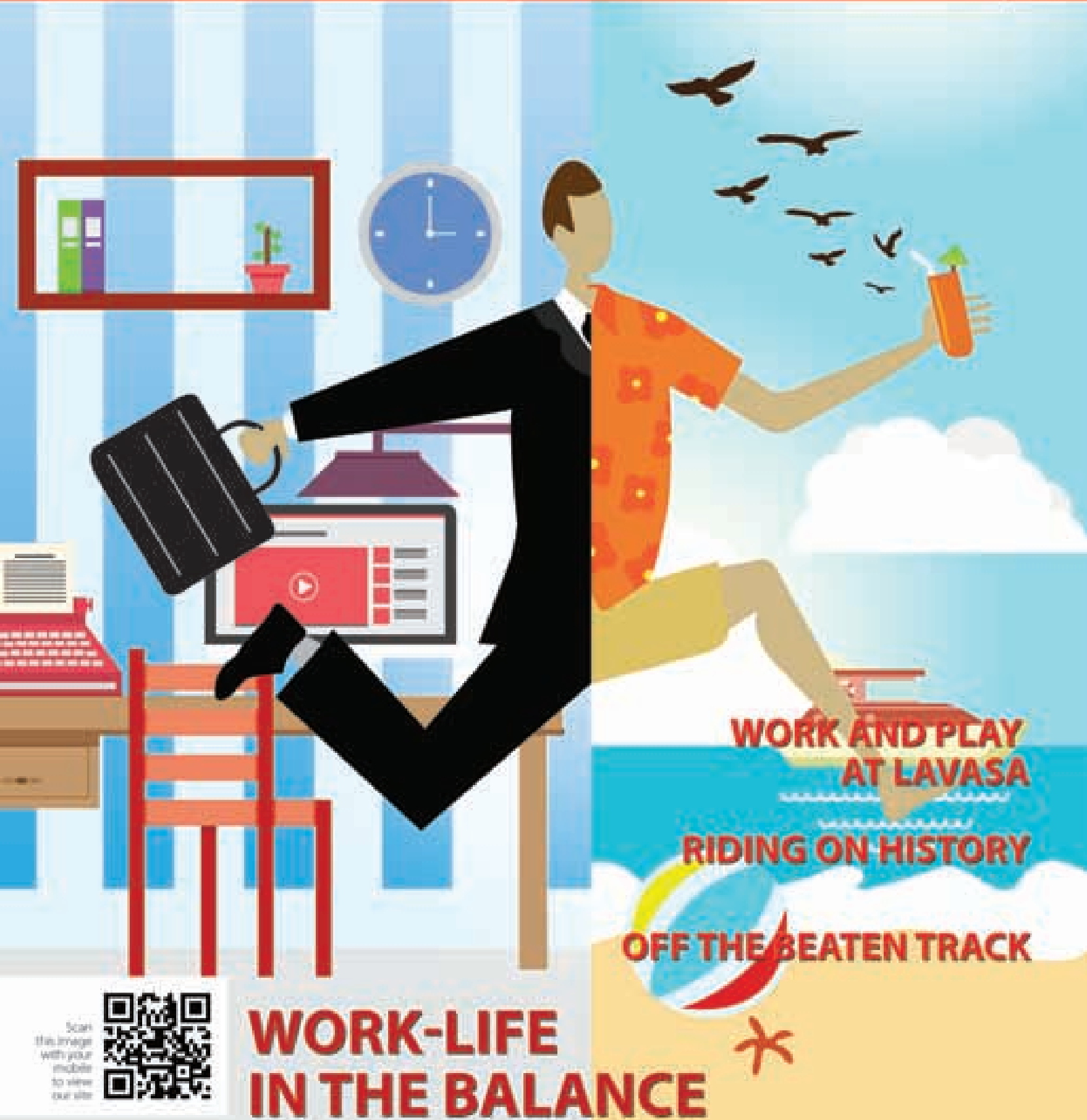


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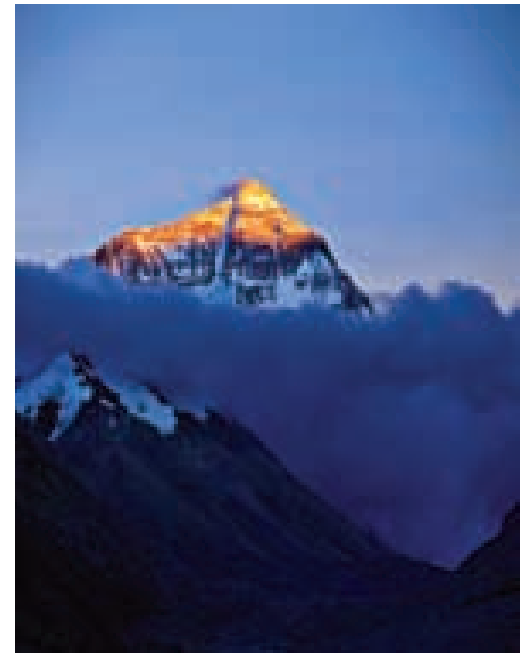
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2016

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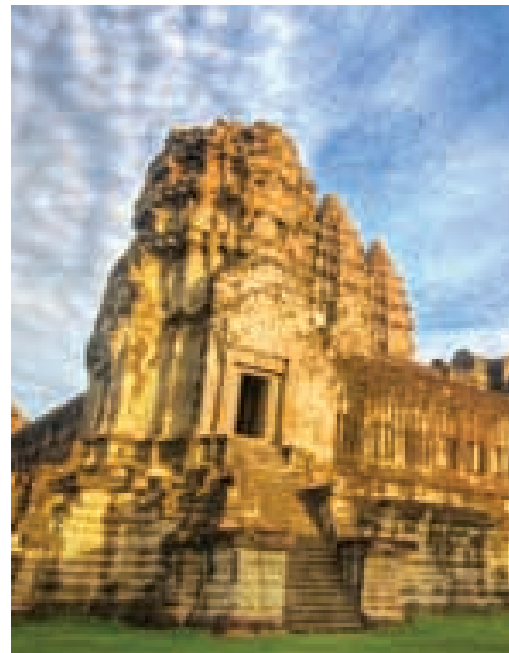
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## GOÛT DE FRANCE SEASON 2

Atout France is very pleased to announce the second edition of the culinary extravaganza Gout de/Good France that will take place this year on 21st March in 150 countries around the world. An initiative spearheaded by the French Ministry of Internal Affairs in collaboration with renowned chef Alain Ducasse. The pilot edition of this project last year met with unprecedented success all over the world.

The objective behind this initiative is to showcase and celebrate the values of French cuisine over a dinner served at participating restaurants all over the world. India has once again responded enthusiastically to this global showcase with a participation of over 50 restaurants.

The Embassy of France, the network of consular services in India and Atout France – France Tourism Development Agency will be making concentrated efforts to ensure the success of this event and motivate patrons to dine at any of the restaurants serving a Gout de/Good France menu.

## INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS GROUP CELEBRATES OPENING OF ITS 5,000<sup>th</sup> HOTEL

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), one of the world's leading hotel companies, has recently unveiled the Hotel Indigo Lower East Side New York as its 5,000th hotel globally. The opening of this landmark New York property takes IHG's global system size to 5,000 hotels, in nearly 100 countries.

Richard Solomons, Chief Executive Officer, IHG, commented: "Reaching 5,000 open hotels with the addition of the Hotel Indigo Lower East Side New York is an incredible milestone for IHG. It is testament to our well-established, long-term strategy for high-quality growth, and the strength of our brands, which focus on distinct segments to cater to a broad range of guest needs and occasions."

Commenting on the occasion, Shantha De Silva, Head of South West Asia, IHG, said: "At IHG, it is indeed a proud moment to be celebrating this milestone achievement. Our growth in recent years has been remarkable and it is attributed to our focus on strengthening our portfolio across key markets."

2015 has been a noteworthy year for IHG in India and has marked 50 years of company's journey in the country



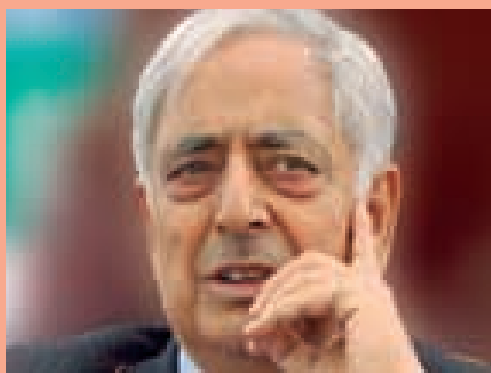
## CROWN-IT PARTNERS EXCLUSIVELY WITH OYO ROOMS

Merchant discovery and privileges platform Crown-it recently announced its partnership with OYO Rooms. The strategic alliance between Crown-it and OYO Rooms is aimed at providing the finest budget stays and cash backs to Crown-it users by adding OYO Rooms' selection to its 'Hotel' category.

Speaking on the partnership, Sameer Grover, Founder, Crown-it, added, "Value addition and consumer convenience were a few reasons for which Crown-it was established. This partnership with OYO Rooms gives us a chance to add to our range of options in our Hotel category, and allows us to assist our users in their search for affordable, value-for-money hotel reservations. Given the popularity of OYO rooms, we are confident that our users will benefit from this association."

Abhineet Sawa, VP – Marketing, OYO Rooms said, "We are thrilled to bring OYO Rooms' exciting value-proposition to Crown-it's young and engaged user-base. Our standardised offerings priced affordably will enable Crown-it users to plan more journeys, get rewarded and discover the joy of travel with OYO Rooms."

## CONDOLENCE



*"I will fulfill my dream to make Jammu and Kashmir one of the best tourist destination in the world."*

Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed passed away on January 7, 2016. Born on January 12, 1936 in Bijbehara in Anantnag district of the State, Sayeed was an alumnus of SP College in Srinagar and Aligarh Muslim University from where he obtained a degree in Law and Arab History respectively. He has served twice as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, from November 2002 to November 2005 and again from March 2015 to January 2016. He was also the Minister for Tourism in the year 1986.

## TAT APPOINTS INDIAN FEMALE GOLFER AS THAILAND GOLF AMBASSADOR IN INDIA

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has appointed Vani Kapoor as Thailand golf ambassador in India, as part of the ongoing 'golf celebrity marketing' efforts to promote Thailand as the paradise for golfers from around the world.

Dr Yuthasak Supasorn, Governor of TAT said, "Vani Kapoor is currently India's number 1 lady golfer, making her the perfect golf ambassador in India for Thailand, which is increasingly recognised as a golfing paradise and a favourite destination for women travellers. Vani will be iconic for both male and female golfers in India to Thailand."



30<sup>th</sup> Surajkund  
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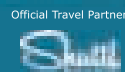
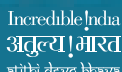


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## VIVANTA BY TAJ-GUWAHATI DEBUTS IN THE NORTH EAST

Taj Hotels Resorts & Palaces recently announced its latest addition with the opening of the highly anticipated Vivanta by Taj - Guwahati, Assam. This hotel will be a doorway to the unexplored and magical North East India.

Rakesh Sarna, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces said "The Taj has a proud history of putting undiscovered destinations on the global map. We are delighted to enhance our presence in the North East with the new addition – Vivanta by Taj - Guwahati, Assam. We are grateful to the Government of Assam for all their support in this significant hotel development and we are committed to contributing towards Assam's thriving industry and its rich culture."

Speaking on the launch of the hotel, Krishan Aggarwal, General Manager, Vivanta by Taj-Guwahati, Assam said, "We eagerly look forward to welcoming guests to Vivanta by Taj - Guwahati, Assam. The hotel is an ideal option for both business and leisure travellers as Guwahati is the gateway to both Shillong and the famous Kaziranga Sanctuary. It also offers guests a choice for successful conferences and memorable weddings."



## RAMADA CARAVELA BEACH RESORT, GOA CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Ramada Caravela Beach Resort recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by way of special celebrations at the poolside gardens. Sunder Advani, Chairman and Managing Director cut the special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake along with family members and close friends. This special occasion was attended by stalwarts of Goa's corporate, travel, tourism and hospitality industry as well as political personalities. Advani, thanked all the stakeholders and guests who have been associated with and supported this exclusive property for the last 25 years. Former Chief Ministers of Goa, Digambar Kamat and Francisco Sardinha congratulated and spoke highly of the contribution of Sundar Advani towards promoting five-star tourism in South Goa.



## THE RITZ-CARLTON ANNOUNCES PARADISE VALLEY HOTEL

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, LLC and Five Star Development Resort Communities, have signed an agreement for the development of a new resort and residences in Paradise Valley near Scottsdale, Arizona. "Paradise Valley in Arizona will be a great new destination for our brand in the Americas," said Herve Humler, President and Chief Operating Officer for The Ritz-Carlton. "We are pleased to be working with Five Star Development to create this unique desert resort for sophisticated travellers from around the world," he continued. The Ritz-Carlton, Paradise Valley will be the centrepiece of one of the largest new master-planned communities featuring both a resort hotel and residences in close to a decade.

Construction is expected to begin in July 2016 with the resort opening in late-2018.



## FIRST RADISSON HOTEL OPENS IN UDAIPUR CITY

Radisson Udaipur has opened its doors to welcome guests visiting Udaipur, a city famous for its historical palaces, rich culture and scenic locations. The hotel is located in the heart of Udaipur, situated along the city centre at the Lake City Mall of Riddhi Siddhi Group.

Raj Rana, chief executive officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group said, "Radisson Udaipur is our second hotel in the city of Udaipur and we are honored to be partnering with Riddhi Siddhi Group for this beautiful addition to our portfolio of 75 operational hotels and 45 under various stages of development."

Shyam B Gupta, Managing Director, Riddhi Siddhi Group said, "This is our first hospitality venture in India and we are happy to have tied up with Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. We are confident, their management and marketing expertise will benefit the hotel.

Mahesh Kumar Tak, Managing Director, Riddhi Siddhi Group said, "The hotel enjoys a superb city centre location, ideal for business and leisure travellers. I look forward to a mutually rewarding long-term association with Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group."







# Visit China Year in India 2016 Celebrating

Three Gorges, Yangtze River



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China National Tourist Office, New Delhi  
[www.travelchina.gov.cn](http://www.travelchina.gov.cn)



## JORDAN TOURISM BOARD KICKS OFF 2016 WITH THE ETAA MEGA MEET AND SATTE

2016 began on a high note for the Jordan Tourism Board as it partnered with the Enterprising Travel Agent's Association, (ETAA – a professional association representing the retail tour operator / travel industry in India) for its Mega event in New Delhi. The evening saw the presence of retail travel agents from all across India. The special guest at the event was the Ambassador of Jordan to India HE Hassan Mohammad Al Jawarneh, who attended the evening with his wife and added gravitas to the evening. His Excellency spoke about the warm and cordial relationship between India and Jordan and the many facets of the long-lasting bond between the two countries.

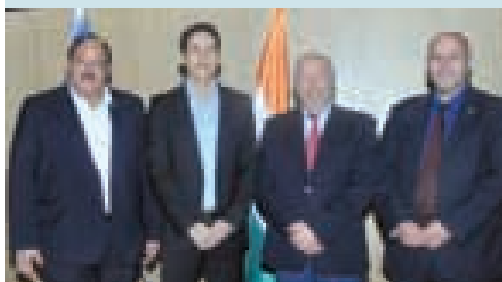
Tourism between India and Jordan is flourishing and the intrepid Indian traveller is visiting Jordan in increasing numbers. While Jordan is known for the Rose Red ancient rock city of Petra, it offers much more to the modern Indian traveller, from the Jordan Valley, fertile and ever changing; to stunning desert canyons of Wadi Rum, to the gorgeous blue waters of the Red Sea in Aqaba to the Biblical sites and the natural wonders and therapeutic powers of the Dead Sea.

Ashit Taneja, Country Manager India with Jordan Tourism Board, conducted a detailed presentation to the agents and educated them on the offerings of Jordan. The evening assisted Jordan Tourism Board to connect with over 125 ETAA members who traveled from many cities.



## ISRAEL ATTRACTS OUTBOUND TOURISM FROM BENGALURU

Israel continues to gain popularity in India as an emerging outbound destination among the aspirational Indian travellers looking for new places to visit and new experiences to engage. Israel Ministry of Tourism (IMOT) recently organised a travel trade interaction



in Bengaluru as the city has been identified as a key market for leisure and MICE for Israel. The event was graced by

the presence of Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg, Acting Consul General, Consulate General of Israel, Bengaluru.

Hassan Madah, Director, IMOT, highlighted, "Israel has significant growth from the Indian market. Bengaluru being one of the mature markets in South India, we endeavour to consolidate Israel's growing popularity in the city. The destination offers tourism aspects to suit the needs of all kind of groups and appeals to the experiential Indian traveller."

The country has witnessed a notable 12 per cent increase in tourist arrivals from India in January to November 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014.

## MP TO CELEBRATE INDIA'S FIRST JAL MAHOTSAV

Madhya Pradesh is all set to become India's first state to organise 'Jal Mahotsav' or 'Water Tourism' with a view to attracting more tourists to the state. The ten-day 'Jal Mahotsav' extravaganza will be inaugurated on February 12 in Hanuwantiya at Indra Sagar Dam, one of Asia's largest man-made water reservoir. It will bring forth an opportunity to experience the colourful customs and rich traditions of Madhya Pradesh through art, craft, folk music, dance and cuisines.

"It is a first-of-its-kind event going to be organised in Madhya Pradesh. The aim is to encourage more tourists to this destination. The mega event will be inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan," said Tanvi Sundriyal, IAS-Additional Managing Director of Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation.

"MP tourism has taken this initiative to raise awareness about the importance of water through Jal Mahotsav, which is an enthralling mix of cultural performances and adventure activities taking place against the beautiful background of the



Indira Sagar Dam", said Om Vijay Choudhary, Executive Director, Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (MPSTDC).

The Jal Mahotsav will end February 21, 2016.

## SINGAPORE WELCOMES 1 MILLION TOURISM ARRIVALS FROM INDIA

More than one million Indian travellers visited Singapore last year to celebrate Golden Jubilee, making it one of the most preferred destinations to vacation. Singapore Tourism Board announced that the nation recorded over 1 million visitor arrivals from India in 2015, marking a year-on-year growth of 7.4 per cent in visitor arrivals.

To celebrate this landmark achievement, Singapore Tourism Board surprised all passengers flying to the country on December 31, 2015 with special in-flight celebratory experiences in partnership with three airlines, namely Air India, Jet Airways and Singapore Airlines.

Chee Pey Chang, Executive Director, South Asia, Middle East & Africa - Singapore Tourism Board said, "2015 was a landmark year for us as Singapore celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Last year, the Singapore Botanic Gardens was accredited as a UNESCO World Heritage site and the opening of the National Gallery Singapore and Indian Heritage Centre generated great interest among Indian travellers. We wanted to thank our friends from India for their encouraging support and we continue to welcome them to experience Singapore's cultural and heritage gems, diverse food experiences and vibrant nightlife interspersed amidst Singapore's eclectic lifestyle offerings."

In conjunction with the One Million celebrations STB conducted contest to thank travellers flying on board these flights. The winner of 'Singapore's One Million Moment' contest, Mr. Sahil Shroff, who was travelling to Singapore with his family on board an Air India flight, was all smiles as he received his award. He is all set to experience a never-seen-before side of Singapore as he will be flying Business Class, staying in a luxurious villa in Sentosa and drive around Singapore's F1 circuit in a Lamborghini amongst other luxurious experiences.



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DISCOVER A LAND UNTOUCHED

## SWACHCH BHARAT ABHIYAN AT COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT PUNE CHAKAN

On the 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan in support of the Swachch Bharat Abhiyaan, unveiled new sanitation facilities it sponsored at the Zilla Parishad school in Khalumbre. The inauguration ceremony by the General Manager Nasir Shaikh and the hotel team took place in the school premises in front of the teachers and chirpy students.

Speaking at the occasion, Nasir Shaikh said, "It is said that the youth is the future of the country and it is essential to provide them with basic sanitation and cleanliness. In one of the trips to this school, I found this absent. Taking a lead to Swachch Bharat Abhiyan, we decided that we will build toilets and also focus on upgrading existing facilities.."



## ITDC FELICITATES NATIONAL BRAVEHEARTS AT PURANA QUILA

Selected for the National Bravery Award 2015, the young girls and boys from different parts of the country were hosted to an exciting Sound and Light show run by India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) at The Purana Quila, New Delhi. The kids who received the National Bravery awards, for their outstanding acts of valour, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi were invited to showcase the incredible 1000 years journey of rise, fall and shaping of the capital city through a spectacular Sound & Light show 'Ishq-e-Dilli' operated by ITDC.

Piyush Tiwari, Director (Commercial & Marketing) ITDC and the host for the evening said, "It is overwhelming to see the courage and bravery these kids have portrayed, fighting their fears to protect other lives. It was a proud moment for ITDC, meeting and honouring such young celebrities and taking them through history of Delhi by way of our Sound and Light Show, he further added.

Anil Kumar Gupta, General Manager, Sound and Light Show, ITDC said, "The Sound and Light show at the Purana Quila is a major attraction for visitors to Delhi. As the winners come from different parts of the country, we thought it would be interesting for these kids and their escorts to experience the dramatic recreation of a vast period of time in Delhi's exciting history. With cutting edge projection and laser technology complemented by a powerful narration, it is India's first permanent projection art installation."



## SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM FLAGS OFF ITS ANNUAL ROADSHOW

South African Tourism kick-started the 2016 edition of their biggest travel trade engagement initiative - 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Roadshow. The roadshow was held in four cities, starting with Kolkata on 18 January, and thereafter moving to Delhi (19 January) and Hyderabad (21 January) before culminating in Mumbai on 22 January. This interactive program is planned to increase destination awareness among travel planners in India.

Commenting on the roadshow in India, Ms. Margie Whitehouse, Chief Marketing Officer, South African Tourism said, "We have always witnessed an overwhelming response from the Indian trade and are excited to see how this roadshow is going to contribute to the Tourism of South Africa. We aim to work in unison to mutually benefit each other with increased promotions and offer multiple trade options in the country. India is such an incredible country and we look forward to their continued support to present tourism with a larger platform in both countries."

Monika Iuel - General Manager, International Marketing, South African Tourism said, "Our synergy or partnership with the Indian trade has reached new heights both in terms of execution and depth of engagement. Our partners have always been an integral part of our marketing efforts in the country and that has been the contributor to the effectiveness and success of our campaigns."

Hanneli Slabber, Country Manager, South African Tourism, said, "We have seen huge developments in terms of product offering, as well as in the changes in the way we operate in the Indian market. We have seen a lot of refinement in the 'made for India in South Africa' campaign by South African products and service providers - in fact, they are so entrenched in the Indian market, that we are now getting 'made for Bangalore in South Africa' and 'made for Kolkata in South Africa' offerings from the various South African players in the market."



## EMPORIUM SUITES BY CHATRIUM WELCOMES MISS MYANMAR WORLD

Mario Beyer, General Manager of Emporium Suites by Chatrium presented bouquets of flowers to welcome Miss Khin Yadana Thein Myint, who was crowned as Miss Myanmar World 2015, and Miss Nang Sandar Hla Tun, second Runner up of Miss Myanmar World 2015, on their stay at the hotel during a trip to Thailand.



# CORPORATE CONNECT







# MUSIC MADNESS AND MORE

In conversation with **Vikas Sharma**,  
General Manager, Hard Rock Hotel Goa

**TT BUREAU**

**Q. What unique factor does Hard Rock Hotel Goa have to offer to its guests?**

**A.** Hard Rock Hotel Goa is the first of its kind music inspired hotel in India. Music being our key differentiator, we aim to create exclusive and unforgettable memories for our guests, giving them a luxurious hotel experience like never before. The hotel features the brand's signature offerings, such as, the innovative music-centric Rock Spa, the Sound of Your Stay music amenity programme, the Hard Rock Roxity Kids Club, an adult-free zone for kids with fun-filled activities and entertainment and Rock Shop that will display Hard Rock merchandise. While the Sound of Your Stay and Rock Shop are currently functional, the Rock Spa and Hard Rock Roxity Kids Club will open in early 2016.





**Q. What does the hotel offer in terms of meetings and events?**

**A.** Our stylish, modern spaces are the perfect place to host meetings and events as we offer an environment conducive to creativity and productivity. Hard Rock Hotel Goa, has versatile venues with audio-visual display capability and creative spaces for team building activities and customised catering menus.

**Q. What are the spa options?**

**A.** The Rock Spa which is scheduled to open early this year (2016) will have an array of enticing options, from traditional to music-infused treatments. Guests can indulge in our signature Dream Weaver massage, which incorporates aromatherapy with a blend of Swedish, Thai and acupressure techniques, or our one-of-a-kind Rhythm and Motion massage, which uses music beats and pulses that will leave one feeling energised. In

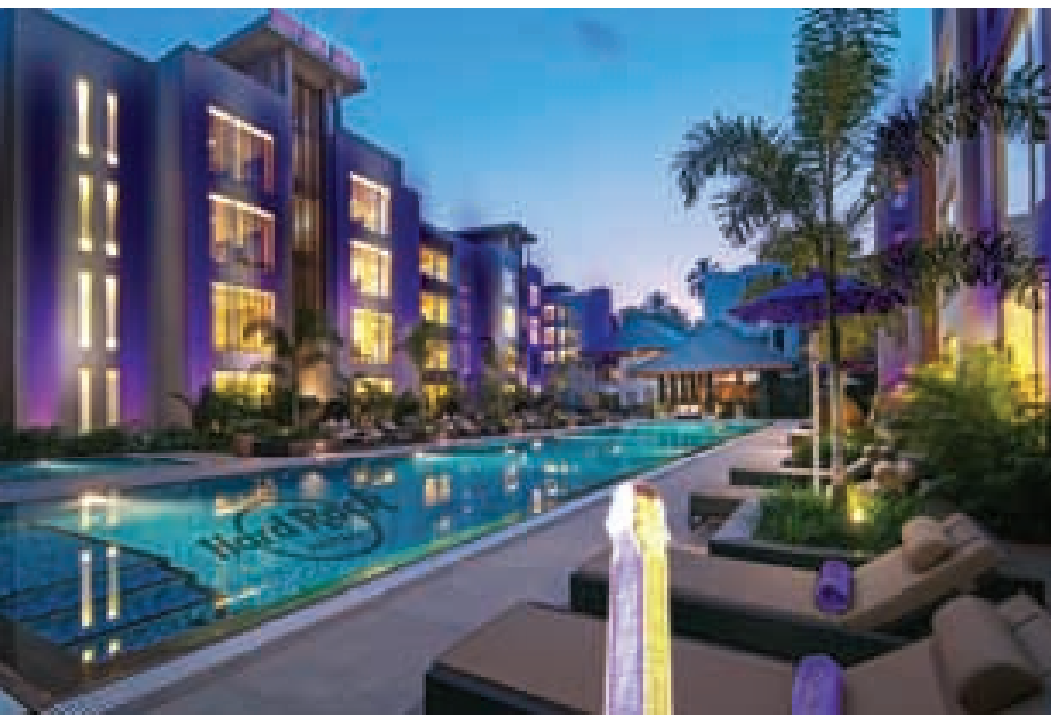
addition to this, the Rock Spa will also feature luxurious wraps, invigorating scrubs and facial treatments including oxygen therapy, glycolic peels and powerful antioxidants that draw out toxins, ease lines and soothe problem spots leaving you with glowing skin.



**Q. What can guests expect when dining at the Hard Rock Hotel Goa?**

**A.** At Hard Rock Hotel Goa, guests can sample international cuisine or a classic hamburger at Sessions, enjoy a fabulous cocktail at the Tonic, the poolside bar and grille or grab a cup of coffee at Constant Grind, our social hub.

Sessions is our go-to continental buffet restaurant featuring locally inspired creations for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Offering chef-driven selections both à la carte and on the buffet, Sessions is the place to go to satisfy your cravings morning, noon, and night. Constant Grind is a great place to start your day with a selection of coffee and tea infused drinks and freshly-baked items inspired by local flavours. Specialty cocktails are also available to start your day with a kick or end your night with a relaxing nightcap. The poolside bar is the place to be and cannot be missed for daytime fun or even an exciting night with handcrafted classic cocktails and refreshing fruit-infused spirits made in-house. Fresh grilled, inspired Indian fare is also available making the Poolside Bar & Grille the heart of Hard Rock Hotel Goa.



# EXPANDING FOOTPRINT

As Carlson Rezidor's presence grows in the world, Today's Traveller looks at the group's latest additions in India

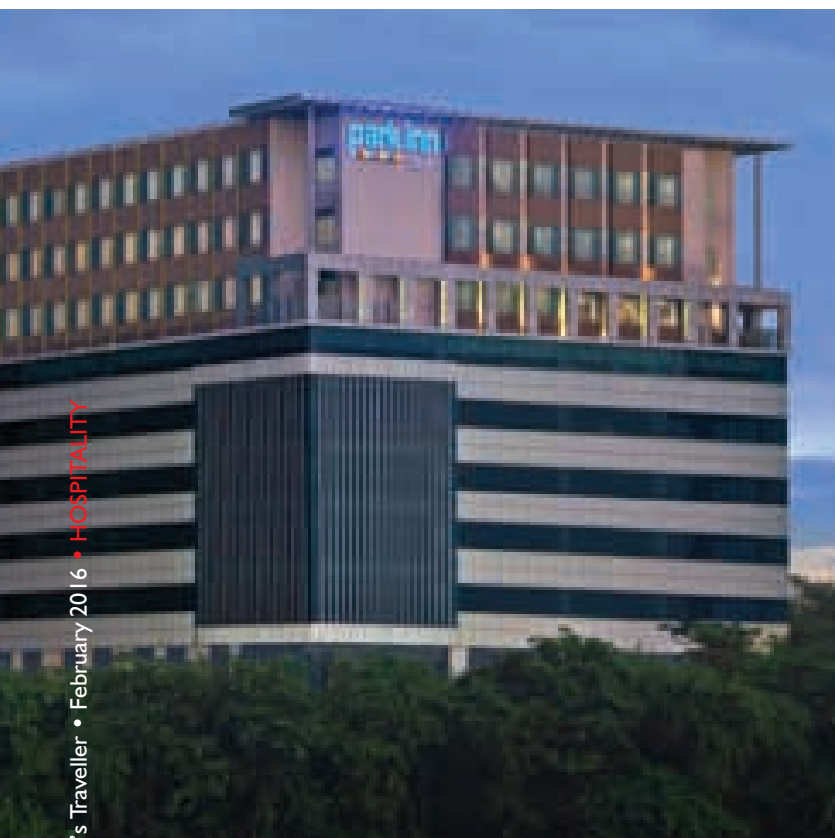
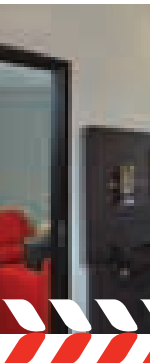
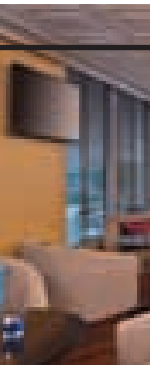
## TT BUREAU

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is one of the world's largest and most dynamic hotel groups and includes more than 1,370 hotels in operation and under development with 220,000 rooms and a footprint spanning 110 countries and territories. The Carlson Rezidor portfolio includes a powerful set of global brands: Quorvus Collection, Radisson Blu®, Radisson®, Radisson RED, Park Plaza®, Park Inn® by Radisson and Country Inns & Suites By CarlsonSM. In most hotels, guests can benefit from Club CarlsonSM, one of the 2015 – 2016 "Top Three Hotel Rewards Programs" as recently ranked by U.S. News and World Report. Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group and its brands employ 85,000 people worldwide and is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., and Brussels, Belgium.



### PARK INN BY RADISSON AMRITSAR AIRPORT

A newly built hotel in Amritsar, located next to the airport, it is the only local hotel offering complimentary shuttle transfers to the city centre, railway station, airport and Golden Temple. Extended-stay travellers appreciate the spacious Deluxe Rooms that include a modern kitchenette, while families love the Premier Suite, which has two private bedrooms. The hotel has 89 elegantly designed rooms, including 71 superior, 5 premiums, 5 deluxe and 8 suites. All rooms feature a tea/coffee maker and an electronic safe with free wireless high-speed internet and satellite television. The hotel's restaurant RBG, offers a range of salads, burgers and regional favourites, while offering cocktail and wine. The hotel also has a swimming pool and fully equipped fitness centre. Park Inn by Radisson Amritsar Airport also has 53sq.m of meeting space that can easily accommodate 25 to 35 people and is ideal for hosting boardroom meetings or casual evening dinners.



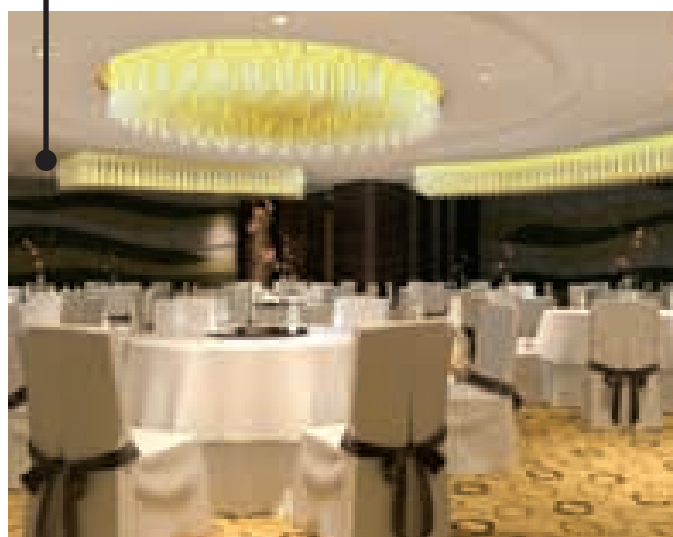
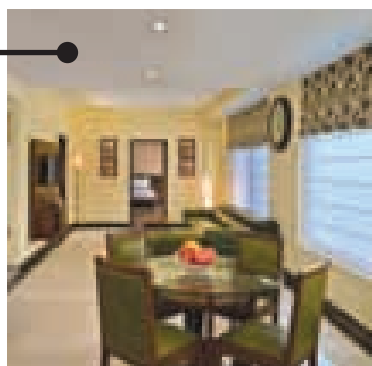
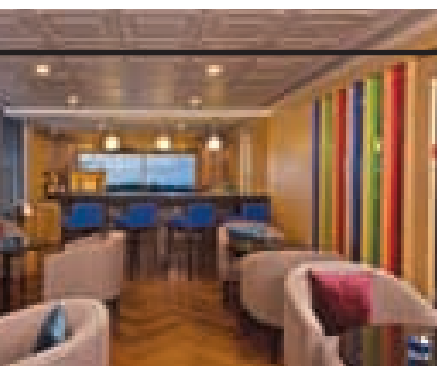
## RADISSON BLU KOCHI

The Radisson Blu Kochi, a sky scraper situated in the down town of Kochi is close to city's transportation hubs, leisure destinations and great shopping areas. The hotel with its chic interior, unique service culture and alluring ambience, promises to create a lasting impression. The hotel's 150-rooms and suites include soundproofing, ensuring a restful visit and amenities like an on-site spa, roof top pool, meeting spaces and business centre help you find the perfect balance of relaxation and productivity. Special amenities include, drink on arrival, concierge service, in-room coffee and tea maker, LED television and so on. Known for its culinary treat, the Radisson Blu Kochi offers a superlative dining experience – Keshia, the coffee shop is open round the clock for guests to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner; Mainland China, for the best of Chinese, located onsite at Radisson Blu; the High Bar, rooftop restaurant, serving Mediterranean dishes; Wellington, the hotel's lobby library lounge, offering Ernakulam business travelers a place to celebrate successful client visits; the Ava Lounge, which is a perfect place for a business meeting or a leisurely drink in a relaxing atmosphere. For business travelers there is a well-equipped business centre address all business needs efficiently. Services include, mail management, courier service, translation services and two state-of-the-art board rooms equipped with the latest in conferencing.



## RADISSON UDAIPUR

The all new Radisson Udaipur is set in the heart of the historic city of Udaipur. With 56 upscale rooms, the hotel is in close proximity to the city's star attractions, such as Sagar Lake, Lake Pichola and some ancient palaces and it also provides easy access to the city's business districts. Services include, LED satellite television, tea/coffee maker, electronic safe and ritual amenities. Also, all rooms have free Wi-Fi internet access for guests to keep connected, whether for work or play. In terms of dining, the hotel has an all-day-dining restaurant, Season's Café, which serves mouth-watering Indian and continental cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner, along with drinks. Events and weddings can also be hosted at the hotel's 8,100sq.ft of meeting space. Those guests who are mindful of their health and fitness can make use of the swimming pool or sweat it out at the hotel's gym.





# DOING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

Luxury has a new address in East Delhi with The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi

## TT BUREAU

Commanding a strategic location in East Delhi, along with smooth connectivity to the city centre and business districts of Ghaziabad and Noida, The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi, is one of the most sought after luxury properties in the capital.

As a prominent landmark in the region, the hotel caters to the eclectic needs of travelling gentry as well as presents them with a well laid array of warm hospitality, finest services, specialty cuisines, luxurious recreational facilities and fitness services.

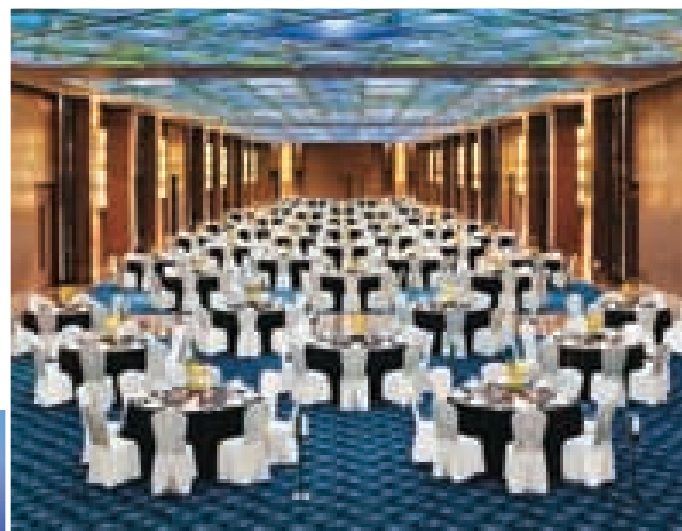
Exhibiting sheer grandeur within its two towers and encompassing 480 rooms and suites, two swimming pools, 25,000sq.ft of pillar-less ballroom, the hotel boasts of India's largest meeting space of 70,000sq.ft. The pillar-less ballroom can further be divided into five smaller ballrooms and the venue is ideal for large conferences and weddings. With an impressive colour changing light arrangements in the ceiling, it adds more charm to the nature of the occasion. The vibrant blue carpeting and onyx wall lamps give a spectacular look to the events. The ballroom, located on the ground floor, offers a dedicated entrance apart from two more entrances from either of the towers.

The expansive pre-function area gives the guests an opportunity to get the most lavish spread of food from a choice of customized menus. For conference and other related events, the hotel team prepares theme breaks too. For weddings, the chefs prepare Indian specialty cuisines on request for various communities respecting their religious sentiments. There are live counters and separate vegetarian cooking areas in the kitchen. The team of experienced chefs also prepares international cuisines like Japanese, Thai, Mexican and Mediterranean. A variety of wedding cakes also find the place of pride in the extensive menu for the guests. For pre-wedding occasions like Mehndi and Sangeet, customised cocktail snacks menu is also available.

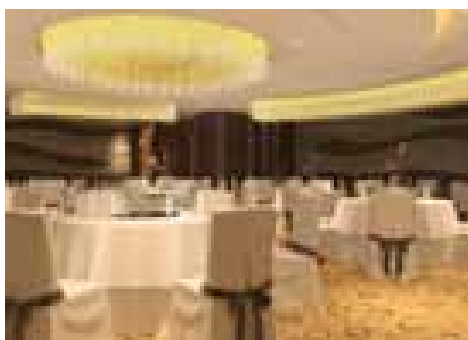
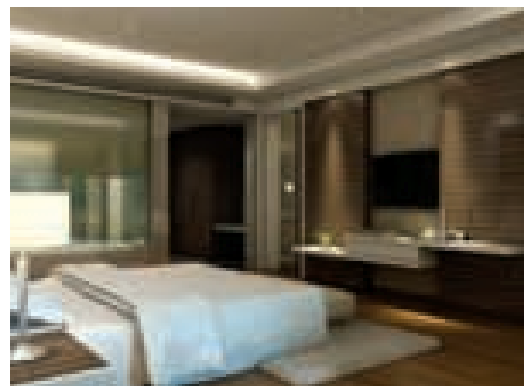
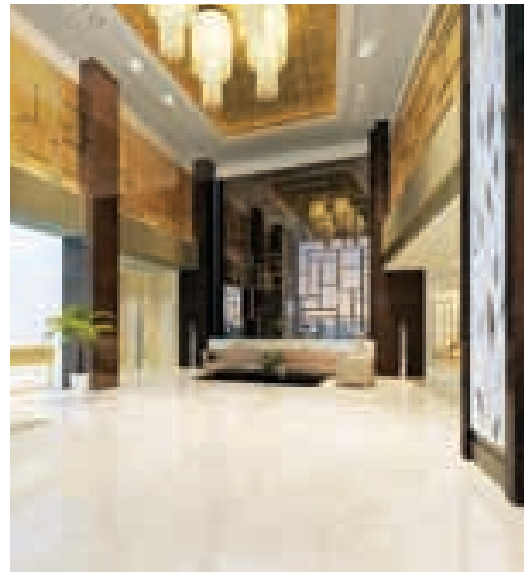
The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi, spoils its patrons with a choice for myriad cuisines through its specialty restaurants – the all-day dining restaurant, Café Knosh; Indian specialty restaurant Dilli 32; Asian dining Mei Kun and a cocktail bar, *Cherry Bar*. The hotel's Executive Chef and his team designs interesting menus that delight both the local and international palates with the best of local and seasonal produce.

The hotel boasts of a modern design where the facilities are moderately divided into two towers. To add to the comfort of the guests, it offers two swimming pools with temperature-control feature, two fitness centres, separate entrance to the towers, two Concierge and two lobbies as well.

The hotel also offers recreational facilities including a luxurious spa and a modern salon, Shanaya. The spa specialises in Asian and European therapies, and also offers Ayurvedic treatments. For the most stylish haircuts, advanced make-ups, modern hairstyles and other hair and body grooming facilities, the salon offers beauty and grooming packages for the would be groom and bride.



# EXPERIENCE STYLE & ELEGANCE IN UDAIPUR



## THE NEW RADISSON UDAIPUR IS TAILOR-MADE FOR BOTH BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVELLERS

Radisson Udaipur is set in the heart of the historic city of Udaipur, often referred to as the Venice of the East. The 56-room upscale hotel is within close proximity to the city's star attractions, such as Fateh Sagar Lake, Lake Pichola and some ancient palaces and it also provides easy access to the city's business districts. Moreover, the property is strategically located at a 30-minute drive from the airport, and a 10-minute drive from the railway station, making Radisson Udaipur the perfect choice for both business and leisure travellers.

Guests can expect luxury accommodation and facilities and superlative service. The rooms and suites are spacious and comfortable, with well-defined workstations. All rooms have amenities like LED satellite television, tea/coffee maker, electronic safe and ritual amenities. In addition, all rooms feature free Wi-Fi internet access for guests to keep connected, whether for work or play.

Radisson Udaipur has 8,100sq.ft of meeting space, which can accommodate an array of functions, an all-day-dining Season's Cafe, the F3 Bar, 24-hour in-room dining service and a Fitness Centre as well as recreational facilities with an outdoor pool. Season's Café at the hotel, serves mouth-watering Indian and continental cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner along with drinks to cap your day. To wrap up a day of meetings or sightseeing, guests can enjoy a relaxing dip in the swimming pool or sweat it out at the gym or relax and watch a movie at INOX theatre, situated next to the hotel.

**Radisson Udaipur**  
Lakecity Mall,  
Ashok Nagar Main Road,  
Udaipur 313001, Rajasthan, India  
1-800-333-333  
[www.radisson.com/udaipurin](http://www.radisson.com/udaipurin)

**Radisson®**  
UDAIPUR



## MOVEMENTS



**BHASKAR BHAT** has been appointed as the Chairman of TATA SIA Airlines Ltd. On assuming the role of the airlines' Chairman, Bhat said, "I am honoured and deeply appreciate how Vistara has established its firm presence in India. Vistara is founded on common values of the Tata group and Singapore International Airlines (SIA). My focus will be on ensuring that Vistara continues to deliver the legendary service excellence and hospitality that the Tata group and SIA are known for."



**BHAWNA VERMA** has been designated as the General Manager at Holiday Inn & Suites Bengaluru Whitefield. Bhawna has over 14 years of experience in the hospitality industry with significant expertise in hotel operations especially Rooms Division, Security and Spa operations across reputed hotel brands like Taj, Hyatt and Imperial, before joining IHG. Bhawna's passion is to cook for her kids and spend time with her family.



**SANDEEP RAGHAV** has taken over as the Complex Account Director for Sheraton Full Moon Resort and W Retreat & Spa, Maldives. In his current role, he would develop the luxury market for both Maldivian resorts from India. Raghav brings with him almost 14 years of experience in the hospitality industry with various hotel brands like Intercontinental, Radisson, Jumeirah Group, Accor and Frasers hospitality, Singapore. His new responsibility will also include planning and strategy to increase business through corporate and travel agents from India.



**CAMILLA CHIAM** has been recently designated as the Vice President of PR and Communications for Asia Pacific at the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. In her new position, Chiam will lead the PR and Communications team in developing and implementing strategies to increase the visibility and further enhance the perception of Carlson Rezidor and its hotel brands, in support of the Group's expansion in Asia Pacific.



**THOMAS ABRAHAM** has been appointed the General Manager of Park Hyatt Hyderabad. Before joining the Park Hyatt Hyderabad team, he was the General Manager of the luxury resort hotel, Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa for nearly four years. He joins his new assignment with an expertise of over 20 years in the hospitality industry. At Park Hyatt Hyderabad, he aims to align the company's purpose by providing both colleagues and guests with rare and intimate experiences at Park Hyatt Hyderabad.



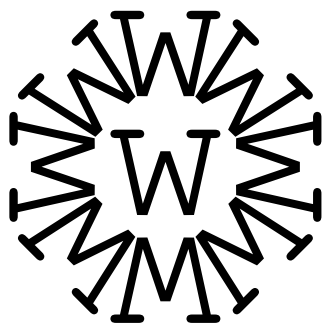
**ANOOP PANDEY** has taken over as the Director of Rooms at The Westin Gurgaon. Pandey has been part of The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi since its pre-opening in 2010, as Front Office Manager. He was associated with Starwood Hotels and Resorts previously as Duty Manager at The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace. With over 16 years worth of experience in the hospitality world he strongly feels that it is important to make every day count in the industry.



**SETHURAMAN SUNDARAM** has been designated as the Food and Beverage Manager at Hyatt Pune Kalyani Nagar. With over 13 years of work experience in the hospitality industry, Sundaram has worked with different Hyatt properties in roles such as Food & Beverage Trainer, All Day Dining Manager, Pre-Opening Banquet Manager and Assistant Director of Food and Beverage in prime Hyatt properties of Mumbai and Pune. In his current role, he will direct and oversee Food & Beverage operations of the hotel.



**PRUTHI RANJAN** has been appointed as the Market Manager India for Victoriatur and General Commercial Company Limited, Vietnam. Prior to this, Ranjan was Head Business development for ICS Travel group for Pan India. With more than 10 years in the hospitality sector, Ranjan brings a wealth of international experience, expertise and has been instrumental to establish DMCs, hotels and Tourism Bureau across several disciplines including Operations, Marketing strategy and Business development.



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# AMOUR FROM THE

# heart

Raddison Blu Plaza Delhi is preparing to offer you a memorable Valentine's Day this year, take a look at your options

## TT BUREAU

Located just five-kilometres from the airport and the booming Gurgaon business district, the luxury Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi hotel is an extravaganza that is unforgettable. This Valentine's Day, return to the intoxicating fervour of love with the hotel's special offers.

Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi is all set to make this Valentine's Day a very memorable one with not only the exciting dining options at NYC, Neung Roi and TGKF, but also through their Special Spa treatments at R The Spa, for that cosy warm session of togetherness. Rekindle your romance in style this Valentine's Day by spending some memorable, warm and romantic moments with your loved one at Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi, Mahipalpur. Celebrate your love with free flowing white spirits, red, white



and sparkling wine at the NYC, where you can choose from a vast spread of specially created international delicacies along with unlimited beverages for the couple. Pair the perfect kababs with sparkling wine at TGKF or opt to traverse the culinary length and breadth of Thailand with a special menu laid out by Thai Master Chef, along with wine at Neung Roi.

And just to give you a whiff of what's cooking; the special day has sous-vide caramelised pork belly with honey apples or peri-peri chicken with roasted pineapple salsa on the offering. But before you dig into the mains, how about starting with the seafood – everyone knows about the aphrodisiac properties of shell-fish. Head for the shrimp pyramid or opt for the fresh scampi, clams and mussels with cognac cocktail sauce, lemon wedges, capers or just pickled onions.

Vegetarians can look forward to the surprise hidden inside



the *"bharwan aam papad ke paneer,"* the melt-in-your mouth texture of the *"kathal ki tikki"* or the *"dahi ki pasliyaan."*

The Valentine's Day special meal is priced at INR 5,014 plus taxes per couple at NYC, Neung Roi and TGKF.

To make your romantic rendezvous even more special, Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi plays Cupid by featuring Valentine Special Spa treatments to pamper that special one in your life. Spoil your love with a luxurious session of Valentine's Special Spa package of your choice. Take the Valentine Spa Package – Table for 2, where its romance all the way with a Rose foot bath, a private rose petal tub soak for the couple followed by 60 minutes of rose essential oil massage and glass of house wine each, post session at the bar. INR 9,999 AI per couple.

Furthermore, guests can also opt for the "Valentine's Day Staycation," where you don't have to worry about the drive home at night after dinner. Just enjoy your meal at the restaurant of your choice at the hotel and then move to your own room and look forward to one and half hour-long couple's session in the spa. Indulge in a hearty breakfast before heading home, leisurely. Guests have the option to choose between Superior Room @ INR 25,668 (AI) and Executive Suite @ INR 35,514 (AI). (Package Available: 14 February, 2016)



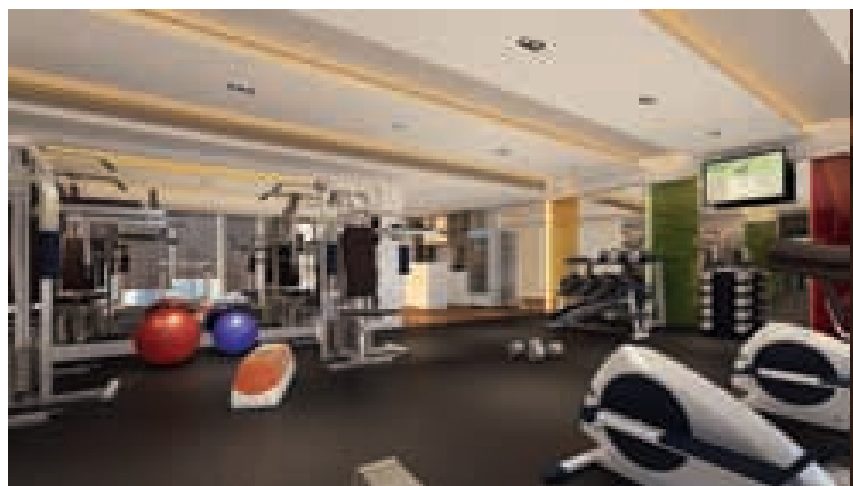


# EXPERIENCE ELEGANCE IN UDAIPUR

The new Radisson Udaipur is tailor-made for both business and leisure travellers, offering a plethora of services

## TT BUREAU

**R**adisson Udaipur is set in the heart of the historic city of Udaipur, often referred to as the Venice of the East. The 56-room upscale hotel is within ten minutes of the city's star attractions, such as Fateh Sagar Lake, Lake Pichola and it also provides easy access to the city's business districts. Moreover, the property is strategically located at a 30-minute drive from the airport and a 10-minute drive from the railway station, making Radisson Udaipur, a perfect choice for both business and leisure travellers.





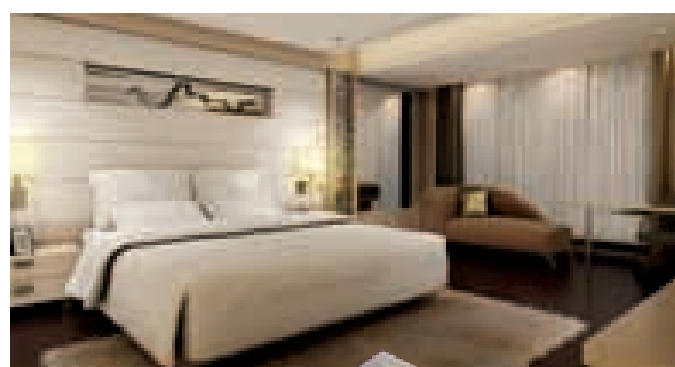


Here at Radisson Udaipur, guests can expect luxurious accommodation and facilities. The rooms and suites are spacious and comfortable, with well-defined workstations. All rooms have amenities such as, LED satellite television, tea/coffee maker, electronic safe and ritual amenities. In addition, all rooms feature ritual amenities for guests to keep connected, whether for work or play.

Radisson Udaipur has 8,100sq.ft of meeting space, which can accommodate an array of functions, one multi-cuisine restaurant, a F3 bar, all-day-dining Season's Cafe and a fitness centre, as well as recreational facilities with an outdoor pool. The Season's Café, at the hotel, serves mouth-watering Indian and continental cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner, along with drinks. One can enjoy one's meal at

Season's Cafe. To wrap up a day of meetings or sightseeing, guests can enjoy a relaxing dip in the swimming pool or sweat it out at the gym or relax and watch a movie at Inox theatre, situated next to the hotel.

Some of the exclusive features of the hotel includes, Super Breakfast, Grab and Run, 3-hour Express Laundry, Express check-in and check-out and free internet access for 24/7 connectivity.





# CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

**VINITH VIJAYAN**  
**DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER**  
**ADITYA BIRLA GROUP**

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

**A:** I fondly remember my trip to Seychelles and Mauritius for their scenic beach beauty, sun kissed beaches, warm hearted local people, sheer exploration of nature and awesome water sports. I had a great time there.

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

**A:** Well, I am very fascinated by Nigara Water Falls and would love to go and see it once.

**Q: Favourite airline and why?**

**A:** I personally liked Air Seychelles amongst other foreign airlines, just because of their personal customer service attitude, warmth and efficient services. The best flying experience is always the one which makes you feel most comfortable and Air Seychelles did exactly that.

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

**A:** I have fond memories of my stay at Taj Vivanta in Coorg. The hotel's location is simply fascinating and then its services are incomparable. So I believe this has been a wonderful experience.

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

**A:** I like beaches and this is why I love the experience of Bali. The sandy beaches and nature's intoxicating beauty can be very relaxing for holidaymakers.

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

**A:** We had taken a family trip to Taipei, 101, Taiwan. The Taipei 101 building is a man made marvel, beautifully constructed, it can withstand typhoon and earthquake tremors. It was fascinating and Taiwan is a lovely place to explore.

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

**A:** My friends and I had taken a trip to the Radisson Blue, Alibaug. Needless to say, the place Alibaug in itself is a charming vacationing destination and Radisson Blue has created something beautiful with its hotel there, thereby adding to the charm. We had a great time.

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

**A:** Berjaya Hotel at Seychelles is definitely some place where the food is extraordinary. It is highly recommended.

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

**A:** It is vital that as tourists we study local customs, their food and drink habits, adapt to them from day one and then enjoy the experience.

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

**A:** One must research before hand and get good conversion rates and also buy from factory outlets.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
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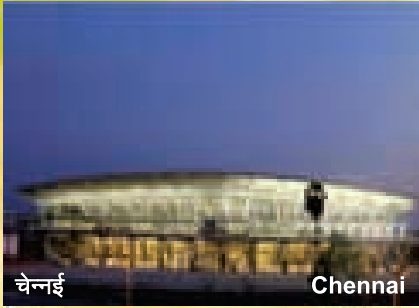


**125** स्थान  
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के संग उड़ान

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**21** अन्तरराष्ट्रीय  
हवाई अड्डे  
(३ सिविल एन्क्लेव तथा ३ संयुक्त उद्यम हवाई अड्डे)

**International  
Airports**  
(3 Civil Enclaves & 3 Joint Venture Airports)



चेन्नई

Chennai



कोलकाता

Kolkata



पुणे

Pune



इन्दौर

Indore



श्रीनगर

Srinagar

**08** कस्टम  
हवाई अड्डे  
(४ सिविल एन्क्लेव)

**Custom  
Airports**  
(4 Civil Enclaves)

**77** अन्तर्देशीय  
हवाई अड्डे

**Domestic  
Airports**

**19** अन्य सिविल  
एन्क्लेव

**Other Civil  
Enclaves**

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Airports Authority of India

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infrastructure

उच्चतकनीक  
एयर-कार्गो टर्मिनलों  
का प्रबंधन

Manages  
Hi-tech Air Cargo  
terminals





# CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

**ANKUSH BINDRA**  
**MANAGER-TRAVEL & VISA**  
**ERICSSON INDIA GLOBAL SERVICES**  
**PVT LTD**

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

**A:** Stockholm, a very clean place to be at, people are very friendly. It is full of good people, nature and museums. It is a place known for its innovative ideas in clean energy and there is a lot to explore on foot. I went to many museums and adventure parks. City is very well connected with road transportation and waterways. Over the weekends it's a nice idea to spend some time on cruise going to other Scandinavian Counties and towards archipelagos.

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

**A:** I want to go to Mauritius on a long vacation with family. Relax, bathe under the sun and do lots of beach activities. Clean beaches attract me, especially during sunset when you are sitting there and doing nothing, all by yourself.

**Q: Favourite airline and why?**

**A:** It's Lufthansa because of its excellent services and safety regulations. Meals on-board are very well prepared. Also, I liked their frequent flyer program "Miles and More." I travelled on it on European routes and very much impressed. They have very good safety records and take care of the guests on-board.

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

**A:** Radisson Blu Edwardian, Guildford as it's a nice business hotel on a walking distance from the old Guildford City and Town

Wharf on the River Wey. The hotel is also close to local market but gives you ample free space. Rooms are big enough with all necessary items and comfort for a business traveler.

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

**A:** Vasa museum in Stockholm, it is full of history on the old naval architecture. It was a wonderful experience going from one deck to another. The warship sank on its maiden trip, with big cannons on both sides on its mighty decks. It is altogether a different experience.

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

**A:** I love to go with family to beaches, to spend time with them. It always turns out to be a very relaxed destination with very few quality activities and a fun time for everyone in the family.

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

**A:** It was in Lansdowne in Uttarakhand, India. We had a very good time till late night around the bonfire.

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

**A:** There is no doubt in it that India has some of the best cuisines to offer. Especially in Rajasthan, it has variety of foods, from sweets to spicy local delicacies. I like the 'kachoris' which are very spicy but super tasty.

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

**A:** It is very important to keep your toiletries in place as personal hygiene is a must.

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

**A:** I need to have the best value for money in terms of the facilities at the hotel and also in terms of travelling. I do compare on the prices but don't compromise on the quality part. The supplier of these services need to be very reliable and can be banked upon when need. I consider travel insurance as a must-have.



# AVIATION



## LUFTHANSA TAKES POSSESSION OF THE FIRST AIRBUS A320NEO

Carsten Spohr, CEO of Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Airbus CEO Fabrice Brégier as well as Robert Leduc, the President of Pratt & Whitney and David Hess, Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Aerospace for United Technologies made a special trip to Hamburg-Finkenwerder to celebrate the handover of the world's first A320neo. The deployment of the Airbus A320neo marks another step Lufthansa is taking towards a "three-liter fleet" (per passenger and 100 kilometers) and significantly contributes to noise reduction.

"We are pleased to be the first airline in the world to take possession of the Airbus A320neo today. The cutting-edge technologies of Airbus and Pratt & Whitney make the A320neo the most efficient and quietest aircraft for short- and medium-haul flights by far.

The lower fuel consumption results in lower CO2 emissions and gives the A320neo a significantly improved carbon footprint. The new engine technology also makes the aircraft significantly quieter," says Carsten Spohr, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Deutsche Lufthansa AG. "Today we are proving once again that we as an aviation and airline group are pioneers in the development and introduction of technological innovations. This year alone Lufthansa will take possession of a total of 52 new aircraft for the group's airlines" says Spohr.



## VISTARA CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH SALAAM BAALAK TRUST

On January 5 2016, Vistara kicked off its first anniversary celebrations with the children from Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT). Vistara revelled in the creativity of young minds by organising an earthen pot painting competition and sapling planting activity with them at their corporate office, One Horizon Center in Gurgaon. Vistara's CEO Phee Teik Yeoh, also present at the occasion, went a step further and shared warmth by donating blankets for all 650 children of SBT across their 4 shelters in Delhi/ NCR.



## EXPERIENCE TURKISH HOSPITALITY WITH FLYING CHEF

Presenting the best of Turkish hospitality to its guests; Turkish Airlines, one of Europe's leading airlines, has introduced the Flying Chef service on its Mumbai- Istanbul- Mumbai route from January, 2016. The FLYING CHEF service would deliver a restaurant like experience, exhaustive menu and a delectable array of dishes to cater to the business class passengers flying the Mumbai-Istanbul route.

Mehmet Akay, General Manager Western and Southern India, Turkish Airlines, said, "We are happy to introduce FLYING CHEF service on our Mumbai- Istanbul- Mumbai route. We aim to deliver a delightful on-board experience for all our guests. We were overwhelmed with the feedback we received for the Flying Chef service on our long haul routes and hence we decided to introduce this service on our flights to and from Mumbai as well."

"Flying Chef is a service that creates a unique atmosphere of 'Turkish Hospitality' above the clouds. The service is also a showcase of our award-winning menus. Our aim is to ensure that the passengers experience the best of Turkish Airlines hospitality by way of our innovative cuisines & interesting menus. We are committed to ensure that our guests have a memorable in-flight experience," concluded Akay.



## DRAGONAIR TO BE REBRANDED AS CATHAY DRAGON

The Cathay Pacific Group recently announced a new era of growth and opportunity for its two airlines. Cathay Pacific's wholly owned sister airline Dragonair is to be rebranded as Cathay Dragon. The two will remain as separate airlines, operating under their own licences.



Cathay Pacific's Chief Executive Ivan Chu said, "We are very proud of what we have achieved together. Cathay Dragon is a brand that will be recognisably part of the Cathay Pacific Group for our customers from different parts of the world. The rebranding

will enable us to capture the fast-growing passenger flows across the two carriers by creating a more seamless travel experience."

Cathay Dragon's Chief Executive Officer Algernon Yau said, "We can assure our customers that Cathay Dragon will continue to provide the same high level of products and services that made us a four-time winner of the World's Best Regional Airline award. We will have the same dedicated team continuing to offer their friendly and caring service style. We will also continue to build on our experience and understanding of what our passengers like and treasure, such as speciality Chinese and Asian dishes as well as popular local Hong Kong snacks."

## MAKE IN INDIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CIVIL AVIATION SECTOR

The Foundation for Aviation & Sustainable Tourism (FAST) organised a seminar on "Make in India: Challenges and Opportunities in Civil Aviation Sector" on Tuesday, February 02, 2016 at the India International Centre. Minister of Civil Aviation P Ashok Gajapathi Raju was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the seminar by lighting the lamp along with Secretary Civil Aviation RN Choubey besides others on the dais.

While welcoming the delegates, Lt Gen KM Seth (Retd), former Governor of Tripura and Chhattisgarh and President FAST emphasised that unless all the stake holders came together and made coordinated efforts, it will be very difficult to bring about transformation in the aviation sector.

The Minister of Civil Aviation said that the civil aviation industry in India has ushered a new era of expansion driven by factors such as low-cost carriers (LCC), modernisation of airports, foreign direct investments (FDI) in domestic airlines, cutting edge information technology (IT) interventions and a growing emphasis on regional connectivity and therefore we must utilise the opportunities available under the "Make in India" initiative. Dr Mahesh Sharma underlined the importance of better coordination between Civil Aviation and Tourism sectors in synchronising the developmental activities in both these sectors. Secretary civil aviation talked about the review of civil aviation policies and consolidation of various fragments which will provide a roadmap towards growth of the civil aviation sector.



## MTDC PARTNERS WITH PAWAN HANS TO LAUNCH HELI-TOURISM

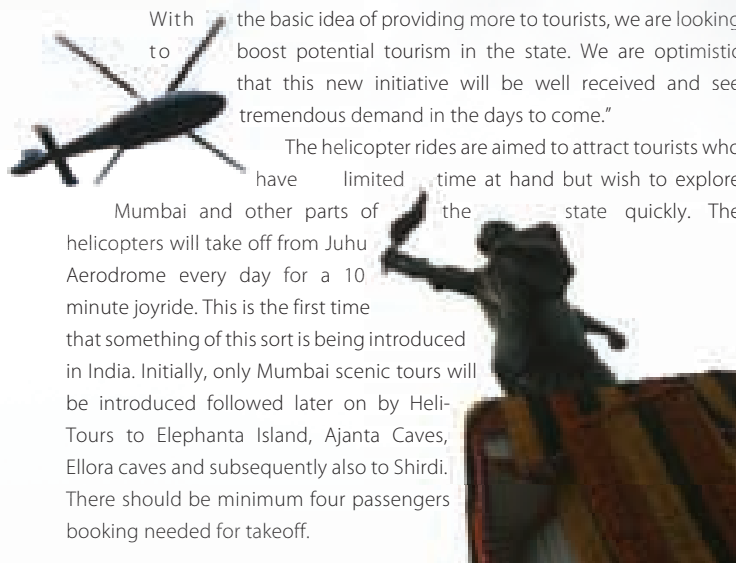
Giving tourists a unique opportunity to explore Mumbai – the commercial capital and heart of Maharashtra, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) along with Pawan Hans Ltd have formally launched Heli-Tourism.

Speaking on this occasion, Paraag Jašin Nainuttia (IAS), Managing Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation said, "Heli-Tourism in Maharashtra opens up a world of new possibilities for travellers and sightseers.

With the basic idea of providing more to tourists, we are looking to boost potential tourism in the state. We are optimistic that this new initiative will be well received and see tremendous demand in the days to come."

The helicopter rides are aimed to attract tourists who have limited time at hand but wish to explore

Mumbai and other parts of the state quickly. The helicopters will take off from Juhu Aerodrome every day for a 10 minute joyride. This is the first time that something of this sort is being introduced in India. Initially, only Mumbai scenic tours will be introduced followed later on by Heli-Tours to Elephanta Island, Ajanta Caves, Ellora caves and subsequently also to Shirdi. There should be minimum four passengers booking needed for takeoff.

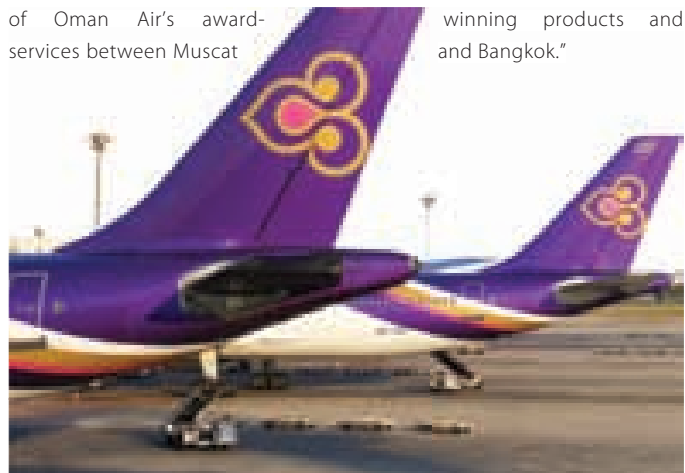


## THAI LAUNCHES CODESHARE WITH OMAN AIR

Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI) will codeshare with Oman Air for flights between Bangkok and Muscat, Oman.

Charnporn Jotikasthira, THAI President, said THAI is pleased to offer additional flights and services for passengers from Bangkok and Muscat, Oman through our newest codeshare partner Oman Air. Starting January 2016, THAI will now be able to offer additional flights between Bangkok and Muscat, with THAI operating three roundtrip flights per week (Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday), while Oman Air operating double daily flights per week.

Oman Air's Chief Operating Officer, Abdulrahman Al-Busaidy, said he was delighted to have entered into the agreement with THAI saying, "Thai Airways International shares Oman Air's commitment to delivering the highest quality of products and services. Together with THAI, we will now be able to offer more customers the experience of Oman Air's award-winning products and services between Muscat and Bangkok."



## QATAR AIRWAYS STARTS NON-STOP SERVICE BETWEEN DOHA AND RAS AL KHAIMAH, UAE

Qatar Airways started non-stop service between Doha and Ras Al Khaimah on early February, its fifth destination in the United Arab Emirates. Ras Al Khaimah is known to be a gateway to many of the UAE's natural treasures, popular for weekend getaways for travellers from the GCC, and a resort destination for longer stays for travellers from China, Europe and India. An Airbus A320 operates the Ras Al Khaimah route, featuring 144 seats in a two-class configuration of 12 seats in Business Class and 132 seats in Economy.

Akbar Al Baker, Chief Executive, Qatar Airways Group, said, "We are delighted to launch our newest route in the United Arab Emirates – Ras Al Khaimah. Qatar Airways' network expansion will undoubtedly increase the flexibility and choice for our passengers to travel to and from different Emirates in the UAE, and we look forward to enhancing passengers' travel opportunities from Europe, Asia and the Americas to new tourist destinations in the region such as Ras Al Khaimah."



# Welcome to Turkish Airlines Lounge Istanbul

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

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

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

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

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

**TURKISH  
AIRLINES**   
lounge Istanbul

**TURKISH AIRLINES**   
**Miles&Smiles**





# EXPLORER



# WORK AND PLAY AT LAVASA

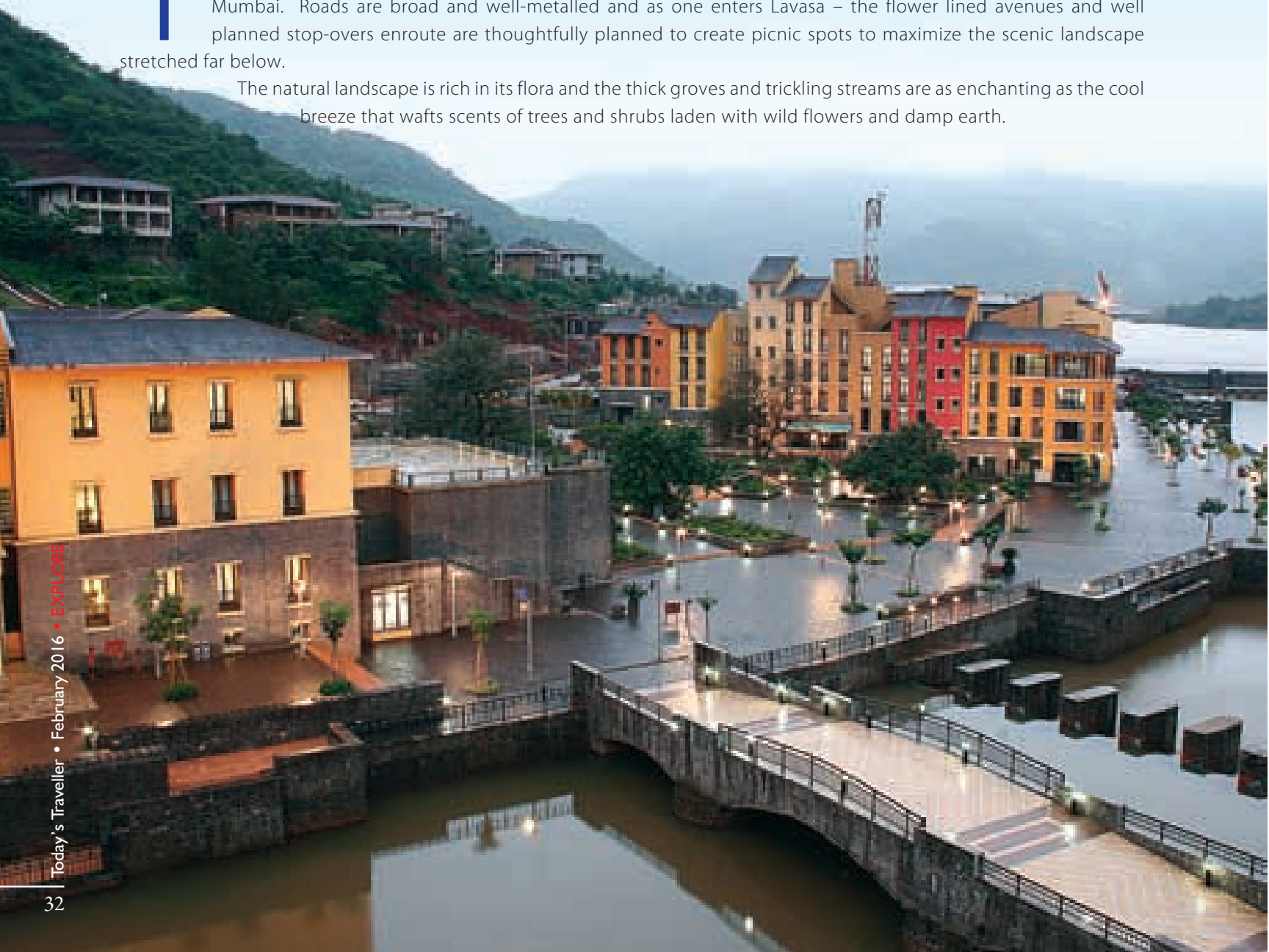
Whether it is the long walks at their Nature Trail, watersport highs or simply pampering yourself, a stay at Lavasa brings you the good life

**KAMAL GILL**

**T**he road to Lavasa winds its way through red earth, green hills, deep valleys, lakes and forests. It's a discovery – situated amidst seven hills and 60km of lakefront and within the folds of the picturesque Sahayadri mountains.

A three-hour drive from Mumbai and an hour's drive from Pune, the city of Lavasa is one-fifth the size of Mumbai. Roads are broad and well-metalled and as one enters Lavasa – the flower lined avenues and well planned stop-overs enroute are thoughtfully planned to create picnic spots to maximize the scenic landscape stretched far below.

The natural landscape is rich in its flora and the thick groves and trickling streams are as enchanting as the cool breeze that wafts scents of trees and shrubs laden with wild flowers and damp earth.





new benchmarks in planning, construction and service delivery.

In this sense it is a front runner and worth a closer look.

### THE MAKING OF A SMART CITY

The master plan is based on the principles of New Urbanism that brings together all the components essential to daily life in a more organized manner thus creating spaces within walking distance from each other. Landscape and architectural design of Lavasa is based on the transect model – which suggests

that development begins from a town centre and grows outward.

Lavasa aims to provide a good work - life balance with a unique combination of technology and infrastructure advancements. The city is planned in such a way that it can have a 365-day economy with a host of non-polluting industries being the main economic driver. These could include R&D and training centres, IT and biotech industry, KPOs and industries related to art, fashion and animation.

A natural fit are centres of Hospitality, Health and Wellness, Education and Tourism, many of whom have plans to set up their institutions at Lavasa.

### A CORPORATE FAVOURITE

A lot of Corporates conduct their offsite trips, conferences and team building activations at Lavasa, as a preferred destination. Lavasa offers them a complete package of the right environment which is a mix of both work and play.

The town itself is charming – almost like a tiny European outpost with ochre yellow and rose pink buildings along the lake-line and a water front studded with wide avenues that take advantage of the 20km long Warasgaon Lake around which it is built and the sloping green terrain around it.

There are canals and waterways with brick and stone pathways and wooden bridges, their archways lending a Mediterranean charm to the resort.

Hotels and resorts are perched on corners of hill tops or fronting the lake - so as to provide great views all around. The city is developing across a wide range of accommodations and residences, which are aimed to fit any budget across socio-economic classes.

As over 70 per cent of the area is reserved for landscaping, re-forestation, slope greening and so on, the scope for outdoor activities come naturally. Visitors and residents can enjoy the X thrill-Outdoor adventure sports and recreational club; Dasvino town and country club - Leisure resort; Lakeshore- Water sports company; and many nature trails that provide natural walking and relaxing terrain within Lavasa.

It comes as no surprise that Lavasa is India's first planned hill city. Being developed by Lavasa Corporation Limited, a subsidiary of HCC a leading engineering, construction and infrastructure development company with a rich heritage of experience, there are abundant nature walks, trekking trails, parks and gardens stretching to every corner of the 18,000 acres under development.

Lavassa is probably India's first smart city, long before it became a top priority with the government. Lavasa offers a level of city infrastructure yet to be experienced in India, thus setting



The current tie-ups include: Hospitality (Accor, ITC, Hilton, Langham), Health and Wellness (Apollo Hospitals) and Education (Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne - Switzerland, International Business Relations - Germany, NSHM Knowledge Park - Kolkatta, Symbiosis, Christ University and Christel House - (Bangalore).

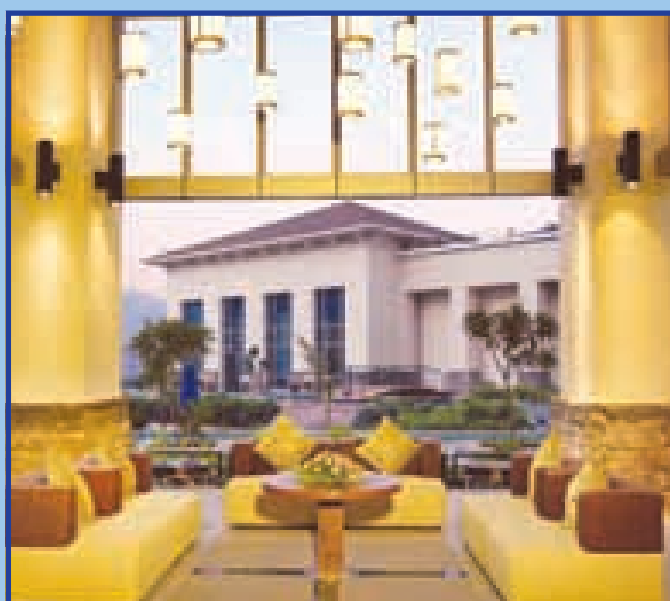
Taking advantage of its natural assets, Lavasa is poised to emerge as an international sporting destination. There are agreements already in place for a Golf Course and Academy, a Football Academy, Sir Steve Redgrave for a Rowing Academy and Hockey Australia for a Hockey Academy, Lavasa.

Lavasa has many firsts to its credit - technology leadership, e-Governance, the first Indian city developed using Geographical Information System (GIS), use of Biomimicry as a science in town planning and use of innovative techniques like hydro seeding in environment management.

On the environmental front, no effort has been spared to ensure that Lavasa maintains nature's ability to replenish and renew its resources. The principle for sustainable growth at Lavasa adopts a two-pronged strategy; protecting the existing natural habitat as it is and further enhancing the habitat through hydro-seeding, geo-matting, mass plantations and beautification of ravines.

Lavasa is planned for a permanent population of around 3 lakh residents and a tourist inflow that is envisaged at 20 lakh per annum. The first of the five towns - Dasve is nearing completion.

With all urban advantages in a natural setting, Lavasa is envisioned to be a more liveable city of the future where residents can live, work, learn and play in harmony with nature.



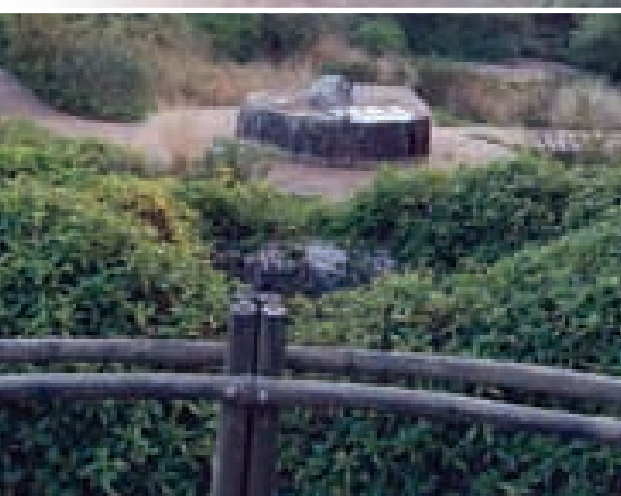
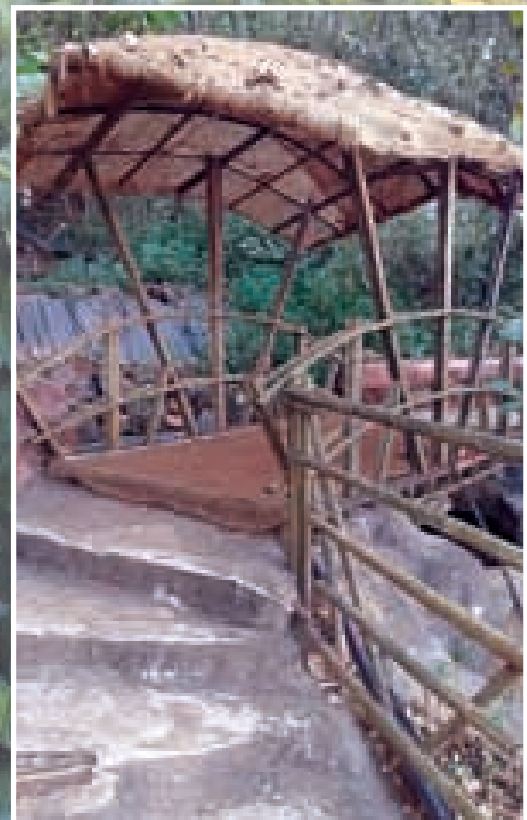
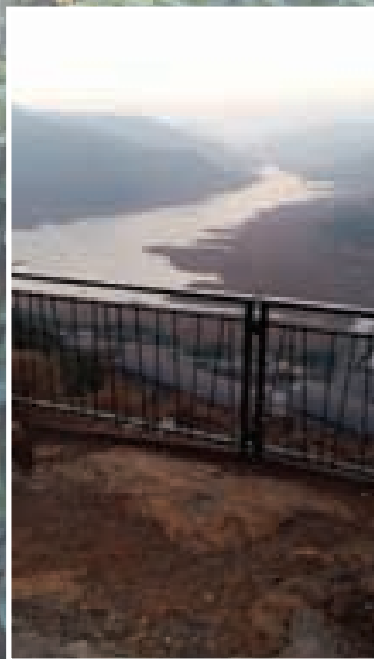
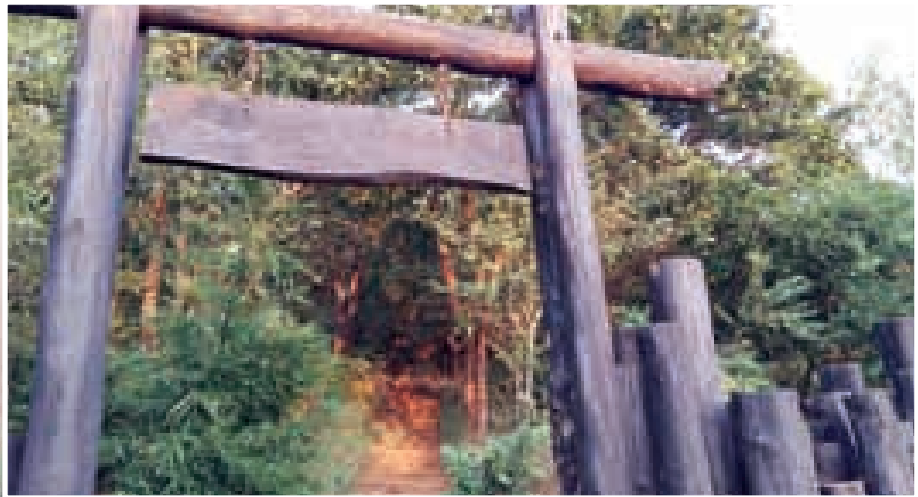
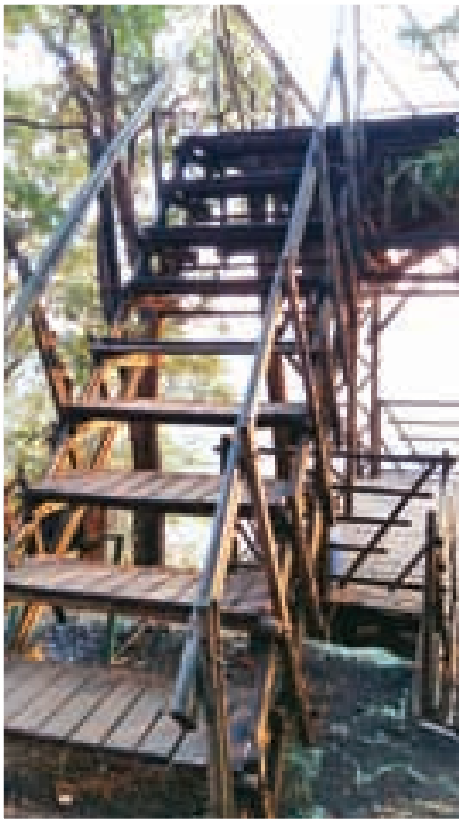
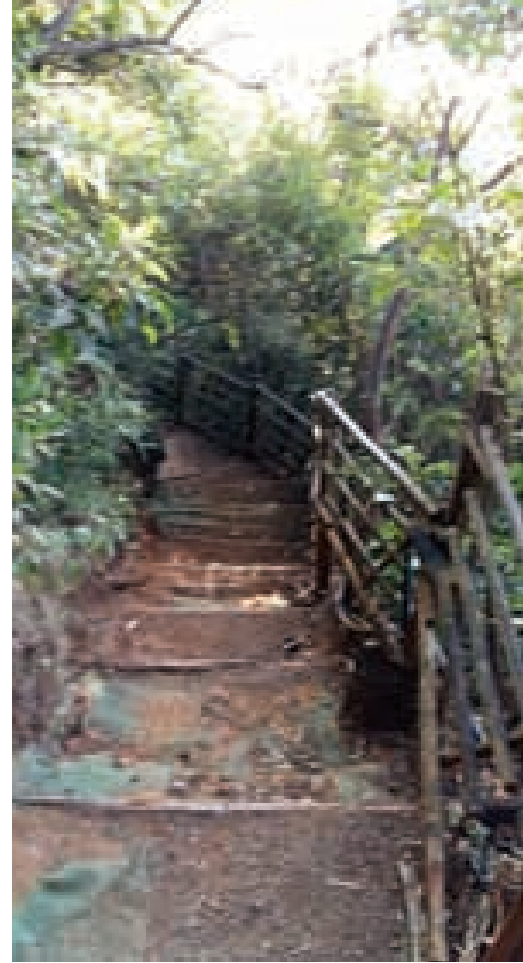
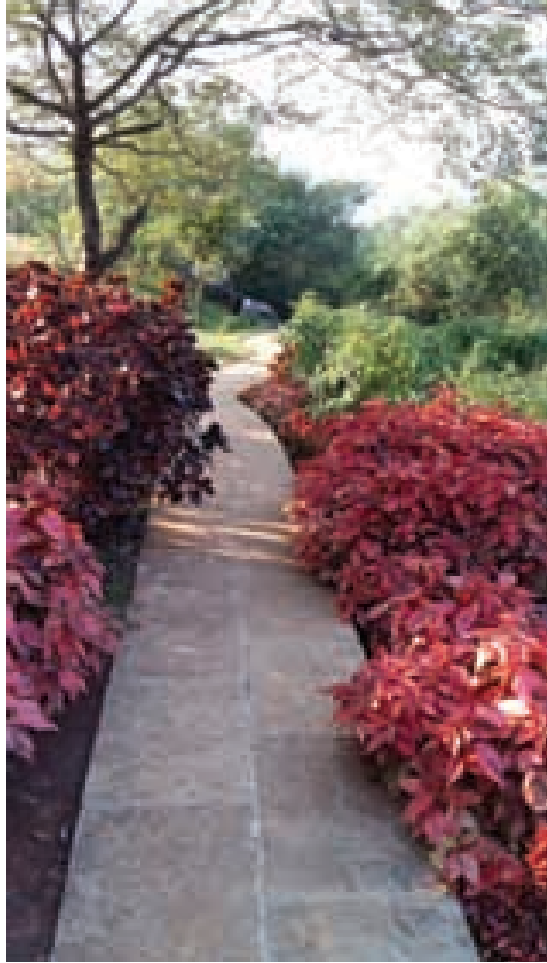
#### **FORTUNE SELECT DASVE**

A stay at Fortune Select Dasve, Lavasa is a must. The hotel is an upscale, contemporary hotel offering a selection of 60 beautifully furnished rooms with an excellent range of guest facilities and services at great value to the discerning traveler. The hotel enjoys a prime location right on the lake and offers beautiful views from its rooms and superb cuisine in its outlets.



### A NATURE TRAIL WITH A DIFFERENCE

Waiting for the visitor to reconnect with himself through nature's healing properties are nature trails. One such trail close to the Ekaant resort, has a special culinary offering by Lavasa and Fortune Select Dasve which offers fresh juices, mouth-watering nibbles and desserts, spaced out at regular intervals for the trekker to rejuvenate himself. The trail unfolds through gentle sloping pathways that climb through thick shrubbery, streams and groves, bamboo bridges and thatched stop-overs. A wood machaan showcases a sunset while breakaway trails unfurl further surprises that charm. As you immerse yourself in wild flowers and rare birds, this remarkably captivating nature trail experience leaves you in a happy frame of mind.





# CRUISING THROUGH SCANDINAVIA

Take a trip of a lifetime with Scandinavia's fascinating cruises and explore the beauty of nature

## TT BUREAU

**T**he essence of Norway's appeal is remarkably simple. It is one of most beautiful countries on Earth where an adventure of a lifetime awaits you. Hurtigruten is an adventure that is unmistakable Norwegian – dubbed as, "The world's most beautiful voyage," Hurtigruten is often the phrase used to describe the traditional sailing from Bergen to Kirkenes. Hurtigruten is the best way to experience the authentic Norway; it sails along the beautiful coastline, through magical fjords and to enchanted islands, calling at 34 ports. One night of sailing on the Hurtigruten takes you to the Geiranger Fjord, which is a UNESCO-protected Fjord and is surrounded by snow-covered mountain peaks wild waterfalls and lush green vegetation.

A cruise from Copenhagen to Oslo is an unforgettable experience and the best way to discover the beauty of the North Sea and the two main capitals of Scandinavia. DFDS Seaways is one of the biggest cruise ferry companies in Northern Europe operating passenger ferries – Pearl Seaways and Crown Seaways. With daily departures (in both directions) it is easy to plan the cruise. Guests can enjoy world class services, fantastic

food and beverages and make great saving on tax free goods in the shops. Also, there is a Casino and live music. For those looking for some peace of mind can relax on the sun decks or in the wellness areas, the options are endless!

To make the most of the scenery of the beautiful archipelagos of the Baltic Sea, a round trip from Stockholm to various ports on the well-known Viking Line is a must. Guests can treat themselves to a day cruise on board the elegant new cruise ship Viking Grace. Sit back and enjoy the serenity and beautiful scenery as Grace quietly cruises through the Stockholm archipelago. On the return trip, visitors can experience a classic Swedish smorgasbord; they can visit the tax-free shops, or even take a moment to relax in the spa.

Viking Line is a cruise and ferry line operating 7 vessels in the Baltic Sea. The Viking Line offers relaxing cruise between the Stockholm to various ports. On board, ships offer a wide variety of activities; guests can visit one of the restaurants and bars and enjoy the spectacular scenery of the famous Scandinavian archipelago, shop branded goods at the tax-free shops, unwind at the spa, or enjoy great entertainment and music in the nightclub.





## EL CLASSICO: THE TAJ



**S**ynonymous to the capital city of Delhi is the uber-luxurious properties of Taj, each occupying quintessential locations with an iconic address, each exuding that warm glow of a home away from home. Each property has been minutely crafted and is different from the other, thus giving it a unique definition.

And yet, the properties have one thing in common, they all exuberate timeless hospitality. Offering unmatched thematic rooms and signature suites, every detail has been personally taken care of to meet the needs of the valued guests. Exceptional culinary skills from renowned chefs have made Taj a global name and an international favourite. Providing unparalleled meeting and conferencing venues and unique golden key concierge experiences besides integrating the latest technology, The Taj has redefined luxury stay forever.



*JIVA Grande, Taj Palace, New Delhi*

## TAJ PALACE, NEW DELHI

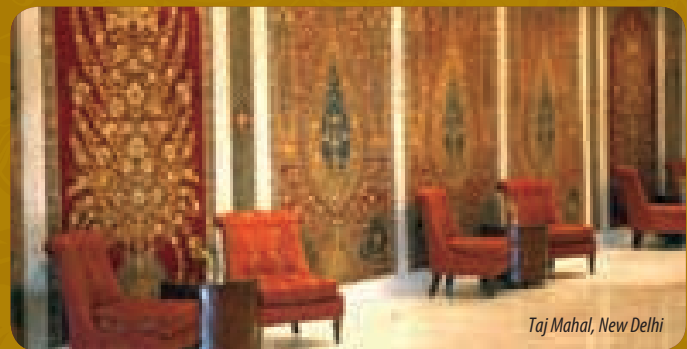
Situated in the Diplomatic Enclave of the city and close to many landmarks that dot the historic metropolis, this property offers a choice of 403 elegantly appointed rooms and 41 suites including 2 Presidential Suites and the Tata Suite. Renowned for its architectural marvel, the Taj Palace is known for its beautiful lawns and pillar less halls that have stood testimony to various high profile conclaves and hosted top dignitaries of states. Taj Palace is proud to offer finely nuanced restaurants such as Orient Express, Blue Ginger, Masala Art, The Blue Bar, which have become dining destinations of the capital. The newly launched exquisite JIVA Grande is spread over a sprawling 13,000 sqft. and consists of single spa suites, a couple spa suite, a relaxation area, yoga studio, extensive wet areas including the unique Vitality Pool, a halo-therapy room, a unisex salon and a state-of-the-art gymnasium – all coming together to ensure that your revival is complete in the true sense of being.



*Taj Palace, New Delhi*



*Varq, Taj Mahal, New Delhi*



*Taj Mahal, New Delhi*

## TAJ MAHAL, NEW DELHI

The Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi, with its landmark location in the heart of Delhi is the quintessential address for world leaders and visiting dignitaries. It has for decades been the bedrock of fine living and hospitality with a refinement now legendary. An iconic hotel since 1978, the Taj Mahal, New Delhi has been the pioneer of many a services and concepts in the hospitality domain. With all its rooms equipped with the best view of the Capital City, this hotel provides luxury like none other. With stunning roof top meeting venues with natural light and marvellous views; beautiful venues set amidst the lush green environs of Lutyens' Delhi and signature restaurants, Machan, House of Ming and The Grill Room, the hotel is home to the elite of the world. Guests can also try their hand at culinary tutorials and learn the art of sushi rolling at Wasabi and sumptuous contemporary Indian fare at Varq. Lose yourself in the work of famous artists such as MF Hussain, Jamini Roy, Redappa Naidu, Ram Kumar and Anjolie Ela Menon as their precious art adorns the walls of the hotel.







## VIVANTA BY TAJ – AMBASSADOR, NEW DELHI

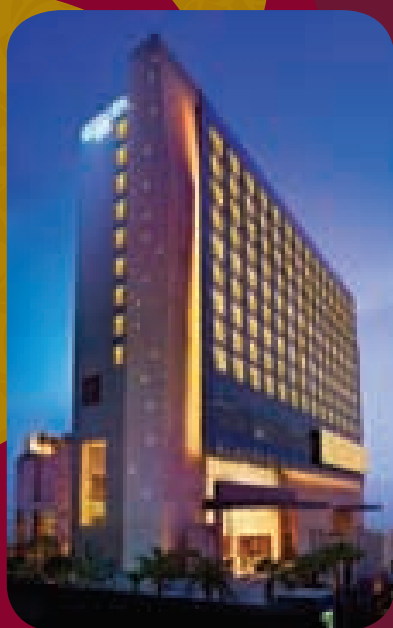
In close proximity to Delhi's prominent landmarks like Lodhi Gardens, Humayun's Tomb, India Gate, this 1945 architectural marvel is a poetic medley done in British and Art Deco Style, by colonial architect Walter George and is an INTACH listed heritage building. The hotel constitutes art deco and modern architecture style in their 88-rooms and comes with a tempting 4,450sq.ft of conference/meeting spaces spread over three types of conference spaces Dome, Tango and Lutyen's Lawn with seating capacities for up to 70 delegates in board room-style and 400 for theatre-style receptions. Guests can travel to the land of the Orient at their signature restaurants serving Cantonese and Sichuan styled Chinese food at Larry's China, Coffee Shop Yellow Brick Road serving Thai, Continental and Indian. Not in a mood for something heavy, try Insomnia – the art deco bar or Lutyens Lounge in the lobby that serves a variety of hot and cold beverages along with light eats.



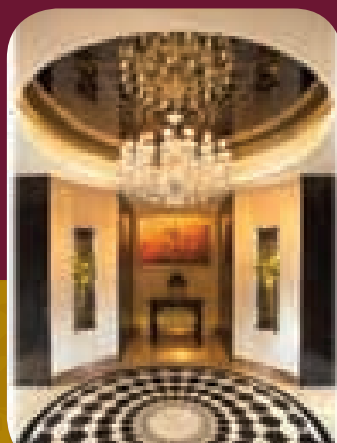
Vivanta by Taj - Ambassador

## VIVANTA BY TAJ – GURGAON, NCR

Standing tall in the heart of the millennium city, Vivanta by Taj - Gurgaon, NCR is not just a Metro Marvel, but also the 100<sup>th</sup> hotel of 'The Taj Group of Hotels'. An ode to the Millennium City and avant-garde in design, the hotel offers vibrant bursts of surprises like the iconic Thai Pavilion presenting the best of Siam on a plate, the expansive all day diner - Latitude and the high energy Tease bar. Don't miss out on the hotel's stylised accommodation with high business efficiencies, a work and play 'Rhythm' lounge, large and versatile banquet spaces, an energizing Jiva Spa and unique Vivanta Motifs which showcase an alternative life. Located in close proximity to Kingdom of Dreams, 15 minutes away from Cyber hub and 10 minutes from the nearest Shopping Malls on MG Road, Vivanta by Taj – Gurgaon, NCR is sure to leave you with ample options to choose from to plan your day.



Vivanta By Taj - Gurgaon, NCR

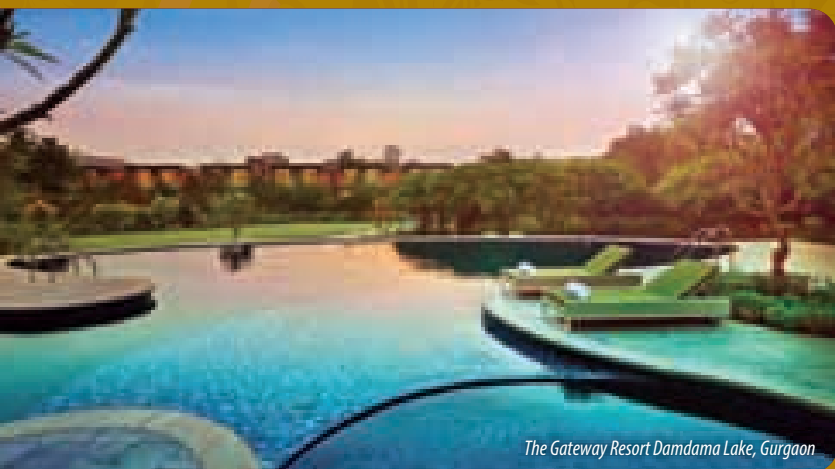


## VIVANTA MOTIFS

Bear witness firsthand to live musicals on a grand stage, food boulevards and an exclusive "behind the scenes" peek at the larger than life Kingdom of Dreams - a destination in itself at Gurgaon. Or simply hunt for a new experience and discover an alternative life in Delhi with the Vivanta trails in association with Tallis & Co. This ranges from a stint at Kabootar Baazi or Pigeon Flying inside the lanes and by-lanes around Jama Masjid to a farming experience at a 300 acre private farm or a trip to the hot springs of Sohna situated in the foothills of the Aravallis, a trip to the Sultanpur bird sanctuary or even a peek into the world of Terracotta and Textiles.

Food enthusiasts could also opt for the best of Delhi's street food with the Yellow Line Metro Menu that recreates some of the best street food to be had from HUDA Chowk to Chandni Chowk, in petite bites. Feeling thirsty? Savour master mixologist Atilla Iskifoglu's tribute to Gurgaon with his six signature cocktails, namely Skyscraper, Gurgaonpolitan, Healthy City, Back to the Future, Huda City Centre and Electric Avenue.





*The Gateway Resort Damdama Lake, Gurgaon*

### VIVANTA BY TAJ SURAJKUND, NCR

Seek style and find it in this five-star hotel in Surajkund, which reflects the spirit of the tranquil and forested Surajkund neighbourhood which is steeped in vibrant history. Located just a few minutes' drive away from the bustling commercial and residential addresses of South Delhi on one side and the corporate hub on the other, Vivanta by Taj – Surajkund, NCR overlooks the imposing entry gate of the famed Surajkund Lake Complex. Designed from the concept of a Baoli (step well), this unique property is all about steps that lead you to history, art and culture and all one has to do is simply lose oneself in this urban oasis of luxury. Spread over an area of 22,000sq.ft and equipped with an elegant Ballroom with a pre- function area and buffet foyer area, four meeting rooms, two board rooms and a fully equipped business centre, this corporate haven is a hot favourite among business travellers and MICE. Home to some of the best five-star restaurants in Surajkund, restaurants, such as Oasis, Paranda, The Art Lounge, The Celsius Pool Lounge, The Artisanal Deli & Oven and Easy, are nothing short of a gourmet's delight.



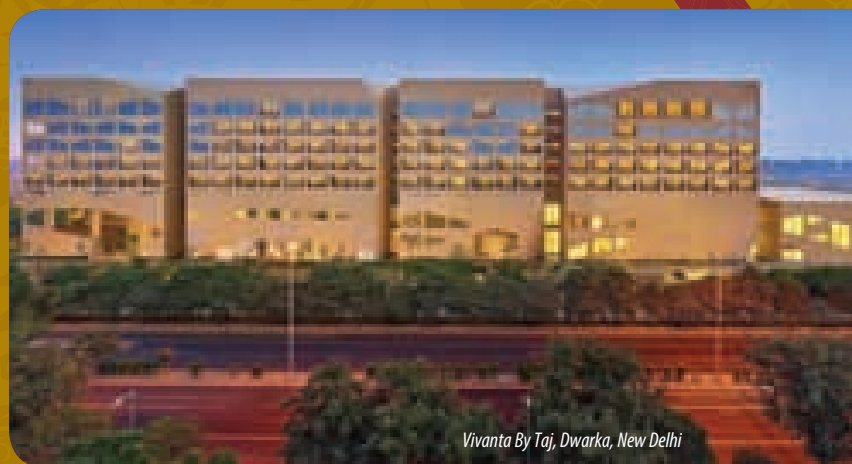
*Vivanta By Taj Surajkund*

### THE GATEWAY RESORT DAMDAMA LAKE GURGAON

When it comes to perfect getaways, The Gateway Resort Damdama Lake Gurgaon, proves to be the perfect place. The resort offers you enjoyment and greenery as it is spread across a sprawling 20 acres in the bosom of the Aravalli Hills, near Damdama Lake. This is your destination where you can let go and unwind in the lap of nature. The resort has a lot of activities to keep you thrilled and excited. Adventure sports and activities like Air Rifle Shooting, Archery, Paintball, Tarzan Swing, Rappelling, Wall Climbing and many more keeps your adrenaline pumped. The regal ambience and quaint architecture of The Gateway Resort Damdama Lake Gurgaon creates an ideal setting for bespoke weddings. Experience nature woven so beautifully and magnificently that returning home simply looks impossible.

### VIVANTA BY TAJ – DWARKA, NEW DELHI

Adjacent to the Sector 21 Metro station, Vivanta by Taj - Dwarka, New Delhi is well connected to the heart of the city. A short drive westwards leads you to the domestic and international airport terminals, onward to the business-cum-entertainment city of Gurgaon. Drive twenty minutes eastwards and land in Lutyens' Delhi – the heart and soul of the capital. Chiselled good looks, avant-garde interiors, breathe easy outdoors, green pockets, generosity of space and light and bursts of quintessential Vivanta surprises, guests can feel at home at any of their 250-rooms and suites. The hotel offers a vibrant range of food and beverage options, a Jiva Spa, outdoor pool and a modern fitness centre (complete with a salon) for guests to unwind and rejuvenate.



*Vivanta By Taj, Dwarka, New Delhi*

Located in the lap of serene surroundings, the Taj is a leisure retreat for the wanderer, a weekend getaway for the couple in love or simply a corporate haven for the business traveller.



## TAJ HOTELS RESORTS & PALACES

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# INDIA – AN ALL-SEASON EVENT DESTINATION BOOK



## India VENUES

India's only Meeting, Incentive, Convention,  
Exhibition, Wedding, Golf, Shopping &  
Corporate Event Facilities Guide

- Hotel Venues
- Convention / Exhibition / Incentive Venues
- Destinations
- Airports, Airport Hotels & Duty-Free Shopping
- Wedding Venues
- Grand Heritage Palace Venues
- Golfing Venues
- Food & Beverage Venues
- Shopping Venues: Malls / Handicraft & Handloom Emporia
- Wellness / Spa Venues
- Theme Parks / Recreational Venues

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Edition

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# A TALE OF TWO NATIONS

China and India are building new bridges for travellers to explore their majestic lands

TT BUREAU

The opening ceremony of 2016 "China-India Tourism Year" was recently held in Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi, India. In the press conference of the event on January 12, the Deputy Director General Li Yaying of Marketing and International Cooperation Department of China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) pointed out that the number of mutual tourism visits is expected to reach 900,000 in 2015, and the number will exceed 1 million in 2016. CNTA has designed nearly a hundred tourism promotion and exchange activities under the framework of the 2016 "China-India Tourism Year," so as to foster the persistent and in-depth development of China-India friendly relations.

In the press conference, Li Yaying made an introduction on "China-India Tourism Year" and the tourism exchanges between China and India to the media of both countries.

Li Yaying said, holding the "Tourism Year" in China and India is an important decision made jointly by the leaders of both sides with their eyes on the overall relationship between two countries. In 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his visit to India, decided together with Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi that the "India Tourism year" would be held in China in 2015 and the "China Tourism Year" in India in 2016, which aims at building ties of cultural exchange, promoting emotional communication



between people of the two nations, reinforcing the foundation of mutual goodwill among the general public and enriching the connotations of the developmental partnership between China and India. Based on the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, the "India Tourism Year" was held successfully in China in 2015. Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi delivered a video speech at the opening ceremony, while Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang attended and addressed the event. Thanks to the joint efforts of both sides, the "India Tourism Year" came to a successful conclusion. In May 2015, the tourism authorities of the two countries signed the *Agreement on Tourism Cooperation between the National Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India*, which provided strong support for various activities of the "Tourism Year" and other bilateral cooperation initiatives.

Li Yaying introduced that according to relevant arrangement, the "China-India Tourism Year" will be launched in India this year. At the opening ceremony held by CNTA on January 14 in Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi, leader of China will send





the congratulatory message (India side to be confirmed), and leading officials of tourism authorities of both countries will be present together. Besides, Chinese artists will stage a wonderful performance of traditional Huangmei opera named, The Seven Fairy Maiden for the Indian audience. With great importance attached by the central government of both countries and the active participation of tourism professionals, the CNTA has designed nearly a hundred tourism promotion and exchange activities during the period of “China-India Tourism Year,” including promotional films and ads released through major media and web portals in India, invited fam visits to China of Indian tourism journalists, and tourism promotional activities themed with the Silk Road. These activities will help Indian people better understand China and create positive atmosphere for the tourism development in both countries. In addition, a dedicated page for the “China-India Tourism Year” will be launched in English on the overseas promotion website of Chinese

tourism so that Indian friends can have better access to relevant information including scenic spots, tourism itineraries, Chinese cuisines, etc.

Over 100 representatives including the Minister-Counsellor Cheng Guangzhong of Chinese Embassy in India, officials of relevant departments of CNTA and media from China and India attended the press conference.

With the fast economic development of both countries and the constant improvement of the living standards of their people, both China and India are now facing a golden time for tourism development. In 2015, a total of 120 million outbound trips were made by Chinese tourists and the figure of India was also above 17 million. India has become a major source of tourists to China, while China is one of the source markets of India that has the largest growth potential. Seizing the opportunity of holding the “Tourism Year” in each other’s countries, tourism authorities and the professionals from both China and India will strive to improve the mechanism for mutual tourism communication, enlarge the scale of bilateral tourism exchange and carry out extensive cooperation in promoting mutual tourism visits, upholding market order and providing better tourism services, so as to create a better environment for tourism visits and enable tourism cooperation to become strong impetus for practical cooperation in various fields between the two countries.





# CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

The Surajkund International Crafts Mela, organised by Haryana Tourism and Surajkund Mela Authority is an annual fair, celebrating the cultural diversity of the nation

**TT BUREAU**

**T**he Surajkund International Crafts Mela is an annual fair organized every year from February 1 to 15, showcasing the exquisite handlooms, intricate handicrafts, enthralling cultural performances and authentic flavours of rich Indian cuisines. In 2016, the 30th edition of the Mela is being organised with great enthusiasm and fervour.

Over the years, the Mela has grown exponentially, from a small beginning to becoming a truly international event. The Mela contributes in strengthening relations with SAARC nations and other countries that exhibit the best of their crafts and present their exceptional performing arts during the Mela fortnight. Besides representing the Indian art and folk traditions, the Mela also projects a unique confluence



with cultures of other nations.

In 2013, the Mela was upgraded to international standards and now, every year more and more countries are vying for participation in one of the largest Crafts Fair of the world. In 2015, a record number of 20 countries participated in the Mela and Lebanon took part as the Partner Nation. Also a highest ever footfall of 12.00 lakh visitors including 1.60 lakh foreigners was recorded during the 29th edition of the Mela held in 2015.

To preserve the languishing arts and crafts of India, Surajkund Crafts Mela was hosted for the first time in 1987. The Mela has paved a path for establishing a promising environment for craftspersons to directly market their wares while eliminating the middlemen. The Mela is a lifetime



experience where one explores an exquisite mix of thatched huts, folksongs, flamboyant colours, ornate crafts and aroma of different cuisines. A signature calendar event of the Haryana Tourism and Surajkund Mela Authority, the Mela is held in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Textiles, Culture, Tourism and External Affairs. The Mela is a true custodian of the heritage crafts of the country and offers an ideal platform to craftspersons to sell their handmade crafts without being fleeced by any middlemen.

The Mela ground is spread over 40 acres that houses about 766 work huts hosting craftspersons and weavers. A separate section is earmarked for heritage art and crafts. Scintillating folk dance performances by cultural artistes at the two 'Chaupals' offer non-stop entertainment and draw thousands of visitors every day. Special evening cultural programmes further add to the charm of the Mela.

The multi-cuisine Food Courts serve ethnic cuisines from different parts of the world, enticing visitors with gastronomic pleasures. There are designated places for amusement and joyrides to make it a must-visit event for children and youngsters. The Mela also further provides an opportunity to one of the Indian states each year, to occupy the position of the 'Theme State' each year. The Theme State was conceptualized broadly with a view to promote and focus on art, craft and cuisine of each state of India every year.

Dr. Sumita Misra, Principal Secretary to Government of Haryana, Tourism Department & Vice-Chairperson, Surajkund Mela Authority stated that Telangana will be the 'Theme State' for the 30<sup>th</sup> Surajkund International Crafts Mela-

2016. It is for the first time since its formation as a separate state that Telangana will be participating as the 'Theme State' in the Surajkund Mela-2016.

Sh. Vikas Yadav, Managing Director, Haryana Tourism Corporation & Chief Administrator, Surajkund Mela Authority, further stated that the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mela to be held from 1st to 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, will showcase the heritage crafts of India in a much bigger way and make an effort to reach out to the craftspersons from far flung areas of the country. A variety of Cultural Evening programmes and Day Performances will be held.

Keeping pace with Information Technology (IT) advancements, Mela entry tickets are available online at [www.haryanatourism.gov.in](http://www.haryanatourism.gov.in). One could even opt for e-ticketing through Mobile Application android operating systems under the name Surajkund Mela; an SMS sent will be valid for e-ticket. A Mobile App. for the 30<sup>th</sup> Surajkund International Crafts Mela can be downloaded on smartphones iOS (Apple) and Android operating systems with which the public can get every kind of information about the fair, events schedule, artiste/craftsperson/performer's profile (details including category, title, thumbnail, description, etc.), location map, E-ticketing, media coverage of the fair, photo gallery, video gallery, information screen and contact us.

Also the existing infrastructure is being given a facelift and new facilities will be added for the convenience of visitors and craftspersons. More safety related steps are also being undertaken with special emphasis on disaster management. Installation of high-tech CCTV cameras and superior fire-fighting equipment is in progress. As a part of the Swachh Bharat campaign, high standards of cleanliness will be maintained in the Mela premises.

**Mela timings: 10:30 a.m. - 8:30 pm**



# SEASIDE SPLENDOUR



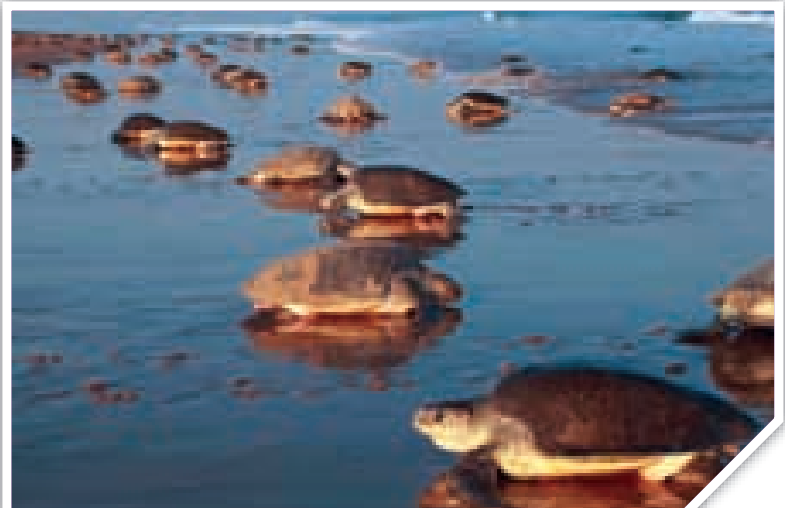
Odisha's beaches attract tourists year-round and are the perfect way to spend a quiet vacation

## TT BUREAU

Widely popular among holidaymakers, Odisha owes its beauty to the magnificent natural splendours, most notably, its mesmerising beaches. The state's white sandy shores have become synonymous to tranquil vacations. Odisha, with its long coastline makes for the perfect beach destinations, with some of the most spectacular sea experiences one can ever ask for. Add this to the fact that the state of Odisha is historically rich, where the historical Kalinga War was fought and won by King Ashoka. The state is also very much revered by Indians due to the numerous temples it hosts. The best known of these are the Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar, Jagannath Temple, Puri and the Konark Sun Temple. Here we take a look at the beaches of Odisha for a promising vacation.

## GAHIRMATHA

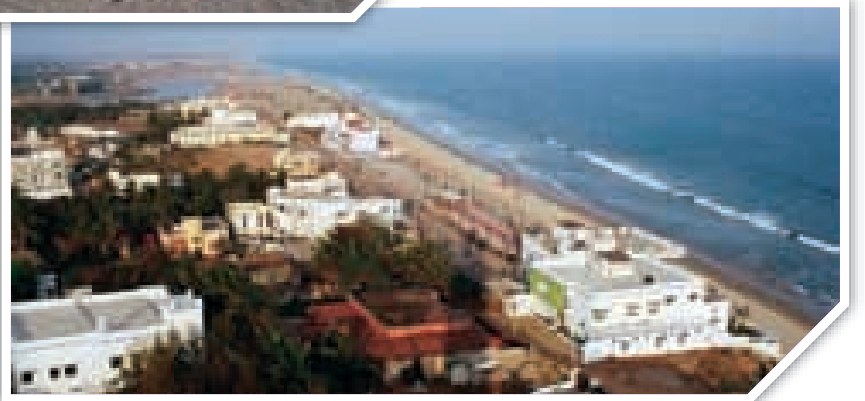
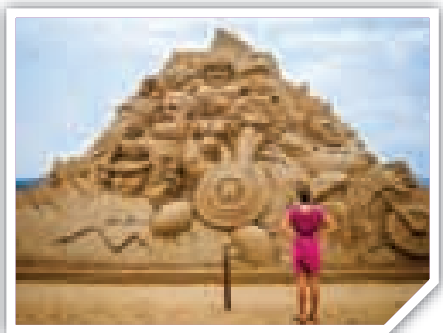
The Gahirmatha coast is 35km long located in the Kendrapara District of Odisha. The beach is known for being the nesting ground of the giant Olive Ridley sea turtles. Gahirmatha is especially good during the winter months and has been inducted in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. In fact the beach is also part of the Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary and has an adjacent portion of the Bay of Bengal. The Olive Ridleys come all the way from the Pacific Ocean to Gahirmatha to mate and lay their eggs. The Gahirmatha Turtle Sanctuary draws large number of tourists every year.





## GOPALPUR

A widely famous beach located hardly 16km from Behrampur, Gopalpur is on the Bay of Bengal. A popular beach resort, Gopalpur has just the right scenic beauty for tourists to enjoy their vacation. This serene beach is perfect for those who want to bathe and laze around. Considered to be the hub of Southern Odisha, Gopalpur is by far one of the more popular beaches of the state, where visitors come to swim and bathe, while at the same time witnessing fishermen at work, mending their nets and catching fishes. Remaining true to its reputation as a marvellous beach, Gopalpur has ruins of colonial bungalows and mansions that once housed European traders. Getting lost amidst the quietness of the beach surrounded by palm, coconut and casuarina trees is only natural in this side of the state.



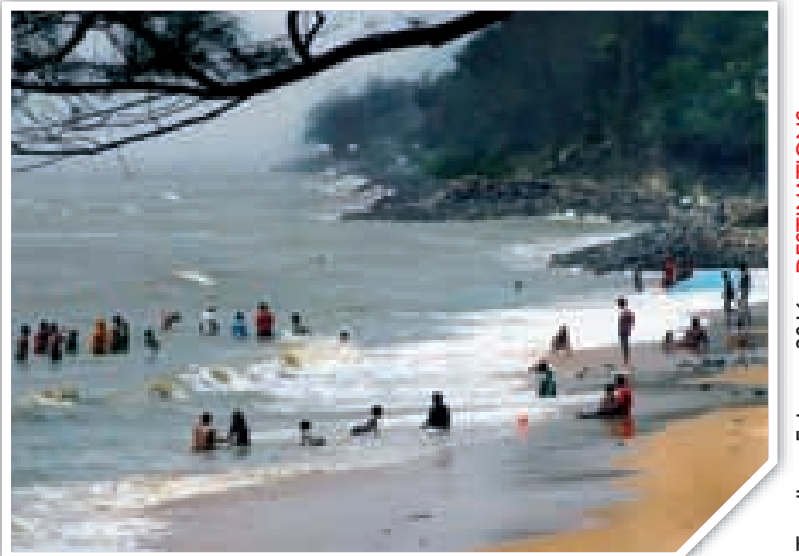
## PURI

Puri, home to Lord Jagannath and considered to be one of the most important Hindu pilgrimages have been thrived by tourists for a long time now. The Bay of Bengal plays host to the soul seeking beach lovers who come here to enjoy the white sands by the sea. Puri is by far one of the most visited beaches of the state and has numerous hotels for tourists to choose from. The beach is perfect for bathing and enjoying other beach related activities. When in Puri do not forget to visit the stunningly beautiful Chilika lake.



## CHANDIPUR

Chandipur Beach in Odisha has a long coastline of over 480km on the Bay of Bengal interspersed by a couple of lovely beaches. Added to their seductive beauty is a vast hinterland of antiquities and holy shrines. Backed up by musical sway of casuarina trees and creeped sand dunes, Chandipur is one such beach, but with a unique distinction on its own. One unique factor of Chandipur is that the sea water here recedes away from the shore line about five kilometres twice a day, an unusual phenomenon, rarely found anywhere. When the waters disappear, you can even take jeep ride here and explorers would be delighted with its abundant wealth of sea shells and drift wood.





# RIDING ON HISTORY

The state of Manipur gave the world the modern game of Polo and it was recently celebrated on its Statehood Day

## TT BUREAU

**K**nown as the little Shangari-La, located in North-East India, Manipur is a 'Jewel of India.' The state is a paradise on earth where nature has been generous in her bounty. The exotic land of Manipur is largely unexplored and untouched, but for those willing to experience the "joie de vivre," it promises to be the great tourist discovery of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Interestingly, the modern game of Polo has been derived from the state's very own sport, 'Sagol Kangjei,' 'Kanjai-bazee' or 'Pulu.'

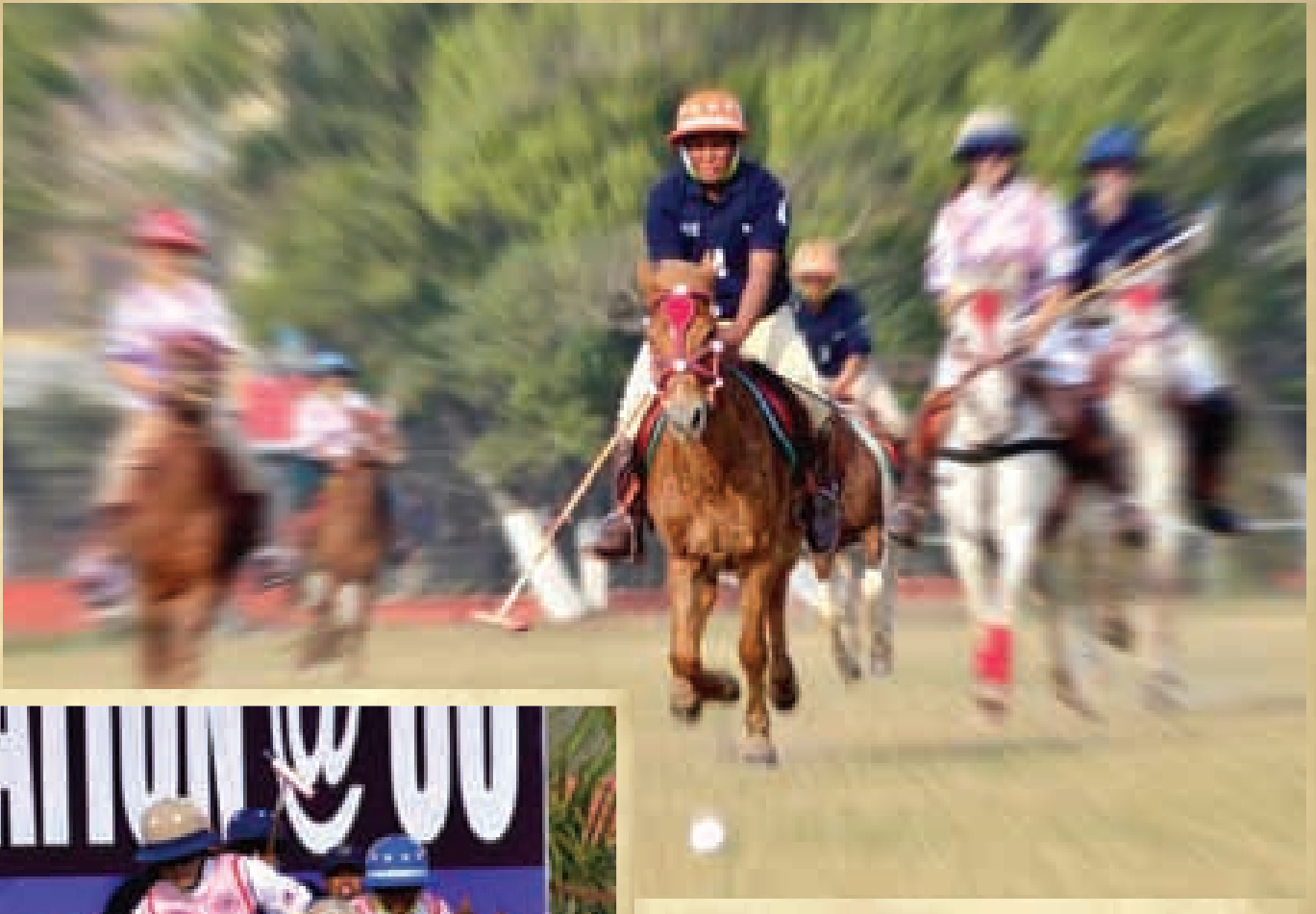
## ORIGINS

The Manipuri Sagol Kangjei has been adopted by the international sport community as Polo and is now being played worldwide. The 'Puyas' trace it to the mythological age when the game was played by the Gods.

The game is played with seven players on each side mounted on ponies which are often not more than four to five feet in height. Each player carries a polo stick made of cane having a narrow angled wooden head fixed at the striking end.

The ball is made of bamboo root. The objective of the mounted players is to hit the ball into the goal. Extremely vigorous and exhilarating, the game is now played in two styles – the Pana or original Manipuri style and the International style, i.e., Polo. It is exhilarating to see the Manipuri players riding ponies at full gallop and playing Sagol Kangjei with gusto. The ponies are also protected fully with various guards for the eyes, forehead, flanks, etc. The British learned the game of Sagol Kangjei in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century from Manipur and after refinement it was transplanted to the world as Polo.





### MANIPUR STATEHOOD DAY WOMEN'S POLO TOURNAMENT 2016

The state of Manipur celebrated its statehood day in the month of January and it was commemorated by organising the Women's Polo Tournament. The tournament was organised by the All Manipur Polo Association (AMPA) at the Mapal Kangjeibung Polo ground in Imphal. Manipur Chief Minister, Okram Ibobi Singh, inaugurated the sports event at Mapal Kangjeibung Polo ground.

Manipur Tourism in its bid to expand its publicity campaign outside of the state joined hands with ministry of Tourism, Rajasthan Tourism and Rajasthan Polo Club where an Exhibition Polo Game was played at Rambagh Polo Ground Jaipur on 24 January 2016 just before the finals of Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh Polo Cup 2016. The Game was played between CowGirls (Team USPA) and Gopis (Team India) which featured two Manipuri players Th. Tanna Devi and S. Sumati Devi. Th. Tanna Devi playing for Team USPA Women scored the first goal of the match.

Shyam Lal Poonia, Director (Tourism), Manipur who led the official delegation comprising of 30 artists (Conch players, drummers and Penna players) officials of Tourism Department and Tour Operators. On 23rd January, a B to B meeting was organised wherein captains of tourism industry from Rajasthan interacted with Tour Operators from Manipur. The meeting was also attended by Director, India Tourism, Jaipur and representatives of Rajasthan Tourism. A dinner was later hosted by Hotel Four Points Sheraton where all the key members of Tourism Industry interacted for joint promotion of Tourism between Rajasthan and Manipur. History was created when Manipuri Sankirtan drummers performed at Closing of Jaipur Literature Festival on the evening of 25th January 2016. The heart winning performance was witnessed by audience from all over the world.

# LIFE WORK IN THE BALANCE







When working life absorbs every waking breath into its fold, companies bring out their spin doctors. Mantras flow quick and fast. Focus is brought on the “work-life balance” – and a host of similar quick fix band-aids to make everyone feel better. A tongue-in-cheek look at today’s work-life imbalance...

#### KAMAL GILL

**C**orporations worry about bottom lines. In the process of boosting financial returns, higher targets are setup, longer hours ensue and lives get more frantic.

If the gloom on the global economic front is any indication, the situation will continue to escalate.

With technology seeping into every breathing moment of the day – it has succeeded in amplifying the speed with which every task is to be completed.

The scenario is a familiar one. Competition in the marketplace is stiff, the economic environment is tricky and companies are exploring all avenues to come up with methods that can ensure success in keeping afloat.

As a global Venture Capitalist puts it, “Business is brutally competitive in every sector where thousands of dead and rotting corpses of slaughtered companies lie on a battleground preparing itself for another day in the marketplace.”

Healthy bottom lines naturally take precedence over healthy individuals in their attempts to create streamlined processes.

Companies treat employees as mechanized wheels to keep the numbers rolling. Employees

in shifts work around the clock. Supervisors and heads of departments maintain the tempo, the seniority pyramid cloister themselves in boardrooms studying spreadsheets into the wee hours.

When burnout occurs they are dealt with efficient ruthlessness. Reducing employee absenteeism becomes critical and corporations come up with “ideal working





environments”, employee benefits, yoga classes, in-house, gyms, “healthy” food pantries, breakout sessions of physical activity in groups or individuals.

While road warriors are spared the ‘cubical or open-office’ competitive aggression, typically nick-named the ‘pressure cooker’, they are in turn victims of endless hours of travel to cover markets assigned to them. Territory is mapped and targets are set under rigorous do-or-die instructions.

When working life absorbs every waking breath into its fold, companies bring out their spin doctors. Mantras flow



quick and fast. Focus is brought on the “work-life balance” – and a host of similar quick fix band-aids to make everyone feel better.

New theories – new health fads – new regimens – new neology covered by wordsmiths troop in. “Heal-thy”, “Bleisue”, “wellth”, “slow travel” and so on. Each brings along a string of marketers to benefit the company with the brilliant idea, which brings one to the millions dollar question. Did one indeed ever succeed in creating a work-life balance since the beginning of time?

Isn't life all about survival no matter how sophisticated the wardrobe, nomenclature and weaponry in use? The battlegrounds have transformed from harsh geographical terrain – from the conquests of distant lands to company

takeover and liquidations. The winner takes all. And companies are not forgiving.

And when survival seems temporarily assured – don't most people automatically enjoy the fruits of a win- then as of now? The cracks appear when the ability to absorb stress is overwhelmed by anxiety of failure. It's not the actual work structure that is triggering the meltdown – it's the survival instinct. What if I fail? What if others do better than me? What if I lose my job? And so on.

Which brings us back to the question of ‘work-life’ balance. As an evolved people – we are or should be better off than our hunters, gatherers and warrior forefathers. We are entitled to superior lifestyle benefits. We battle our way through a comfort-rich environment created by hi-end technology and evolution. Technology in turn, brings the penultimate addiction – ideas that need to be leveraged as soon as they are born....shorter time frames which are often mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Our leisure breaks, whenever we manage to get it – is ours for the short span of time it takes for our minds and brains to figure out that our survival instinct is intrinsically linked, forever, to some equation that skips de-stress signals and fixes itself like a praying mantis: If I did this – I could get better returns... maybe the next promotion...the next unicorn..



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# OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Forget luxury holidays and stick to the genuine thrills of nature with these perfect destinations

## TT BUREAU

**T**ravelling in the modern time and day has become a common cultural phenomenon. People are ready to get on board and get as far away as they can, from the humdrum and cacophony of daily lives. But behind the luxury of a stylish travel, there is the excitement of yet another type of travel, the ones that break boundaries. Going off track to a far flung place with few people and fewer materialistic values can be equivalent to finding enlightenment. In the midst of nowhere, alight the deepest corner of your mind and soul to evoke the possibilities of another love, another life, closer to nature and into the unknown.





### PELLING, SIKKIM

Much of the natural territory around Pelling, which remains relatively unexplored and untouched, only serves to increase the quintessential charm of this fabulous place. Perched at a height of 7,200ft, Pelling offers a panoramic view of the magnificent and majestic Himalayas and the Kanchenjunga. The picturesque scenery around Pelling, consisting of alpine vegetation covering them and accompanied by the exquisite waterfalls, offer a wonderful opportunity to go for long and peaceful walks, amid the tranquil environment. The Sanga Choeling monastery, built in 1697, and which happens to be the oldest monastery in Sikkim, is located just seven km away. Other major sources of attraction are the Rimbi Waterfalls, the Singshore Bridge and the holy Khecheopalri Lake. If you are desirous of leaving the hustle and bustle of everyday life behind you, and finding pure serenity and calm, Peling is the ultimate destination.



### DOOARS, WEST BENGAL

The mystic forests of the Dooars are a far cry from your quintessential travel experience. Located on the foothills of Eastern Himalayas close to Siliguri, Dooars is a spectacular place to be. The word Dooars has been derived from the word 'doors,' as the beautiful place is the door to entering Bhutan. Here in Dooars you will come across natural forest reserves and lush green tea gardens conjoining the streams from Teesta River. Here in the Dooars valley you can get a taste of wildlife through its wildlife sanctuaries, such as, National Park of Gorumara, Chapramari forests, Buxa Tiger Reserve and Jaldapara Sanctuary. The largely unexplored Dooars can come to your rescue as the perfect destination away from regular life.



## NIGHOJ, MAHARASHTRA

Nighoj is the kind of place which will leave you spellbound and bewildered with the marvellous creation which Nature has to offer. Located 90km away from Pune, Nighoj, situated in the Ahmedabad district of Maharashtra, has been the centre of attraction for the tourists and geologists due to the unique, mysterious and peculiar potholes enveloping the entire river bed of the Kudaki River. Their origins, as well as their bizarrely shaped formations, have been the subject of awe and inspiration, as well as, various researches and studies. One of the theories explaining their amazing formation is that, the River Kudaki, with all its might and velocity, must have flowed out from the highlands with such velocity and intensity that it caused the ultimate formation of these potholes, or tinajas, as they are popularly called. Regardless of their origins, this is a splendid work of Nature that deserves your visit, or, many visits.



## DARINGBADI, ODISHA

Tucked away carefully in the hot, humid and heated state of Odisha, Daringbadi is a beautiful little hill station, which, for its ethereal beauty and celestial weather, has earned the tag of being known as the "Kashmir of Odisha." Located at a height of 915m in Kandhamal district, Daringbadi is covered with dense rain forests, coffee plantations and various other bounties of Nature which this fabulous place seems to be blessed with in abundance. Inhabiting these wonderful forests are various kinds of flora and fauna, many of which also happen to belong to the endangered species. But, one curious fact about Daringbadi which stands out distinctively from the others is the occurrence of snowfall during the winter season. Temperatures have been known to plummet to 0 degree Celsius in the early mornings. With all its pristine beauty and outstanding magnificence, Daringbadi beckons you to visit it at the earliest.



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# RUINS OF TIME

A look at the world's most famous ancient sites that withstood the perils of time

**ARKA ROY CHOWDHURY**

Our world has not been like this forever, ancient folks did not tweet in 124 characters, nor did they update their profile picture. Evolution has caused mankind to enter the digital cocoon, but beyond the realms of binary lays a world unknown to most of us. Ruins of a world that once existed is put there, spread across our planet in different shapes, sizes and colours, they represent human civilisation and its rich past. Some of them are protected heritage sites under UNESCO while there are many others that remain obscure to this day.

## THE COLISEUM – ROME, ITALY

Also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, history has it that the Coliseum was commissioned around 70-72 A.D. by the Flavian dynasty's Emperor Vespasian. It was built for the Roman people and officially opened by Titus, Vespasian's son, in 80 A.D. It began with 100 days of games, including gladiatorial combats and wild animal fights. After being in use for almost four centuries, the Coliseum slowly began to attract lesser crowd as the public's taste for entertainment began to change. Over the years, the Coliseum faced earthquakes and lightening and two-thirds of it is destroyed. Today it stands as an iconic symbol of Rome and Italy as a whole.

## THE PARTHENON – ATHENS, GREECE

The temple of Acropolis of Athens was built between 447 and 432 BCE in the Age of Pericles. Dedicated to Athena, the city's patron deity, this temple was constructed for the new statue of the goddess by Pheidias. The temple was in use for more than a thousand years and withstood the ravages of time. The Parthenon is a peripteral octastyle Doric temple whose architectural style is striking. In tune with the other Greek temples of the time, the Parthenon is surrounded by columns carrying an entablature. In total there are eight columns at either end and then seventeen on its sides. At either end, there is a double row of columns. One must visit the ruins of this great architectural marvel to realise its significance in the history of the world.





### **MACHU PICCHU – CUSCO REGION, PERU**

A magnificent 15<sup>th</sup> century ruin of the Inca dynasty, Machu Picchu was discovered in 1911 by Hiram Bingham. The place is widely travelled by tourists from across the world and is located at 7,970ft above sea level. The site is today under the UNESCO World Heritage sites and is widely famous for its mysticism. Machu Picchu approximately has 200 buildings and the place is divided into two parts, namely, urban sector and agricultural sector. It is believed that the eastern part of the city was residential and the western part separated by the square is religious and ceremonial. One of the most significant structures here, in terms of architecture, is the Inti Mach'ay – a special cave used to observe the Royal Feast of the Sun.



### **PETRA, JORDAN**

The city of Petra was an important crossroads between Arabia, Egypt and Syria-Phoenicia as it is located between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea. The magnificent city is half-built and half-carved into the rock, making it one of the most important archaeological sites of the world. It is believed that Petra was established possibly as early as 312 BC as the capital city of the Arab Nabataeans. Petra was unknown to the world until Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt introduced it in 1812. Petra was also inducted into the New7Wonders of the World in 2007. Petra has a vast extent of tomb and temple architecture; religious high places; the remnant channels, tunnels and diversion dams that combined with a vast network of cisterns and reservoirs which controlled and conserved seasonal rains, and the extensive archaeological remains including of copper mining, temples, churches and other public buildings.



### **ANGKOR, CAMBODIA**

One of the most significant archaeological sites in South-East Asia, Angkor stretches over 400km and includes a large forest area. The remains of the Khmer Empire, from 9th to 15th century are restored in the Angkor Archaeological Park. Angkor contains the famous Temple of Angkor Wat and at Angkor Thom, the Bayon Temple with its countless sculptural decorations. Here the architecture and layout bear witness to the high level of social order and ranking within the Khmer Empire. It is proof of important cultural, religious and symbolic values of the Khmer era. The principle temple of this region is the Angkor Wat which was built between 1113 and 1150 by King Suryavarman II. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is thronged by large number of tourists from all over the world.

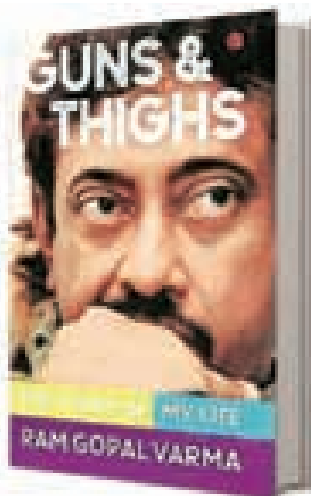


# PICK OF THE MONTH

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

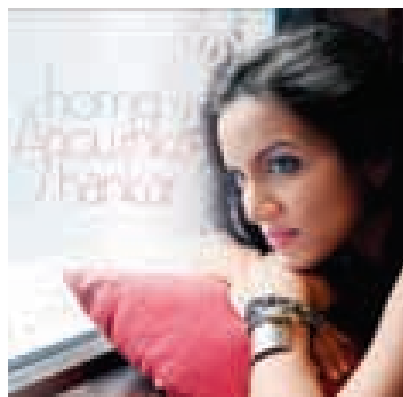
## BOOK: GUNS AND THIGHS: THE STORY OF MY LIFE

Bollywood Director Ram Gopal Verma (RGV) has penned a delightfully candid book about his life and his cinema, RGV reveals the man behind pioneering Telugu and Hindi films such as Shiva, Rangeela, Satya, Sarkar, Bhoot and Company. The book takes into account a wide range of subjects, from the influences and circumstances that drew him to films to his cinematic techniques, his successful and unsuccessful films, his Bollywood idols, his relations with the media and the controversies dogging him, Guns & Thighs is as much about RGV's life and philosophy of life as about his films and the Indian film world. It is not for RGV fans alone but for all those passionate about cinema and the people associated with it.



**Genre (s):** Autobiography

## MUSIC: HOME



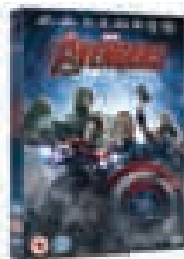
Anoushka Shankar, four-time Grammy nominee who is today considered to be one of the greatest Sitar players of all time has come out with a new album. The album, entitled – Home, is a pure Indian classical album that showcases the meditative and virtuosic qualities of the Indian raga. The musician, after several stunning experimental/crossover albums, including the Grammy-nominated recordings

Rise, Traveller and Traces of You, has now returned to her classical roots, paying homage to the teachings of her father and guru Ravi Shankar. Home features two ragas, one of which is a creation of Ravi Shankar's and with them Anoushka shares an intimate, heartfelt live performance in the traditional style. The album is self-produced by Anoushka, and on it she strove to record the ancient instruments at an unprecedented, "high-definition" quality.

**Genre (s):** Indian Classical

## DVD: AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

Produced by Marvel Studios – Avengers: Age of Ultron, is a 2015 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team, the Avengers. It is distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. The movie is a sequel to 2012's The Avengers and the eleventh film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). The film was written and directed by Joss Whedon and features an ensemble cast that includes Robert Downey, Jr, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Don Cheadle, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Elizabeth Olsen, Paul Bettany, Cobie Smulders, Anthony Mackie, Hayley Atwell, Idris Elba, Stellan Skarsgård, James Spader, and Samuel L Jackson. The movie revolves around an artificial intelligence obsessed with causing human extinction. When Tony Stark and Bruce Banner try to jump-start a dormant peacekeeping programme called Ultron, things go horribly wrong and it's up to these heroes to stop the villainous Ultron from enacting his terrible plans.



**Genre (s):** Superhero/Action

## GAME: TOM CLANCY'S RAINBOW SIX SIEGE

The all new game developed by Ubisoft Montreal and published by Ubisoft, Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege is a sequel to Tom Clancy's Rainbow 6: Patriots. The game, a first person shooter one takes on the tactical shooter genre to the next level with Ubisoft's magnificent Realblast engine. Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege is a single-player/multiplayer first-person shooter game that falls under the tactical shooter genre. It is important to have surgical precision by counter terrorist units (CTUs) in extreme yet delicate situations, such as hostage rescues. Execute missions in tight formations as an agent of one of five world-renowned CTUs: the American SWAT, the British SAS, the French GIGN, the Russian SPETSNAZ or the German GSG9.

**Genre (s):** Action/Shooting





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