the pipeline – taking the total to about 180,000 rooms. So, there is greater potential for growth in all these areas.

There are many segments that play out in the airline and the hotel sector, but the corporate sector accounts for almost 30 billion dollars of sales in India alone. So, a lot of change is taking place in the way corporates are approaching this and one of the big changes is the use of corporate booking tools by most corporates.

One segment which has gained immense prominence in the last 2-3 years is the cruise segment, where most people are in the 40-50 age range. They spend about 7 days on a cruise ship and spend about \$1750 on an average, per trip. This is one segment that is likely to see a lot of movement in the coming few years.

In order to enhance these businesses, whether it be rail, bus, car, hotels or airlines, the single most important tool in the coming five years will be the smartphone. This tool is likely to throw up three diverse types of segments, namely the affluent – cash rich people, fluent people – the low budget at the other end of the spectrum, and somewhere in the middle, but with completely different needs, will be the millennials.

As we go forward, new challenges will emerge. The very short term immediate challenge would be that of demonetisation, which would temporarily result in low growth, but an estimated 10% GDP growth for India in the long run. In the meanwhile, we should brace ourselves for some drop in business; the GST being higher than expected could be another challenge, and obviously, the impending NDC is the third big challenge that we have to brace ourselves for. So, as the Boy Scout's motto says, "Hope for the best, but be prepared for the worst."

### **GLIMPSES OF THE MART**









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### **REVERSE MARKETPLACE**



An OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd initiative, the Reverse Marketplace session is an exclusive buyer-seller meet. It focusses on one-on-one meetings that give participants an incomparable access to any number of service providers. A truly enriching experience.



















### **BUYER FEEDBACK**

This is the only forum where we get to meet the actual service providers and also get to know about the latest trends in the industry. Since MICE is one of the difficult areas for all of us in the IT/ITES industry, this event was very helpful in enabling us to meet and interact with people who are experts in the industry.

- Capt. Rajesh Sharma

VP – Office Services (APAC), Resources

This is my third year at the MTM. The main objective of coming to the event is that it provides a common space under one roof and one does not have to go anywhere else. It's a one-place platform where you meet all your partners; you gain insight into different people and cultures. This is the best place where you can find everything at one show.

- Amit Kaul

Head-Corporate Real Estate Administration, Canara HSBC OBC LIC Ltd

MTM+LLTM provides a fantastic platform for good business. We find various tourism bodies, hotels and MICE activities under one roof. As a corporate, it helps us immensely by providing all solutions at one place. They are doing a good job and this kind of event should happen more frequently.

- Santosh Upadhyaya

National Head Commercial & Admin, Times of India, Magic Bricks Division

It was an opportunity to meet MICE vendors and it helped me in gaining more information. Overall, it was a great learning experience. It was good to learn about the Maharaja Express, too. The event brought us in touch with Dubai tourism, and it will help us resolve queries while being a part of the administrative team when organising an event. Also, I found out more about getaway places with flexible, time saving and cost effective facilities.

- Rahul Lal

Corporate Administration Head, Dalmia Bharat Ltd

MTM has been really helpful for us, especially with our day-to-day work. It's a very good gesture in terms of corporates and they should carry forward with the same.

- Ritu Rawat

Deputy Manager, Travel EXL Services

Oh, I think it was a great platform, because for the first time, I could actually see lot of different minds and the big barons of the industry getting together, at a common platform. I think this is the quickest way to connect and sort of get your cookies for your events back.

- Meghna Garg

Associate Director- Facilities & Administration, Thomson Reuters

This kind of forum gives us an input on what's available in the market, where we can take our people for tourism as well as training purposes. It gives us clear visibility on what strength and weaknesses we have within our country, where we can reap the benefits of contributing as a company to our employees and also bring a value-added asset by doing a team building exercise in various locations. These kind of forums are inspiring for corporates like us.

- Sameer Bombwal

Travel Leader, Ernst & Young India

### LUCKY DIP WINNERS













### **ETAA SEMINAR**











### MTM CORPORATE STAR AWARDS

The MTM Corporate Star Awards has over the years recognised corporate excellence in MICE activities. The recipients are recognised for their brilliant commitment in the field of incentive and training programmes for their distributors/dealers, and their employees/associates that motivates the next generation of talent. The awardees benchmark standards for corporate leadership and motivation.



Dalmia Bharat (Most Well-Planned Business Travel)



J K Lakshmi Cement (Best Incentive Programme for Distributers/Dealers)



Bisleri International (Best Meeting/Exhibition Programme)



Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Company (Most Well-Planned Business Travel)



Ernst & Young (Most Well-Planned Business Travel)



Kajaria Ceramics (Best Incentive Programme for Distributers/Dealers)



Lava Mobile (Best Incentive Programme for Distributers/Dealers)



Square Yards (Most Well-Planned Business Travel)



**VE Commercial Vehicles (Most Well-Planned Business Travel)** 



J K Cement (Best Incentive Programme for Distributers/Dealers)



EXL Service.com (Most Well-Planned Business Travel)



Cars 24 (Best Incentive Programme for Distributers/Dealers)



Clifford Chance LLP (Most Well-Planned Business Travel)





Max Healthcare (Best Meeting/Exhibition Programme)

Aircel (Best Incentive Programme for Employees/Associates)

### **SELLER FEEDBACK**

I think this is one of the best organised conferences on travel and leisure. It is a very professional B2B event, where people can talk to each other, plan for group tours, and plan big tours in a comfortable manner. And, it's not one of those run-of-the-mill type of events where retailers come and talk one to one; it's a mega conference, I wish them all the success, and I am sure they will do bigger and better events in the future. The way they have showed their enthusiasm, creativity and innovation, this event had to be a mega event. I think MTM does not need any good wishes; they are already on the top. I hope they reach the pinnacle of success.

- Dr Arun Kumar Manocha Chairman & Managing Director, IRCTC Ltd

I have been associated with MTM+LLTM from its inception, and I have delivered keynote addresses at every single one of these conventions, whether they were held in Mumbai or Delhi. Well, it's an organisation that has withstood the tests of time, and has grown from strength to strength over the many years that I have known it. The good wishes of the entire industry are with MTM+LLTM.

### - Ashwini Kakkar

Executive Vice Chairman, Mercury Travels; & Chairman, Via.com

I feel if MTM+LLTM continues the way it is going, it will benefit our industry, our corporates and our travel trade people to expand in the right manner. This is my first experience and I was very happy with the contents of the panel discussion, what Ashwini Kakkar said, and so on. I have come across several MICE agents, wedding planners, among others, so I think overall, it's a good platform.

### - Parmod Sahni

Consultant (India Business), Turkish India Tourism Council

The MTM+LLTM event was a good experience. I was able to interact with different people, including tour operators. The panel discussion was very informative. There was exchange of new trends. Overall, it was a very satisfactory experience.

### - Roshni Puri

Manager, Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board

This is our third time at MTM, and I think it's a very good platform, since it brings in corporates as well as the travel fraternity together on a single platform.

### - Pankaj Nagpal

Managing Director, Travstarz Gloabl Group

Overall, the MTM+LLTM experience was satisfactory.

### - Rohit Talwar

Associate Director of Sales, Radisson Udaipur

### **NETWORKING WINE EVENING**







## HOURS

Walk the Berlin Wall in Germany, take a vintage selfie with the Photoautoma, explore enormous historical treasures on Museum Island and much more all in 24 hours



### TT BUREAU

### **WALK THE BERLIN WALL**

The Berlin Wall is one of the most potent symbols of the Cold War, and is one of Berlin's most famous attractions. Follow the Berlin Wall trail, which runs on border patrol paths in the West (Zollwege) and their equivalent in the East (Kolonnenwege). Cycle through the city centre, past the museums, memorial sites and the last remaining watchtowers, offering you a mix of nature and dramatic history.



### TAKE A PHOTOAUTOMATEN SELFIE

Now, this is something that will preserve your memories long after you've visited Berlin. Photoautomat evolved from an idea of restoring the original black and white photo booths, thus evoking the nostalgia associated with them. The booths are open all through the day, so hop in, draw back the curtain and give your best pose for that lovely photo that pops right out.



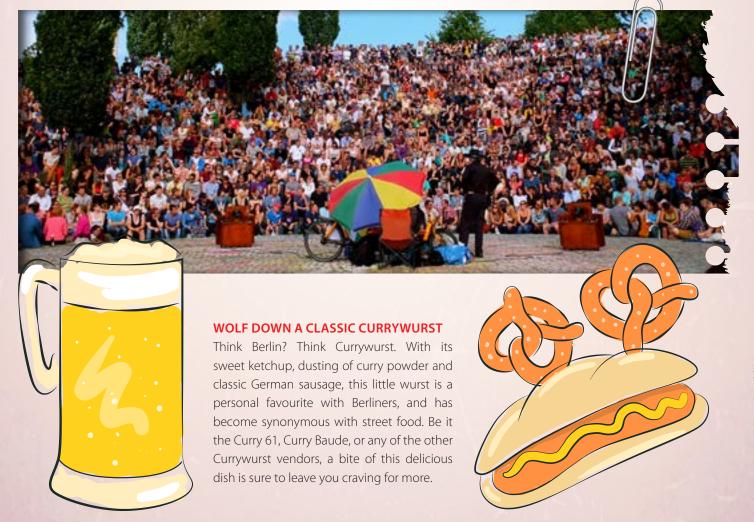
### **SPEND A DAY ON MUSEUM ISLAND**

Revisit history with a trip to Museum Island, a unique ensemble of five museums on Spree Island in the district of Mitte, in Berlin, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The buildings in Berlin Museum Island house mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century art and archaeological collections, containing treasures like the Ishtar Gate, the Pergamon Altar, the Market Gate of Miletus, the bust of Nefertiti and the Berlin Gold Hat from the Bronze Age.



### **HUNT DOWN BARGAINS IN MAUERPARK**

Nothing gets the Berliners going on a Sunday afternoon more than the flea market at Mauerpark. The flea market consists of mainly private salespersons who offer various items. Ranging from bicycles, clothes, shoes, old vinyl records, there are curious items that cater to all tastes. While there, be sure to attend one of the Karaoke sessions that take place at the amphitheatre every Sunday afternoon.



### **What: Makar Sankranti** When: January 14 Where: Most parts of India

Makar Sankranti commemorates the journey of the sun to the Northern Hemisphere. This festival is celebrated as a Thanksgiving to Mother Nature for abundance of crops, well being and prosperity. The festivities include sweets made of rice, jaggery, green gram and sesame. Though each state applies its own local flavour, kite flying is a universal event on Makar Sankranti and several contests are held. In Punjab, the eve before Makar Sankranti is celebrated as 'Lohri'. In West Bengal, Pous Sankranti is a three-day affair that begins before Sankranti and the famous 'Khejurer Gur' and 'Patali Gur' is used with milk and rice to make 'Pithey'.



### **What: Hampi Festival** When: January 9-11 Where: Hampi, Karnataka

Dance, drama, music, puppet shows, fireworks and spectacular processions, all take place against the ruins of Hampi at this lively festival. The idea behind the festival is to recreate the grandeur of the time when Hampi was the capital of Vijayanagar, one of the greatest Hindu kingdoms in India's history.

### **What: Pongal** When: January 14 **Where: Tamil Nadu**

Pongal is a popular harvest festival of Tamil Nadu that marks the return of the sun to the Northern Hemisphere, and is celebrated with much enthusiasm. The festival is an important one, because much of the State relies on agriculture to generate an income. Pongal actually means "boiling over" or "spilling over" in Tamil, signifying abundance and prosperity. The celebration of Pongal lasts four days – it is the second and the main day of the festival that is celebrated as Pongal every year.

### What: La Tamborrada When: January 19-20 Where: San Sebastian, Spain

For almost 300 years, San Sebastián has been celebrating the feast day of its namesake saint, Saint Sebastian, with a strange, exciting and cacophonous parade of drumming that lasts an epic 24 hours – from midnight to midnight. This is San Sebastián's most popular and loudest festival, and is attended by most of its 200,000 citizens.

### **What: Chinese New Year** When: January 28 Where: Hong Kong, China

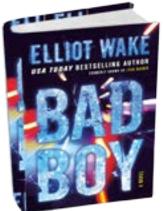
The historical significance of the Chinese New Year is rooted in vibrant lore. For thousands of years, the Chinese have hung crimson-coloured lanterns, giving the occasion its iconic colour. Especially on the first day of the New Year, loud firecrackers, drums, and cymbals echo through the city, while fireworks and burning bamboo sticks keep the sky ablaze.



### **What: Rainbow Serpent Festival** When: January 27-30 Where: Lexton, Victoria, Australia

With well over 100 producers, bands and DJs across a number of separate stages, Rainbow showcases an eclectic mix of grooves, atmospheres and rhythms. Each year, the festival's music programme grows with a massive range of talented artists covering a multitude of genres. From techy grooves, deep progressive styling, to the phat wobble bass of glitchhop and unique hybrid electronic manipulations, Rainbow spares no effort to bring you the very best of international and Australian talent.





### **BOOK: BAD BOY**

With incredibly handsome features and two million adoring video subscribers, Vlog star Renard Grant is the talk of the town. However, Ren is transgender, born a female at birth, and now lives as a male. He films his transition and shares it bravely with the world; his fans love his honesty and positivity. Offcamera, he's Cane, the muscle-bound enforcer for social justice vigilante group Black Iris. As Cane, he lets his dark side loose, hurting those who prey

on the disempowered, thus indulging in the ugly side of masculinity. And his new partner, Tamsin Baylor, is a girl as rough and relentless as him. Together, they terrorise the trolls into silence. Now, Ren's got everything to prove. He has to clear his name, and show the world he's a good man.

Genre(s): Crime, Thriller

### THE HOLLARS left in the all of the finds him

### **DVD: THE HOLLARS**

John Hollar was a struggling novelist. However, he never intended to leave the big city life in New York to return to the small town where he grew up. In due course, his mother is diagnosed with brain tumour. Once John returns to his childhood home leaving behind his life, girlfriend and everything else, Rebecca, his dysfunctional family, exgirlfriend and old high school rival help him quickly remember exactly why he

left in the first place. As John struggles to deal with all of these things and his mother's mortality, he finds himself confronted with a whole lot of new surprises, including the prospect of having a child with his girlfriend.

Genre(s): Comedy, Romance

### MUSIC: DARKNESS AND LIGHT

Darkness And Light is John Legend's fifth solo effort, and sixth when including a collaborative album he released with The Roots. This upcoming title follows

in the massive footsteps of 2013's Love In The Future, which stopped at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 (something that has now happened to Legend on three separate occasions), but it produced what has become far and away the biggest hit of his career. Darkness And Light was produced by Blake Mills, who is perhaps best known for producing the Alabama Shakes album, Sound & Color, which earned both him and the band

earned both him and the band several Grammy nominations. In the past, Mills has also worked with artists like Conor Oberst, Fiona Apple, and Sky Ferreira.

Genre(s): Neo soul, Soul music





### **GAME: MAFIA 3**

Mafia 3 sets out to do something noble: It tries to eschew the parody and juvenile satire driving most open-world crime games in favor of a plot with deeper characters and more serious themes. While those themes – especially racism – are new to the series, much of Mafia 3 feels shrouded in the legacy

of 2010's Mafia 2, which received decent reviews but drew criticism for its empty open world. Mafia 3's open world is not empty; it flings to the opposite extreme, with a seemingly endless supply of side missions and collectibles. Mafia



3, developer, Hangar 13, has embedded that open-world fluff into every corner of the new game, and indeed into its very structure. What this leaves is a game that wants to forge a deeper, more serious narrative, but gameplay that depends on constant repetition of less meaningful tasks.

Genre (s): Action-adventure, Single-player





The greatest luxury is time

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