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# EDITOR'S NOTE

**As** summer's relentless heat and drawn-out days set in, the longing to escape to the refreshing embrace of cooler mountains beckons.

We venture beyond the usual to uncover select hill stations, viewed through the lens of India's dynamic content creators and travel influencers. Revealing hidden facets of these well-trodden destinations, they offer glimpses into secluded sanctuaries. We implore our readers to ascend to new heights with Air India and discover more. Additionally, our 'Editor's Pick' section has tailored recommendations for your summer thrills.

We delve into the world of gastronomy with culinary maestro Massimo Bottura, sharing his insights on discovering India's rich culture through its diverse cuisine. We raise a toast to native tipples globally with ace sommelier Magandeep Singh.

Venture with us to Normandy, the birthplace of Impressionism, as it commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the art movement. Also, discover an artistic legacy intertwined with fashionable resorts. Highlighting the benefits of our Flying Returns programme, we urge you to enrol and share updates on our efforts to enhance guest experiences.

Plus, following our mango trail across India in the previous issue, we're tantalising your taste buds with mango treats on select routes, bringing you the essence of summer.

As we evolve and innovate, we invite your feedback to help us on this journey.

Happy reading! Namaste!

– **Namaste.ai** Editorial Team



**EDITOR'S PICK OF THE MONTH**  
A curated fusion of the finest events, travels, exquisite cuisine, and enriching experiences, presenting a snapshot of life's vibrant mosaic.



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An engineer, author, motorcyclist, and TEDx speaker, Rishad has four books to his name, the latest one being about his road trip from Munich to Mumbai. He largely writes about food, cars, and road trips.

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**Abhilasha Ojha**

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She's worked as a journalist with leading national and financial dailies, and was a production editor (consultant) with DAG, a leading art gallery based in New Delhi, Mumbai, and New York. She writes for various newspapers and magazines.



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A Delhi-based consumer technology and lifestyle journalist, Dhruv writes about the bleeding edge in tech since 2008. You'll often find him on panels on news channels and is always up for a chat on design, music, coffee, and more.



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An awarded sommelier, Magandeep, or Magan, as he likes to be called, is a peripatetic gastronome and a hedonist who divides his time between wine tasting, reading, DJing, scuba diving, and running triathlons.

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New Delhi-based travel and food writer, Shibani has been penning articles on luxury lifestyle for 20 years. She has her finger on the pulse of global travel and tourism, especially in responsible luxury and conscious travel.

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attend this  
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### On the Cover

The lush green tea plantations  
of Munnar, Kerala

**Cover image courtesy**  
Getty Images/Svitlana Belinska

**Map courtesy**  
Asia Media Design



# LET'S GO TO

We hand-picked unique stories from  
some dynamic content creators, revealing  
the hidden magic of renowned  
hill stations, perfect for  
your summer holidays



compiled by **Team Namaste.ai**





# THE HILLS!

 @millennialladdki > 10  @monkey.inc > 12  @abhiandnow > 14

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*Lush green valleys  
and rolling hills  
imbued with a  
captivating mist  
transport you to a  
picturesque heaven*



# LAP OF NATURE

The picturesque village of Bir has tons of activities to offer while also allowing you to slow down

## HOW TO REACH

From **Manali**, one can proceed to Bir by road. Overnight buses also ply from **Delhi** and **Chandigarh**. The nearest railway station to Bir is **Amb Andaura**.







#### CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

A heart-shaped tree in Bir that changes colours with the seasons; A paraglider, with the snow-capped Dhauladhar range in the background; A bird's-eye view of Bir at sunset.



## Nearby Spots

### ANDRETTA

Known as the potter's village, people from across the globe come here to take pottery courses.

### WAH TEA ESTATE

Take a tour of the tea gardens and the factory, shop for a variety of teas plucked in the region, and enjoy a meal at their in-house café.

### RAJGUNDHA

Almost two hours from Bir, this valley has endless meadows; a great site for camping.

### BAIJNATH

A larger town near Bir, which gets its name from an important Lord Shiva temple there. Pilgrims from all over come here.

### BAROT

Known for trout fishing, this valley is about two hours away.



#### About the creator:

**Japleen Kaur** (@millennialladki) is a digital creator living the hygge life in the mountains. You can find her sipping coffee in an aesthetic café and writing about beautiful stays, lifestyle trends, and where to find the best biryani.

I moved to Bir in 2019 and it has been a little over five years of truly living the slow mountain life that the Bombay girl in me could never imagine. Bir is more than just paragliding; simply browsing through this piece will convince you of the same.

Start your day with a hearty breakfast of *podī* idli or ghee roast dosa at Avva's café. Or head to June 16 Café for their Turkish eggs with a shot of good ol' Americano. If it's a weekend, try the blueberry cheesecake. Or the fresh bakes at Bhoomi cafe, whilst looking at the gorgeous Chokling Monastery at a distance.

Then, take a cab to Ahju railway station, seven minutes from the main market area. Himachal has two toy train routes—while Shimla's gets more attention, the Kangra railway route is

quite impressive as well. Hop on for a 45-minute train ride through beautiful forest cover, crossing bridges and tiny villages, and admiring the mighty Dhauladhar range.

After that fairy-tale journey, have a meal at Her Cafe in Gunehar, another village close to Bir. It's run by local women serving authentic Himachali fare. *Siddu* and *anklu* are a must-try here. Then, either hike up to Mata Maheshwari temple or opt for a sundowner at a boutique property, Rooh. They say that Bir skies are magical—not just because of the paragliders but also for the unreal sunsets. So sunset hour is special.

From shopping in the Tibetan colony and wandering in the Deer Park Institute to stargazing from your BnB—Bir will always be a great decision.



# OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Discover a hidden gem, a secret monastery in the mountains of Zaskar



## About the creator:

**Ankita Kumar** (@monkey.inc) is a **travel content creator** from Bengaluru. With 10 years of experience as a full-time travel creator, she enjoys exploring offbeat destinations and trying exotic cuisines.

**H**ave you ever heard of a hidden cave monastery in Ladakh? Let me take you back to July 2021, when I set out on an unforgettable quest to find this buried gem. My journey began in Kargil, where every twist and turn of the road coded us deeper into Ladakh's majestic mountains and the rivers that painted a picturesque landscape. Our destination was the serene village of Padum, situated amidst breathtaking natural grandeur and home to just three quaint hill homes.

Luck was on our side as we managed to secure a spot in the village hall for the night, given that all other accommodations in the vicinity were fully booked. The next morning, fuelled by excitement and curiosity, we set out on foot, eager to discover the difficult-to-locate monastery, which was believed to be nestled amidst these mesmerising surroundings.

## HOW TO REACH

To find this secluded monastery, travel to **Ladakh** and head towards **Padum** from **Kargil**. A short hike from the village will lead you to the serene **Phugtal** Monastery, seamlessly blending history with spiritual serenity.

The journey to reach this monastery was as amazing as the monastery itself. After a short two-hour uphill hike, surrounded by awe-inspiring mountains and the crystal blue Tsarap river, which kept us company throughout, we finally reached our destination: the Phugtal Monastery, also known as Phugtal Gumpa. It suddenly came into view, stark against the rugged terrain, and looking beautiful! It was truly a mesmeric sight.

Guided by a friendly monk, we climbed up the steps of the monastery, exploring its nooks and crannies, and even had the delightful opportunity to meet and interact with the young lamas residing there. What added to the charm of this experience was the option to spend a night at the monastery itself, a chance to immerse ourselves fully in the local culture and spiritual aura that surrounded this ancient sanctuary, but unfortunately we only got to know about this once we reached, so a night wasn't possible.

The Phugtal Monastery is roughly 1,100 years old and holds a special place in history as a refuge for travelling monks seeking solace and spiritual enlightenment.

The interactions with the lamas, their stories, and the serene environment left a mark on my journey, reminding me of the true essence of travel—genuine connections. In retrospect, it's moments like these that make travel truly special for me, offering not just a glimpse into our history and culture but also an opportunity for personal growth, mental peace, and introspection.





**CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP LEFT**

*Interacting with a young  
lama as he cooked, gave us  
a glimpse into their culinary  
traditions; Following a monk,  
we ascended the monastery  
steps nestled in rugged terrain;  
The young lamas engrossed  
in chanting; The crystal blue  
Tsarap river snaking through  
the mountains kept us  
company throughout the hike.*





**LEFT AND RIGHT**  
Roghi Cliff, a popular tourist point near Kalpa; A bird's-eye view of Kalpa village with the Kinner Kailash range forming the perfect backdrop.

# DIVINE VILLAGE

In Himachal Pradesh's Himalayas, while journeying along the old Hindustan-Tibet Highway, one comes across Kalpa, a fairy-tale like village



## About the creator:

**Abhinav Chandel** (@abhiandnow) is a passionate **travel photographer** and **digital creator**, who believes in capturing the essence of the Himalayas through his poetic lens, inspiring others to explore the world, one adventure at a time.

**"Y**ou must go to Chini Gaon". It was an encounter

with an old man in Shimla, which set me on the path to this village perched in the folds of the higher Himalayan ranges, where remnants of the Silk Route still speak in a faint whisper. A day later, I was travelling on a winding road, moving up the mountains, where the majestic snow-clad Kinner Kailash range formed the perfect backdrop against the dense deodar forests.

"Look, there it is," our driver said, and pointed towards a gap between the peaks, revealing the unmistakable *shivling*-shaped Kinner Kailash rock. We had arrived in Kalpa, a village with a

rich history, once bustling with Tibetan and Chinese traders, traversing along the old Hindustan-Tibet Road.

I opened my room's window and found the Kinner Kailash range standing sentinel, shining in the last light of the day. And then giving in to the village's allure, I decided to forego the next day's plans for a stroll through Kalpa's lanes.

The wooden houses with slanted roofs spoke about the timeless charm of the place, and the snow-clad mountains peeking from every corner of the village seemed to be integrated into the fabric of the daily life here.

"Come have tea with us," a group of elderly men invited me to join them and offered to tell me about Kalpa's cultural tapestry. I was first instructed to visit the Chandika Devi temple, a tower-





## HOW TO REACH

It's accessible by road, the nearest major town being **Reckong Peo**. One can avail buses to Reckong Peo from **Shimla** and **Chandigarh**.

like structure built in the Kath Kuni style (an indigenous building method), which served as the house of the local goddess. A testament to cultural fusion are numerous prayer flags and prayer wheels along the village's Buddhist temple, on the way to the Chandika Devi temple.

"We practice both Hinduism and Buddhism in these parts," quipped one of the men, offering me an apple from his orchard. I also learnt about the significance of apple cultivation in this region and how they're renowned for

their quality, because of which, they're more inclined to be exported than to arrive in Indian markets.

Bidding farewell to my new-found friends, I continued my exploration of Kalpa, where quiet lanes offered a respite from chaotic urban life, while the soaring temple *shikharas* (spires) reminded me of the divinity one can experience here.

As I reluctantly made my way back to the hotel, I couldn't help but pause, and glimpse at Kinner Kailash again.

And a part of me wished to linger in this paradise where, amidst prayer flags and distant chimes of prayer bells, I felt a sense of peace, which can't be described in words.

Though the days of the Silk Route were long gone, Kalpa still felt like a hidden paradise with an unfinished story.



## Nearby Spots

### RECKONG PEO

About 25 minutes away, this is best for souvenirs and local handloom.

### ROGHI VILLAGE

A traditional village with beautiful apple orchards.

### CHITKUL

Famously known as 'India's Last Village', Chitkul is a 3-hour drive.

### CHAKA MEADOWS

A 3km-hike takes you to the meadows with spellbinding views of the Himalayas.

### KAMRU FORT

An ancient fortress housing a Goddess Durga temples in India; an hour-and-a-half away.





# FULL OF BEANS

Home to evergreen rainforests and spice trails, Coorg brings you closer to nature and lets you stay amidst coffee plantations

**S**taying in one of India's coffee-producing districts is every coffee lover's dream, including mine. To experience the coffee growing and brewing process, I planned a trip to Coorg. Also known as Kodagu, it is situated on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats. Coorg experiences robust monsoon starting in the first week of June and is ideal to beat the heat and witness the misty side of this hill station.





#### CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT

Getting lost in the woods comes to life in Coorg; Bean to cup—an experience I can never get bored of; Away from mundane urban life, sipping coffee on the outskirts of Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary.



#### About the creator:

**Aastha Maheshwari** (@aasthainwanderland), is a **digital creator** and **independent journalist** based in Hyderabad. She loves to write about travel, e-Commerce, food, and lifestyle. A certified open-water scuba diver, she's a true adventurer.

## HOW TO REACH

**Coorg** is at a drivable distance from **Bengaluru**, **Mysuru**, and **Mangaluru**. You can either self-drive or take an Airavat Bus, a comfortable AC semi-sleeper state road transport bus to **Madikeri** (Coorg's main town).

Mornings are wrapped in clouds, a chorus of cicadas and the aroma of Coorgi coffee. From the Chelavara Falls to the Tibetan monasteries, from the iconic Raja's Seat to the Madikeri Fort,

and from trekking on the Tadiandamol trail to river rafting in Dubare—Coorg has something for every holidaymaker.

After visiting several times, I have my favourite side of town to stay—Virajpet. It is nestled in the hills away from the hustle-bustle of Madikeri town. If you love the idea of staying in a coffee plantation, you won't fall short of options. I stayed at The Tamara Coorg where the naturalists took me on a trail, showing what conditions a coffee plant is cultivated in, and how the beans are

plucked-dried-roasted-ground and powdered to brew a flavourful cup of filter coffee. To experience the culture and cuisine up close, stay in one of the heritage homes like Kedakal Estate—a century-old boutique homestay nestled on a hilltop in a coffee plantation. After your holiday, you will start craving *puttu* (rice vermicelli made in bamboo shoots), *kadala* curry (black chickpeas cooked with local spices) and a hot cuppa, because coffee is non-negotiable in Coorg.





# MISTY HAVEN

A verdant rainforest and a plantation town, Valparai is a biodiversity hotspot in the Western Ghats



## HOW TO REACH

Valparai is 100km and a two-hour drive from **Coimbatore**; **Pollachi** (65km away) is the closest railway hub.





#### About the creator:

**Lakshmi Sharath** (@lakshmisharath) is a **travel writer** and **blogger** from Bengaluru, who believes that people make places. She blogs at [lakshmisharath.com](http://lakshmisharath.com) and writes a newsletter at [lakshmisharath.substack.com](http://lakshmisharath.substack.com).



#### CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT

*The moody mist blankets a tea plantation; Sunset, shrouded by heavy mist; A Nilgiri Tahr greeted me on the hairpin bends from Pollachi to Valparai; Aliyar Dam against the Anaimalai Mountains; The dreamy mountain roads to Valparai.*

A pair of Nilgiri Tahrs locked horns as I slowed down to take in the pristine view of the Aliyar Dam flanked by the Annamalai Hills of the Western Ghats. Anaimalai translates to elephant hill and I was in Tamil Nadu, navigating the steep hairpin bends from Pollachi towards Valparai. Nestled at 3,500ft, the lush plantation town is an idyllic summer retreat oblivious to its own beauty.

However, this little gem packs in a surprise as it's also a dense rainforest and a biodiversity hotspot, home to endemic flora and fauna.

The jungle presented itself to me, a fabric of greens and yellows as the symphony of birds drowned the chorus of the cicadas. Rolling tea plantations

blended with the woodlands as I spotted the endangered lion-tailed macaques while calls of the Malabar Whistling-Thrush, locally known as 'whistling schoolboy', echoed across the hills. The mist played with the mountains as I walked past murmuring streams. Hiking at my own pace, I started soaking in the calm around me, gazing at the raw untamed beauty of the wilderness that lay in front.

Nallamudi Poonjolai in Valparai is not just another viewing point in the hills. It is believed that a man named Velu had "seen God" here. Standing there and watching the mist rising up from the depths of the valley, I realised that there was indeed something divine about this ethereal scenery that fanned out in front of me.

Valparai is more than just another tourist hill station. It unravels a story of wildlife conservation, of shrinking rainforests, of endemic and endangered species. And just a couple of days in the rainforest is enough to create awareness and to make you a little bit more of a responsible traveller.



### Nearby Spots

While there are a few three- and four-star hotels in Valparai, staying in a century-old bungalow in a tea plantation is an experience in itself.

#### WOODBRIAR GROUP

Sirukundra Bungalow, Stanmore Garden Bungalow, Monica Garden Bungalow, and Puthuthottam Annexe (a great place to go trekking and spot lion-tailed macaques) are some of their properties.

#### SINNA DORAI'S BUNGALOWS

Upper Paralai, Rotti Kadai, and Moulmein House, are all quaint accommodations surrounded by lush green plantations.



 EDITOR'S PICK: INDIAN

# SCENIC HILL ESCAPES

Discover our picks of Indian summer spots for your travel list, made with care for unforgettable ventures and respite



## Matheran, Maharashtra

A stunning gem 80km from Mumbai, this automobile-free hill station mesmerises with its lush greenery and the iconic toy train, offering tranquil trails and vistas of the Western Ghats. It's a true delight, also known for its mild climate during summers.



## Pelling, Sikkim

It enthralls with its panoramic views of the mighty Kanchenjunga range and the iconic Sanga Choeling Monastery, home to a massive metallic statue of Chenrezig. About 125km from Gangtok, it's a serene mountain retreat for every nature lover.



## Chic Stays

There are several stay options from the majestic Himalayas to the serene backwaters of Kerala

### GLAMPING SITES

A fusion of glamour and camping, this experience offers luxurious outdoor experiences amidst India's diverse landscapes.

### HOMESTAYS

This option offers authentic stays with local families, providing insights into culture, cuisine, and daily life in diverse destinations across India.

### FARMSTAYS

Guests can immerse themselves in the farm life, enjoy the fresh produce, and experience local hospitality at rural retreats.

### TREE HOUSES

These offer elevated stays amidst nature, providing unique perspectives, bliss, and a blend of adventure and relaxation.



## Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh\*

Tucked in the eastern Himalayas, it captivates with ancient monasteries and pristine lakes. A serene haven, it is approximately 431km from Guwahati by road, promising spiritual solace, natural wonder, and fresh air.



## Mirik, West Bengal

Nestled amidst hills, it beckons with its serene Sumendu Lake, tea gardens, and orange orchards. Situated approx 45km from Darjeeling, it's a picturesque retreat amidst nature's bounty. The momos are a must try.





 **EDITOR'S PICK:**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

# IDYLIC REFUGE

Travelling abroad this summer? We've got you covered with our list

## **St. Moritz, Switzerland**

Located around 200km from Zurich, the St. Moritz's Spring/Summer embodies a peculiar transition—it's neither warm nor cold. Snow gives way to rain, and meadows flourish, yet pine forests remain timeless. Amidst this change, a serene escape emerges. In patches of sunshine, hints of summer peek through, allowing contented souls a slice of heaven.



### **PLAN A TRIP NOW!**

**Scan and visit our website for your next trip's itinerary**

Discover Air India's latest routes and start planning your getaway.

## **Manchester, Vermont**

Set amidst the verdant Green Mountains, it boasts scenic vistas, rich history, and a thriving cultural life. Outdoor enthusiasts revel in hiking, skiing, and fly fishing, while the town offers upscale shopping, art galleries, and gourmet dining. The Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport is close by.



## **Unique Experiences**

Explore these unforgettable thrills this summer as you venture out

### **SKY SAUNA**

Relax and rejuvenate in Lapland's floating saunas. In Finland, no matter where you are, there would always be a sauna nearby.

### **GLACIER EXPRESS EXCURSION**

Experience the iconic Glacier Express train journey from St. Moritz to Zermatt, traversing through breathtaking Swiss scenery, soaring viaducts, and ancient villages, while enjoying gourmet meals.

### **POLAR CAVES PARK**

The Polar Caves Park in Rumney, New Hampshire, U.S.A is a must visit; the glacially-formed caves and thrilling passages were created some 50,000 years ago from granite boulders.



### **Lapland, Finland**

Summer months in Lapland are magical. Experience Midnight Sun, a natural phenomenon where, from mid-May to mid-August, the sun does not set behind the horizon. Explore the museums to know about the local history and culture. Do keep an eye out for reindeers. Did you know that Lapland is home to the world's first reindeer influencer, Vesku?



### **Courchevel, France**

A French Alps ski resort located in the Tarentaise Valley, it offers the unique Alpine charm, even in summer. Courchevel's summer is all about fun and adventure. Its hiking trails will take you through breathtaking scenery, and for those who prefer a more relaxing experience, the golf course offers a tranquil interlude in a natural setting.

### **INSPIRE US!**

Tag **Air India** and share your **favorite must-visit summer escapes!** Let's encourage more travellers to create unforgettable memories this year

### **North Conway, New Hampshire**

Nestled in the heart of the White Mountains, this village is set amid mountains and forests, and beckons with its scenic beauty and vibrant summer energy. From exhilarating hikes along rugged trails to lazy afternoons by crystal-clear rivers, every moment in this charming New England village is an invitation to savour the simple joys of summer.



### **Trekking Trails**

#### **INCA TRAIL, PERU**

Trek through the Andes Mountains to reach the Machu Picchu ruins.

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# THE PEOPLE

26 🔴 Q&A 30 🔴 EXPERT SPEAK

*Chef Massimo Bottura at the press conference for Al Mèni, an international cuisine festival in Italy, in 2018*

## J'ADORE INDIA

Three-time Michelin star and ace Chef, Massimo Bottura, on his powerful connection with India



# "THE CULINARY WORLD CAN LEARN A LOT FROM INDIA"

Three-time Michelin star and one of the world's best chefs, Massimo Bottura, on why he has such a strong connection with India and her people

words by **Abhilasha Ojha**

**YOU ARE ON YOUR THIRD VISIT TO INDIA, AND IN THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF DOING A LIMITED, EXCLUSIVE, FULLY-SOLD-OUT POP-UP, AT THE LEELA PALACE, NEW DELHI. WHAT KEEPS BRINGING YOU BACK TO INDIA?**

I'm so happy to be here for Culinary Culture [India's only authoritative, independent rating organisation awarding stars to restaurants] and The Leela Palace, New Delhi. I love this country and her people. I feel a deep connection with India. Every day at Osteria Francescana [the three-Michelin-star restaurant by Bottura in Modena, Italy], we use culture as a landscape of ideas. Culture is the most important ingredient for the chef of the future. Every single moment that I am in India, I feel inspired by her culture. India raises the bar on the power of hospitality—the value of hospitality cannot be matched in dollars.

**CAN YOU ELABORATE ON WHY INDIA IS SO DISTINCTIVE IN TERMS OF HOSPITALITY?**

If there is an amazing restaurant

with mediocre service, you will not go back there. But if you have exceptional service with decent cuisine, you will keep going back to that restaurant. In India, my team and I are treated like family. I have learnt so much from everyone, including my butler at The Leela Palace, New Delhi [Ravindra Mishra]. He was with me last year when I did my first pop-up in Leela, New Delhi, and I asked for him to be around this year as well. That is the power of hospitality. The culinary world can learn a lot from India.

**WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON INDIAN CUISINE AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?**

What I love about Indian food is its similarity to Italian food—at the heart of both the cuisines there is deep tradition. Within that tradition, there is innovation and technique to bring out flavours of nostalgia. The variety of food, given India's numerous regions, is impressive. There is so much diversity. I find Indian food very pleasing to the palate. I tend to eat

a lot of Indian food—I like eating *karela* a lot.

**AS A CULINARY MAESTRO RUNNING 12 LEADING RESTAURANTS ACROSS THE WORLD, INCLUDING A GREEN MICHELIN STAR FOR COMBINING EXCEPTIONAL CULINARY STANDARDS WITH SUSTAINABILITY, YOU HAVE DONE IT ALL. WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED?**

It is the work. I try to shake the future and keep pushing and keep dreaming, and I do it specially on behalf of all my team to keep them

**"TO SERVE EXCEPTIONAL FOOD, CHEFS SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE TIME WHEN THEY GOT EMOTIONAL ABOUT FOOD."**



Massimo Bottura at Taj  
Mahal, Agra, on his trip  
to India last year







motivated. It is very important for chefs to travel and evolve, to get exposed to the best minds from all over the world and from all walks of life. I make sure that there is always room for poetry and for questions in my kitchen. Many of my dishes have been a result of asking questions and in the process, finding answers.

#### WHAT LIES AT THE HEART OF YOUR CULINARY ESTABLISHMENTS?

Humanistic revolution and social sustainability. If you act in the right way, treat people in the right way, and treat employees as part of the family, it makes all the difference. I keep social sustainability at the centre of whatever I do. My staff, the farmers I interact with, people associated with my restaurants—all are family.

#### HOW DO YOU LOOK BACK AT YOUR SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY AS ONE OF THE CHEFS WHO REINVENTED ITALIAN CUISINE?

There was a lot of struggle in the early days and I was criticised for taking poetic licences with my cooking. People thought I was crazy to experiment with traditional dishes but I persisted. In my restaurants, we serve good ideas and transfer emotions through those ideas. To serve exceptional food, chefs should think about the time when they got emotional about food.

#### WHAT'S A FAVOURITE FOOD MEMORY THAT GAVE BIRTH TO AN ICONIC DISH OF YOURS?

*The Crunchy Part of Lasagna* was born from my memories of Sunday lunches when I would fight

with my older brother to eat the crunchiest part of the lasagna that my grandmother would cook at home. *Oops, I Dropped my Lemon Tart* was an accidental discovery when Taka [Osteria Francescana's Sous Chef Takahiko Kondo] dropped a lemon tart on the plate. It was perfect in its imperfections and became a metaphor used by brands to show how mistakes are important for creation.

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**  
Prepping for the recently-concluded, two-day pop-up at The Leela Palace, New Delhi; The culinary maestro believes in zero food wastage and feeds the poor through his soup kitchens; Some of the signature dishes served at his restaurant, Osteria Francescana in Modena.





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Magandeep Singh is a certified sommelier, author, and columnist

# LOCAL TIPPLES TO TRY

There is more to spirits than whiskies and vodkas. Try these indigenous spirits when you travel next

words by **Magandeep Singh**

**B**ack when civilisation began, each set came up with their own version of intoxicants. It may have happened around the same time, eerily so, but it was never really the same type of drink. Mead flourished in some parts, wine and beer in others while various other fruit and grain ferments could be traced back to a similar point on the timeline all around the world.

Otherwise put, humans, when left to their devices, had some inherent coding that led them all to make similar drinks. Then came the spirits and even they had a certain regional affinity. Fast forward much further to a few years ago, and the world now had very set preferences. Whisky from here and wine from there, and so on.

Each drink always claimed their provenance as superior and unique—most still do—but eventually it all starts sounding the same. So, most people



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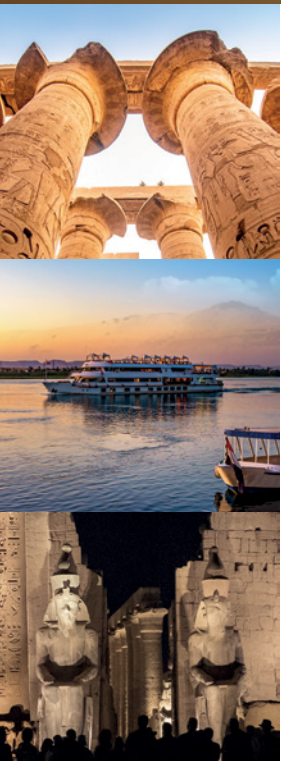
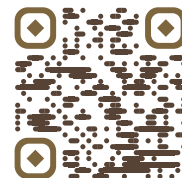
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**CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT**  
Ice cold Raki from Turkey; Naturally-dried Mahua flowers being picked in Madhya Pradesh, India; Mastika in Greece is made using a resin obtained from the Mastic tree.



tried a few and once they felt they had found their comfort style or brand, they largely stuck to it.

This wasn't right but the prejudice wore heavy and, as a result, most people revered single malts from Scotland (and more recently, Japan), wines from Europe, rums from the Caribbean, and vodkas from the erstwhile USSR. Very stereotypical (and a highly-flawed method) but that's how it was.

Then the pandemic hit and suddenly supplies of preferred tipples started dwindling. I remember, as they announced the first lockdown, while many scrambled for toilet paper

and food supplies, I was out buying mixers and lemons. Eventually, we all ran out of precious malts and preferred a glass of bubbly. Even the rum rations were left severely depleted. In the wake of this dystopia, the world responded by looking inwards—we started to browse through local shelves to see what was interesting.

In India, we were going through the gin craze when this happened and consequently, gins gained much ground in this period. In the rest of the world, a similar voyage of discovery was afoot, all being done from the comfort of armchairs while the

world outside was on an indefinitely-extended curfew.

Once it was decided that we would all need to experiment to find a tippie that was local yet fun, we weren't really going to stop. Fast forward to today, and what we find is that the world isn't all that hung up on whiskies and vodkas anymore. The regional underdogs have risen and are taking over the mixology scene, one bar at a time. Here then, without further ado, are a few indigenous spirits that one should explore while traipsing around the world.

#### REPRESENTING ASIA

We have barely scratched

**"WHAT WE FIND IS THAT THE WORLD ISN'T ALL THAT HUNG UP ON WHISKIES AND VODKAS ANYMORE."**



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**CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP**

*Calvados or apple brandy comes from France; Soju is a rice-based distillate from Korea; Traditional amphorae (clay containers) for Pisco storage and fermentation.*



the surface with **Mahua from India**, and here is what makes this local distillate so special. It is possibly one of the two (maybe three) flower-based distillates in the world and in India, one is only allowed to work with fallen flowers and it is forbidden to pluck them off a tree for the purpose of making this potent beverage. To me, the taste is not exactly floral but I believe we still have some way to go in its development. Then we have **Soju from Korea**. Anything K (K-pop, K-drama, K-make-up) is all the rage right now and riding this wave of popularity is Soju, their native rice-based distillate (although other materials like grains can be used too). It is quite strong in taste and is mostly drunk neat, in shots. The fact that it clocks in at 20 per cent alcohol by volume (ABV) makes it a lot easier

to sip, especially if one is having multiple pours in one sitting. Similar to Soju, **Baijiu** is sorghum based and hails from **China**, but is also made in Taiwan (ROC). Baijiu is traditionally aged in earthenware, which makes for a very different kind of aged spirit, something that is almost alien in the West. Even I needed to try a good many samples over multiple sessions before I could decipher and relate to its taste profile. Some aged versions may remind one a lot of soya sauce.

**THE SPIRIT OF  
SOUTH AMERICA**

Without getting into the tussle of whether it was **Chile** or **Peru** who made it first, I'd prefer to suggest that one try all types of **Pisco** from both the neighbouring nations. This grape spirit is like white brandy and exhibits





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a freshness with some herby zing and some vanilla undertones. It's lovely in cocktails or had with just cola or lemonade. Next up is **Cachaça from Brazil**. Do not ever call Cachaça a light rum in front of a Brazilian—it is made from pure sugarcane juice as opposed to molasses, which is the starting material for many rums. Also, it is made in tiny pot stills while other rums are made in the bigger, and more commercially-viable, continuous stills. Consequently, you'll find it is a lot fruitier than your average rum.

#### EUROPEAN INVASION

**Akvavit from Sweden** is a lot like vodka in that it is distilled from potatoes or cereals. Where it differs is that it is then flavoured with a mix of herbs and spices, with one of the most common ones being caraway seed. It is a tradition to drink Akvavit at festivals and other fun, socially-engaging gatherings. When in **France**, try **Calvados**, the distillate from apples that is making a comeback of sorts, albeit a few centuries overdue. Why the name Calvados, you wonder? Well, because apple brandy sounds a lot less sexy! It can't be served 'unaged', so it is finished for a minimum of two years in oak barrels. Calvados is a lot easier to appreciate than other spirits and works well in mixed drinks too. No piece on native spirits can be complete without a mention of **Mastika/Mastiha from Greece**, which is made from

the collected resin of the Mastic tree. It is a unique herbaceous flavour, very appealing when served with the right mixer. It is extremely difficult to make, so most brands simply use artificial flavouring to induce a similar taste. Completing our list is **Raki from Turkey**. The entire Mediterranean belt has some version of aniseed-based liqueur and Raki is grape pomace brandy, which is then flavoured with anise. One can consume it neat or add some ice and water, and sip slowly through a balmy evening.

This list is by no means exhaustive; it is merely a guide to get people curious. Everyone is free to chart their own journey discovering new drinks, and in case the palate feels momentarily lost, one can always find comfort in the recognisably-appealing aromas of a heady whisky, rum or gin. Cheers!



#### TOP TO BOTTOM

Akvavit being poured into frosted glasses; Sorghum is used to make Baijiu, an aged spirit from China; The Brazilian Cachaça is made from sugarcane.



#### FUN FACT

The drinks mentioned here are double distillates, i.e. they are distilled twice to get a refined spirit. Cachaça is the odd one out as it's only distilled once yet yields a very potable (read yummy) beverage.



# THE CHECKLIST

38 ➔ EVENTS 42 ➔ BOOKS 44 ➔ GADGETS 48 ➔ NOW TRENDING



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Cannes, French Riviera

14<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> May

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[festival-cannes.com](http://festival-cannes.com)



CELEBRATION OF ARTS

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Bergen, Norway

22<sup>nd</sup> May - 5<sup>th</sup> June

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CULTURAL MÉLANGE

## HAY FESTIVAL

Hay-on-Wye, Wales, the UK

23<sup>rd</sup> May - 2<sup>nd</sup> June

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[londongardenstrust.org](http://londongardenstrust.org)



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Enjoy folk dance like Gair, Ghoomar, and Daph, along with folk music and racing events.

[tourism.rajasthan.gov.in](http://tourism.rajasthan.gov.in)



### CANADIAN TULIP FESTIVAL

Ottawa, Canada

10<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May

See over 3 lakh flowers in nearly 100 varieties at the Commissioners Park and along the Rideau Canal. [tulipfestival.ca](http://tulipfestival.ca)



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16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May

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[sonic templefestival.com](http://sonic templefestival.com)



HARVEST FIESTA

## PAHIYAS FESTIVAL

Lucban, Quezon, the Philippines

15<sup>th</sup> May

This annual event honours San Isidro Labrador, the patron saint of farmers. It begins with a mass at dawn to give thanks for the year's good harvest. Later, locals spend the day adorning their homes with fresh produce and rice-paper décor. There are colourful parades too. Warmly welcomed by the locals, visitors are encouraged to craft ornaments and partake in the festivities. [philippines.travel](http://philippines.travel)





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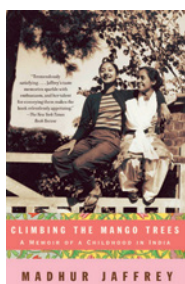






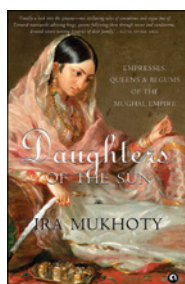
# TOP FIVE READS

Food historian and author  
**Dr Tarana Husain Khan** shares  
her all-time favourite titles



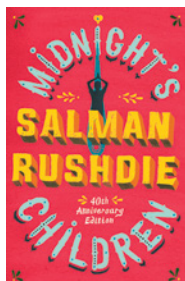
CLIMBING THE MANGO TREES  
(**Madhur Jaffrey**)

In this enchanting autobiography, Jaffrey weaves the anecdotes of her life in India with food, which makes it a delectable read.  
*Vintage/Knopf; ₹2,300*



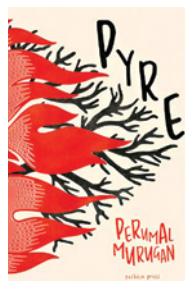
DAUGHTERS OF THE SUN  
(**Ira Mukhoty**)

Brilliantly researched, this book spotlights the women who helped build the Mughal empire.  
*Aleph Book Company; ₹699*



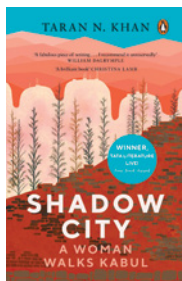
MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN  
(**Salman Rushdie**)

The narrative continues to evoke awe in me. The blending of magic realism, satire, and history is masterful.  
*Vintage Classics; ₹1,6,71*



PYRE  
(**Perumal Murugan**)

A love story set in rural Tamil Nadu of 1980s; I loved the simplicity of the prose. The ending still gives me goosebumps.  
*Pushkin Press; ₹1,040*



SHADOW CITY: A WOMAN WALKS KABUL  
(**Taran N Khan**)

This travelogue by Khan is an exploration of a city within a city and speaks of indomitable courage.  
*Vintage Books; ₹599*

**TOP TRAVEL READ**  
RADICAL LOVE  
(**Zachary Levi**)

Equal parts hilarious and heart-warming, this debut memoir chronicles the actor's journey leading him to the role of a lifetime—Shazam.

*Harper Horizon; ₹1,671*

## NEW ON THE SHELF



1700 IN 70:  
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(**Gita Balakrishnan**)  
The author's inspiring document of discovering India (1,700km from Kolkata to Delhi) on foot in 70 days.

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THE GOLDEN ROAD  
(**William Dalrymple**)  
It highlights India's oft-forgotten position as a crucial economic and civilisational hub at the heart of ancient Eurasia.

*Bloomsbury Publishing India; ₹799*



THE SONG OF THE SKY TREE  
(**Nandita Basu**)

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words by **Dhruv Bhutani**

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### ⬇️ ULTRAHUMAN RING AIR

Few things spruce a summer outfit like a great accessory, and Ultrahuman's titanium-clad ring is an instant classic. Part-time fashion accessory and full-time high-tech fitness tracker, the wear-and-forget wearable can capture all essential parameters, including daily movement, heart rate, and sleep patterns. In fact, the discrete accessory one-ups many alternatives with its intuitive suggestions to improve your physical well-being. Don't worry about packing a charger either as the smart ring lasts over a week between charges. It's the perfect choice for anyone who wants to keep a tab on their fitness without strapping on a full-fledged fitness watch.

**Best for:** Fashion-forward fitness tracking with access to all essential parameters.

US\$349



### ⬆️ XREAL AIR 2 PRO

Supercharge your inflight entertainment with the XREAL Air 2 Pro extended reality glasses. The Air 2 Pro is no ordinary pair of sunglasses. Tucked away behind the frame is a pair of micro-OLED displays that can project a 130-inch screen right before your eyes. The 120Hz frame and Full HD resolution guarantee a cinematic movie-watching experience. When connected to a laptop or computer, the XREAL Air 2 Pro is great for productivity, too. No more struggling to fit your laptop on a tray table! Elsewhere, the electrochromic glasses can be dimmed to be opaque for better contrast or kept fully transparent when not using the display. The subtle design and light weight make them a great option for tech enthusiasts on the move.

**Best for:** Large screen thrills on-the-go.

US\$449

# US\$231 billion

Is the expected market revenue of wearable technology in 2032

SOURCE: [scoop.market.us](https://scoop.market.us)



### ⬆️ HUMANE AI PIN

What comes after the smartphone? The Humane AI Pin takes a novel approach to give you a sneak peek into the future of connected living. The Pin takes a voice-first approach to user interactions and is designed to act like a sci-fi companion. Leveraging the power of ChatGPT, the pin can answer almost any question and can even identify objects and surroundings using the built-in camera. Prefer text input instead? A built-in laser projector can beam all the information you need onto the palm of your hand. Quite literally.

**Best for:** Having a wearable smart assistant that can leverage the power of ChatGPT.

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## ↑ THINGYAN FESTIVAL AT BURMA BURMA

Ring in Thingyan (the Burmese New Year) with traditional home-style fare from their specially-curated celebratory menu, on till the 19<sup>th</sup> May **Where:** All outlets in Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad **Highlights:** *Village Set, Mont Lone Yay Paw, Lemon Poppy Seed Ice Cream*



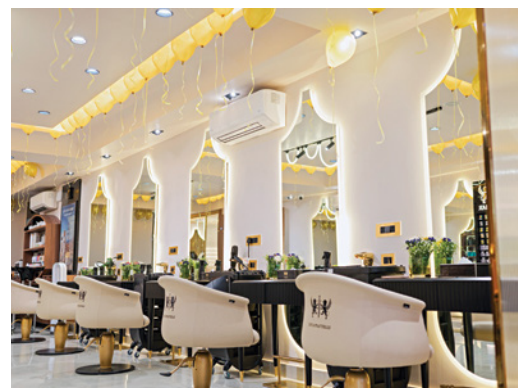
# ALL IN VOGUE

The latest launches, openings, and must-haves



## RAISE A TOAST

The Perry Road Peru is a limited batch, distilled cocktail made with pink guavas (*peru* in Marathi) and gin, crafted by Stranger & Sons.



## MANE REASON

Luxury legacy Italian Salon Luca Piattelli has opened doors in the heart of the capital. Expect bespoke hairstyling experiences, hair grooming, and more.



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## TIMELESS LOOKS

The latest couture collection by luxury fashion brand Amaaré blends modern aesthetics in western silhouettes with traditional charm.



## ↑ CHERISH SPRING WITH GUPPY

Join the Hanami festival celebrations that mark the arrival of spring and the cherry blossoms, with dishes that boast the colours and flavours of the season, till 31<sup>st</sup> May **Where:** Guppy, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi **Highlights:** *Rainbow Roll, Grilled Yuzu Khoso Fish*



## FLAVOURS OF NATURE

The Glenmorangie Calvados Cask Finish, a 12-year-old small batch, intertwines the fragrance of jasmine with the sweetness of baked apples and pears.



## ↑ FOODSTORIES OPENS IN DELHI

An experiential gourmet food store, it offers single-origin spices and dry fruits, farm-sourced fruits and vegetables, and more **Where:** Ambience Mall, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi **Highlights:** *Single-origin chocolate by house brand Lua, hearty bites at in-house café Lore*



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# THE PLACES

54 ➔ ON THE CLOCK 58 ➔ NORMANDY

Charminar from  
an angle less  
seen, reflecting  
the city's history  
and culture

## URBAN HERITAGE

A modern vibe meets timeless  
charm in Hyderabad



# CITY OF NIZAMS

A bygone era, a tech city, vibrant nightlife, finger-licking food—Hyderabad's eclectic vibe

words by **Shibani Bawa**

A view of the city from the mighty Golconda Fort

**🕒 07:30AM**  
**Irani Chai in Old City**  
📍 Charminar

Early mornings under the shadow of the 400-hundred-year old Charminar is an inimitable experience. Make your way from the landmark fountain, Gulzar Houz, to the bustling Chudi Bazaar. En route, try some freshly-baked puffs, butter buns, and biscuits, paired with piping hot Irani chai, from some legacy bakeries.

**🕒 09:00AM**  
**Tryst with history**  
📍 Golconda Fort

A trip to the fortified citadel and ruined city of Golconda Fort will transport you to a bygone era. Built in 1143, it was originally a mud fort under the reign of Rajah of Warangal. The fort stands atop a granite hill, surrounded by the ruins. Its acoustics are amazing—even today, you can hear whispers uttered in one part of the fort all the way across; just how the erstwhile army chief would listen to his sentries.

**🕒 11:00AM**  
**A chocoholic's delight**  
📍 Manam Chocolate Karkhana

It's a lab, with 250+ chocolate products, where you can make your own chocolate tablets, and witness chocolate making by a chocolatier. Manam is one of the finest in the Indian craft chocolate business. That all these chocolate is made from cacao from the nearby west Godavari region is commendable.

**🕒 12:30PM**  
**Shop till you drop**  
📍 IKEA

When there's an IKEA in the city, how can one bypass it? But just so you don't go overboard and spend a fortune at this affordable Swedish home furnishing store, we recommend you slot about an hour to shop here. Flat-pack furniture, sturdy floor lamps, rugs, and storage boxes are some of the must-buy items. Have the items shipped home to avoid lugging them on a flight and prevent paying for excess baggage.



# Amul Kool. Chill Your Dil.



While you fly, chill out with some Kool spotting games and trivia questions below:

1. Count the unique flavours of Amul Lassi range.
2. Spot the beverage with the highest protein content!
3. Which of these is a newly launched sports drink?
4. Count the packs of single origin coffee!
5. Which of these is a range of fizzy beverages?
6. In which year was Kool brand launched?

**Fun fact** – Do you know Amul Kool range comprises over 150 packs?

- Answers:**
- Answer 1: Rose, Mango, Pineapple, Kesaria, Sugar-free and High Protein
  - Answer 2: Amul Blueberry Shake with 20g whey protein
  - Answer 3: Amul Sport (it is the official beverage partner of Women's Premier League)
  - Answer 4: Nicaraguan Latte, Indian Arabica Latte, Columbian Arabica, Brazilian Vanilla, Mexican Arabica & Tanzanian Arabica
  - Answer 5: India's first dairy based Seltzer
  - Amul tru seltzer in Cola, Lemon, Orange, Apple & Jeera flavour
  - Answer 6: 2003



Scan this QR to watch the new Kool Street film



the places on the clock

#### CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT

You can create your own chocolate products at Manam Chocolate Karkhana's lab; Dim sums pair well with the craft cocktails at Forefathers; A visitor walks past a display of antiques at the Salar Jung Museum.



#### GETTING THERE

**Air India flies to Hyderabad from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Tirupati, and Chennai.**

#### STYLISH STAYS

- 1/** A former palace of the Nizam, **Taj Falaknuma Palace** evokes utmost luxury and offers a befitting royal experience to every guest.
- 2/** **Trident Hyderabad** has spacious, well-appointed rooms, with electronically-controlled blinds, glass windows, and walk-in wardrobes.
- 3/** Located in Huda Techno Enclave, **Avasa Hyderabad** is a fine business hotel with a health club and four dining options on the premises.

🕒 02:00PM

#### Break for lunch

📍 *Simply South*

If you want to savour the food of all the five southern states—Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala—head to *Simply South*. The authentic flavours and seasonal dishes will leave you licking your fingers. Try Alleppey Prawn Curry, *meen moilee*, *appam*, and *kodi fry pulao* or a *thali*.

🕒 03:30PM

#### Artists' corner

📍 *Salar Jung Museum*

One of the largest museums in India, the Salar Jung Museum houses more than 43,000 artefacts from all over the world, belonging to different centuries. Interestingly, Salar Jung III's collection of art and artefacts is the largest held by one person. Do see: *Veiled Rebecca*, a British 'Bracket Clock', Persian manuscripts embellished in gold, and the Double Statue of Mephistopheles and Margareta.

🕒 08:00PM

#### Pan-Asian indulgence

📍 *Noho*

*Noho* is an interactive pan-Asian restaurant and bar that is great for brunch as well as a fun night out. The food includes the entire gamut, from sushi, dim sum, and pho to *yakitori*, Robata grills, and Korean bibimbap. If you decide to go, you must try the cocktails here—classic drinks are oomphed up with creative twists.

🕒 10:30PM

#### Cheers to craft cocktails

📍 *Forefathers*

The newest watering hole in the city, *Forefathers* has a buzzing vibe and fine craft cocktails on its menu. Young energy is reflected in concoctions like 'Silent Succession' made with tequila, wasabi-spiced plum cordial, and sparkling sake. The menu features ceviche and chaat, biryani and idli, pizza and pasta. Split into three levels, the expansive space is aesthetic and also offers al fresco seating.



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# GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

Normandy had Monet's heart and was the gateway to liberation. Today it is a lovely French region to visit for history and art

words by **Rishad Saam Mehta**

Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy is France's most iconic site after the Eiffel Tower







C

laude Monet, the doyen of Impressionism, once remarked, "Everyone discusses my art and pretends to understand, as if it were necessary to understand, when it is simply necessary to love."

This is the fundamental basis of Impressionism! I have heard the word thrown about here and there but it is only when I recently visited **Giverny** in Normandy, France, that I gained an in-depth understanding of it.

Much like the rebels of the 1960s, who rejected mainstream American culture and expressed themselves through non-conformist literature, poetry, and music, Monet and his contemporaries did the same, causing a stir in European art circles. Born in Paris in 1840, Monet grew up in **Le Havre, Normandy**, where he developed an affection for the outdoors. Not much of a student, he spent his time at school, sketching, and though his caricature skills soon became popular, it was his first mentor, Eugène Boudin, who introduced him to the then unconventional-*en plein air* (literally meaning in the open air) painting.



An artwork titled Philomène by artist duo Pierre Commoy and Gilles Blanchard at the Museum of Impressionism Giverny

Rishad Saam Mehta





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In 1861, military service took Monet to Algeria where the intense light and colours further fuelled his imagination. He developed a style that captured a specific moment in time, the immediate 'impression' of the scene before him, rather than the precise detail. He and his fellow Impressionists forsook studios and painted outside to try and capture the scene right in front of them.

These rebel painters also included Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Cézanne, and, since they went against tradition, they were forbidden from showcasing their works at the Salon de Paris—an important art exhibition in those times. Not to be put off by this haughty treatment, they had their own exhibition at the studio of a friend on the **Boulevard des Capucines** in Paris in April 1874. Critics far from welcomed their work and one of them denounced it as Impressionism, referring in particular to Monet's *Impression, Sunrise*. Much to the critic's chagrin, the name stuck and the Impressionism movement was born.

The Boulevard des Capucines was a 45-minute scenic walk from the lovely **Pullman Paris Montparnasse** where I stayed, and it went past the **Louvre** and the **Tuileries Garden**. A 20-minute walk took me to an intimate little wine bar called **Terra bar à vins** on **63 Rue des Gravilliers**—probably my best meal in Paris in a long time.

I had already booked my tickets to Giverny on Rail Europe's website, so I simply hopped onto the TER 13115 from **Saint-Lazare** bound for **Vernon-Giverny**. From here I took the 10 number train and alighted in Giverny on

### Best time to visit

Normandy is best visited between **April and November**. Since the weather is equable, the days are longer and attractions have longer opening hours. Some are closed altogether between **November and March**.



**TOP TO BOTTOM**  
Monet's house and gardens in Giverny are a tourist hotspot; Notre-Dame-de-Bayeux is a Roman church; A sculpture at Utah beach of the Allied troops.





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*A woman rests against Étretat's rugged coastline, embraced by the panoramic beauty of Normandy's iconic cliffs*





**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT**  
Fresh coffee with macaroons at the VIP lounge in Hotel Pullman Paris Montparnasse; Succulent meat with Jerusalem artichokes at Terra bar à vins; Shop windows painted by Belgian artist Pascal Falisse in Bayeux.



the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Impressionism.

The little town is prominent with respect to the art movement because Monet moved here in 1883. He planted a variety of flowers around an artificial pond in order to paint the subtle effects of sunlight on natural forms. His famous *Nymphéas* (Water Lilies) series was painted here. A *Nymphéas* canvas from 1918 went under the gavel in 2008 and sold for a staggering US\$80 million.

Visiting the **Maison et Jardins de Claude Monet**, where he spent the last 43 years of his life, was a delight. His pastel-pink house and Water Lily studio stand on the periphery of **Clos Normand**, with its symmetrically laid-out gardens blooming with flowers. It was spring, and daffodils, tulips, rhododendrons, irises, and wisteria were in bloom. Down the road from his house is the **Museum of Impressionism**, with paintings, letters, and musings by various artists on display.

On the train once again, and some 3 hours and 46 minutes (and four trains) later, I was in **Bayeux**. I loved the quaint town with cobbled streets and cozy cafés, and shop windows painted by Pascal Falisse, a Belgian artist, to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day (the landing of the Allied forces along the Normandy coast during WWII). It is also home to the Bayeux tapestry, the world's most celebrated embroidery. The 68.3-m-long tapestry



#### GETTING THERE

**Air India flies non-stop to Paris from Delhi. Guests can now travel to Bayeux with its Intermodal Partner Rail Europe.**





The Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel used to be a renowned centre of learning, attracting Europe's greatest minds and manuscript illuminators



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A lively scene at the Montparnasse area in Paris

is wool thread embroidered on linen and is divided into 58 scenes that vibrantly recount the story of William the Conqueror's conquest of England in 1066 to rightfully claim the throne from Harold Godwinson (who had crowned himself). Commissioned in 1077 for the opening of **Bayeux Cathedral**, the tapestry is over 1,000 years old. Today, it is housed in strictly controlled light, temperature, and humidity conditions in the **Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux**. A short walk from this museum is the **Notre Dame Cathedral of Bayeux**. While the Gothic building dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the chapels were built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the stone cupola in the 18<sup>th</sup>. Bayeux is also a short drive from the **D-Day beaches** where the Allies forces

landed on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 to launch Operation Overlord, the largest invasion force in history with around 160,000 troops landing on five beaches. Today, museums in and around the towns and villages tell the stories of the invasion.

My final stop in Normandy was the spectacularly-situated **Mont-Saint-Michel**. After the Eiffel Tower, it is France's most iconic image. This place left me breathless, thanks to its breathtaking architecture and setting, and because of the number of steps involved in getting to the stunning abbey at the top.

Normandy is often sidelined for other more popular regions but it is worth a visit. It is also known for its cider and Camembert cheese, and its soft-hued landscapes that had the heart of Monet.

## HOTELS TO STAY AT

### **Pullman Paris Montparnasse**

Located in the Montparnasse quarter, in the 14<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, it is a short walk from street cafés and metro stations. The helpful concierge is very well tuned into what's going on in Paris.

### **Pullman Paris Tour Eiffel**

Located in the Beaugrenelle neighbourhood in the 15<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, this chic hotel offers views of the Eiffel tower and is a short walk from it.

### **Hôtel Château de Bellefontaine (Bayeux)**

A 12-minute walk from the centre of Bayeux, this hotel is housed in an elegant 18<sup>th</sup>-century chateau on landscaped grounds with a lake. It has 13 rooms and 6 suites.



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## ROUTES

We present our latest global connectivity, offering you unparalleled access worldwide

**p 86** 





# PREPARING TO ASCEND

"April of 2024 marked the transition from the Take-Off phase of Vihaan.AI to Climb, where we put the foundations and capabilities we've built over the last 18 months to work, accelerating and growing toward our ambition of being a world-class, global airline with an Indian heart."

— CAMPBELL WILSON  
AIR INDIA CEO AND MD

In 2022, Air India launched its five-year transformation programme, Vihaan.AI. *Vihaan* means "Dawn of a New Era" in Sanskrit and heralds a new beginning for Air India and Indian aviation. After fixing the basics in the initial Taxi phase, Air India entered the Take-off phase in April 2023, looking to consolidate on the laid foundation. Now, Air India has entered the Climb phase in April 2024 and is all set to achieve new milestones. The airline is optimistic in transcending to even greater heights. The mission is to become the absolute best-in-class in customer service, technology, product, reliability, and hospitality.

Air India CEO and MD, Campbell Wilson has unveiled the Vihaan.AI plan along with the senior management, with milestones focussing on growing Air India's network and fleet, and developing a completely revamped customer proposition. The transformation roadmap is built around five key pillars—exceptional customer experience, robust operations, industry-best talent, industry leadership, alongside commercial efficiency and profitability. The Climb phase focusses on establishing scale to become a global industry leader. There is a strong momentum as Air India is all set to climb upwards in 2024.



# THE JOURNEY SO FAR

- Placed record-setting order for 470 aircraft
  - Leased 36 additional aircraft for immediate expansion
- Successfully integrated AirAsia India into Air India Express, forming a unified low-cost carrier
  - Inducted India's first A350-900 aircraft
- Added 5 domestic and 11 international routes; inaugurated 5 new international stations
- Introduced new commercial tools and products, including revenue management system
- Deployed new global brand identities and aircraft liveries for Air India and Air India Express
  - Revealed new uniforms for cabin and cockpit crew designed by Manish Malhotra
  - Onboarded new service providers for catering, ground handling, and more
  - Launched airline industry's first AI-powered virtual travel assistant, AI.g
    - Introduced Premium Economy on select North America routes
- Announced a 6,00,000sq ft aviation training academy, the largest in South Asia, in Gurugram
- Established new facilities, including Operations Control Centre and Emergency Response Centre
  - Architected a new IT infrastructure across the organisation
  - Successfully migrated entirely to the cloud to enhance digital infrastructure
- Welcomed 9,000+ new colleagues—1,000+ cockpit crew, 5,000+ cabin crew, and more
- Adopted TaxiBot operations, automated aircraft cleaning, and minimised single-use plastic usage
- Became first and only Indian airline to offer self check-in and baggage drop services for US-bound passengers from India.
 

Air India also offers this facility for all domestic flights from Bengaluru Airport
- Signed a 12-year agreement with SIA Engineering for A320 component and on-wing engine support
- Launched a revamped Flying Returns loyalty programme with a simplified structure, customer-friendly features, renamed tiers, and an updated identity
  - Strengthened customer feedback mechanism and made improvements in airports, F&B, etc.
    - Enhanced lounge coverage across the global network
  - Introduced a new organisation structure, new staff policies, and benefits

## Phase 1: March 2023

**TAXI** 

**Fix the basics**

## Phase 2: April 2023 – March 2024

**TAKE-OFF** 






**Build for excellence**

## Phase 3: April 2024 – March 2027

**CLIMB** 

**Scale and grow**

## OUR 2027 ASPIRATIONS

-  **Scale** To grow fleet size 3x and expand global network
-  **Market share\*** Capture >30% of the domestic and international market
-  **Brand identity** Identify as a global airline with an Indian heart, driven by technology
-  **Industry leadership** Most technologically advanced, socially responsible, and innovative airline
-  **Employee experience** Become India's most preferred employer in the travel industry

\*Group airlines combined share





# GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS IN SOUTHERN INDIA

States are the flag-bearers of tradition, culture, and artisanship

**P**resently, there are around 643 GI products registered in India. The exclusive right to use of registered Geographical Indications (GI) lies only with producers of the GI who are registered as Authorised Users. Thus, GI acts as a legal means to preserve our culture and heritage, and ensure the continuity of our traditions.

## **DISCOVERING SOUTH INDIA'S HANDICRAFTS**

### **Thanjavur Dolls, Tamil Nadu (Year of Registration – 2008):**

These globally-acclaimed dolls are made with Plaster of Paris, wood pulp, Tuber (sago) flour and clay obtained from the banks of River Cauvery. The clay obtained from the banks of the River Cauvery enhances





the value of the dolls to a large extent.

An onlooker's attention is instantly grabbed by the doll's oscillating movement occurring while shaking its head and body.

Thanjavur Dolls' origination dates back even before the advent of Nayaks in 16<sup>th</sup> century and forms a part of the rich heritage and traditional handicrafts of Thanjavur. The dolls are produced utilising gravitational force and are often produced in a pair of king and queen. The effortless mechanics behind these elegant dolls are such that their core weight is always at the bottom-most region, which helps them balance perfectly.

These products, manufactured with great skill, contribute greatly to recognising Tamil Nadu's contribution to cultural preservation.

Thanjavur Dolls signify our linkages to traditional crafts, which we need to preserve, encourage, and support.

Tamil Nadu has around 60 GIs registered exclusively to it.

### **Temple Jewellery of Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu**

**(Year of Registration—2007):**

These are stone-or-jewel-studded

pieces of jewellery, which include headgear, coronets, and special ornaments made for adorning temple deities. They are also an essential part of Bharatanatyam dancers' costumes. The craft originates from Vadassery, a town of Kanyakumari district. Gold, silver or precious stones and diamonds are used in making the jewellery. It is characterised by detailed designs that include deities, mythological creatures, and motifs inspired by nature.

### **Machilipatnam Kalamkari, Andhra Pradesh (Year of Registration—2008):**

This is a traditional Indian handloom textile from Pedana in Andhra Pradesh. Encouraged by the Golconda Sultanate, the artisans of Pedana carried on the tradition of making Kalamakari. This art form, is visually identified by all over floral twine/Persian designs, which are hand-printed using blocks, which are carved by hand in wood while vegetable dyes are used to colour the patterns. The fabric produced is used in upholstery, furnishings, and also apparel.

## **WHAT IS GI?**

A Geographical Indication (GI) is an indication that identifies a good as originating from a particular place, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristics of the good are attributable to its geographical origin and lend it its distinctive quality. By law, GI tags are granted to a collective or a community globally.

## **WHY IS GI IMPORTANT?**

A robust GI ecosystem holds the potential to unlock significant economic and cultural advantages. It empowers local communities and promotes traditional skills that have been passed down for generations. It is a mark of authenticity, minimises sales of counterfeit products, and ensures that the producers, makers, and artisans get suitable returns for their efforts.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**

Campbell Wilson, CEO & MD of Air India, with the team during the launch of Air India's new contact centre in Mumbai; The airline will host a Mango Festival on select routes; Air India's mobile app won Gold at the 2024 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards; Campbell Wilson and Rajesh Dogra, Chief Customer Experience Officer, inaugurate the contact centre in Mumbai.



# **MORE GUEST SUPPORT**

Air India has deployed five new contact centres, offering round-the-clock assistance to its customers. It has partnered with Concentrix, a California-headquartered customer engagement firm, to manage premium services from centres in Mumbai, Cairo, and Kuala Lumpur. It has also signed up iEnergizer, to operate contact centres in Noida and Bengaluru.



## **CELEBRATE THE KING OF FRUITS**

From 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May, Air India will hold a Mango Festival on select routes from Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, and Ahmedabad. The mango-based delicacies—catered by TajSATS, Ambassador's Sky Chef, and CAFS—include Alphonso Mango Tart, Mango Cheesecake, Mango Cake, and more.





## **A BIG WIN FOR THE MOBILE APP**

Air India's innovative and customer-friendly mobile app has recently bagged Gold at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards, making Air India the first Indian airline to receive the honour. The mobile app received the award for Innovation in General Utility Apps across the Asia Pacific region.



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**LEFT AND RIGHT**

Air India will operate its A350 aircraft on the Delhi-Dubai route; Air India recently entered a Codeshare partnership with All Nippon Airways (ANA).

## THE FIRST OF MANY

Air India will fly its recently-onboarded A350 aircraft on the Delhi-Dubai route from 1<sup>st</sup> May, marking the airline's use of the wide-body plane for international destinations. The aircraft (operating as AI995/996) will depart from Delhi at 20:45hrs and arrive at the Dubai International Airport at 22:45hrs. Displaying the bold new Air India livery, the aircraft boasts a modern cabin layout including 28 private suites in Business Class with full-flat beds, 24-seat Premium Economy section with additional legroom and enhanced features, and 264 comfortable seats in the Economy Class.



### STRENGTHENING BONDS

Air India and All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan's largest carrier, recently signed a codeshare agreement. The new commercial partnership (effective for travel from 23<sup>rd</sup> May) will provide more travel opportunities for customers of both airlines, who will benefit from the enhanced flight selections between India and Japan.

### RELAX IN LUXURY

Air India is renovating the Air India Maharaja Lounge to enhance its guest experience. During the revamp period, First and Business class passengers and Flying Returns Platinum and Gold members can unwind and use the facilities at the Encalm Privé Lounge on Level 3 of Delhi Airport's Terminal 1. Encalm Privé is a newly-constructed, state-of-the-art, Business Class lounge that provides comfortable seating, an extensive selection of food and beverages, high-speed Wi-Fi, a business centre, and various other facilities to cater to the requirements of the airline's premium guests.





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**\*SEA**



✈️ Take a bus or  
a taxi from the  
airport, or opt to  
self drive



**MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK**

**\*DEL:** Indira Gandhi International Airport  
(Delhi Airport), New Delhi, Delhi;

**\*BOM:** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj  
International Airport Mumbai, Maharashtra;

**\*BLR:** Kempegowda International Airport  
Bengaluru, Bengaluru, Karnataka;

**\*SFO:** San Francisco International Airport,  
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A look at the aircraft in Air India's fleet\*



08  
A319  
33.84m

04  
A321neo  
44.51m



13  
A321ceo  
44.50m

08  
B777-200LR  
63.70m



42  
A320neo  
37.57m

27  
B787-8  
56.72m



09  
A320ceo  
37.57m

19  
B777-300ER  
73.9m



\*Total fleet number as on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024





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# FLYING RETURNS AND HOW!

The just 'Reimagined' Flying Returns programme has become a lot more useful to every frequent flyer. Find out more...



The writer, Ajay Awtaney, is a **Strategy and Loyalty Consultant** based in Delhi NCR. His views on aviation, published in [LiveFromALounge.com](https://www.LiveFromALounge.com), are appreciated by Avgeeks around the world.

I first enrolled with Air India Flying Returns (FR) in June 2007, as I frequently clocked the length and breadth of the country. After the airline joined Star Alliance in 2014, I became a Gold tier member.

With the Flying Returns programme being 'Reimagined' in April 2024, it just became a lot more useful for me and anyone who is a frequent flyer.

## A SIMPLER VALUE-BASED MODEL

The move to a value-based model of earning miles makes it simple, contemporary, and generous. At the Red tier, one can earn 600 FR points for a base fare of ₹10,000, which is easier to compute at the rate of earning 6 FR points per ₹100 spent, as compared to looking at a map and trying to compute the distance between two places and then figuring out whether or not you've earned the right number of miles.

Silver tier members get 8 points, Gold

get 9 points and Platinum get 10 points per ₹100 spent. By booking tickets directly on the Air India website or app, you can earn 2 bonus points per ₹100. So when you take an international trip you can earn enough points to redeem a free domestic ticket.

## EASIER QUALIFICATIONS

One of the big changes in the Flying Returns programme is how much easier it has become to qualify for the premium tiers. Air India cut the tier points required to qualify for all the tiers by 40 per cent. You must fly at least 30 per cent of the requirements on Air India to earn tiers. For the rest of the points, you can also credit through Star Alliance flights.

Air India also counts the number of flights flown for qualification to higher tiers as a metric rather than just the number of tier points earned. This gives a shot to those who frequently





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fly domestic or are unable to qualify by accruing enough tier points.

#### **STAR ALLIANCE BENEFITS**

As the only Indian carrier that is a member of a major airline alliance, the benefits of being a premium member go beyond India. The benefits follow wherever I go—on 25 international carriers. I can credit the miles from flying other carriers, like Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa, and United, to Air India FR.

On a busy day of flying, Gold and Platinum members can join the Business Class queue and be on their

way quickly. Travelling heavy for a vacation? No stress. As a Star Alliance Gold member, you can get an extra piece of luggage along.

Also, as a Star Alliance Gold member, you and a co-traveller can wait at one of over 1,000 lounges around the globe before your flight, and then hop on board earlier than others. On arrival, your bags, tagged 'Priority', should be on the belt before everyone else's. Flying Returns membership also gives you access to the award tickets on 25 airlines (other than Air India).

#### **PREMIUM TIER BENEFITS**

As a road warrior, my schedule is fluid. Flying Returns offer benefits that suit my needs. First, all premium members can call a dedicated phone number for quick assistance. Gold and Platinum members can change their tickets for free and can also fly on an earlier flight if needed (basis seat availability) using the new 'Fly Early' feature. Seat selection is also free of charge.

Additionally, Silver, Gold, and Platinum members can pull up the digital cabin upgrade voucher on the AI app while checking in and treat themselves to an upgrade.

#### **EASY EARN, EASY BURN**

Flying Returns saves me time and money. I can earn bonus points with over 50 programme partners, including hotels, credit cards, lifestyle, shopping, cabs, and more. I don't need to worry about my points expiring because with one flight on AI, I can extend all my points for 2 years from the date of the journey. Also, to redeem, I can pool the points from family members using the Family Pooling feature.

With Air India flying domestically and internationally across a large network of 700+ destinations and their commitment to providing the best-in-class service, becoming a Flying Returns member is a natural choice for every traveller.



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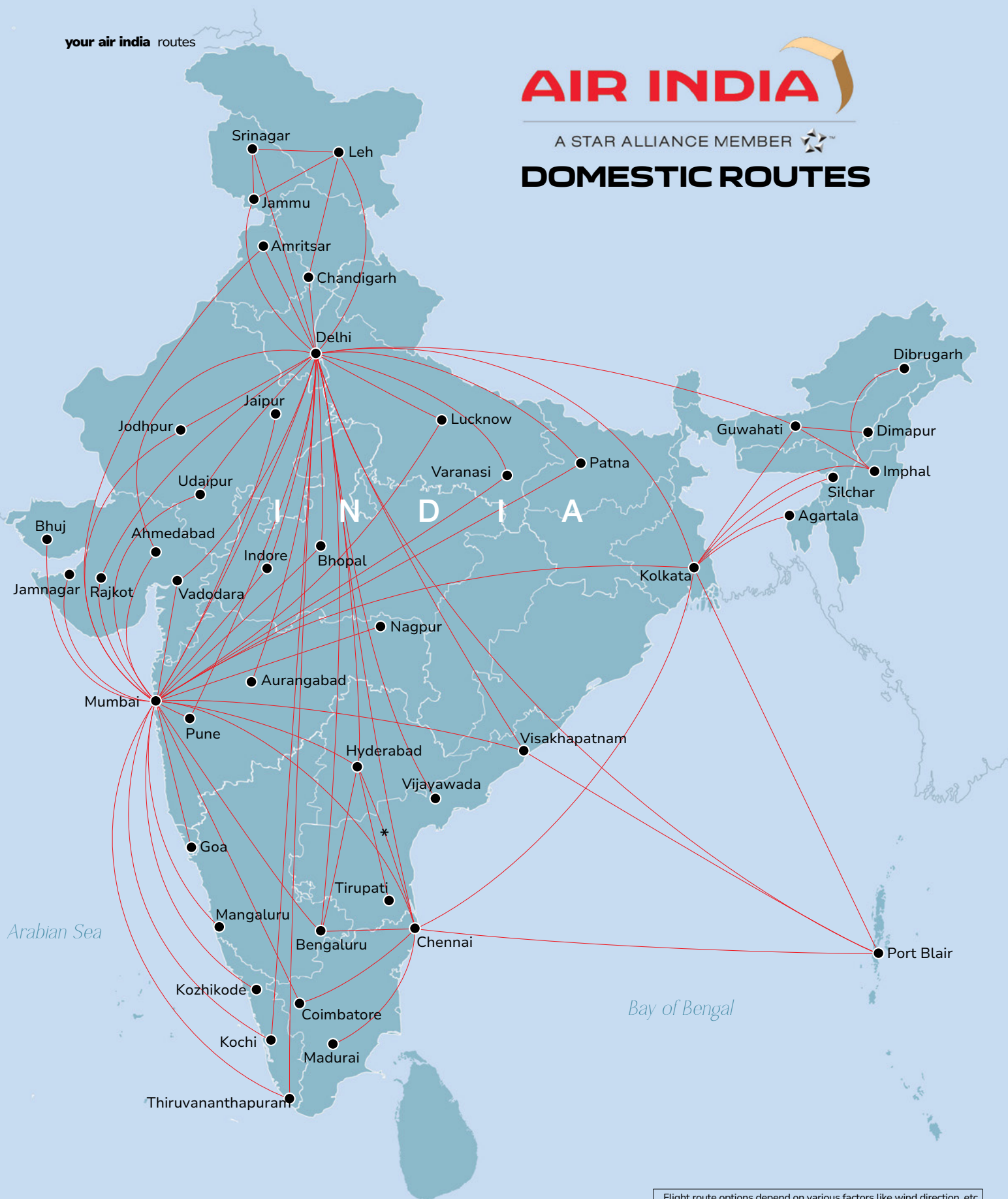


your air india routes



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

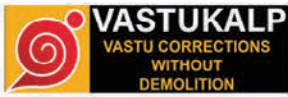
## DOMESTIC ROUTES



Flight route options depend on various factors like wind direction, etc.  
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Vimal Jhahharia and Vikas Jhahharia (MBA from Australia) have delivered many lectures, conducted workshops, seminars and have widely travelled and provided consultancy on major projects already in operation without any changes or modifications. They are currently providing consultancy in the USA, UK, Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, South Africa, UAE, and South America, among others.

Both of them have been felicitated several times for their outstanding knowledge on Vastu & have also won several awards of national and international repute.



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### What exactly is your famous Vastu Shankha Yantra and how cost effective is it?

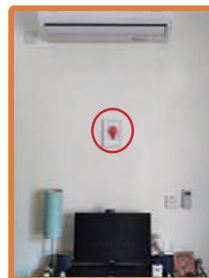
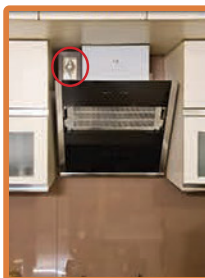
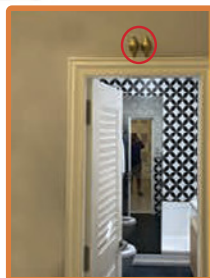
Based on the principles of Vastu, the Vastu Shankha Yantra is an original conch shell used to potentially rectify any kind of land, Vastu or energy defects without making any modifications. It can potentially save a lot of time & money as it is used to create positive energy in places having major Vastu defects without changing the looks and beauty of the place.



Vimal Jhahharia along with his son Vikas Jhahharia



Vastu is protection against unforeseen circumstances. It is used to increase personal energy in health, wealth and relationships of a person



### Does the Vastu Shankha Yantra really work for prosperity in factories and industries?

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Endorsing the Vastu Shankha Yantra is industrialist Sushil from New Delhi. He says, "My son and I are running a factory but were not getting the desired results. We came to know about Vimalji and Vikasji through one of their articles in inflight magazines. Upon showing them the factory, we immediately realised our north was blocked and all the heavy machinery was placed along the north wall. We then got the Vastu Shankha yantras placed at certain places on Jhahharia ji's recommendation. Now, every new factory of ours is made under their able guidance and we also recommend them to all our friends and relatives"

### Can Vastu Shankha Yantra also help in selling a property?

Yes, we do a lot of Vastu correction for builders and developers and also individuals whose properties have been stuck for a long time and which are not getting sold because of some or the other Vastu defect. Vouching for success is Satish from Bangalore who was trying to

When we saw the property, we saw it had multiple corners & it was not a proper rectangle or a square. We then positively charged this property by placing our Vastu Shankha Yantras in various corners to help correct the magnetic field of the property and hence creating positive energy in the atmosphere.

### DO YOU KNOW?



- Mr. Vikas Jhahharia, is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Vastu Expert
- Mr. Vikas Jhahharia is an MBA from Australia
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Flight route options depend on various factors like wind direction, etc.  
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# YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE

## DIGIYATRA

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय द्वारा 13 एयरपोर्ट्स—दिल्ली, बंगलुरु, वाराणसी, पुणे, कोलकाता, विजयवाड़ा, हैदराबाद, अहमदाबाद, मुंबई, जयपुर, लखनऊ, गुवाहाटी और कोचीन के लिए डीजी यात्रा की सुविधा का शुभारंभ किया गया है। डीजी यात्रा ऐप को डाउनलोड करके खुद को नामांकित करें और इन एयरपोर्ट्स पर निर्बाध और बाधा रहित यात्रा का अनुभव करें।

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched DigiYatra facilities at 13 Indian airports, namely Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Pune, Kolkata, Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, and Cochin. You can avail it and have a seamless and hassle-free experience at these airports. To avail the facility, you can download the DigiYatra app and register on it.

## MISSION LIFE

पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूक जीवन शैली को अपनाने

की दिशा में व्यवहारिक परिवर्तनों को प्रेरित करने के लिए, प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने मिशन लाइफ—लाइफस्टाइल फॉर एनवायरनमेंट शुरू किया है, जो की भारत के नेतृत्व वाला वैश्विक जन आंदोलन है। आइए हम सभी प्रो-प्लैनेट एक्शन लेने का संकल्प लें, जैसे ऊर्जा की बचत, पानी का संरक्षण, पेड़ों का पोषण और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल अपशिष्ट निपटान।

Mission LiFE—Lifestyle for Environment is an India-led global mass movement launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for inducing behavioural changes towards adopting environmentally-conscious lifestyles. Let us all pledge to take Pro-Planet actions like saving energy, conserving water, nurturing trees, and eco-friendly waste disposal.

## AIR SEVA

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने विमान सेवा पोर्टल को अपग्रेड किया है, जो इंटरैक्टिव वेब पोर्टल और मोबाइल ऐप के लिए सुलभ है। इस नए संस्करण में:

(क) सोशल मीडिया के साथ सुरक्षित साइन अप और लॉग इन  
(ख) अतिथियों की सहायता के लिए, चैट बॉक्स  
(ग) सोशल मीडिया शिकायत सहित, परिष्कृत प्रबंधन  
(घ) रियल टाइम उड़ान स्टेटस और विस्तृत उड़ान संबंधी जानकारी शामिल है  
सेवा संबंधी किसी और जानकारी के लिए आप [airsewa.gov.in](http://airsewa.gov.in) पर लॉग इन कर सकते हैं।

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has upgraded its Air Sewa portal, which is accessible through an interactive web portal and a mobile app. The new version includes:

- a) Secure sign-up and log-in with social media
- b) Chat box for traveller's support
- c) Improved grievance management, including social media grievance
- d) Real-time flight status and detailed flight schedule.

Air Sewa is available at [airsewa.gov.in](http://airsewa.gov.in).





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INDIA RANKINGS 2023

15<sup>th</sup> Best in University Category  
27<sup>th</sup> Best in Engineering Category  
16<sup>th</sup> Best in Medical Category  
09<sup>th</sup> Best in Dental Category  
08<sup>th</sup> Best in Law Category



2024

401- 500 in Engineering Technology  
601- 800 in Computer Science  
801-1000 in Health Sciences  
801-1000 in THE World University Ranking



2024

501-550 in QS Asia University Ranking  
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143 in QS Southern Asia University Ranking



1<sup>st</sup> in Odisha

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Technology) | M.Sc. (Public Health) | M.Sc. (Clinical Psychology)

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(Biotechnology) | Ph.D | Post. Doc.

### NURSING

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### LEGAL STUDIES

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

**भारत निर्वाचन आयोग का महत्वपूर्ण संदेश है।**

लोक सभा चुनाव 2024 की घोषणा कर दी गई है। विश्व के सबसे विशाल लोकतंत्र भारत के इस चुनाव के पर्व का हिस्सा बनें। अपना नाम वोटर लिस्ट में [elections24.eci.gov.in](https://elections24.eci.gov.in) पर ऑनलाइन देखें और वोट ज़रूर करें।

**Ladies and gentlemen.**

**We have an important announcement  
from the Election Commission of India.**

The festivities of the elections have begun. The Election Commission invites you to participate in the largest democratic exercise in the world.

First, check your name in the voter list (electoral roll) and the election phases on the website <https://elections24.eci.gov.in> or through the Voter Helpline App.

Voting is our right and our duty. Be a proud voter, cast your vote in this Parliamentary election, and celebrate “Chunav ka Parv, Desh Ka Garv”.

Thank you for your attention.



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# A TRAVELLER'S TALE



## A ROYAL SIGHT

Actress and TV presenter **Koël Purie Rinchet** on sighting tigers in Ranthambore



### MY LOCAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Ranthambore National Park last year after a long time. I came back with a westerner's point of view because I live in Paris and return to India mostly for work and family. I was at the Park with a few Parisian friends and seeing the country through their eyes was a proud feeling.

### AN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY

Sighting a streak of tigers within the first 15 minutes of our safari. That trip to Rajasthan felt like a homecoming—the warm hospitality, the landscape, the people, and the food is unmatched.

### A FARE TO REMEMBER

I can't get enough of the local cuisine. A Parisian's idea of Indian food is cheese naan (laughs). I try to savour the richness of the Rajasthani cuisine, especially the home-cooked food.

### I RECOMMEND

Make the most of your visit here—eat the local fare, interact with the people, and be open to the experience. Do these and India will find its way to your heart.





**Nandita Sethi**  
B.Tech. (Alumni)

Google



**Dr. Fleming Mathew**  
MBBS (Alumni)

HARVARD  
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**Ayush Sharma**  
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**Abhay Chebbi**  
Pro- Chancellor  
Alliance University

I find the Customer Success team at Meritto as a unique differentiator. It is the “can-do” attitude of the team that is nurturing this relationship between Masters’ Union and Meritto

**Gurji Kochar**  
Director - Product, Growth and Marketing  
Masters’ Union

Meritto (formerly NoPaperForms) has been a big boon for driving accountability with our online partners who run admission campaigns for us. We have been able to rationalize our online campaign spends.

**Dr. Himadri Das**  
Director General  
IMI - New Delhi

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**Janardan Tiwari**  
Founder and CEO,  
DataTrained

We needed a product that bridged the gap between various stakeholders that were going to part of the entire operational process. The top recommendation was Meritto.

**Eshana Naidu**  
General Manager - Marketing and Communications  
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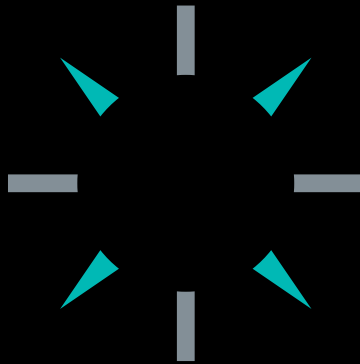
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