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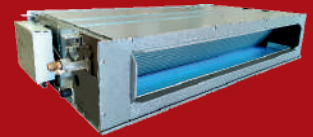
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FROM THE CMD'S DESK



Ajay Singh

AJAY SINGH
Chairman and Managing Director

DEAR READERS,

Welcome aboard SpiceJet!
Here's wishing you all the joy, peace, and love that this time of the year brings. Thanks to your continued love and patronage, our journey through the year has been an exciting and fulfilling one. Here's a snapshot of a few moments to cherish forever and end the year 2023 on a sweet note.

Building on the key role we've played in the government's evacuation and repatriation efforts during the pandemic and 'Operation Ganga', SpiceJet once again stepped up and played a key role as part of 'Operation Kaveri', the government's efforts to bring back stranded Indians from trouble torn Sudan.

The recent flare up of the Israel-Hamas conflict necessitated yet another evacuation of Indian citizens to safety. 'Operation Ajay', the government's repatriation exercise saw SpiceJet operate multiple flights to Tel Aviv to safely evacuate Indian citizens from the conflict. Going the extra mile, SpiceJet also operated ten special flights on its Airbus A340 wide body aircraft to evacuate more than 3000 Thai nationals to safety.

To further raise the standard of our in-flight services and offerings, SpiceJet entered into an exclusive collaboration with internationally renowned Michelin-starred chef, Vikas Khanna. The collaboration resulted in a re-designed in-flight menu with exclusive meals specially curated for the

airline. The collaboration also delivered social impact on ground as a significant portion of the proceeds from the sale of the exclusive meals goes to Mijwan Welfare Society, an NGO that works in India towards empowering girls by educating them and enabling them to stand on their own feet.

Staying true to our stated goal of enabling easy access to flying for all, we continued to expand our fleet and add more destinations to the network. We launched daily flights connecting the newly opened Mopa airport in Goa with important airports such as Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad. We have also added more flights operated under the government's regional connectivity scheme, UDAN. Airports in important regional centers like Bhavnagar, Darbhanga and Gwalior among others now have regular flights connecting them to the rest of the country.

SpiceJet is proud to have successfully completed the risk-based approach audit of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). This novel form of IATA's operational and safety audit has been tailored to meet the specific operational requirements of each airline. Only six airlines globally have achieved this milestone and only two Indian airlines have completed the audit.

We are thankful that the hard work that we put in to enhance our service offerings and access to flights has been reciprocated. Last month, our passenger load factor (PLF) stood at 90.1% which was the highest among all domestic airlines. It is your continued preference and support that has enabled us to maintain a consistent streak as the airline with the highest PLF month-after-month.

I congratulate the Indian women's hockey team on dethroning reigning champions Japan and lifting the Asian Champions Trophy 2023. It was heartening to see a 10,000-strong crowd on the stand to cheer the team on and witness their victory. Congratulations are in order for the Australian team for their deserved win in the finals of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Special congratulations to the Indian team for their stellar sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Their winning streak of ten continuous games will remain etched in our collective memory for a long time.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and loads of happiness and success in the New Year and more pleasant journeys with us.

Jai Hind!



Table of contents

spice route

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36

FESTIVE CHEER

Holidays are here! Celebrate the festive spirit by discovering unique Christmas and New Year traditions across the globe



Cover

Travel to the snow-laden landscapes around Europe to rejoice in Christmas festivities while immersing yourself in folklores around Santa Claus and his sleigh pulled by flying reindeer!

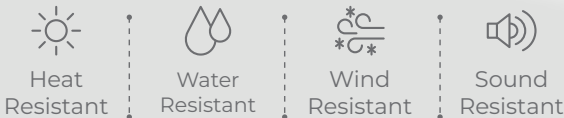


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Contents



12 **BROADSHEET**
Mark your calendar
with the best events
of the season



62 **LIMELIGHT**
SS Rajamouli
walks us
through his love
for cinema



22 **NETWORK**
Exploring an urban holiday
paradise, a city steeped in
culture and a diamond hub



46 **HOMEBOUND**
Discovering Jaisalmer
as a land of golden
sands, vibrant culture
and ancient heritage



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Contents

54

KALEIDOSCOPE

Exploring the world of electronic vehicles



NUMBER GAME

Marking International Civil Aviation Day, here are some interesting facts about the history of civil aviation

68



58

MONTAGE

Magnificent sculptures from ice and snow festivals across the globe



SPICEJET REDHOT

10 Social media

32 Spice products

72 My town

76 Stars of SpiceJet

78 News



SPREADING THE FRAGRANCE

Welcome, esteemed readers, to a conversation that delves into the profound philosophy of 'Spreading Fragrance' instead of conquering the world. Today, we have the privilege of gaining insights from Dr Manimekalai Mohan, the visionary founder of SSVM Group of Institutions, a trailblazer who has not only envisioned but actively implemented a philosophy that goes beyond individual triumphs to create a positive ripple effect. This interview aims to explore the significance of cultivating inner fragrance.

What inspired the philosophy of spreading fragrance rather than conquering the world?

The philosophy of spreading fragrance evolved from a profound realisation – true fulfilment lies not in conquering but in creating a positive impact. Reflecting on historical events like the Kalinga war, where the victorious Ashoka found no joy in his conquest witnessing the immense human suffering, we understand the cost of individual triumph. It's a mindset shift, choosing to value collective well-being over personal victories. This philosophy encourages us to focus on creating ripples of goodness, realising that the real conquest is in fostering a positive difference in the lives of others.

How can one cultivate inner fragrance to spread positivity?

Cultivating inner fragrance involves nurturing a sense of purpose and passion within. Much like a passionate individual can ignite the same fire in others, we must strive to find purpose beyond personal gain. By channeling our energy towards endeavours that contribute positively to the world, we generate the inner fragrance that inspires and uplifts others. This mindset encourages a commitment to goodness, understanding that spreading positivity begins with a passionate and purposeful existence.

Can you share an example from SSVM Group's journey embodying this philosophy?

Certainly, the journey of SSVM Group encapsulates the essence of spreading fragrance. Our institution goes beyond traditional educational goals, emphasising the development of values. We aim to produce not just successful professionals but compassionate



Dr. Manimekalai Mohan
Founder & Managing Trustee
SSVM Institutions,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

individuals who comprehend the responsibility that success brings. By prioritising holistic growth and societal contribution, SSVM Group becomes a beacon of the philosophy in action, contributing positively to the lives of students and the communities we serve.

How does this mindset apply to businesses?

In the pursuit of spreading fragrance, the overarching idea is not just to reach out widely but to touch lives with the right quality of service. Much like a business aiming to provide quality food globally, or an educational institution striving for holistic development, the emphasis is on reaching as many individuals as possible while ensuring that the service rendered is of the highest standard. This philosophy recognises that true impact is not merely measured in numbers but in the positive transformation experienced by each person touched by the commitment to excellence and genuine care. This philosophy is applicable for all businesses.

As we conclude this insightful conversation, we find ourselves enriched with the wisdom of prioritising collective well-being over individual conquests. We leave this conversation inspired by the idea that, like passionate individuals, we too can contribute to a world where spreading the fragrance of positivity becomes a collective endeavour, leaving an indelible mark on the tapestry of humanity.



Buzz On Social Media



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@HinduRajeshmani

Had an awesome experience with @flyspicejet SG 331, starting from airport check-in counter staffs till landing everything was up to mark. Raees, the lead cabin crew is very helpful and prompt with a smiling face this is what makes @flyspicejet better than @IndiGo6E.

@CitizenAbhi

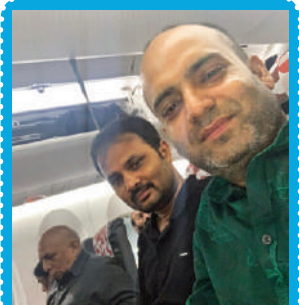


@flyspicejet Just Checked In, Mr Towkir And Anu Is Very Helpful. At IXB. #ILOVESPICEJET

@santu111111111

@flyspicejet Mohammad Rauf at Srinagar check in has been exceptionally helpful in extending all the plausible assistance for facilitating a comfortable journey for me. He has offered on his own for change of seats with my friend who happens to travel in SG 8494. Great gesture 🙌

@GNSathish1



I trust that you will pass on this recognition to the ground staff Ankit & Prateek for exceptional service with cabin crew Priyanka devi from this Vns Del flight SG2990, they are a true reflection of the high levels of standard that we have come to expect of @flyspicejet

@VIVEK9W

I write to commend your staff Ankit & Prateek on an exceptional level of service when I travelled with SG2990 Vns to Del, The service we had was a superb experience by cabin crew Ms Priyanka Devi throughout the flight .service was truly flawless. Thank you @flyspicejet Vns team.

@KumarViivek555



A little mishap while booking flight tickets cause of excitement. Sincere thanks to @flyspicejet for changing the dates for minimal fee.

@nerdjizzle

@flyspicejet TOWKIR sir helped me in the airport. Thank you SPICEJET for your humble & respectful team members.

@Dr_Praharsh

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When:
December 1-10
Where:
Nagaland, India



HORNBILL FESTIVAL

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Events



KISAN DIWAS

Celebrated to honour the driving force of India's economy, Kisan Diwas also marks the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh, who worked for the upliftment of the farmers of the country.



When: December 23
Where: India



Image: jashnerekhta.org

OF GHAZALS AND POETRY

Jashn-e-Rekhta is an annual three-day festival, which celebrates the rich tapestry of language, literature and culture through poetry, *qawwali*, Sufi melodies and more. It pays tribute to Urdu.



When: December 8-10
Where: Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, New Delhi

14

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Charles Dickens
English Novelist

MAGNETIC FIELDS FESTIVAL

An independent event founded by artistes, the Magnetic Fields festival celebrates the spirit of contemporary arts and music. This year, the theme of the festival is 'preservation'.



When: December 15-17
Where: Alsisar Mahal, Rajasthan



Image: Magnetic Fields/ Instagram

COCHIN CARNIVAL

The New Year is welcomed with a bang in the vibrant city of Kochi (Cochin) as thousands rush to Fort Kochi. The carnival includes flea markets, cultural shows, food fests, bike and cycle races, rallies, beach football, arts and games.



When: Last week of December
Where: Kochi, Kerala





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RESCUING A RIVER BREEZE

Written by Mrinalini Harchandrai, *Rescuing a River Breeze* is a fiction that explores the questions of identity, belonging and nationhood, through the experiences of a teenage girl named Shirly Quarachim. The story is set in the picturesque town of Panjim, Goa, in 1961, at a time when the state was under the Portuguese rule.



16



WORLD CHAMPIONS CUP

Golf lovers can attend the World Champions Cup, a first-of-its-kind annual three-day tournament, where three teams will compete with each other for the top spot.



When: December 7-10
Where: Florida, USA



DESSERT PARADISE

Try out some scrumptious, homestyle cakes at Labonel Fine Baking in Indiranagar, Bengaluru. Relish various kinds of desserts like brownies, cupcakes, teacake loaves and cookies with freshly brewed coffee.



Image: serendipityartsfestival.com

SERENDIPITY ARTS FESTIVAL

Paint your imagination with colours at the Serendipity Arts Festival, an annual celebration of contemporary arts. The nine-day-long festival aims to promote new creative strategies and artistic interventions.



When: December 15-23
Where: Panjim, Goa



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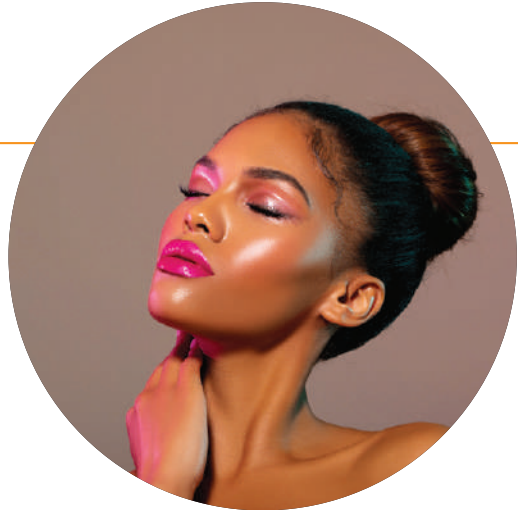
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Fashion

CONSCIOUS FASHION

Kalki Koechlin's clothes brand, Virgio is doing its bit to contribute towards eco-friendly practices with its latest conscious fashion collection that is biodegradable and made from natural fabrics.



LATEX FEVER

The era of matte lips is gone, making way for latex lips. From Kylie Jenner to Bella Hadid and Deepika Padukone, celebrities are using high-impact shades of red with a gloss coating to produce the latex impact.

BAGS FOR ALL

Looking for a budget-friendly high-end bag? Roperro's quirky, luxury handbags can be a good choice. From clutches to *potli* bags, the collection comprises many varieties that are economical.



WINTER FLORALS

Darker tones of florals are trending this winter season. While summer florals include cool shades of blue, yellow and green, winter is all about shades of purple, red and emerald.

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THE WHOOP OF FITNESS

In the recent ICC Cricket World Cup, one of the many things that caught eyeballs was a screen-less band that cricketer Virat Kohli sported on his wrist. But it's not just Kohli who wears this band; several other celebrity athletes sport it too such as Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps and top golfers like Tiger Woods. The band is a fitness device by WHOOP, a US-based wearable technology company. It has several sensors that measure an array of specific health-related data, including training recovery, cardiovascular strain and even sleep quality.

SOLAR GOALS

A start-up incubated at IIT Guwahati, Quant Solar is said to be leading India's charge in the clean energy sector with its revolutionary Floating Solar Technology. This innovative approach not only meets national solar goals, but also addresses water conservation challenges.



20



Image: zigwheels.com

ADVENTURE ON WHEELS!

The latest addition to the much celebrated Mahindra Thar collection is the Thar-5 door. An eagerly anticipated off-roader, it's power packed with features like a 2-litre turbocharged diesel engine and rugged utilitarian interiors. The car is expected to be launched in the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024.

AI-powered ChatGPT has been in news since its launch. Now, French automobile brand DS Automobiles has said the feature will be integrated in its vehicles. The AI chatbot will allow car users to get accurate and instant answers.

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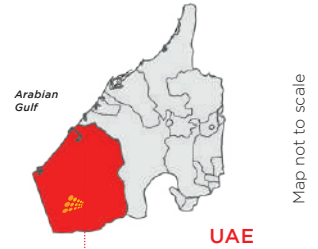
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MUST SEE



All that glitters is gold in Dubai. Visit the famous Gold Souk in Dubai where the shops are filled with all kinds of jewellery imaginable.

EAT & SHOP



Relish traditional dishes such as *baklava* and *lukaimat* (*luqaimat*), and also Turkish cocktails. Head to the Textile Souk for fine silks and fabrics.

Dubai is one of the most vibrant tourist destinations in the world. From the mighty Burj Khalifa to the bustling urban centres, and from desert safaris to the local *souks* (*souqs*), the magnificent city leaves visitors awestruck. Visit places like the Madinat Jumeirah, a contemporary interpretation of a traditional Arab village. Visit the famous Coffee Museum in Al Fahidi and enjoy a shopping spree at the Dubai Shopping Festival. Relax by the Al Qudra Lake, a series of man-made lakes in the Saih Al Salam desert on the southern outskirts.



NEARBY

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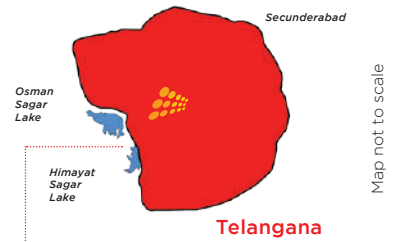


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HYDERABAD

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NEARBY

Enjoy boating at Kotepally reservoir (around 97 km) or go for a hike around the Ethipothala Falls (around 165 km) and the caves located closely.

24



Rich in heritage shaped by multiple cultures — Hyderabad buzzes with businesses, energy and ancient traditions. From its *chai* shops to its pearl traders and street markets, the city is a perfect mixture of both traditional and urban worlds. Admire the beauty of ancient architecture by visiting iconic monuments like the Charminar, Paigah Tombs and the Salarjung Museum. Take a short trip to Mahabubnagar (about 105 km from Hyderabad) for a relaxing getaway amidst nature.



DON'T MISS



Visit the Golconda Fort, an ancient fortress in the western part of the city. Built on the top of a 120-m hill, the fort comprises ruins of palaces, mosques and a hilltop pavilion.

MUST SEE



Visit the Qutub Shahi tombs for their stucco ornamentation and blue and green tiles on the domes. Enjoy speedboat rides in Hussain Sagar Lake and also rock climbing.

EAT & SHOP



Relish the famous Hyderabad *dum biryani* and Irani *chai*. Explore local markets such as Begum Bazaar and Jummaraat Bazaar and shop for home decor and pearl jewellery.

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BHAVNAGAR

A famed diamond hub, Bhavnagar also emanates an old-world charm with ancient wooden buildings scattered along colourful bazaars



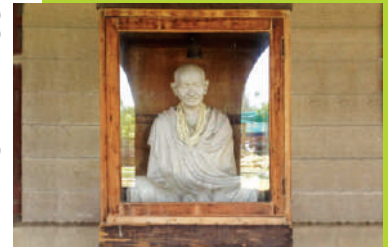
Gujarat

Route: SpiceJet connects exclusive direct & one-stop flights to Bhavnagar from Pune, Mumbai and many more cities. Book now at www.spicejet.com

Map not to scale



DON'T MISS



Visit Gandhi Smriti, a museum of rare memorabilia of Mahatma Gandhi. Beneath this is the Barton Museum, which is known for its collection of beautiful Jain carvings.

MUST SEE



Enjoy some solace at the Ghogha beach, about 20 km from the city. You can also visit the Takhteshwar Temple, a pristine sight in white marble situated on a hill.

EAT & SHOP



Dig into a traditional Gujarati *thali* to get a taste of local delicacies. Shop for applique handicrafts, *torans* and premium quality diamonds here.

Bhavnagar is located on the western shore of the Gulf of Khambhat in Gujarat and was founded in the 18th century. The old town of Bhavnagar gained prominence as a prime port for maritime trade. Located nearby is Alang Ship Breaking Yard, one of the biggest ship breaking yards in the world. Over the years, Bhavnagar has also emerged as a major diamond hub after Surat with more than 500 diamond units, which employ a large number of women artisans. Located just 55 km away are the beautiful Palitana marble-carved Jain temples atop the Shatrunjaya hill.



NEARBY

Take a trip to Veladar Blackbuck National Park (about 50 km from Bhavnagar) to catch a glimpse of the blackbuck, lesser florican, wolves and antelopes amid custard-coloured grasslands.



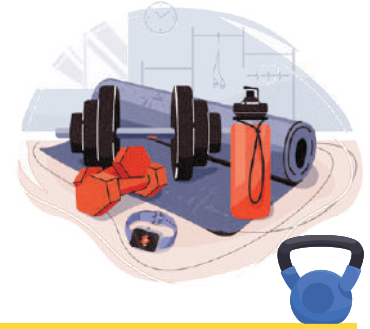
Images are for representational purposes only



World Soil Day

Replenishing and maintaining good quality soil is integral to sustenance. Equally important is soil water, which induces nutrient absorption. This year, World Soil Day, observed on December 5, raises awareness about the symbiotic relationship between soil and water to achieve a resilient and sustainable agrifood system. It is crucial that soil contamination is prevented and the pressure on water resources is reduced through sustainable soil management practices such as crop rotation, organic matter addition and enhancing of water infiltration and storage.

Revive & Thrive



From virtual workouts to connecting with nature, here are some of the latest fitness trends

If you are experiencing stiffness in the neck after long hours of a desk job, try this - lean your head forward, slowly roll towards one side and hold for a few seconds. Repeat on the other side. If you are already suffering from neck pain, consult a doctor before exercising.



While health experts have been emphasising the need to exercise daily, this year has seen an increasing trend of connecting with nature while working out. Called biophilia workout, the trend is not about cycling, running or jogging outdoors but traditional exercises that are otherwise performed in enclosed spaces, from yoga to push-ups or even a modified biophilia HIIT circuit.



Pilates has become increasingly popular after the COVID-19 pandemic. It improves physical strength, especially the core, along with mental awareness, and is practised by celebrities across the world.



Horror movies are not everyone's cup of tea, especially if you don't want jump scares. A recent study, however, claims they can benefit our mental health. According to Dr Kristen Knowles, neuropsychologist at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, horror classics like *The Shining* and *The Exorcist* were found to release endorphins and dopamine, reducing stress and leading to happiness. The endorphin production can even improve pain tolerance.



Virtual and augmented reality are making waves in the world of fitness and how! While offering immersive experiences, AR and VR workouts have also made exercise accessible for people with mobility issues or any disability. Apart from headsets and apps, some companies are coming up with AR contact lenses to facilitate an engaging workout and revolutionising the fitness industry.



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A Houseful December!

From movie anniversaries to special Christmas releases, here's what is in store for cinema buffs



The much-awaited tale of Roald Dahl's eccentric chocolatier Willy Wonka is in theatres. Starring Timothée Chalamet, *Wonka* is a musical fantasy film by Warner Bros that explores the adventures and journey of young Willy Wonka and his encounter with the Oompa-Loompas.



Raj Kapoor's *Awaara* was released on December 14, 1951. It remains one of the most iconic films in the cinematic history of India.



A story of unbreakable spirit and hope, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, starring Will Smith, celebrates its 17th anniversary this year. It was released on December 15, 2006.



This Christmas, binge on new releases such as *What Happens Later* starring Meg Ryan, and *Best. Christmas. Ever!* Starring Brandy Norwood and Heather Graham, the latter is streaming on Netflix.



The French Film Festival UK is going on in London till December 14. In its line-up of critically acclaimed movies is *The Nature of Love*, a witty romantic comedy directed by Monia Chokri.

Don't miss Hansal Mehta's *The Buckingham Murders* and *Sultana's Dream* by Isabel Herguera, screened at the Jio Mami Mumbai Film Festival 2023, and *Andro Dreams*, a documentary chosen for the International Film Festival of India, Goa.



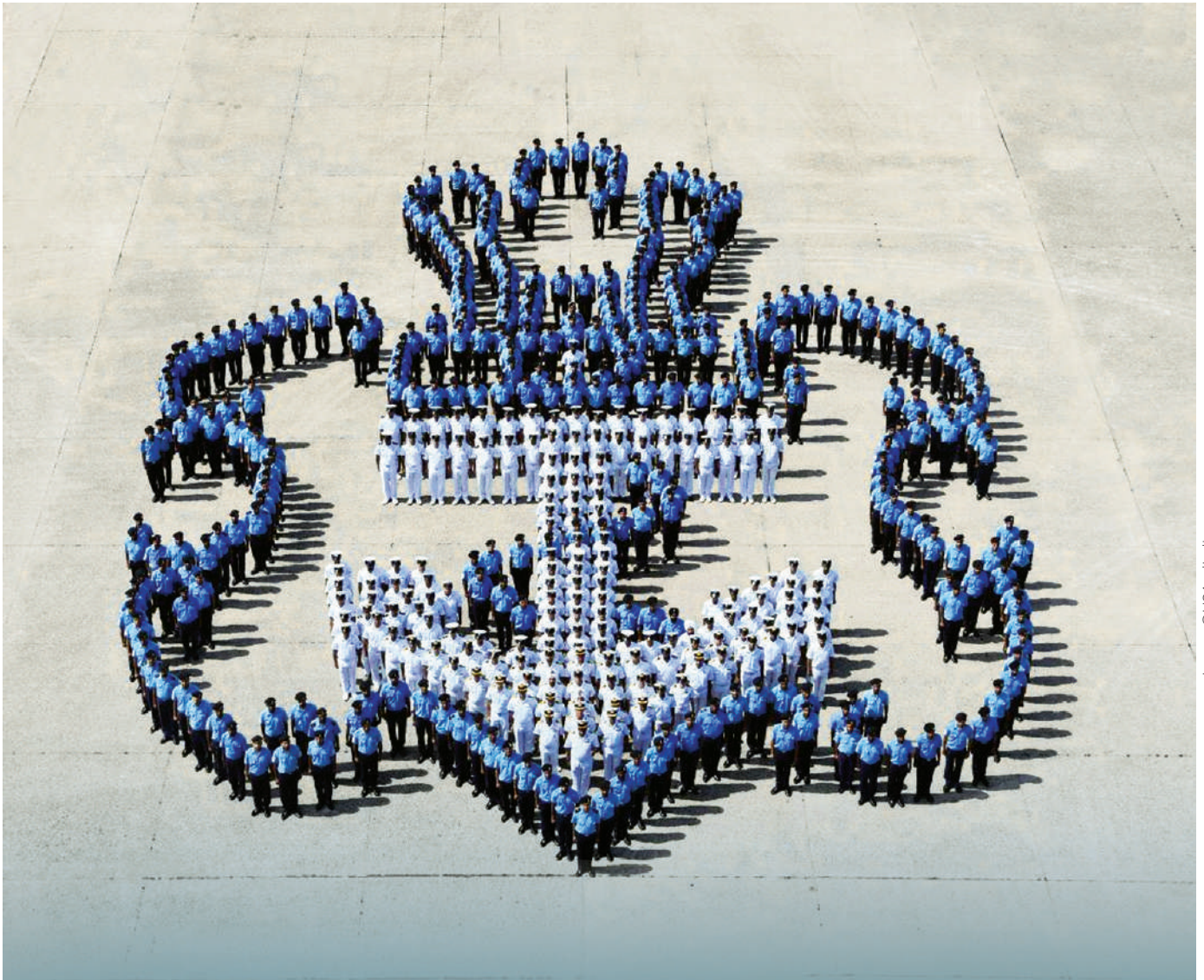


Image: @USAndIndia

31

Indian Navy Day

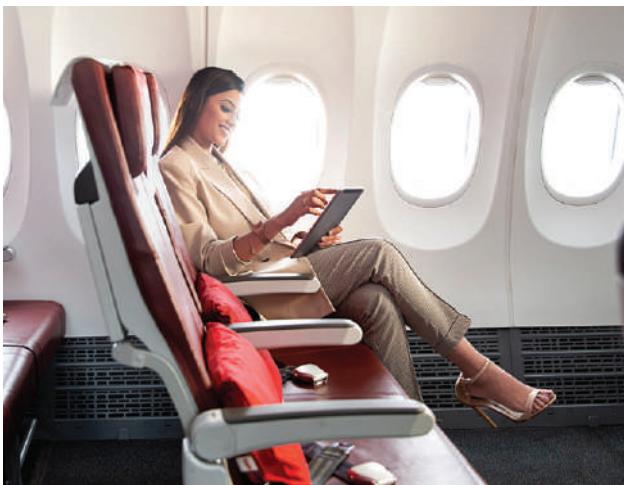
Celebrated on December 4 every year, this special day commemorates the role and achievements of the Indian Navy in the 1971 War, with a grand ceremony demonstrating their combat prowess and capability. The day aims to foster maritime consciousness in citizens, give assurance of national security and inspire a feeling of patriotism. On this occasion, SpiceJet salutes the Indian Navy for their relentless efforts dedicated to protecting the nation.

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8

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9



10

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11

FOR STUDENTS ONLY

The life of a student is not easy as you prepare for your future and the country's too. While some of you may be stranded away from home, others maybe struggling to carry extra luggage while moving cities. To make flying easier for students, SpiceJet has introduced special fares and offers. Students can enjoy up to 10 per cent discount on base fares and will get to carry 10 kg of extra baggage at no extra cost. Valid on bookings made online at SpiceJet website, mobile app or through reservation centres.





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This service is currently available at selected airports.



Festivals, Frost and Fables



As we enter the season of winter festivities, here's a glimpse of some unique Christmas and New Year traditions followed around the world.

TEXT: BINDU GOPAL RAO





If you like to understand the cultural ethos of a city or country, there is no better way than to be present during its festivals and events. These traditions are rooted in history and often have interesting back stories. While the entire world immerses itself in festive cheer on Christmas and New Year, some communities also follow unique customs on these occasions.



GIANT STRAW STATUE OF THE GÄVLE GOAT

Every year in Sweden, the town of Gävle sees a giant straw statue of the Yule goat. The 13-m tall statue adorns the Castle Square, a tradition that dates back to 1966. As legend goes, Christmas elves would ride the Yule goat to deliver gifts door to door to sleeping children. Small straw goats are also a popular Christmas decoration in Sweden. The Yule goat, which has been mentioned in the Guinness Book of World Records, sees crowds throng to it. Also interesting is how around 3 pm, many Swedes watch the 1958 Walt Disney special on Donald Duck called *Kalle Anka*. Only then can the celebrations begin, some believe.



38

Sweden



WATCH OUT

Visit the vibrant Christmas markets at Gammelstad in Swedish Lapland, Jämtli, Jämtland, and Stenegård, Hälsingland for its wide collection of handicrafts. As you explore the places, try *glögg* or mulled wine with *pepparkaka* or gingerbread. The Christmas markets at Falun Mine in Dalarna, Skansen in Stockholm, and Taxinge Castle in Nykvarn are also worth a visit.



EATING SOBA NOODLES



Japan

The Japanese tradition of eating *soba* noodles on New Year's Eve is based on the custom of reflecting on the past year and wishing for a healthy and prosperous year ahead. The *toshikoshi soba* tradition is centuries old and is said to date back to the Kamakura period, when a Buddhist temple gave *soba* to poor people on New Year's Eve. The tradition is believed to bring good fortune as *soba* is easy to break while eating, a symbolic connection to breaking out of the year gone past.



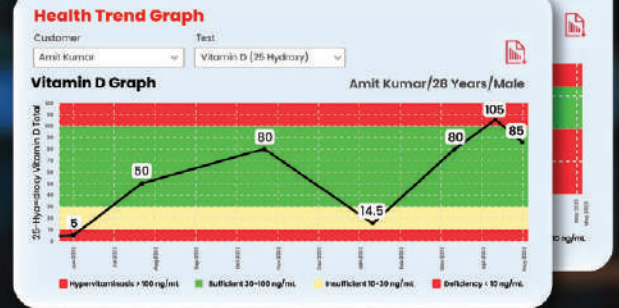
WATCH OUT

Try ceremonial foods like *ozoni*, a soup that is usually eaten with *mochi* rice cakes, which locals believe represent longevity. Another New Year specialty is the *osechi*, a traditional box with an eclectic collection of foods. Visit a shrine or a temple on the first day of the new year, also known as *hatsumode*.



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WATCH OUT

Do not forget to jive to the notes of the local *Gaita*, a type of folk music, which uses a variety of musical instruments. Do not miss local delicacies like *hallacas*, *tamale*-style delights and *pan de jamon*, a ham-olive raisin bread. The *ensalada de gallina*, which is a chicken salad, and *quesillo*, a type of dessert, are must-try here.



Every year, Caracas in Venezuela closes roads to traffic between December 16 and 24 to allow people to use their roller skates to get to the early morning Christmas mass. It is believed that this tradition comes as an alternative to sledding, as this is the time of the year when the place has pleasant weather. While skating to the mass, people also tug on the ends of the strings dangling out of windows on their way. These strings are said to be tied by children to their toes.



If you are a bibliophile, you must be in Iceland for Christmas; after all, it is time for *Jolabokaflod* or the Christmas book flood. Since 1944, the Icelandic book trade publishes a catalog of new launches every year, which is sent to every household around the holiday season. Locals buy and gift books to each other as a way of promoting reading. You can read too — just find your corner, grab a cup of hot cocoa, and enjoy.



WATCH OUT

Stop at the Christmas markets for a taste of all things local. Hlemmur Mathöll Food Hall is the Christmas market that sees an amalgamation of top-notch restaurants, bakeries, cafés, and ice-cream shops that come together to ensure you are on a gastronomic journey. Ice skating at Ingólfstorg in the middle of downtown Reykjavik is also good fun. The big Christmas market in Hafnarfjörður is another must-see for local delicacies, local handicrafts, festive decorations, and a horse-driven carriage ride.



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WATCHING THE BALL DROP

USA

Started in 1907, the tradition of watching the ball drop is held annually at the Times Square Building in New York. The ball that has been redesigned a few times is about 12 ft in diameter and is illuminated with over 32,000 LED lamps. The dropping of the ball is timed to coincide with the exact moment of the start of the new year. The buzz around Times Square, however, begins evening onwards on December 31, when the area resembles a fair with confetti, balloons, people in hats, musical performances, and more.



WATCH OUT

Do not miss the Christmas markets like Bryant Park Winter Village by Bank of America, FAD Market, Astoria Holiday Market, Queens Craft Brigade, and Union Square Holiday Market. Dig into traditional dishes like *black-eyed peas* and *lentils*, which are considered auspicious, apart from other delicacies like fondue, cookies and pastries.



JUMPING SEVEN WAVES

Brazil

Party-loving Brazilians make a beeline for the beach on New Year's Eve, dressed in white for luck and peace for the next year. The locals believe that jumping over seven waves, throwing flowers into the water, and burying candles in the sand will make the sea goddess bless them with good luck and happiness. Plus, one gets to make a wish with each wave.



WATCH OUT

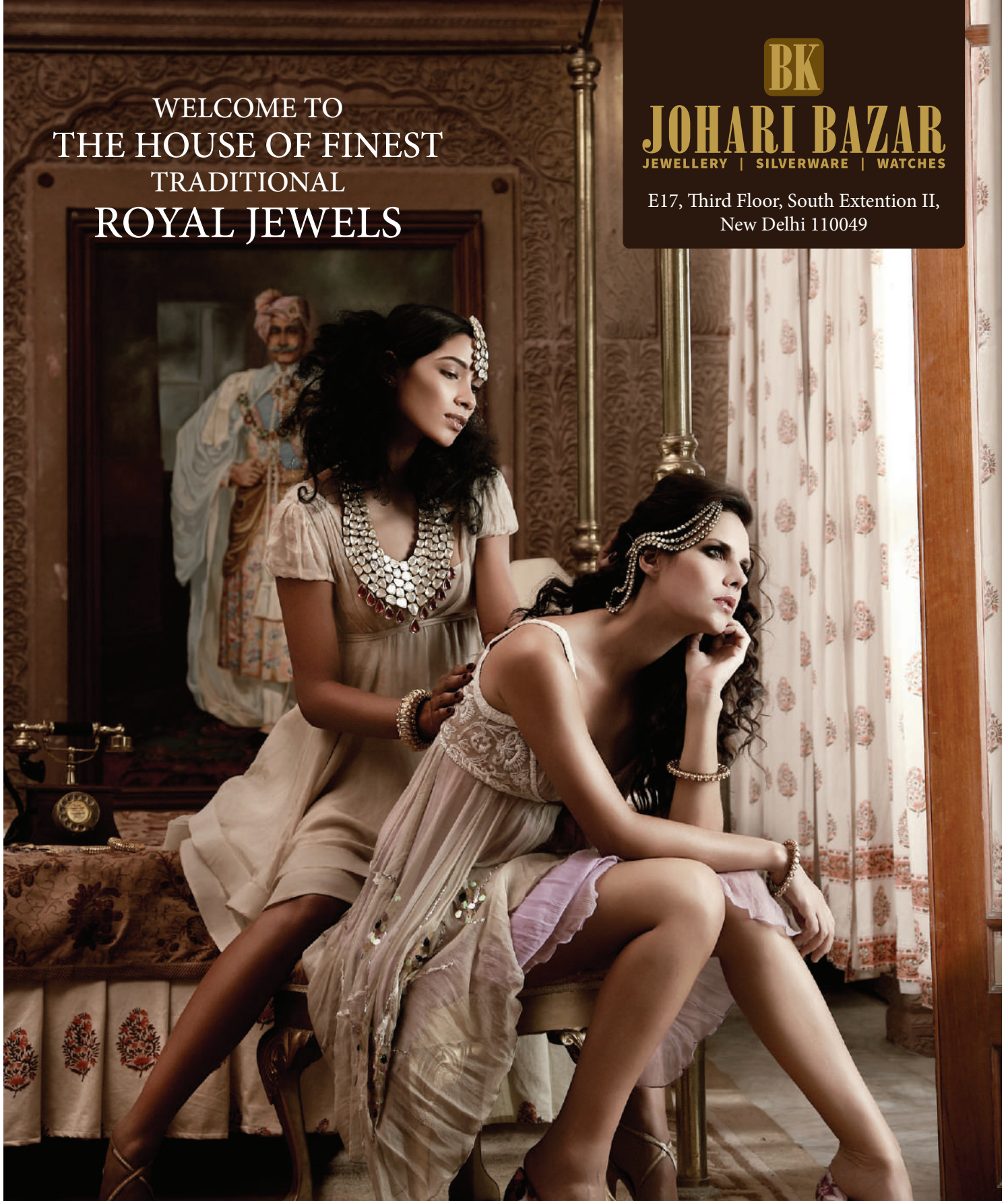
Head to Brazil's hottest beach parties on New Year's Eve at Copacabana Beach, Porto Seguro, and other places, and get a taste of the regional cuisines. Attend celebrations at Litoral Norte that has a jaw-droppingly stunning landscape or go hiking like the locals at Visconde de Mauá.

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HANGING AN ONION

If you are in Greece during the New Year, you cannot miss the sight of bunches of onions hanging outside doors. This is because the Greeks believe that onions are a sign of rebirth and growth. The *Kali Hera*, or 'good hands', is yet another tradition where gifts are exchanged. The Greeks believe that receiving gifts on the first day of the year is a sign of prosperity throughout the year. Right before midnight, families turn off the lights in their homes and step out. One among

them then re-enters with their right foot, which is considered lucky. This tradition is called *Kalo Podariko* or 'good footing'. Among the traditions is colourful fireworks that are held across the country, including Athens, Thebes, and Corinth. On the island of Chios in the Aegean Sea, on Easter and New Year, people propel firework in a tradition called *rouketopolemos* or the "rocket war"! People also hang pomegranate at doors on New Year for luck.



WATCH OUT

Try festive foods like *vasilopita* or New Year's cake. Traditionally, a small coin or medallion is inserted in the cake and the person who is able to locate it is believed to enjoy great fortune. Also try other dishes like tomato soup, stuffed cabbage and cabbage salad.



PLACING A SHOE BY THE FIRE

In the week upto Christmas, children place one of their shoes by the fireplace in Netherlands. They fill the shoe with carrots, hay, drawings or poetry and hope that they will wake up to gifts from *Sinterklaas* (Saint Nicholas) and his horse in their shoe in return. This ritual is practised on Saint Nicholas Day in a number of countries around the world. Saint Nicholas was revered as the bringer of gifts.



WATCH OUT

Do not forget to collect your Christmas goodies such as chocolate coins and mandarin oranges, two food items associated with the tale of Saint Nicholas. Relish the wide variety of *marzipan* delights, which are available at the festive markets. Also, try festive crunchy cookies called *speculaas*.



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JOURNEY TO THE GOLDEN HORIZON

Amid undulating sandscapes, Jaisalmer unveils itself as a rich repository of heritage and culture through its folk traditions and golden-hued architecture

TEXT: AISHANI GUPTA

HIGHLIGHTS



MUST-SEE

Visit the Thar Heritage Museum, which has a rich assortment of artefacts



USP

Dubbed the 'Golden City', Jaisalmer is dotted with exquisite yellow sandstone architecture and golden dunes



WHAT TO DO

Visit Silk Route Art Gallery to pick up patchwork quilts, cushion covers and wall hangings



HISTORY TIP

The Manganiyars are hereditary folk musicians in Jaisalmer, who were once part of royal Rajput courts



Best Time to Visit: December to March is an ideal time to visit Jaisalmer and soak in its beauty.

Jaisalmer is about 600 km from Jaipur and nearly 270 km from Jodhpur.



Map not to scale

Route: SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Jaisalmer from Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and many more cities. Book now at www.spicejet.com

Once an important caravan-stop along the famed Silk Route, Jaisalmer acts as a guard to western Rajasthan and captivates onlookers with its time-kissed allure. Its colourful, artistic and cultural heritage serves as a poignant reminder of its rich past in golden sands and civilisations cut in gleaming yellow sandstone.

The tale begins with Bhati chieftain Rawal Jaisal, who shifted his base from Lodhruva to the impregnable terrain of Trikuta Hill, to secure his capital from the Turco-Afghans in 1156. He fortified Trikuta with local yellow sandstone, which came to be eponymously known as the Jaisalmer Qila (*Jaisal* after the name of its founder and *mer* from *meru* meaning sands) and was popularised centuries later as Sonar Kella by ace filmmaker Satyajit Ray in his eponymous film. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Jaisalmer Fort stands as a proud testament to the warrior pasts and the mercantile and artisan communities they so proudly nurtured.



What's More



NATHMAL JI KI HAVELI

Built by two architect brothers from two sides, Nathmal ji ki Haveli is an exquisite symmetrical masterpiece from the late 19th century, decorated with beautiful miniature paintings and mighty tuskars.



GOLDEN ARCHITECTURE

As you tour around the Fort, you will come across circular bastions originally intended for defense, which now house residents, making this complex the oldest inhabited fort in India. Upon entering through four successive gateways or *pol*s, you will find yourself at the main square – Dussehra Chowk, leading to numerous winding alleyways and pathways housing temples, palaces, wells and *havelis*, many of which have been converted into restaurants, museums and shops. Some prominent buildings are the Rang Mahal, Moti Mahal and Zenana Mahal. There are also seven Jain temples around the Chowk.

The romance with yellow sandstone continues as you trek to the Gadisar Lake, built as a conservation reservoir by Maharawal Gadsingh in 1400. Decorated with an intricately carved archway called Tilon-ki-Pol, this lake is perfect for enjoying a quiet moment before you set off for the Bada Bagh to experience a serene sunset. Less than 30 mins away from Gadisar, Bada Bagh is a 16th-century compound that contains *chhatris* (funerary memorials) of Jaisalmer's rulers and their queens. Also located here is Vyas Chhatri, dedicated to sage Veda Vyas, the author of the *Mahabharata*.

DESERT NATIONAL PARK

Just 50 km from Jaisalmer, the Desert National Park is home to various animals like blackbuck, chinkara, desert fox and even the highly endangered Great Indian Bustard.



Image: indianbirds.thedynamichat

48



JAIN TEMPLES

The Jain temples at Jaisalmer Fort date back to the 12th and 15th centuries. Built in the Dilwara style, they are dedicated to Jain hermits or Tirthankaras, Rikhabdevji and Shambhavdevji.

While Vyas Chhatri is a famed sunset point with a grand view of the city, Patwon ki Haveli is known for its intricate mirror work and stonework



WAR MUSEUM

Visit the Jaisalmer War Museum, which commemorates the sacrifices of the brave soldiers who fought in the 1965 and the 1971 wars.



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DESERTED DWELLINGS

At walking distance from the Fort is Patwon ki Haveli, constructed in the early 1800s by Guman Chand Patwa, a leading merchant. It is replete with latticed sandstone walls, numerous *jharokhas* (balconies) and a vast terrace with a panoramic view of Jaisalmer. The mansion contains a wealth of artisanal heritage and has now been converted into a museum.

Around 30 km from the main city lies the deserted village of Kuldhara, once home to the Paliwal Brahmin community. It is said that one night, the entire population here disappeared without any trace and the settlement has lain

abandoned for nearly 300 years. While historians are still baffled by the reasons for this mass exodus, Kuldhara, with its haunting ruins and alleyways, has become a favourite trek among visitors.

THAR TREASURES

Head to the safari camps at Sam Sand Dunes (around 40 km from the city) to spend a relaxing cultural evening under the desert skies. Beginning with camel and jeep safaris across the billowing sands, enjoy an immersive experience with Manganiyars (folk musicians) soulfully rendering local compositions to the rhythmic beats

of their *khartals* and women expertly whirling to the traditional *ghoomar*. Sitting around a campfire, you may be surprised by Kalbeliya dancers recounting their community's rich mythological pasts through mesmerising swirls accompanied by the music of the *khanjari* and the *pungi* (musical instruments).

DELICACIES AND CRAFTS

Jaisalmer is known for its mouth-watering foods like *kachori*, *mirchi bhajiya*, *mutton saag*, *ker sangri*, *gatte ki sabji* and *dal bati choorma*. You must savour the *Jaisalmer chana*, a yogurt-based gravy of black chickpea lentils,

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while the *safed maas*, unlike its fiery counterpart *laal maas*, is a delicate white mutton stew cooked in milk, nuts and poppy paste. Visit Sadar Bazar, Pansari Bazaar and Manak Chowk for silks and fabrics, fine camel-leather handbags and *mojris*, intricate silver and gemstone trinkets, sandstone vessels and carvings, and locally produced handmade paintings. Puppetry, an integral part of Jaisalmer's oral traditions, has been revived in recent years by the Desert Cultural Centre and Museum. Catch a delightful puppet show and shop here as well as at Rajasthali for traditional dolls.



Aishani Gupta writes on cities, art and architecture of India. She is an entrepreneur and a heritage consultant.

In Focus

“Wedding Tales: A Dream Destination for Weddings

In addition to being a luxurious retreat, Gobindgarh Jaisalmer offers an idyllic setting for destination weddings. Imagine exchanging vows amidst the golden dunes of Rajasthan, under a canopy of stars – this hotel turns such dreams into reality..

A Unique Desert Backdrop

The stunning desert setting of Gobindgarh Jaisalmer offers an unforgettable backdrop for weddings. With traditional Rajasthani architecture and modern luxury, it provides a splendid ambiance, perfect for making lifelong memories.

Culinary Excellence

The hotel's chefs excel in crafting diverse menus, from local Rajasthani flavors to international cuisines, ensuring a delightful culinary experience for you and your guests.

Discover the Enchantment of Gobindgarh Jaisalmer, where Desert Majesty Meets Modern Opulence!

Welcome to Gobindgarh Jaisalmer, a remarkable 5-star luxury hotel that stands as a beacon of splendour in the heart of Rajasthan's enchanting desert. This majestic retreat is more than just a hotel; it's a journey into the grandeur of royal Rajasthan, seamlessly blending the allure of ancient heritage with the comforts of modern luxury.

Activities for Guests

Beyond the wedding festivities, guests can enjoy various activities like desert safaris and cultural shows, offering a glimpse into Rajasthan's rich heritage.

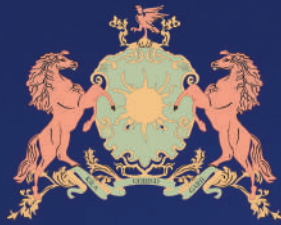
A Fairytale Setting

The enchanting ambiance of Gobindgarh Jaisalmer, with its traditional Rajasthani architecture and panoramic desert views, provides a fairy-tale backdrop for weddings. Whether you envision a grand, opulent ceremony or an intimate, romantic affair, the hotel's versatile venues can be transformed to match your dream wedding.



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Charged up

Electric vehicles are not the future of the automobile industry in India, they are the present. Let us understand this technology a little better.

TEXT: K. DUTTA

Close to 100,000 units of electric vehicles (EVs) are being sold in India every month since the start of this year. And if this trend continues, experts say India will break the record of EVs sold in one calendar year by the end of 2023. The average Indian has always had a curious mind and now, people are slowly but surely understanding the benefits that EVs bring with them. Lower cost of ownership, exciting performance and as capable as any regular petrol or diesel powered vehicle, the notion that EVs are inferior, has long been dispelled. The future of electric vehicles in India is only going to get brighter from here on. Here are a few trends that explain why EVs are being so well-received in India.



CONCEPT TECH

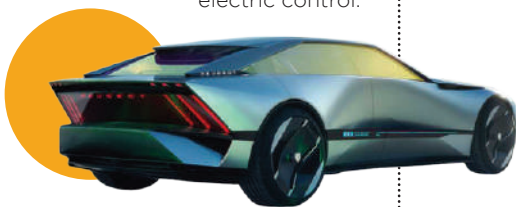
BMW i Vision Dee can change colours to suit your mood. Drivers can also have a virtual experience with a black-out window.



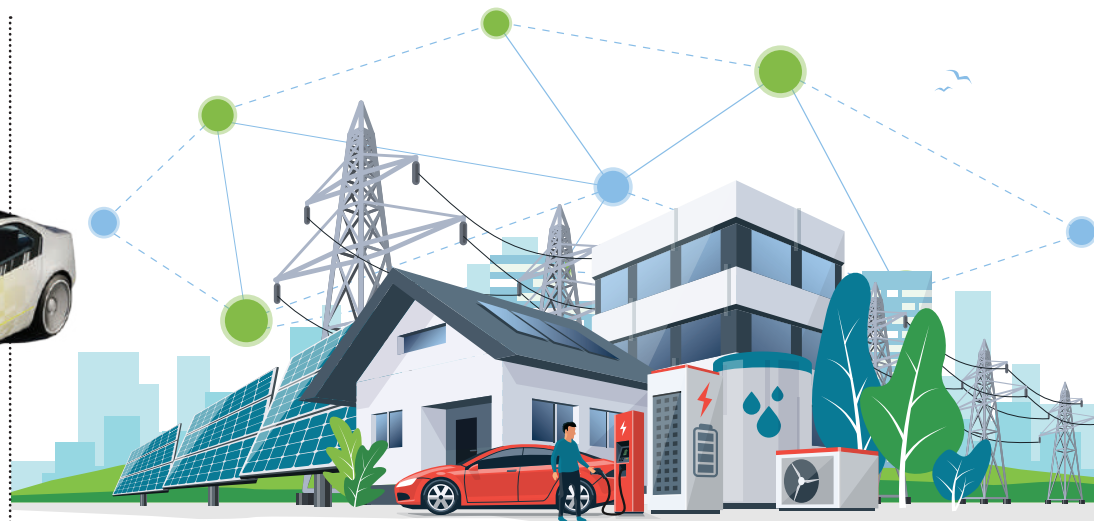
The Qualcomm Snapdragon Ride Flex SoC, with a digital cockpit, can go beyond in-car infotainment. It can offer a one-click over-the-air (OTA) upgrade for new features.



Stellantis' futuristic Peugeot Inception Concept can go 800 km on a single charge. Its control system is inspired by video games, replacing the traditional steering wheel with an all-digital electric control.



Hyundai is working on a self-driving electric vehicle having radars, sensors, and cameras. It will have mixed reality (MR) displays, e-corner modules and LiDARs.



Cell-to-pack (CTP) is the latest development in battery technology, reducing its weight and increasing efficiency

VARIETY OF CHOICE

From 2019, when there were less than five electric passenger cars on sale, we now have close to 20. And that too ranging from Rs 10 lakh EVs to models that command well over Rs 1 crore, maybe more. From small-sized city EVs like the MG Comet to luxury EVs like the Mercedes-Benz EQS, electrification has permeated to almost all price and requirement segments in the market. The choice is only going to get better from here on. To give you an example, as many as 13 OEMs have electric four-wheelers on sale, in their portfolio.

BATTERY MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

The lifeblood of any EV is its battery. There are technological advances happening at all levels, with many startups and OEMs focussing on developing indigenous battery management technology (BMS). The BMS takes care of voltage, charge-discharge cycles, state of charge, thermal management and much more. Earlier, companies



All electric vehicles run on an electric motor instead of an internal combustion engine. A large traction battery pack is used to power the electric motor, which is plugged into the charging equipment. As the vehicle runs on electricity, no exhaust is emitted, which helps in contributing to reduction in carbon emissions.

Battery boost

The battery is the lifeline of your EV vehicle. So here's how to get the best out of it:

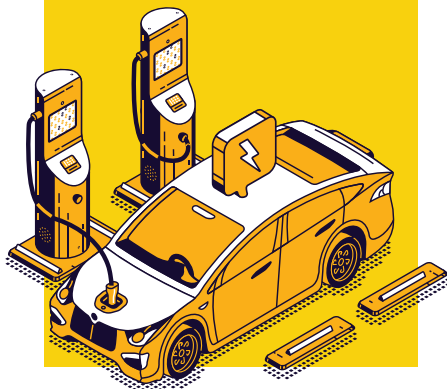
Regular charging: Consistent charging can help extend the life of your electric vehicle's lithium-ion battery pack. While routine charging does not extend the vehicle's range, it can help to preserve it.

Brake right: When possible, use regenerative braking. Regenerative braking is standard on all EVs sold in India, converting the vehicle's kinetic energy into chemical energy stored in the battery. This saved energy can later be utilised to enhance the range of your electric vehicle.

Reduce drag: Aerodynamic drag should be reduced in your EV. Roof racks and bike racks should be removed when not in use.

Never fully discharge: One of the most important things to remember as an EV owner is to prevent totally depleting the battery. Recharge your EV as soon as possible if the battery drops below 20 percent.

Less acceleration: While the quick torque delivery of electric vehicles is thrilling, it is critical to take caution when accelerating. Prolonged periods of high acceleration might result in a rapid drain of battery current.



The three main types of EVs include Battery Electric Vehicle that runs entirely on electricity and is one of the most efficient, Hybrid Electric Vehicle that uses both the internal combustion engine and one or more electric motors, and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle, in which electric energy is produced from chemical energy

used to buy BMS technology from other countries, but now most homegrown OEMs are making strides in developing their own systems. Not only does this help in increasing the amount of localisation in EVs, but also bring down the battery cost and thereby, reducing the price of EVs, which was seen as a deterrent so far.

CELL-TO-PACK TECHNOLOGY

The latest development in battery technology is the cell-to-pack or CTP technology. Usually, traditional batteries had cells packed into modules, which were then packed into the battery along with a variety of thermal components. What cell-to-pack technology does is, it eliminates the need for cells to be packed into a battery, instead, they are packed into the structure itself. This means that the weight of the battery reduces, the efficiency increases and so does thermal management. Initial development suggests that the cost is likely to

come down as well, which is good news for customers and OEMs alike.

CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Catering to the needs of growing EV sales in India, there has been a growth in public EV charging stations as well. Data from government's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) shows that India had over 6,500 public EV charging stations at the end of FY 2022-23. The number is likely to be doubled in the next financial year, with many private players also opening up their charging stations to other users. These are just the public EV charging stations that we are talking about. There are EV chargers as well, which can cater to one EV at a time.

Most manufacturers, along with various global consultancy firms have already begun investing in technologies that may seem futuristic now but have the potential to not only increase rapid adoption of EVs, but also offer the customer an enjoyable experience.



Double dose of green

The Indian electric two-wheeler industry has been on a surge, with growing sales, diverse products and eco-conscious consumers



A total of 71,604 electric two-wheelers were sold in October 2023, as per the Indian government's Vahan website, marking the third-highest sales in a month this year

In today's Indian automobile market, electric two-wheelers are the preferred choice among consumers. This preference is driven by the availability of a diverse range of products, reliable technological features, the ongoing evolution of consumer buying patterns, and the presence of flexible ownership models. A recent report by McKinsey says that these vehicles, known for their accessibility and affordability, have played a crucial role in India's mobility landscape.

With more and more brands joining the bandwagon, newer marketing methods and better technology, experts predict that

by 2030, electric two-wheelers will make up 60 to 70 per cent of new vehicle sales in India.

According to another study by JMK Research & Analytics, the overall electric two-wheeler sales in India during the first half of FY2023 was about 4.56 lakh units, double the sales in the first half of FY2022. Maharashtra recorded the highest high-speed electric two-wheeler sales at 53,043 units in the first half of FY2023, followed by Karnataka (42,371 units) and Gujarat (32,414 units).

The total volume of investments made in the Indian electric two-wheeler market so far has been around Rs 14,000 crore. And the overall electric vehicle market is estimated to reach 67.14 lakh vehicles by FY2027.

Frozen Symphony

From musical instruments carved out of ice to sculpture contests, there's a lot in store at grand snow festivals held around the world

Landscapes enveloped in snow and ice are one of the most pristine sights of the winter season. Ushering in a carnivalesque mood, many places around the world, from Norway to Canada, host magnificent ice-themed festivals that offer thrilling experiences. Here are breathtaking glimpses of some of them.

58



Image:facebook/KirunaSnowFestival

Kiruna, about 140 km above the Arctic Circle, witnesses a mega snow festival around the end of January. The **Kiruna International Snow Sculpture Competition** is its biggest attraction





One of the world's largest ice and snow festivals, the **Harbin Ice Festival in China** offers many magical experiences, from a snow sculpture art expo to an ice lantern art fair. Beginning in December, it will be held till March 2024

Photo: aphotostory



The International Ice Sculpture Festival in Jelgava, Latvia, to be held between January and February 2024, will see talented ice sculptors bring the theme "Treasures of the World" to life through their art



The Sapporo Snow Festival will be held in Japan for nearly a week in February next year. It will feature numerous brightly lit snow sculptures. Visitors can also enjoy snow slides and snow rafting

Photo: Peera_stockfoto



Norway's Ice Music Festival is a unique concert where musicians play "glacial instruments" in subzero temperatures. It will be held around mid-February, 2024



Canada's Banff and Lake Louise will be dotted with intricate ice sculptures at the **SnowDays festival**, which will be held between mid-January and February

Photo: achinthamb



SON OF THE SOIL

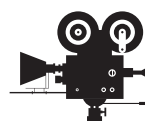
After "Naatu Naatu" paved India's way to the Oscars, SS Rajamouli became a global celebrity and one of the most recognised directors in India. He shares with us his passion for storytelling and walks us through his humble origins

TEXT: AARTI KAPUR SINGH

Before 2015, not many Bollywood buffs had heard of Koduri Srisaila Sri Rajamouli. Then, *Baahubali* happened and SS Rajamouli became a household name. His most recent film, the magnificent period drama *RRR* became a global blockbuster, crossing the Rs 1,200-crore mark at the box office, with the chartbuster song "Naatu Naatu" bagging two prestigious awards – an Oscar and a Golden Globe. He was also included in the 2023 Time's list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Speaking about his latest feat, a humble Rajamouli says, "I am only doing what I enjoy, and I sleep well knowing I give my best to all that I do. That is the biggest reward for me."

Rajamouli says he was passionate about storytelling ever since he was a toddler. "I must have been six or seven years old when my grandmother introduced me to the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharata* and the *Bhagavata Purana*.





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THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION, Government of India, has

upgraded its Air Sewa portal, which is accessible through both interactive web portal and mobile app. The new version includes the following features:

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

Air Sewa is available at www.airsewa.gov.in

For Rajamouli, the action never stops. The director says he is already shooting his next film with Mahesh Babu - a globetrotting action adventure. "It's going to be a kind of James Bond or Indiana Jones," he adds.



64



My mother was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva. Everything I did, had a story going on in the background," he says, adding, "If mom was churning milk and I was playing, she would make me sit next to her and tell me stories of Krishna. If I was helping her in the house, she would tell me about Ganapati's birth."

It was when his father introduced him to *Amar Chitra Katha* comics, (a series of illustrated books for children) did the impact get cemented. "It was magical to see the artwork that actually came to life in my mind". "All the characters were larger than life for me. So, if someone blames me for thinking large scale, in my defence, I've been painting grand canvases since I was six."

The fact that his mother was keen on him learning English and would take him to watch English-language films in the nearby

towns, added to his vivid storytelling. "*Ben-Hur*, *The Magnificent Seven*, and so many other films impacted me immensely," says the director.

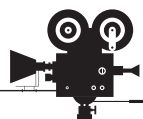
Changing Times

From belonging to a family of wealthy landowners in a prosperous village, Rajamouli and his family had to move to a two-room apartment when he was a teenager because of financial losses.

Speaking about the lowest phase as his greatest teacher, Rajamouli says, "It wasn't easy to get back on track and it took a long time for us to get stable. This low period changed my attitude towards work. I decided to never take anything for granted. I was sure I would not settle for the mediocre. That period made me fastidious about perfection, and that became my work ethic. Every single scene or shot had to be perfect, no matter how important or not it might be in the larger narrative. And that attitude has stayed."

The Ascent

Rajamouli started his film career as an apprentice to veteran film editor,





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Ponder On



Rajamouli is an avid film buff. His favourite films are *Forrest Gump* (1994); *Mayabazar* (1957); *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981); *Kung Fu Panda* (2008); *Aladdin* (1992); *Braveheart* (1995); *Apocalypto* (2006); *Ben-Hur* (1959); *Django Unchained* (2012) and *The Lion King* (1994).

The director has not delivered a single flop in his career so far. The record was previously held by Tamil filmmaker S. Shankar before some of his recent flicks failed to create magic at the box office.

Rajamouli is a big fan of Malayalam superstar Mohanlal and wishes to work with him very soon.



(Left to right) SS Rajamouli, Steven Spielberg and MM Keeravani

Image: imdb.com



Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao, "just to escape my father's rebukes and scoldings," he says. "When I sat at the editing table, I felt I would have captured the shot another way, or introduced something to enhance the storytelling. I started realising that god was in the details, which could only come in via a director who understands the value of details," he adds. After being an assistant director to Kranthi Kumar, and then his father Vijayendra Prasad for six years, and a tenure as a screenwriter, Rajamouli shifted to Hyderabad from Chennai, where he directed a short film with K. Raghavendra Rao, along with a few commercials.

It was during the two years he spent directing the ETV serial, *Santhi Nivasam*, along with Vara Mullapudi, that he finally became "financially stable and also a workaholic," he quips, adding, "18-hour shifts made me infamous as the work devil."

In 2009 came *Magadheera*, made with a budget of around

Rs 40 crore (the most expensive Telugu film at the time), that catapulted him into the big league. "It was the first Telugu film to list a 'visual effects producer' in its credits. The way the film performed, gave me enough confidence to know this is how I wanted to do what I wanted to do," says Rajamouli.

Future of Grandeur

The director who redefines 'grand canvas' has even bigger plans for future. He is already shooting his next film with Mahesh Babu - a globetrotting action adventure. "It's going to be a kind of James Bond or Indiana Jones film with Indian roots - that's all I can tell you," he says. Rajamouli is also signed with the American talent agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA), with whom, if reports are to be believed, he is working on a live-action animated film rooted in Indian content. His dream is "to make a film based on the *Mahabharata*. It will be at least a four-part project made over a decade or so!"



Ayushman Bharat

A flagship scheme of the Indian government, Ayushman Bharat aims to provide a health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to poor and vulnerable families in the country. Since its inception in 2018, around Rs 1 lakh crore has been saved in treatment costs, as per the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In fact, under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, over 1 crore digital OPD registrations have been done across 2,600 health centres.



Soaring high

International Civil Aviation Day, held on December 7 every year, recognises the noteworthy developments and technological advancements in the sector. Let's delve into its significance

The date (December 7) commemorates the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) in

1944



The day was established in 1994 as part of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) 50th anniversary activities and was officially recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in

1996

The occasion is dedicated to reinforcing worldwide awareness about the importance of international civil aviation and the unique role of the ICAO in promoting a global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind

The International Civil Aviation network carries over four billion passengers annually



At the

40th

session of the ICAO Assembly in 2019, countries adopted a resolution on Innovation in Aviation, recognising the potential of cutting-edge aeronautical and scientific developments to improve air transport

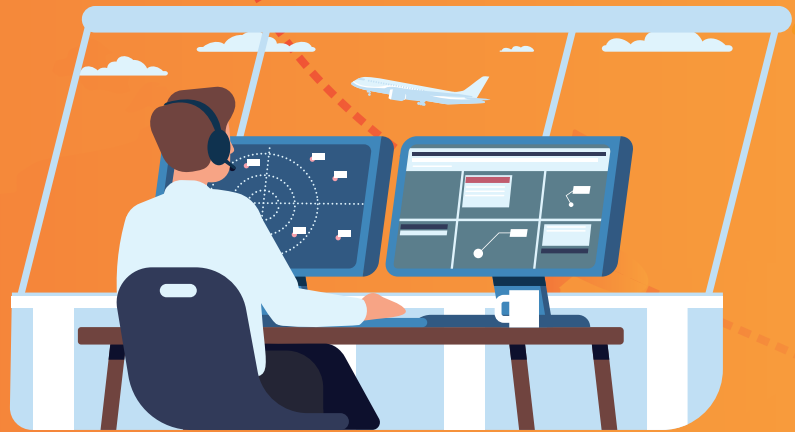
As per the ICAO, the global air transport sector supports

65.5

million jobs and USD

2.7

trillion in global economic activity



The ICAO Council comes up with a special theme for the day every five years. From 2019-2023, the theme has been “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”



Civil aviation, which began gaining popularity around mid-1920s, soared after World War II

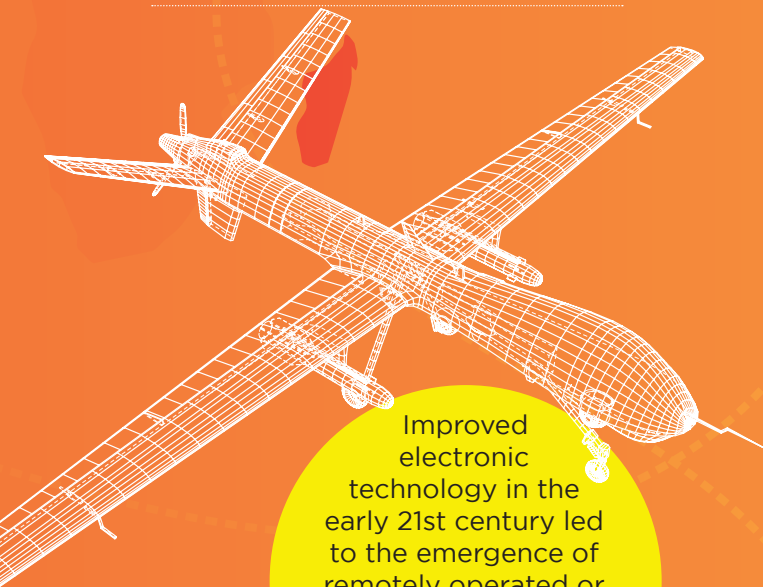
The aviation industry has over 10 million women and men working in the sector and around

120,000

flights, and it services 12 million (approx) passengers in a day



69



Improved electronic technology in the early 21st century led to the emergence of remotely operated or autonomous robot aircraft called unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones

As per ICAO's latest report, the number of women employees in the civil aviation sector increased from 4.5 per cent in 2016 to 4.9 per cent in 2021 globally



DECEMBER 2023

YOUR FORECAST THIS MONTH



ARIES

You are waiting for things to move forward. You will stay away from someone who was cold at your work. You might be considering a new field of work. A third party could mess up your relationship. Travelling overseas is on the cards. If someone is not making payments on time, it's time to call. Legal problems are getting solved.



TAURUS

You will try to put off work for a while. Connect with your feelings. Expect a delay in affairs concerning finances. You are going to be surprised by a new romantic possibility. Your upper back could bother you; your body needs rest. Take measures to improve your overall well-being; you will be happy with the results.



GEMINI

Things have been slow for you, but your business interests will prosper. You will be receiving money that was long due. You may feel a little unfulfilled with your partner and might want to explore other romantic interests. Have an optimistic attitude. Take some time out and pursue what you enjoy.



CANCER

Memories will begin to fade away and new opportunities are likely to knock at your doors. You will discuss a business idea. You will feel uplifted and will socialise. Someone will help you collect money that is owed to you, or you might begin a new enterprise that will bring in more money. Do not overindulge in food.



LEO

Be prepared for the added responsibilities. You're going to be overworked but will complete your tasks successfully. There could also be a change of residence. You will be apprehensive about your financial condition due to a setback. Be determined to get what you want; the goal is within reach.



VIRGO

You are going to make a resolution and will have to give something up to make room for another. This could be a major purchase or a choice between family and the one you love. There will be small gains in your finances. You won't feel capable of mastering the steps it takes to succeed, but someone will come along who will help you or make your work easier.



LIBRA

Surprise is on the cards! There might be a sudden surge in your business/career or you might get a call from a romantic interest. You will be pursuing spiritual interests, like something in metaphysics. Expect to hear some good news. You might regret an impromptu expenditure, but it will turn out to be a wise decision.



SCORPIO

You are going to be surprised by an unexpected appearance in your life. A business proposal or a new source of income will soon be presented to you. A package you've been waiting for will arrive. Financial gain will come through investments or speculations. You need a break from all work and worries.



SAGITTARIUS

You're in for a period of seclusion and/or unavoidable family obligations. Travel might be necessary but you will avoid it. The work that you love will become an unbearable chore and you will be frustrated in other areas as well. You will suddenly come into more money but assertiveness is required to hold onto it.



CAPRICORN

New ideas or avenues will come to the fore; expect substantial gains. Your financial situation will be good as you will acquire money through a project. You might feel nostalgic and think about a past lover. New avenues will spring from the old, in both your business and your personal affairs.



AQUARIUS

A tough working environment or an unpleasant situation will come to an end and will be replaced with a new perspective. You will have to confront someone over a money issue and will receive the money that was due. You want to share your deepest feelings with someone but will choose to keep them to yourself.



PISCES

Something regarding career advancement will be handed over to you before you express the desire for it. You will have to deal with unpleasant people at work and will feel that you are wasting your time, but eventually, the tension will dissipate. A lover will call and a sweetheart will arrive or many admirers might try to pursue you.

Tarot card reader and holistic healer Poonam Sethi believes in the power of giving. With a career spanning more than three decades, Sethi today is an internationally-acclaimed tarot card reader, Reiki healer, colour therapist, Feng Shui practitioner, crystal healer, a specialist in removal and balancing the negative evil eye energies and a *rudraksha* consultant. She is also the author of *The Power of Feng Shui*, which offers 90 practical and efficient tips to improve one's life. For details, contact – poonamsethi27@hotmail.com





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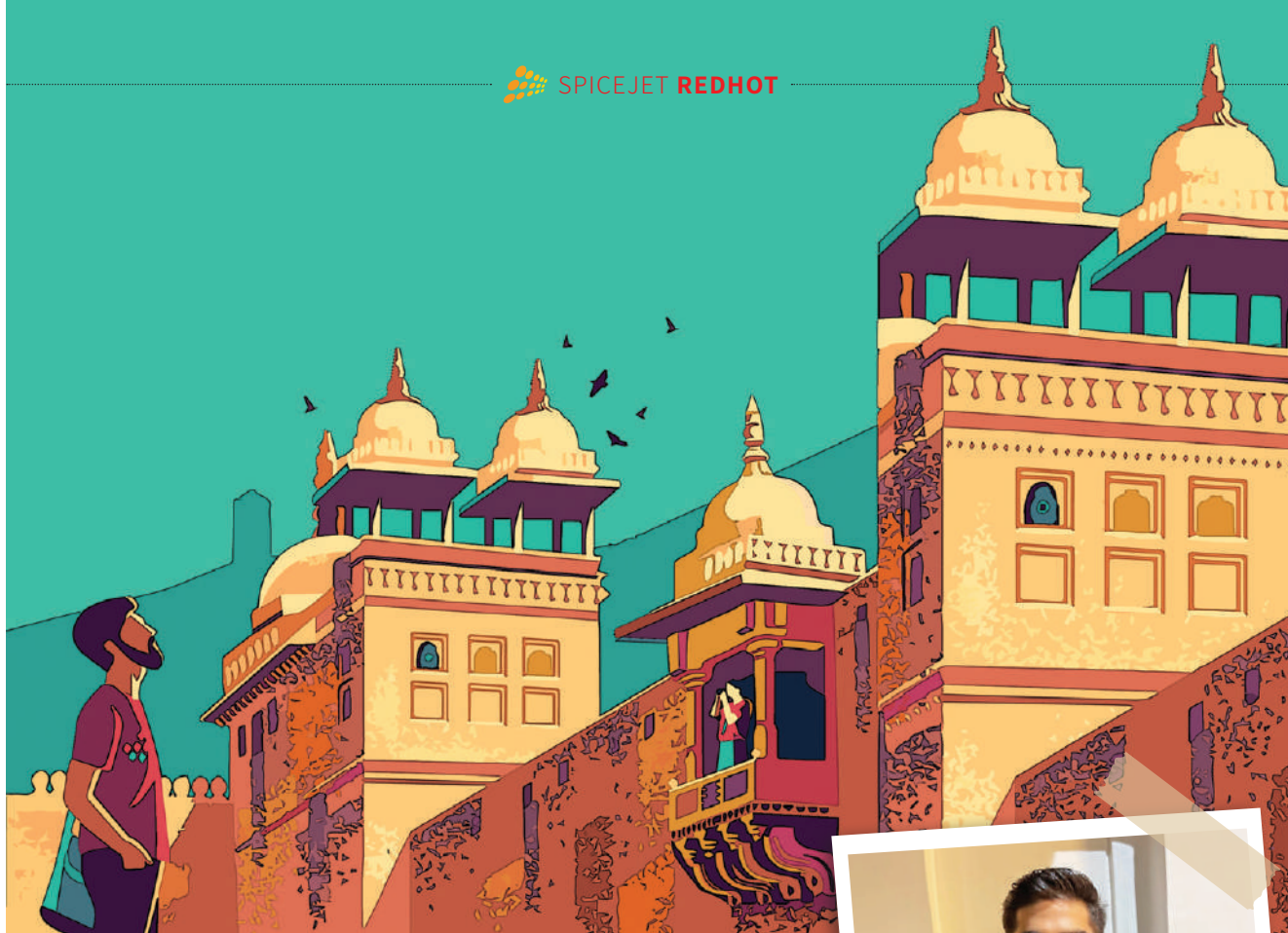


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My Town

In our series, in which we travel to various Indian cities with a SpiceJet family member, this time, Rahul Khandelwal, Cabin Crew (Jaipur), takes us around his hometown.



MR. RAHUL KHANDELWAL
CABIN CREW, JAIPUR

Are you originally from Jaipur?

I hail from Jaipur, often referred to as the 'Pink City' due to its distinctive pink buildings. This vibrant city is my place of birth, where I was brought up.

What is the quality of life here?

Life in Jaipur is peaceful and vibrant, characterised by its cultural richness and a plethora of attractions, including historical landmarks, lively markets, delicious cuisine, and warm hospitality.

What is the best thing you like about the place?

Jaipur is a top choice for international tourists, offering a unique blend of historical treasures and modern amenities. Visitors can explore various places like the Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Albert Hall Museum, leopard safaris and temples, among other places, and enjoy the vibrant local arts and crafts scene, making it a well-rounded destination.

What is the night scene here like?

Jaipur's night scene is a mesmerising tapestry of history and modern lifestyle. The architectural gems, such as Hawa Mahal and Amer Fort, are bathed in soft, golden light, casting an enchanting aura. Amidst the bustling markets, you'll discover the thrill of shopping beneath a canopy of stars. This place hosts nightlife for all the night owls who wish to make memories like never before. A special mention goes to Nahargarh Fort,



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ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be an Indian National or an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) • Age: 17 to 35 years
- Minimum height: 158 cm (approximately 5 feet 2 inches) • Must be fluent in English (both verbal and written)
- Minimum Educational Qualification: Higher Secondary (10+2) with a minimum score of 60% each in English, Physics and Mathematics

where witnessing the sunset and the city view, adorned with stars and city lights, is a magical experience. Jaipur shines when the sun goes down.

As compared to other big cities, how different is the lifestyle in Jaipur?

Compared to other major cities, Jaipur offers a lifestyle which is steeped in tradition and culture. It's a city where you can experience the grandeur of historical architecture, savour traditional Rajasthani cuisine, and immerse yourself in the vibrant local arts and crafts scene. The pace of life is often seen as more leisurely, allowing for a deeper appreciation of the city's rich heritage.

Are you a foodie? What is your favourite eating place in Jaipur?

Yes, I love eating Rajasthan food, especially *dal baati churma*. My favourite place to enjoy authentic Rajasthani cuisine is Chokhi Dhani. It offers a unique cultural and culinary experience, where you can relish traditional Rajasthani dishes in a rustic and traditional setting. The ambience, cultural folk dance performances, and the opportunity to savour local delicacies in an authentic Rajasthani village atmosphere make it a delightful dining experience.

How did you discover the eating place?

Whenever I venture out with my family or friends, I make it a point to explore new diners. My selection process involves factors such as the menu, ambience, location, and of course, reviews. Based on my personal experiences, I find that reviews are the most reliable source for assessing the quality, service, and other contributing factors of a dining establishment.

Why do you like the place so much?

At Chokhi Dhani, the dining experience is steeped in traditional Rajasthani culture. Guests are seated at low wooden tables in a rustic and earthy ambience and are given a warm welcome with *tika* and flower



garlands. Handwashing precedes the meal. Food is served on a *thali* with a variety of dishes, and wait staff, dressed in traditional attire, who provide refills for an enjoyable dining experience. The all-you-can-eat model allows unlimited servings, complemented by Rajasthani music and dance performances. Some locations offer buffet-style dining, giving guests the choice to help themselves to a range of dishes.

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE DISH AT THIS PLACE.

Among all the delectable dishes out there, I have a particular soft spot for *moong dal ka halwa*. As a sweet tooth, this Indian dessert holds a special place in my heart. The creamy texture, the nutty flavour of split yellow moong beans, and the delightful sweetness of sugar, all infused with aromatic cardamom, create a heavenly treat.



Have you been around the places?

Absolutely, spending time with friends and family is always enjoyable, and Jaipur is a wonderful city to do just that. Particularly during festivals and special occasions, many monuments and buildings in Jaipur adorn themselves with dazzling fairy lights, transforming the cityscape into a mesmerising wonderland. The radiant glow of these lights against the backdrop of historic structures creates a magical and enchanting atmosphere that captivates both locals and visitors.

Which are the best places to hang around in Jaipur?

Jaipur offers a fantastic nightlife experience for those looking to hang out at rooftop cafes and restaurants, trendy clubs, and iconic places like Jal Mahal and Patrika Gate. These spots come alive in the evening, with the city illuminated in a mesmerising display of lights.

What attractions in Jaipur would you recommend to a tourist?

Visit Amer Fort for its grandeur, Hawa Mahal for its iconic facade, City Palace for its architectural blend, Jantar Mantar for its astronomical wonders, Nahargarh Fort for panoramic views and Jal Mahal for serene beauty. Explore local markets, savour Rajasthani cuisine, attend cultural performances, and visit the Elephant Sanctuary to get a taste of Jaipur's history.



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Customer Experience

PANKAJ CHOUDHARY
GURUGRAM



Internal appreciation: Mr. Pankaj is a reliable person and a team player who has been consistent in his endeavours. He is a valuable asset to the department as well as the organisation. It's a pleasure to work with him. Keep up the good work!

Experience with SpiceJet:

Ever since I have joined SpiceJet, every day has been full of learning and growth opportunities. I want to thank my seniors for recognising my potential and helping me grow, learn and adapt. I've had a great time working here.

76

Ancillary Business

HEMANT SHARMA
GURUGRAM



Internal appreciation: Hemant is a valuable asset of the team and has emerged as a team player. His focus on business reporting and improving processes along with a go-getter attitude makes him one of the best performers in the ancillary revenue team. He has a positive influence on his team and he faces all challenges with courage.

Experience with SpiceJet: I have been a part of this company for more than eight years. The journey has been extremely fulfilling and I feel very fortunate. With the organisation's support and guidance from seniors, I have polished my skills. I sincerely thank my organisation and I am extremely proud to be a part of it.

HR

ARJUN SINGH
GURUGRAM



Internal appreciation: Arjun's unwavering commitment towards cultivating a harmonious employee experience is appreciated by all. His compassionate approach helps him in achieving the team goals. His remarkable support in fostering a positive work environment is commendable.

Experience with SpiceJet:

Almost 17 years ago, I embarked on a journey with SpiceJet and today, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment. SpiceJet has not just been my workplace but also my second home; a platform for personal and professional growth, and a community of dedicated individuals working towards a common goal.

Training

PRATHAMESH KULKARNI
HYDERABAD



Internal appreciation: Prathamesh is a hardworking individual who puts sincere efforts in all his endeavours. He takes good care of all his teammates as well as other people around him. He is friendly and is ready to face all challenges with utmost perseverance and bravery.

Experience with SpiceJet:

I have been with SpiceJet for around four years. It feels really good when passengers compliment you and appreciate your efforts. I would like to thank everyone for being there through this journey. In the end, I would like to end with a spin-off of a popular song: "crew bag in hand...I leave home...waving goodbye with a fresh and positive smile..."

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NEWS

SpiceJet Operates Ten Special Flights to Repatriate Thai Nationals from Israel

SpiceJet operated ten special flights, repatriating more than 3000 Thai nationals from Tel Aviv, Israel. The airline used its Airbus A340 aircraft for these special flights.

These special flights, conducted between October 20 and 31, included routes from Tel Aviv to Bangkok and Tel Aviv to Fujairah in United Arab Emirates.

In addition to facilitating the return of Thai citizens, SpiceJet also operated multiple flights carrying Indian nationals from Israel to India.

The airline has actively participated in various repatriation efforts led by the Indian government. SpiceJet played a crucial role in uniting families, ensuring the transportation of essential supplies during the pandemic, and has always actively engaged in government-led repatriation and evacuation operations such as 'Operation Kaveri' and 'Operation Ganga'.

SpiceJet Expands Its Network; Adds 44 Flights

In a significant boost to its network for the winter schedule, SpiceJet announced the addition of 44 flights that will serve new and existing routes. The airline also inducted eight Boeing 737s, including four 737 Max.

Picturesque Shillong will be connected with Kolkata for the first time on SpiceJet's network with daily flights. SpiceJet is also enhancing connectivity between Chennai & Pune, Hyderabad & Kolkata and Jaipur & Delhi.

The airline has launched a daily flight connecting Mumbai with Bangkok. SG 81 will depart from Mumbai at 4:10 a.m. and reach Bangkok at 10:10 a.m. (local time). On its return journey, SG 82 will depart from Bangkok at 10:40 p.m. (local time) to reach Mumbai at 2:10 a.m.

Shilpa Bhatia, Chief Commercial Officer, SpiceJet said, "We are excited to enhance our network and add 44 flights in our winter schedule. This expansion allows us to better serve the increasing passenger demand across the country. Flights have been carefully selected with a strong focus on passenger convenience, providing them with a wider range of travel options."





MEDISPA

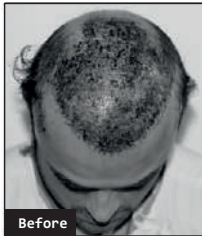
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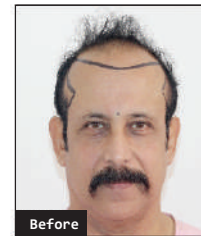
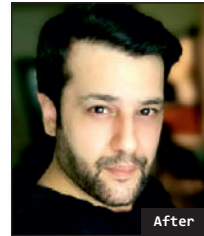
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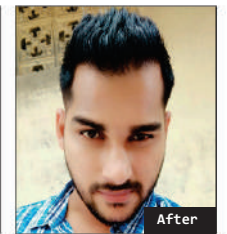
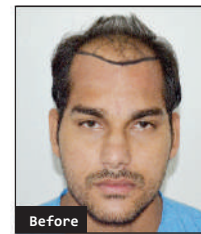
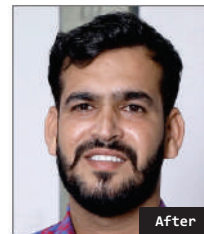
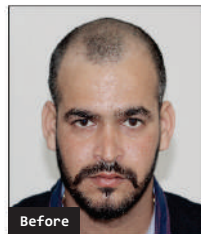
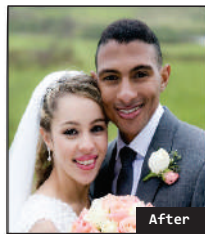
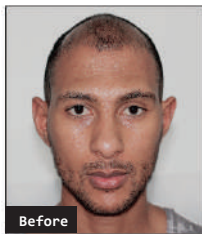
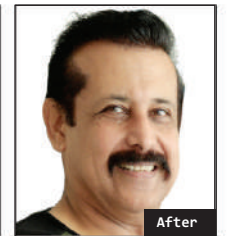
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