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# FROM THE CMD'S DESK



**AJAY SINGH**  
Chairman and Managing Director

## DEAR READERS,

Welcome aboard SpiceJet!

As India ascends to the global stage as a burgeoning superpower, its influence and potential are capturing the attention of the world. This remarkable journey of growth and development is not only reshaping the nation but also leaving an indelible mark on the international landscape.

India's rising prominence on the global stage is evident through a series of recent landmark achievements. The successful resolution of a diplomatic crisis resulting in the release of eight former Indian Navy officers in Qatar stands as a significant triumph.

In another milestone event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the magnificent Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Mandir in Abu Dhabi, marking the first Hindu temple in the capital of the United Arab Emirates, on February 14, 2024. These accomplishments underscore India's expanding influence and its emergence as a global powerhouse across economic, cultural, and political domains.

In the midst of this transformative era, SpiceJet is proud to serve as a vital conduit, connecting passengers to the heart of India's progress and prosperity.

The grand opening of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya has seen a surge of devotees heading to this temple town. After operating a special flight for the Pran Pratishtha ceremony, SpiceJet commenced non-stop flights to this pious town from eight prominent cities, including Ahmedabad, Chennai, Darbhanga, Delhi, Jaipur, Patna, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. Religious tourism holds a significant place in our operations, and we are committed to expanding our flight services to Ayodhya and other significant destinations in the future.

SpiceJet takes pride in its longstanding tradition of operating Haj Special flights annually. This year, we are gearing up to serve pilgrims with special flights from Srinagar, Gaya, Guwahati, Bhopal, Indore, Aurangabad, and Vijayawada. Our commitment remains unwavering in providing top-notch services to all our passengers, including pilgrims embarking on this sacred journey.

Your continued patronage serves as a driving force for us, inspiring us to strive for excellence. We are grateful for consistently leading the industry with impressive occupancy rate month after month. Maintaining our position as the airline topping the charts in one of the world's most dynamic aviation markets is no small feat. As we continue to expand, we are committed to adding more routes and services to ensure hassle-free travel to a wider array of destinations.

Congratulations to the Indian women's badminton team for their historic gold medal win at the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024. Defeating Thailand 3-2 in the finale in Malaysia, the team overcame formidable opponents, including the top three seeds China, Japan, and Thailand to clinch the title. Our best wishes go out to the team for continued success in future competitions.

The recently concluded 2024 Under-19 Cricket World Cup showcased remarkable sportsmanship from the participating teams. While the gripping finale drew attention, the Indian team's resilience and determination to learn from their experience against Australia stood out. Congratulations to the boys for reaching the finals, and our best wishes to the players for a successful career ahead.

Jai Hind!



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## **THE GREEN PATH**

Marking Global Recycling Day on March 18, we explore the growing trend of waste-free travel.



## **Cover**

The Earth is our home and we must travel mindfully to preserve its beauty for future generations. So, let's take a pledge to go on planet-sensitive trips this season.



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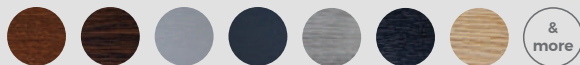


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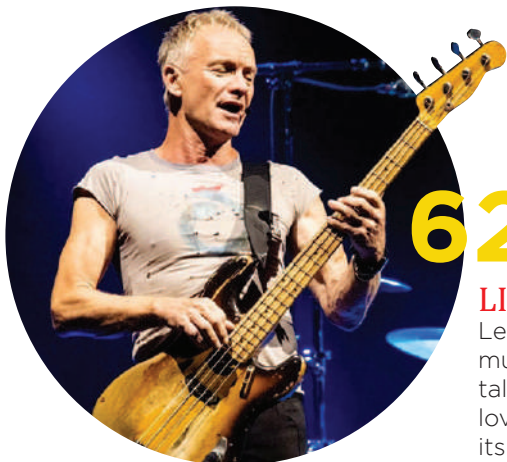
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# PRODUCTION TRUMPS CONSUMPTION

In a world dominated by rapid consumption, the principle of “producing more than consuming” emerges as a call for resilience and sustainability. Dr Manimekalai Mohan, an esteemed academician and visionary, delves into the significance of this principle across various domains, from education to personal development and environmental stewardship. In a captivating interaction, Dr Mohan shares insights on fostering a culture of productivity and growth through active contribution.

## Why is emphasising production over consumption crucial for personal and societal development?

Prioritising production over consumption is crucial because it empowers individuals to tap into their creativity and contribute meaningfully to society. By focusing on what we can create and produce, rather than passively consuming the creations of others, we foster innovation, personal growth, and a sense of purpose. This shift in mindset not only benefits individuals by unlocking their full potential but also fuels economic and social progress by driving innovation and sustainable development.

## How does adopting an abundance mentality through giving more than taking impact our well-being and relationships?

Adopting an abundance mentality through giving more than taking has a profound impact on our well-being and relationships. By emphasising generosity and compassion, we

cultivate a sense of gratitude, fulfilment, and interconnectedness. This fosters stronger, more meaningful relationships based on trust, empathy, and mutual support. Moreover, giving freely without expecting anything in return not only enriches the lives of others but also enhances our own sense of fulfilment and purpose.

## How does producing more than consuming contribute to environmental sustainability and responsible stewardship of resources?

Producing more than consuming is essential for promoting environmental sustainability and responsible stewardship of resources. By reducing our reliance on consumerism and mass production, we can minimise waste, conserve natural resources, and mitigate the negative impacts of overconsumption on the planet. Additionally, focusing on sustainable production practices, such as recycling, up-cycling, and renewable energy sources, allows us to create a more harmonious relationship with the environment, ensuring that future generations can enjoy a healthy and thriving planet.

## How does producing more than consuming foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among students?

Embracing the ethos of production over consumption encourages students to think critically and explore new ideas. By engaging in entrepreneurial endeavours, students learn to identify opportunities, take risks, and innovate solutions to real-world challenges. Whether launching a business or implementing a social



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

initiative, students who prioritise creation develop invaluable skills and mindset needed to thrive in today's dynamic world.

## In what ways does focusing on giving and production over taking and consumption contribute to a more equitable and just society?

Giving and production over taking and consumption is instrumental in creating a more equitable and just society. By redistributing resources and opportunities more fairly, we can address systemic inequalities and empower marginalised communities to thrive. Additionally, by fostering a culture of generosity and collaboration, we create a society where everyone has the chance to succeed and contribute their talents to the collective good. This promotes social cohesion, reduces disparities, and builds a more inclusive and compassionate society for all.



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Mohammad Rouf  
The interaction with Mr.Roub was overwhelming...he is very supportive, calm and polite. I had some issues with my luggage and he helped me with utmost satisfaction.

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writing to thank crew of SG-8937, Pune-Delhi flight. The flight delayed due to weather but team helped everyone tirelessly although they was also tired. Really thankful for professional behaviour.

@bajajvaurn

@flyspicejet @AjaySingh\_SG It was an awesome experience travelling with SpiceJet from Jaisalmer to Delhi. Your staff Bhanu Pratap Sharma was very friendly, kind and helpful. He ensured every customer got the best possible service at the airport while checking in.

@theprateekapoor

@flyspicejet Would like to thank the honest Pradeep Kumar Yadav (from inflight cleaning services) who found my wife's phone left accidentally in SG161 (IXJ-DEL) dtd 22/12. The spicejet ground staff ensured that phone is delivered before we boarded connecting flight to Hyd. Thanks

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I will be travelling by srx-bom flight no Sag951 PNR TDCLQZ... and I have to place on record the excellent service provided by Nazima and her team who helped us with easy boarding and packing things at Srinagar airport which is way beyond her duty. Outstanding work

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Thankyou @flyspicejet for a Sri Ram shawl , a laddoo & tilak on board on way to Ramnagari Ayodhya. #SabkeRam

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Map not to scale



**When:**  
March 25  
**Where:**  
All over India

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## HOLI

One of the most widely celebrated festivals in India, Holi marks the victory of good over evil, with hopes for the beginning of a bountiful spring harvest. It is celebrated with great fervour across regions, where people smear colours on each other and perform the ritual of *Holika dahan*.

Images are for representational purposes only



## Events

### MAHASHIVRATRI

The festival is celebrated to offer obeisance to Lord Shiva. Mahashivratri translates to "the great night of Shiva". It is celebrated as the wedding day of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.



**When:** March 8

**Where:** All over India



### WORLD THEATRE DAY

Initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute, World Theatre Day is observed to pay respect and celebrate the beauty of various forms of theatres around the world. It is meant to celebrate the love for this art form.



**When:** March 27

**Where:** Around the World



**"Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds."**

**P. B. Shelley**  
British poet



### INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL

Organised at the Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh, which is dubbed the yoga capital of the world, this week-long event promotes healthy well-being.



**When:** March 8-14

**Where:** Rishikesh, Uttarakhand



### MARSHMELLO COMES TO INDIA

Grammy-nominated DJ Marshmello is visiting India, as part of the Sunburn Holi Weekend, making the festival of colours memorable for music lovers. He brings his fresh hits along with his iconic helmet.



**When:** March 22-25

**Where:** Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Pune

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### FOR THE GRAM

**Goagr@m:**  
*Misadventures of an Influencer* by Bina Nayak is about the protagonist, Maddie escaping to Goa for her vlogs. However, her digital dreams are shattered by a horrifying experience.

### KUNG FU PANDA 4

Even though Po is a lazy panda, his kung-fu skills are praiseworthy. The first movie of the *Kung Fu Panda* franchise came out in 2008 and has been a celebrated release. The fourth movie is here!



**When:** March 8

**Where:** Around the world



Image: imdb.com

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### FOOD FEST

The Food for Thought Fest is here for all vegetarians. Presented by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation at the River Front Event Centre, the three-day event explores the culinary diversity of the South Asian region.



**When:** March 8-10

**Where:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat



### CRICKET FEVER

India's favourite cricket fiesta, the Indian Premier League is here! The 17th edition of IPL will have a total of 74 matches with Chennai Super Kings being the defending champions.



**When:** March 22 onwards

**Where:** India

Image: ipi2024schedule.in



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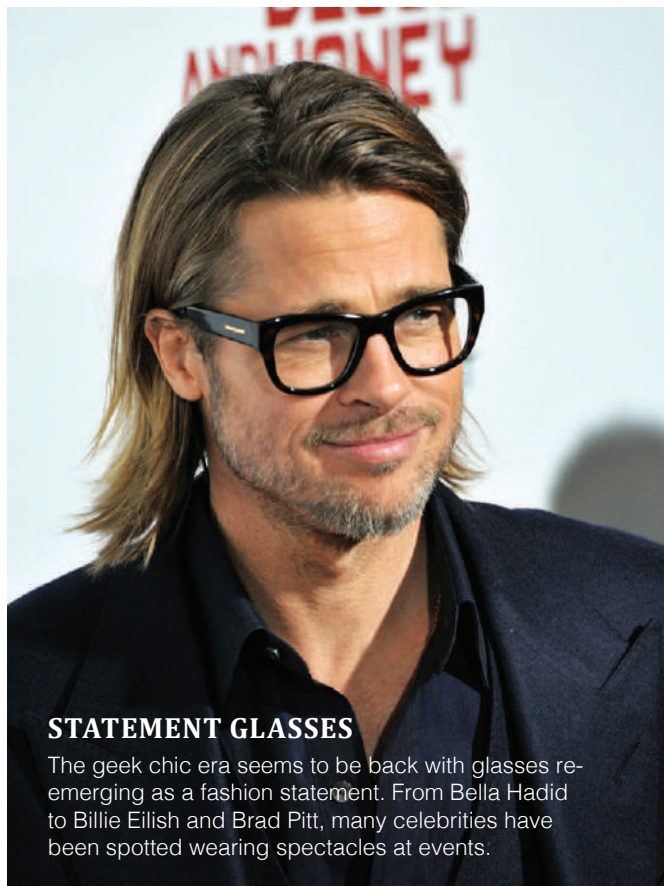
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## Fashion



### STATEMENT GLASSES

The geek chic era seems to be back with glasses re-emerging as a fashion statement. From Bella Hadid to Billie Eilish and Brad Pitt, many celebrities have been spotted wearing spectacles at events.

### BRIGHT AND RADIANT

If skincare has been a priority for you then you should try the latest bundle by Gunam. Its products are infused with the secrets of Ayurveda, and are said to have a positive impact on the skin.



### ESSENCE OF LUXURY

If you are looking for new fragrances to suit your mood, the latest collection by Maison De Fouzdar can be a good option.



### A YEAR OF SEQUINS

A repeated style on most of the runways in 2024 has been sequins. The high-shine fabric is no longer just for a party outfit but is also suitable for other occasions. Team it with a chic bag and get ready to dazzle!

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## Tech

### LUCID DREAMS

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you were able to control your dreams? Tapping into the capabilities of AI, a company named Prophetic has come up with a Halo AI headband that actually enables users to know when they are dreaming! This unique phenomena, also known as lucid dreaming, is possible through ultrasound that is used in the headband.



Image: analyticsvidhya.com

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### CRYPTO WALLET

With cryptocurrency gaining attention and people investing in virtual digital assets, users are seeking better security for their investments. While crypto investors avail of hardware crypto wallets, the new Cypherock X1 crypto wallet has emerged as a fresh alternative. It comes with a set of accessories for improving its security and usability.



Image: cypherock.com

### AI POWERED

In a bid to make gadgets smarter and personalised, Samsung's Galaxy AI features have now been added on more of its devices like the Galaxy Buds2 and Buds2 Pro, and also Buds FE, enabling experiences like AI-assisted live translation and interpretation. The company plans to introduce these features on more devices in the future like the Galaxy S23 series, Galaxy Z Flip5 and the Galaxy Z Fold5.



Image: samsung.com

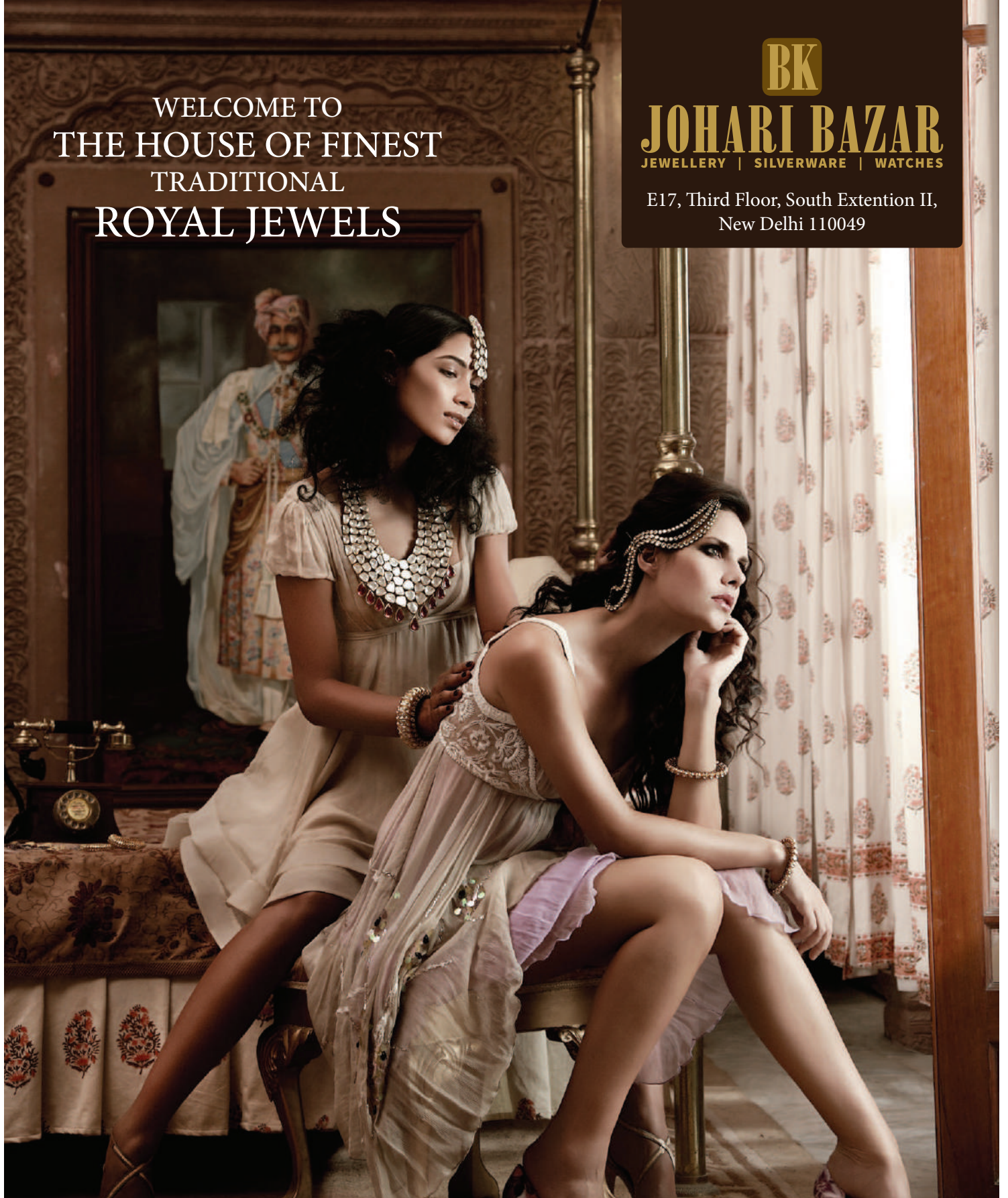
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# VARANASI

Also known as Benaras, the city has a significant cultural history, and is a centre of learning and spirituality



Varanasi and neighbouring regions/ Map not to scale

**Route:** SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Varanasi from Srinagar, Dharamshala, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi and many more cities in India. Book now at [www.spicejet.com](http://www.spicejet.com)

## NEARBY

Visit Sarnath, around 10 km from Varanasi. It is a revered Buddhist pilgrimage centre, known for the great Dhamekh Stupa, among other monuments.



Believed to be one of the oldest living cities in the world, Varanasi is a centre for spirituality, arts, crafts and architecture. Situated on the banks of River Ganga, the city's charm lies in the beauty of its *ghats* like the Assi ghat, Panchganga ghat and Manikarnika ghat. Watch the stunning sunrise and the grand *aarti* at the ghats; witness the annual Ganga Mahotsava, a five-day cultural festival. Visit the prestigious Banaras Hindu University and also enjoy delectable street food.



## DON'T MISS



Image: utsavapp.in

Find serenity at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, among several other temples. Traverse the Ganges on a luxury cruise boat for Varanasi Darshan.

## MUST SEE



Admire the architecture of the Jain temples and plan a visit to the beautiful Ramnagar Fort and Chunar Fort nearby. Also, visit the stunning Man Mahal near Dashashvamedh ghat.

## EAT & SHOP



Shop for Banarasi silk *sarees*, known for intricate design, and Gulabi Meenakari handicrafts. Try Banarasi *paan*, snacks like tomato *chaat*, and desserts like *launglata*.

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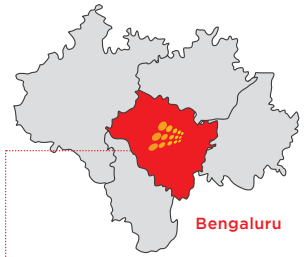
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# BENGALURU

With diverse demography, Bengaluru is among the fastest growing major metropolis in India



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Bengaluru and neighbouring regions/ Map not to scale



One of the largest metropolitan cities in southern India, Bengaluru has evolved from being the Garden City to the Silicon Valley of India. Tourists flock here to witness its art, parks, heritage buildings, busy markets and culture. It is home to many renowned educational and research institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science and Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru. With a burgeoning partying and shopping scene, the city's quirky stores and cafes heighten the excitement of tourists. Take a trip to Hampi, around 340 km from here.



## NEARBY

Go on a short trek to the Bilikal Rangaswamy Betta, about 75 km from Bengaluru. Around 145 km away is Mysuru, which is dotted with palaces and serene locales.

## DON'T MISS



Visit Nandi hills for watching the sunset. Visit WonderLa amusement park along with admiring the beauty of the Vidhana Soudha and the Bengaluru Palace.

## MUST SEE

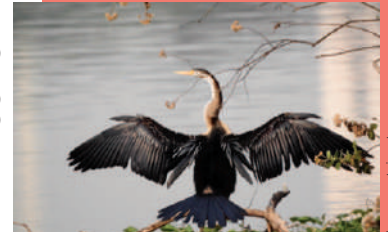


Image: tripoto.com

The ancient Bangalore Golf Club is well-known among several other golf courses in the city. History buffs can visit Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace. Enjoy bird watching at the Hebbal Lake.

## EAT & SHOP



Shop for sandalwood products, Mysuru silk sarees, spices and coffee powder from the local markets. Taste dishes like *poori sagu*, *kesari bhath* and *rawa idli*.

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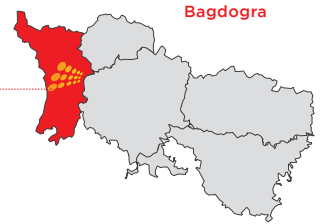
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# BAGDOGRA

From vast stretches of tea gardens that soothe the eye to pretty hill stations, there's a lot to explore in and around Bagdogra



**Route:** SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Bagdogra from Srinagar, Mumbai, Dharamshala, Leh, Delhi and many more cities. Book now at [www.spicejet.com](http://www.spicejet.com)

Bagdogra and neighbouring regions/ Map not to scale



## NEARBY

Around 130 km from Bagdogra is Jaldapara National Park, at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in the Alipurduar district. Enjoy lush scenic views and go on a wildlife safari.



Situated in West Bengal, Bagdogra acts as a gateway to many beautiful destinations nearby, from Darjeeling to Siliguri and Sikkim. En route, visitors can enjoy the scenic view of large stretches of tea plantations and cool breeze in the region. Find serenity in the quaint atmosphere of the city owing to Buddhist influences. Visit the Sevokeswari Kali Temple and Salugara Monastery and interact with locals for a peek into the flourishing culture.



## DON'T MISS



Image: en.wikipedia.org

Go river rafting on the Teesta River, which flows close to the town. Visit the sparkling Lake Tsomgo on the way up from Bagdogra. Take a trip to the serene town of Mirik.

## MUST SEE



Visit the Bokar Ngedon Chokhor Ling Monastery or go for a stroll at Surya Sen Park nearby. Head to Darjeeling to experience the Batasia Loop and the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

## EAT & SHOP



Sample traditional Bengali fish curry and Nepalese dishes like *sel roti*, apart from Darjeeling tea. Shop for authentic tea, Tibetan handicrafts, clothes, accessories and trinkets.

Images are for representational purposes only



# INTERNATIONAL DAY *of Happiness*

It's time to spread smiles and celebrate the feeling of joy! Observed on March 20 every year, the International Day of Happiness recognises the importance of the emotion, a fundamental human goal, in the lives of people. The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 for a more "inclusive, equitable and balanced" economic growth to foster happiness and well-being.

# Unsung Sherheroes!



Marking International Women's Day on March 8, here are some women in history whose contributions were significant but lesser-known

Lee Miller, a Vogue cover model and photojournalist, was one of the few accredited war photographers with the US armed forces during World War II. She photographed intense scenes, including that of the concentration camps. In fact, she was the only photojournalist — male or female — at the famous Battle of Saint-Malo at a time when women war correspondents were not allowed at the front line.



Image: wikimedia.org



Image: herzindagi.com

Rukhmabai Raut was one of the first women doctors to practice medicine in British India. Apart from being a pioneer in the field of medicine, she was also an advocate of women's rights in India. Her efforts contributed to the Age of Consent Act in 1891.

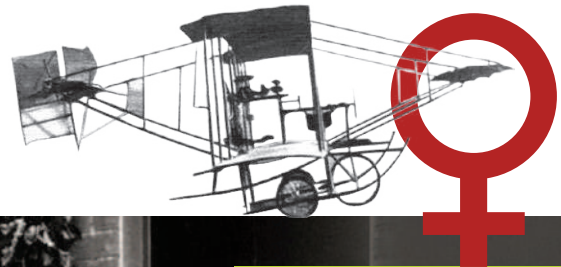
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Tarabai Shinde was a feminist activist, writer and an associate of Savitribai Phule. She created *Stri Purush Tulana*, often regarded as the first modern Indian feminist text.



Hair curlers and can openers are commonly used today but who invented them? None other than Beulah Louise Henry, who also invented vacuum ice cream freezers.



We've all heard about the Wright brothers but did you know of the 'flying feminist' Lilian Bland, who flew Ireland's first powered biplane? She is known to be the first woman in the world to design, build and fly her own aeroplane. Bland even used her aunt's ear-trumpet among other materials to construct the plane, named 'Mayfly'.

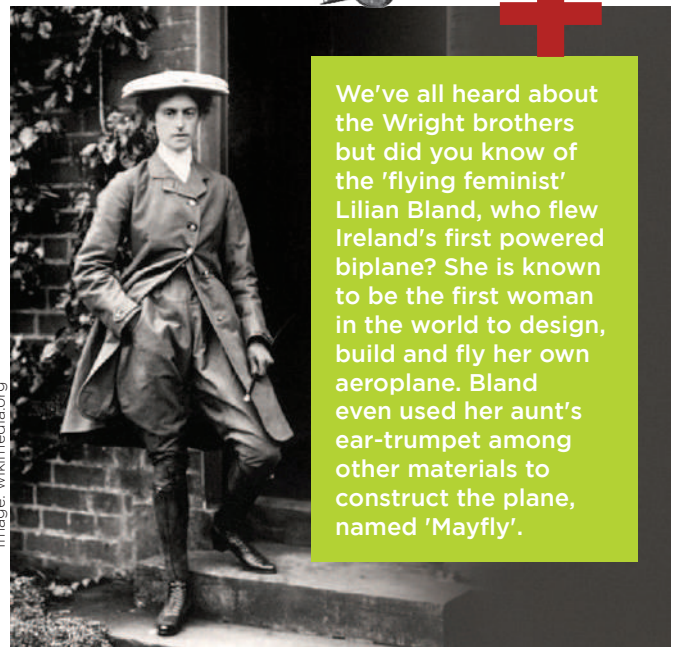


Image: wikimedia.org

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Laura Cornelius Kellogg was an author, visionary and activist, who was one of the founding members of the Society of American Indians in 1911, established to address the problems faced by Native Americans on issues like health, education and civil rights.



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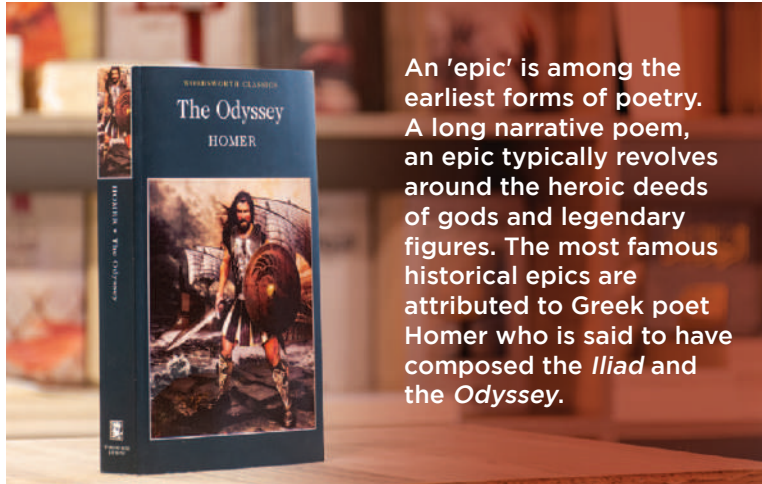
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\*Excluding GST. Prices will vary from airport to airport.

# Celebrating Verses

Marking World Poetry Day on March 21, let's know about this form of literary expression a little more!



An 'epic' is among the earliest forms of poetry. A long narrative poem, an epic typically revolves around the heroic deeds of gods and legendary figures. The most famous historical epics are attributed to Greek poet Homer who is said to have composed the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.



Related to spoken word is the free-form 'slam' poetry. Been around in its current form since the 1980s, it is typically performed at a poetry slam, a competitive event. Poets like Gaurav Tripathi are well-known in this genre.



Image: fb/ GauravTripathi

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Have you heard of ekphrasis? This form of poem typically uses a visual image or work of art as inspiration. Ekphrasis is not about form, structure or rigidity but the connection between art and poetry. A contemporary example of an ekphrastic poem is 'Self-Portrait with Sylvia Plath's Braid' by Diane Seuss.



'Haiku' is an ancient form of Japanese short poem made of three lines. They speak of natural aesthetics and human emotions and traditionally follow the rule of including one word to express the season, called *kigo*. One of the greatest Haiku poets was Matsuo Basho.



Another popular form of poetry is the 'sonnet', comprising 14 metrical lines. It is said to have originated around the 13th century in Italy and was perfected by early Renaissance poet Petrarch. Later, the Shakespearean sonnet (three quatrains and a couplet) attained a popularity of its own.

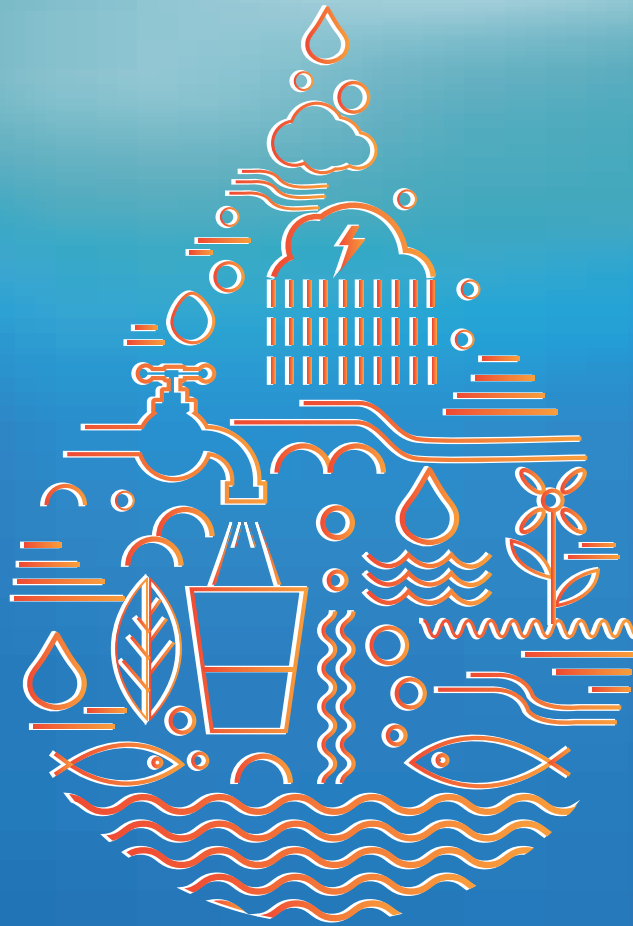


Image: poetryhit.com



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*World*  
*ater Day*

## **Liquid Lifeline**

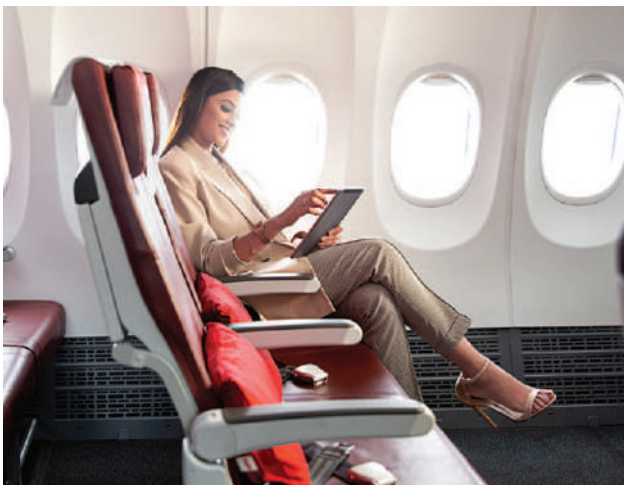
World Water Day, observed on March 22 every year, promotes the sustainable management of freshwater resources. It also advocates for significant action to tackle the global water crisis. The theme this year is 'Water for Peace' to encourage effective cooperation on water among nations for a more stable and prosperous future.

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The Meet & Assist Service for domestic



sectors starts at INR 600 and for international sectors at INR 1,000 excluding GST.

This service is currently available at selected airports.

# Walking the green path

Marking Global Recycling Day (March 18), we look at how conscious players in the travel and hospitality industry are promoting planet-sensitive trips, urging tourists to join hands with them in making the world a more sustainable place.

TEXT: GITA HARI



**E**nvisage a greener future as a traveller, where picturesque surroundings and experiences remain unspoilt by human intervention. By making mindful choices during our travels, we can significantly reduce our ecological footprint and preserve the beauty of our destinations for generations to come. Allow immersive experiences to leave a lasting impact with lesser carbon imprint. Visit unexplored, offbeat destinations. After all, travel is not just an incredible experience, but also the best school of learning with its inherent capacity to generate responsiveness and sensitivity towards the environment.



Images: thelodgetwah



#### GREEN FUTURE

As per a recent Sustainable Travel Report, nearly 76 per cent of people globally want to travel more sustainably. And around 67 per cent of travellers had adopted habits such as turning off the air conditioner at their accommodation in their absence.

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### AN EFFORT TOWARDS ZERO-WASTE

In today's environmentally conscious world, travellers are increasingly seeking ways to make positive contributions to the planet and striving to adopt 'zero-waste' travel. Recycling plays a vital role in the eco-friendly ethos. For many committed hotels and resorts in India, it extends beyond mere rhetoric. Conscious travel, regenerative methods and sustainability, for instance, are the ethos of Rare India initiative, dedicated to planet-sensitive tourism. The Lodge at Wah in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, is a 100 per cent eco-friendly property from the collection, which exemplifies this with the use of reclaimed wood sourced from the dismantled Palampur Court House. From glass and copper bottles for water storage to locally crafted ceramic dispensers for toiletries, they consciously opt for sustainable alternatives.

### UPCYCLING AND CONSCIOUS LUXURY

If luxurious travel is your lifestyle, opt for those with green initiatives. Hotel chains such as The Leela have taken some significant measures to reduce their carbon footprint, focusing on the holistic wellness of guests. Their in-room amenities have been replaced with bamboo-based biodegradable ones, avoiding single-use plastic. In their commitment to a circular

**Hotels and resorts have dedicated serious efforts towards reducing carbon footprint, and replacing single-use plastic with biodegradable materials**



Image: Svanir Wilderness Ecostay

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## ZERO-WASTE TRAVEL TIPS

- Collaborate with sustainable and environment-conscious accommodations and conveyance providers. Opt for stays with a strict sustainable focus. You can also go on organised group trips.
- Slow travelling is eco-friendly as it allows you to align with a destination and embrace sustainable modes of transport like exploring sites on foot or cycling.
- For road trips, pack your food, and use reusable packaging and cutlery and plastic-free food storage containers. Bamboo toothbrush, toiletries in refillable containers, steel straw and coffee mug, reusable cloth napkins, towels, masks, and upcycled travel bags are some of the supportable items.
- Settle for locally made souvenirs. Follow regenerative tourism, involve local artisans, artists, products and ingredients.
- Curate tours with zero-waste amenities and experiences. Book with tour operators who offer carbon offset initiatives for travellers.
- Do not waste food. Take only as much food from a buffet as you can finish. While ordering a la carte, indulge in tasting portions. Opt for farm-to-table experiences that are being offered at many places now.
- Switch off lights, TV, and other appliances in your hotel room, while going out. Avoid using a bath tub.

Image: Oasis India Camps



Image: thelodgetatwah

economy, they've partnered with Phool to upcycle the flowers used at their hotels into charcoal-free incense sticks and cones that are infused with their signature fragrance. Each of these exquisite floral incense sticks is handcrafted by women entrepreneurs from marginalised communities, providing livelihood opportunities while upcycling floral waste.

### ECO-FRIENDLY CAMPS

A camping experience is typically about processes that involve little or no carbon emissions. Carpooling, biking or availing public transport to reach the camp, and minimal water usage — as camps do not have tubs or showers that cause colossal wastage of water — are some of the measures, says Yashowardhan Singh, managing partner at Jaisalmer's Oasis India Camps. They organise camps in scenic locations with minimal impact on the environment, making visitors appreciate the delicate balance between humans and nature. Mindful vacationers prefer fossil fuel-free activities and experiences, says Singh. Exploring sand dunes while hiking or on camelback, trekking, bird watching and forest bathing are valued much more for relaxation and thrill than sight-seeing from motorised vehicles.

Image: The Leela



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## PETTING ZOO AND MORE

For all those who longed to have pets in the house but were unable to – the eco-friendly, sustainable

Forest Hills at Tala, in Maharashtra, goes beyond luxury and greenery. They house horses, pigs, goats, and birds like emus, black roosters, chickens, ducks, and turkeys. With the help of local experts, guests can spend some time cuddling and petting their favourite animal. It is a sanctuary encompassing different types of trees, activities like pluck and plate your own food, cycling, camping or walk the farm trail.

Image: Forest Hills at Tala



Image: Forest Hills at Tala

## WASTE-FREE GASTRONOMY

Zero-waste dining is a growing trend among conscious travellers, with some eateries adopting the root-to-shoot approach. Silo in London is deemed one of the world's first zero-waste restaurants, where the menu is an expression of natural farming.

Image: insta/silolondon



## HOMESTAYS

Eco-accommodations and homestays offer pocket-sized and localised attractions. With just a handful of dwellings, they cater to smaller guest numbers, reducing the overall carbon footprint. Eco-conscious properties like Svanir Wilderness Ecotay in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, ensured most of the pre-existing trees were unharmed during its construction and were incorporated into the design. Meanwhile, its co-founder Indrani Chakraborty encourages the use of reusable shopping bags, and practises grey water harvesting, composting as well as recycling. Despite the focus on recycling, comfort of guests is not compromised with. Take one look at Svanir and you will see spacious cottages, well-equipped with comfortable beds, clean linens, and other amenities. Delicious, home-cooked meals are also part of the experience, which are made using fresh and locally sourced organic ingredients to minimise food miles and support sustainable practices.

## RECYCLING PLASTIC WASTE

Many hotels are also taking a bold step towards eliminating



plastic pollution by phasing out conventional garbage bags in favour of pull-out tin liners tailored to fit each bin precisely. According to Upasana Todi, founder of The Lodge at Wah, this innovation not only streamlines waste management but also mitigates the proliferation of toxic materials.

EcoKaari, a Pune-based social enterprise, upcycles waste plastic into handwoven fabrics and products. Going a step further, its founder, Nandan Bhatt also engages women and youth belonging to humble origins to provide a source of income to them. From audio/video cassettes to wafer packets, any single-use plastic is spun into

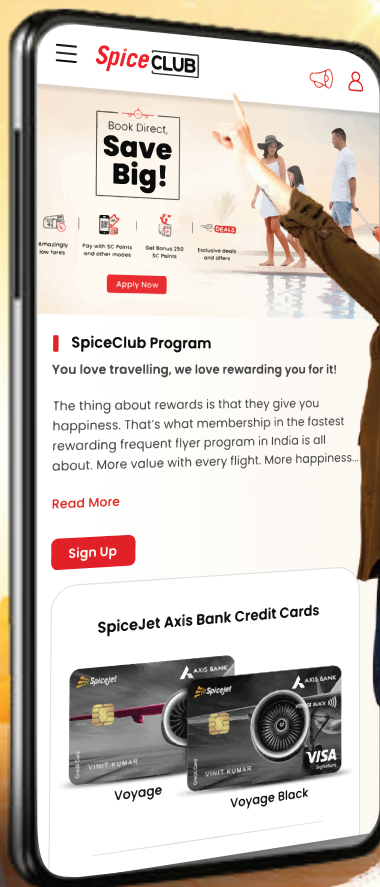
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Image: The Leela



## ECO-FRIENDLY TRIP FOR INFANTS

Travelling with tiny-tots warrants eco wipes and diapers. Tapping into the cause, companies have come up with wipes that contribute to a low carbon footprint. Tapasya Sharma, global marketing & digital head, Terra, says they make baby wipes with compostable materials, which break down quickly and minimise environmental impact.

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**Some sustainable properties are taking significant measures to instill awareness about waste reduction among people, including children, and encourage them to participate in recycling activities**



Image: Svanir Wilderness Ecostay



useful travel items like handbags, backpacks, bottle holders, fashion accessories and stationery products by means of *charkhas* (spindles) and handlooms.

## ENERGY CONSERVATION

Amid rising pollution levels, the travel industry has also directed many of its initiatives to reducing CO2 emissions and conserving energy, often focussing on environment-friendly alternatives.

The Leela operates windmill and solar plants in Bengaluru, Chennai, Jaipur and Udaipur, to reduce carbon emissions without compromising on guest comfort. The Leela Palace also operates electric boats on Lake Pichola in Udaipur. The installation of EV charging points across their properties further

support the adoption of sustainable transportation.

## EDUCATING GUESTS

While responsible tourism is picking up, there's still a long way to go. Discerning property owners are taking significant measures to educate guests, especially the younger ones, on the importance of waste reduction and encourage



Image: The Leela

them to participate in recycling efforts. Among them, Svanir reinforces sustainable practices through information boards and discussions. Activities such as nature walks, meditation under a tree and birdwatching are made available. They have also introduced an initiative called "Trees Are Us", in which guests are requested to take a one-hour walk around the premises with the staff in the morning, to learn about the tree varieties and their specialty. And the impact is seen through guest reviews that suggest a high level of environmental consciousness among many visitors.

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# WHERE HISTORY MEETS FAITH

From being Lord Rama's legendary capital to a flourishing ground for Jain and Buddhist traditions, Ayodhya and its neighbouring regions serve as important reminders of our shared and multicultural pasts

TEXT: AISHANI GUPTA

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## HIGHLIGHTS



### MUST-SEE

Visit Ram ki Paidi, a series of *ghats* on the Saryu River frequented by devotees



### USP

Dotted with shrines, Ayodhya is one of the most sought-after centres among pilgrims and archeologists



### WHAT TO DO

Shop for bangles, copper vessels, holographic posters and marble statues of gods and goddesses



### HISTORY TIP

The ancient city attained grandeur under many eminent kings such as Ikshvaku and Prithu over the centuries



Map not to scale

**Route:** SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Ayodhya from Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Kolkata and many more cities in India. Book now at [www.spicejet.com](http://www.spicejet.com)

Once the capital of the ancient kingdom of Kosala, Ayodhya is located on the east bank of the Ghaghara (more popularly known as the Saryu) River. It is the birthplace of Lord Rama, the legendary hero of the Hindu epic *Ramayana*, and one of modern India's most important pilgrimage sites. But with its rolling landscapes and myriad architectural remains, Ayodhya and its immediate surrounds have also borne witness to the lasting legacies of Jain and Buddhist traditions. This itinerary is for an immersive cultural trail across one of the oldest settlements in north India.

### LORD RAMA'S LAND

The town is dotted with several temples in close proximity, celebrating various events from the *Ramayana*. The Dashrath Mahal and the Kanak Bhawan near the



## What's More

### CELEBRATIONS

The festivals celebrated in Ayodhya offer deep cultural experiences. Some of the most vibrant festivals and events include Ram Navami *mela*, Shravan jhula *mela* and Deepotsav. The city also traditionally hosts stunning productions of the Ram Lila or the re-enactment of the life of Lord Rama.



### FOODIES DELIGHT

Enjoy the scrumptious *kachoris* and mouthwatering *chaats*, from *pani puri* to *aloo tikki*, which are local delicacies. Also, try sweet *laddoos*.



### ACTIVITIES

Try rafting on the Saryu River, which offers a mix of rapids, for a thrilling experience. Take a stroll on the numerous beautiful *ghats*, from Swargdwar ghat to Naya ghat.

### OLD LORE

Visit Tulsi Smarak Bhawan to learn more about saint Tulsidas, the author of *Ramcharitmanas*. Roam the old alleys and visit other attractions such as the Raj Sadan gates and Gulab Bari.



Images: Andhekar Sathish Lal



Ram Janmabhoomi Temple are believed to have been the residences of King Dashrath and Devi Sita respectively. Hanuman Garhi, dedicated to Lord Hanuman, is also nearby and was completed with generous donations during the reign of the *Nawabs* of Awadh. By far the most interesting structure is the Raj Dwar temple, whose current facade dates back almost 900 years, and it was a major entry gate into

Ayodhya in the ancient times. Constructed on one of the highest points of the city, it includes a tower built in Nagara style. At a short distance is the Guptar Ghat where Lord Rama is believed to have taken *jal samadhi* to mark the end of his earthly life. Enjoy a boat ride here to experience a serene sunset in the backdrop of old temples and palaces.

## The new Ram Janmabhoomi temple features a stunning 51-inch idol sculpted in black stone by artist Arun Yogiraj

### JAIN HERITAGE

Several ancient Gupta period texts from the 5th century indicate that the ancient name for Ayodhya was Saket, which is significant to the history of Jainism. Five out of 24 Jain Tirthankaras were born at Saket, including the first Tirthankara Adinath, making it one of the most important cities for Jains. A massive 31-ft statue of Lord Adinath, who is also known as Lord Rishabhdev, has been installed at the Digambar Temple at Raiganj. Other temples commemorating the lives of Tirthankaras Ajitnath,



Image: Andhekar Sathish Lal

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**Best Time to Visit:** Spring is a good time to explore Ayodhya and its neighbouring regions.

Ayodhya is about 140 km from Lucknow.

is said to have delivered sermons. If you have an extra day at your disposal, visit Kushinagar (around 200 km away) where Lord Buddha attained Parinirvana (salvation). The mound at Ramabhar Stupa marks the site of his cremation while the Mahanirvana Stupa was built on his relics.

### NATHA YOGIS

Between Kushinagar and Ayodhya lies Gorakhpur, with a temple complex dedicated to Gorakhnath, a prominent early medieval mystic of the Natha order. The Natha yogis were influenced by Shaivism and are strong proponents of yoga, particularly Hatha yoga. The Gorakhnath Mandir, a shrine built in the honour of the saint, is not only a cultural hub, but also serves as a poignant reminder of the region's diverse, interlinked histories.



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

**Ayodhya is a place of high religious significance even among the Jains, with many important shrines located in the region**

Abhinandannath, Sumatinath and Ananthnath are located in Ramkot, Saptasagar, and the Sarai locality, among other areas within the district of Ayodhya.

### SHRAVASTI AND KUSHINAGAR

About three hours from Ayodhya lies the ruins of Shravasti, where Lord Buddha preached. The Angulimala Stupa ruins or Pakki Kuti is among the largest Buddhist mounds in the Mahet area. It finds mention in the records of Xuanzang, the Chinese explorer who travelled extensively through India in the 7th century. Lord Buddha himself is believed to have stayed at the Jetavana Vihara, which has been converted into a historical park. Stroll around the remnants of halls and stupas, and the Ananda Bodhi pipal tree under which Lord Buddha



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# TO THE LAND OF *mystic trails*

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This spring, visit the beautiful city of Kathmandu in Nepal, where Holi or Fagu Purnima is celebrated with great fervour and devotion. Also, explore the stunning mountain nation

TEXT: BINDU GOPAL RAO



Image: visitnepal.com



**K**athmandu celebrates Holi, the festival of colours, in all its gaiety as it marks the end of winter and the onset of spring. The week-long festival celebrates the triumph of good over evil. It is said to be the day when demon princess Holika, Hiranyakashipu's sister, was killed when she tried to burn her nephew, Prahlad, and instead got burnt to death herself. Most of the festivities take place in the first three days when the Basantapur Durbar Square in Kathmandu transforms into a carnival space. The first day sees a decorated wooden or bamboo pole being set on fire, and women in colourful sarees circle around it seeking blessings for a prosperous year ahead. Symbolically, this custom is meant to reflect the burning of evils of the past year. There are special bonfires lit on the second day to symbolise the death of Holika and the third day is all about throwing colours at each other - in the form of powder, water and more, while popular Nepali singers perform. The festival is celebrated across Nepal and most of the traditions include singing, dancing and visiting temples.

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### **WILD CALL**

The lush landscape of Kathmandu lends itself to some amazing flora and fauna that





### AROUND KATHMANDU

Kathmandu is surrounded by many serene destinations. Located close-by, Nagarkot offers excellent panoramic mountain views with stunning sunrises. Dhulikhel is home to the famed peaks of Langtang Lirung, Dorje Lakpa, Gauri Shankar, Melungtse, and Numbur. About 147 km away is Bandipur with the thriving Newari culture. A hilltop settlement above the Marsyangdi River, it is a great pit-stop to experience traditional village architecture and a lush countryside.

### CULTURAL CANVAS

Nepal's vibrant festivities and performing arts reflect its rich traditions and culture. Tiji, Janai Purnima, Chhath, Indra Jatra, and Mha Puja are some of the widely celebrated festivals. Integral to some of these are rhythmic masked dances in traditional costumes, such as Nava Durga nach, accompanied by local music instruments.



Image: insta/nepaltourism/Rusell Pradhan

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take centre stage in the valley — the Ranibari Community Forest near Lazimpat, is popular for bird watching. You can also spot the jackal, jungle cat and small mammals. The Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park in Kathmandu Valley, Ichangu, Taudaha lake, Godawari, Gokarna Sahid Smarak Park in Gokarneshwor, pine forests of Hattiban, and fields of Khokana are some biodiversity hotspots. One of the must-do experiences is the exploration of the Chitwan jungle. The UNESCO-listed Chitwan National Park, around 200 km from capital Kathmandu, is where you can spot crocodiles while enjoying a canoe cruise, the elusive one-horned rhino and even

the tiger while on a jeep safari. Plan a tour to a village of the local Tharu community, which has been living in the forests for centuries, and has nature at the heart of its local culture. Try Tharu dishes like *ghonghi* (snail dish), *dhikri* (rice flour stick), *bhakka* (rice flour steamed cake), *sikarni* (sweet yogurt), and *patushni* (rice or legume wrap). Food in Nepal is an assortment of rich indigenous flavours. Sample authentic local delicacies, from Newari-special steamed fish-shaped dumpling, *yomari* to the traditional *dal bhat*, served with fresh seasonal veggies. Nepal *chiya* (milk-based tea), made with aromatic spices, is also popular due to its distinct taste.

### TREKKERS' PARADISE

In the northeastern province of Nepal are vast glaciers, high mountains and deep valleys that make up a serene landscape for travellers and an adventurous trail for trekkers. One of the most sought-after trekking routes, the Everest Base Camp trek tests physical strength while offering deep cultural experiences. Apart from the usual hike up the Everest, experienced trekkers also take the route from Jiri through Solu to



Image: insta/nepaltourism



### TASTE OF HOLI

Some of the dishes that you must try around the Holi festivities include *bhang* (drink made from buds and leaves of cannabis) *lassi*, *thandai* (cooling drink) and sweets like *laddoo*, *gujiya* and milk *peda*.





## Five places to visit in Nepal

Pokhara, the second-largest city in Nepal, is famous for trekking, being the starting point for treks to the Annapurna Range. Indulge in boating, paragliding, river rafting and more. The old city is known for woodwork and woollen goods.



Lumbini is the birthplace of Lord Buddha and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore ancient stupas and monasteries that have stunning paintings. If you like trekking, the Lumbini Circuit Trek is a must. Visit the Maya Devi Temple, where Lord Buddha is said to have been born, and the Bodhi Tree nearby.



Janakpur, said to be the birthplace of Goddess Sita, is known as the 'city of ponds'. The grand Janaki Mandir is well-known. Also, check out the Rolwaling Valley, Jaleswar, Ram Sita Vivah Mandap and Dolakha Bhimsen Mandir.

Patan (Lalitpur), the city of artisans, has a Durbar Square with statues, temples, and palaces. Stop by the Patan museum to see local handicrafts and traditional jewellery.



Dharan, often referred to as the 'Gateway to Mahabharata Hills', is a low-lying hilly region in eastern Nepal. With a salubrious climate through the year, this is where you can golf, hike to Namche, and drive to Bhedetar hill station.



Khumbu and Sagarmatha National Park. There are other trails in the Annapurna, Langtang, and Kanchenjunga regions with stunning Himalayan views.

### HERITAGE HUES

Kathmandu is home to seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Start your exploration at the revered Pashupatinath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. The Kathmandu Durbar Square, despite being damaged in an earthquake, is stunning. This is where Nepal's rulers used to be crowned. The Swayambhunath Temple on a hillock features a dome stupa and the sanctum is revered as one of the holiest Buddhist sites. The Patan Durbar Square hosts several Buddhist and Hindu temples, and heritage buildings. At Boudhanath Stupa near the city centre, a ritualistic circumambulation is believed to open the doors to heaven after death! Also, visit Bhaktapur Durbar Square, the erstwhile home of the region's royal family.



#### MUST-TRY

Explore the antique charms of Nepal in Bhaktapur and Patan.



#### RETAIL THERAPY

Visit Thamel, a vibrant space with restaurants and shops. Buy Tibetan singing bowls, glass pipes, Kukri swords, and more.



# A walk to remember

Plan an adrenaline-pumped hike at one of these national parks during spring season to rejoice in the abundance of natural beauty, from lush landscapes to unique biodiversity



**W**ith nature waking up from its winter hibernation, dried branches burst into life, adorned with new leaves and delicate flower buds. Spring brings the perfect time to wipe the dust off your hiking boots and head out for your next hike at these picturesque national parks from across the world.

The **Galapagos National Park**, located to the west of Ecuador, is home to the Galapagos islands rich in marine biodiversity. The wildlife comprise Galapagos land iguanas, marine iguanas and the Galapagos tortoise. It is a must-visit in spring

Photo: **Jess Kraft**



One of the world's oldest national parks, **Yellowstone National Park** in the US mesmerises tourists with its hydrothermal and geological features, offering fantastic views and hiking opportunities

Photo: Lorcel





The **Joshua Tree National Park** has varied desert species. During spring, enjoy abundant sunshine, stargazing and hiking  
Photo: **Patricia Elaine Thomas**

The UNESCO-inscribed **Plitvice Lakes National Park** in Croatia has many hiking trails, interspersed with water bodies and tufa barriers  
Photo: **Baia Dzagnidze**





A spring dream for hikers, the **Yosemite National Park** in California is dotted with deep valleys, waterfalls and meadows. Try the easy hikes around Yosemite Valley  
Photo: **Lukas Uher**



The **Tongariro National Park** in New Zealand is good for experienced hikers. The UNESCO-inscribed park has extinct and active volcanoes, and serene landscapes  
Photo: **Heavenlyflower**



**"India is like second home to me!"**

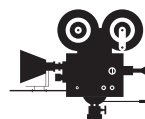
From touring the country in search of spirituality and wellness to its stunning landscapes inspiring his music, the legendary singer Sting elaborates why he is in love with India

TEXT: AARTI KAPUR SINGH

**A**t the second edition of music fest Lollapalooza India, legendary English musician Sting proved that age has nothing on him. The 72-year-old crooner painted Mumbai with nostalgia and took everyone's breath away with 16 of his most popular songs. But the biggest high for Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner (Sting), by his own admission, was "coming back and performing in one of my favourite countries in the world!"

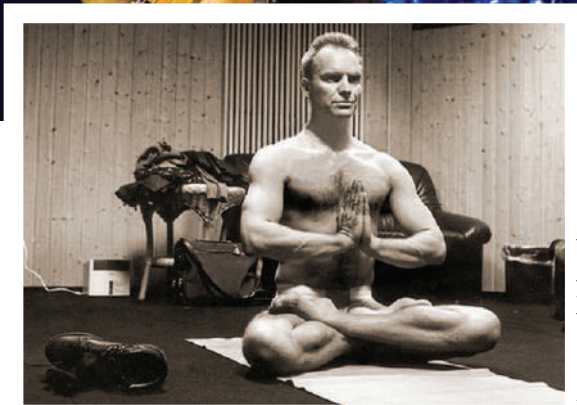
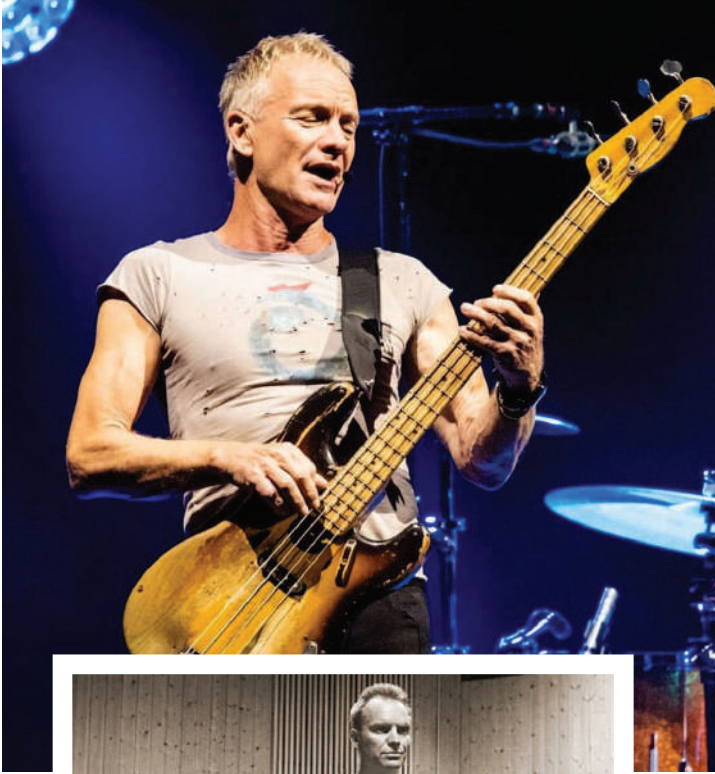
He may have won 17 Grammy Awards, an Emmy, a Golden Globe and has been nominated four times for the

Images: wikimedia.org





Images: insta/ theofficialsting



Images: elginhotels.com

Academy Awards and yet, Sting considers performing in India "a huge high". "I got to share stage with music greats like Halsey, Anoushka Shankar, Jonas Brothers and Raghu Dixit. It was a multicultural and multi-sensory experience because there was good food, great art, fashion and so much more. It was a great Woodstock-like setup. India is like second home to me and this homecoming was special," he says.

### Stung By Nostalgia

Sting's first visit to India was also for a performance. Reminiscing, he says, "This was way back in 1980, when I was part of 'The Police' (popular 1980's band). What a debut that was! And it led me to fall in love with India forever! I have such vivid memories of ladies in their sarees standing up on their seats with their umbrellas and dancing. There was even a stage invasion!" Speaking about his fascination with India, the crooner says, "India has always had a profound influence on my thoughts, life, growth and music. I am not unfamiliar with the vastness of this prolific culture, and I want to learn more and more. Trudy (wife Trudie Styler) and I have been fascinated by all things Indian - from Hinduism and sitar to yoga and a lot more! I have been coming here for more than three decades. I have celebrated New Year in Goa, camped in the Thar desert and visited the

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## Sting secrets

### In High Spirits

Sting has recently co-developed an alcohol brand, Amante 1530. Speaking about it, he says, "I wanted it to reflect who I am, what I like, and what hopefully a lot of people will like too. Through Amante, I want to send a message of connection, reverence, passion, love, joy and fun. And what better way of sending a message than in a bottle!"

### India bucket-list

Next on his dreams is to explore Indian vineyards to try and see "the fun part of India", as he says.

### Working in India

The singer is "open to the idea of collaborating with musicians in India." Lauding the global influence Indian musicians have had, Sting says, "Look at the heights 'Shakti' (Indian band) reached, now that they are lauded for their contributions at the Grammys. I want to meet A.R. Rahman and a few independent musicians. It would be really nice to collaborate."



Images: insta/ theofficialsting

Sting, with his daughter Mickey as a child

holy headwaters of the Yamuna and Ganges rivers. I've been lucky enough to share it with my family, and now my children love it as much as I do."

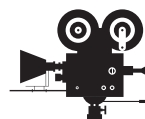
Indian culture has inspired the work of many musicians and Sting is no different. Revealing how most of his standout work has Indian influences, he says, "I heard a street-side singer in Mumbai once. He was singing a song from a Hindi film and very unlike what I had ever heard before. That inspired a lot of jamming when I went back. Another experience that moved me enough to inspire me to incorporate it in my work was my road trip on a bike across Rajasthan. That experience and the visuals I encountered were the inspiration for the song 'Desert Rose.'"

### Moved By Spirituality

Indian culture and spirituality have moved people globally. Sting also believes in the "idea of India". "The basis of Indian philosophy, if I have understood it correctly, is journeying within your own self. And it makes so much sense. I've bathed at Gangotri, contemplated mortality in Varanasi, and hitch-hiked in the Himalayas. All through my travels and explorations, I have met different parts of myself and learnt to live in harmony with everything," avers the singer, adding, "India teaches you to live with differences, harmoniously. I have seen the whole spectrum, the poverty and the fantastic wealth. I enjoy India's paradoxes. It's a complicated society, it's not perfect, and I enjoy that. Aren't we all like that?"



Images: insta/ theofficialsting



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# A jab tale

Marking **National Vaccination Day**, observed on March 16 every year in India, we highlight some milestones achieved by the country under one of the biggest immunisation programmes



India committed to the resolution for global polio eradication, passed by the World Health Assembly, in **1988**  
The country reported the last case of polio in **2011**

On March 27, 2014, the South-east Asia region of WHO, including India, was certified polio free by the Regional Certification Commission



India's universal immunisation programme is one of the largest in the world with annual cohorts of about

**26.5** million infants and **29** million pregnant women as per the latest government data

National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day was launched in India in

**1995**

when the government initiated the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme

The Government of India started Mission Indradhanush in 2014 to accelerate full immunisation coverage to around 90 per cent and reduce mortality among children



**Be Wise!**  
Get your child fully immunized



Till February 2023,

**4.45**

crore children and

**1.2**

crore

pregnant women  
had been vaccinated,  
as per the latest  
government data

Following the success of Mission Indradhanush, PM Narendra Modi launched the “Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)” in 2017 to further reinforce the immunisation programme across **121 districts**, **17 urban areas** and **52 districts** of the **Northeastern states**



According to WHO, immunisation is a key component of primary health care and an

**“indisputable human right”**.

Vaccines work with the body’s natural defences to reduce the risk of contracting a disease

The immunisation programme has been expanded to cover diseases including pertussis, meningitis and pneumonia (hemophilus influenza type B infections), and Japanese encephalitis (JE) in JE endemic districts with vaccines such as rotavirus vaccine, IPV, adult JE vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and measles-rubella (MR)

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In the recent interim budget for 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the government is considering rolling out a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for girls between the ages nine and 14, to tackle the incidence of cervical cancer

MARCH 2024

# YOUR FORECAST THIS MONTH



## ARIES

You will have the conviction to move forward in life and tackle all problems with strength. As a result, all the things will start falling into place for you. Your business will expand as money is increasing and unproductive and worked-up areas are being settled. You will find your soulmate soon. Health will be good.



## TAURUS

It seems like your emotions are on a roller-coaster. They are going to demand attention as you need to calm down. A major obstacle related to your work or personal affairs is about to be resolved. Keep calling people who owe you money, it will come soon. Court cases will be resolved relieving your pressures. Cheer up!



## GEMINI

Are you feeling overconfident? If yes, then you might need to hold your horses. If you decide to go a little slow, you will not make mistakes. A shift in your career is indicated. Health needs attention. Children will bring good news. An addition to the family is expected! Travel overseas is indicated.



## CANCER

There might be some circumstances that will warrant the abandonment of a project involving paperwork because you won't be willing to pursue it for now. Hold onto your finances this month, and avoid overspending. Marriage is on the cards. Legal issues will also come to a resolution. Happy family time lies ahead.



## LEO

Someone is feeling trapped in a nasty situation. But do not worry! You will be happy to know that it is temporary. It's time to eliminate gossip, do not believe anything or everything negative that you hear. You may have to dissolve a partnership. A new and favourable business proposal will be presented.



## VIRGO

New people are entering your life, and you will be pleased with their appearance as they will bring positive changes in your life, both professionally and personally. You will consider buying a new car or property. A family member might irritate you a little bit, but there's no need to worry. Romance is on the cards.



## LIBRA

You might be getting busy with paperwork. Most likely, you will be involved with some kind of release form or legal, medical or corporate papers. If you've made a mistake that had hindered your progress, someone is coming your way to correct it for you. Financial assistance is coming through a loan. Travel is on the cards.



## SCORPIO

Seems like you are bubbling with ideas and you will begin a new project or a venture and some of these ideas will be backed up by people who will provide much-needed assistance or sponsorship. It's time to accept material gains that are coming your way. You will be popular socially. Stomach issues need attention.



## SAGITTARIUS

A chain or series of events will unfold, which will turn out to be positive and in your favour. It will detach you from your problems along with eliminating any kind of apprehension. Be willing to act upon new ideas. Popularity is on the cards for you but better keep a count of the wine glasses. It seems like a good time to invest in property.



## CAPRICORN

Good surprises seem to be coming your way, and that calls for some excitement. You will be offered a promotional opportunity that will give you the chance to sell or advertise your product through media, trade or radio. You will get lucky in matters related to the heart. Your debts will finally be cleared and this will enable you to amp up your savings.



## AQUARIUS

You are a social butterfly this month. You will be networking with people who will help you in your job. Your problems or quarrels are also getting sorted easily. What was wrong will be set right, what was missing will be found & whatever is needed will be provided. Take a break as you might be a little tired. All is well.



## PISCES

Opportunities are calling you so, don't miss them! You are going to get a business call or an employment offer that is different from your usual work profile. There might be a slight misunderstanding in the family, but nothing to be worried about. Financial gains will make you happy and you will be able to start saving.

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](mailto:poonamsethi27@hotmail.com)





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## JOURNEY OF A SPICE STAR



OFFER LETTER  
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# NEWS

## SpiceJet Secures Haj Flight Rights from Seven Indian Cities Haj has been a significant revenue generator for SpiceJet

SpiceJet is proud to announce that it has secured flight rights for Haj operations from seven Indian cities. The cities include Srinagar, Gaya, Guwahati, Bhopal, Indore, Aurangabad, and Vijayawada.

Haj has been a significant revenue generator for SpiceJet, reaffirming its commitment to serving diverse segments of passengers. In the current fiscal year, SpiceJet garnered a revenue of INR 337 crore from Haj operations, operating flights from five Indian cities. This year, the airline anticipates even higher revenue from its Haj operations.

The commencement of the first phase of Haj operations is scheduled for May 9, with flights to Medina. SpiceJet is gearing up to ensure a seamless and comfortable travel experience for Haj pilgrims from the selected cities.

Last year, SpiceJet had inducted three wide-body aircraft specifically dedicated to Haj operations. This year, the airline plans to follow suit, particularly focusing on enhancing services for flights originating from Srinagar.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "We are delighted to have secured flight rights for Haj operations from seven prominent Indian cities. Haj has always been a significant segment for SpiceJet and we are committed to providing the best-in-class services for the pilgrims. We aim to ensure a smooth and hassle-free travel experience for all our passengers. We look forward to serving the Haj pilgrims and contributing to their sacred journey."

## Ajay Singh & Busy Bee Airways Private Limited Submit Bid for GoFirst

**SpiceJet will serve as the Operating Partner for the New Airline Providing Staff and Services**

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of SpiceJet and Busy Bee Airways Private Limited, have jointly submitted a bid for GoFirst. The bid, submitted on Friday (February 16, 2024), marks a significant strategic move that has the potential to reshape the landscape of the Indian aviation sector and position SpiceJet for substantial growth in the industry.

The bid has been submitted by Ajay Singh, in his personal capacity, along with Busy Bee Airways Private Limited.

SpiceJet's role as the operating partner for the new airline involves providing essential staff, services and industry expertise. This collaboration is anticipated to generate synergies between the two carriers, leading to improved cost management, revenue growth and a strengthened market position within the Indian aviation industry.

For SpiceJet, serving as the service provider presents significant opportunities for revenue expansion. By leveraging its established infrastructure and operational capabilities, SpiceJet can optimize resource allocation and achieve cost efficiencies across various functions, including maintenance, ground handling, and engineering.

Furthermore, coordinated route planning initiatives are poised to enhance passenger traffic and drive ticket sales for both airlines. By strategically aligning their flight schedules and destinations, SpiceJet and the new airline can capture a larger share of the market and cater to diverse passenger needs effectively.

SpiceJet is currently in the midst of a revival plan, having successfully completed the first tranche of capital infusion amounting to INR 744 Crore, with additional subscriptions pending regulatory approval. The company has also initiated the process to raise an additional INR 1000 crore. SpiceJet already holds valid shareholder approval to raise up to INR 2500 crore through QIP, eliminating the need for further shareholder approval.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I firmly believe that GoFirst holds immense potential and can be revitalized to work in close synergy with SpiceJet, benefiting both carriers. Apart from coveted slots at domestic and international airports, international traffic rights and an order for over 100 Airbus Neo planes, GoFirst is a trusted and valued brand among flyers. I am happy to contribute to the efforts aimed at reviving this popular airline and leveraging its strengths for mutual growth and success."





If you have any feedback or suggestion on any aspect of our services, please send us an e-mail at [custrelations@spicejet.com](mailto:custrelations@spicejet.com)

You may also send your feedback to the following:

**NODAL OFFICER:**

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[nodalofficer@spicejet.com](mailto:nodalofficer@spicejet.com)  
+91 124 3913939

**APPELLATE AUTHORITY:**

Mr Kamal Hingorani  
[appellateauthority@spicejet.com](mailto:appellateauthority@spicejet.com)  
+91 124 3913939

**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](http://www.airsewa.gov.in)

# Memories onboard

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



Photo by  
**Utheshwaran Krishna Moorthy**  
(Chennai to Shirdi)



Photo by  
**Pranav Kamath**  
(Ayodhya to Bengaluru)

Photo by  
**Dr Jaspal Singh**  
(Hyderabad to Kochi)



Photo by  
**Saani Zehra**  
(Delhi to Srinagar)



## 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](mailto:marketing.ho@spicejet.com)

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



**SPICE STAR**  
ACADEMY

# STARS ARE CALLING STARS.

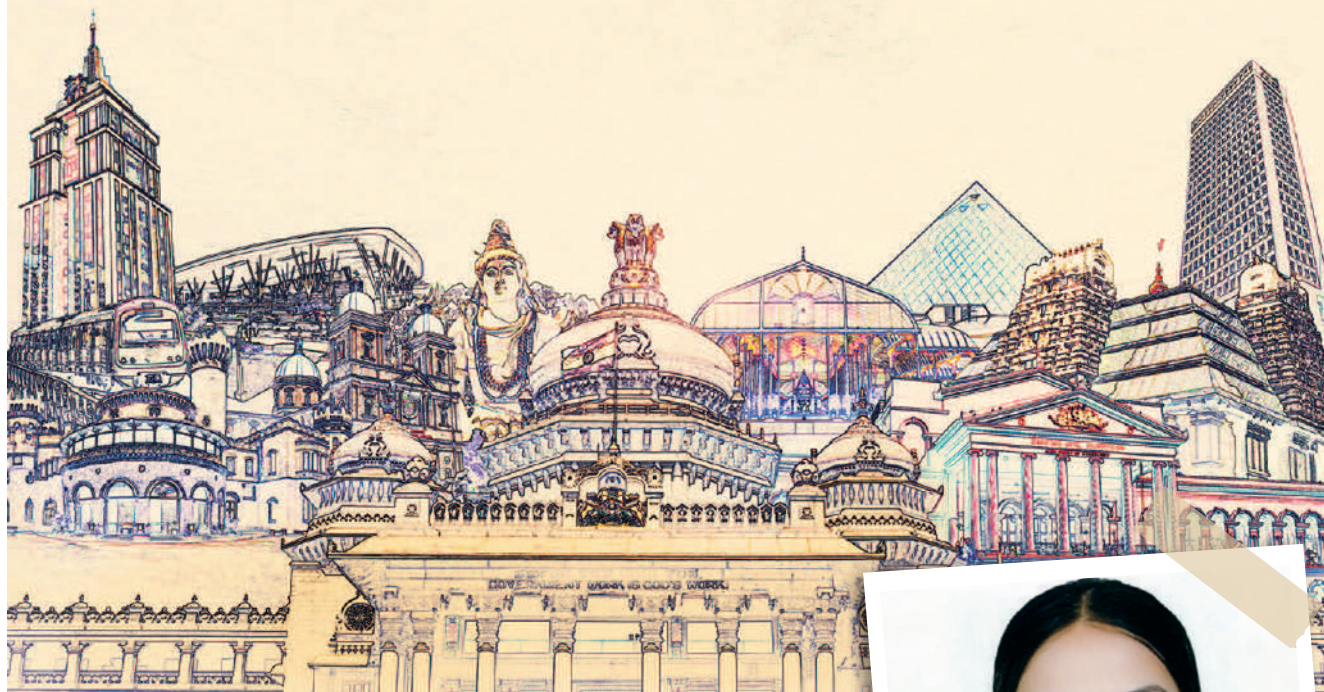
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## ELIGIBILITY:

- 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



# My Town

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



**MS. DELPHINE MARY WILSON**  
LINE CHECK CABIN CREW, BENGALURU

## Are you originally from Bengaluru?

Yes, famously known as the 'Silicon Valley of India,' I feel extremely lucky to have been born and brought up in Bengaluru.

## What is the quality of life here like?

The quality of life here is good because of its vibrant culture, pleasant climate, and corporate setup. Alongside great weather and good schools, the city boasts a decent cost of living, a relatively safe environment, abundant greenery, affordable public transport and sumptuous meals.

## What is the best thing that you like about the place?

For me, it has always been the weather of Bengaluru that I cherish. The pleasant weather adds a unique charm to the city, be it a delightful monsoon melody, harmonising raindrops or sunny interludes.

## As compared to other big cities, how is Bengaluru's lifestyle different?

I get such a sense of elation when I tell people that I hail from Bengaluru. The city is renowned for its charm, opulent modern lifestyle, top-notch living amenities and nightlife. Known as the Garden City for its

leafy avenues and quiet suburbs, Bengaluru was the first city in Asia to be lit by street lamps and has since continued to spearhead India's technological boom.

## What is the night scene here like?

It's no shocker that Bengaluru has a lively nightlife scene that is unmatched. As one of the most vibrant cities, Bengaluru loves its party-loving crowd and offers them a plethora of pubs, bars, lounges and nightclubs. So, whether you're on vacation or a business trip, don't confine yourself to just one place. As the sun sets and the city lights twinkle, Bengaluru transforms into



a pulsating hub of entertainment. The city has many clubs, open-air lounges, sports pubs, and chic rooftop bars atop some of its tallest buildings.

### Are you a foodie? Which is your favourite eatery in Bengaluru?

I am a foodie because I love to eat, and if we're talking about my favourite spot, then *Toit* is at the top of my list. It's a famous pub, known for having some of the best brewers in the nation. This brewpub is a throwback to the beer-ale-pub culture, which has taken the city by storm.

### How did you discover the eatery?

My friends and I like exploring new cafes and eateries and we often wander around town to do the same. We ended up here once and immediately fell in love with this place.

### Why do you like the place so much?

There are many reasons as to why I like the place. First, the ambience is flamboyant and the interior décor of this place is stunning and visually appealing. For me, this place truly symbolises a superior brewpub experience. Bringing easy-breezy vibes, quirky cocktails, freshly brewed beer, and a scrumptious food menu. This place is my favourite spot for hanging out with friends.

### Which are the best places to hang out in Bengaluru?

Cubbon Park is among the popular places to visit with friends in Bengaluru. There are statues of many famous personalities there. Another amazing place is Lal Bagh Botanical Garden, which comprises a glass house inspired by the London Crystal Palace.

### What attractions in Bengaluru would you recommend to a tourist?

Offering a spectacular view of nature, Nandi Hills is amongst the most ideal locations for connecting with nature. I would also recommend visiting Bangalore Palace. This evocative palace comprises of fortified arches,



towers, Tudor-style architecture, green lawns and sophisticated wood carvings in the interiors. Another picturesque place to visit is Ulsoor Lake, located in the heart of the city.

### What are the other places that you would recommend to visit near Bengaluru?

The most popular place to visit near

Bengaluru is Mysuru. The city retains its old-world charm with many palaces, heritage buildings, traditions and temples. Another must-visit destination is Hogenakal, located almost 146 km from Bengaluru. It is often referred to as the 'Niagara of India' due to its breathtaking waterfalls.

### What are the people here like?

The people of Bengaluru are the most gentle and polite ones. The people living here are often described as diverse, dynamic and cosmopolitan. You will find a mix of cultures, languages and backgrounds here, that contribute to the vibrant and inclusive atmosphere of the city.

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

I have lived in other Indian cities, and every city has something unique about it. The most important thing about Bengaluru is that it is quite an inclusive and welcoming city. Bengaluru is sometimes referred to as the "Silicon Valley of India" because of its role as the nation's leading information technology hub. The city is also blessed with a thriving art and cultural scene. From theatres to exclusive South Indian food joints and classical dance forms, you can witness several manifestations of Indian culture being showcased here. It has managed to keep its traditions alive along with becoming a tech hub.

### PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE DISH AT THE PLACE.

I absolutely love their wood-fired pizzas, the thought of it makes me hungry. Wood-fired pizzas are cooked in brick ovens that are heated directly using fire. The flavour of this pizza is unmatched. Not to mention, the fast cooking creates a special caramelisation of the ingredients that accentuates their deep flavours.



# 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

DUKES

### Jalapeño Nachos & Salsa Dip/ Waffly Coffee Flavoured Rolls

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

FARMLEY

CRAZY CASHEW

### Cream & Onion Makhana/ Roasted Salted

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





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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 1,700 | USD 22 | AED 80  
THB 770 | SAR 85

## Cheers to a Pair of Savings!

ABSOLUT

**Vodka 1 l**

**1 Bottle**

INR 1,200 | USD 16 | AED 60 | THB 550 | SAR 60

**2 Bottles**

INR 2,200 | USD 28 | AED 105 | THB 1,000 | SAR 105



GLEN MORAY (12 YO)

**Single Malt Scotch Whisky 1 l**

**1 Bottle**

INR 1,800 | USD 23 | AED 85 | THB 820 | SAR 90

**2 Bottles**

INR 3,300 | USD 42 | AED 155 | THB 1,500 | SAR 160



GLEN MORAY (15 YO)

**Single Malt Scotch Whisky 750 ml**

**1 Bottle**

INR 2,700 | USD 35 | AED 130 | THB 1,230 | SAR 130

**2 Bottles**

INR 4,900 | USD 62 | AED 230 | THB 2,220 | SAR 235



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**Chardonnay White Wine 750 ml**

**1 Bottle**

INR 700 | USD 9 | AED 35 | THB 320 | SAR 35

**2 Bottles**

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A. DE FUSSIGNY GRANDE  
CHAMPAGNE VSOP

**Cognac 700 ml**

**1 Bottle**

INR 3,000 | USD 38 | AED 140 | THB 1,360 | SAR 145

**2 Bottles**

INR 5,600 | USD 71 | AED 265 | THB 2,540 | SAR 270



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# Stars Of SpiceJet

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

78

Catering

**K VEERA RAGAVAN**  
MADURAI



**Internal appreciation:** Ragavan is a team player on our catering team. He completes all tasks with utmost perseverance and dedication. He is also focused and provides help in day to day operations. He comes to work with a positive attitude which uplifts all.

**Experience with SpiceJet:** I have been a part of the SpiceJet family for six years and my experience has been quite enriching. SpiceJet has a supportive work environment and encourages its employees to grow and prosper. I am glad to be a part of this progressive family.

Administration

**SACHIN KUMAR SOOD**  
GURGAON



**Internal appreciation:** Sachin is a dedicated staff of the SpiceJet family. He works hard for completing all his assigned tasks on time and is efficient in all his endeavours. Our team's trust is strengthened by his devotion to ethical norms, candour, and integrity when communicating issues. His initiative is a great value to our department. We feel lucky to have him in SpiceJet with us.

**Experience with SpiceJet:** I have been working at SpiceJet for the last ten years and it has been an absolute privilege. It is a matter of great pride for me to work as Deputy Manager - Administration in the company. At SpiceJet, I have learned how to execute all administrative duties without any hassle and fulfill all my duties responsibly with dedication. Overall, working as an administration staff at a fast-paced aviation industry has given me excellent exposure. I can now confidently contribute significantly to the airline's operational effectiveness. Only by working in the extremely difficult aviation industry was this achievement achievable.

Human Resource

**MOHIT KUMAR SINGH**  
GURGAON



**Internal appreciation:** Mohit is the youngest in the HR department and plays an active role in streamlining the HRMS system. He has the ability to transform simple numeric data into engaging content. He enthusiastically participates in all projects, especially those that are focused on automation. His growth has been quite evident and he continues to play a key role in driving various automation initiatives.

**Experience with SpiceJet:** I feel fantastic as well as privileged to work at SpiceJet, a place where my ideas & opinions are valued. I express my gratitude for all the support that has helped me in enhancing my skills. I feel appreciated and valued at SpiceJet. I feel motivated to work towards my goals. At SpiceJet, we have the freedom to bring about change and be creative which helps us complete all our tasks and align ourselves with our goals.

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Two men are featured in the center of the advertisement. The man on the left is wearing a white polo shirt with the 1XBET logo and is holding a white cricket ball. The man on the right is wearing a white polo shirt with the 1XBET logo, a white cap with the 1XBET logo, and white cricket gloves. He is holding a cricket bat with the 1XBET logo on the blade. The background is dark blue with several stylized, glowing cricket stumps floating around the men.

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