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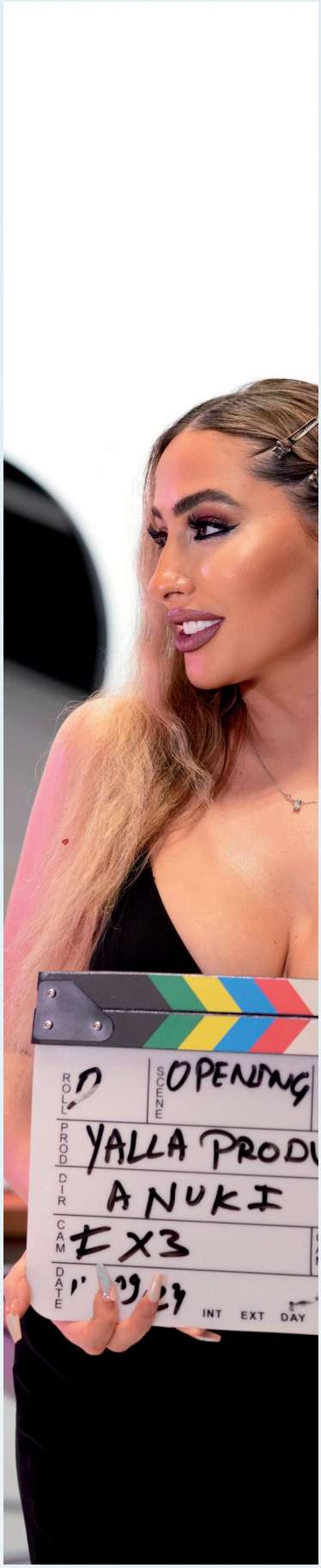
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In the heart of Dubai, Yalla TV has become a powerful media force, known for its cutting-edge content that spans across various industries. Whether it's exclusive interviews with celebrities, top CEOs, or influential businesspeople, Yalla TV gives viewers an inside look at the movers and shakers shaping the global landscape. Covering lifestyle, fashion, entertainment, and much more, Yalla TV is more than just a media channel—it's a voice for creativity and innovation.

PRODUCTION EXCELLENCE AT YALLA

In addition to media coverage, Yalla Production offers a full suite of production services that cater to the dynamic needs of modern businesses. From producing feature films to music videos, corporate shoots, and large-scale event coverage, Yalla Production prides itself on delivering high-quality content that resonates with both audiences and clients. By merging creativity with cutting-edge technology, we ensure that every project we touch stands out in today's fast-paced digital world.

A Word From the CEO
Barbie Nuki, CEO and Founder of Yalla TV and Yalla Productions

"At Yalla, our mission has always been to create and showcase extraordinary content that not only tells compelling stories but also connects with people on a deeper level. Through Yalla TV, we've had the privilege of interviewing some of the brightest minds and biggest stars in the world. And with Yalla Production, we're constantly pushing the envelope to deliver visuals that inspire and entertain. The future is exciting for us, and we can't wait to share more incredible projects with our viewers and clients."





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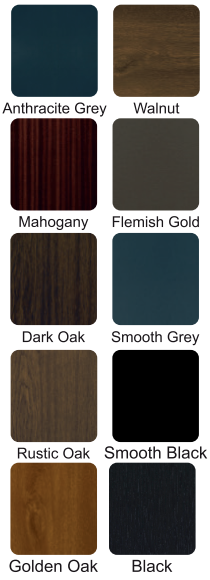
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DEAR READERS,

Welcome aboard SpiceJet!

I am thrilled to share some fantastic news with you. SpiceJet has reached a major milestone with the successful completion of our INR 3000 crore Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). This achievement is a testament to our continued growth and resilience, and I am excited to let you know that SpiceJet's market capitalisation has nearly doubled to INR 8000 crore!

Our QIP attracted significant interest from some of the world's most esteemed investors, including Goldman Sachs (Singapore), Morgan Stanley Asia, BNP Paribas Financial Markets ODI, Nomura Singapore Limited ODI, Tata Mutual Fund, Discovery Global Opportunity Ltd, and Societe Generale ODI, among others. The QIP was significantly oversubscribed, further affirming the confidence that the global market has in SpiceJet's future.

In addition to the INR 3000 crore raised, we will also receive an additional INR 736 crore from a previous funding round, giving us a solid foundation to strengthen our operations and accelerate our growth plans.

This fresh capital will allow us to unground our fleet, acquire new aircraft, invest in cutting-edge technology, and expand into new markets. With these funds, we are set to restore our reputation for efficiency and reliability, offering you enhanced connectivity and a greater range of travel options.

At SpiceJet, our passengers have always been our top priority. We are committed to ensuring stable, on-time performance, reliable service, and the steady expansion of our network. As we embark on this exciting new phase, SpiceJet is ready to lead the skies once again.

Your unwavering support has been the wind beneath our wings, our greatest source of strength. Through every challenge, you have stood by us, and we want to express our deepest gratitude for your continued trust and belief in us.

With fresh investments and a renewed sense of purpose, we are more determined than ever to deliver the world-class service you deserve. Our vision is simple: more reliable flights, an expanded network, and services that reflect the care and attention you have always deserved.

We aim to grow our fleet to 100 aircraft over the next two years. By ungrounding our existing planes and securing new leases, we plan to have 40 aircraft operational by the end of financial year 2025, doubling that number by 2026. Unlike other airlines facing delays in aircraft deliveries, we have aircraft ready to be deployed. Now, with the funds secured, we will accelerate the pace of ungrounding these planes. Our Q400 turboprops, which we own, will be rapidly deployed on regional UDAN routes, further expanding our footprint across India.

As autumn arrives, with its vibrant colours and the excitement of the festive season ahead, we are privileged to be part of your journey during this wonderful time. Whether you are flying to celebrate Diwali or reuniting with loved ones, we are here to make your travels seamless and memorable.

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BNW DEVELOPMENTS

Unveils Aqua Arc: Shaping the future of Al Marjan Island

Aqua Arc offers an extraordinary blend of luxury and serenity on **Al Marjan Island,** featuring **fully furnished** one, two, and three-bedroom apartments, along with two exclusive penthouses. With **360-degree panoramic views** and premium amenities, Aqua Arc is an exceptional opportunity for early investors. This bespoke BNW Developments project promises **high ROI** and capital appreciation for early investors, driven by the anticipated surge in tourism from the multi-billion-dollar **Wynn Resort** debut.

Starting at just **AED 2.24 million,** this water-inspired masterpiece features a **prime location** and world-class amenities. At Aqua Arc, it's more than just investing in luxury; it's investing in your future in the heart of Al Marjan Island.



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Arjun Kumar Roy : The story of Shantilal's Sweets begins with my deep-rooted passion for traditional Indian sweets and a vision to bring the authentic flavours of India to a wider audience. Starting from a small mess in 2013, I launched several food ventures, including Hotel Khana Khazana Mess and Restaurant, Foods Mantra, and TEA POINT. In 2022, I established the **SHANTILALS** brand, offering a variety of sweets, bakery items, snacks, and pure vegetarian cuisine. Our unlimited buffet at 399 has become a popular dining destination in Patna, Bihar.

Arjun Kumar Roy : The first outlet in Mithapur, Patna, quickly became a popular spot due to our dedication to authenticity. Encouraged by this success, we expanded to Saguna More in 2023 and opened a third outlet in Raja Pul the same year. Our commitment to quality and tradition has been pivotal in our growth.

Cultural Connection "Sweets and Namkeen hold a special place in Indian culture. How do you ensure that your products resonate with traditional tastes while also appealing to the modern palate? " **Arjun Kumar Roy :** At **Shantilal's,** we preserve authentic recipes while continuously innovating and incorporating customer feedback. This approach ensures that our products resonate with traditional tastes and appeal to modern palates.








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what's TRENDING



DURGA PUJA ART 2024

When: September 30 to October 4
Where: Multiple venues across Kolkata

massArt is organizing a preview show, Durga Puja Art 2024, considered to be the world's biggest festival of public art. The preview will present the best of art exclusively for global viewers, before the gates are opened for the general public. Durga Puja Art 2024 is also unique in that it is the first ever public-art show to be held at night. This is the third edition of what is a key date on the international art calendar.

STIR YOUR SENSES

Barsys 360, an at-home mixology set, is here to transform the way consumers create and enjoy cocktails in the comfort of their homes. By blending the art of making cocktails with fresh ingredients and technology, Barsys aims to craft an exciting and interactive cocktail experience. The sleek and seamless arc-shaped cocktail maker is available in two colours, Midnight Black and Polar White. An evolution and enhancement of the brand's existing product line, Barsys 360 is lighter in weight and compact too, with upgraded functions and smart design, taking the fun of mixing cocktails to another level.

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Chicken Inn, a quintessential Delhi restaurant in the historic Pandara Road market, has been a culinary icon since 1960. It is now expanding its reach to upscale Golf Course Road in Gurugram. With this, the brand aims to bring its celebrated culinary experience to an even wider audience. Chicken Inn offers a delightful mix of authentic North Indian dishes like the award-winning Butter Chicken, Sizzling Burra Kebabs, and Fish Tikka, as well as comforting Chinese dishes. Known for its classy bar, over the decades this legendary establishment has become synonymous for exceptional food, served in a warm, family-friendly ambience in which generations of patrons have made lasting memories.

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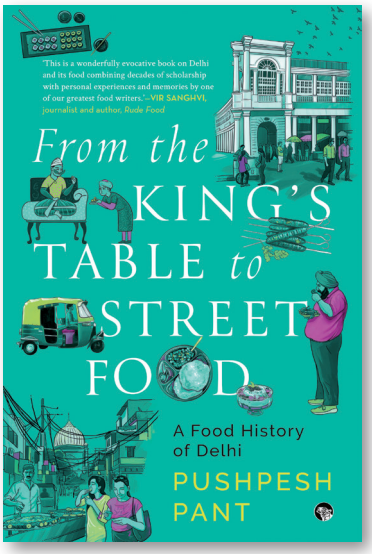
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CULINARY TOUR THROUGH THE AGES

Who is an 'Asli Dilliwala,' a true-blue Delhizen, and what is her cuisine of choice? To answer this question, food historian Pushpesh Pant takes us on a culinary journey from the Mahabharata's Indraprastha—the first city of Delhi—to the present day, taking in the Sultanate, the Mughal Empire, and the British Raj, in his latest book, ***From the King's Table to Street Food: A Food History of Delhi.*** On this fascinating food tour, readers can savour the rich qormas and kebabs of Shahjahanabad, and the Shepherd's Pie and mutton cutlets of 'Angrezon ki Dilli,' while making space in between for a light snack of Papri, washed down with Bael ka Sherbet, in a good Baniya home. From a city identified largely with Punjabi and Mughlai food, Delhi is now a melting pot of cuisines ranging from Kashmiri, Bengali and Bihari, to Andhra, Naga and 'Indian-Chinese'. A Speaking Tree publication, this book will give you a taste of Delhi through the ages.

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

When: October 16 - 20
Where: Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

Legends from across the world and India's finest will be sharing the stage at Jodhpur RIFF 2024, a congregation of music unlike any other. Celebrated roots musicians from France, Norway, South Korea, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Azerbaijan, Canada and Estonia, will perform with renowned Indian artistes, under a full moon at the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort. Jodhpur RIFF (Rajasthan International Folk Festival) will gather together over 280 folk artistes, in a line-up that includes French electronica artist Éric Mouquet, the marvellous Manganiyars of Marwar, Norwegian collective Gabba, the Warsi Brothers, Sona Mohapatra, and many more.







BEAUTY IN STEEL

When: September 1 to October 12
Where: Centre Atrium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

URBAN THOUGHTS by Vikash Kalra, featuring a series of installations of modern sculptures in steel, is a must-visit. For the first time in the country, an Indian has created sculptures on such a large scale, putting Kalra in a select club of international artists. Curated by Virendra Shekhawat—founder of Delhi Photography Club—the sculptures are titled 'Maa,' 'Obverse,' 'Confidence,' 'Grace,' 'Leader,' 'King,' 'Queen,' and 'Ambition,' with each exploring different facets of the human experience and of emotion.

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Dr Rajesh R Agarwala

A JOURNEY OF VISION AND RESILIENCE

Dr Rajesh R Agarwala's life story is a powerful example of vision and resilience. Born in Kolkata, India, in 1957, his entrepreneurial began at the age of 12, initially in the textile industry and later in undergarment business. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from St. Xavier's College, he ventured into the metal industry in 1979, founding RKG Group.

His early leadership as Chairman of the Tin Plate Fabricators Association (1986-1991) marked the beginning of a legacy. Under his guidance, RKG expanded from manufacturing metal containers to becoming a significant player in Eastern India's metal industry.

Recognizing the potential in the metal sector, he established RKG International FZC in Fujairah, UAE, in 2005.

Starting with a modest capacity of 100 tons per month, the company grew to a state-of-the-art recycling facility in Sharjah by 2013, with a capacity of 1,000 tons per month. Today, RKG operates 4 recycling yards and processing over 50,000 tons monthly in UAE besides over 25,000 tons additionally across 33 countries.

Dr Rajesh's influence extends beyond his business achievements. He serves the Recycling Associations as the Vice President of BMR and UAE Ambassador for BIR. His active involvement with MRAI, and ReMA shows his commitment to the recycling industry.

Additionally serves as a Board Member of DRBG, an initiative of Dubai Chambers of Commerce, and is involved with IBPC, RBPG, and GMBF in the UAE.

Philanthropy is another cornerstone of Dr Rajesh's life. He has been an active member of Lions Clubs International for the past 50 years and has received numerous National and International awards, including the prestigious Ambassador of Goodwill award for his humanitarian services.

In 2024, he was honoured by TATA Memorial Cancer Hospital and also received the prestigious "Dada Vasu Shroff Global Award" for Social Service from H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nayan, Minister of Tolerance & Coexistence, UAE.

His philanthropic work spans education, eye care, cancer treatment, and rural development, with leadership roles in several social organizations in India.

Dr Rajesh's passion for the arts complements hisbusiness achievements. He produced three Bengali films between 1990 and 1994 and continues to support cultural and religious initiatives.

In 2020, Dr Rajesh was awarded the first Golden Visa by the Government of Fujairah, recognizing his extraordinary contributions. His journey continues to inspire, shaping the future of recycling and beyond.





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We care for our elders and won't let them down. That's why SpiceJet offers all senior citizens above 60 years of age up to 14 per cent discount on base fares. The discount is applicable on domestic flights for both one-way and return journeys and only on direct bookings made through SpiceJet website, mobile app and reservation centre. The bookings made under this fare are changeable and refundable, but are not transferable.

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The life of a student is not easy! While some of you may be living away from home, others maybe struggling to carry extra luggage while moving. To make flying easier for students, we have introduced special fares and offers. Enjoy up to 10 per cent discount on base fares and get to carry 10 kg of extra baggage.







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Get up to 25 per cent off on base fare when you book for four or more people together. You can avail of the discount when you book for up to nine passengers. The discount is valid on bookings made at SpiceJet website, mobile app or through our reservation centre, on domestic and international flights for both one-way and return journeys. Changes or cancellation of tickets booked under this fare can only be done through SpiceJet's reservation centre. Cancellation shall only be permissible if a minimum of four passengers are retained in the booking.

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JOY UNBOUND

A SEASON OF FESTIVE FUN

FLORINA SOREN

As the year comes to a close and as the nip in the air makes us add an extra layer of clothing, it is time for festivities. India has a long line-up of festivals, but those celebrated around October-November have a more universal appeal, and set the tone for year-end merriment. From Durga Puja in the east, and Dussehra in north India, to the starlit Diwali in Amritsar, the country as a whole is celebrating – and how! We bring you a glimpse of the festive fervour from around India, so that you can plan a visit and be part of these memorable experiences.

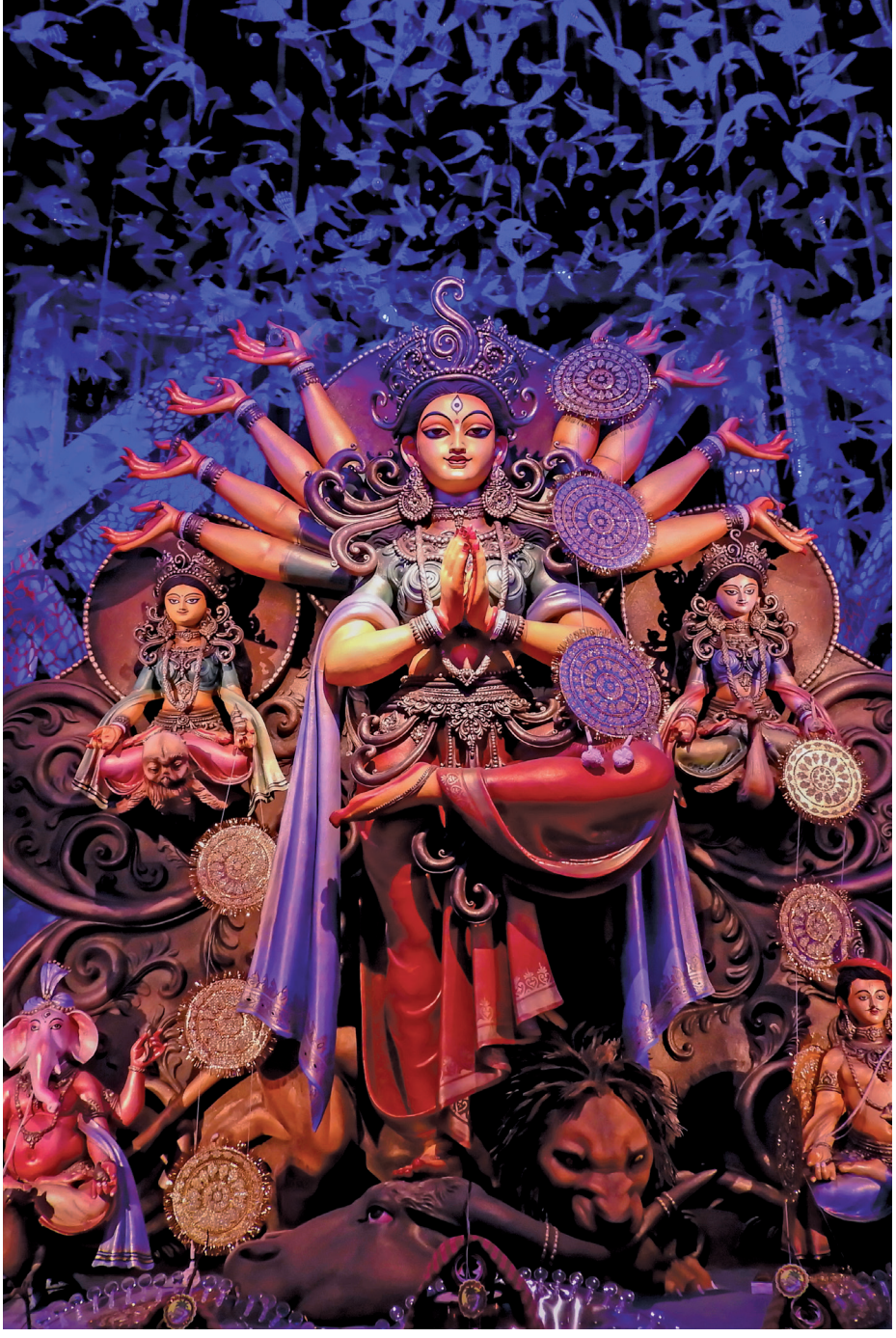
DURGA PUJA

EUPHORIA BEYOND WORDS

Though celebrated across many Indian cities and the world over, nothing can beat Durga Puja in Kolkata and its neighbouring towns. The run-up to the festival starts much earlier, when the deity of Goddess Durga starts to take shape months ahead in Kumartuli, a hamlet around 5 kms from the city centre. And as 'Pujo' nears, the excitement builds up.

To embrace the rapture of the moment, you need to plan in advance, as there are hundreds of puja pandals across the city, each more impressive than the other. These are the epitome of creativity – from pandals recreating historical monuments from across the world to those themed around cinema, and even pandals made out of mouth-watering puchkas (gol gappas), the list is endless. Some are works of genius and imagination, while others are thought provoking, but all are unique and difficult to take your eyes off.

The celebration continues till Dasami, when the goddess (according to mythology) leaves for her abode, along with her children. Dasami starts with married women applying sindoor on Goddess Durga and also on each other, as they play 'sindoor khela.' However, as the day ends, the scene shifts from celebratory to despondent, as devotees heart-wrenchingly bid adieu to the goddess, whose idol is taken to the ghats of the holy Ganga, or a nearby river, to be immersed.



Above:
Goddess Durga keeps devotees enthralled during the week-long Durga Puja celebrations

Below:
Traditional 'Dhunuchi nach' finds many takers at pandals

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OF TRADITIONS & RITUALS

The magic of Puja starts with paying obeisance to the all-powerful 10-armed Goddess Durga, and moves on to pandal hopping. At every pandal, one can enjoy the many – and eclectic – cultural programmes, indulge in a range of gastronomic treats, and immerse oneself in the sheer fun and frolic of the occasion.



DUSSEHRA

THE VICTORY OF TRUTH

Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashami, is the 10th day of the Navratras and marks the end of a long period of celebration and devotion. In the north, Ramlila is performed at many locations and draws people in large numbers. It is an enactment of the life of Ram according to the Ramayana. People come to see Ramlila in large numbers, often to refresh their knowledge of the tales of Lord Ram and of Goddess Sita.

Dussehra is also the culmination of the nine holy days that end with 'Ravan ka Dahan,' the burning of Ravan's effigy, which is meant to symbolize the victory of truth. In modern times, the effigy has become bigger and bolder – and the pyrotechnics more spectacular – with many making it a point to be part of Ravan ka Dahan, to observe this age-old custom.

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Clockwise from Top:
The effigy of Ravan goes up in flames.

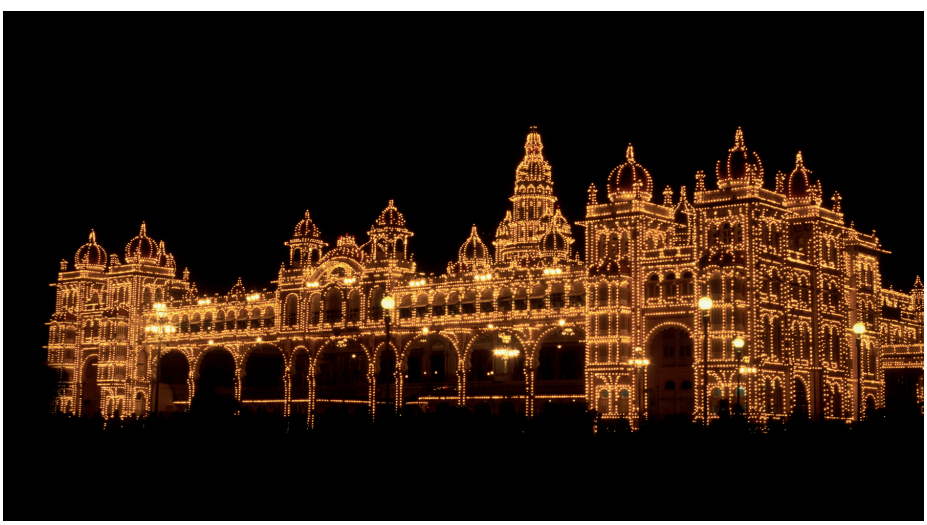
The Mysore Palace is a sight to behold on Dussehra.

Dussehra celebration in Kullu is unique as people from far and near join in for a grand procession.



KULLU DUSSEHRA

Dussehra is also celebrated with pomp and show amid the hills in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, where a giant procession is taken out through the town.



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Clockwise from Top:
The ghats at Varanasi all lit up with 'diyas' spreading light and happiness.

It is family time on Diwali as loved ones come together to share the festive joy.

The Golden Temple in Amritsar, all illuminated during Diwali.

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REFLECTIVE BEAUTY

On the evening of Diwali, the Golden Temple in Amritsar is at its ethereal best, the lights across the temple complex presenting a mesmerizing sight.

LIGHTING UP FOR

DIWALI

On what is known as the Festival of Lights, thousands upon thousands of diyas illuminate cities, towns and villages across much of India. It makes for a wonderful sight, one to warm your soul. Houses or temples are all lit up with myriad lights, a scene that spreads joy and happiness all around.

Every year on Diwali, hundreds of earthen lamps glow dreamily on the ghats in Varanasi, creating the biggest ever 'festival of lights.' Yet, the diyas shining bright as saffron-robed priests chant holy verses, and their shimmering reflection in the Ganga, is always a sight to behold.

Diwali marks the homecoming of Lord Ram after his exile in the jungles, and personifies the victory of light over darkness, a denouement that carries more relevance today than it ever has. As day gives way to night, households perform Lakshmi puja, in the hope that the goddess of wealth will bless them with prosperity. The puja is followed by visits to near and dear ones, to exchange gifts and best wishes too ●

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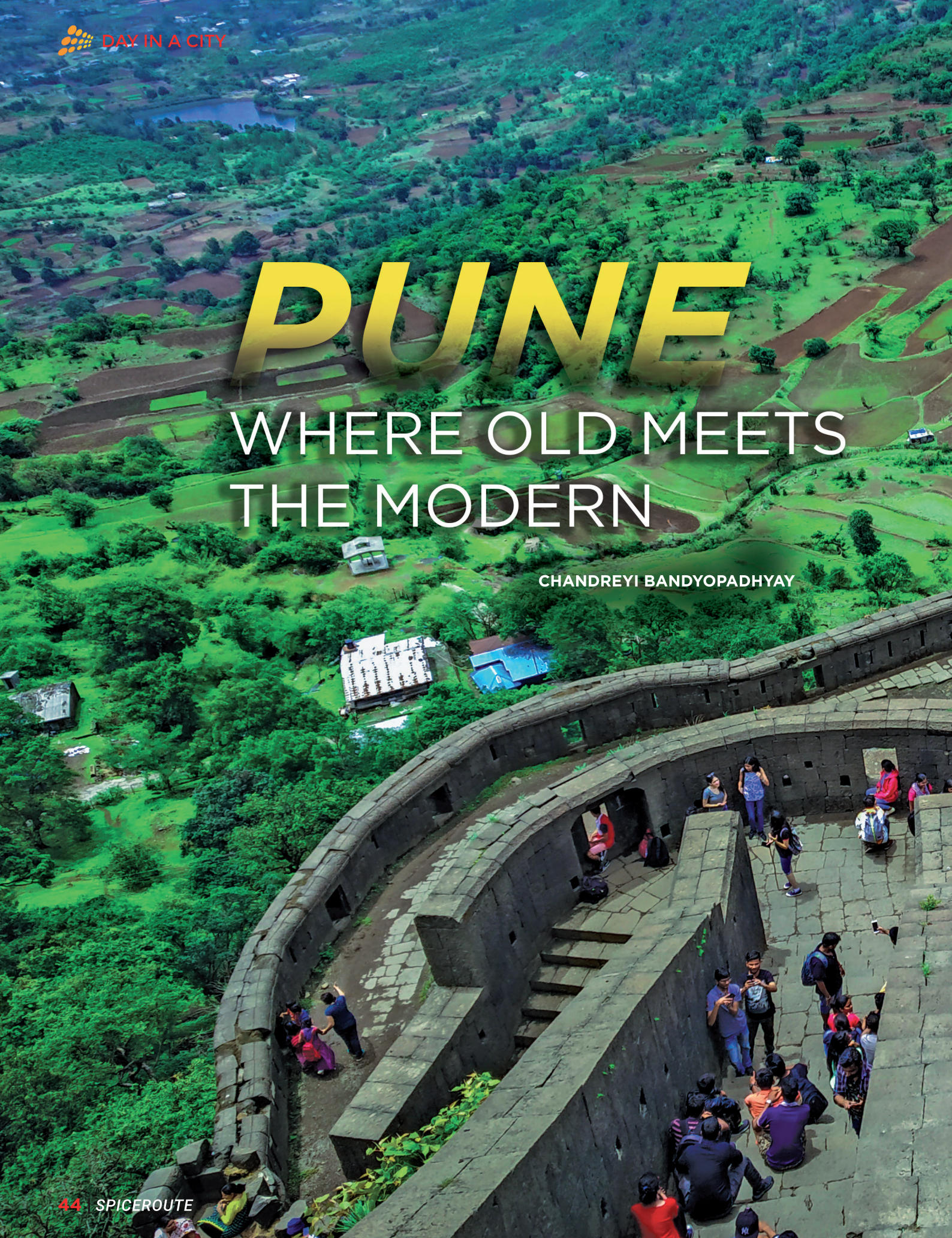


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PUNE

WHERE OLD MEETS THE MODERN

CHANDREYI BANDYOPADHYAY



With its rich heritage, café culture and lively dining scene, Pune - a SPICEJET destination - has everything to delight and surprise an explorer. And you can do it all in a day!

Spending 24 hours in Pune is like indulging in time travel while embracing a myriad of experiences that define its soul. A prominent and lively city in Maharashtra, Pune effortlessly blends old-world charm with a vibrant modern vibe, making it an unmissable stop on any traveller's itinerary. Known for its rich past and cultural significance, the city invites you to explore its history through majestic forts, intricate temples, and bustling bazaars. A day in Pune can be a perfect blend of history, culinary adventures, and unforgettable experiences.

8.00 AM

START WITH A HEARTY BREAKFAST

'Vaidya Upahar Gruha', a quaint signboard hangs above the restaurant, serving patrons since 1912. Stepping inside feels like journeying back in time, with its marble-topped tables, ironwork details, antique mirrors, and classic paintings creating a vintage ambience. The menu, largely unchanged since the 1960s, continues to showcase the owners' perfected recipes. Their signature dish, Misal Pav – a traditional Maharashtrian bean curry – remains a favourite among diners.



Other offerings like poha, sabudana khichadi, bhaji and kharvas, are crafted with care and attention to detail, keeping the legacy of this beloved eatery alive.

11:00 AM

EXPLORE THE CITY'S HERITAGE

Ancient capital of Marathwada, this city boasts a heritage that speaks volumes of the region's past, and whether you're a history buff or simply a curious traveller, its architectural landmarks make for an unforgettable tour into the heart of the Pune story. The crown jewel is Shaniwar Wada, a grand fortress built in 1732 that stands as a testament to the glory of the mighty Marathas. As you walk through its imposing gates, those long-ago days come alive – tales of Peshwa rulers, royal courts, and legendary battles echo through its sprawling gardens and ruins. Meanwhile, the intricate craftsmanship of the Delhi Darwaza and the remnants of the palace halls offer a glimpse into the opulence of a bygone era.

A stone's throw away, the Lal Mahal invites you to delve deeper into Maratha history; this is the childhood home of the great warrior king, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. And nearby, Vishrambaug Wada, with its elegant wooden façade, presents a quieter yet equally fascinating look into the Peshwa era.

2:00 PM

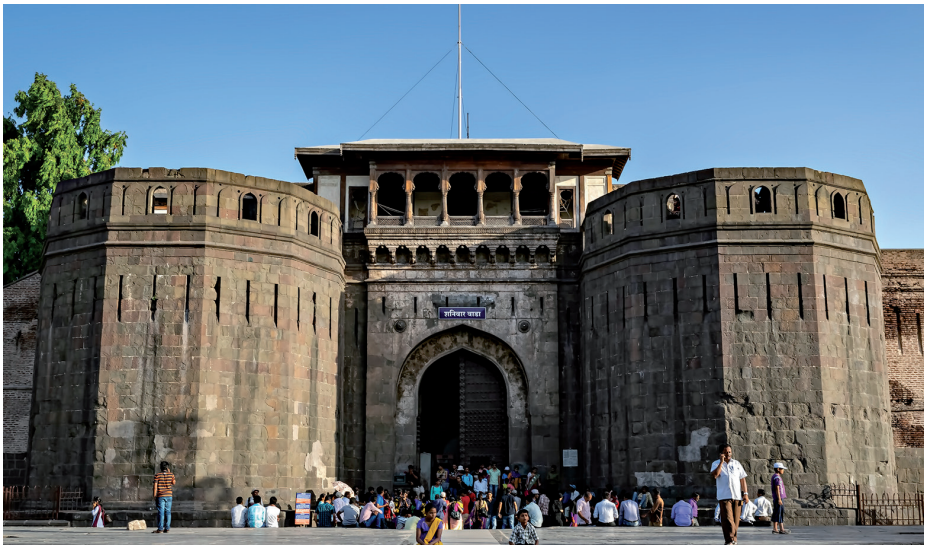
HOW TO SPEND AN AFTERNOON

'Pagdandi Bookstore & Coffee', is a warm space that combines bibliophilia, community, and conscious living. With a carefully curated collection of books from independent publishers, it offers a snug environment for reading, rentals, and book buys. The café serves organic tea, eco-friendly coffee, wholesome sandwiches, fresh juices, and homemade cakes. Pagdandi regularly hosts book readings, storytelling sessions, music jams, poetry nights, and workshops on art, craft, theatre and social issues.

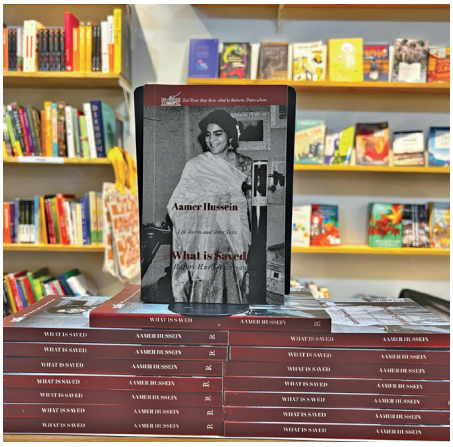
5:00 PM

SHOP TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT

Whether you're hunting for handcrafted ornaments or quirky souvenirs, Pune's streets guarantee an eclectic mix of the old and the new. On Laxmi Road – a must-visit for enthusiasts of ethnic wear – discover traditional Maharashtrian sarees, jewellery, and colourful bangles. A short walk away, Tulshibaug is known for its bustling bazaar atmosphere, and offers everything from brassware to hip accessories at bargain prices. For more contemporary options, MG Road



SPICEJET OFFERS DIRECT FLIGHTS TO PUNE FROM NEW DELHI, HYDERABAD, GOA AND OTHER CITIES.



is lined with boutiques selling chic clothing, footwear, and home décor. Meanwhile, Fashion Street is a favourite among budget shoppers, with rows of stalls selling trendy apparel at pocket-friendly prices.

7:00 PM

NIGHTLIFE FOR ALL TASTES

The city's buzzing evening scene has something for everyone, from lovers of artisanal cocktails to aficionados of gourmet dishes. Koregaon Park is the



epicentre of this scene, where Narrative – a new (and luxurious) restaurant – promises to take you on a culinary journey. Here, time-honoured recipes get a contemporary twist, resulting in dishes like Pahari Chausa Daal, Prawns Rasam and Salmon Kokam Ceviche. For a more relaxed night out, head to Doolally Taproom for fresh brews and fun games •

SpiceJet SUPERSTARS

Meet the achievers of the month from the SpiceJet family, who have stood out for their outstanding work.



RAHUL SHARMA

Customer Experience

Experience with SpiceJet

Throughout my tenure with SpiceJet, I have gained profound insights and valuable lessons that have significantly shaped my professional growth. This journey has presented both challenges and remarkable rewards, and I am excited about the future opportunities with SpiceJet. I am genuinely grateful to my seniors for their unwavering support.

Internal Appreciation

Rahul has performed consistently well throughout his journey with SpiceJet. His experience and effective handling have not only resulted in quick resolution of customer grievances but also garnered appreciation from customers time and again. His role is very important to keep our passengers happy and satisfied. We are very proud to have Rahul as part of our team at SpiceJet. Wishing him many glorious years of service with SpiceJet.



AFSANA BANNA

Inflight Services

Experience with SpiceJet

I am cherishing my time at SpiceJet. I deeply appreciate the work culture that fosters collaboration and working on new ideas. Being recognized for my contributions here has been an ultimate honour for me, reinforcing my commitment to the team and our shared goals. This positive environment has significantly enriched my professional experience and growth.

.

Internal Appreciation

Afsana's unwavering dedication and support have been truly inspiring. She actively participates in celebrating various occasions with her team members and passengers. Her commitment to creating positive experiences and her proactive approach in every situation reflect her exceptional work ethic and passion. We deeply appreciate her invaluable contributions and the positive impact she makes each day at SpiceJet.



ANUGRAH SHARMA

Human Resource

Experience with SpiceJet

I joined SpiceJet in June 2021 as part of the Human Resource department. It has been an incredible journey so far! My stint at SpiceJet has added a vibrant spark to my career, with each passing day bringing new opportunities to learn and grow. The collaborative environment and constant learning opportunities have made my time here truly enriching.

Internal Appreciation

Anugrah has shown remarkable expertise and has been consistent with his commitment. His dedication has greatly influenced the success of our team. He is a great team player and contributes to our collective achievements. He takes on new responsibilities in a proactive manner and contributes to our collective achievements. He is always willing to go above and beyond his work duties.

KHAJURAHO

BEAUTY IN STONE

ARJUN KUMAR



Imagine a tiny village lost in the central Indian forests. And then one day, the forests are parted to reveal stunning temples nearly a millennium old. Built by the Chandela dynasty between the 9th and the 12th centuries CE, the temples of Khajuraho won UNESCO World Heritage status in 1986. Today, the 'village' boasts an airport and receives visitors from across the world. We present a single-day itinerary to experience Khajuraho - one of SpiceJet's popular destinations - and enjoy not just the temples but much more.

7 AM

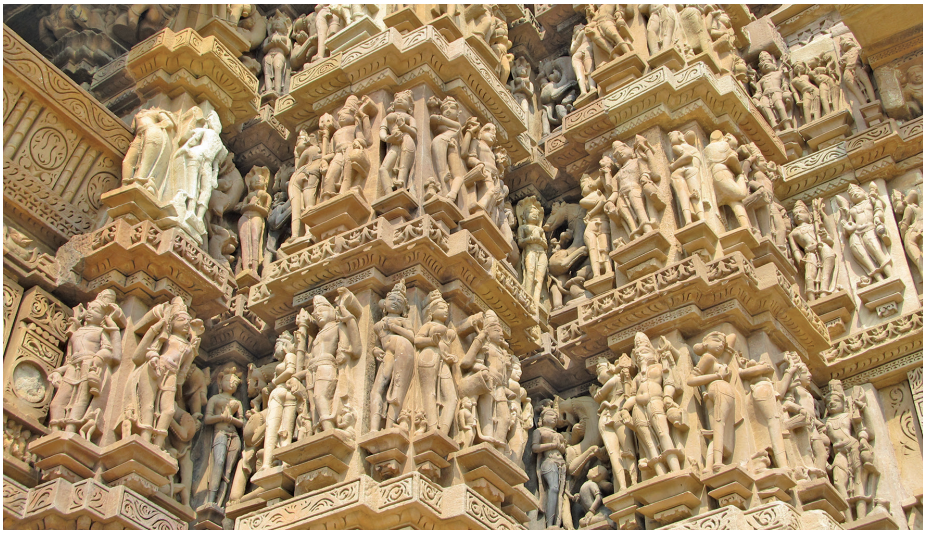
MORNING DARSHAN

Khajuraho's famed temples lie in three clusters, of which the Western Group is the foremost. Make the most of the early morning light with an exploration of the magnificently sculpted Kandariya Mahadev, Laxmana, Chitragupta, Devi Jagadamba and others. Almost every inch of the shrines is carved upon and some of the panels depict a series of erotic scenes – depictions that have drawn global attention. Nearby is the Chaunsath Yogini shrine, the oldest temple here, whose ruins give a glimpse of its unique design.

9:30 AM

QUINTESSENTIAL POHA-JALEBI

Punctuate your temple visits with a quick bite. While you could, of course, go back to your hotel for a more elaborate buffet, there are plenty of options nearby too. Try out a combination of poha-jalebi at a nearby stall or tuck into dosas at the Madras Coffee House, located close to the temples.



10:30 AM

UNMISSABLE SHRINES

Over four centuries, Khajuraho witnessed continuous temple building. Of the 85 shrines that originally stood here, 23 still remain and these fine examples of the Nagara style of temple design exhibit a continuum of temple development. Don't miss exploring the Eastern and Southern groups of temples here, notably the Vamana, Ghantai, Chaturbhuja, and various Jain shrines.

1 PM

RELAXING OVER LUNCH

For such a small place, Khajuraho offers a surprisingly wide choice of restaurants to pick from. There is the ever popular Raja Café, which has the most varied menu. To enjoy a traditional thali, Badri Seth Marwadi is your port of call. They also have excellent Indian desserts – the Chironji Barfi is recommended. You can also do a sampling round across joints. La Bella has Italian dishes and a special menu for children, Guru Kripa has wholesome Indian dishes, the Mediterraneo also has Italian dishes of surprisingly great quality...it's a list that can go on and on.

2 PM

MUSEUM HOPPING

After that hearty lunch, you will probably want to spend some time indoors. If you are not the siesta type, get to the Adivart Tribal & Folk Art Museum. Its highlight is a recreation of the houses of seven tribes of Madhya Pradesh – the Bhil, Gond, Bharia, Baiga, Kol, Sahariya and Korku. Intricate wall art, paintings, traditional musical instruments and the use of



bamboo and clay come together to demonstrate life in harmony with nature. Also, take time to check out the Archaeological Museum and Jain Museum, to get an understanding of the depth of history here.

4 PM

RANEH FALLS

If you want to take a break from heritage and history, grab the opportunity to make an excursion to the Raneh Falls, on the Ken River. It is a 40-minute drive. Taking a guide is mandatory here - driving through the area and having the nuances of wildlife pointed out is a fulfilling experience.

6 PM

SHOPPING, SOUND & LIGHT

Wander back and spend a while at the souvenir shops near the Western Group. The son-et-lumière, with Amitabh Bachchan's baritone, brings the past of the temples alive. It starts at 6:30 pm in winter, so make sure you grab your seat in time.

9 PM

LOCAL FLAVOURS AT A HOMESTAY

Sample local cuisine at one of the rural homestays that dot the region! Apart from sumptuous meals, most have between two and four bedrooms and wi-fi too. And if you want to get really adventurous, drive half-an-hour to a homestay at the edge of the Panna Tiger Reserve. You might just be lucky enough to hear tiger tales over a meal cooked on a mitti ka chulha. There couldn't be a better way to top off your day

SPICEJET OFFERS DIRECT FLIGHTS TO KHAJURAHO FROM NEW DELHI.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Between **October and March** is perfect weather, but crowds tend to be high in peak winter. August and September are wet but also beautiful.

WHERE TO STAY

With options ranging from **star hotels** with full service suites to **backpacker hotspots** and **rural homestays**, the place has something for everyone's budget.

EXPLORE MORE

Those inclined to spend more time here can drive north-east to explore the mighty **Chandela Forts** of Ajaigarh and Kalinjar. Or get a flavour of crafts and art at **Art Ichol**, near Maihar.



If in Kongthong

whistle me by my name

ANIL ORAW

I had heard a lot about the Meghalayan village of Kongthong, just 150 kms from Guwahati, Assam. Likely one-of-its-kind in India (and maybe even the world), this place welcomes you with a melody.



Kumno means 'hello' in the Khasi language, and I had the chance to use this greeting towards the fag end of my career, when I finally got posted to Guwahati, the gateway to most vacations to the Northeast. And after a hearty Khasi breakfast on a Saturday morning, consisting of sticky rice with boiled vegetables, I started on my drive to Kongthong, the whistling village in Meghalaya.



The journey is beautiful, probably more so than the destination. The road, though smooth and elevated, presented us with hairpin bends, some as sharp as 45 degrees, making for a memorable ride. En route, we stopped at Mylliem, site of the popular Bulls Trek. With its lake and pine forest, this is a place of unmatched beauty, in my opinion more so than many other tourist destinations. It is serene and untouched, with not a tourist in sight. Our group of three enjoyed the mesmerizing surroundings here for more than two hours before heading onwards to Kongthong. The road to our destination ran parallel with the scenic Umtyngar, the mountain river we drove alongside for almost an hour. At times,



> The village has a traditional and well decorated welcome gate, hailing visitors in both Khasi and English

Left
Local ladies carrying on with their daily lives.

Inset
Boys having fun 'whistling'/calling out to their friends.

I could hear its roar and see its crystal-clear waters.

Our excitement went up a level as we neared Kongthong. From far away, we could hear faint whistling sounds. Initially, I thought that it must be the birds chirping but the owner of the tea shop where we had stopped by for a hot cuppa, explained that people working in the field and forest were calling out to each other. After recording these calls, we were on our way.

The village has a traditional – and very well built – welcome gate, hailing visitors in both Khasi and English. Alongside is a small plaque highlighting a few distinctive features of Kongthong. When we entered the gate, we could see people of all ages calling each other by their 'whistle name.' It was the most unique thing I had ever seen (or

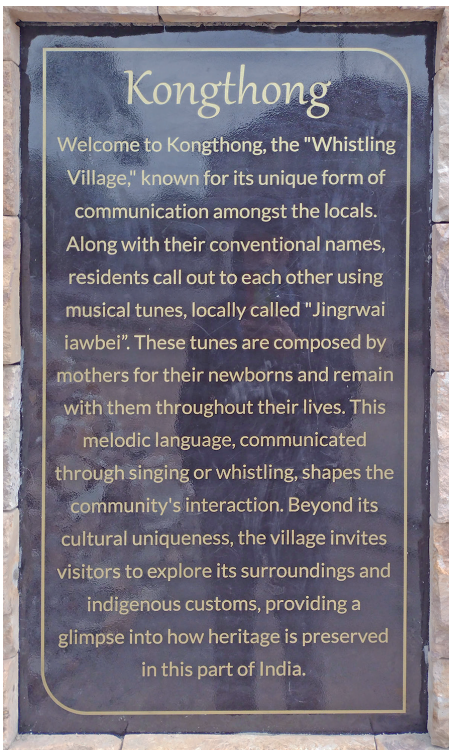
heard) in my long years of travel across India, or abroad for that matter.

In December 2023, the village had approximately 145 households and a population of 750, which meant it had close to 750 unique 'whistle' or 'tune' names. Here, it is believed that because sound and sight are among the earliest identified – and most recognized – senses in humans, people began using whistle names when children were born. And since then, whistling has become a norm in the village, giving Kongthong the tag that has brought it national (and global) renown.

So, from the time of birth, the mother starts to whistle to her child, a 'tune' he or she would hear from day one. It's a sound that comes from the mother's heart, a reflection of her love and affection for her offspring. While people in Kongthong do have their individual names – required as they are for documents, and for getting admitted to school, etc. – it is the whistle name that is used to call out and communicate with each other. And when one is whistled at, they reply back using the other's whistle name or tune.

Visitors like me could not differentiate much between the sounds, but surprisingly, the locals are pros, able to understand each other's whistle names with ease. Rothell Khongsit, the head of the village, informed me that the sounds can be as short as two or three seconds, and as long as 15 to 20 seconds. A mother would use a short whistle when calling anyone at home, while a long whistle would be reserved for someone outside.

While people in Kongthong do have their individual names, it is the whistle name that is used to call out and communicate with each other



Having spent the entire day meeting locals from Kongthong and soaking in the village's breathtaking beauty, we drove down to Kongthong Traveller's Nest, a guest house that was our stopover for the night. It was the most inviting cottage, made from organic materials and with a thatched roof supported by bamboo pillars. We got a chance to unwind under the moonlit sky and relish some fresh local cuisine – dinner was rice cooked on Toko Patta (a kind of banana leaf) and bamboo chicken, a scrumptious meal whose taste I have not forgotten. And the sight of an open sky dotted with stars, and me breathing in the fresh air, is a memory that I will cherish for long ●

The author is Regional Director, North East, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.











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SKY IS THE BEGINNING

FLORINA SOREN



If you thought adventure is all about climbing the tallest mountains or diving from the sky, think again. Gopichand Thotakura, an astronaut, space enthusiast, commercial pilot and more, is redefining adventure one journey at a time. India's first space tourist and the second Indian to reach space after Rakesh Sharma in 1984, Gopichand made the historic sub-orbital flight on 19 May 2024. He spoke to SpiceRoute about his glorious moments on the NS-25 mission and his love for 'mother's dosa', all in this candid interview...

What was your first thought when you saw the earth from up above?

That was the most unique and extraordinary sight, much more beautiful than what we see in movies. It is this magical blue ball with no words to exactly describe it. When I looked at 'Mother Earth' from space, it did not change my life; what it did was give purpose to my life. It made me realise that in the grand scheme of things you and me are just a pin drop, we are nothing. So, it helped me put things into perspective. And once this realization is there, you will not feel the need to disrupt your own life, anybody else's life, and ultimately the environment - thereby making the world a better place.



When did you actually decide to take this flight?

I always wanted to be an astronaut, but the real thing started in 2020 during the lockdown. Also, I would like to add here whatever I am today is because of my father. He always pushed me to do what I wanted - to always push the boundaries. I also thought we as Indians have achieved extraordinary feats in terms of our extraordinary space programmes. Launching the Chandrayaan and landing on the South Pole region of the Moon, are all great achievements, but we do not have one among us - an Indian in space (of course after Rakesh Sharma), and perhaps that got me thinking seriously. In 2021, I finally got confirmation from Blue Ocean. Though it was supposed to take place earlier, but then finally the NS-25 mission happened in May 2024.

How long was the complete journey?

You will be surprised to know the exact time of the flight trajectory is close to 15 minutes, but yes, the most amazing 15 minutes of my life. I tried to locate India, but could not see it as we were on the other side. I could identify Europe, the Atlantic Ocean, and it was simply magical. However, the actual launch process is almost 5-6 hours - from the time you load in, take your position in the rocket, the actual launch, and the final rescue.

What kind of preparation did you have to take and for how long?

I would say the preparation is more mental than physical. And surprisingly, it is not a long drawn-out preparation or drill that one has to go through. Yes, staying fit helps, but the actual training period is almost a week. One does multiple stimulator sessions (around 20-30) at the launch site, a lot of theory training, emergency procedure training, and much more. You are fired at 3000 miles per hour during these sessions. There is so much that is packed into that one week. We were also educated about the larger vision of making space travel doable so that people can ultimately stay and work in space in order to save the earth below.

When is your next adventure or flight mission?

Next would be an Orbital flight, which is a much much bigger exploration. Here you are docked at the ISS and maybe I will also then get a chance to do the space walk. Really looking forward to this.

What is your thought on the possibility of space tourism in India?

In the next 10 years, space tourism will be a much tangible reality across the globe. And people will be able to afford space travel just the way they buy air tickets today. In the next decade, space tourism will be affordable and available to many beyond the privileged class. India has many great talents and Indians will surely be an integral part of this magical journey.

Who do you think has been your greatest support?

As I mentioned earlier, all the credit for who I am today goes to my father. He always pushed me to challenge my boundaries and achieve everything that I wanted to. Here, I would like to add that every parent should let their children dream, and dream big. Support your children in their dream and allow them to follow their own chosen path ●

Favourite travel destination in India - **Always home, Vijayawada**

What is it that you miss about India - **Everything - the food, the hot air, the noise; I love and miss everything about India.**

Favourite dish - **Dosa made by my mother.**



SpiceJet Recognized for Outstanding Customer Service by Ministry of Civil Aviation for 2nd Consecutive Year

SpiceJet is proud to announce that it has received a commendation from the Ministry of Civil Aviation for its exceptional customer service and timely resolution of complaints. AirSewa, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, has praised SpiceJet for its professionalism, courtesy, and dedication in addressing passenger concerns for the second consecutive year.

In an email to SpiceJet, the Ministry highlighted the airline's commitment to providing top-notch service and expressed appreciation for the timely resolution of all complaints. The email stated, "SpiceJet resolves complaints in a timely manner and does not have any pending case."

"We are deeply honoured to receive this recognition from the Ministry of Civil Aviation," said Kamal Hingorani, Chief Customer Officer, SpiceJet. "Our team is dedicated to ensuring the satisfaction of our passengers, and this commendation is a testament to their hard work and commitment to excellence."

The Ministry further acknowledged, "The professionalism, courtesy, and dedication displayed by your support staff exceeded our expectations and made a significant difference in our experience. Your commitment to providing top-notch service is greatly appreciated, and we are confident that AirSewa will continue to excel with such a dedicated team."

SpiceJet remains committed to providing exceptional customer service and will continue to strive to exceed passenger expectations. This recognition reinforces the airline's resolve to maintain the highest standards of customer care and operational efficiency.





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The revival of dying PHAD FOLK ART



KALPANA SUNDER

Vivid hunting scenes with ferocious tigers, a pregnant queen and her companions, a garland of heads, and dancing girls, in rich hues of red, green and yellow. I look at the unfurled scroll painting in awe, marvelling at the beauty that human hands can create. I am at Shahpura Bagh, a former royal palace converted into a luxurious homestay in Shahpura town – between Jaipur and Udaipur – and run by two brothers and their families.

Surrounded by gardens, verdant fields and wetlands, and Neem and Ashoka trees, the palace has high-ceilinged rooms and a centrepiece swimming pool with gazebos around it. This is a tranquil spot for those seeking out life in the slow lane. And I am in Shahpura to look at a 700-year-old art form called Phad, which has both Rajput and Mughal influences, and which one family is trying to preserve. Phads were meant to be mobile temples, long scrolls on which stories of local deities were sketched and painted. They would be rolled up and carried from village to village, and the priests would sing and perform stories with these scrolls as aids. Incidentally, Phad comes from the word for 'fold' in the local language.

The Phad painting would be unfurled after sunset, and the performance by the priest singers of the Rabari tribe would last till late into the night, in front of an enthralled audience, and accompanied by the soulful sounds of the ravanhatta, a two-stringed Rajasthani instrument. The male priest, the Bhopa, would sing and narrate the story, alongside which his wife, the Bhopi, would dance and point to the corresponding section



In 2023, the Joshi family led a team of 15 artists from Bhilwara to create a 75ft x 9ft artwork which now graces the new parliament building in New Delhi.

of the painting with a lamp. The Bhopa also often doubled up as an exorcist, warding away evil spirits from afflicted villagers and livestock.

What is unique about these paintings is that they were created only by the Joshi family, which belongs to the Chipa caste. The Bhopas would commission the Joshis to make a Phad to use in their performances. The stories were of local chieftain Pabuji and Dev Narayan, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. A Phad 30 feet long and five feet wide could contain a mind-boggling 2,000 figures!

Seeing that this tradition was fading away in the villages, Shree Lal Ji Joshi, a renowned Phad painter and Padma Shri awardee, decided to challenge orthodox ideas associated with it by setting up Joshi Kala Kunj in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, in 1960. In this school, artists from outside the Joshi family were also taught the art form. Under the patronage of his sons, Gopal and Kalyan, the revival effort expanded, with the rebranding of the school to Chitrashala, in 1990.

The storytelling tradition of the Bhopas is still alive in some villages but the significance of Phad has evolved, and the paintings can be bought by patrons thanks to the efforts of several members of the Joshi family.

Parveen Joshi, the artist I met at Shahpura Bagh, unfurls a beautiful and intricate Phad painting that is 28 feet long, and explains the laborious process behind the creation of these artworks. Handwoven cotton cloth is first soaked overnight before being starched, stretched and dried in the sun. Its surface is then smoothed using a moonstone. The artists use natural colours sourced from stones, flowers, plants and herbs, as well as organic ingredients like kajal (for black). The paints are handmade by the artists, and mixed with gum and water before being applied to the cloth. Orange, yellow, green, blue, red and black are the typical colours used, says Praveen, and each colour has its own significance. The most important detail is added to the painting right at the end – the eyes. Once these are drawn, it is believed that the deity comes to life.

What's interesting is that the size of each person in the painting is according to their social status, and their role in the story being narrated. All figures face each other and not the audience. Joshi also tells me that the technique of Phad painting was only taught to the boys of the family, as the girls would leave when they were married. But usually, it is the single girls who start the process by applying the first brushstroke.

Now, Phad paintings also narrate stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Hanuman Chalisa and Panchatantra. Besides, they contain images of wedding processions and hunting scenes, making them accessible to a much wider audience. Moving with the times, Phad paintings today are smaller in size and adorn modern homes. And some 18 artists from the Joshi family and around 50-plus students from Chitrashala are practicing this ancient art form. One cannot but help admire the efforts of these families in carrying forward this rich art legacy, and helping it survive and thrive today ●





DINING WITH A CONSCIENCE

THE RISE OF SUSTAINABLE CUISINE

CHEF NISHANT CHOUBEY

In an era where environmental consciousness is paramount, the food industry is embracing a transformative shift towards sustainability. This evolution focuses on reducing carbon footprints, minimizing waste, and supporting local economies, fundamentally reshaping how we eat. As consumers become increasingly aware of the ecological impact of their dietary choices, the demand for sustainable food practices is driving innovation across the culinary landscape.

Sustainable cuisine is much more than just 'food miles'. It is rooted in creating a food system that balances environmental friendliness, economic viability, and social equity. Sustainable cuisine is an environmentally sustainable food system that uses food products grown, harvested, processed, packaged, and shipped or distributed with minimal environmental impact. The trend towards sustainability is not fleeting; it is a profound shift reflecting broader societal changes towards health and environmental responsibility. As diners increasingly seek meals that are beneficial to both their bodies and the planet, restaurants and chefs are innovating with eco-friendly practices that cater to these evolving demands.

Among the sustainability-promoting restaurants, Bhaanas Delhi is a notable New Delhi restaurant that epitomizes sustainable dining principles. Known



However, sustainable dining extends beyond just the menu. It encompasses the entire dining experience, including the restaurant's ambiance and operational practices. The principles of sustainable cuisine extend to mindful practices in the kitchen as well. Small yet significant changes, such as replacing aluminum cookware with iron or terracotta, can have a considerable impact on health and the environment. The concept of cooking in leaves is a highly trending step towards



for its dedication to authentic Indian flavours and eco-conscious practices, it integrates traditional ingredients and modern sustainability efforts in its operations. The restaurant's approach includes locally sourced ingredients and a focus on less processed foods, such as millet, which are celebrated for their high fibre content, essential minerals, and low glycemic index. The use of organic and locally sourced ingredients at Greenr Cafe, Delhi; Edible Archives, Goa; Chokidhani, Rajasthan; and Vishala, Gujarat are examples of eateries that are moving towards sustainable dining. This commitment not only supports conscious eating but also aligns with a broader sustainable ethos by using ingredients that are both environmentally friendly and beneficial.



awareness of the biodegradable. Additionally, utilizing a variety of vegetable leaves, namely jackfruit leaf, cinnamon tree, arbi leaves, etc, enhances the essence of a dish while highlighting sustainability. Dishes like chakka kumbli or kumbli appam made by using jackfruit leaves are perfect examples. Fish polichattu and patrani machhi made by wrapping the fish in banana leaf are other examples. All the more, vegetable peels are used to make stocks and aromatics, and controlling the usage of gas, electricity, and water, exemplifies a commitment to sustainability.

In conclusion, the rise of sustainable cuisine is reshaping our dining experience. From plant-based dishes and ancient grains to eco-friendly dining environments, the focus on health and sustainability is transforming menus and culinary practices ●

Navratri

Navratri is among the most celebrated Hindu festivals in India. However, in Gujarat the celebration takes a completely new fervour with the nine-night Garba festival. Each night, across all cities and villages in Gujarat, people gather in large numbers to celebrate the power of feminine divinity, referred to as Shakti. Every one participates in the rhythmic Garba dance and spends these nine-nights in intense merriment.

When: 3 - 11 October, 2024

Where: Gujarat and many other cities across India





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National Postal Day of India is celebrated on **10th October** every year to commemorate the role played by the Indian Postal Department.



Shriram Bhikaji Velankar introduced Postal Index Number or **Pin Code** (six-digit code) on **15th August 1972.**

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by placing a customized letterbox in his hometown of Khandra in Panipat.



At the time of independence in 1947, there were

23,344

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The beginning of this vast postal network can be traced back to *1727* when the 1st Post Office was set up in Kolkata.





2020

Department of Post was conferred with ***Digital India Awards*** 2020 by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

GOURMET DELIGHTS

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Nissin

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Spicy Chicken



Mast Masala



Yu

Hyderabadi Masala Biryani

INR 250 | USD 4 | AED 15 | THB 120 | SAR 15



Three Cheese Pasta

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 10 | THB 100 | SAR 10



M.O.M

Homestyle Poha

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 10 | THB 100 | SAR 10



Rava Upma

INR 250 | USD 4 | AED 15 | THB 120 | SAR 15



For the finest taste of the ready-to-eat products, please keep the lid closed after adding hot water for the duration specified on the pack.

MUNCHIES

Cashew

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 10 | THB 100 | SAR 10



Roasted Salted Cashews

Cookie Man

INR 100 | USD 2 | AED 5
THB 50 | SAR 5



Cookies Double Choc Chip | Blueberry

Cornitos

INR 150
USD 2
AED 10
THB 70
SAR 10



Jalapeño Nachos & Salsa Dip

SCRUMPTIOUS SANDWICHES

Spinach, Corn and Cheese
In Marble Bread

Domestic
INR 350

International
INR 400 | USD 6 | AED 20
THB 190 | SAR 20



Chicken Masala
In Multigrain Bread

Domestic
INR 400

International
INR 450 | USD 6 | AED 25
THB 210 | SAR 25



BEVERAGES

Continental / Chai Point

Cappuccino / Masala Chai
INR 150 | USD 2 | AED 10
THB 70 | SAR 10



Real Activ

100% Orange Juice/ Multi Fruit Beverage
INR 150 | USD 2 | AED 10
THB 70 | SAR 10



Yu

100% Coconut Water
INR 150 | USD 2 | AED 10
THB 70 | SAR 10



Coke / Coke Zero

Aerated Drink
INR 100 | USD 2 | AED 5
THB 50 | SAR 5



ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (Take-Away)

CHEERS TO A PAIR OF SAVINGS

A. De Fussigny Grande Champagne VSOP



Cognac 700 ml

1 BOTTLE
INR 3,000 | USD 38 | AED 140 | THB 1,390 | SAR 145



Cognac 700 ml

2 BOTTLES
INR 5,600 | USD 71 | AED 260 | THB 2,590 | SAR 265

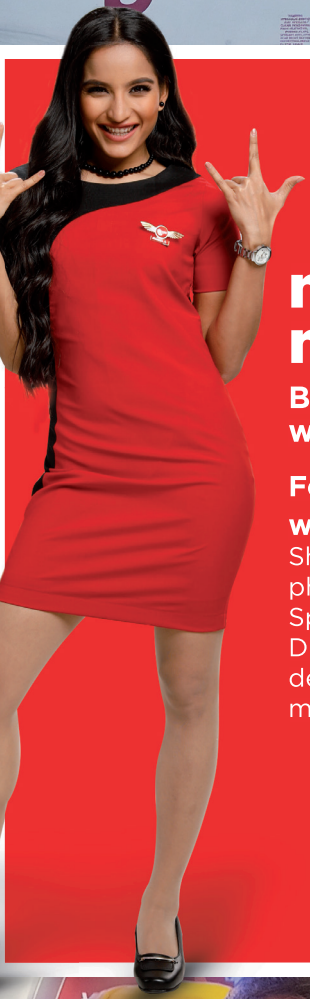
Available on select international flights. Take-away bottles are not for on-board consumption.



Photo by **Mandanna K G**
(Mumbai - Kandla)



Flight: **SG8938** (Delhi - Pune)



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My Town

In our series, we travel to various Indian destinations with a SpiceJet family member. This time Leo – Cabin Crew (Base-Jaipur) – takes us around his home state.



MR. LEO MARSHAL
CABIN CREW, JAIPUR BASE

Are you originally from Kerala?

I was born and raised in the scenic hill station of Ooty, nestled in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu. However, I have spent the past eight years in the Malappuram district near Calicut, which I now consider my second home, having embraced its warmth and charm.

How would you describe the quality of life here?

The standard of living in Kerala surpasses that of many other states in India, and is in fact comparable to the quality of life in Western countries. By preserving its traditional values while gracefully adjusting to modern lifestyles, Kerala has achieved a commendable balance. The state proudly holds the distinction of having the highest literacy rate in India, and its progressive outlook contributes to its appeal as a desirable place to stay. Residents are generally well-informed about current affairs and politics, and Kerala's society demonstrates a remarkable adaptability, embracing new traditions and cultures with ease.

What do you like best about the state?

Kerala stands out as a premier tourist destination in India – it is, after all, recognized by National Geographic Traveler as among the world's top-10 paradises! No wonder, for the state can boast of coconut-fringed sandy beaches, calm backwaters, picturesque hill stations, celebrated Ayurvedic treatments, lush tropical landscapes, rich diversity in flora and fauna, and a remarkable array of spices. We're actually spoilt for choice here, residents as well as travellers.

What lifestyle does Kerala have to offer?

What truly sets the state apart is its people – simple, warm, welcoming, proud of their diversity, and bound by a deep sense of mutual respect. Besides, Kerala's laid-back ambience provides an idyllic sanctuary for those seeking a break from urban life.

What is the night scene here like?

The nightlife in Kerala's cities may not rival the frenetic pace of metros, but I've discovered a more intimate



and charming alternative – cozy house parties and exquisite culinary encounters, in the company of loved ones and friends. And beyond the city lights, Kerala's beaches and hill stations shimmer with nocturnal beauty, and offer enchanting moments under the stars.

Which is your favorite restaurant in Kerala?

As a passionate foodie and lifelong biryani enthusiast, I am particularly captivated by the Malayali love for rice. One of my favorite places to indulge is Al Reem, a restaurant chain in Kerala that specializes exclusively in mandi. Established in Malappuram in 2010, Al Reem has expanded to seven branches across the state. While traditional mandi is typically prepared with mutton, chicken mandi has become increasingly popular in Kerala. The restaurants feature live kitchens, allowing diners to watch their meals being prepared, which adds to the dining experience.

What are the best destinations to visit in Kerala?

There is something for everyone here, whether you love spending time in the hills, relaxing by the sea, exploring the backwaters, wandering the quaint towns, or experiencing the diversity of the state's cultures. Indeed, each place showcases a unique aspect of Kerala's wonder and charm:

Wayanad: Nestled in the Western Ghats, Wayanad is renowned for its spice plantations and wildlife.

Munnar: Gorgeous Munnar is famous for its tea estates, verdant topography, winding roads, and panoramic vistas.

Idukki: Known for the Idukki Dam, this tranquil hill station makes for a welcome escape from the bustle of daily life, and is an ideal destination for a day trip.

Alleppey: The scenic backwaters here are what get visitors flocking to Kerala, with their promise of enchanting cruises, luxury houseboat stays, and serene beauty.

Kovalam: Romantic Kovalam beach, with its crescent-shaped coastline, is celebrated for its New Year festivities, invigorating Ayurvedic massages, and exciting watersport activities.

Thekkady: Adjacent to Periyar National Park, Thekkady is a veritable haven nestled within dense forests and lush vegetation. Here, you can spot tigers, sambars, gaurs, and lion-tailed macaques.

Apart from Kerala, what other places would you recommend nearby?

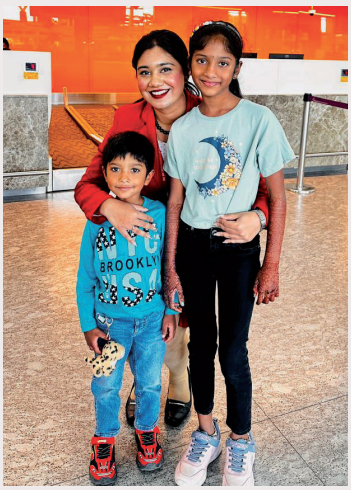
Beyond the borders of Kerala, I wholeheartedly recommend exploring treasures such as Ooty, my beloved hometown that holds a special place in my heart; Coorg, with its coffee estates and verdant countryside; and Mysore, renowned for its rich heritage. Each of these destinations offers a distinctive blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and welcoming warmth that will surely leave you with wonderful memories.



WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT AL REEM?

The warm hospitality – and the mandi! In Kerala, rice and meat create a winning combination, and mandi is the perfect embodiment of this harmony. The slow-cooked meat, prepared in a tandoor, is incredibly tender and flavorful, served over aromatic rice.







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REMEMBERING Gandhi

Gandhi Jayanti is observed on 2nd October as the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, or, as he is better known, Mahatma Gandhi, the spiritual and emotional lodestar behind India's epic struggle for independence.

Gandhi was born in 1869, and had a profound influence as a national leader fighting to emancipate India from British rule. On this day in October, his contributions to the movement, via campaigns of non-violent resistance and civil disobedience, are remembered and celebrated by communities in cities and towns across the country, in government, educational and socio-political institutions.

In states and territories – as also at Raj Ghat in New Delhi, the place where Gandhi was cremated, and the site of his memorial – prayer ceremonies and commemorative services are held, and tributes paid, to invoke his life philosophy and his teachings, and to remind Indians of the centrality of his message to the vision and idea of India. On an occasion that is sober yet hopeful, citizens commit themselves to the Mahatma's concepts of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, and embrace his exhortations to the young and the old of India to look out for each other – no matter what their creed, caste, or circumstance of birth – and to care for the environment.

As a mark of respect, statues of Gandhi are garlanded with flowers on 2nd October, which is also celebrated by the United Nations as International Day of Non-Violence. In India, the day is one of three national holidays, alongside Republic Day (26 January) and Independence Day (15 August). Another feature of Gandhi Jayanti is the rendering of 'Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram,' the favourite hymn of The Father of the Nation, as Gandhi is also known.

On the same day in 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Swachh Bharat Mission, a countrywide sanitation and cleanliness drive whose second phase was launched on the same day in 2021.

For all the violence that marked liberty for India, Gandhi's selflessness, sense of fairness and justice, and courage in the face of adversity, helped keep India united, and it is this sacrifice that is recalled and reflected on, every year on the second day of October •



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PREDICTIONS
October 2024

Dr. Prem Kumar Sharma

(Astrologer, Palmist, Numerologist, Vaastu Consultant & 3-Time Limca Book of Records Holder)

email: psharma@premastrologer.com | **web:** www.premastrologer.com



ARIES

You are blessed with excess energy that will encourage you to take up physical activities or some sport. Lonely hearts are likely to impress someone from the opposite camp. Help will be forthcoming in completing an important assignment at work. Your performance at work remains fabulous. Your upbeat mood is likely to prove infectious for everyone around.

Lucky No.: 11

Lucky Colour: Peach



TAURUS

Your long cherished dream is about to come true. Someone's advice is likely to be of immense help for those preparing for something important. A new venture will bring in good profits. Knee-jerk reaction to a problem will only aggravate it, so go into the details and resolve it with care. Socially, you are likely to gain good mileage. Monetary situation will be smooth.

Lucky No.: 1

Lucky Colour: Maroon



GEMINI

Someone may get overly concerned about your comfort and upkeep. Your networking skills will come handy in raising capital for a project, so go for it. Cancellation of a posting or transfer cannot be ruled out for those in uniform. Those planning to switch jobs should stay patient. A change of diet will help in achieving the desired fitness.

Lucky No.: 4

Lucky Colour: Violet



CANCER

You will make the best possible choice and reap rich benefits. Keep financial implications in mind before going ahead with a venture. You will get the opportunity to start something afresh on the business front. Options available on the academic front may not be to your liking, but there is little you can do about it, so move on.

Lucky No.: 9

Lucky Colour: Red



LEO

Be careful with what you are eating as some of you may face digestive issues. Striking an understanding with someone of the opposite gender will prove helpful in your romantic pursuit. It is best to delay starting anything new, as you may face problems. You will be praised by your superiors at work. Those investing in stocks will get it right.

Lucky No.: 15

Lucky Colour: Coffee



VIRGO

Your life will become more hectic. Raising finances for higher education may pose difficulties, but nothing that cannot be overcome. Extra workload is likely to keep you tied up on the professional front, upsetting your other plans. Pressure mounts on the academic front. Your handling of a resource-management situation at work can ruffle a few feathers, so stay guarded.

Lucky No.: 9

Lucky Colour: Yellow



LIBRA

Mental peace prevails as you get used to the prevailing circumstances. It is a time to ace fitness and also shake a leg. Watch your move in office, as someone may be out to deliberately target you. There is no point in being difficult on the romantic front as you are the one who will stand to lose. Be a sport and make relationships work out.

Lucky No.: 8

Lucky Colour: Magenta



SCORPIO

If you really want it - sky's the limit. Issues you feel reluctant to take up at work may have to be taken up on a priority. Good ideas and a go-getting spirit will help you stay ahead of others on the professional front. It is time to save rather than spend unnecessarily. Those in love, be prepared to be pampered!.

Lucky No.: 2

Lucky Colour: Silver



SAGITTARIUS

You will get your dues, so go right after it and don't have any apprehensions. Doing up the home may be on the cards for some. A good time on the romantic front. While helping a junior, you may end up doing his/her assignments! Don't waste time tackling mundane issues as you will end up neglecting something important.

Lucky No.: 18

Lucky Colour: Purple



CAPRICORN

Don't be judgmental regarding a person, unless you assess him or her personally. Pressure tactics may not work in forcing someone to complete a task, so take a more friendly approach. You may need to encash an investment prematurely to pay for something urgent. Risk of overstraining on the fitness front cannot be ruled out - so take adequate breaks in between.

Lucky No.: 17

Lucky Colour: Green



AQUARIUS

Be more sensitive towards subordinates to get the best out of them. Impressing someone of the opposite gender promises to usher in a budding romance in your life, so rejoice! An enjoyable trip is on the cards that will make you feel relaxed and rejuvenated. Giving final touches to a new house is indicated for some of you.

Lucky No.: 9

Lucky Colour: Brown



PISCES

A great phase starts in which you are likely to earn a lot of respect. Your meticulous planning will result in an event going flawlessly. Coming in contact with influential people is indicated. A much-cherished desire is likely to be fulfilled on the romantic front. You will spend quality time with your dear ones. Financial worries disappear, as money flows in. Health remains excellent.

Lucky No.: 7

Lucky Colour: Golden

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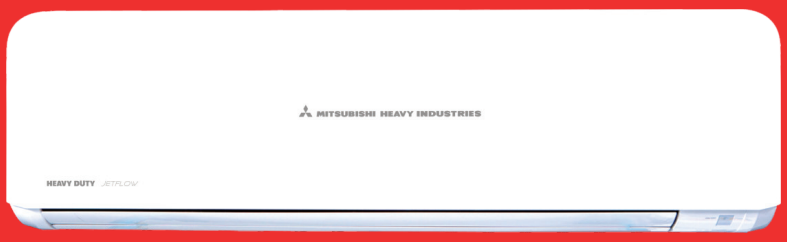
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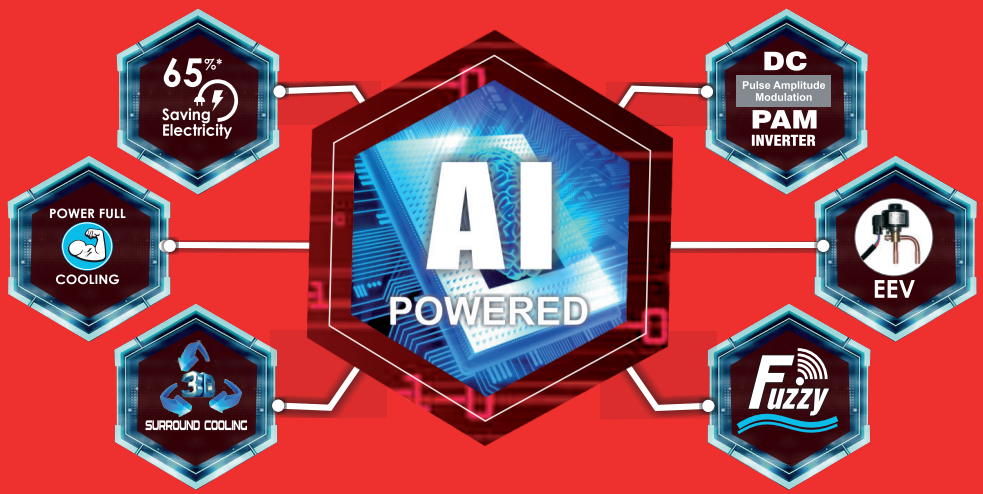
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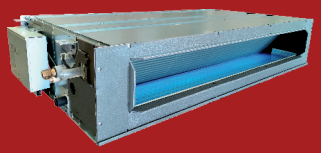
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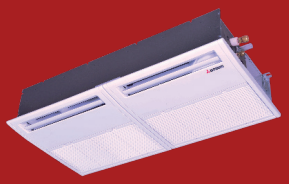
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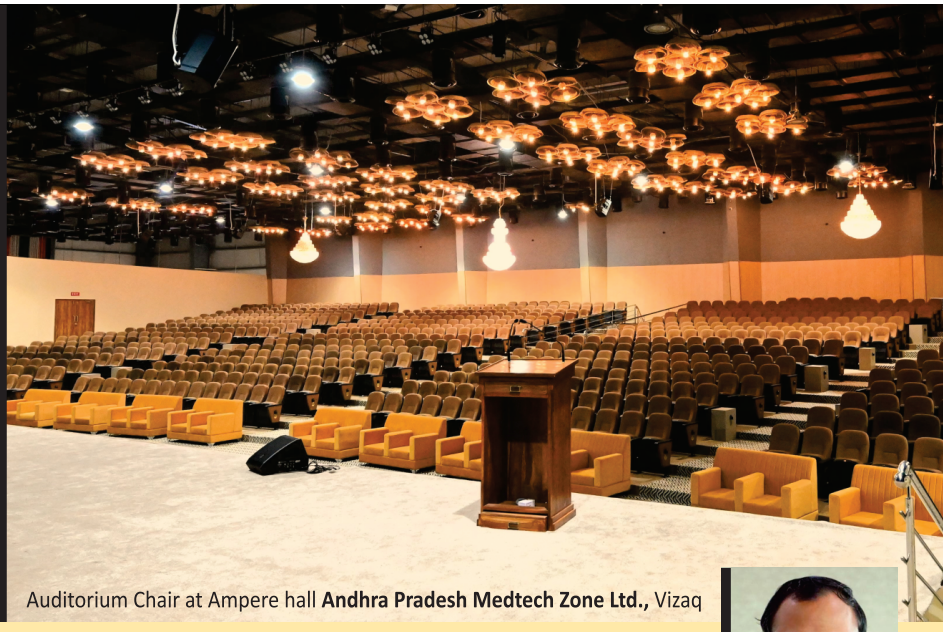
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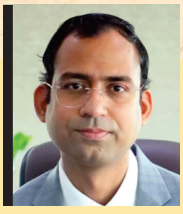
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