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FROM THE CMD'S DESK



AJAY SINGH
Chairman and Managing Director

DEAR READERS,

Welcome aboard SpiceJet!

Hello February! With spring right around the corner, this is the perfect time to re-orient, re-calibrate and re-focus on the goals and aspirations of the New Year. At SpiceJet 3.0, our renewed focus on strengthening our core deliverables and enhanced customer experience will help us deliver exceptional passenger experience right from the start of their journey.

In a resounding vote of confidence in our brand strength and market leadership, top Financial Institutions, FIIs, HNIs, and private investors have collectively infused fresh capital of INR 744 Crore into the Company on a preferential basis in the first tranche. This substantial capital injection establishes a robust financial footing, propelling us toward our ambition of establishing a world-class airline.

A significant portion of these funds will be allocated towards network expansion and the introduction of new routes, as well as bolstering our fleet with additional aircraft. Additionally, resources will be dedicated to the revitalization of grounded planes, ensuring their return to active flight operation. This strategic allocation underscores our commitment to delivering exceptional service and expanding our reach within the aviation industry.

India is undoubtedly one of the most exciting aviation markets in the world with huge potential for growth. However, it's important to

note that less than 5% of Indians currently fly. With aspirations rising and optimism surging across the country, more Indians are eagerly embracing air travel, many for the first time. We are confident that over the next 12 to 18 months, our fleet will double in size.

With this expanding fleet and our commitment to enhanced service delivery, SpiceJet is uniquely positioned to cater to this growing demand. We are poised to not only meet but also capture a significant share of this burgeoning market.

We are delighted to announce the addition of the historic city of Ayodhya to our network. Scheduled non-stop flights now link Ayodhya with major cities including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Darbhanga, Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai, and Patna. As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing connectivity, we are in the process of increasing frequencies on existing routes and adding new destinations. This initiative reflects our dedication to providing passengers with convenient travel options and expanding our network to serve diverse travel needs.

SpiceXpress, a subsidiary of SpiceJet, is rapidly expanding its reach. A recent collaboration with Star Air has introduced nine new destinations to its domestic network. With this addition, SpiceXpress now serves a total of 48 destinations, further enhancing its capability to provide door-to-door delivery of goods, including postal parcels, in previously underserved areas. This expansion not only contributes to economic development but also strengthens the logistics sector, playing a vital role in the country's overall growth.

SpiceJet has been a consistent high performer in the aviation space with unmatched leadership in passenger occupancy. We are thankful for your continued preference and support that enabled us to consistently register one of the highest occupancy among domestic airlines.

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has ascended to the position of the top-ranked Indian chess player, marking a remarkable achievement in his career. Notably, Praggnanandhaa is the youngest chess player in the world to have reached the World Cup final. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to him on this significant accomplishment and wish him continued success in his career.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rohan Bopanna for his outstanding victory in the men's doubles final at the Australian Open Tennis Championship 2024. At the age of 43, he has made history by becoming the oldest tennis champion to win a grand slam. Your remarkable achievement is an inspiration to all. May you and Praggnanandhaa continue to reach new heights and bring immense pride and glory to our nation.

Jai Hind!



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#TheAddress, Plot No. 62, Okhla Industrial Area,
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Tel: + 91 11 4301 1111, Fax: +91 11 4301 1199

Advertising: info@maxposuremedia.com

Content contributions: editorial@maxposuremedia.com

INDIA

Bengaluru | One Cowork, Level 2, Sony World Junction,
80 Feet Road, Kormangala, Bengaluru - 560095;
Tel: +91 9036118899

Mumbai | 506-508 Durga Chamber, Veera Desai Extension
Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai - 400053; Tel: +91 9820463341

Kolkata | 132A, S.P. Mukherjee Road, 1st Floor,
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Chennai | Inspire Workspace Gulecha Towers,
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INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

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Turkey | Tan Bilge | Media Ltd
Tel: +90 212 2758433; E-mail: tanbilge@medialtd.com.tr

Hong Kong/Indonesia | Peter Jeffery
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Japan | Yusuke Yamashita | Pacific Business Inc
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Canada | Wayne Saint John; The New Base
Tel: +141 63631388; E-mail: wayne.stjohn@thenewbase.com

Sydney | Charlton D'Silva; Publisher's Internationale
Tel: +612 92523476; E-mail: charlton.dsilva@pubintl.com.au

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BEACH PARADISE

It's beach season! Take a break and explore these hidden beaches in India.

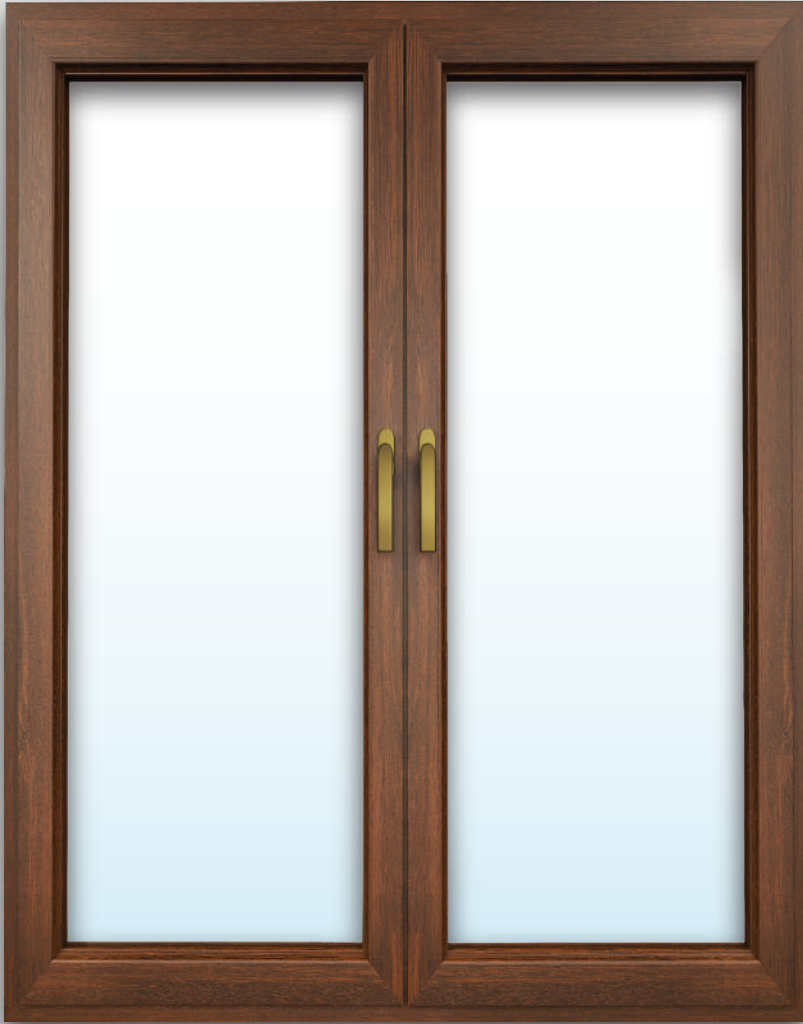


Cover

With the recently inaugurated Ram Mandir in Ayodhya turning into a popular tourist destination, SpiceJet has launched new flights to the divine city. The cover gives a glimpse of the grand temple.



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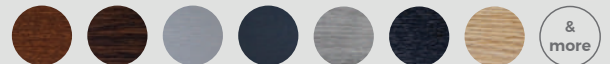


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timeless
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— of —
pure pashmina



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MINDFULNESS FOR BLISSFUL LIVING

Practicing mindfulness creates strong individuals who are self-aware and resilient. Join this journey of understanding as we delve into insights from the visionary founder Dr Manimekalai Mohan on mindfulness in education. Discover its impact on learning, teaching, and parenting.

How does mindfulness support in finding one's purpose of life?

Mindfulness serves as a guiding force in aligning with one's 'Ikigai', the Japanese concept of finding purpose and joy in life. By cultivating mindfulness, individuals gain heightened awareness of their passions, strengths, and the broader needs of the world — integral components of Ikigai. This heightened consciousness allows for a more intentional exploration of one's purpose and a clearer understanding of how personal fulfilment aligns with the greater good, creating a harmonious blend of personal satisfaction and societal contribution.

How can students benefit from practicing mindful learning?

Mindful learning transforms the student experience by encouraging presence, deep engagement and strategic self-care. In academic pursuits, staying fully present during lectures, taking purposeful breaks, mindful eating habits and connecting with study materials on a profound level become paramount. By incorporating mindfulness into their study routines, students not only enhance their academic performance but also nurture a lifelong love for learning, making education a fulfilling and enriching part of their lives.

Why is the young age crucial for practicing mindfulness in personal development?

The formative years of youth serve as a critical period



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

for cultivating mindfulness in personal development. This stage is pivotal for building healthy relationships, fostering academic growth and exploring diverse interests. This foundation becomes instrumental in navigating life's challenges and lays the groundwork for

a lifelong commitment to learning. Moreover, mindful habits established during youth create a framework for making informed choices, thereby shaping a purposeful and meaningful life.

What are the key aspects of mindful teaching in an educational setting?

Mindful teaching is a holistic approach that transforms the educational landscape by emphasising the teacher's presence, adaptability and awareness of students' needs. Fully present in the classroom, mindful educators prioritise cultivating an inclusive and positive atmosphere. This involves active listening to students, understanding their individual learning styles and tailoring teaching methods accordingly. The emphasis is not only on academic growth but also on nurturing the overall well-being of students, creating an environment that fosters both academic success and personal development.

How can mindfulness enhance the parent-child relationship in mindful parenting?

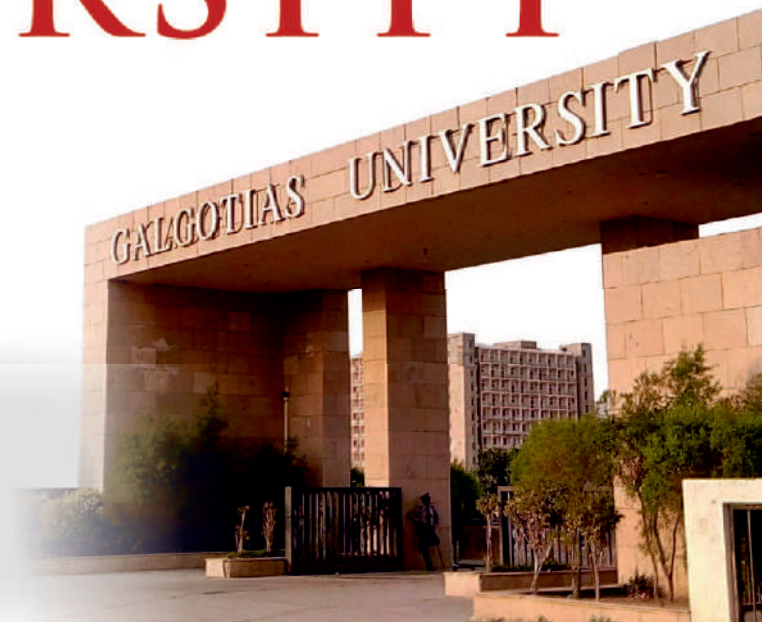
Mindful parenting transcends conventional approaches by emphasising being fully present, understanding, non-judgemental and responding thoughtfully to a child's needs. By practicing mindfulness, parents create a space for open communication, active listening, and genuine empathy. Patience becomes a cornerstone, allowing parents to navigate challenges with a calm and composed demeanour. Mindful parenting involves not only acknowledging a child's emotions but also validating them, contributing to a deeper and more connected relationship. Through mindful parenting, caregivers can instil valuable life skills in their children, paving the way for emotional intelligence, resilience, trust culture and a strong parent-child bond that extends well into the future.



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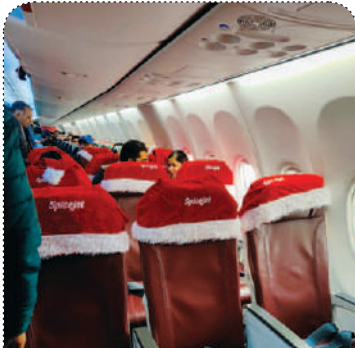
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Thank you @flyspicejet for enhancing our Christmas celebrations with these decorated seats. Special thanks to Munir at SXR airport who went above and beyond to assign seats to all of my friends together and enjoy the view!

@Mishrraaaaaa

Just wanted to appreciate the fact that @flyspicejet social media team on Twitter is really good, the response time is really less. They even replied back at 12 AM.

Good work team.

@radhe1506



Great Flight Experience with @flyspicejet as courteous Cabin Crew like Angrej & Anisha

@dostmumbai

@flyspicejet Today I was travelling from IXJ to SXR in SG 160 pnr PG6TUQ I lost my file in the flight but spicejet staff namely Azhar Hilal really helped me and located the file and handover this to me I am really grateful to him and to of such employees who really work hard...

@sandeep2830

@flyspicejet Mohammad Rouf thanks for being so courteous and making check-in smooth. Best wishes for Mr. Nadeem, Rise and shine...

@malikmassarat

@flyspicejet thank you so much for boarding my fiancée at end moment. I am really very much thankful to executive Mrs. Nisha Parmar for co-operating so much. I am really thank full to the customer executive for understanding our concern 🙏🙏🙏

@Preetshah_28

Hats off to Vandana, an outstanding member of @flyspicejet's ground staff in Goa! 🌟 Her assistance made my journey seamless and enjoyable. Thank you, Vandana, for your exceptional service and warm hospitality! 🙏🙏 #SpiceJet #CustomerAppreciation #TravelGratitude

@_Manish_Mishra

@flyspicejet recently flew on the morning del-sxr flight. This was my parents first flight, huge shoutout to the flight staff - sherin and seema for being super courteous and being so accommodating!

@sargunm1

Excellent work of Spicejet crew on flight SG 8264 from CCU to DEL saved an unconscious passenger's life. A young girl, when co passenger alerted the crew a very calm and efficient action saved the life. Good work. God bless them. @flyspicejet @JM_Scindia

@rajtoshni

@flyspicejet Just wanted to share my experience of today. I accidentally booked a flight with a stop and stretched my flight from 2hrs to 5hrs+. I went to catch the flight and at the spicejet check in counter to check it it's possible to move me into another flight which is faster as it was very important for me to reach Delhi before night. I CANT THANK ENOUGH the spicejet staff at the Bagdogra airport. They made it possible for me and it was so smooth 😊. They even went extra miles and made sure that I didn't miss the flight. They were great!! ❤️❤️

@NKTYAGI007

@flyspicejet Mohammad Rouf and Munir. Both are very nice and helpful.

@imrealakanksha

@flyspicejet Gorakhpur to Delhi. Wonderful service rendered from Vaibhav Tiwari as supporting staff. He is a very helpful guy. Thanx Vaibhav for your support.

@amarkshah

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Events



THINK LIKE A GIRL!

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science aims to promote the participation of women and girls in science and technology. The day honours the contributions made by women in the field.



When: February 11
Where: Around the world

SOULFUL MELODIES

The 12th edition of the Mahindra Blues festival celebrates soulful blues vibes. If you are a fan of soul-stirring rhythms, this event is your next stop. The festival has a line-up of renowned artists.



When: February 10-11
Where: Mumbai, Maharashtra



Image: Mahindrablues.com

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“Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time”

Maya Angelou
American Author

LOSAR FESTIVAL

A Buddhist festival, the vibrant and colourful Losar marks the beginning of the Tibetan New Year and is celebrated with great fervour in the Himalayan region including Ladakh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Darjeeling.



When: February 10
Where: Mostly Himalayan region

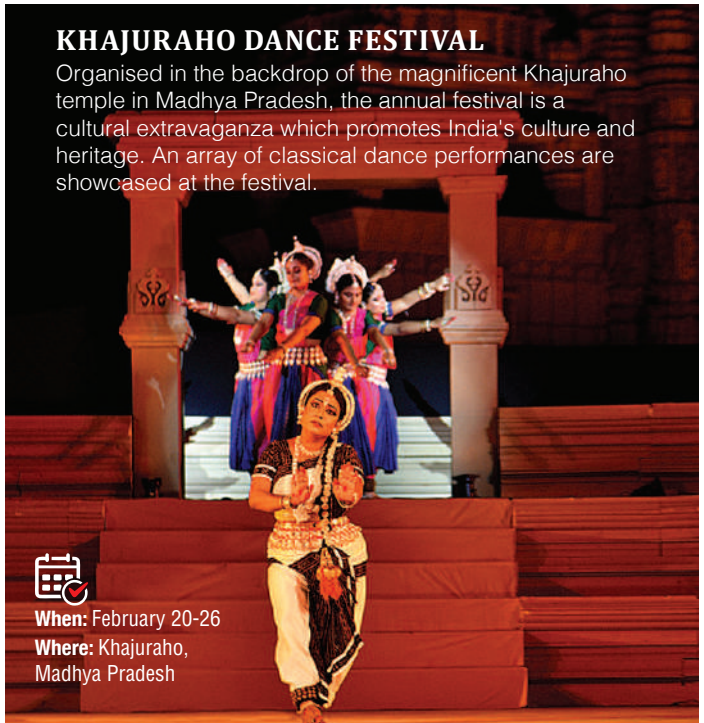


KHAJURAHO DANCE FESTIVAL

Organised in the backdrop of the magnificent Khajuraho temple in Madhya Pradesh, the annual festival is a cultural extravaganza which promotes India's culture and heritage. An array of classical dance performances are showcased at the festival.



When: February 20-26
Where: Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh



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'Critical Zones, In Search of a Common Ground' is a travelling exhibition, which invites visitors to explore new modes of coexistence between all forms of life. One of the editions is being held in New Delhi.



When: February 3-March 3

Where: Goethe-Institute/Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi

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MADAME WEB

The spin-off of Spiderman's 'Madame Web' has finally arrived for all Spiderman fans. Starring Dakota Johnson, the story revolves around a paramedic, who may have some clairvoyant abilities.



When: February 14

Where: Around the world



Image: imdb.com

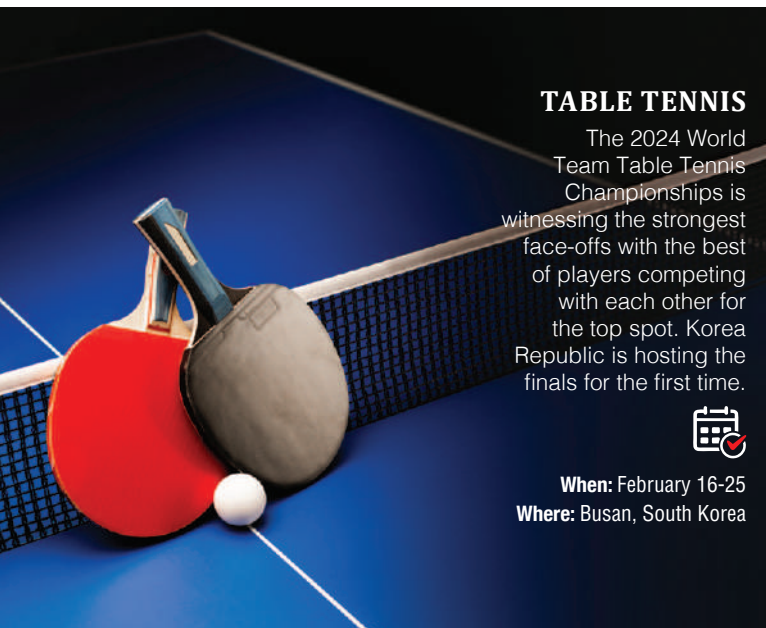
TABLE TENNIS

The 2024 World Team Table Tennis Championships is witnessing the strongest face-offs with the best of players competing with each other for the top spot. Korea Republic is hosting the finals for the first time.



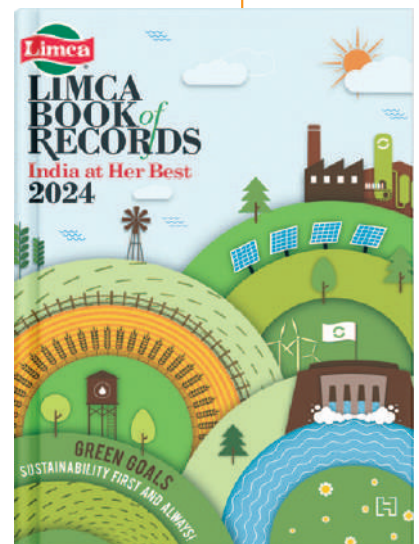
When: February 16-25

Where: Busan, South Korea



LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS

The longest-running record book in India has completed 34 years with the release of its latest edition this year. The Limca Book of Records captures the achievements of Indians in various fields, from business to arts.





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Fashion

BACK TO '90S

Big labels are reimagining our favourite toys and cartoon characters in the most chic way. With luxury brands like Fendi coming up with their new Pokemon collection, it is a perfect walk down memory lane.



Image: Insta/ Fendi

CARE FOR HAIR WOES

From frizzy texture to dry scalp, hair issues can be difficult to manage. The new rosemary & niacinamide haircare range by Nykaa Naturals is sulphate-free and can be the answer to your problems.



ELEVATE YOUR SKINCARE

This year, take a pledge to focus on self-care. Indulge yourself with the floral collection by Marks & Spencer, formulated with essential oils.



BOW DOWN

The social media trend of tying cute little bows is now taking over the glam world. From designers to influencers and brands, everyone has started sporting fashionable bows.





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Visit: www.soa.ac.in

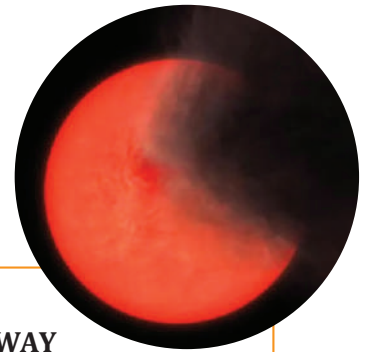
Tech

HYBRID REALITY

If Apple Vision Pro's claims are to be believed, there is no need to visit a theatre anymore! The brand says its mixed reality headset can effortlessly transform any room into a personal theatre. The special features of the headset make you feel a part of the action, especially with Spatial Audio and pixels more than a 4K TV. You can also capture spatial photos and spatial videos in 3D!



Image: apple.com



PUFFING AWAY

A novel star type called "Old Smoker" has been identified by astronomers within the Milky Way galaxy. Scientists discovered 32 such stars in one batch and claimed that they were throwing puffs of smoke at intervals, making them brighter or dimmer. The reason, however, is yet to be determined.



Image: phys.org



RING THE CHANGE

Samsung is expected to launch a new wearable Galaxy Ring. The much-awaited smart ring was teased during the Galaxy Unpacked event recently and is set to be released before the end of this year. The device is expected to be a powerful and accessible health and wellness equipment.

Image: sammobile.com

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With vibrant entertainment and activity centres dotting the region, Jeddah offers varied opportunities for a fulfilling vacation



Route: SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Jeddah from Delhi, Kozhikode and many other cities. Book now at www.spicejet.com

NEARBY

Located close to Jeddah is Dhahban, a vintage small town famous for its seaside resorts and unique vibe. It is much sought after among beach-goers.



Located in the central Hejaz region in Saudi Arabia, Jeddah lies on the coast of the Red Sea. This seaside wonder is a melting pot of cultures, with icons of heritage and adventure in every corner. From exploring its cobbled walkways to beach resorts, there's a lot in store for visitors. Enjoy activities like scuba diving or yachting or explore the historic side of the city at the Al-Balad site that dates back to the seventh century. Watch a relaxing sunset at the gorgeous Thuwal beach.



Image: Lafontaine Rose Beach Resort

DON'T MISS



Image: aboutther.com

See interesting marine species at Fakieh Aquarium. The Art Promenade, Tayebat Museum, and the Jeddah Superdome are well-known. Visit the famous spice markets such as in Souq Al Alawi.

MUST SEE



Relax at the Silver Sands beach, among similar seaside spots. Visit the famed Old Jeddah Gate, the Corniche Circuit to indulge in the thrill of the F1 race, and the popular King Fahd Fountain.

EAT & SHOP



Jeddah's culture manifests itself in the form of ancient souqs such as Souq Al Badu. Relish local seafood, *subia*, a traditional beverage, and *masoub*, a type of pudding.

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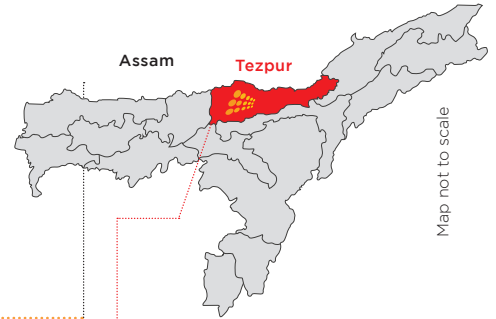
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TEZPUR

Situated on the banks of the Brahmaputra, Tezpur in Assam epitomises legends through pristine sites and beautiful ruins



Route: SpiceJet connects direct and non-stop flights to Tezpur from Kolkata and many other cities in India. Book now at www.spicejet.com

NEARBY

Visit the mesmerising town of Tawang, around 330 km from Tezpur, to witness the Tawang monastery and Gorichen Peak. You can also visit Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary.



Image: tripoto.com

Famous for the folk love story of princess Usha and Aniruddha, Tezpur in Assam is steeped in tales of valour and romance. Apart from its vast stretches of tea gardens, it is also a pilgrimage destination with shrines like Mahabhairav Temple. The historical lineage of Tezpur is preserved in several ruins, two of which are Da-Parbatiya Gate and Bamuni Hills. Visitors can also take a day-long excursion to Bhalukpong (around 60 km) to enjoy the enchanting view of lush green hills.



DON'T MISS



Image: en.wikipedia.org

Visit Agnigarh, the site of the Usha-Aniruddha saga, and Chitraklekha Udyan (Cole Park), which has ancient ruins. Visit the Dak Bungalow, a British colonial building.

MUST SEE



Image: namerimgtr.in

Explore man-made lakes like Padum Pukhuri and Hazara Pukhuri. Drive to the Nameri National Park nearby and visit the Addabarie Tea Estate located on the outskirts.

EAT & SHOP



Sample the GI-tagged Tezpur *litchi*. Buy handicrafts and *mekhela chadar*. Relish Assamese *thali* and local dishes such as *khar* (alkaline dish) and *tenga jhul* (sour fish curry).



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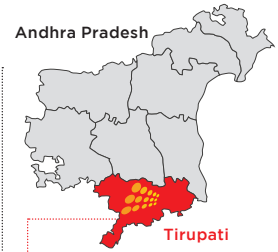
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TIRUPATI

Tirupati is not just a revered site for pilgrims but also known for its abundant architectural marvels and scenic beauty



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

Map not to scale



DON'T MISS



Admire the architecture of the Sri Govindarajaswamy Temple among several others. Nature lovers can stop by the Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary and the Talakona waterfall in Yerravaripalem, around 40 km away.

MUST SEE



Visit the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, the spaceport of India. Also, visit Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park, said to be one of the largest zoos in Asia.

EAT & SHOP



Sample the popular Tirupati laddu. Try local dishes like pongal and pulihora. Shop for souvenirs from local markets like the Tirumala Tirupati Market.

A holy abode with rich architectural heritage, Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh is home to many temples dedicated to Lord Venkateswara. The most revered shrine is the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple or Tirupati Balaji, which attracts devotees in large numbers. The vibrant local culture and sights surely make for a memorable getaway. Tourists also visit the stone arch or the Silathoranam in Tirumala, a rare geological formation. Take a short trip to Chandragiri (around 16 km), and visit the Chandragiri fort, a magnificent specimen of Indo-Saracenic architecture.



NEARBY

Visit the charming Horsley Hills, a part of the Nallamalai range, for enjoying a peaceful and rejuvenating time amidst nature. It is located around 130 km from Tirupati.



Image: equitypandit.com

Image: vijaysweets.com

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National Science Day

Celebrated on February 28 every year, this day marks the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian physicist Sir CV Raman. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for his discovery. The day also focuses on the importance of science and its significance in our day-to-day lives.



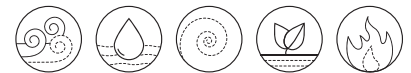
Rooted in Time

Following an urban lifestyle can be stressful and can demand us to be on our toes. Include these simple Ayurvedic practices in your routine to attain calm and holistic well-being!

Lately, B-town celebs have been advocating drinking ghee (clarified butter) coffee or "bullet coffee" in the morning. While ghee is recommended under Ayurveda as a therapeutic agent, combining it with caffeine provides a steady release of energy, according to experts. A cup of ghee coffee can boost productivity, improve focus, and give a sense of satiety, to reduce your overall calorie consumption during the day.



Ayurvedic aromatherapy is becoming popular of late, given its positive impact on sleep, and mental and emotional well-being. This healing technique involves the use of essential oils, either in skincare products or in a diffuser. A few drops of lavender oil, for instance, can have a calming effect while rosemary is known to be good for coping with headaches, owing to its anti-inflammatory properties.



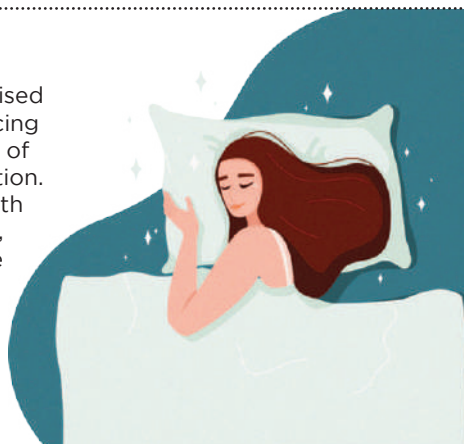
30



To maintain good oral health, a simple Ayurveda routine is oil pulling. Swish a tablespoon of edible oil (like coconut or sesame) in your mouth for a few minutes on an empty stomach and then spit it out, followed by warm water rinse. Researchers say this can cure or control various systemic diseases such as headaches and chronic ailments like asthma and diabetes.



Have elders in your family ever advised you to not sleep with your head facing north? It is said to draw energy out of the body and disturb blood circulation. Ayurveda recommends sleeping with the head facing south or southeast, especially for those who tend to be anxious. Sleeping towards the east (considered a direction of positive waves) is said to particularly benefit students as it enhances memory and concentration.



Self-love is crucial for overall well-being and in Ayurveda, it can be practised through *abhyanga*, for a feeling of stability and for coping with stress. *Self-abhyanga* is about a 15-min practice of full body massage involving rhythmic strokes that increase circulation, eliminate impurities from the body, and improve skin as well as stamina.

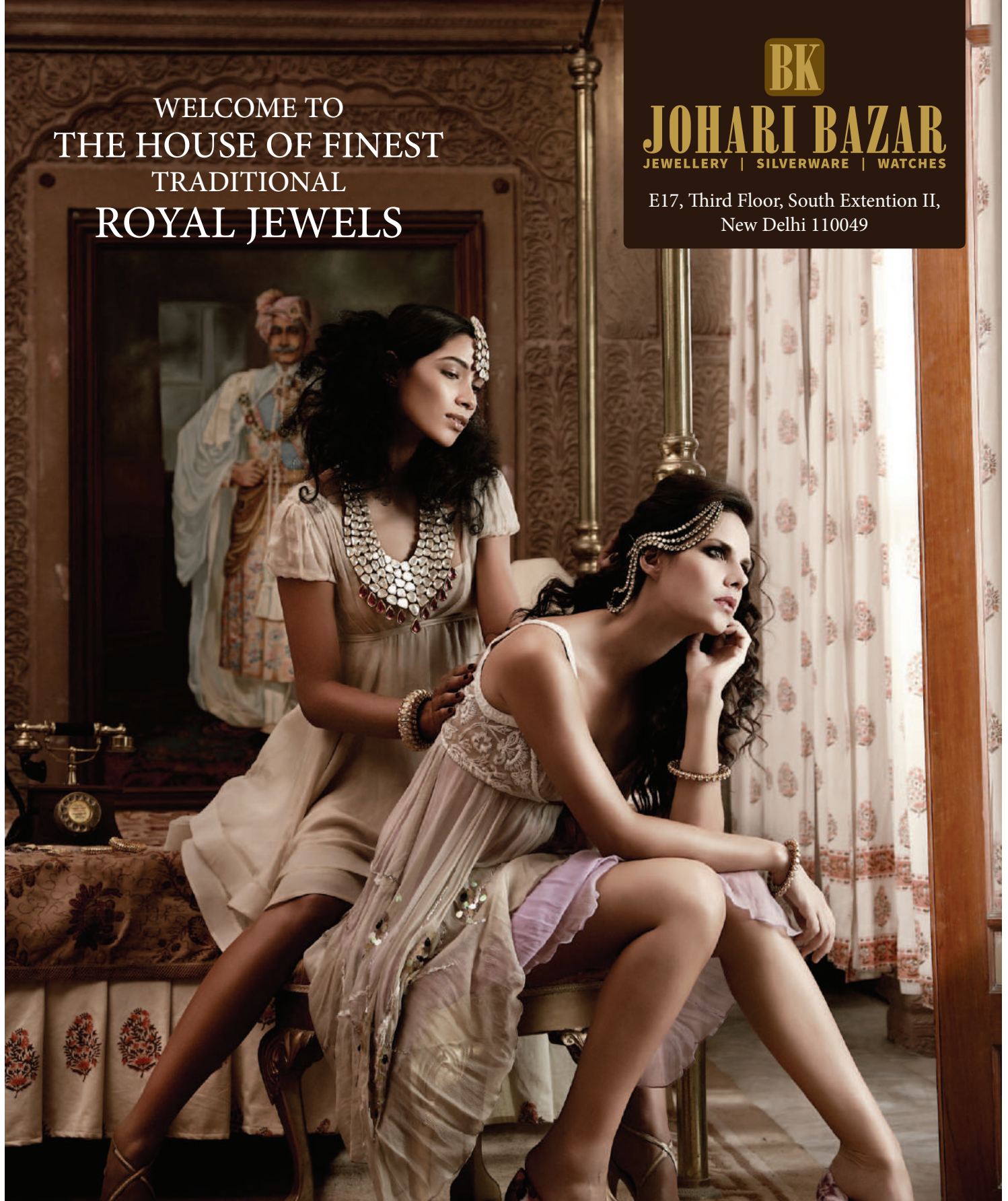
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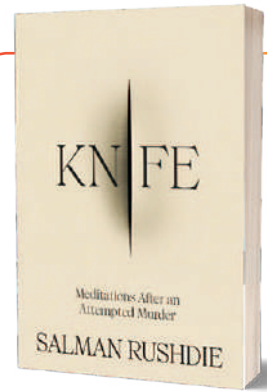
It's a LIT month!

From birthdays of authors to facts about one of the early bestselling novels, here's some trivia for book lovers

The much-anticipated New Delhi World Book Fair 2024 is all set to be held this month at Pragati Maidan. Organised by National Book Trust under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, this mega event brings together book lovers, eminent authors and artists under one roof. Scour the numerous stalls for your favourite book titles, and attend insightful panel discussions and cultural programmes at the book fair, which is being held from February 10-18.

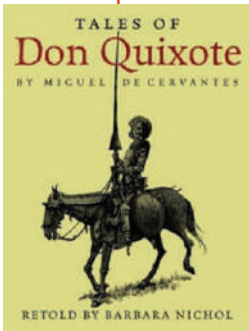


Image: nbtindia.gov.in



The most anticipated reads in 2024 include *Knife* by Salman Rushdie and *Until August* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. One of the best reads so far is *Come and Get It* by Kiley Reid released in January this year. It is a multi-narrative novel set in a college campus.

32



Way before the frenzy surrounding bestselling books begun, it was Miguel de Cervantes' 17th-century Spanish epic *Don Quixote* that created a record by becoming one of the highest selling novels in history with over 500 million copies sold!



Who hasn't heard of Jane Austen's much-acclaimed work, *Pride and Prejudice*! The novel, however, was originally named *First Impressions*. A romantic classic, it was released anonymously in three volumes in the year 1813.

Image: rct.uk

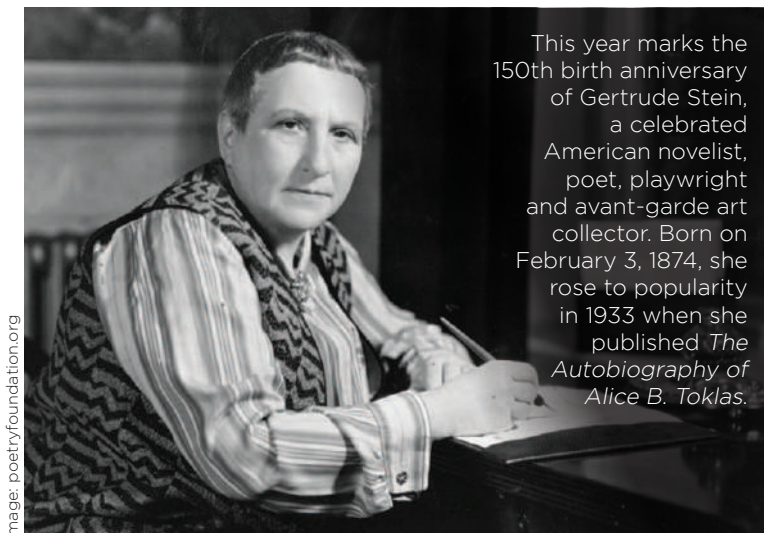
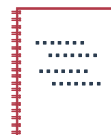


Image: poetryfoundation.org

This year marks the 150th birth anniversary of Gertrude Stein, a celebrated American novelist, poet, playwright and avant-garde art collector. Born on February 3, 1874, she rose to popularity in 1933 when she published *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*.



February, which ushers in a new spirit of life after winter, has inspired many beautiful poems by illustrious authors. *February: 17th* by Ted Hughes, *A Valentine* by Lewis Carroll, *Mirror in February* by Thomas Kinsella, and *1915: February* by Ezra Pound are some well-known ones.



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SAFER INTERNET DAY



Watching the *web*

Observed on February 6 every year, Safer Internet Day, an initiative of the EU SafeBorders project, aims to raise awareness about safety on the internet and promote cyber security. Upholding the slogan of "Together for a Better Internet," it aims to address pertinent concerns regarding cyberbullying, social networking and digital identity and make the internet a safe and ethical space for people of all ages, genders and backgrounds.

Connecting Ayodhya to every corner of India



SpiceJet launched new flight routes to Ayodhya from multiple cities, in an event attended by many prominent dignitaries



SpiceJet started new non-stop flights to Ayodhya in February from eight major cities: Chennai, Jaipur, Patna, Darbhanga, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, connecting to the rest of India. The inaugural flights were virtually launched in an event by Jyotiraditya Scindia, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation, and Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Apart from them, General (Dr) VK Singh (Retd), Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Civil Aviation, Lallu Singh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Faizabad, Vumlungmang Vualnam, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Ajay Singh, CMD, SpiceJet, also graced the grand occasion. SpiceJet is offering exclusive services to Ayodhya from Chennai, Jaipur, Patna and Darbhanga.

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Ayodhya – Jaipur	16:00	17:45	2, 4, 6 & 7
Patna – Ayodhya	14:10	15:15	2, 4, 6 & 7
Ayodhya – Patna	12:40	13:40	2, 4, 6 & 7
Darbhanga – Ayodhya	10:55	12:10	2, 4, 6 & 7
Ayodhya – Darbhanga	09:30	10:35	2, 4, 6 & 7
Ahmedabad – Ayodhya	05:55	08:00	Daily (Except Wed)
Ayodhya – Ahmedabad	12:30	14:25	Daily (Except Wed)
Delhi – Ayodhya	10:40	12:00	Daily (Except Wed)
Ayodhya – Delhi	08:40	10:05	Daily (Except Wed)
Mumbai – Ayodhya	08:20	10:40	Daily
Ayodhya – Mumbai	11:15	13:20	Daily
Bengaluru – Ayodhya	10:50	13:30	1, 3, 5 & 7
Ayodhya – Bengaluru	14:10	16:45	1, 3, 5 & 7

EXCLUSIVE

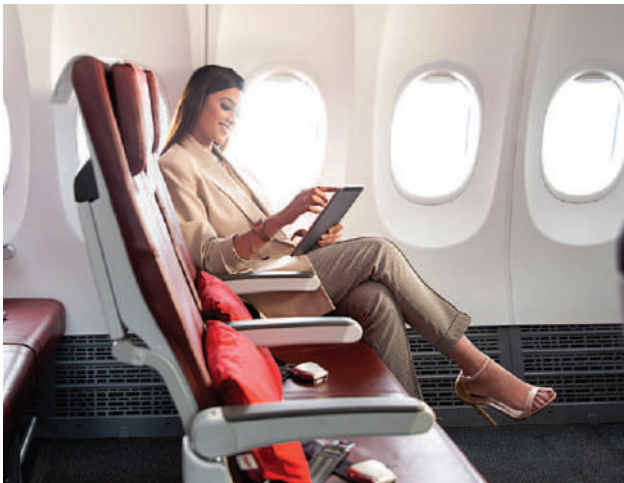


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This service is currently available at selected airports.

Whispers of hidden shores

There's nothing like a serene beach vacation with azure waters and soft sands. Here are a few such stunning, unexplored shorelines across India for your bucket-list

TEXT: BINDU GOPAL RAO



You couldn't have missed Indian Prime Minister's recent iconic images clicked at the bucolic surroundings of Lakshadweep. The brilliant blue of the Arabian Sea softly lapping against the golden sand, with a gentle breeze rustling trees, paint such a tempting picture that the serene islands of the archipelago have been topping many travel wishlists. However, Lakshadweep is not alone in its untouched beauty. India's extensive coastline is dotted with several such sea-side paradises. Here are some beaches that must be on your itinerary this season.

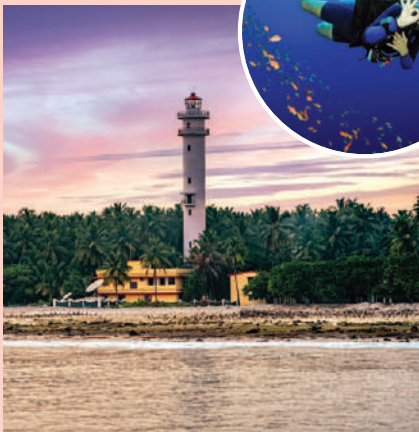
KADMAT, LAKSHADWEEP

Nestled in the heart of a tropical paradise, Kadmat is one of the most exquisite beaches in Lakshadweep, and is also open to international travellers. This idyllic haven boasts a panorama of perfection, with turquoise waters, expanses of powdery white sand, and the rhythmic dance of coconut trees swaying in the breeze. Accessible from Agatti, a flight away, the journey to Kadmat unfolds across about 77 km of azure waters, where speedboats and catamaran vessels await to ferry you to this utopian destination. Kadmat's allure lies in its pristine beauty, while adventure beckons those with a zest for excitement, as the island presents a myriad of water activities. Dive into the depths with professional snorkelling and scuba diving to witness the mesmerising coral reefs. Glide over the aquatic wonders in glass-bottom boats or paddle into the marine realm on a kayak. Kadmat is renowned for deep-sea fishing, adding a dash of excitement for angling aficionados. The exclusive Kadmat Island Beach Resort is the sole accommodation option.



USP

Visit the Minicoy Island for its large lagoon. Indulge in water sports along with the tuna canning factory, and admire the quiet village life. Avail the Marine Wealth Awareness Programme.



FOOD

Try dishes like the *moah appam* made with bananas, and jaggery, and *samak kebab* (fish skewers). Also try the *pathiri*, a pancake made with rice flour.



MARARI BEACH, KERALA



Nestled approximately 14 km away from the bustling town of Alappuzha, Marari Beach unveils itself as a secluded haven. This hidden gem, inhabited by the fisherfolk of Mararikulam, promises a distinctive twist to your Kerala experience. Marari stands out for its commitment to sustainable tourism, offering a myriad of unique encounters with the local culture. For those yearning to witness the serene backwaters of Kerala, this picturesque fishing village effortlessly satisfies that desire. The beach, adorned with swaying coconut palms, not only captivates with its natural beauty but also hosts a cluster of Ayurvedic massage centres, inviting you to unwind and revitalise in the lap of nature. Enjoy long strolls along the shoreline and absorb the breathtaking vistas of nature.

FOOD

Parotta, fish fry, *Kuttanadan duck curry*, well-known in these backwaters, are some of the must-try dishes.



USP

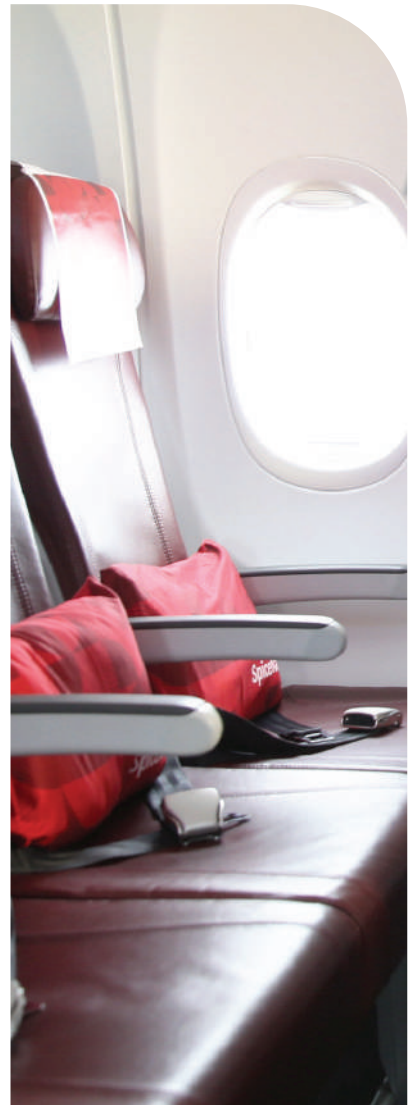
Visit the International Coir Museum and the Ayurveda wellness centres nearby. Indulge in water sports like surfing and others.



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OTTINENE BEACH, KARNATAKA

Situated approximately 80 km from Manipal in Karnataka, Ottinene Beach is a coastal jewel celebrated for its breathtaking backdrops. What sets this beach apart is the confluence of the Byndoor River with the Arabian Sea, a spectacle where river and sea merge. Ascend to a vantage point, and you'll be treated to Instagram-worthy images of the tranquil beach waters, embraced by hills on one side. For an unparalleled experience, time your visit to Ottinene Beach during the magical hues of sunset, transforming the scenery into a visual masterpiece. A quaint Shiva temple graces the area, offering an ideal setting to capture the sun bidding adieu. Stroll along the serene beach, with the quiet broken only by the intriguing presence of crabs, starfish, and other fascinating marine life.



Image: Facebook/ Karnataka focus



FOOD

Kundapur chicken curry and *neer dosa* are quite well-known.



USP

Take a boat ride and enjoy the mangroves, home to several species of birds. Also, visit Kshitija Nesara Dhama and Someshwara Temple located nearby.



Image: fb/Lattitude49



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DUBLAGADI BEACH, ODISHA

Nestled in the heart of Balasore, the concealed gem of Dublagadi Beach beckons, offering an escape to pristine tranquility amidst crystal-clear waters. The beach unveils a natural marvel – the mesmerising spectacle of the blue wave, a manifestation of bioluminescence that adds a magical touch to the shoreline. Beyond its renowned majestic sunsets, the beach

boasts a unique biodiversity, with red crabs and various avian species dotting its landscape, creating a haven for nature enthusiasts. The shoreline is adorned with thick, untouched woodlands of Tamarix trees, providing a picturesque backdrop for those seeking a connection with nature. To enhance the experience, choose to stay in camps or tents.

USP

Some nearby places of interest include the Panchalingeswar mandir, Chandipur beach, and the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary.



Image: lbb.in



FOOD

Try *dal bora* or lentil fritters, savoury crab dish, *pakhala* (fermented rice) and *pitha* (steamed cake). Most campsites offer chicken barbeques.






Image: fb/ Dublagadi Sea Beach

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SHIVRAJPUR BEACH, GUJARAT



Located along the Dwarka-Okha highway, this beach in Gujarat is a haven of tranquillity with picture-perfect backdrops and soothing sea breeze brushing against your face, offering an ideal serene getaway. Watch a mesmerising sunset enveloping this seaside paradise as you feel the touch of salty sea water on your feet. You can also catch a glimpse of dolphins and a variety of birds here. For an immersive thrilling experience, enjoy water activities such as scuba diving, snorkelling and sea bathing in clean waters. It is among the few 'blue flag' certified beaches that focus on providing beach goers clean and hygienic facilities.



FOOD

Try *methi na gota*, *fansi nu shak*, *farsan* (snacks such as *bhakarwadi*, *patra*, *khakra* and others) and a traditional Gujarati *thali*.



USP

Spend some time at the pilgrimage centre of Dwarka, about 12 km away. Close-by is a pristine island, Beyt Dwarka that offers scenic vistas. Visit the Marine National Park at Pirotan to witness beautiful coral reefs.



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BUTTERFLY BEACH, GOA

A hidden treasure in the coastal paradise of Goa, Butterfly Beach emerges as one of the region's most secluded gems, accessible only by boat or a scenic hike. Tucked away in South Goa, this haven lives up to its name, particularly during low tides when it becomes a fluttering sanctuary for butterflies. Beyond this enchanting spectacle, the beach unveils a thriving marine world during low tides, showcasing crabs, goldfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and vibrant redfish. Dolphin enthusiasts will be delighted, as sightings are common here. Sunset unveils a breathtaking panorama. For a more immersive experience, consider a tranquil canoe ride along the meandering streams that grace the surroundings. The semi-circular bay, adorned with turquoise blue waters, is embraced by lush landscapes, earning it the affectionate moniker of the "honeymoon beach," making it a romantic retreat for couples.

Image: referms.com



USP

Located close-by is the Fort Cabo de Rama. Try activities like kayaking.



FOOD

Don't miss *vindaloo* (a Portuguese dish), *sanna*, a moist spongy rice cake, *solantule kodi*, a piquant coconut curry, and *kokum* curry.



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Symphony of Clouds

From scenic natural escapades to vibrant culture and culinary delights, explore the diverse wonders of Shillong and its neighbouring regions this season

TEXT: SHUVAJIT PAYNE AND KUNAL BHATIA

HIGHLIGHTS



MUST-SEE

Take a road trip to Mawsynram and Cherrapunjee, considered the wettest places on Earth



USP

With colonial heritage, pretty lakes and hills, Shillong is rightly called the 'Scotland of the East'



WHAT TO DO

Visit Shnongpdeng near the Bangladesh border, for riverside camping and other adventure activities



HISTORY TIP

Visit the Capt. Williamson Sangma State Museum for an insight into ethnic tribal culture and traditions



Map not to scale

Route: SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Shillong from Delhi, Kolkata, Bagdogra, Bengaluru and many more cities in India. Book now at www.spicejet.com



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Picture a canvas woven in winding alleyways, painted in shades of mists and clouds. Overlay this dreamscape with the ever-present rhythm of a youthful soul strumming a guitar - that's the mood you step into when you enter Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya.

SCENIC GATEWAY

The airport-side approach to the city will make it abundantly clear that breathtaking mountains and valleys are a common sight here. The expansive Umiang Lake at dusk or dawn, with cascading hillsides in hues of blue, weaves a surreal experience. Nature lovers are in for a treat as they wander about the place, be it the panoramic view at the end of a meandering path to the Laitkor Peak, treading the

What's More

NATURE'S MYSTERY

Root bridges are a staple of traditional Khasi architecture, facilitating daily pedestrian movement. Not just the Nohwet living root bridge at Mawlynnong, one of Asia's cleanest villages, equally picturesque ones can be spotted at Nongbareh, Padu, Sohra and Nongriat, some of which are double-decker root bridges.



Image: insta/meghtourism



FLAVOURS FOR FOODIES

On the top floor of the Don Bosco Centre, one can taste the diversity of Northeastern cuisines. But the authentic local flavours are in the roadside stalls of momos and *jadoh* (a rice and meat preparation). Taste a slice of Shillong's teenage nostalgia packed in Jeves' Food Corner, or head to the Red Rice in the bustling Police Bazar for a Khasi *thali*. For the adventurous, *doh snam* (blood sausages), exotic meat, and fried silkworms await! Pickles made of fiery chillies, bamboo shoots, and berries are perfect gastronomic souvenirs.



LOCAL INDULGENCE

The abundance of fruits and berries, such as the *sohiong* (black cherry), in Meghalaya's hills and forests makes for exceptional homemade wine. Local shops stock affordable fruit wine throughout the year, but the real magic happens at the stalls of spirited local entrepreneurs during Shillong's countless festivals. One insider tip: sip the pocket-friendly Bhutanese Zumzin peach wine.



Image: Just Shillong



Best Time to Visit:
The most apt time for a trip to Shillong is between February and June, which is when the weather is quite pleasant.

Shillong is around 100 km from Guwahati, Assam.

gravel path surrounding Ward's Lake, the exhilarating above-the-clouds escapade at the Laitlum Canyons, or the multitude of gushing waterfalls including the Elephant Falls or the Spread Eagle Falls. For the adventurous, a trek through the Khasi Hills along the verdant David Scott forest trail promises a delightful experience peppered by crystal-clear pools and serene valleys.

While exploring the surrounds on a day road trip, make sure to stop at the iconic Nohkalikai Falls, one of the tallest plunge waterfalls in India, in the lush Sohra region. The ethereal sight of the waters cascading down evergreen hills is straight out of a dream. Not very far away, experience the thrill of adventure at Mawmai Cave where you can spot fossils, or stop at the scenic Mawkdok for a cup of tea.

In the West Khasi Hills, a few hours from Shillong, you will be awestruck by the beauty of the biggest river island in Meghalaya, Nongkhnum, where you can seek solace as you bask in the sun or go boating or fishing. The island is surrounded by waterfalls and rare biodiversity, and often hosts local festivals.

CULTURAL SYNTHESIS

Shillong's ubiquitous English architectural influence is epitomised in the forest houses, churches, and educational institutes that dot the city. One of the oldest buildings here is the restored All Saints' Cathedral with striking wooden structures. Equally captivating are the stained glass installations at Cathedral Catholic Church in Laitumkrah. This old-world colonial charm thrives seamlessly alongside the flourishing and diverse tribal heritage - the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo tribes, among others, each with their unique identity,



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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

BORDER TOWN

Visit the tranquil town of Dawki (around 80 km from Shillong) near the India-Bangladesh to witness the crystal-clear Umngot River. As you gasp at the vast expanse of the river, make a stop at the Dawki-Tamabil border crossing, where the army personnel on the other side of the border oblige by posing for photographs. Take a boat ride on the emerald waters of Umngot before you return.



Image: en.wikipedia.org

In the South Garo hills lies the mystical Wari Chora with towering canyons and a tranquil river flowing through it

LAND OF PERPETUAL WINDS

Take a trip to the mystical Balpakram, considered the abode of spirits by the local Garo tribe. Explore the foreboding cliffs, jungles and caves in the region. Visit the famed national park here, which is a treasure trove of animal species, including the endangered wild water buffalo.



Image: fb/MeghalayaTourism

festivals, and customs. A stroll at the Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures is a must to understand the region's cultural heritage. The galleries showcase lifestyle, language, art and culture in detail, with a skywalk panning to a breathtaking 360-degree view of Shillong. Not very far from the capital is what is dubbed 'nature's museum' — the sacred groves of Mawphlang and the abode of the Khasi deity. Take a tour around the village through the monoliths for a peek into the tribal customs and traditions as you soak in the beauty of an enchanting multi-hued lush landscape with a hint of brightly coloured flowers.

On the other side, amidst the West Jaintia Hills, is the cultural and commercial hotspot of Jowai that was once the seat of the Pnar kings. It is an ideal place to encounter local culture besides visiting historical attractions like Syntu Ksiar, the 19th-century Jowai Presbyterian Church, Thadlaskein Lake, Jalong Park and the famous Nartiang monoliths. Don't miss the iconic Krangshuri Falls that unveils like a white curtain over a cave, making for a breathtaking view as you descend multiple rocky steps toward it. Also, visit the enchanting Chympe Falls in East Jaintia Hills.

RAP, ROCK AND K-POP

Beyond tribal beats, Shillong's modern melody owes a nod to its Christian influence. Growing up singing hymns, kids here pick up Western notes quickly. Homegrown rock bands like Indian Ocean boast global popularity, attracting heavy-hitters like The Scorpions and Michael Learns to Rock for unforgettable



Image: insta/meghtourism

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Image: twitter-@ankitv



Image: Dak_t Craft - Impressions of a hand

concerts. YouTube rockstars are the latest craze, and catching them live at the Polo Grounds or the Shillong International Centre for Performing Arts and Culture (colloquially SICPAC) is a must. Or, swing by Laitumkhrah's Cafe Shillong and Dylan's Cafe for a musical feast.

A MOVEMENT IN MOTION

A predominant craft of the tribals in Meghalaya is weaving of cane or cloth. Attractive specimens populate the local markets, especially the lewduh Bara Bazar, one of the oldest markets here. From cane baskets and lines of tailors to piles of fresh

produce, every corner is a vibrant snapshot of local life. The adjacent and more upmarket Police Bazar is the hangout for trendy shoppers. Shillong's distinctive products and designs were once underrated but with the surge in tourist interest, a wave of young entrepreneurship has transformed the scene. Explore The Craft Collective Cafe & Store for an array of artisanal products, or the Dakti Craft for its exquisite handmade clay and bamboo creations.

Peeling back Shillong's layers reveals much more - daily archery traditions, kayaking and canyoning adventures, and epic day trips await the intrepid explorer.



Shuvajit & Kunal
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In Focus

Badhte Raho with Bandhan Mutual Fund

At Bandhan Mutual Fund, we believe that financial security empowers you to live life to the fullest. This belief, now vibrantly captured in our new tagline 'Badhte Raho,' is an invitation to keep enriching life.

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'HALLYU' hits home

With K-dramas gaining popularity in India, the interest in Korean cuisine has increased manifold. We dig deeper into this new-age trend

TEXT: GEETIKA SACHDEV



India's obsession with K-dramas has reached its pinnacle lately. *Crash Landing On You* and *Kim's Convenience*, among other shows, became smashing hits during the Covid-19 pandemic, impressing the country's netizens with its brand of romance, comedy and drama. A Netflix report revealed that the viewership of Korean dramas by the Indian audience rose by 370 per cent, between 2019-20.

From K-pop to K-beauty, Korean culture has attained global popularity like never before, reinforcing the 'Hallyu' or the K-wave

that has taken the world by storm. It has sparked greater interest in Korean cuisine, with food assuming a 'central' character in most shows and movies. Whether it's a romantic date made special with *bibimbap*, a family bonding over *kimchi* at dinner or a bowl of piping-hot *ramen*, there's something about these dishes that has left the curious diner wanting for more.

While some Korean restaurants have been running in different pockets of the country for a while now, unsurprisingly, this K-craze has translated into a meteoric rise



SWEET TOOTH!

While Korean cuisine is popular for its spicy flavours, it also has a variety of desserts for food connoisseurs to explore. Try out *tteok* or Korean rice cakes, *hotteok* (sweet pancakes), the *dalgona* candy, which become famous from the web series *Squid Game* and *hwachae* or traditional Korean punches.



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in their popularity, particularly in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune. Gung-The Palace, a Korean restaurant that opened in 2007 in Delhi's Green Park area, can attest to the higher acceptance of this cuisine. Interestingly, its owner Jin Bum Kim's observation and conviction many years ago helped him become a pioneer in this space. "While I was studying at Delhi University, I found that my batchmates loved *gimchi* (or *kimchi*) whenever I brought it in my lunchbox or served at a house party. I realised they enjoyed everything spicy and strong, particularly due to the similarities in Indian cuisine," he shares. Soon after, Gung opened in Gurugram in 2010 and in Noida in 2011.

"An increasing population of Indian youngsters are becoming aware of Korean food. Thanks to K-dramas, they want to experiment with our cuisine. Most of them already know of *soju* or Korean wine. They are also gaga about Korean barbecue," adds Kim.

The credit for the growing popularity of Korean cuisine partly goes to 'mukbang' videos as well,



According to a chef, the various forms and types of Korean *banchan* is similar to our *achar* and *murabba* culture

where the host eats unusually large amounts of food. "I am addicted to ASMR 'mukbang' where the host prepares Korean dishes and eats it in front of the audience. Sounds like chewing, chomping and slurping are rather common, making it a sensory experience for the viewer," confesses Neha Sinha, a 32-year-old advertising professional from Bengaluru.

While the obsession with Korean cuisine may have recently gone mainstream, the food was already popular in Northeast India, with its locals preferring similar kind of meat with a hint of spice, says Ankur Sahni, General Manager at Kofuku, a popular Japanese restaurant with outposts in Goa, Leh, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai that has recently introduced a Korean menu. "Koreans generally enjoy dinner in a community-style setup with friends and family, hence their meals have large portions. Korean *banchan* (side dishes) is preferred apart from hot pots. *Tteokbokki* and *bibimbap* are also big draws for Indians," he mentions.

The commonalities between Korean and Indian cuisine are



Image: eng.obozrevatel.com

Korean fried chicken and corn dog are some of the street-food favourites among young Indians

far and few. Chef Amal Farooque, Founder, SugarOverDose, Sliders & Fries, and Sage & Olio, in Mumbai, highlights, “Korean cuisine has a lot of red elements—their *kimchi* and *jjigae* (Korean stews) are usually reddish-orange. The sweet tangy *gochujang* and the umami of their soybean paste are palatable by Indians. Their ingredients may not be necessarily similar to the Indian subcontinent but they liberally use *gochugaru* garlic, onion and sesame in their preparations.”

There are also other dishes that reflect the rich culinary tradition of Korea. *K-Benedict*, Korean corn cheese and vegetable pancakes for instance, hold a prominent place in Korean cuisine. “Observations suggest that the preference for

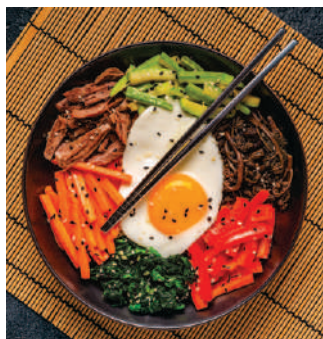
bold and spicy flavours and fermented ingredients are distinctive features of Korean cuisine, contributing to its popularity,” Dhruv Oberoi, Chef at The Grammar Room, Delhi, says.

The love for Korean street food is also catching up! The Cafe at Korean Cultural Centre in Delhi and Sibang in Delhi-NCR have frequent visitors for *bingsoo*, a street-food dessert. Other

street foods include crispy Korean fried chicken and corn dog, available at various food joints.

The fascination with K-food is here to stay. “I don’t think the obsession is going down anytime soon. Even the older generation is taking interest,” Kim emphasises. As gastronomes throng Korean eateries, culinary enthusiasts have taken to whipping up exotic Korean meals at home and not just *ramen*! For authentic ingredients, they can always fall back on the exclusive Korean grocery stores that have cropped up in different cities. From Seela Mart in Gurugram to Seoul Store in Bengaluru and Uncle’s Shop in Mumbai, the shops have abundant varieties of noodles, rice cake, frozen foods, and more.

What's More •



BOWL FOR SOUL

Bibimbap, a Korean rice dish, derives from *bibim* meaning ‘mixing’ and *bap* that translates to cooked rice. The most searched dish on Google in 2023 is served as a bowl of warm white rice topped with *namul* (variety of edible grass or leaves) and *gochujang* (chilli paste). Many prefer to add egg and sliced meat too!





Present across many locations, including **Singapore** and **New York City**, the **Museum of Ice cream** is about all things pink and frosty. It has different interactive activities for visitors.

House of Quirk

From a vibrant balloon museum in Spain to one exhibiting an exotic array of gold pieces, these unusual museums around the world are a must-visit.

Museums are usually deemed to be solemn spaces, housing rare and priceless weaponry, manuscripts, and other cultural, artistic and traditional artefacts of yore. But around the world are also located some really quirky places that house items that you wouldn't imagine seeing inside a museum, from noodles to even ice cream! Take a look at some of them.

Bring out the child in you at the **Pop Air Balloon Museum** in **Madrid, Spain**. It has colourful installations and experiential activities bringing out 'air' as a distinctive element.
Photo: Al More



If you are a fan of instant noodles, the **Cup Noodles Museum** in **Osaka, Japan** is the right place for you. The vivid showcase tells you about the history of the invention of instant noodles.

Photo: Supachai Panyaviwat





All that glitters is gold at the **Gold Museum in Bogota, Colombia**. It has a collection of over 34,000 gold pieces, most of them of historical importance. Photo: **OSTILL is Franck Camhi**



The International Spy Museum in Washington DC, US, houses one of the biggest collections of espionage artefacts, which are open for public display. It is a heaven for all spy enthusiasts.

Photo: **Antares_NS**



"I'd rather my work speak about me"

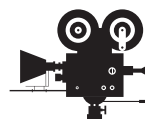
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Young actor Ananya Panday is riding high on her recent professional success and says that this is the validation that she was looking forward to. In an interview, she speaks about work, social media and her personal life

TEXT: AARTI KAPUR SINGH

The critics may have labelled her as "just another star-kid" during her debut film *Student of the Year 2* but actor Ananya Panday has proven her worth. Particularly noteworthy is her recent performance in the OTT film *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, where critics have praised Panday as "terrific and evolved" in the role of Ahaana. In the film, the young icon explores the impact of social media on one's life, portraying a proactive character addressing the challenges youngsters face due to the constant flow of information on social platforms. Panday emphasises the anxiety-inducing

Images: insta/iananyapanday



Ananya Panday says that she loves big commercial cinema. The actor adds, "I want to do a biopic of a sportsperson or a classical singer or dancer, for which I have to learn a specific skill."



impact of platforms that can make them distressed.

The actor is riding high with the praise her latest release has garnered. Panday says, "I feel more validated than happy. Not just the fact that I chose to be Ahaana, but also that my character makes those choices in the film. I am happy that people noticed small things that I did in the film and liked them. More than anything, they found comfort in my character."

Talking about the response her latest release has received, the 25-year-old shares, "We are all so much over the moon! It was a very pleasant surprise! What was noteworthy was that despite being on OTT, the response was theatrical - almost everyone saw it at the same time - almost as soon as it was released."

Directed by Arjun Varain Singh, the film delves into the complexities of modern relationships in the era of social media. Speaking about the relatable nature of the narrative, Panday says, "It is very real - how the



Images: IMDB

characters interact, how they spend time, hangout at specific places, and just the way that the world is right now - social media is the fourth character in everyone's life now - and how relationships are being affected in this time. Isn't it very real?"

The young Gen Z cast and crew left no stone unturned in their efforts to make the film seem as real and relatable as possible. Narrating an anecdote while shooting in Goa, Panday says, "In the very first

schedule, we went to Goa to shoot the first song 'Hone Do Jo Hota Hai,' which I actually recorded on my phone. They gave us scooters and sent us to bars and beaches. All of it was actually happening, and I just happened to record all of it on my phone, and we made a song out of it. Isn't that how most of us in this generation live - take life as it comes?"

Personal space

This is also probably why the actor, with an active presence on social media, is adept at dodging questions on her personal life. Panday has not been exactly revelatory about her relationship with rumored beau actor Aditya Roy Kapoor, but neither has she been coy. Ask her about all the conjecture of personal and professional life on social media and she says, "We are living in times dominated by media. Weird as it may sound, my generation doesn't really know a world without social media."

Knowing her better



Cheat meal

"I am obsessed with chicken dishes. I could probably have butter chicken all my life! I am obsessed with chicken popcorn too! It might not show on my body, but I eat a lot! My ideal cheat meal would be butter chicken with cheese naan and then choco-chip cookies with ice cream."

Cooking therapy

"I can't cook much but I do make a good Szechwan cheese dosa! My friends joke that I could be sending them that every morning for breakfast! I love pottering around in the kitchen. It is therapeutic!"

Ideal holiday

"That would be at home, in my bed, munching chicken popcorn with endless bowls of Maggi and watching *Kill Bill* or *Shutter Island*."

Dream vacation

"One year of my life, I want to dedicate to just travelling! From Ibiza to Mexico and from Paris and South Africa to Japan, I want to globe-trot."



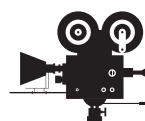
(Above) A poster of *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, (left) Panday striking a pose

Even before my first film, I was always posting on social media, but in a private account with 15 to 20 friends. Now, privacy is one of the things I am choosing very consciously. I'd rather my work tell you more about me."

In response to her father's (veteran actor Chunky Panday) comments about her relationship with Kapoor on social media, she says, "That's his choice. Honestly, social media is a beast that should not be taken seriously. I tend to take it with a pinch of salt. I'm a believer in keeping things private and special because you are dealing with relationships like any normal person. You are feeling it out with the person that you are with, and so sometimes it feels unfair and little personal to put those things out for everyone to comment on. I don't think I am comfortable with that."

For now, the actor is in a happy space. "It is a long journey ahead. I want to do big commercial cinema, which I love watching as an audience. I want to do a biopic of a sportsperson or a classical singer or dancer, for which I have to learn a specific skill. I want to be challenged as an actor," she adds.

Excited about her upcoming cyber-thriller, *Control* by Vikramaditya Motwane, she says, "I am hoping people will appreciate the choices I am making and continue to support me in my growth as a performer."



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Tuning In

World Radio Day (February 13) aims to promote the medium's value in disseminating information and fostering freedom of expression. Marking the occasion, here are some interesting facts about radio

Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi proved the feasibility of radio communication and is often dubbed the father of modern radio. He is credited with the first successful transatlantic radiotelegraph message in

1902

World Radio Day was proclaimed by the Member States of UNESCO in 2011 and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. It is on February 13,

1946

that the United Nations Radio was launched

In India, the first ever broadcast was made by the Radio Club of Bombay in June 1923, followed by the setting up of the Calcutta Radio Club five months later

Edwin Howard Armstrong is credited with the invention of frequency modulation (FM) radio. The first FM station began broadcasting in 1939 from New Jersey



The theme for World Radio Day this year is "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating," marking its significant past, and power to connect with people at the grassroots



KDKA of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is considered to be the world's first commercially licensed station that went on air on November 2, 1920

The British Broadcasting Company or the BBC, as it is famously called, also played a significant role in the development of radio service. Formed in 1922, it started its first daily radio service in London



Radio is not just a low-cost means of communication and entertainment but has also served as an important tool in emergency situations, when disasters hit infrastructure or electricity

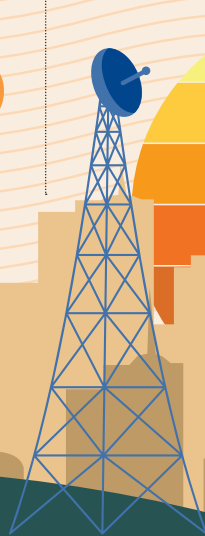


India's first private 24-hour FM channel was launched in 2001 in Bengaluru

69

The name 'Akashvani' was first adopted for India's national broadcaster in

1956



India's public service broadcaster, the Akashvani (formerly All India Radio that came into being in 1936), broadcasts in 23 languages and 179 dialects, making it one of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world

FEBRUARY 2024

YOUR FORECAST THIS MONTH



ARIES

You have been working quite hard for some time but the results have been a little slow. This might have frustrated you a bit. You will be happy to know that this is temporary and will change soon. You need to take care of yourself and get proper rest. Money will come in from an unexpected source. It is time to take a break!



TAURUS

You will deal with all financial concerns with utmost effectiveness and will be resourceful in acquiring money. Your business will thrive and a commission, assignment, or offer of employment is on the horizon. You will be happy to hear about it. If you have been waiting for a call, it's on its way. Cheer up!



GEMINI

You will take some decisive actions which will improve your life greatly. Any tough situation that has been causing any kind of tension in the past is going to end soon. It's your time to hit the spotlight and present those ideas. You might receive a cheque or a payment. Tone down that party animal within you.



CANCER

Are you worried that your resources are drying up? Or that you might never cover the losses from the past? The good news is that this situation will improve and you will feel relaxed, as this issue will be getting resolved itself. Someone from your past is going to return, you better be careful about what decision you have to make. What would you do?



LEO

Work is piling up! Avoid pushing it away and stop running from it. You'll be lucky in tackling your problems with sheer courage. You might think that some money has been lost or you might have incurred some kind of loss, but do not worry, it will be recovered. An unexpected financial gain could also be indicated. Get going!



VIRGO

There are some lucky breaks and cost cuts that are improving your finances, so cheer up! If someone owes you money, this is the perfect time to call them, as you will get it back. An important news or decision is coming your way regarding your livelihood. Moving to a different environment will ease existing tensions, so do not fret.

70



LIBRA

You might feel apprehensive about your work or that something is not going as expected. Do not get disheartened as things are about to turn in your favour. It's time to let go of the past baggage. You will make new friends, mend relationships and set things straight for yourself and the future.



SCORPIO

You will escape from all or any oppressive situation and will have unexpected gains in terms of your finances. You might feel upset over a call. Know that how others behave has nothing to do with you and is a reflection of their selves. In situations like these, it is better to walk away or simply say 'no', when things feel fishy. Do not worry!



SAGITTARIUS

It is time to have that delayed conversation and finally discuss those finances and come to a conclusion which will result in an increase in your profits. Take one step at a time! Speak and act only when required. If you are doubtful about something, stay quiet. You will be in a position of power. Expansion and success is coming.



CAPRICORN

Quit trying to force anything and wait for things to unfold gradually. Keep that assertiveness on the down low for now. Make sure to share a good laugh with your colleagues. The work might have been a little mundane for you, but do not worry as things are changing for you. It's time for a change, especially when it comes to perspective.



AQUARIUS

Profits or earnings from business may have been slow in the past, but things are going to take an upward swing and improve steadily. Your patience has finally paid off! You may have to hustle a little to collect the money that you deserve, but you will be happy to know that you will be victorious in the end. All is well.



PISCES

You can expect financial success, regardless of some obstacles or problems. This is because it is your time to shine when it comes to getting that money! You will soon be with the one your heart is yearning for! A union is on the cards! A health problem requires a little attention, but nothing you will not be able to handle.

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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JOURNEY OF A SPICE STAR



OFFER LETTER
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CERTIFICATE IN IN-FLIGHT
MANAGEMENT IN 6 MONTHS



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NEWS

SpiceXpress Expands Domestic Cargo Network in Partnership with Star Air To Manage Belly Space Capacity for Cargo Transportation in Star Air's Fleet of Nine Aircraft

SpiceXpress, a subsidiary of SpiceJet, has entered into a partnership with Star Air, to manage the belly space capacity for cargo transportation in Star Air's fleet of nine aircraft.

Star Air, operating five Embraer 145 jets and four Embraer 175 jets, will significantly enhance SpiceXpress's domestic network, incorporating nine new destinations: Belagavi, Bhuj, Kalaburagi, Kishangarh, Kolhapur, Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Nagpur, and Shivamogga. This collaboration underlines SpiceXpress's commitment to expanding its reach and strengthening the nation's air cargo infrastructure, aligning with SpiceJet's mission to cater to the underserved regions in India.

SpiceXpress's domestic network will increase from 39 to 48 destinations helping the company strengthen its Door-to-Door delivery and postal service. The three-year agreement, extendable by mutual consent, establishes a foundation for seamless cooperation between the two companies.

Jai Singh Sadana, Chief Business Officer, SpiceXpress, said, "This partnership with Star Air marks a significant milestone for SpiceXpress as we broaden our domestic cargo network. The extended reach to these nine destinations aligns with our vision of connecting underserved regions, contributing to economic development, and bolstering the logistics landscape in India."

"The collaboration not only grants SpiceXpress access to additional delivery points and increased daily cargo volume but also enhances our last-mile presence. Door-to-door connectivity will now be extended to pin codes that were previously untouched, showcasing the transformative potential of this partnership," Sadana said.

Capt. Simran Singh Tiwana, Chief Executive Officer, Star Air, said, "Star Air is happy to announce this exciting partnership with SpiceXpress. The flexibility gained through this alliance empowers Star Air to unlock the cargo potentials in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities across the country. This strategic partnership exemplifies the commitment of both airlines to redefine India's cargo landscape and drive the nation's economic growth."

SpiceJet Introduces Non-Stop Flights Connecting Ayodhya with Chennai, Bengaluru and Mumbai

SpiceJet launched non-stop flights connecting Ayodhya with Chennai, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, beginning February 1, 2024. The airline deployed its 189-seater Boeing 737 aircraft on these routes.

As part of SpiceJet's continuous efforts to strengthen its network, the airline aims to connect Ayodhya with several other major cities across India soon. This expansion aligns with SpiceJet's commitment to providing seamless travel options to passengers while contributing to the growth of regional connectivity.

On 15th January, 2023, SpiceJet announced it would operate a special flight from Delhi to Ayodhya on January 21, 2024. The special flight catered to passengers attending the auspicious 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at the Shri Ram Temple on January 22. SpiceJet also operated a return flight on the same day, ensuring a hassle-free travel experience for devotees.

In addition to the Ayodhya flights, SpiceJet also announced new flights connecting Mumbai with Srinagar, Chennai with Jaipur, and Bengaluru with Varanasi from February 1.

Shilpa Bhatia, Chief Commercial Officer, SpiceJet, said, "We are happy to announce the introduction of non-stop flights connecting Ayodhya with Chennai, Bengaluru, and Mumbai. These new flights align with our commitment to enhancing connectivity and providing passengers with convenient travel options. SpiceJet remains dedicated to connecting more Indian cities with Ayodhya soon, offering non-stop flights for a seamless and comfortable travel experience."





Memories onboard

Passengers clicked photos of their memorable journey aboard SpiceJet. Here's our pick of some of the best ones:



Photo by
Muzammil Hussain,
(Delhi to Kochi)

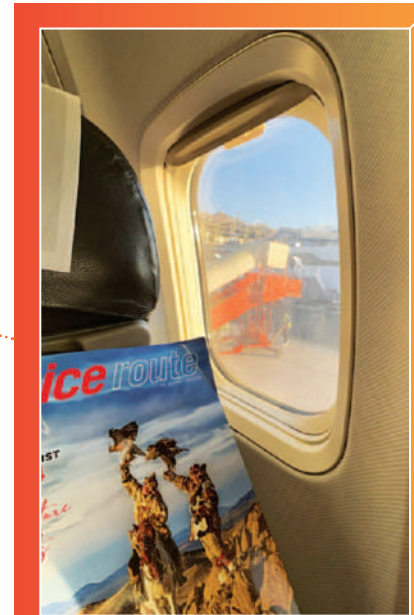


Photo by
Tenzin Wangmo
(Leh to Delhi)



Photo by
Sarita Sarangi
(Srinagar to Jammu)



Let us take your memories places!

Has the SpiceJet flight 'flown' your mind away? If yes, then email us photographs of your recent SpiceJet travel expedition and let us publish them! We cherish your happy moments with SpiceJet. Please share your flight details along with the photographs! Email us at marketing.ho@spicejet.com

The best ones will get a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of the **Spice Route** magazine.



MS. ANJALI HATTE
SENIOR CABIN CREW, HYDERABAD

My Town

74

In our series, in which we travel to various Indian cities with a SpiceJet family member, this time, Anjali Hatte, Cabin Crew (Hyderabad), takes us around her hometown.

Are you originally from Hyderabad?

Yes, I was born and brought up in the City of Pearls, Hyderabad.

What is the quality of life here like?

Hyderabad is a destination unlike others because of the blend of its historic past and modern expediencies. The city's remarkable architectural wonders, including Golconda Fort and Charminar, will take you back in time. Hyderabad has a rich culinary heritage, which contributes to delicious food served in its eateries. Furthermore, visitors will always receive the same degree of hospitality from residents, regardless of their purpose of visit.

What is the best thing about the city?

Honestly, there are so many things about Hyderabad that I like but what stands apart is that it welcomes people from all over the country. From having the biggest monolithic Buddha statue and largest film studio to being the original home of Koh-I-Noor, the most precious diamond in the world, the allure of this city is unmatched.

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

Hyderabad is a city of rich culture and history. The contemporary world sees the city as a combination of age-old culture with a touch of

urban lifestyle. Hyderabad people are regarded as very friendly and hospitable. This city exhibits a high index of happiness.

What are the people here like?

Generosity is often synonymous with Hyderabadis. They take immense pleasure and pride in conversing in their local, characteristic, and vibrant Hyderabad language, which is a mix of Urdu, Hindi and Telugu. They are known for their ability to maintain a unique blend of traditions, customs and lifestyle.

What is the night scene here like?

There are a wide variety of places to explore during the after-hours, including both upscale and



alternative venues. The nightlife here reflects the city's cultural diversity. One can visit swanky bars and clubs in trendy areas, local watering holes or hawker stands in the historic core. The nightlife of a city is about more than simply going out and having a good time; it's also about learning the city's history and customs.

Are you a foodie? Which is your favourite eatery in Hyderabad?

Yes, being a Hyderabadi, I cannot deny this fact. People enjoy delicacies like the Irani *chai*, *biryani*, *mandi* and *haleem*. The multitude of eateries and street food vendors providing an extensive range of cuisines makes it easy to find something to satisfy everyone's palate. Bawarchi and Shah Ghouse have always been my personal favourites. The city is a great destination for foodies because there are tons of options to try and enjoy. Here, you will experience the finest food, perfectly combining ancient traditions and authentic flavours.

How did you discover the eating places?

Generally, I keep track of trending places as per the recommendations on social media platforms and my friends.

Which are the best places to hang out in Hyderabad?

There are a number of cool places for hanging out in Hyderabad like Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad Botanical Gardens, Ramoji Film City, Charminar, Snow World, Golconda Fort, 10 Downing Street, and more.



The prominent places to hang out offer a plethora of opportunities to globetrotters to indulge in the historical heritage of the city, combined with exotic food delicacies.

Why do you like these places so much?

They are famous for curries like butter chicken, *gongura* mutton, etc. These places always feel like home, and the staff is welcoming and courteous as well.

What attractions in Hyderabad would you recommend to a tourist?

Charminar is at the top of the list. The surrounding Laad Bazar and the 400-year-old mosque on the top floor of Charminar make it worth

the visit. Golconda Fort is also one of the most magnificent fortresses with its impressive architecture. Chowmohallah Palace is famous for its style and elegance, a magnificent palace showcasing the Nizam's opulent lifestyle and architecture. The list is never-ending.

What are the other places to explore near Hyderabad?

There are many places near Hyderabad worth exploring including Bidar, which is well known for its historical monuments, like Bidar Fort and Bahmani Tombs. Warangal is home to the beautiful Warangal Fort and Thousand Pillar Temple. Visiting the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is a must and exploring the Ethipothala Waterfall is another adventure.

Which are the other places where you have stayed in India? How is Hyderabad compared to them?

As someone working in the aviation sector as crew, I have had the opportunity to travel across different countries and explore a variety of different things at each destination like music, dance, cultural beauty and architecture, Hyderabad is different; it has everything one desires. It is a land of mouth-watering cuisines where every street and lane smells of good food amid remains of an age-old culture.

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE DISH.

Dum biryani is my all-time favourite. Hyderabadi *biryani* has a confluence of different cultures. It got famous because of its ability to imbibe many food ingredients. What makes it special is the way it is cooked. The aroma stirs up your senses when you pass through the area. Lately, the eateries serving *mandi* in Hyderabad have seen huge crowds due to the high public demand, especially in the Old City.





Stars Of SpiceJet

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

76



Customer experience

RAHUL SHARMA
GURUGRAM

Internal appreciation: Rahul's performance has been outstanding during his tenure. His commitment towards his duties shows that he is a valuable asset to the department as well as the organisation.

Experience with SpiceJet: I have been associated with this organisation for the past five years. I started as a Reservation Executive and moved to the Customer Experience department after three years. It has been an amazing journey. I express my sincere gratitude to my seniors and the team members along the way. All the things that I have learned here have not only helped me in my professional life but personally as well. The most important thing that I have learned during my journey is to never give up and be consistent in my work.



Inflight services

NAYAN PUROHIT
GURUGRAM

Internal appreciation: Nayan has grown professionally from a Cabin Crew position to a Managerial Position in the last 10+ years at SpiceJet. He has a positive attitude and is highly energetic. He is ready to take up new challenges and is always open to feedback. As a Manager, he leads the team in every circumstance with the experience he has gained in the Operations and Staff Development domain.

Experience with SpiceJet: The last decade with SpiceJet has been delightful. During this time, I have had the privilege of gaining knowledge and skills from our in-flight leaders. I started my journey with the Crew and climbed up the ladder to become a Manager. It has been challenging as well as exciting to take up new assignments. I extend my heartfelt acknowledgement for making these years worthwhile for me. I eagerly look forward to years of delivering exceptional services with SpiceJet.



Ground services

PRASHANT CHANDRA
GURUGRAM

Internal appreciation: In the constellation of SpiceJet's finest, Prashant shines bright as a beacon of dedication and operational excellence. His adept handling of daily operations and IROPs, coupled with his strategic prowess in manpower planning for charters, especially in offline stations, has garnered widespread appreciation within the company. His ability to coordinate with internal departments and airports shows his commitment to SpiceJet's mission of serving the customers well.

Experience with SpiceJet: With over two decades in aviation, my SpiceJet journey could be seen as a tale of growth, innovation, and recognition. As a part of the 'Red, Hot, and Spicy' family, I have nurtured leadership, embraced challenges and contributed to aviation's evolution, turning each moment into an honour and a step towards a visionary future in the industry.

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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

The Mid-Air Feast

Take your pick from SpiceJet's delicious menu. Here's a glimpse of the mouth-watering options!

READY-TO-EAT

NISSIN

Cup Noodles

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

Spicy Chicken



ORGANIC ROOTS

Tomato Soup

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 15
THB 100 | SAR 15



Mast Masala



YU

Chilli Chicken Noodles

Chilli Manchurian Noodles

Hyderabadi Masala Biryani

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



YU

Three Cheese Pasta

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 15
THB 100 | SAR 15



M.O.M

Homestyle Poha

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 15
THB 100 | SAR 15



Rava Upma

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



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

MUNCHIES

COOKIE MAN

Cookies

Double Choc Chip | Blueberry

INR 100 | USD 2 | AED 10
THB 60 | SAR 10



CORNITOS

Jalapeño Nachos & Salsa Dip/ Waffly Coffee Flavoured Rolls

INR 150 | USD 3 | AED 10 | THB 80 | SAR 10



DUKES



FARMLEY

Cream & Onion Makhana/ Roasted Salted

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 15 | THB 100 | SAR 15



CRAZY CASHEW



SCRUMPTIOUS SANDWICHES

CUCUMBER, TOMATO
AND CHEESE
in Multigrain Bread

Domestic

INR 350



International

INR 400 | USD 6 | AED 25
THB 180 | SAR 25

CHICKEN JUNGLEE
in Marble Bread

Domestic

INR 400



International

INR 450 | USD 7 | AED 25
THB 200 | SAR 25

BEVERAGES



CONTINENTAL/ CHAI POINT

Cappuccino/ Masala Chai

INR 150 | USD 3 | AED 10
THB 80 | SAR 10

REGEN

**Cold Coffee/ Hot Chocolate
with Marshmallows**

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 15
THB 100 | SAR 15



STORIA

**Mango Shake/ Mixed
Fruit Juice**

INR 150 | USD 3 | AED 10
THB 80 | SAR 10

YU

100% Coconut Water

INR 150 | USD 3 | AED 10
THB 80 | SAR 10



COCA-COLA

Aerated Drink

INR 100 | USD 2 | AED 10
THB 60 | SAR 10

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (TAKE-AWAY)



JOHNNIE
WALKER

**Black Label
Whisky 1 l**

INR 2,300
USD 33
AED 120
THB 1,000
SAR 125



GLENFIDDICH

**Single Malt
Scotch
Whisky 1 l**

INR 2,500
USD 36
AED 130
THB 1,080
SAR 135

Cheers to a Pair of Savings!

ABSOLUT

Vodka 1 l

1 Bottle

INR 1,650 | USD 21 | AED 80 | THB 750 | SAR 80

2 Bottles

INR 2,950 | USD 38 | AED 140 | THB 1,330 | SAR 140



GLEN MORAY (12 YO)

Single Malt Scotch Whisky 1 l

1 Bottle

INR 2,350 | USD 30 | AED 110 | THB 1,060 | SAR 115

2 Bottles

INR 4,350 | USD 56 | AED 210 | THB 1,970 | SAR 210

GLEN MORAY (15 YO)

Single Malt Scotch Whisky 700 ml

1 Bottle

INR 3,500 | USD 45 | AED 170 | THB 1,580 | SAR 170

2 Bottles

INR 6,500 | USD 83 | AED 310 | THB 2,940 | SAR 310



HARDY'S PREMIUM SELECTION

Chardonnay White Wine 750 ml

1 Bottle

INR 950 | USD 13 | AED 50 | THB 430 | SAR 50

2 Bottles

INR 1,750 | USD 23 | AED 90 | THB 850 | SAR 90



A. DE FUSSIGNY GRANDE
CHAMPAGNE VSOP

Cognac 700 ml

1 Bottle

INR 3,950 | USD 50 | AED 190 | THB 1,790 | SAR 190

2 Bottles

INR 7,450 | USD 95 | AED 350 | THB 3,360 | SAR 355



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Complimentary
Meals



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DEALS

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