

# T3FS

Trendy Travel Trade with Food & Shop  
Volume XI • Issue VII • August 2024 • Pages 56 • Rs. 100/-



Love in diverse  
and enchanting venues

# Travok

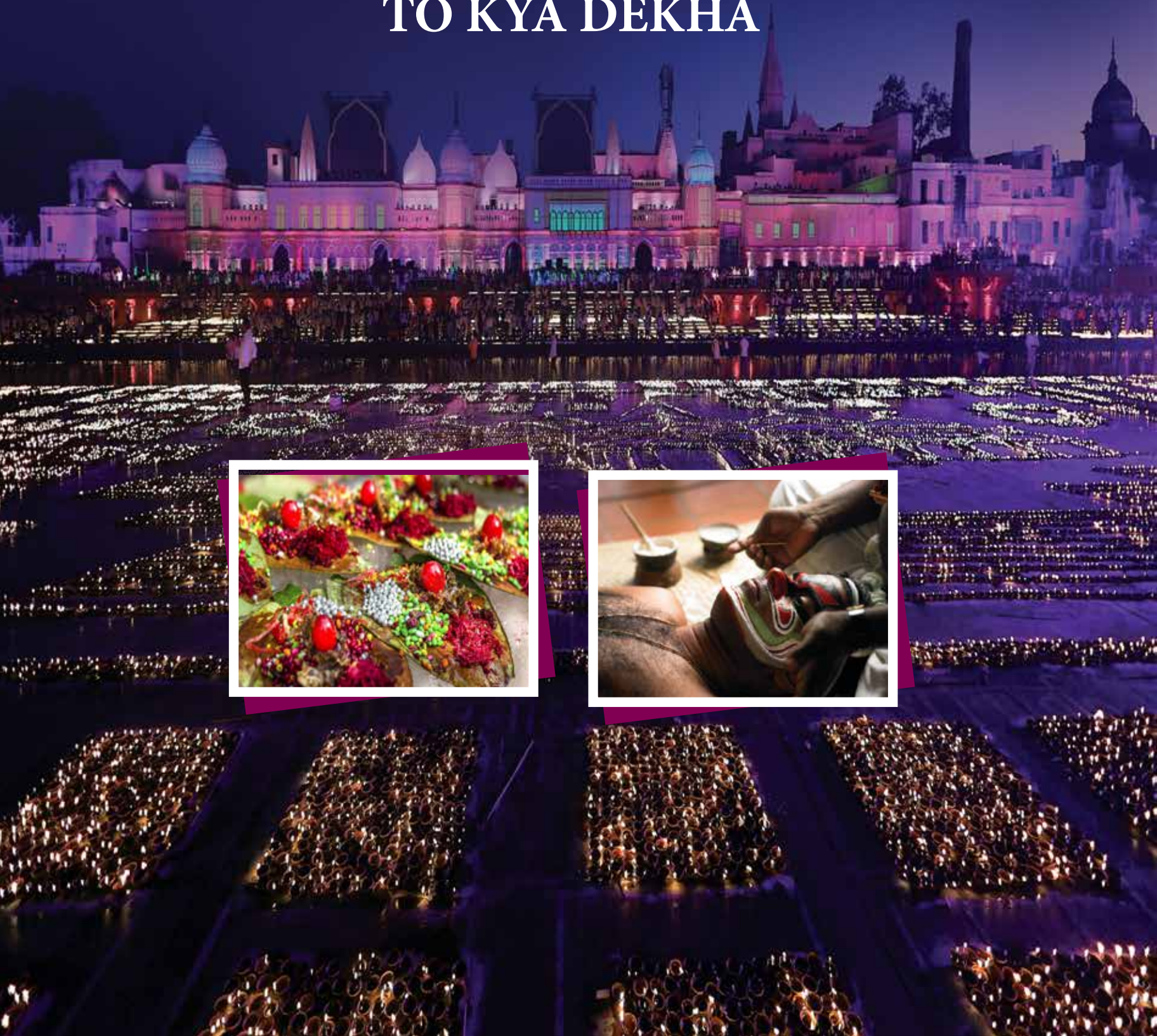
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888, Pocket – D, Dilshad Garden, Delhi – 110095,  
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Printed at: G.S. Basava Graphics Art Press, 35 DSIDC,  
Okhla Indl. Area, Phase - I, New Delhi - 110020

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

### Dear Readers

In T3FS August 2024 edition we highlighted the theme of heritage wedding. In our cover story you will get a chance to explore the worlds most captivating heritage wedding destinations, where history and romance intertwine in an opulent embrace. These extraordinary venues offer a seamless blend of historical charm, cultural richness, and refined elegance, transforming each wedding into a celebration of unparalleled grandeur. From breathtaking architecture to lush landscapes and deeply traditional atmospheres, these historic sites create a majestic backdrop that enhances every moment of the ceremony and reception. Choosing a heritage destination for your wedding not only adds a touch of splendor but also weaves a rich narrative into your celebration, blending customs, artisanal crafts, and local cuisine to reflect both the couple's personal style and the venue's distinctive character.

In the realm of hospitality, we introduce a new dimension to wedding celebrations by spotlighting heritage hotels as the ultimate backdrop for your dream wedding. These storied hotels, steeped in rich histories and exuding majestic charm, provide an unparalleled setting that captivates at every turn. Each venue, meticulously preserved and thoughtfully restored, stands as a testament to bygone eras of grandeur and elegance. From intricately designed ceilings to opulent furnishings, every room is a masterpiece of craftsmanship, preserving the essence of its historical significance. The luxurious surroundings create an ambience that is both grand and intimate, offering an enchanting setting for your wedding that is as



breathtaking as it is deeply resonant.

In our lifestyle segment, we embark on a captivating journey through the world of heritage jewelry. In the context of weddings, where tradition meets opulence and dreams are adorned with timeless sophistication, jewelry plays a pivotal role in crafting unforgettable moments. This special edition on bridal elegance and wedding luxury showcases the pinnacle of luxury adornments, featuring an array of prestigious jewelry brands from around the globe. Each piece of heritage jewelry is more than a relic of its era; it is a vibrant link to the past, offering profound connections to the traditions and stories that shape our present. As we explore these jewels, we unveil a world of artistry and heritage that transcends borders, celebrating the universal language of beauty and craftsmanship.

*Vedika Sharma*  
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## "Banyan Tree Café A Timeless Culinary Experience in India's Historic Ice Factory"

The Banyan Tree Café offers a distinctive dining experience nestled within a 140-year-old heritage building, once India's first ice factory. Our café presents a refined yet simple menu that ...

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# Pride My Travel

Our Agency is in a class of its own. A full service agency, both leisure and corporate travel, with many specialty areas.



With the foresight to seize the opportunities in the domestic travel market, brought on by a slew of new airlines, We offered travellers the convenience of online travel bookings at rock-bottom prices. Rapidly, Our company became the preferred choice of millions of travellers who were delighted to be empowered by a few mouse clicks! Our company rise has been lead by the vision and the spirit of each one of its employees, for whom no idea was too big and no problem too difficult. With untiring innovation and determination, Our company proactively began to diversify its product offering, adding a variety of online and offline products and services. Our company also stayed ahead of the curve by continually evolving its technology to meet the ever changing demands of the rapidly developing global travel market.

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f t i p

## The National Growth Committee (NGC) of ADTOI is hosting a Knowledge Session workshop for members of the Madhya Pradesh State Chapter



Due to a global IT outage, Mr. Aashish Sehgal and Mr. Pinkal Shah were unable to attend the workshop. Despite this, Mr. Ved Khanna and Mr. Atul Singh, with the support of the MP Chapter Office Bearers, successfully held a full-day Knowledge Session, at the Ramada Encore by Wyndham Indore.

Renowned social media expert Mr. Rohit Sharma led the workshop, which was attended by over 70 travel partners from Indore, Ujjain, and Bhopal. The session aimed to enhance travel professionals' skills in using social media to improve business outreach and customer engagement. Mr. Sharma shared

valuable insights and practical advice on creating compelling content, building an online audience, and effectively utilizing WhatsApp Business for customer communication.

### Key highlights included

**Instagram Strategies:** Techniques for creating engaging posts, stories, and reels to attract and retain followers.

**WhatsApp Business:** Best practices for managing customer interactions, broadcasting updates, and streamlining bookings.

**Content Creation:** Methods for producing relevant and engaging content tailored to the travel industry.

Participants enjoyed interactive sessions, hands-on activities, and Q&A segments, making the workshop both practical and valuable.

Ms. Nikita, the ADTOI National Growth Committee MP coordinator, commented, "This workshop is part of our ongoing effort to keep our members ahead in the ever-evolving digital landscape. We are pleased with the strong participation and positive feedback from our travel partners."

## Agoda recommends 5 Indian cities for a perfect monsoon getaway

The Monsoon season in India is a magical experience. This time of year, the landscape transforms and the natural allure of the region is elevated, offering a unique and refreshing travel experience. The rain breathes life into historic landmarks, enhances natural beauty, and provides a cooler climate for exploring.

Traveling during the monsoon season can be both challenging and rewarding. To make monsoon travel plans easier, Agoda shares a curated list of monsoon-friendly destinations for an enchanting experience - from the Pink City of Jaipur to the panoramic views of Mysore.

1. Jaipur, Rajasthan: In the monsoon, Jaipur's Amber Fort and City Palace shine, and cooler weather makes exploring markets and landmarks enjoyable. One can try a block printing class at a historic workshop.

2. Hyderabad, Telangana: Hyderabad's Charminar and Golconda Fort look stunning in the rain. Enjoy lush parks, Hyderabad biryani, and serene walks around Hussain Sagar Lake.



3. Puducherry, Tamil Nadu: Monsoon enhances Puducherry's charm with rain-washed French architecture. Walk the seaside promenade, enjoy café cuisine, and savor the fresh-baked bread aroma.

4. Kochi, Kerala: Monsoon transforms Kochi into a paradise with lush backwaters. Houseboat rides, St. Francis Church, and spice markets are highlights.

5. Mysore, Karnataka: Mysore's monsoon enhances the beauty of Mysore Palace and Brindavan Gardens. One can enjoy Chamundi Hill views and the city's cultural richness.

## IHCL Expands in the Middle East with Two New Taj Hotels in Bahrain

The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), India's largest hospitality group, has announced the signing of two new Taj properties in Bahrain, marking its debut in the Kingdom. This expansion includes a luxury hotel and a boutique resort, underscoring IHCL's commitment to growing its Taj brand in key global cities.

Mr. Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director and CEO of IHCL, expressed enthusiasm about the new projects, highlighting their strategic importance in expanding Taj's presence across the Middle East. "With seven hotels and four more under development in the MENA region, these additions will enhance our footprint significantly," Chhatwal said.

The Taj Resort in Hamala will feature 251 elegantly designed rooms, an all-day dining restaurant, two specialty restaurants, a swimming pool, and a private beach club. The resort will also offer a state-of-the-art gym, spa, and extensive banquet facilities, catering to large events and celebrations.

In Downtown Seef, Manama, the Taj Hotel will



offer 200 rooms and cater to business and leisure travelers. This property will include modern wellness facilities, diverse dining options, and versatile banquet spaces for meetings and events.

Mr. Jalal Al Wazzan of Kingdom Projects W.L.L. praised the introduction of the Taj brand, which is expected to boost Bahrain's tourism sector and support the country's Economic Vision 2030. This expansion adds to IHCL's growing portfolio in the Middle East.



# India towards third largest economy



The India International Hospitality Expo (IHE) 2024 was inaugurated at the India Expo Centre & Mart by Union Minister for Tourism & Culture, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. In his keynote address, Shri Shekhawat expressed pride in IHE 2024's ongoing success, noting its significant role in advancing India's hospitality industry over the past six years. He highlighted that IHE is not just an exhibition but a vital platform for professionals to network, exchange ideas, and achieve global success.

Shri Shekhawat emphasized tourism's potential to contribute to India's goal of becoming the third-largest economy, citing its role as a major employment generator after agriculture. He discussed the opportunities and diversity in tourism and underscored the

importance of the MICE sector in establishing India as a key destination. The government is committed to enhancing tourism and hospitality, as demonstrated by the rapid organization of the World Heritage Committee meeting, which saw participation from representatives of 170 countries. Shri Shekhawat praised IHE's leadership for its efforts in driving the industry's growth.

The event was attended by notable figures including Myanmar's Ambassador H.E. Moe Kyaw Aung, Vietnam's Chief Trade Counsellor Mr. Bui TrungThuong, and other distinguished guests such as Shri Premal Mehta, Director of Aakar Exhibition, and Ms. Meera Mohanty, Resident Commissioner of Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman of India Expo

Centre & Mart, announced Vietnam as a Partner Country for this year, with Vietnamese exhibitors showcasing products and culinary masterclasses. Himachal Pradesh was named the 'Focus State,' highlighting its potential during the expo.

IHE 2024, continues its legacy as India's premier hospitality event, featuring over 1,000 exhibitors and 20,000 B2B buyers from sectors including luxury hotels, resorts, restaurants, and F&B. The expo will be co-located with major events like Catering Asia, Tent Décor Asia, BIOFACH, and AYURYOG EXPO, offering a comprehensive platform for the industry. The Hospitality Sourcing Gala will include exciting competitions such as the Pastry Queen India Competition and the Master Bakers Challenge India 2024.

## Culinary Legends from Australia Arrive at Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bangalore

The culinary event where Australian chefs Gary Mehigan, Matt Preston, and George Calombaris hosted an exclusive masterclass at Phoenix Mall of Asia with Conosh took place. Attendees experienced hands-on workshops and savored signature dishes crafted by these culinary legends. Tickets were available through Conosh or BookMyShow. Gary Mehigan, once a Michelin-starred chef in the UK, is now a prominent figure in Melbourne's culinary scene. Matt Preston, known for his distinctive style and decade-long role on a top Australian cooking show, has influenced many aspiring chefs. George Calombaris, a global culinary icon, is renowned for his innovative approach and media presence. This masterclass provided a unique opportunity for participants to learn from these renowned chefs and explore advanced culinary techniques. Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bangalore's top culinary destination, delivered an inspiring and transformative experience, enhancing the cooking skills and passion for the culinary arts of those who attended.

## Ferrari World Yas Island Abu Dhabi to Launch the World's First Ferrari Esports Arena This August

Ferrari World Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, is set to open the world's first Ferrari Esports Arena on August 29. This new attraction will feature 20 Gran Turismo simulators, including three F1 simulators, offering an immersive racing experience across iconic circuits like Yas Marina. The arena caters to all ages with family-friendly seating and special accommodations for people of determination. With top-tier gaming stations and a sleek design, it promises unparalleled realism and excitement. The arena will be open daily from 10 am to 6 pm, with F1 simulator access available for an extra fee. Ferrari World continues to enhance Abu Dhabi's entertainment offerings, inviting racing fans to experience thrilling virtual adventures.





## Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd. Announced New Aurika Hotels & Resorts Property in Gir, Gujarat

**L**emon Tree Hotels Ltd. has announced its latest upscale addition, Aurika, Sasan Gir, Gujarat, under the Aurika Hotels & Resorts brand. Scheduled to open in FY 2029, this greenfield project will be managed by Carnation Hotels Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd.

Aurika, Sasan Gir will feature 82 elegantly designed rooms and suites, Mirasa all-day dining, banquet facilities including Ekaara ballroom and Aurum boardroom, and a stunning swimming pool. Located in Gujarat, Gir is renowned for its wildlife, particularly the Asiatic lions in Gir

National Park. This sanctuary offers thrilling safaris and a rich variety of flora and fauna, complemented by the region's natural beauty and cultural charm.

Mr. Vilas Pawar, CEO – Managed and Franchise Business at Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd., expressed enthusiasm for the new property, noting that Aurika, Sasan Gir will enhance their presence in Gujarat. With six operational hotels and nine more planned in the region, this new property will offer an exquisite blend of luxury and nature, positioning it as a premier destination for both domestic and international travelers.

## Puducherry Tourism Hosts an Exclusive Roadshow in Bengaluru

**T**he Department of Tourism, Government of Puducherry, hosted an exclusive roadshow in Bengaluru to promote the state as a top tourist destination in India. This event showcased Puducherry's scenic attractions, cultural heritage, tranquil beaches, delectable cuisine, and vibrant local art. It offered travel agents, tour operators, media, and trade partners from Bengaluru a chance to explore Puducherry's diverse offerings and connect with tourism representatives.

Under the leadership of Shri K. Lakshminarayanan, Hon'ble Tourism Minister, the Puducherry Tourism delegation was led by Dr. Jayanta Kumar Ray, IAS, Secretary (Tourism), and Shri K. Muralidharan, Director of Tourism and Managing Director of Puducherry Tourism Development Corporation. Around 15 Puducherry Tourism representatives were present to interact with attendees and foster partnerships.

The roadshow featured networking sessions, presentations, and cultural performances, highlighting Puducherry's charm and hidden gems. It aimed to strengthen connections with the Karnataka travel industry and



open new avenues for showcasing Puducherry.

As one of India's Union Territories, Puducherry, formerly known as Pondicherry, offers a unique blend of French colonial architecture and traditional Indian aesthetics. With its delightful cuisine, stunning beaches, and exciting marine activities like scuba diving, Puducherry is a picturesque destination for adventure and relaxation.

## Redefining Spend Management: SAP Concur and ISBN to Jointly Maximize Customer Value

**S**AP Concur, the leading travel, expense, and invoice management solution, is now integrated into SAP's Intelligent Spend Management & Business Network (ISBN). This move merges SAP's extensive spend management portfolio with SAP Concur's top-tier solutions, providing businesses with advanced tools to optimize spending and enhance financial operations.

In line with this integration, Ashwani Narang has been appointed Head of Intelligent Spend Management & Business Network – India & South Asia. With over 18 years of experience, Ashwani will lead business growth, develop go-to-market strategies, and oversee P&L for the Spend Management Group.

The integration offers organizations improved capabilities to control costs, increase



cash flow, and accelerate digital transformation, with streamlined operations through single sign-on and seamless app deployment. SAP aims to empower finance and HR teams with a centralized platform to manage employee spending efficiently.

Ashwani Narang stated, "India's potential for intelligent Spend Management solutions is vast. Our goal is to support businesses in achieving their objectives through innovative and sustainable solutions. With SAP's technology, we aim to enhance operational efficiency and contribute to India's growth trajectory."

SAP Concur serves over 94 million users globally, underscoring its leadership in the market for travel and expense solutions.



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# INDIA'S FIRST INTRA-STATE AIR SERVICE IN MADHYA PRADESH **PM SHRI PARYATAN VAYU SEVA** UNVEIL ENCHANTING DESTINATIONS OF STATE

Madhya Pradesh boasts scenic landscapes, magnificent history, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, spiritual destinations, thrilling adventures, diverse cultures, and archaeological marvels. Each captivating destination whispers its unique story, promising an unforgettable experience. The state's multifaceted beauty has enthralled travellers. In 2023, the state witnessed a phenomenal surge in tourist arrivals – a staggering 3 times increase compared to 2022! From 34.1 million in 2022, the number skyrocketed to a remarkable 112.1 million in 2023.

## ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY FOR SEAMLESS EXPLORATION

Committed to enriching your Madhya Pradesh experience, the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board takes another pioneering step – "PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva," India's first intra-state air service! This ground-breaking initiative marks a milestone in the tourism sector. This initiative will not only benefit tourism but also foster trade, healthcare, education, and cultural exchange.

## YOUR GATEWAY TO AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY

"PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva" reflects the state's commitment to providing a convenient and seamless travel experience. The Vayu seva connects eight cities: Bhopal, Ujjain, Khajuraho, Rewa, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur, and Singrauli. Booking your air journey is a breeze as dedicated counters are set up at Indore,

Bhopal, and Jabalpur airports. Additionally, you can access schedules, fares, and book tickets online at [www.flyola.in](http://www.flyola.in).

"PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva" is a must-not-miss opportunity to explore more and experience more. Pocket-friendly fares ensure exploring Madhya Pradesh through intra-state flights is an accessible and enjoyable experience.

Embark on a captivating journey through Madhya Pradesh with air service. Rewa beckons you to witness the awe-inspiring waterfalls, explore the majestic Rewa Fort and Govindgarh Palace, and delve into history at the ASI-protected Deur Kothar. Immerse in the spiritual aura of Ujjain, famed for the revered Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple and the Mahakal Lok Corridor. Explore historical sites like Ram Ghat, Mangalnath Temple, Jantar Mantar, Harsiddhhi Temple, and Sandipani Ashram. Ascend the ramparts of the impregnable Gwalior Fort, a testament to bygone eras. Marvel at the architectural brilliance of Gujari Mahal, Jai Vilas Palace, and the tombs of Tansen and Ghaus Mohammed. Explore the Bateshwar Group of Temples, Padavli, and Mitaoli. Be captivated by the grandeur of the Rajwada, a royal palace. Stroll through the vibrant Lalbagh Place, seek blessings at Bada Ganpati Mandir, shop for treasures at Sarafa Bazaar, and savour delectable treats at Chappan Dukaan in Indore. Witness the architectural marvel of Madan Mahal Fort in Jabalpur and pay homage to the Rani Durgavati Memorial and Museum. Explore the natural wonders of Bhedaghat, a UNESCO tentative list site, and delve into mysticism at the Chaunsath Yogini

Temple. Be mesmerized by the world-famous Khajuraho Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and marvel at India's unique artistic heritage. Explore the Adivart Museum, witness the diverse wildlife of Panna National Park, pay respects at the Tomb of Maharaj Chhatrashal, and be awestruck by the cascading Raneh Falls and the Bhimkund natural wonder



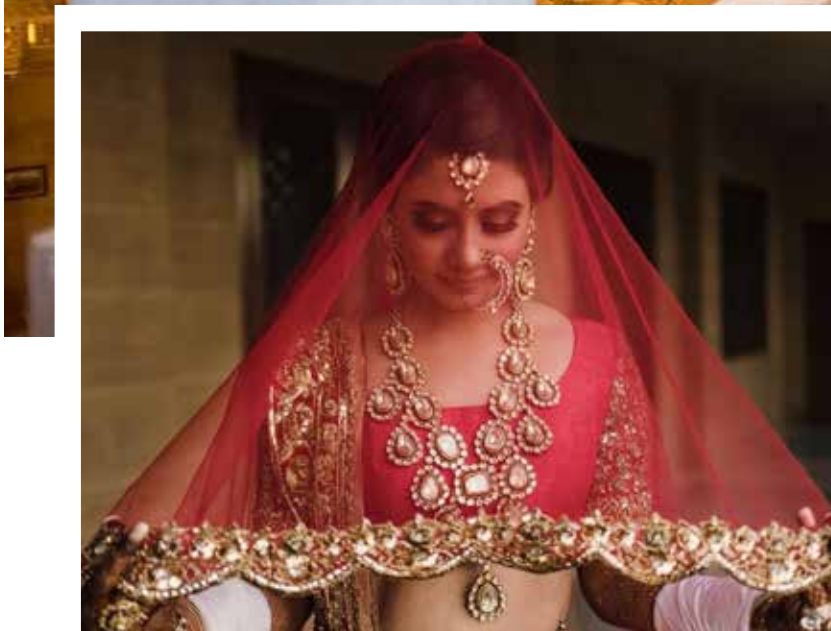
## A DESTINATION FOR EVERY TRAVELER

Madhya Pradesh caters to all kinds of travellers. "PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva" simplifies exploring the entire state, allowing you to effortlessly craft your dream itinerary. "PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva," operated on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis unlocks a world of possibilities for exploring Madhya Pradesh.

So, what are you waiting for? Book your tickets today and embark on an unforgettable adventure in the captivating heart of India!

# Love in diverse and enchanting venues

India's newest heritage wedding cities offer a perfect blend of tradition, luxury, and cultural richness, providing couples with an unforgettable experience on their special day.



India's grandeur and rich cultural heritage provide an ideal backdrop for weddings. While cities like Jaipur and Udaipur are well-known for their royal splendor, a new wave of heritage cities is emerging as top destinations for couples seeking to celebrate their love in historic and luxurious settings. From the regal palaces of Jodhpur and Bikaner to the spiritual elegance of Khajuraho and the coastal heritage of Mahabalipuram, these cities

promise a wedding experience like no other. With their unique venues, rich cultural experiences, and excellent connectivity, these destinations are set to become the top choices for heritage weddings in India.

Let's discover the most enchanting wedding destinations in India, where romantic charm meets exquisite ceremonial settings. These locations offer breathtaking venues that elevate the couple's special day, creating an unforgettable experience.

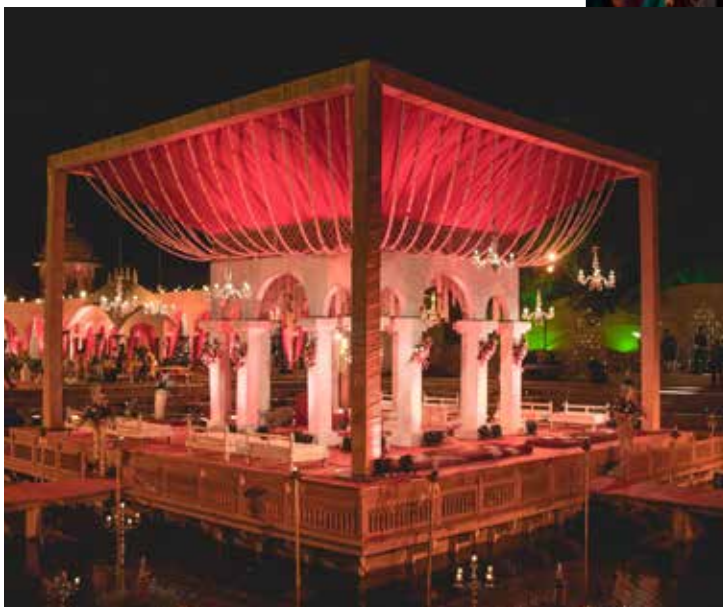


## Jodhpur: The Blue City's Regal Charm

Jodhpur, known as the "Blue City" for its azure-hued houses, is a city that seamlessly blends royal grandeur with rustic charm. The majestic Mehrangarh Fort, Umaid Bhawan Palace, and numerous heritage havelis provide breathtaking venues for a grand wedding.

### Top Venues

- **Umaid Bhawan Palace:** A blend of Indian and Western architecture, this palace offers luxurious accommodations and stunning venues for wedding ceremonies.
- **Mehrangarh Fort:** One of the largest forts in India, offering panoramic views and a dramatic scenery.
- **Ajit Bhawan Palace:** A historic residence turned hotel, known for its royal ambience and modern amenities.
- **Unique Experiences**  
Traditional Rajasthani folk performances  
Vintage car processions  
Camel rides and desert safaris
- **Perks**  
Rich cultural heritage and historic architecture  
A variety of luxurious and unique venues  
Excellent connectivity via Jodhpur Airport and major railway stations





## Hyderabad: The City of Pearls

Hyderabad, with its rich history and cultural diversity, offers a unique blend of Nizam-era elegance and modern amenities. The city is home to palatial venues like Taj Falaknuma Palace, which provide an opulent setting for weddings.

### Top Venues

- **Taj Falaknuma Palace:** A luxurious palace hotel offering stunning views of the city and world-class amenities.
- **Chowmahalla Palace:** Once the seat of the Asaf Jahi dynasty, this palace exudes regal charm and historic grandeur.
- **Taramati Baradari:** A historical pavilion offering a picturesque backdrop for weddings.

### Unique Experiences

- Hyderabad culinary delights
- Sufi music performances and qawwali nights
- Royal horse-drawn carriage arrivals

### Perks

- A rich blend of historical and modern amenities
- Luxurious accommodations
- Excellent connectivity via Rajiv Gandhi International Airport





## Bikaner: The Desert Jewel

Bikaner, located in the heart of the Thar Desert, is known for its grand palaces, intricate havelis, and camel safaris. The city's heritage and royal charm make it a unique and exotic wedding destination.

### Top Venues

- **Laxmi Niwas Palace:** An Indo-Saracenic architectural masterpiece offering luxurious backdrop for weddings.
- **Gajner Palace:** A lakeside palace providing a serene and picturesque venue.
- **Narendra Bhawan:** A former royal residence turned boutique hotel with a blend of traditional and contemporary design.

### Unique Experiences

- Camel cart rides and desert safaris
- Traditional Bikaneri cuisine and delicacies
- Folk dance and music performances

### Perks

- Unique desert landscape and exotic charm
- Rich cultural heritage and royal ambience
- Well-connected by rail and road, with Jodhpur Airport nearby





## Jaisalmer: The Golden City's Splendor

Jaisalmer, often referred to as the "Golden City" due to its yellow sandstone architecture, offers a magical and romantic destination for weddings. The city's forts, havelis, and desert landscape create a stunning backdrop for celebrations.

### Top Venues

- **Suryagarh:** A luxurious desert fort hotel offering opulent settings and modern amenities.
- **Fort Rajwada:** A heritage hotel blending traditional charm with contemporary luxury.

### Unique Experiences

- Desert camp wedding ceremonies
- Camel processions and folk performances
- Sand dune adventures and cultural tours

### Perks

- Majestic and historic architecture
- Exotic desert experiences and activities
- Good connectivity via Jaisalmer Airport and railway station





## Khajuraho: The Temple City's Elegance

Khajuraho, known for its UNESCO World Heritage-listed group of temples, offers a unique and spiritual destination for weddings. The exquisite architecture and serene environment make it an extraordinary destination.

### Top Venues

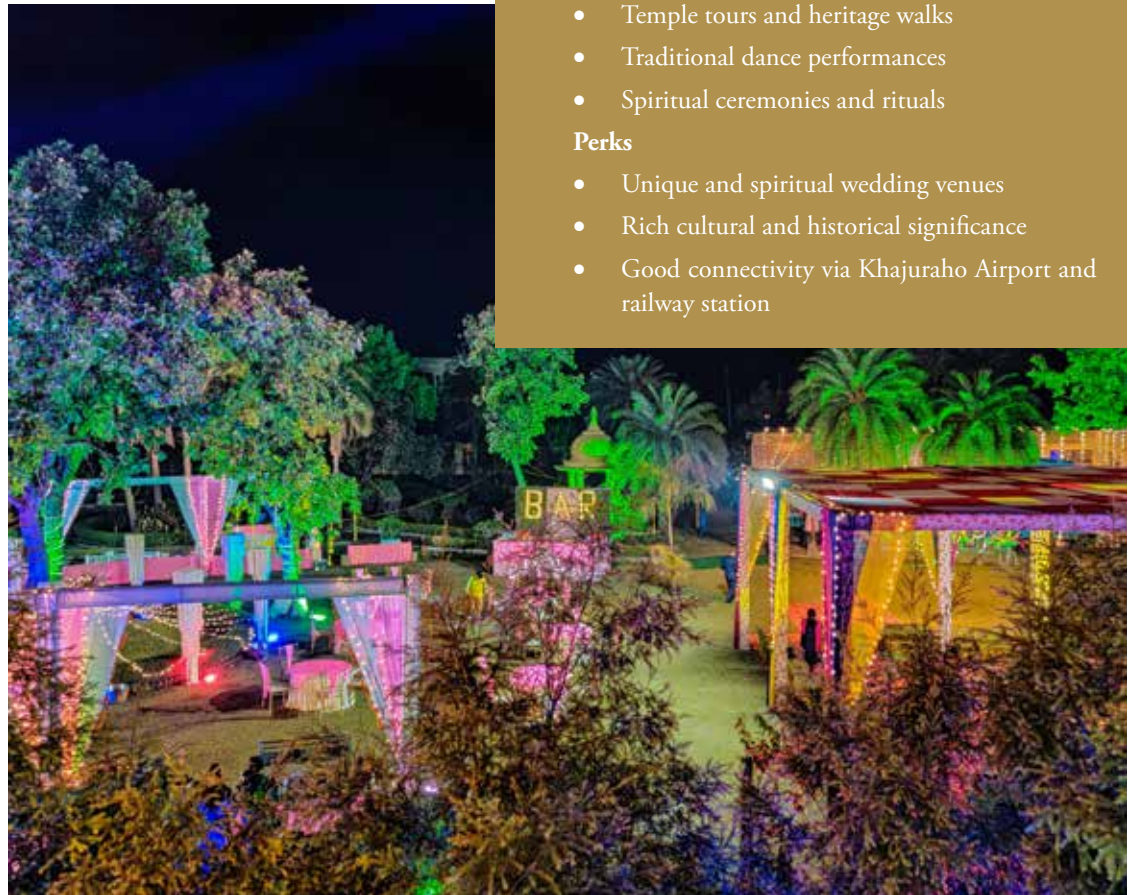
- **Syna Heritage Hotel:** A luxury hotel offering traditional hospitality and modern amenities.
- **The Lalit Temple View Khajuraho:** Overlooking the famous temples, this hotel offers stunning views and luxurious accommodations.
- **Ramada Khajuraho:** A blend of comfort and luxury with proximity to historical sites.

### Unique Experiences

- Temple tours and heritage walks
- Traditional dance performances
- Spiritual ceremonies and rituals

### Perks

- Unique and spiritual wedding venues
- Rich cultural and historical significance
- Good connectivity via Khajuraho Airport and railway station



## Mahabalipuram: The Coastal Heritage

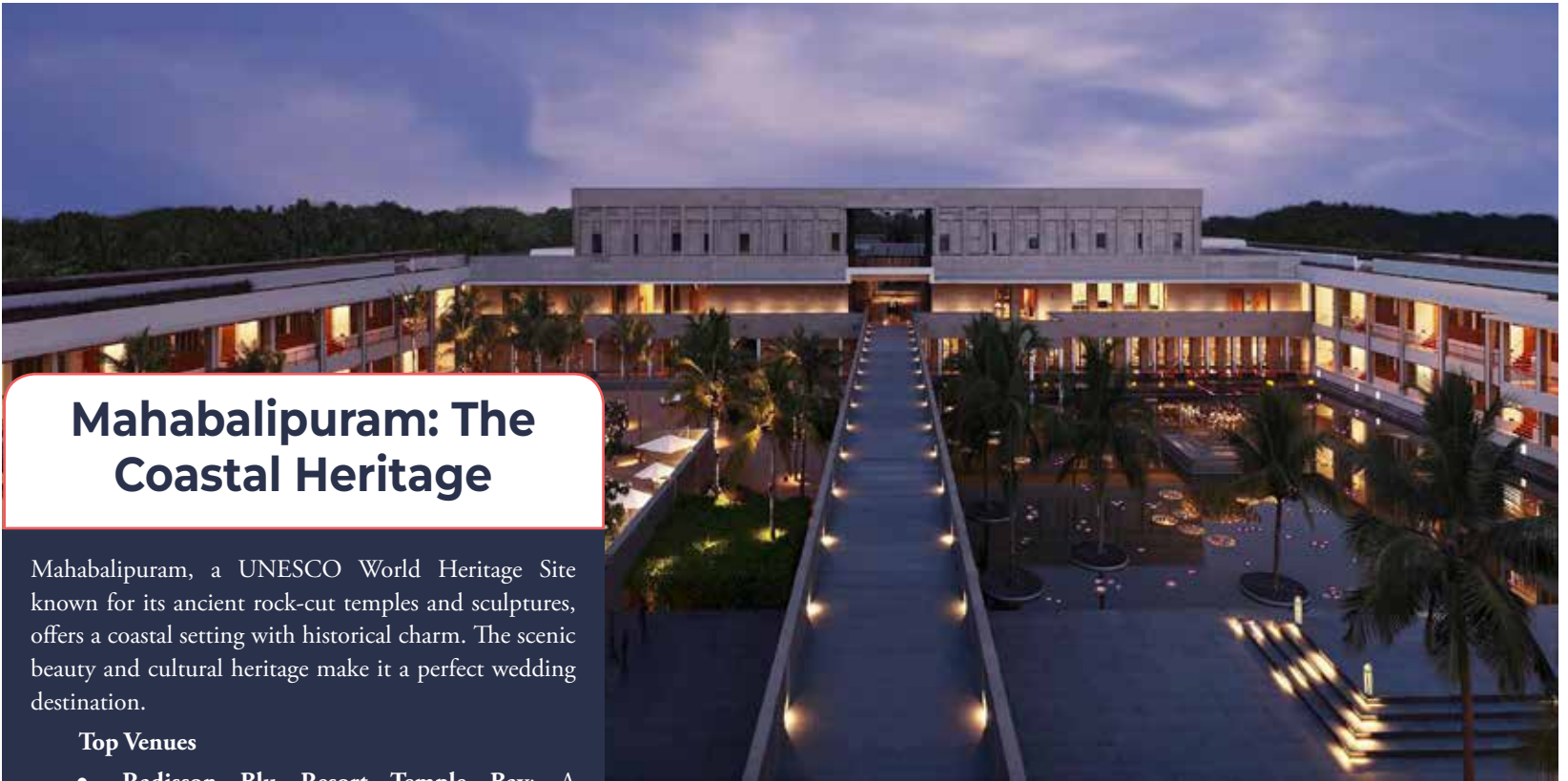
Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its ancient rock-cut temples and sculptures, offers a coastal setting with historical charm. The scenic beauty and cultural heritage make it a perfect wedding destination.

### Top Venues

- **Radisson Blu Resort Temple Bay:** A beachfront resort offering luxurious settings and stunning views.
- **InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort:** Combining traditional architecture with modern luxury.
- **Chariot Beach Resort:** A perfect blend of comfort, luxury, and heritage.

### Unique Experiences

- Beachfront ceremonies and receptions
- Historical site visits and heritage tours
- Traditional South Indian culinary experiences
- **Perks** Coastal charm combined with rich heritage
- Unique and picturesque wedding venues
- Good connectivity via Chennai International Airport





# 4<sup>th</sup> RAJASTHAN DOMESTIC TRAVEL MART

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# The FICCI-Nangia Report forecasts that Indian outbound tourism will likely reach USD 55,388.41 million by 2034

To boost outbound tourism, a multifaceted approach is essential. Key interventions include strengthening bilateral engagements, enhancing connectivity, and providing support to travel industry stakeholders. Additionally, focusing on MSME development, marketing international destinations, embracing digital transformation, and offering curated travel packages are crucial steps. These strategies collectively aim to create a more robust and appealing outbound tourism sector.



**High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India** said, “The strong shared heritage between India-Sri Lanka forms the bedrock of our bilateral relationship. India alone stands out as a key source market for Sri Lanka. The integration of

Indian UPI payment system with ‘LankaPay’ has made simplified payment options for Indian tourists visiting Sri Lanka,” he added.

Mr Dissanayake further stated that to fully realize the potential of outbound tourism there is a need to focus on marketing and promotion of various offerings by Sri Lanka; infrastructure development; promoting sustainable tourism and further streamlining the visa process. Working together, we can unlock the potential of outbound tourism between India-Sri Lanka,” he added.



**Dr Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI and CMD, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group** stated that any country has to have a healthy inbound and outbound tourism. “Indian

tourism has witnessed a major growth in last few years and while we are at the threshold of massive growth, we must be cognizant of sustainability as well,” she added.



**Ankush Nijhawan, Chairman, FICCI Outbound Tourism Committee & Co-Founder, TBO.com and MD, Nijhawan Group** said that the global travel and tourism industry is expected to

reach \$2.6 trillion by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 8.2 per cent. “The traveler preferences are becoming increasingly diverse, and demand tailor made travel services. Demographic boost, government support, increased connectivity and niche segment growth are powering India’s outbound travel boom,” he added.

Representatives from the Embassy of Madagascar to India, Embassy of Georgia to India, Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, Singapore Tourism Board also shared their perspectives during the session.

India's outbound tourism market is projected to reach USD 18,817.72 million by 2024 and grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.4% over the next decade, potentially hitting approximately USD 55,388.41 million by 2034. This forecast is detailed in the FICCI-Nangia knowledge paper, “Navigating Horizons: The Rise and Future of Indian Outbound Tourism”, which was unveiled at the ‘3rd Outbound Tourism Summit’.

The report also identifies emerging markets and opportunities for outbound travel, highlighting various Southeast Asian, Middle Eastern, African, and Eastern European countries. It notes that India's online travel market, encompassing sales of travel services through digital channels, is expected to expand at a CAGR of 10.5% from USD 17.24 billion in 2024 to USD 28.40 billion by 2029. The steady advancement in affordable technology has facilitated this growth in international travel.

Additionally, the report suggests that strategic interventions by the government and tourism industry stakeholders could further enhance the outbound tourism market. Recommended strategies include strengthening bilateral engagements, improving connectivity, supporting travel industry stakeholders, fostering MSME development, marketing international destinations, embracing digital transformation, offering curated travel packages, and forming hospitality partnerships.

Speaking at the launch of the report, **Amb Ms Mary M Mutuku, Deputy High Commissioner of Kenya to India** said that Kenya is not only committed to deepen the relations



between India and Kenya but also promote Kenya as a preferred tourist destination. “Currently, India market is among the top 5 Kenya’s key sources of tourists, and this has potential to grow even further,” she added.

To attract more Indian tourists to Kenya, Amb Mutuku stated that Kenya has put in place necessary infrastructure to ease travel in the country. “With an increase in number of flights between the two countries along with opening of Nairobi Expressway, tourists will have more convenience travelling in Kenya. A new cruise terminal at Mombasa port is a major boost to cruise tourism. The berth targets to enhance passenger handling capacity as well as allow for an increased volume of cruise ships arrival at the port,” she added.



**Seitenov Darkhan, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of Kazakhstan to India** said, “We have huge potential for mutual and beneficial cooperation in tourism sector. There has been a significant growth in the number

of tourists coming to Kazakhstan from India which is also due to offering 14 days visa free regime for Indian tourists along with increase in number of direct flights.”

While highlighting the investment potential for Indian industry, Mr Darkhan further said that in order to meet the needs of Indian tourists in Kazakhstan, it would be advisable to consider building a network of Indian hotels and restaurants in the major cities in Kazakhstan. “We invite major Indian investors to participate in implementing these initiatives in our country,” he added.

**Geshan Dissanayake, Minister Commercial,**

# "Celebrating Culture All Year Round: Goa's Monthly Festivals"



Goa, with its rich tapestry of cultural diversity and tradition, is a vibrant showcase of festivals that highlight its unique history and multicultural essence. Each month, the state comes alive with celebrations that transform it into a dynamic canvas of cultural expression. From the rhythmic pulses of traditional dances to the enchanting strains of folk music, these festivals offer an immersive glimpse into Goa's storied heritage.

September highlights Ganesh Chaturthi with grand processions, intricate idols, prayers, and feasts, while Janmashtami commemorates Lord Krishna's birth with devotional songs, reenactments, and dahi handi competitions.

## Fourth Quarter: Festive Finale

In October, Goa celebrates Diwali with diyas,

Every event unfolds like a chapter in a living storybook, blending the past and present into a vivid spectrum of colors, sounds, and flavors. With at least one major festival each month, Goa proudly stands as a beacon of cultural celebration, continuously showcasing its heritage with enthusiasm and pride.

## First Quarter: A Dynamic Beginning to the Year

The year kicks off with the Three Kings Festival in January, featuring boys in king costumes on horseback, accompanied by music and dance, ending with a community feast. February brings the lively Carnival, with parades, floats, and masquerades, while the Potekar Festival on Divar Island includes masked revelers. Shiv Jayanti honors Maratha king Shivaji Maharaj with rallies and reenactments, and the Monte Music Festival and Food and Cultural Festival highlight Goa's heritage. March continues the celebration with Shigmo, a vibrant spring festival, alongside Chorutsav's mock battles, Veerbhadra's Shiva rituals, and other unique festivals like Homkund and Gulalutsav, reflecting Goa's rich cultural diversity.

## Second Quarter: Heritage and Tradition

In April, Goa observes Easter with processions, midnight masses, and feasts, while Ram Navmi honors Lord Rama with prayers and gatherings. Gudi Padwa is celebrated with colorful flags and traditional foods. May highlights Goa's cultural and culinary traditions. The Goa Heritage Festival in Saligao features crafts, folk performances, and



local cuisine. The Spirit of Goa Festival celebrates traditional drinks like urrak and feni with music and dance, and the Cashew Festival offers tastings, workshops, and culinary contests.

June brings the Sao Joao Festival, marked by boat races and traditional water games, and the Sangodd Festival, celebrating fishermen with decorated boat parades, music, and communal feasts.

## Third Quarter: Monsoon Magic and Community Spirit

In July, the Chikal Kalo mud festival in Marcel celebrates with playful games and rituals in muddy fields, reflecting the local connection to nature and Lord Krishna's playful spirit.

August features the lively Bonderam Festival on Divar Island with colorful parades and vibrant community spirit, and the Vasco Saptah Festival in Vasco da Gama, which transforms the area into a bustling fair with religious observances and festivities.



fireworks, and sweets, highlighted by the dramatic Narkasur effigy-burning ceremony that symbolizes the victory of good over evil. Makar Utsav honors the harvest with traditional rituals, music, and dance.

November features Tripurari Purnima in Vithalapur Sankhali, with floating lamps and riverside cultural events marking the end of Diwali and the start of winter.

The year wraps up with the Feast of St. Francis Xavier in Old Goa, attracting pilgrims for solemn masses and processions, followed by Christmas, which transforms Goa with festive lights, music, and cheer.

The Department of Tourism promotes these festivals as major cultural attractions, enhancing tourism and preserving Goa's heritage. Through strategic marketing and infrastructure support, the department helps showcase Goa's vibrant cultural scene, blending tradition and modernity to create a captivating experience for visitors.

## TRADE EVENT

# Gujarat Travel Fair 2024

The Gujarat Travel Fair (GTF) 2024, held from 17 July, 2024 to 18 July, 2024, was a resounding success, highlighting the state's rich tapestry of tourism opportunities. The event brought together industry professionals, travel enthusiasts, and cultural aficionados, making it a pivotal platform for exploring Gujarat's diverse attractions.

The Gujarat Travel Fair 2024 successfully showcased the state's potential as a premier travel destination. The event underscored Gujarat's commitment to promoting sustainable tourism, preserving cultural heritage, and enhancing the overall travel experience. By facilitating meaningful interactions between industry stakeholders and showcasing its unique attractions, Gujarat is poised to strengthen its position on the global tourism map.

The fair also emphasized the importance of innovation and collaboration in the tourism sector, encouraging participants to embrace new trends and technologies. With its successful execution, the Gujarat Travel Fair 2024 has set the stage for continued growth and development in the state's tourism industry.

According to Mr. Kamal Shah, GTF organizer, "We have been organizing GTF from past 4 years. This is the 5th time we are organizing GTF and four state tourism boards have taken part this time, Those are – Gujarat Tourism Board, Rajasthan Tourism Board, Jharkhand Tourism Board and Himachal Pradesh Tourism Board."



On asking the aim of conducting this fair, Mr. Shah further added, "At present, we are organizing the Gujarat Tourism Fair (GTF) domestically, but I envision expanding it into an international event within the next 1-2 years. My goal is to introduce GTF to the global market, as I am confident that Gujarat possesses immense potential and a wealth of amenities that can captivate an international audience."

Ms. Sonia Yadav, Additional Director, Rajasthan Tourism, quoted, "Rajasthan Tourism is participating



for the second time in GTF, Ahmedabad. It is a great opportunity to be here and to showcase what Rajasthan has to offer. As a representative of Rajasthan Tourism, I would like to welcome you all to visit Rajasthan. With our rich cultural and architectural heritage we have everything from deserts to beautiful lakes, forts."

Mr. Saurabh Visavadiya, Gujarat Tourism, stated, "The Gujarat Tourism Fair provides a valuable opportunity for us to connect with industry professionals and broaden our market reach. It's an excellent platform to promote Gujarat's diverse tourism offerings, including the International



Kite Festival, Monsoon Festival, and Rann Utsav. Our state is also home to beautiful beaches, sacred temples, fascinating museums, and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Dholavira. I invite everyone to explore and enjoy all that Gujarat has to offer."

Mr. Abhinav, Team leader at Tourism directorate, Jharkhand Tourism, highlighted, "The highlight of



this fair is that it not only attracts visitors but also features key industry members. This presence is instrumental in expanding B2B opportunities and exploring new market possibilities."



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**CORPORATE STAYS**

Thane, Bengaluru, Borivali,  
 Jaipur, Surat & Nashik



**SACRED ESCAPES**

Junagadh & Bodhgaya



**WEDDING DESTINATIONS**

Thane, Goa, Jaipur,  
 Palghar & Bodhgaya



**EVENTS & FORUMS**

Thane, Goa, Jaipur, Ooty,  
 Matheran, Borivali & Palghar



As India braces for the fiscal year 2024-25, the Union Budget emerges as a crucial document that embodies the government's strategic vision and fiscal aims. This year's budget is introduced against a backdrop of significant global uncertainties and domestic challenges, presenting both opportunities and obstacles.

**G**lobally, the budget arrives during a period of considerable upheaval, including shifting geopolitical dynamics, volatile international markets, and evolving economic policies from major economies. These global factors create a challenging environment for India, which must navigate these complexities carefully to sustain growth and stability. Domestically, the budget faces the challenge of addressing inflationary pressures, unemployment, and the need for infrastructural development. There are also persistent calls for a more equitable distribution of resources to ensure that all sectors benefit from fiscal policies. Addressing these issues requires a balanced approach that aligns immediate

needs with long-term goals.

However, not all voices align with the government's approach. The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), which had submitted pre-budget requests to the Finance Minister, expressed profound disappointment at the lack of response from the Government of India. Despite the travel sector's crucial role in driving economic growth and employment, it has been notably sidelined in this year's budget. TAAI criticized the focus on developing infrastructure at a few religious sites, suggesting that the government is investing in less accessible locations with minimal domestic and inbound tourist interest, rather than enhancing connectivity and infrastructure at more popular destinations.

### Shikhar Aggarwal, JMD, BLS International

We commend the government's visionary Budget 2024 announcement, particularly its focus on enhancing tourism infrastructure at Vishnupad Temple, Mahabodhi Temple, and Nalanda in Bihar, following the successful Kashi Vishwanath Temple model. The additional support for Odisha's tourism development underscores a strong commitment to leveraging India's rich cultural heritage for economic growth. These strategic investments are set to elevate Nalanda, Gaya, and Odisha, positioning them as central to India's tourism renaissance. By encouraging travelers to visit these historic and spiritual sites, we're not just celebrating our cultural legacy—we're also stimulating local economies and creating numerous job opportunities. At BLS International, we are excited to support and contribute to this transformative journey. We believe these reforms will unlock the full potential of India's cultural gems, inviting the world to rediscover and forge lasting connections with our storied past and vibrant present. As a leading provider of visa services, we are fully prepared to facilitate seamless travel experiences for tourists worldwide, fostering global connections and bolstering India's economic growth. We wholeheartedly support these initiatives and are unwavering in our commitment to playing a pivotal role in welcoming the world to explore India's unparalleled heritage and beauty."







**Madhavan Menon, Executive Chairman, Thomas Cook (India) Limited (Thomas Cook, SOTC, Sterling Holidays and TCI)**

This year's Union Budget has opened new doors to development, specifically for domestic and inbound tourism. With the focus on special development funds/programs for the socio-cultural-religious potential of iconic temple corridors including Gaya's Vishnupad & Mahabodhi temples into world-class pilgrim and tourist destinations (to be modeled on the success of the Kashi Vishwanath temple corridor), the Government of India's intent is encouraging. Additionally, the comprehensive development of the Rajgir Jain Temple site; rejuvenation of the historical gem of Nalanda & Nalanda University into a major religious-tourist center, would have a multi-pronged impact. While positioning India as a vibrant global tourism destination, it will also accelerate job creation and economic opportunities for allied sectors. We are disappointed to note that key pillars in India's Tourism agenda - Aviation & Hospitality were not mentioned as part of the Budget and both standardization of GST rates on hotel tariffs to 12% and the reduction of ATF remained unaddressed.

**Anuj Puri, Chairman, ANAROCK Group**

Covering a wide spectrum of Indian sectors, the first Union Budget of Modi 3.0 focuses on MSMEs, employment, skilling, youth, and the middle class. It will generate a mixed bag of reactions from different sectors. From a real estate point of view, the first thing that stands out is the government's continued focus on infrastructure with an allocation of over INR 11.11 lakh crore - nearly 3.4% of India's GDP. Improved infrastructure drives real estate growth. The focus on rural and urban job creation, if effective, may provide some boost to affordable housing, which has given a tepid performance since the pandemic. The move can help stir up housing demand in not just the top 7 cities but also the tier 2 and 3 cities. With an eye on the housing needs of the urban poor and the middle class, the government has announced that it intends to construct an additional one crore homes under PMAY Urban 2.0 with an outlay of INR 10 lakh crore. Mega allocation for the Hyderabad-Bengaluru industrial corridor and Vizag-Chennai corridor will boost growth along these corridors and consequently boost real estate growth there. The FM also tried to rejuvenate the MSME sector, which does have a multiplier effect on overall economic growth - with the implied positives for real estate as a collateral beneficiary of such growth.



**Davinder Juj, General Manager, Eros Hotels New Delhi**

We welcome the provisions presented in Union Budget 2024 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, particularly the initiative to transform several iconic locations into world-class tourist destinations. This strategic move aims to attract businesses, support entrepreneurship, and create job opportunities for local communities. We also commend the government's dedication to positioning India as a top global travel destination through targeted investments and strategic efforts. The development of prominent spiritual and cultural sites, along with the nation's natural and scenic attractions, will attract both domestic and international tourists, bolstering the growth of the hospitality and travel sector. We applaud the Indian government's visionary Budget 2024, particularly its transformative approach to travel and tourism. The focus on developing iconic spiritual and cultural destinations resonates deeply with our commitment to offering diverse and enriching travel experiences. The tax relief for cruise operators is a welcome move, fostering growth in this exciting sector. We are particularly encouraged by the emphasis on enhancing beach destinations, which aligns perfectly with our portfolio of coastal properties. This budget sets the stage for India to truly shine as a premier global travel destination, boosting international tourism and showcasing the country's unique attractions.



## Pradeep Shetty, President, FHRAI

The hospitality sector has been pinning high hopes on the Union Budget for 2024-25 presented by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, on the backdrop of the Government of India's stated vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 and the critical role tourism industry holds in achieving it. However, there is nothing spectacular in the Budget to bring structural changes to address the fundamental challenges it faces in a competitive world order and to accelerate the growth of the sector to be a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. Some key demands of tourism & hospitality to revitalize the sector such as GST rationalization, granting of infrastructure status, and bringing ease of doing business and policy reforms have not been considered in the budget once again, given the well-accepted multiplier effect of tourism on employment and economy. The hospitality sector is disappointed but not dejected as the overall focus on infrastructure development, employment generation and skill development and development of religious tourism centers are the silver linings which will help the sector to tide over some of the critical challenges that it faces today. The government's proactive perspective on enhancing tourism, particularly through the development of spiritual and cultural landmarks like the Vishnupath temple in Gaya and Mahabodhi temple in Bodhgaya is a commendable move that promises substantial economic and social benefits. Furthermore, the development plans for Rajgir and Nalanda represent a significant investment in promoting India's ancient historical and educational legacy. The government's commitment to supporting tourism in Odisha will not only highlight Odisha's unique attractions but also encourages sustainable practices that preserve the state's ecological balance and cultural heritage. The focus of Budget 2024 on youth employment, skill development and job creation are welcome initiatives. The industry has been facing a shortage of skilled workforce, especially in the hospitality sector. It is also laudable that the Honourable Finance Minister's Budget speech highlights the Government's commitment to making India a premier global travel destination through targeted investment and strategic initiatives. Development of iconic spiritual sites along with the promotion of cruise and beach tourism can be helpful in attracting both domestic and international tourists.



## Chirag Agarwal, Co-Founder, TravClan

The Finance Minister's proposals to develop tourism corridors at Vishnupad Temple and Mahabodhi Temple, along with support for Nalanda as a tourist hub, represent a positive leap towards enhancing India's tourism infrastructure. These initiatives could stimulate local economies and attract more visitors, promising substantial growth for the travel and tourism sector. At TravClan, we believe that integrating these developments with advanced technology is crucial. Incorporating digital tools for better visitor management and promoting seamless travel solutions could significantly enhance their impact. While the focus on Odisha's tourism is commendable, a more comprehensive strategy that leverages technology to address the needs of modern travel agents and improve domestic tourism efficiency would be even more beneficial. The economic policy framework for next-generation reforms is a step in the right direction, but practical implementations will be key to fully realizing these goals. Overall, the budget shows great promise for the tourism sector, and adopting innovative solutions could amplify benefits and drive sustainable growth in the industry.



## Alope Bajpai, Chairman, Managing Director & Group CEO, Ixigo

The government's initiative to enhance spiritual tourism is a welcome move towards growing domestic tourism as well as making India a global travel destination. We saw a 40-50% increase in demand for spiritual tourism last year, for destinations like Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Tirupati. The government's PRASAD Scheme has led to a remarkable transformation in Varanasi's tourism sector, attracting an unprecedented 100 million visitors to Kashi Vishwanath Dham after the corridor project completion. We expect a similar boost in tourism to Bihar and Odisha with spiritual tourism corridors coming up for Vishnupad Temple and Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya, along with comprehensive initiatives for Rajgir, Nalanda, and Odisha. We expect this to benefit our large next billion user (NBU) base which predominantly relies on buses and trains to access these spiritual towns, and where our market share continues to improve across modes of transport.

**Anuj Rathi, Chief Business and Growth Officer, Cleartrip,**

The budget announcement is a welcome move that promises to strengthen India's position as a global hub for spiritual tourism. The continued investment in developing corridors will create a multiplier effect, stimulating the local economy and generating job opportunities. This initiative will add to the momentum that the industry gained from the Ayodhya boom earlier this year. In the first half of 2024, Cleartrip has registered a double-digit increase in searches on a month-on-month basis for destinations such as Varanasi, Tirupati, Bhubaneswar, Bodh Gaya, Amritsar, and Ajmer. The enhanced focus on infrastructure and road connectivity will make travel, especially road transportation, more accessible and affordable. These initiatives will further bolster India's status as a premier travel destination facilitating economic growth.



**Aditya Sanghi, CEO & Co-Founder, Hotelogix,**

The 2024 budget introduces impactful initiatives for the tourism sector, poised to enhance India's global appeal as a tourist destination significantly. The government's decision to promote Nalanda and Orissa, along with the focus on religious tourism, reflects a strategic and holistic approach that will drive economic growth and showcase India's rich heritage.

**Subramaniam Thiruppathi, Director of Sales for India and Sub-Continent, Zebra Technologies**

In the era of next-generation technologies such as AI, ML, robotics, and automation, the initiatives announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 are pivotal for preparing India's talent pool to drive our economy towards the USD 5 trillion goal. With an allocation of ₹2 lakh crore for employment-linked skilling, incentives for creating 4 crore jobs in the manufacturing sector, and the introduction of the Model Skill Loan Scheme, our youth will have unprecedented opportunities for growth. Additionally, the provision of internships and direct benefit transfers will ensure our workforce is skilled and financially supported. These comprehensive measures will build a robust, future-ready talent pool capable of spearheading India's technological and economic advancement.



**Chaitanya Tendolkar, Director of Westbay Resort & Spa**

"The reduction of personal income tax increases the personal wealth of individuals for investment and discretionary spending. This will surely give a boost to the tourism industry. The budget also promises a simplification in GST which might further be beneficial for the hospitality industry. But there was no direct benefit to Konkan tourism in the given budget."

Overall, the Union Budget 2024-25 is shaping up to be a pivotal moment, with varied reactions reflecting both its potential and its limitations. As India moves forward with these fiscal policies, the impact on various sectors will become clearer in the months ahead.

# Air India Express Expands Network with New Service to Dhaka, Its 15th International Destination

**A**ir India Express is expanding its network with new flights to Dhaka, marking its 15th international destination. Starting September 3, 2024, the airline will operate six weekly flights connecting Dhaka to Kolkata and Chennai, boosting connectivity and fostering economic growth between India and Bangladesh.

Aloke Singh, Managing Director of Air India Express, commented, "The launch of direct flights to Dhaka from Kolkata and Chennai represents a significant advancement in our connectivity across the Indian subcontinent. These routes will not only enhance travel convenience but also strengthen regional ties and support trade, tourism, and medical travel. Additionally, the new services will connect with Air India Express flights to the Gulf region and Air India's long-haul international flights."

Passengers from cities such as Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kochi, Imphal, Jaipur, Surat, and Varanasi will benefit from convenient one-stop connections to



Dhaka, while travelers from Dhaka will enjoy easier access to these Indian cities via Kolkata or Chennai.

With the new Dhaka routes, Kolkata becomes the third-largest hub for Air India Express, offering 158 weekly flights to 13 direct destinations and 20 destinations through one-stop itineraries. Chennai will see over 85 weekly flights connecting to 13 direct destinations and 24 one-stop destinations.

Recently, Air India Express also added Agartala

as its 32nd domestic destination, with daily direct flights to Kolkata and Guwahati.

Loyalty members booking through the airline's website and app can enjoy additional rewards, including exclusive discounts, special deals, up to 8% NeuCoins, and complimentary Xpress Ahead priority services. Special fares and benefits are also available for students, senior citizens, SMEs, and members of the Indian armed forces.

## India's fastest-growing airline, Akasa Air, has announced Kuwait as its fifth international destination

**A**kasa Air, India's fastest-growing airline, has announced Kuwait City as its fifth international destination. Starting August 23, 2024, the airline will offer daily direct flights between Kuwait City and Mumbai, addressing the demand for enhanced and affordable connectivity on this route. Bookings are now open via Akasa Air's website, mobile app for Android and iOS, and through various leading online travel agencies (OTAs).

This new service will significantly boost passenger and cargo capacity, catering to the high demand for both visiting friends and relatives (VFR) and business travel between India and Kuwait. Praveen Iyer, Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer of Akasa Air, commented, "The addition of Kuwait expands our international network and reinforces our role as a key connector between India and the Middle East. With strong historical ties between Kuwait and India, this direct service will foster greater trade and tourism between the two nations. Additionally, it will provide the large Indian expatriate community in Kuwait with improved access to their home country. We are committed to connecting people, places, and cultures with reliable operations and affordable fares, and we look forward to welcoming travelers on board."

Belson Coutinho, Co-Founder and Chief Marketing and Experience Officer, added, "India and Kuwait share a mutual commitment to hospitality, and we are excited to offer our seamless connectivity and warm, efficient

Akasa experience to Kuwait. Our flights promise a relaxing and convenient journey with spacious cabins, in-seat USB charging on most aircraft, and our Quiet Flights initiative designed for restful travel. Our onboard dining service, Cafe Akasa, provides distinctive culinary options, elevating inflight dining. With our focus on world-class service, we are eager to showcase the Akasa experience to travelers and are confident they will appreciate it as much as millions of others have."

Since its launch in August 2022, Akasa Air has become a preferred carrier in India, serving over 11 million passengers. The airline currently connects 22 domestic cities and five international destinations: Doha, Jeddah, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, and now Kuwait.



# ITA Airways launches new nonstop flight to Jeddah Second destination in Saudi Arabia in the 2024 Summer Season

To celebrate its new intercontinental route, ITA Airways held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Jeddah International Airport. Key attendees included Irene Buongiorno, Vice Consul General of Italy in Jeddah; Rashed Al-Shammari, Vice President of Aviation Development at the Air Connectivity Program; Glen Wilson, Vice President of Operations at Jeddah Airports; Amira Afandi, Director of Corporate Communication and Public Relations at Jeddah Airports; Pierfrancesco Carino, Vice President of International Sales at ITA Airways; and Benedetto Mencaroni, Regional Manager for Asia, the Middle East, and Africa at ITA Airways.

Emiliana Limosani, Chief Commercial Officer of ITA Airways, highlighted the launch of the non-stop Rome-Jeddah flight as a key step in expanding their presence in Saudi Arabia, complementing the recently introduced Riyadh route. This service, operated by the modern A321neo aircraft, aims to boost commercial and cultural connections between the Arabian Peninsula and Italy.



Mazin Johar, CEO of Jeddah Airports, welcomed the new route, noting it enhances air connectivity and offers travelers a seamless journey to Jeddah. Irene Buongiorno from the Italian Consulate expressed enthusiasm for the strengthened Italy-Saudi Arabia partnership and anticipated positive impacts from the new service.

The route will feature:

Jeddah to Rome: Three weekly flights departing at 3:30 a.m. and arriving at 7:00 a.m. local time on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

Rome to Jeddah: Three weekly flights departing at 3:05 p.m. and arriving at 9:10 p.m. local time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

The A321neo, known for its efficiency and low emissions, will operate this route with three cabin classes: Business, Premium Economy, and Economy. ITA Airways is expanding its network, adding new destinations including Chicago, Toronto, Riyadh, and Jeddah, with more routes planned for the winter season, such as Dubai and Bangkok.

# Vietjet Secures Landmark Deal with Airbus for 20 New A330 neo Aircraft

Vietjet and Airbus have signed a major contract at the Farnborough International Airshow 2024 for the purchase of 20 next-generation A330neo (A330-900) aircraft, valued at approximately \$7.4 billion based on list prices. This deal stands as one of the most significant announcements of this year's event.

The new A330neo aircraft will be utilized to enhance Vietjet's expanding long-haul services and high-demand regional routes, replacing the airline's current A330-300 fleet and supporting its strategic goal of growing its

intercontinental network.

Vietjet Chairwoman Dr. Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao highlighted the impact of the new aircraft: "The addition of the A330neo will significantly bolster Vietjet's fleet, enhancing our operational capabilities for global expansion. This step aligns with our sustainability strategy and ESG objectives, aiming for Net-Zero emissions by 2050. The new, fuel-efficient A330neo will offer passengers a safer, more comfortable long-haul travel experience. Airbus aircraft have played a crucial role in Vietjet's success, connecting over 200 million passengers and fostering economic growth and cultural exchange."

Benoît de Saint-Exupéry, Executive Vice President Sales at Airbus Commercial Aircraft, expressed his enthusiasm: "Finalizing this landmark order with one of Asia's fastest-growing airlines is a significant achievement. It reaffirms the versatility and appeal of the A330neo across various business models and networks, from regional to long-haul routes. The award-winning Airspace cabin will offer an exceptional flying experience, supporting Vietjet in its mission to expand its reach, reduce costs, and lower carbon emissions."

Vietjet, with a fleet of over 105 aircraft, is rapidly expanding its global network, including in India where it operates 29 weekly round-trip flights connecting Vietnam to New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Kochi. The airline continues to grow its international presence with modern fleets and strategic partnerships like this one with Airbus.



# Malaysia Airlines Launches Direct Flights to the Maldives, Expanding Its South Asian Network to 13 Destinations



Malaysia Airlines proudly resumed its daily flights from Kuala Lumpur to the Maldives. Flight MH485, operated by a Boeing 737-800, took off from KL International Airport (KUL) at 10:10 a.m., fully booked with 174 passengers. The four-hour and 15-minute journey landed at Velana International Airport (MLE) at 11:25 a.m. local time, greeted with a traditional water salute. The return flight departs MLE at 12:30 p.m. local time.

This new route marks Malaysia Airlines' 13th destination in South Asia, reflecting its commitment to expanding its footprint in key markets. The service reestablishes Malaysia Airlines' role as a major gateway to Asia and beyond, following the suspension of direct flights to the

Maldives in 2017.

As part of its growth strategy, Malaysia Airlines is introducing three new destinations this year, including Chiang Mai, Thailand (CNX) from August 15, and Danang, Vietnam (DAD) from September 24, 2024.

Ahmad Luqman Mohd Azmi, Chief Executive Officer of Airlines from MAG, welcomed passengers at KLIA, stating, "We are delighted to resume flights to the Maldives, enhancing our vision of connecting travellers to some of the world's most stunning destinations. This direct service reaffirms Malaysia Airlines' dedication to luxury and cultural richness and strengthens our position in the competitive travel market."

In celebration of the new route, Malaysia Airlines is offering special promotional fares until August 31, 2024. The "The Time for the Maldives" promotion features return fares starting from USD 299 for Economy Class, valid for travel until March

30, 2025. Additional offers include a 10% discount on ancillary bundles, such as value, premium, and the MH Traveller's Trio bundle, which includes a standard seat, 10kg extra baggage, and access to the Malaysia Airlines Golden Lounge at KLIA.

Ibrahim Shareef Mohamed, CEO and Managing Director of Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL), expressed enthusiasm for the route's return: "We are thrilled to welcome Malaysia Airlines back to Velana International Airport. This route reinstatement strengthens our regional connectivity and offers exciting opportunities."

Ibrahim Shiuree, CEO and Managing Director of Maldives Marketing & PR Corporation (MMPRC), added: "The resumption of direct flights from Malaysia Airlines is expected to boost arrivals and diversify our tourism base. Such partnerships highlight MMPRC's commitment to enhancing connectivity and accessibility for visitors from Southeast Asia and beyond."



## Turkish Airlines Unveils Its New Luxurious Crystal Business Class Suite

Turkish Airlines, the airline with the most extensive global reach, has unveiled its cutting-edge Crystal Business Class suite at the Farnborough International Airshow 2024 in Hampshire, UK. The new suite represents a significant leap in luxury air travel, featuring an adjustable suite door and privacy panel to enhance in-flight privacy. The suite boasts a generous 23-inch seat width, increased footwell space, and direct aisle access for all passengers, with every window suite offering full visibility. In keeping with the airline's "Flow" brand identity, the suites are adorned with lighter, warmer colors, marble-

style tables, and rose gold finishes.

Continuing its tradition of exceptional amenities, Turkish Airlines' Crystal Business Class suite includes adjustable ambient and reading lights, universal and Type C power outlets, a wireless charger, a noise-cancelling audio jack, an adjustable mirror, a closed stowage ergonomic seat cushion, and a 22-inch in-flight entertainment screen. Developed by the airline's subsidiary, TCI Aircraft Interiors, the bespoke seats feature plush leathers and fabrics sourced from Türkiye, reflecting the airline's heritage. Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and Executive Committee, Prof. Ahmet Bolat, commented, "Our new

Crystal Business Class suite represents a new era in long-haul luxury travel, offering unparalleled comfort and privacy. This innovative design will complement our award-winning in-flight dining and ensure an extraordinary experience for our passengers across our global network." The new seats will be gradually introduced on the airline's Airbus A350s and retrofitted onto its Boeing 777 fleet. At the Farnborough International Airshow, Turkish Airlines is showcasing its new suite in a two-story, 300m<sup>2</sup> chalet from July 22-26, 2024. The chalet features displays of the airline's in-flight products and digital screens highlighting its extensive global network.

# Etihad Airways Reinforces Commitment to India with Launch of New Hindi Website



Etihad Airways is the first foreign airline and the first from the GCC to launch a Hindi-language website.

The new Hindi site enhances Etihad's services for Hindi-speaking travelers, reinforcing its commitment to the Indian market.

By improving accessibility, the Hindi website aims to provide a more seamless travel experience for Indian passengers.

Etihad Airways, the UAE's national carrier, has made a notable advancement in catering to Indian travelers by becoming the first international airline to offer a Hindi-language website. This initiative highlights Etihad's dedication to enhancing the travel experience for the Indian travellers.

The new Hindi website available provides a full range of services including flight bookings, check-in procedures, and customer support in Hindi. This development aims to streamline travel planning for Hindi-speaking passengers and strengthen Etihad's presence in India. The platform is designed to offer a user-friendly experience, making it easier for travelers to plan, book, and manage their flights.

Akhil Anumolu, Senior Vice President of e-Commerce, Digital, Marketing & Loyalty at Etihad Airways, said, "Etihad is committed to culturally connecting with our valued passengers. Serving 11 Indian cities, this initiative demonstrates our dedication to meeting the needs of our Indian customers. Offering our services in Hindi will create a more inclusive and accessible experience, allowing customers to access information in their preferred language. As we approach our 20th anniversary of flying to India, we are excited to announce new partnerships and initiatives in the region for the latter half of 2024."

Etihad is known for its world-class service and innovative approach. The launch of the Hindi website underscores the airline's commitment to enhancing customer experience, aligning with global preferences, and expanding its services to meet the needs of its diverse audience.

The Hindi website enables travelers to easily navigate Etihad's growing network and frequent connections through Abu Dhabi. This move reaffirms Etihad's commitment to the Indian market, with 176 weekly flights to 11 cities and connections to over 70 destinations worldwide. The recent expansion includes new routes to Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, and Jaipur.

## India Market Innovations:

**Special Meals:** Etihad offers a variety of special meals to accommodate diverse dietary needs, including vegetarian, Jain, and Hindu options.

**In-Flight Entertainment:** A wide selection of Bollywood movies, Indian TV shows, and music is available, along with Indian newspapers and magazines.

**Multilingual Staff:** Many Etihad staff members are fluent in languages such as Hindi, Tamil, and Punjabi, ensuring effective communication and comfort for Indian travelers.

**US Pre clearance Advantage:** Passengers traveling from India to the US can benefit from US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) services in Abu Dhabi, expediting their journey.

**Premium Products & Services:** Investments include a partnership with Armani/Casa for Business Class and a redesigned Economy cabin with sustainable dining. Wi-Fi packages are also available for in-flight connectivity.

**Etihad Stopovers:** Travelers can enjoy a stopover in Abu Dhabi, providing a chance to explore the city while breaking up long-haul flights.

**Etihad Guest:** The loyalty program offers benefits like discounted flights, lounge access, and upgrades, fostering brand loyalty among Indian travelers.

Celebrating two decades of service in India, Etihad views the country as a crucial strategic market. Recent collaborations, such as with Katrina Kaif and CSK, highlight their commitment to strengthening and expanding their relationship with India.

# JAL and ENEOS Finalize Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Sustainable Aviation Fuel

Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. (JAL) and ENEOS Corporation have finalized an agreement to advance the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) in Japan. This partnership marks ENEOS as the first major Japanese energy company to import SAF and supply it to JAL, which is actively sourcing SAF both domestically and internationally.

The aviation industry is targeting net-zero CO2 emissions from international flights by 2050, with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aiming for a 15% reduction in emissions by 2024 compared to 2019 levels.

Promoting domestically produced SAF is essential for achieving these goals. This agreement represents a significant step towards establishing a domestic SAF supply chain in Japan.

JAL and ENEOS will collaborate to increase SAF usage in Japan and support the aviation industry's decarbonization efforts.

## JAL's Commitment and Initiatives:

**Aircraft Efficiency:** JAL is updating its fleet to more fuel-efficient aircraft.

**SAF Procurement:** The airline is working to source SAF both locally and abroad, with targets to replace 1% of its total fuel with SAF by FY2025

and 10% by FY2030.

**Corporate SAF Program:** JAL's initiative aims to enhance the recognition of SAF's environmental benefits by certifying CO2 reductions for corporate customers flying with JAL in Japan.

## ENEOS's Commitment and Initiatives:

**Long-Term Vision:** ENEOS is committed to ensuring a stable energy supply and achieving carbon neutrality.

**SAF System:** The company is developing an integrated SAF system, covering raw material procurement, in-house production, and sales.

# Timeless Elegance

## The World's Most Enchanting Heritage Hotels for Your Dream Wedding

Each of these heritage hotels offers a unique blend of history, luxury, and romance, providing a breathtaking backdrop for a wedding that is truly unforgettable. Whether you dream of a castle in Ireland, a villa on Lake Como, or a palace in Spain, these venues offer a magical setting to celebrate your love story.

**W**hen it comes to celebrating one of the most important days of your life, choosing the right venue is paramount. A heritage hotel, with its blend of historical charm and luxurious amenities, provides a unique and memorable backdrop for your wedding. Here's a list of the top six heritage hotels worldwide that are perfect for hosting an unforgettable wedding.

A wedding at a heritage hotel is the epitome of romance and grandeur, offering a setting steeped in history, culture, and luxury. Across the globe, several heritage properties have been transformed into luxurious hotels that provide the perfect backdrop for a wedding that is both timeless and extraordinary. Here are five of the world's top heritage hotels that promise a wedding experience like no other.



### Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur, India

**Location:** Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

**Capacity:** Up to 200 guests

**Description:** Set against the shimmering waters of Lake Pichola, the Taj Lake Palace is an 18th-century marble marvel that offers a truly regal and romantic backdrop for weddings. Built in 1746, this floating palace is renowned for its intricate Rajput architecture, lush courtyards, and panoramic views of the Aravalli Hills. Surrounded by the lake's serene beauty and the city's historic charm, the Taj Lake Palace provides a breathtaking backdrop for a fairytale wedding.

**Wedding Venues:**

- **Lily Pond Courtyard:** A serene and picturesque setting featuring ornate marble details and tranquil water features, perfect for a romantic outdoor ceremony.
- **Mewar Terrace:** An elegant terrace with stunning views of the lake and the city, ideal for hosting a sophisticated reception or a memorable wedding dinner.
- **The Royal Courtyards:** Exquisite open spaces adorned with lush gardens and intricate carvings, offering a majestic venue for traditional or contemporary celebrations.





## Ashford Castle, Ireland



**Location:** Cong, County Mayo, Ireland

**Capacity:** Up to 160 guests

**Description:** Nestled on the shores of Lough Corrib, Ashford Castle is a 13th-century castle that has been transformed into one of the world's most luxurious hotels. Surrounded by 350 acres of beautifully manicured gardens and woodland, this medieval castle exudes timeless charm and elegance. With its grand architecture, rich history, and stunning natural surroundings, Ashford Castle offers a fairy-tale setting for a wedding.

**Wedding Venues:**

**The Castle's Drawing Room:** A beautifully decorated room with high ceilings, antique furniture, and views of Lough Corrib, perfect for an intimate wedding ceremony.

**The Connaught Room:** A grand dining hall with crystal chandeliers and a magnificent fireplace, ideal for a lavish wedding reception.

**The Gardens:** Expansive gardens with picturesque views, perfect for an outdoor ceremony or reception.

**Highlights:**

**Horse-Drawn Carriage Arrival:** The couple can arrive at the ceremony in a horse-drawn carriage, adding a romantic touch.

**Falconry Experience:** Guests can participate in the ancient art of falconry, a unique activity that adds to the medieval ambiance of the wedding.



## Belmond Hotel Cipriani, Venice

**Location:** Venice, Italy

**Capacity:** Up to 250 guests

**Description:** Located on the island of Giudecca, Belmond Hotel Cipriani is a legendary hotel that has been synonymous with Venetian glamour and luxury since 1958. Overlooking the iconic Venice skyline and the Doge's Palace, the hotel offers a secluded and romantic setting for a wedding. The combination of its historic architecture, lush gardens, and spectacular views makes it an idyllic venue for a Venetian wedding.

### Wedding Venues:

**Granaries of the Republic:** A stunning venue with original 19th-century architecture, offering breathtaking views of the lagoon, ideal for a large wedding reception.

**Cip's Club:** A chic venue with a floating terrace on the lagoon, perfect for an intimate wedding dinner.

**Casanova Gardens:** Beautifully landscaped gardens with fragrant flowers and ancient trees, perfect for a garden ceremony.

### Highlights:

**Gondola Arrival:** The bride and groom can arrive at the venue by gondola, creating an unforgettable entrance.

**Venetian Masquerade Ball:** A themed wedding reception with traditional Venetian masks and entertainment, adding a touch of local culture.





## The Plaza, New York City

**Location:** Fifth Avenue, New York, USA

**Capacity:** Up to 500 guests

**Description:** Since its opening in 1907, The Plaza has been an icon of luxury in New York City. Located at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Central Park, this landmark hotel is synonymous with elegance and grandeur. Its historic ballrooms, opulent décor, and world-class service make The Plaza an unrivaled venue for a sophisticated and glamorous wedding.

### Wedding Venues:

**The Grand Ballroom:** A legendary venue with high ceilings, crystal chandeliers, and a grand stage, perfect for a large and extravagant wedding reception.

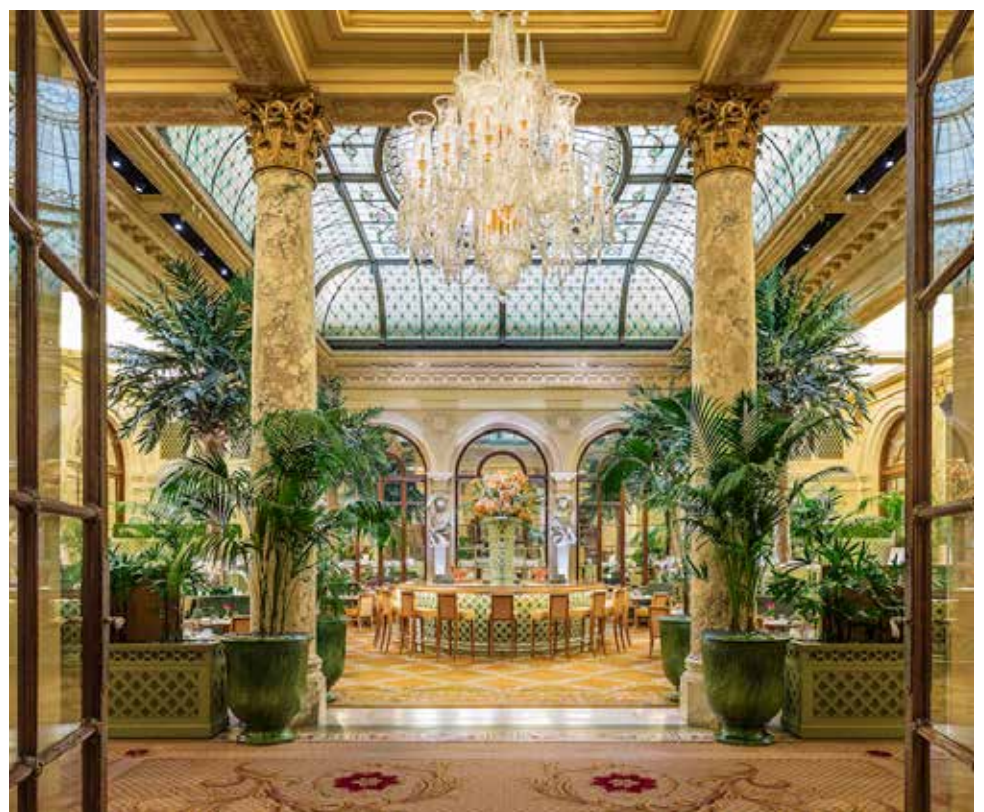
**The Terrace Room:** A beautiful room with French doors leading to a private terrace overlooking Central Park, ideal for an elegant ceremony or reception.

**The Edwardian Room:** A classic venue with dark wood paneling and a grand fireplace, perfect for an intimate wedding dinner.

### Highlights:

**Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride:** A romantic carriage ride through Central Park for the couple or guests.

**Signature Champagne Bar:** A champagne toast at The Plaza's iconic Champagne Bar, adding a touch of luxury to the celebration.





## Villa d'Este, Lake Como

**Location:** Cernobbio, Lake Como, Italy

**Capacity:** Up to 200 guests

**Description:** Set on the shores of Lake Como, Villa d'Este is a 16th-century Renaissance villa that has been transformed into one of the world's most exclusive hotels. Surrounded by 25 acres of enchanting gardens, this palatial estate offers breathtaking views of the lake and the Alps. With its timeless elegance, opulent interiors, and stunning location, Villa d'Este is a perfect venue for a luxurious and romantic wedding.

### Wedding Venues:

**The Mosaic Garden:** An exquisite garden venue with views of the lake, perfect for a wedding ceremony or reception.

**The Imperial Suite Terrace:** A private terrace with panoramic views, ideal for an intimate wedding dinner or cocktail reception.

**The Cardinal Room:** A grand room with frescoed ceilings and marble floors, perfect for a formal wedding reception.

### Highlights:

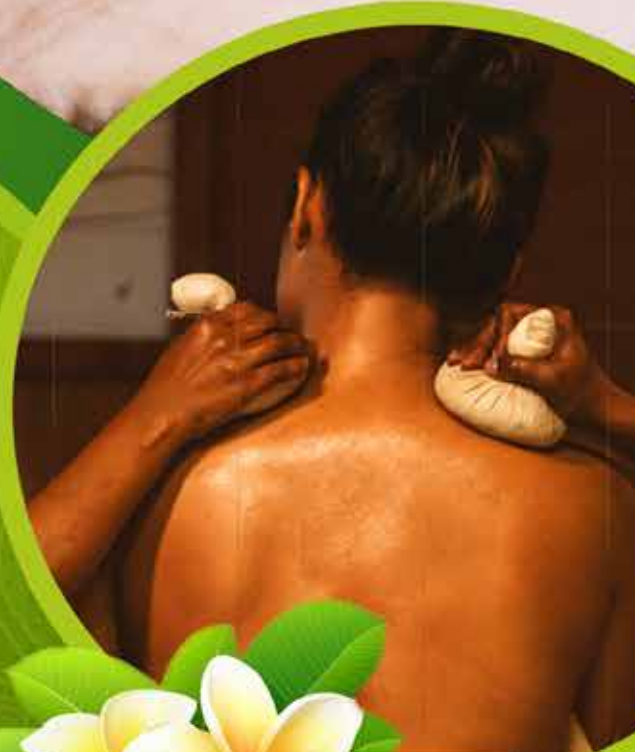
**Boat Arrival:** The couple can arrive at the venue by boat across the sparkling waters of Lake Como, making a dramatic entrance.

**Fireworks Display:** A spectacular fireworks show over the lake to conclude the wedding celebrations.





Amara  
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# "BANYAN TREE CAFÉ

## A Timeless Culinary Experience in India's Historic Ice Factory"



The Banyan Tree Café offers a distinctive dining experience nestled within a 140-year-old heritage building, once India's first ice factory. Our café presents a refined yet simple menu that highlights quality ingredients and delectable flavors, providing guests with a memorable culinary journey in a historic backdrop.

### Vision

Our vision is to create a serene and welcoming space where history, culture, and gastronomy intersect, blending traditional charm with modern cuisine to enchant our guests.

### Mission

Our mission is to honor the heritage of our historic building while serving high-quality, flavorful dishes made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. We aim to be a beloved gathering spot for both the community and visitors, celebrating our rich local history and fostering connections.

### Historical Significance

The Banyan Tree Café is situated in a meticulously preserved 140-year-old building that embodies the architectural and cultural heritage of the area. This historic venue provides a unique and atmospheric dining experience, steeped in historical charm.



### Menu Philosophy

Our menu is designed to emphasize simplicity, quality, and taste. We are committed to using fresh, high-quality ingredients to create dishes that highlight natural flavors. Our menu features:

**Seasonal Produce:** Dishes made with locally sourced, seasonal ingredients to ensure freshness and support local farmers.

**Artisanal Products:** Local artisanal items, including cheese, and in-house baked bread.

**Flavorful Fare:** Thoughtfully crafted dishes that showcase the natural flavors of our ingredients for a satisfying meal.

The Banyan Tree Café is a tribute to history, quality, and community. By merging the allure of our heritage building with a focus on exceptional ingredients, we offer a unique and enriching dining experience. We invite you to join us in celebrating the past while enjoying the present, one delightful bite at a time.

# FIRE RESTAURANT

## at Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives Receives 2024 Wine Spectator Award of Excellence

The Fire Restaurant at Kuda Villingili Resort, Maldives has been chosen among the World's Best Restaurants for Wine.

**F**ire Restaurant has been recognized for its exceptional wine program in Wine Spectator's 2024 Restaurant Awards, which highlight the world's top dining establishments for their wine offerings.

"We are thrilled to receive Wine Spectator's 2024 Award of Excellence," said Amjad Thaufeeq, Commercial Director of Kuda Villingili. "This accolade reflects our team's commitment to delivering a remarkable dining experience with an extensive and diverse wine selection. Our wine program is thoughtfully curated to appeal to both wine aficionados and casual enthusiasts, ensuring every guest finds something to savor."

Marvin R. Shanken, Editor and Publisher of Wine Spectator, commented, "The restaurant industry is booming, with new openings surpassing pre-pandemic levels for the first time. Restaurateurs are capitalizing on this growth by reinvesting in their wine programs. The Wine Spectator Restaurant Awards celebrate those establishments that prioritize wine. Congratulations to all 3,777 winners for their dedication to exceptional wine service and impressive wine lists."

Established in 1981, the Restaurant Awards are



the only program dedicated exclusively to restaurant wine service, with honors given at three levels: Award of Excellence, Best of Award of Excellence, and Grand Award. This year, there are 2,150 Award of Excellence winners.

Fire Restaurant has earned the Award of Excellence, recognizing its well-curated wine list that complements the menu with a thoughtful range of quality producers, price points, and styles.

About Fire Restaurant, Kuda Villingili Resort, Maldives

Fire offers an exceptional dining experience inspired by the classic American steakhouse, focusing on the art of perfect grilling. Under the direction of Executive Chef Lalith Sharma, the restaurant serves

prime-cut meats alongside delectable condiments and homemade sauces, all crafted with organic, free-trade, and free-range ingredients from around the globe. This fine-dining experience is enhanced by the restaurant's chic ambience and its location partially over the water, with stunning views and a soothing sea breeze.

The wine list at Fire is designed to showcase a broad spectrum of terroirs and grape varieties, featuring an exquisite range from classic to modern. Emphasis is placed on a balanced representation of both Old World and New World wines, offering high quality and value to encourage guests to explore different flavors during their stay.

### About Kuda Villingili Resort, Maldives

Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives is a private island paradise offering guests a chance to escape, reconnect, and create unforgettable experiences. Located just a 30-minute speedboat ride from North Male Atoll, the resort features 75 spacious villas on the beachfront and over the lagoon. With a diverse array of dining options ranging from casual hawker-style to upscale beachside fare, Kuda Villingili caters to every palate with three distinctive dining venues and unique concepts.

## Zanotta Unveils a New Era in Italian Culinary Excellence

**E**xemplifying the spirit of Italian culinary artistry, Zanotta, the classic Italian restaurant at The Leela Ambience Gurugram Hotel & Residences, proudly announces the launch of an all-new menu under the guidance of Chef Daniele Di Sacco. With his rich experience from Italy, Chef Daniele promises to showcase the best of Italian gastronomy, using locally-sourced ingredients to recreate the intrinsic value of Italian cooking.

Aiming to sculpt with ingredients, the chef has expertly curated a menu that exhibits the essence of traditional Italian flavors. With over 30 years of Italian culinary artistry etched into his hands, the expert chef brings a treasure trove of wisdom to Zanotta's kitchen. His journey



of Don Quichotte.

Get your food passport stamped with Zanotta's new menu, as the restaurant offers you a lavish spread of uniquely crafted Italian delicacies. Begin with the gluten-free Burrata su carponata di verdure, a rich amalgamation of Burrata nestled atop a vibrant vegetable medley. A unique compressed Risotto oro e zafferano awakens the

reads through Italy's finest establishments, from the aromatic kitchens of Ristorante Mandarinò to the innovative offerings of La Voglia Matta and the romantic ambience

palate, while creamy Gnocchi alla crema di tartufo nero e funghi offers a heavenly combination of black truffle and mushrooms. Experience the delightful fusion of delicate Polenta al forno con salsa alla puttanesca, baked to perfection and topped with a zesty sauce. Cap off your experience with the reimaged Parmigiana di melanzane, presenting layers of eggplant, cheese, and tomato sauce in a classic Italian favourite.

The Leela Ambience Gurugram Hotel & Residences invites you to experience a true Italian affair at Zanotta. Guests can anticipate an unforgettable dining experience as Chef Daniele Di Sacco brings his visionary approach to the heart of Gurugram. Each dish promises to teleport you to the streets of Italy.

# NAZAARA

## Navi Mumbai Marriott Hotel Unveils Premier Rooftop Dining Experience



A View to Witness, A Taste to Remember

**N**azaara, Navi Mumbai's newest and most eagerly awaited rooftop dining destination, has officially opened its doors at the recently inaugurated Navi Mumbai Marriott Hotel. Perched atop this prestigious hotel, Nazaara offers breathtaking panoramic views of the city and the surrounding hills, providing an exceptional open-air dining experience under the stars.

At Nazaara, guests are invited to savor an array of authentic North Indian, Mughlai, and Asian cuisines. The restaurant's culinary experts utilize local, seasonal, and fresh ingredients to ensure each dish exemplifies exceptional quality and flavor. The menu highlights Northwest Frontier Indian specialties, featuring delectable kebabs, curries, and biryanis, while also offering a vibrant fusion of Asian and Indian appetizers.

Vegetarian options include Paneer Kurchan, Hariyali Khumb Tikka, Subz Seekh Kebab, Golden Garlic Palak, Signature Nazaara Dal, Awadhi Subz Biryani, Blue Pea Edamame Rice, Mapo Tofu, Ginger Vegetable Gyoza Dimsums, and Crispy Lotus Stem. For non-vegetarian preferences, Nazaara presents a variety of mouth-watering dishes such as Murgh Barra Kebab, Murgh Wajid Ali Kebab, Mutton Majlisi Kebab, Jhinga Mehroonisa Tikka, Stuffed Bombay Duck, Surmai Curry, Sikandari Raan, Nazakat Ghost Biryani, Kung Pao Chicken, and Chicken Siu Mai Dimsum.

The bar at Nazaara features a unique selection of bourbon-based cocktails, creatively infused with locally sourced ingredients. Signature drinks include:

- **Summer High:** Bourbon whiskey with watermelon syrup, curry leaves, freshly squeezed lime juice, and a splash of in-house ginger soda
- **Nazaara Sour:** Bourbon whiskey mixed with tamarind, jaggery, orange, bitters, and egg white
- **Pour of Gold:** Bourbon whiskey with saffron, ginger, freshly squeezed lime juice, egg white, orange syrup, and Angostura bitters
- **Truffle Pistachio:** Bourbon whiskey blended with truffle oil, pistachio, lime juice, in-house muskmelon syrup, and Angostura bitters



- **Vedic Hi-ball:** Turmeric-infused whiskey with orange syrup, fresh tulsi leaves, freshly squeezed lime juice, and a sparkling top
- **Breezy Bliss:** Tequila with jalapenos, kokam, cucumber, and freshly squeezed lime juice
- **Twilight Twist:** London dry gin with rhubarb, white chocolate, kaffir lime leaves, and citric notes

Nazaara's ambience is a harmonious blend of vintage charm and contemporary décor, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Whether you're planning a romantic dinner, a vibrant party, or a special event, Nazaara offers impeccable service and an enchanting setting perfect for any occasion.

With its stunning views, exquisite cuisine, and innovative cocktails, Nazaara is set to become a shining gem in Navi Mumbai's nightlife, delivering an unparalleled dining experience.





# A Legacy of Luxury and Craftsmanship

In the realm of weddings, where tradition meets luxury and dreams are adorned with timeless elegance, jewellery plays a pivotal role in crafting unforgettable moments. As we delve into this special issue dedicated to bridal elegance, we spotlight the most prestigious jewellery brands from around the globe, including celebrated Indian designers. From dazzling international names to revered Indian artisans, this article showcases the ultimate in bridal jewellery, offering inspiration for every bride's journey to her perfect day.

In the world of weddings, jewellery is more than an accessory; it is a symbol of love, commitment, and timeless beauty. Whether you're drawn to the luxury of global icons or the exquisite craftsmanship of Indian artisans, this special issue highlights the finest bridal jewellery available. From dazzling diamonds to intricate designs, these renowned brands offer a range of options that cater to every bride's unique style and vision.

As you embark on your journey to find the perfect jewellery for your wedding, let the expertise of these esteemed brands guide you. Embrace the

artistry, elegance, and tradition that each piece represents, and celebrate your special day with jewellery that is as unforgettable as the love it symbolizes.

These heritage jewellery brands have not only defined luxury but have also shaped the history of jewellery design. Their commitment to craftsmanship, innovation, and artistry has made them timeless icons in the world of high jewellery. Whether it's a Cartier bracelet, a Tiffany engagement ring, or a Mikimoto pearl necklace, these pieces are more than just adornments—they are works of art that tell a story, carry a legacy, and continue to inspire awe and admiration worldwide.

## Cartier (France)

Founded in 1847 by Louis-François Cartier, Cartier is renowned as "the jeweller of kings and the king of jewellers." This iconic Parisian luxury brand quickly established itself with its exquisite craftsmanship and innovative designs. Cartier's reputation soared among European royalty, with King Edward VII of England famously dubbing it "the jeweller of kings." Among its celebrated collections, the Panthère de Cartier, featuring the striking panther motif, epitomizes the brand's bold elegance, while the Love Bracelet, known for its distinctive locking mechanism, stands as a symbol of enduring love.



## Tiffany & Co. (United States)

Founded in 1837 by Charles Lewis Tiffany, Tiffany & Co. epitomizes elegance and romance with its iconic robin's-egg blue boxes and timeless designs. Established in New York City, Tiffany transformed the engagement ring market with the introduction of the Tiffany Setting in 1886, a design that maximizes the diamond's brilliance. The brand's prestigious Blue Book Collection, first published in 1845, showcases extraordinary gemstones and innovative designs. Additionally, the Schlumberger Collection, created by the renowned designer Jean Schlumberger, is acclaimed for its whimsical and intricate motifs.





## Harry Winston (United States)

Founded in 1932 by Harry Winston, the brand is renowned as the "King of Diamonds" for its unparalleled mastery of the world's most exquisite and rare gemstones. Established in New York, Harry Winston gained fame by acquiring and showcasing some of history's most legendary diamonds, including the Hope Diamond. The Winston Cluster, introduced in the 1940s, became a hallmark design, renowned for its innovative setting of diamonds at various angles to enhance their brilliance. The Harry Winston Legacy collection continues to exemplify the brand's commitment to exceptional luxury and craftsmanship, earning admiration from Hollywood stars and royalty alike.





## Bvlgari (Italy)

Founded in 1884 by Sotirios Voulgaris, Bvlgari is a quintessential embodiment of Italian luxury with its origins in Rome. Renowned for its bold designs, vibrant colors, and exceptional craftsmanship, Bvlgari has garnered a devoted following among celebrities and fashion icons. The Serpenti Collection, inspired by the serpent motif, symbolizes eternal life and renewal, making it one of the brand's most iconic designs. The B.zero1 collection, featuring a distinctive spiral design, stands as a modern classic, while the Diva's Dream collection reflects the elegance of Rome's ancient mosaics. Bvlgari's innovative approach to colored gemstones and unique design elements has firmly established its reputation in the realm of high jewellery.



## Van Cleef & Arpels (France)

Founded in 1896 by Alfred Van Cleef and Estelle Arpels, Van Cleef & Arpels is celebrated for its poetic elegance and fairy-tale allure. The brand's legacy began with the marriage of its founders, marking the start of a distinguished jewellery tradition. Known for its innovative techniques, Van Cleef & Arpels introduced the Mystery Set, a method that secures gemstones without visible prongs. The Alhambra Collection, inspired by the four-leaf clover, has become an iconic symbol of luck and beauty. Additionally, the Zip Necklace, a remarkable creation, can be worn both as a necklace and a bracelet, exemplifying the brand's creativity and craftsmanship.





## Mikimoto (Japan)

Founded in 1893 by Kokichi Mikimoto, Mikimoto is the epitome of Japanese artistry and elegance, renowned for its groundbreaking work in cultured pearls. Mikimoto achieved a milestone by creating the world's first cultured pearl, establishing the brand as a leading name in pearl jewellery. The brand's pearl necklaces are symbols of timeless sophistication, while high jewellery collections like The Morning Dew Tiara exemplify the flawless combination of pearls and diamonds. Mikimoto continues to set the standard for unparalleled quality and design in the realm of pearl jewellery.





## Buccellati (Italy)

Founded in 1919 by Mario Buccellati, Buccellati is a distinguished Italian heritage brand celebrated for its intricate goldsmithing and Renaissance-inspired designs. Known for its unique textured gold surfaces, Buccellati employs techniques such as Rigato, which features fine engraved lines, and Tulle, which creates a lace-like pattern. The Opera Collection reflects Italy's rich artistic heritage, incorporating motifs that resonate with the grandeur of Italian architecture and design. Buccellati's dedication to traditional craftsmanship and artistic expression has solidified its reputation as a cherished name in the world of high jewellery.







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# APPOINTMENTS



## EDWARD KWEK

### Senior Business Events Manager for South and South East Asia

Tourism Australia has appointed Edward Kwek as Senior Business Events Manager for South and South East Asia, based in Singapore. Reporting to Regional Business Events Director Edea Lu, Edward will oversee business events strategies, foster partnerships, and engage with key stakeholders in the MICE sector across the region.



## STEFAN GUMUSELIAS

### General Manager for India and the Middle East Air France-KLM

Air France-KLM has appointed Stefan Gumuselias as the new General Manager for India and the Middle East, starting August 1, 2024, based in Dubai. Claude Sarre will remain Country Manager for India and the Sub-Continent from New Delhi. Stefan will oversee passenger operations across India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, and other offline countries.



## MATAI GILROY

### THE New Commercial Director Conrad Maldives Rangali Island

Conrad Maldives Rangali Island is thrilled to announce the appointment of Matai Gilroy as its new Commercial Director. With more than 20 years of experience in the luxury hospitality sector, Matai brings a deep reservoir of expertise in sales and marketing. In his new role, Matai will leverage his extensive industry knowledge to further elevate the resort's market position and drive strategic commercial initiatives.



## RUTUJA PATIL

### Account Director, Leisure Sales (India) Atlantis Resorts

Atlantis Resorts is excited to announce the appointment of Rutuja Patil as the new Account Director for Leisure Sales (India). Rutuja, who has extensive experience in the hospitality sales industry, is a valuable addition to the team. Previously, she was the Sales Manager for Leisure Sales (UK & Scandinavia) at Atlantis Dubai.



## MOHAMMAD ALI

### Director of Global Sales – India Accor

Accor is pleased to announce Mohammad Ali as the new Director of Global Sales – India. Since joining in 2010 as Director of Sales – MICE, Mohammad has advanced rapidly, previously serving as Area Director of Global Sales for North and West India. This promotion underscores Accor's commitment to recognizing and developing top talent.



## ANANT LEEKHA

### General Manager Novotel, Pune

Novotel Pune is excited to announce Anant Leekha as the new General Manager. With over 20 years of industry experience and a proven record of achievements, Anant brings a strong blend of sales, operations, and team leadership skills. He will focus on driving business growth and enhancing guest experiences through strategic and technological advancements. This role also marks Anant's return to Pune, where he previously served as General Manager starting in 2016.



## ASHWNI KUMAR GOELA

### Vice President – Operations & Area General Manager Delhi-NCR Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport

Radisson Blu Plaza is thrilled to announce the promotion of Ashwani Kumar Goela to Vice President - Operations at Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport and Area General Manager for Delhi NCR. With over 24 years in the hospitality industry and a proven track record as General Manager, Mr. Goela's leadership and dedication have been instrumental to the success.



## RAMESH CHANDER

### Food and Beverage Manager, DoubleTree by Hilton Pune-Chinchwad

DoubleTree by Hilton Pune-Chinchwad is thrilled to announce Ramesh Chander as the new Food and Beverage (F&B) Manager. With over 16 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Ramesh brings a wealth of expertise and in-depth knowledge to enhance the team. His extensive background promises to elevate the food and beverage offerings to new heights.

Experience  
the VIVID Colours  
of  
**Chhattisgarh**  
India



# Chitrakote

## Niagara of Chhattisgarh, India

Chitrakote Waterfalls are supposed to be the Niagara falls of India, being the broadest waterfall in India. During monsoon one can see its might. The river Indravati falls from a height of 29 m (96 ft) to form this waterfall.



### ARIES

You will be continuing your business in the same manner as before in the month of August. You will see that your positive efforts are going to be the reason for your success in your business and career. However, there will be challenges in your career in the second part of the month. But you will again get positive chances to move ahead during the third and final phases of the month. You will need efforts to materialize these ventures. You will be more conscious about your health this month. However, the first week of the month will not be more favorable for you. This will also affect your working abilities to an extent. You would need to adopt precautions and take medicines for this. Second and fourth phases of the month will be favorable. This will allow you to do your tasks in a normal manner as before. You should adopt a healthy diet.



### TAURUS

On one hand, you will be trying hard to boost your business in the month of August. At the same time, you will also wish to grow your professional circle as well. The first phase of the month will be suitable for your career and it will also give you a lead in the production and sales. But you will need to be highly active in order to make use of these opportunities. The second phase of the month will be difficult for you. In the month of August, you will be more focused towards your domestic issues. You will be in favor of ending the ongoing rifts and arguments. The first part of this month will give you positive atmosphere for the same. In love matters, there will not be any special progress in the beginning of the month. But the second half will be positive. You will wish to give a gift to your loved one.



### GEMINI

You will think of reaching new heights in your career in the month of August. You will be ready to learn new technical skills as well. In the first phase, you will continue to progress in career and business in a positive manner. This will make you pleased. But your efforts will be weaker in the second week of the month. You will be busy in making the third phase more favorable for you. You will put in good efforts in the first phase of the month in order to secure good income as the past. You will see that your efforts are slowly getting successful in the second phase of the month. In the last phase of the month, you will get many good results as before which will make you cheerful. You will be able to focus more on your work. Overall, this month will be positive in this regard.



### CANCER

You will be engaged in utilizing this month as a valuable opportunity. However, there will be multiple challenges in your career in the first phase of the month itself. But the important thing will be that you will have no shortage of confidence. This will eventually allow you to get positive results in the second and third phase of this month in the areas of your career or business. In the month of August, you will be ready to make your health more favorable and pleasant than before. You will be ready to adopt exercise strategies as well. You will see that your health will be normal from the beginning of the week. This will help you to continue your work in the same manner as before. But the second and last phases will be more difficult.



### LEO

Though you will think of your career prospects but the first phase of August will not be fruitful for adopting the decided strategies for taking forward your career and business. But in the second, third, and final phases, you will be able to generate some speed in the related business aspects. At the same time you will be successful in taking decisions clearly in the related subjects. You will be busy in taking this month as an opportunity. In the month of August, you will listen to your family members but according to your convenience which will create some minor issues in the first phase of the month. But from the second week, you will try to pay more attention and respect to your family. In your personal life, you might say some unfavorable words to your partner in the beginning of the month. But you will be ready to address the issue in the second and fourth phases.



### VIRGO

In the month of August, you will be prepared to do something extra towards your career in a positive manner so that your career path becomes easier. You will feel that achieving a higher position is difficult but not impossible. If you are a businessman, there will be a lack of skilled workers and resources during the first and second weeks of the month. You will be able to address these issues by the month end. In the month of August, you will be prepared to do something extra towards your career in a positive manner so that your career path becomes easier. You will feel that achieving a higher position is difficult but not impossible. If you are a businessman, there will be a lack of skilled workers and resources during the first and second weeks of the month. You will be able to address these issues by the month end.



## LIBRA

August month will provide you opportunities to expand your career and business to a wider level. You will sense that there are some opportunities for the taking which can make your career more positive. You will be engaged in running your business in the same manner as before. There will be favorable chances in the month end in areas of technology, arts, films, and information. You will make all the possible efforts this month in order to enhance your wisdom and professional position you will see that your efforts are giving you good success in the first phase of the month. But your efforts will be dull in the second part. Because of this, you will not be able to perform well. In the third phase, you will focus your mind on studies in order to improve your knowledge and experience.



## SCORPIO

In the month of August, you will be more excited about your career prospects. You will be engaged in the review of your preparations in a critical manner. You will be ahead in the business management from the beginning of the week itself. This will help you more in gaining desired profits. In the second phase of the month, you will see that your production and sales are going down. But you will control things again in the third phase. In the month of August, you will not be able to give enough time for your health and fitness. Due to your careless approach, some unfavorable health issues August arise. You August have to visit a doctor for the same. But in the second phase of the month, you will be able to regain a good health. Again the third phase of the month will be more exhaustive for you. Month end will be more favorable in this regard.



## SAGITTARIUS

From the first phase of August, you will get many favorable opportunities to move ahead in your career. This will strengthen your confidence. You will witness a remarkable progress in your business too. You will be busy in doing your tasks in the same way as before. But the second phase of the month will not be in your favor. But in the third phase of the month, you will regain a good position. This month, you will think more about your family and dear ones. You will wish to create a positive atmosphere in your family life. You will see that your brother is supporting you from the beginning of the month. You will be ready to do some religious work as well. For your personal relations, the second and third phases will be better. This will make you more positive.



## CAPRICORN

From the first phase of the month itself, you will be working hard to get some progress in your career or business. The first phase of the month will be utilized in verifying the documents and buying the necessary equipment. But the second phase of the month will be successful for your job and business prospects. But you will face some challenges in the third week of August. Month end will be favorable for you. To speed up the progress in monetary matters you will be more active from the beginning of the week itself. Your efforts will be successful by the second week of the month. But in the third phase, you will see that your savings are getting spent quickly. But in the last phase of the month, you will regain a stable and better income. This will boost your confidence and inspire you towards positive efforts.



## AQUARIUS

August month will be very important for you in terms of your business affairs. You will be busy in arranging the resources and appointing new staff for your business. You will be glad to see more opportunities for your career this month. But there will be difficulties in implementing it. The second and fourth phases will be relatively better in this regard. But there are chances that rest of the parts will be unfavorable. Due to some important works, you will be going here and there this month. Because of this, there will be hardly any improvement in your knowledge and skills. You will lack a strong desire to study your subjects well. But your planets will be in a favorable position in the second half of the month. This will motivate you in studies and by the month end you will be included in the list of bright students.



## PISCES

In the month of August, you will be ready to achieve new heights in your business and trade. You will be glad to sense the opportunities to enhance your career. But it will depend on you whether to use the opportunities or not. The first, second, and last phase of the month will be progressive for your business life. But your planets show some unfavorable events in the third phase of the month. This month you will be planning to decorate your house properly. You will understand that it is necessary to improve the facilities of the house along with the interiors. You will spend more time with your family members from the beginning of the month. The first and third weeks will enhance the sweetness in your personal relations. This will make you more confident to express your feelings.

# Maha KUMBH 2025 PRAYAGRAJ

*The World's Largest  
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Uttar Pradesh

UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM



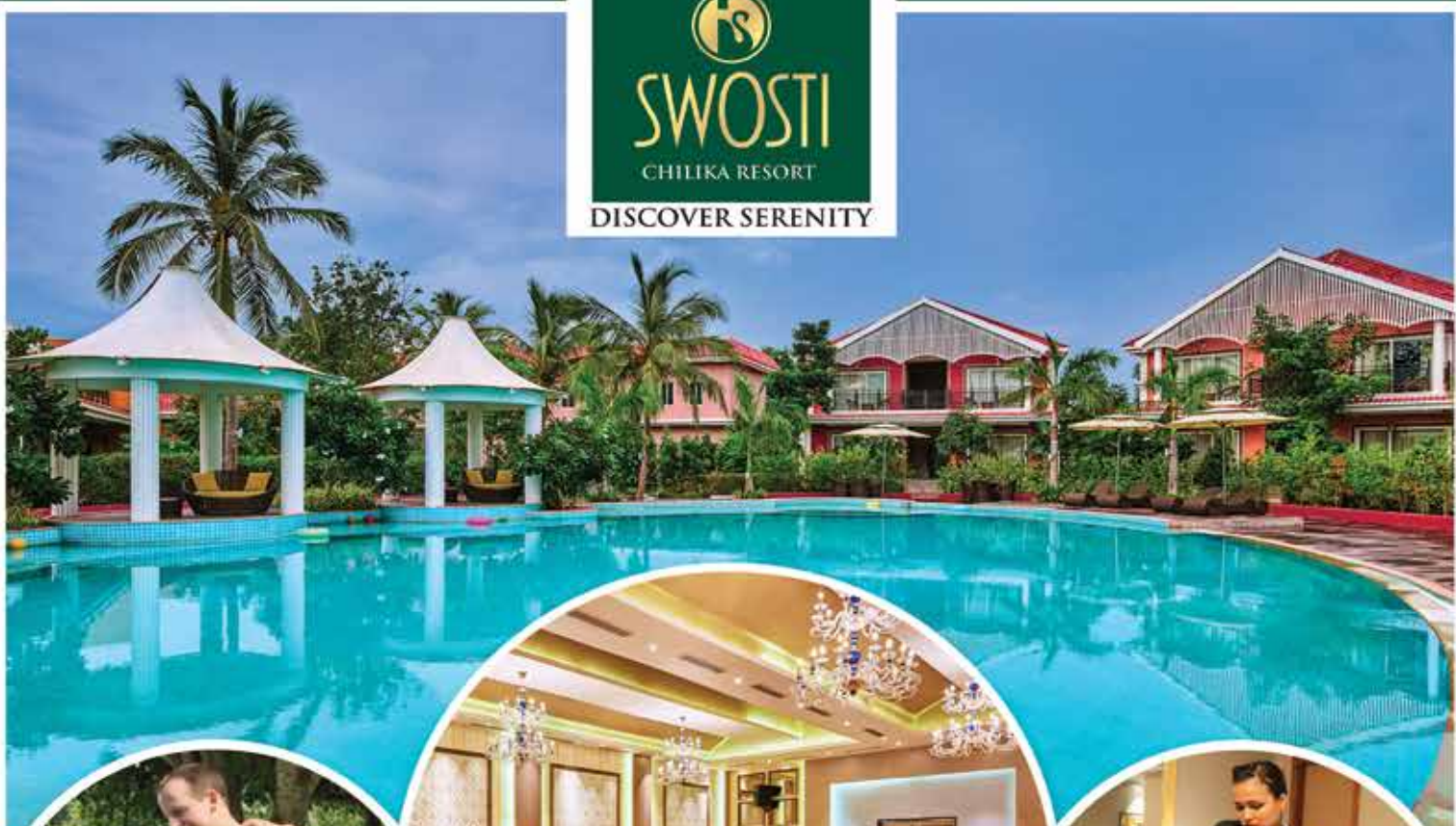
## Bathing Dates

- Paush Purnima
  - Makar Sankranti (1st Shahi Snan)
  - Mauni Amavasya (2nd Shahi Snan)
  - Basant Panchami (3rd Shahi Snan)
  - Achala Saptami
  - Magh Purnima
  - Shri Mahashivratri
- 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025
  - 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2025
  - 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025
  - 03<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025
  - 04<sup>th</sup> February, 2025
  - 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025
  - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

**DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, UTTAR PRADESH**

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