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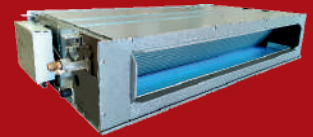
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# FROM THE CMD'S DESK



*Ajay Singh*

**AJAY SINGH**  
Chairman and Managing Director

## DEAR READERS,

Welcome aboard SpiceJet!  
Let the festivities soar! As Diwali approaches, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May the radiant light of joy, happiness, wealth, and prosperity continue to shine in your lives.

The aviation industry is also basking in a positive glow, thanks to the optimistic sentiments sweeping the nation and the robust demand for travel during this festive season. With Durga Puja and Dussehra in October, Diwali in November, and the spirit of Christmas in December, coupled with year-end school vacations and office breaks, and not to forget the cricket World Cup, it appears that this quarter holds the promise of becoming a truly remarkable and record-breaking period for the airline industry.

We are thrilled by the love and support you've shown us, which has consistently enabled us to achieve one of the highest Passenger Load Factors (PLF) over the years. As we prepare to meet the increasing demand for seats and to accommodate the surge in traffic, we are pleased to announce the return of ten grounded aircraft and the introduction of ten leased aircraft this month. Nine leased B737s

including five 737 MAX and one A340 have already become a part of our growing fleet.

As the aviation industry continues its recovery and demand increases, we are dedicated to meeting these emerging demands and eagerly anticipate the possibility of setting new records for air traffic this upcoming festive season.

In addition to these developments, amidst the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas conflict, SpiceJet is actively participating in the government's 'Operation Ajay' to repatriate Indian citizens from Israel and have successfully operated multiple flights to Tel Aviv.

The government's ambitious regional connectivity scheme, Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), has achieved a significant milestone of 500 routes. SpiceJet has been the strongest supporter of this scheme from the very beginning and was the only private airline to participate in UDAN, when the scheme was launched.

A recent amendment to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which allows aircraft lessors to recover their assets even after the initiation of insolvency proceedings, marks a crucial and positive development. This amendment reaffirms India's commitment to creating a favourable environment for aviation stakeholders and will enhance lessor confidence in the Indian aviation sector.

India's journey towards establishing itself as a prominent force in sports globally gains momentum with every international competition. The Asian Games 2023, which recently concluded, marked a historic achievement with Indian athletes securing a triple-digit figure on the medals tally for the very first time in the 72-year history of the games. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our athletes for this remarkable feat and wish them continued success in their careers.

The ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup is advancing towards an exhilarating climax, treating us to a magnificent showcase of skill and sportsmanship by Team India. Let's cheer on our team to victory!

Jai Hind!



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**SpiceJet**  
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## WINTER ESCAPEDE

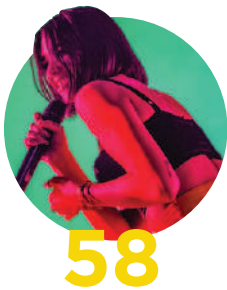
Winter is coming! This season, head to these unique destinations in India and across the world

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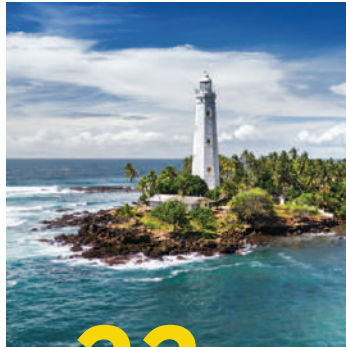
Mark your calendar with the best events of the season



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Pop sensation Dua Lipa gives a peek into her world



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## NETWORK

Exploring an overseas getaway, a pilgrimage destination and a coastal paradise



### Cover

As the faint smell of coffee starts filling the air and the soft quilt soaks up sunlight, the arrival of winter is quite perceptible. This winter season, explore interesting winter destinations with us.



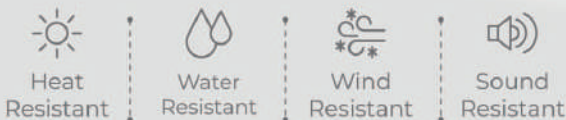


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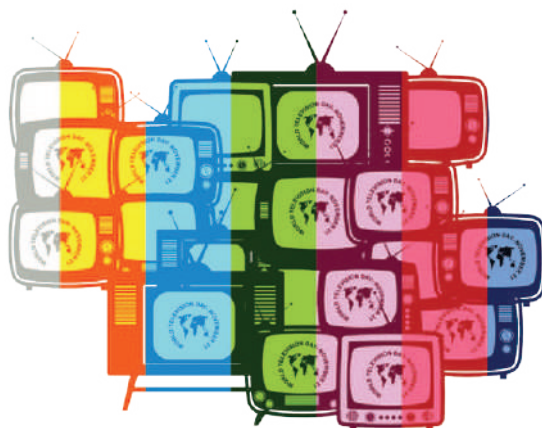
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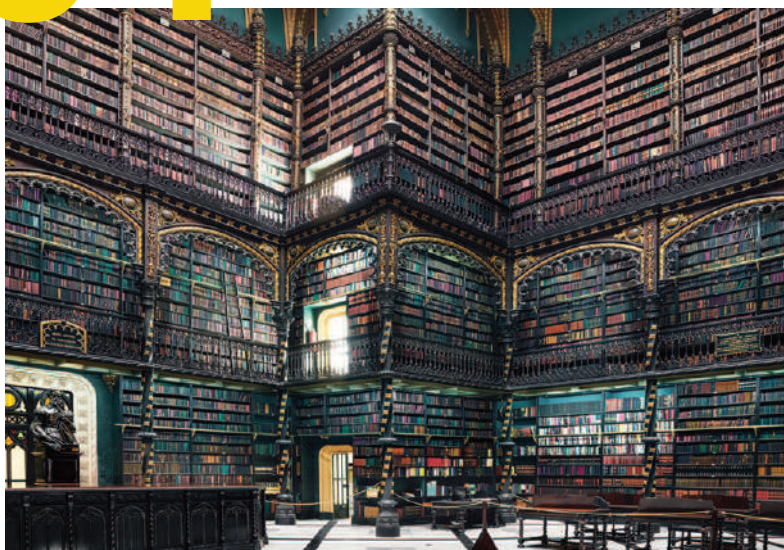
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**Capability, Pan India**

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Thank you @flyspicejet for a super comfortable flight & really courteous crew members !! Specially, Angrej Singh ji.... For treating all the passengers so gracefully



@AseesKaur

Have flown Pune-Delhi/Delhi-Pune about 20 times the past 12 months and today's flight experience (Spicejet SG-8937) has been the best by far. Shoutout to Priyanka and Joel for top notch hospitality. Great job with the magazine as well.

@AjaySingh\_SG @flyspicejet

@Shivamkl32

@flyspicejet had a wonderful SG083 CCU-BKK flt on 15/09/2023. Special thanks to Rati, Saheli, Sandita and Shrabony. Excellent attention given to all passengers. May SpiceJet and team prosper further. Cheers

@actexway

Thank you so much, your responses always been very helpful and prompt, appreciate it

@KTPBE



@flyspicejet Thank you so much for making my daughter's birthday special even at midnight in the high skies. Great gesture!!

Thanks Shivani/Harshita #8938 Del-Pun 24th Sep.

@maheshwarvarun



I travelled with @flyspicejet today Delhi to Darbhanga and it was great experience. The #cabincrew Pooja & Tejaswini was very polite and helpful..)

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@RunMachineSuraj

What a perfect experience at Varanasi airport by Mr Sandesh and Aman @flyspicejet

@BuzzSailors



@flyspicejet This is an appreciation post for your Cabin crew in flight SG 332, Ocini Bhawesh Nigel and Riya were outstanding in customer service. They made the flight experience a notch above. Please pass my regards to the team.

@Sandipwason

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





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**When:**  
November 10 -  
February 25  
**Where:** Rann of  
Kutch, Gujarat

## HUES OF CULTURE

Gujarat's picturesque Rann of Kutch is ready to welcome visitors from around the world as it celebrates the annual Rann Utsav. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of the region, folk performances and a plethora of adventure activities. Remember to book a tent in advance to avoid any hassle.



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## GURU NANAK JAYANTI

Gurpurab or Guru Nanak Prakash Utsav celebrates the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh guru. The festival is celebrated on the full moon night of the *Shukla Paksha* in the month of Kartik, which usually falls in November.



**When:** November 27

**Where:** All around India, mostly Punjab

## Events



## IT'S PAWSOME

It's time to shower your pet with love by taking them to Pet-O-Mania, an event where your pets can enjoy fun-filled activities like music, dance and runway walk. Engage with fellow pet enthusiasts and share the joy.



**When:** November 5

**Where:** Dhingra Farms, Delhi

14

**“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.”**

**John Steinbeck**  
American author

## NATIONAL FRENCH TOAST DAY

A recipe that spread far and wide and has now become one of the most relished breakfasts, a classic French toast is an escape from the morning blues for all of us. This day pays tribute to the popular dish.



**When:** November 28

**Where:** Around the world, especially US



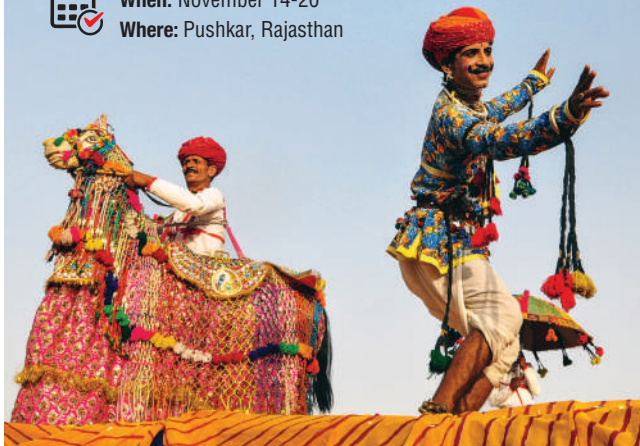
## PUSHKAR FAIR

Pushkar in Rajasthan is getting decked up for its renowned camel and livestock fair. Apart from being a platform for cattle trading, the fair hosts a number of fun activities like cattle parades and dance competitions, which are thoroughly enjoyed by tourists.



**When:** November 14-20

**Where:** Pushkar, Rajasthan





# MINI VACATION AND MINDFUL LIVING



In our fast-paced world, inundated with academic pressures, work commitments and household chores, the essence of mini vacations or short getaways becomes pivotal. Dr Manimekalai Mohan, the visionary founder of SSVM Group of Institutions, sheds light on a new concept called Mindful Mini Vacations, emphasising their contribution to a happier, healthier, and more balanced life.

## Could you share your inspiration behind the concept of mindful mini vacations and how this unique perspective contributes to well-being?

Certainly. The inspiration for mindful mini vacations came from the realisation that true relaxation begins within the mind. In our busy lives, finding moments of calm can be challenging. By tapping into the power of imagination, we can travel mentally to our favourite places, experiencing the serenity without physically being there. This practice fosters inner peace, reduces stress, and enhances overall well-being. It's a reminder that tranquility is accessible within ourselves, no matter how hectic life gets.

## How has integrating mindful mini vacations into your routine impacted your ability to handle your responsibilities, and what advice would you give to others, especially educators and parents, looking to incorporate this practice into their lives?

Integrating mindful mini vacations has been transformative for me, especially amidst my responsibilities as an educationist. It acts as a reset button, allowing me to approach my responsibilities with renewed energy and focus. My advice to fellow educators and parents would be to start small. Dedicate just a few minutes daily to this practice. During breaks or moments of stress, close your eyes, visualise your favourite destination, and let your mind wander. Over time, it becomes a natural part of your routine, enhancing your resilience and overall well-being.

## How can embracing the concept of mindful mini vacations help children and their family?

Embracing mindful mini vacations offers a budget-friendly escape from



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

the financial strain of traditional travel, providing solace and inner peace. By mentally exploring dream destinations, individuals can experience the joy of travel without the financial burden, reducing stress and promoting relaxation. This practice not only eases immediate worries but also shapes future family plans. Families can prioritise experiences over expenses, focusing on creating meaningful moments together. Moreover, introducing children to this practice instills a sense of imagination and mindfulness. It nurtures their creativity, emotional intelligence, and resilience,

preparing them for future challenges. By fostering a mindset focused on experiences rather than material possessions, mindful mini vacations empower families and children alike to lead fulfilling lives, rich in memories and emotional well-being.

## In your opinion, what role can mindful mini vacations play in promoting empathy and understanding among diverse communities, and how can individuals embrace this practice to foster connections?

Mindful mini vacations have the power to promote empathy and understanding by fostering a deep connection with oneself. When we find peace within, it reflects in our interactions with others. This practice encourages patience, active listening, and compassion. In a world often divided, this practice can serve as a unifying thread, promoting harmony among diverse communities.

## Any final thoughts or advice for those considering a mini vacation?

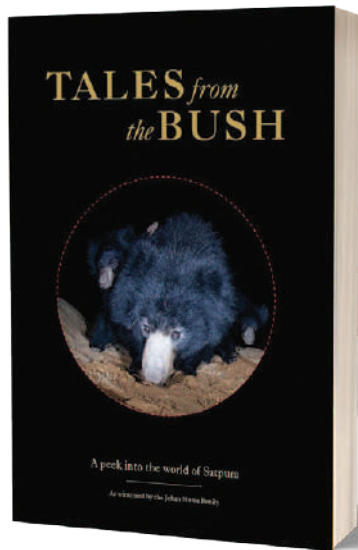
I encourage everyone to embrace the concept of mindful mini vacations. They offer a refreshing change of scenery and pace without the need for extensive planning or time away from your daily responsibilities. Remember that it's not about the duration; it's about the experience and the beautiful memories you create. These brief respites are simple yet effective ways to enhance the quality of life and find balance in today's fast-paced world.



Movies | Books | Sports

## THE WORLD OF SATPURA

*Tales from the Bush*, which gives a peek into the Satpura region, is penned by Aly Rashid, a naturalist and eco-tourism practitioner. The book includes anecdotes, wildlife encounters and stories witnessed by a team at the Jehan Numa Wilderness lodges.



## FAST AND FABULOUS

Getting all hearts racing, the Las Vegas Grand Prix is gearing up for a gala opening. Its 3.8-mile track will weave past world-famous landmarks, casinos and hotels.



**When:** November 19 (final race)

**Where:** Las Vegas, USA

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## THE MARVELS ARE HERE!

The much-awaited and latest release from the Marvel Universe is here! Titled *The Marvels*, this movie features Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson and Iman Vellani, among others. The action-packed movie has been directed by Nia DaCosta.



**When:** November 10

**Where:** Around the world



## COMING-OF-AGE

*Porcupines in My Pants and Other Craziness* is an intriguing story that traces a 12-year-old's journey of growing up and maturing. This journey is set in a futuristic world. The book is action-packed and talks about grasping the lessons of life in an adventurous way.



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Fashion

### SPARKLE AND SPLENDOUR

Jimmy Choo has launched its Diwali capsule, debuted by Bollywood actress Ananya Panday. The collection is inspired by the rich heritage and traditions of Diwali in gold and bronze shades that make for classy festive footwear.



### CHUNKY AND BOLD

From futuristic sneakers with built-in fitness trackers to reimagined bold and oversized "dad sneakers", designers are bringing about a revolution in the world of sneakerheads while keeping them both stylish and comfortable.

### COLOUR-CHANGING LIP GLOSS

Lip glosses are fun! And it becomes even more interesting when the lip gloss changes colour. Nykaa's latest transparent lip gloss comes in an emerald hue that changes colour from green to pink.

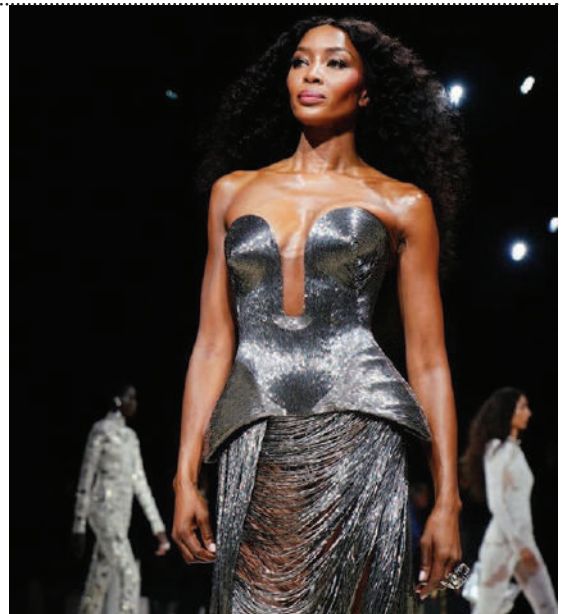


Image: alexandermcqueen/Instagram

### METALLIC AND QUIRKY

Watch out for classy metallic ensembles beyond gold and silver that fashion designers are experimenting with for their Spring 2024 collections. This is in anticipation of the Olympics to be held next year, linking the designs to the coveted medals to be received by athletes.



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**“The children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way we bring them up will determine the future of the country.”**



# HAPPY Children's DAY

On this Children's Day, which also commemorates Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary, let us take a pledge to provide children a safe and inclusive environment, equal access to education and other opportunities, and inculcate in them good values that can go a long way in building a better nation in future. SpiceJet wishes all children a very happy Children's Day and hopes that flying with us brings a smile to their innocent faces!



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# COLOMBO

Sri Lankan capital Colombo, a treasure trove of colonial heritage, has something for every tourist, from stunning architecture to sprawling beaches and a vibrant nightlife



Embodying a fine mix of vibrant culture and cosmopolitan lifestyle, Colombo is home to Dutch churches and temples on one hand, and bustling shopping malls and nightclubs on the other. The city's liveliest sights are located around Beira Lake, including Cinnamon Gardens dating back to the Dutch period. Colombo has one of the largest artificial harbours in the world. It is also a hotspot for water sports. Visit the stunning beach town of Bentota near Colombo where you can taste local food and rush to Galle, an exotic old trading port and a UNESCO World Heritage Site located close by, to catch a glimpse of its fortifications.

## NEARBY

Visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic or Sri Dalada Maligawa (around 150 km), a Buddhist temple in Kandy, featuring intricate embellishments.



## DON'T MISS



The Colombo National Museum gives a glimpse of each of Sri Lanka's historical kingdoms and its colonial past. Visit Ella, located nearby, for breathtaking tea plantations and viewpoints.

## MUST SEE



Spend leisure time at the Negombo beach near Colombo. Also, visit Hikkaduwa Beach (about 140 km from Colombo), which is one of the best surfing spots in Sri Lanka.

## EAT & SHOP



Stop by Mount Lavinia for authentic and delicious seafood. Try local favourites like fish *ambuli thiyal* and *hoppers (appam)*. For shopping, head to the popular Pettah market.

Image: seafishcolombo.com



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# KUSHINAGAR

An important pilgrimage destination, Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh is at the centre of a Buddhist tourist circuit and boasts rich culture and heritage

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Located close to Gorakhpur, Kushinagar has great historical and cultural importance. It is believed Gautam Buddha attained *mahaparinirvana* (freedom after death) and was cremated at Ramabhar in this holy town. There are a number of beautiful Buddhist temples here that attract devotees from across the world. The modern-day Kushinagar came into prominence in the 19th and 20th century with archeological excavations, especially in sites like Farendaha. Situated on the banks of River Gandak and near the Terai region of the Himalayas, Kushinagar offers serene locations to spend some quiet time amidst nature. It is also home to the Sun Temple, built during the Gupta period and mentioned in the Puranas.

## NEARBY

Attend the light and sound show at Gorakhnath Math in Gorakhpur (around 60 km), a temple of the Nath monastic group, which also serves as a cultural hub of the city.



## DON'T MISS



Stop by the Mahanirvana Stupa, standing next to the Mahanirvana Temple. The temple has a monolithic statue of the reclining Buddha, carved out of a single block of sandstone.

## MUST SEE



Visit the iconic 15-m-high Ramabhar Stupa — built on the spot where Lord Buddha attained final enlightenment. Meditate in the Wat Thai Temple, surrounded by beautiful gardens.

## EAT & SHOP



Shop for handicrafts made of banana fibre. Dig into mouthwatering street food like *chhole samosa* or relish desserts like *halwa* and *jalebi*.

Image: odopup.in

Images are for representational purposes only



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





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# MANGALURU

A coastal destination, Mangaluru is dotted with peaceful retreats in the form of beaches and architectural marvels including churches and temples



Flanked by the azure waters of the Arabian Sea on one hand and the lush Western Ghats on the other, Mangaluru (Mangalore) is a land of serene locations. Among its famous beaches is Ullal with vast stretches of golden sand. Visit the only remnant of Tipu Sultan's fort locally known as Sultan's Battery (Sultan Battery). Amid coconut palms and quaint houses, it is also an abode of architectural and spiritual heritage, dotted with temples including Mangala Devi temple and Kadri Manjunatha temple, which houses a 1,000-year-old bronze statue of Buddhist deity Lokeshwara.

While being a bustling port city, it is also popular for adventure sports, especially surfing. It hosts one of India's biggest surfing events, the Indian Open of Surfing.

## NEARBY

Located around 60 km away is Udupi, famous for its temple dedicated to Lord Krishna. It is also famed for its delectable cuisine, especially *masala dosa*.

## DON'T MISS



Image: surfingindia.net

Mangaluru is all about beaches. For a relaxing vacation, visit the Panambur beach for adventure activities or the Tannirbavi beach (Tannirbhavi) for a stunning sunset view.

## MUST SEE



Visit the St. Aloysius Chapel, the walls and ceilings of which are adorned with the paintings of Antonio Moscheni of Italy. Watch out for the painting themed on the love of Jesus for children.

## EAT & SHOP



Enjoy delectable seafood and authentic dishes at local restaurants like *gassi* (coconut-based curry) and *goli baje* (fried food). Buy cashews, spices and beautiful handicrafts.



SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Mangaluru from Bengaluru, Gwalior, Darbhanga and many more destinations in India. Book now at [www.spicejet.com](http://www.spicejet.com)





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# November's Canvas

Here's what this month has in store for us in the world of art



Art enthusiasts are all set for the India Art Festival, New Delhi. It is one of the biggest art fair networks in the country and is also held in Bengaluru and Mumbai. The festival will be showcasing sculptures and artworks of nearly 400 artists.

Along with visual arts, visitors will be able to enjoy live music, performances and fusion shows. The fair brings together art enthusiasts from around the world and provides a platform for emerging artists. Some notable names who will perform live include Prithvi Soni and Roop Chand. The festival will take place at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, from November 2-5.

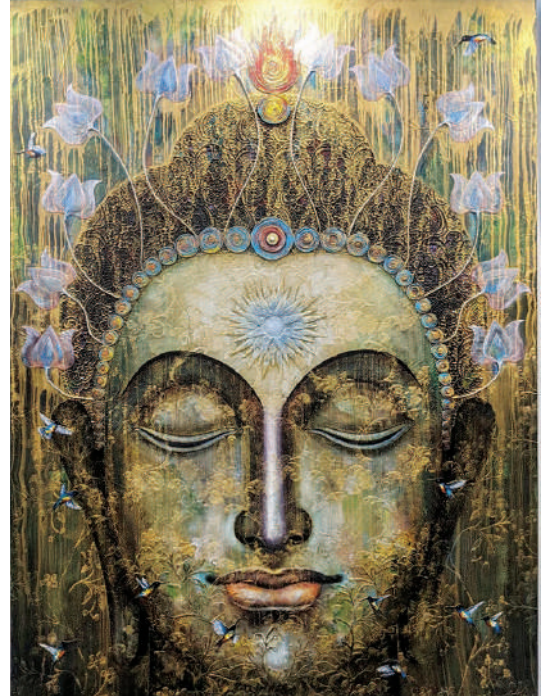


Image: yourstory.com

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*Salvator Mundi* (the Saviour of the World) is the most expensive painting in the world. It was sold for 450.3 million USD in 2017. The painting is said to be the last work of Leonardo da Vinci and was once acquired by personalities like Dmitry Rybolovlev and Charles I of England.



Image: wikipedia



Mumbai is all set for its major art fair, which is going to take place from November 16-19 at Mahalaxmi Racecourse Members' Enclosure. Titled 'Art Mumbai', the fair will include some of the leading galleries of India along with a few galleries from overseas that specialise in South Asian Art, including the Grosvenor in London and Aicon from New York.



Every year, November 11 is celebrated as World Origami Day. Origami is an art of paper folding which traces its origins to Japan. Today, the art is practised around the world for ceremonial and recreational purposes.



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# Melodious and Soulful!

From concerts to a new release, here is the latest from the world of music



Promising an unparalleled celebration of music, Echoes of Earth is back with its sixth edition, themed "Ensemble of the Wild", as a tribute to the Western Ghats. The festival will feature popular artistes from around the world, from Len Faki to Sid Sriram, who will bring electrifying performances to the stage. It will be held from December 2-3 at The Embassy Riding School, Bengaluru. Watch out for awe-inspiring art installations, crafted from recycled or upcycled materials, and informative panel discussions.

Immerse yourself in desi melodies at the Majuli Music Festival, staged on the beautiful island of Majuli, Assam. The festival will have performances by many artists from across the country. This year, it will be held between November 24 and 26. Popular rock band Indian Ocean will also be performing at the festival.



From Ritviz to Prateek Kuhad, Indie music artistes have taken the music industry by storm. Celebrating this form of music is International Indie Music Festival in Kerala, which is being held between November 10 and 12. Head to the concert to listen to artistes like Viking Queen and fusion folk band, Maati Baani.



Pop artiste Ronan Keating will perform in Mumbai on November 17, in Bengaluru on November 18, and in Shillong on November 19.



**"One good thing about music is when it hits you, you feel no pain."**

**- Bob Marley**



BTS singer Jungkook's November release, *Golden*, is his first solo album. The album consists of 11 tracks, including his previous two hits, *Seven* (featuring Latto) and *3D* (featuring Jack Harlow).



Elvis Presley's *Suspicious Minds* became the No. 1 Hot 100 hit in America in November 1969, marking his comeback in the global music scene.



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Mumbai - Jeddah	19:30	22:40	2, 4, 6 & 7
Jeddah - Mumbai	23:40	07:10	2, 4, 6 & 7
Chennai - Colombo <sup>2</sup>	00:05	01:25	Daily
Colombo - Chennai <sup>2</sup>	02:25	03:45	Daily
Ahmedabad - Dubai	09:45	11:55	4 & 7
Dubai - Ahmedabad	03:40	08:00	4 & 7
Mumbai - Bangkok	04:10	10:15	Daily
Bangkok - Mumbai	22:50	02:10	Daily
Delhi - Jaisalmer <sup>1</sup>	10:20	12:00	Daily
Jaisalmer - Delhi <sup>1</sup>	12:40	14:20	Daily
Hyderabad - Pondicherry	14:05	15:50	Daily
Pondicherry - Hyderabad	11:50	13:30	Daily
Bengaluru - Pondicherry	10:10	11:20	Daily
Pondicherry - Bengaluru	16:15	17:15	Daily
Ahmedabad - Bagdogra	05:55	08:35	Daily
Bagdogra - Ahmedabad	12:40	15:20	Daily
Jaipur - Guwahati	13:30	16:20	Daily
Guwahati - Jaipur	10:10	12:45	Daily
Jaipur - Varanasi	06:55	09:00	Daily
Varanasi - Jaipur	09:30	11:15	Daily
Srinagar - Mumbai	09:10	12:05	Daily
Mumbai - Srinagar	06:05	08:35	Daily
Pune - Surat	18:35	19:45	Daily
Surat - Pune	10:25	11:35	Daily

EXCLUSIVE

<sup>1</sup>Starting from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2023. <sup>2</sup>Starting from 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

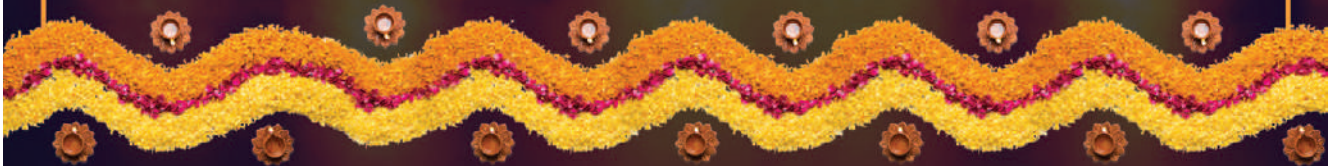


# Mindful

## MOMENTS OF JOY

### This Diwali, Celebrate Responsibly!

Celebrate the festival of lights using *diyas* and eco-friendly items instead of crackers to prevent an increase in pollution levels. To achieve the same objective, the central government has been working towards reducing particulate matter concentrations by 20 to 30 per cent by 2024, under its National Clean Air Programme initiative, in identified cities with higher air pollution levels. Enjoy a pollution-free, green Diwali!





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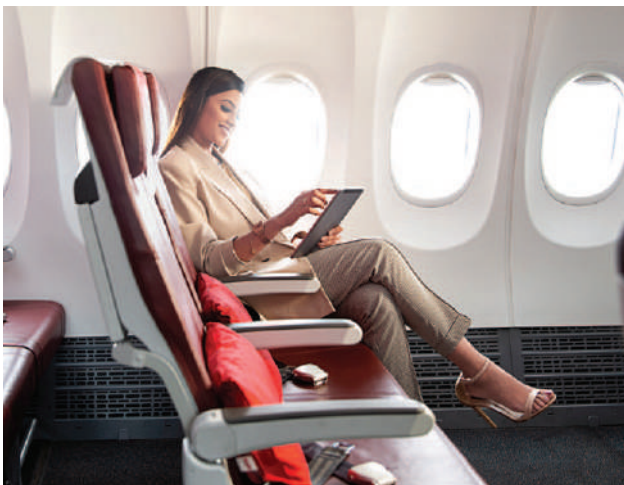
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Winter

Escapade



Image: Travel to Kashmir





For a unique winter getaway, head to these places in India and across the world, where you can bask in the sun in picturesque locations or enjoy the chill in the air

TEXT: BINDU GOPAL RAO



**W**inter marks the perfect time to explore nature's beauty beyond the snow and the frost. From the pristine islands in Kerala to the lofty pyramids in the balmy landscape of Egypt, there's a lot one can tick off their bucket list in this season of chill instead of thronging to crowded getaways. For an icy wintertide, on the other hand, one can head to destinations that look surreal when enveloped in a blanket of snow. Whichever is your pick, here are some vacay ideas for an ideal winter break.

39





A quaint island with unspoilt beaches, greenery and serene backwaters, Poovar Island, 30 km from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, soothes the eye with undulating natural landscapes that will make all urban souls happy. Swaying coconut palms are framed by an ultramarine ocean, golden sands, emerald backwaters and lush green vegetation that create a postcard-like landscape. Check out the sandbank at Pozhikkara, where the backwaters meet

the sea, also a birders' paradise. You can also visit Lighthouse Beach, which offers spectacular views, besides Hawa or Eve's beach, which is close by. Just a little distance away is a unique natural harbour, Vizhinjam, home to cave temples, decorated with rock-cut sculptures. The Vizhinjam Marine Aquarium is great for children and adults alike. For some adventure, head to the Kovalam Surf Club and Neyyar Dam for a picnic, along with the adjoining Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary.



#### USP

Enjoy a boat cruise along the palm-fringed shores of the backwaters to view crimson-hued sunset.



#### DON'T MISS

Get an authentic Ayurvedic massage at the birthplace of Ayurveda to ensure you have a relaxing and rejuvenating holiday.



A small village near Baramulla district, marked by a hilly landscape, caves and waterfalls, Drung is around 40 km from Srinagar. As you snake your way through the narrow roads flanked by dense pine forests, it is impossible not to soak in the beautiful sights. There is much to do here, from horseback riding to marvelling at pretty streams, chasing waterfalls, exploring caves and visiting an old Hindu temple believed to have been built by the Pandavas. Winter is when Drung morphs into all things white as it is covered with snow and the waterfalls freeze. Trek to the frozen Alpathar lake or Apharwat peak. A visit to the Bota Pathri and Strawberry Valley and nearby attractions including the Maharani temple, St. Mary's church, Golf Course and Maharaja Palace are other must-dos. A guided trek in this area will bring you up close to the biodiversity of the region.



#### USP

The frozen cascades of the Drung waterfall make for a mesmerising vision in white.



#### DON'T MISS

Check out the hydropower station, which is an excellent location for clicking good photographs.







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Picture a river flowing out of the Himalayas with a heavily forested landscape surrounding it. This is Har Ki Dun or 'Valley of God' as it is believed that the Pandavas went to heaven through the Swargarohini peak. Located inside Govind Pashu Vihar National Park in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, this valley is about 200 km from Dehradun (base camp Sankri). A popular trek in Garhwal Himalayas, this is the place to enjoy the mountain life in all its majesty. The winter landscape here is magical as the entire area is covered with snow and the Supin River forks its way within the villages here. The two villages of Sankri/Saud and Taluka have access but Datmir, Gangad, Puani, and Osla can only be accessed by a trek. When you choose to trek here, you will come up close with the absolute beauty of the Swargarohini, Bandarpunch, and Black peaks. The treks take you through small, charming villages and you can get an adrenaline rush when you cross the gushing river over a swaying bridge.



#### USP

A nearly 14 km-trek will lead you to the last village in the valley, Osla, which is located near the Supin River.



#### DON'T MISS

The Morinda Lake (Marinda Tal), known for its mirror-like reflections of the surrounding peaks, offers a great photo opportunity to click photos.



Halebeedu and Belur are about 17 km apart and less than 200 km from Mangaluru (Mangalore). The Hoysala temples here, which were recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are architectural wonders that have stood the test of time. Belur is a town of temples with the Chennakeshava temple having detailed carvings that depict stories from the epics of the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*. Also, stop by the Kappe Chennigaraya temple and Veeranarayana temple, Gadag. Once the capital of the Hoysalas, Halebeedu, earlier known as Dwarasamudra, also has several temples built by the Hoysala dynasty. The most prominent is the 12th-century Hoysaleswara temple on the banks of the Dwarasamudra Lake. The Kedareshwara temple, built in the Chalukyan style with Hoysala emblems, also looks resplendent. These temples were built over a hundred years. Stop by Basadi Halli, a group of Jain shrines.



#### USP

Do not miss the gravity pillar in Belur's Chennakeshava temple that stands tall at 42 m without any foundation.



#### DON'T MISS

Standing next to Hoysaleswara is the beautiful Shantaleswara temple, built on the same platform.







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

## ROVANIEMI, FINLAND

A city famous for its beautiful Northern Lights, Rovaniemi is the capital of Lapland. It is believed that Santa Claus' original home is in Korvatunturi in Finnish Lapland, and you can send a letter to him at the Santa Claus Post Office. Winters are a great time to be here, not just for the Northern Lights but to also explore the city's icy beauty. Visit sites like Arktikum Museum, Ounasvaara and the Lumberjack's Candle Bridge. A stop at the Kotisaari Island and Local Heritage Museum of Rovaniemi is a must to understand the city's cultural heritage. Foodies must sample grilled whitefish and the sweet *laskiaispulla*. The winter season is when several Finnish Christmas markets allow you to soak in the Yuletide spirit, even as you sip on *glögi*, which is a Finnish mulled wine. It is an ideal time to visit the Elf's Farmyard for a hike or indulge in activities like snowmobiling.

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### USP

Try out a calming wintry reindeer sleigh ride or visit a local reindeer farm.



### DON'T MISS

Visit the Santa Claus Village on the Arctic Circle. Located close by is the Arctic SnowHotel & Glass Igloos, offering a unique stay along with an ice chapel and ice restaurant.

## ILULISSAT, GREENLAND

This wonderland in Greenland is especially known for its icebergs. Ilulissat Icefjord, a picturesque combination of rock, sea and a massive collection of icebergs, is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed area of outstanding value. You must also sign up for a dog sledding experience to enjoy the scenic snow-laden landscapes. Snowmobiling excursions are a must for a spot of adventure in the hills. You can even indulge in ice fishing and snowshoeing. A visit to the Ilulissat Art Museum built in 1923 by architect Helge Møller is recommended for art lovers. This is where you can see several paintings by Emanuel A. Petersen apart from contemporary exhibitions by different visual artists. For a gastronomic adventure, take a boat ride to the world's most remote Michelin restaurant, Koks.



### USP

Visit the iconic wooden Zion's Church and enjoy stunning waterfront views of enormous icebergs, which make it one of the most photographed buildings in Greenland.



### DON'T MISS

Sign up for a city walk to get your bearings right.



Image: visitgreenland.com



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EGYPT

Egypt enjoys pleasant weather in winter. Cities like Luxor and Aswan are best explored in this season as the weather is conducive and there are a lesser number of tourists, which means you can enjoy and take pictures of the famed Sphinx, the pyramids, tombs, relics of the pharaohs and temples without any hassle. Cruising down the Nile is a must-do to enjoy the natural vistas to its full potential. If you love local cuisine, Egypt has a plethora of

comfort food for winter which includes the hearty Egyptian lentil soup, the street food specialty, roasted sweet potato and the *hummus al sham*, a spicy drink. Do not forget to check out some of the best snorkelling and scuba diving sites in the Red Sea. Before your return, pick up beautiful Egyptian crafts including pottery from the Western Oases, Siwan embroideries and handwoven scarves, among many others that can be only found here.



**USP**

There are several adrenaline pumping activities you can do such as rock climbing in Dahab and dirt biking in the desert.



**DON'T MISS**

Try *sahlab*, a hot milk-based drink made with sugar, vanilla and shredded coconut.



KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

One of Africa's largest game reserves, Kruger National Park is in north-eastern South Africa. This is one of your best bets to spot lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants, and buffaloes, famously known as the Big Five. Spread over close to 4.9 million acres, it is home to several other large mammals as well. This is where you can see several species of birds including native and migrant species. Look out for the saddle-billed stork, Peregrine falcon, lappet-faced vulture and Narina trogon, among other species here. Take some time to admire the majestic Baobab, Mopane, Fever Tree, Knob thorn, and Marula trees. While you are looking for these, do not miss the buffalo weaver, elephant shrew, leopard tortoise, ant lion and rhino beetle, also called Little Five as they share part of their names with the Big Five. The region is also home to a few local tribes like Zulu. Other pit-stops at the Jock of the Bushveld Route, Albasini Ruins, Masorini Ruins, Stevenson Hamilton Memorial Library and Thulamela are recommended.



**USP**

Kruger has over 126 species of reptiles, including crocodiles and rock pythons.



**DON'T MISS**

Look for an interaction with the native tribes residing in and around the park. Also visit the Letaba Elephant Hall museum.







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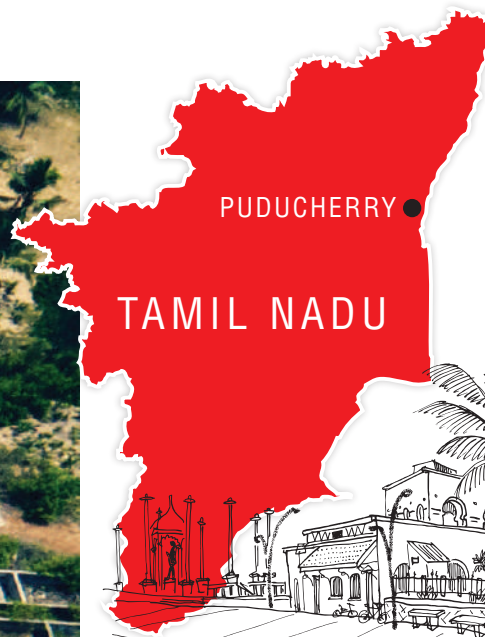
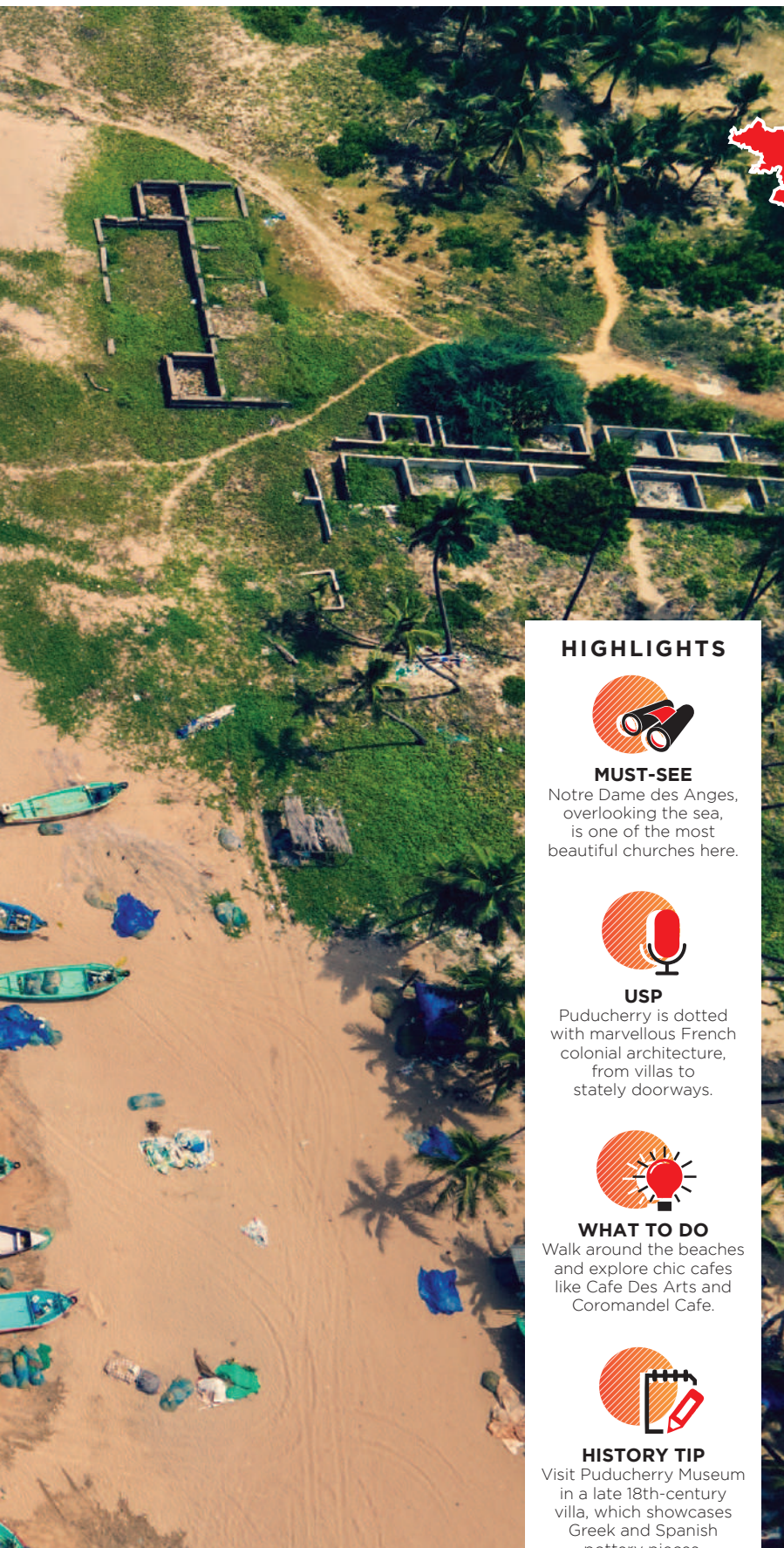
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# A Seaside French Paradise

Puducherry emanates a colonial romance through its French neighbourhoods, flanked by blissful beaches and pulse-pounding escapades

TEXT: SHUVAJIT PAYNE AND KUNAL BHATIA





## HIGHLIGHTS



### MUST-SEE

Notre Dame des Anges, overlooking the sea, is one of the most beautiful churches here.



### USP

Puducherry is dotted with marvellous French colonial architecture, from villas to stately doorways.



### WHAT TO DO

Walk around the beaches and explore chic cafes like Cafe Des Arts and Coromandel Cafe.



### HISTORY TIP

Visit Puducherry Museum in a late 18th-century villa, which showcases Greek and Spanish pottery pieces.

**P**uducherry (Pondicherry), or the “new town”, still radiates fresh and youthful energy, which inspires its name! A vibrant blend of French and Tamil history, diversity thrives here. From culture and religion to architecture and attractions, each element of this picturesque and quaint town is distinct from the other.

## SUN AND SEA

Puducherry is a land of sun, sand and sea! The tranquil East Coast Road, connecting the destination with Chennai, is flanked by lush fields on one side and the boundless ocean on the other. Surfers, sunbathers, and those seeking solace will find what they want amidst the azure waves and swaying palms of Auroville Beach and its neighbouring Serenity Beach. In contrast, the busier Promenade Beach is

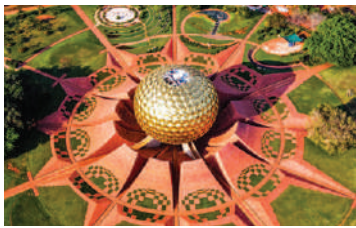


## Know more

**White Town:** One of the most vibrant areas of Puducherry that was once the home of French colonists, White Town is dotted with aesthetic buildings in bright hues of yellow, red and blue.



**Architecture Lovers:** Explore the architecture of Matrimandir, Auroville – a stunning golden meditation dome, which is said to have been conceptualised by Mirra Alfassa, known as the Holy Mother.



**Nature Galore:** At Paradise Beach, where the Chunnambhar River converges with the sea, one can embark on boat rides through the backwaters while watching dolphins play.



Image: tripopola

**What to buy:** Buy decorative ceramics, handmade dolls, French cheese and wine. Head to Auroville for eco-friendly products like handmade soaps and paper along with incense sticks and essential oils.



Images are for representational purposes only



surrounded by landmarks like an old lighthouse, a war memorial, a heritage Town Hall and more. Nearby, the new lighthouse, which visitors can ascend, offers panoramic vistas.

## ADRENALINE RUSH

If relaxation isn't your cup of tea, then this coastal haven has your adventure cravings covered! Puducherry offers some of the country's most stunning scuba diving spots, and the affordable prices make it an ideal place to start your scuba journey. Beginners are likely to be blown away by the gigantic manta rays at the Ravines, while pros can explore the exotic marine life and colourful reefs of the 130-ft deep Aravind's Wall. If you prefer riding waves, the surf is up for you to conquer. And for those seeking more waterborne excitement, try kayaking, paddle boarding, kite surfing, or windsurfing. Head to Paradise Beach or Serenity Beach for parasailing, one of the most sought-after adventure activities in the town.

## MELTING POT OF CULTURES

Multiculturalism defines the spiritual mosaic of this Indo-French town. On one side, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus enchants with its vibrant hues, while the 12th-century Sri Gokilambal Thirukameshwara Temple, Villianur, stuns with its marvellous architecture. On another side, the Meeran Mosque in Karaikal displays a medieval Islamic flair.

Grand Hindu festivals, such as the chariot-pulling Veerampattinam Car Festival, the ceremonial idol bathing in Masi Magam, or the fire-walking festival, inspire awe. Meanwhile, the city's numerous churches and cathedrals liven up with Christmas cheer in December.



**Best Time to Visit:** The most apt time for a trip to Puducherry is between November and March, which is when the weather is quite pleasant.

Puducherry is around 150 km from Chennai.





## Dr. Sohini Sastri


*Life Coach and President Award  
Winning Astrologer*



Best astrologer in India, Dr. Sohini Sastri, does not need an eloquent introduction. Currently she holds the record of "most searched astrologer in India". Dr. Sohini Sastri has received multiple national awards and recognized as 'best astrologer in Delhi', 'best astrologer in India' by media houses like Times of India, Business Standard, Hindustan Times, Amar Ujala etc. She has also been felicitated by several universities and honored with degrees like Doctorate; D.Litt.

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## Dr. Sohini Sastri: The women who changes the dynamic of Vedic Astrology



"We all have certain role to play for the sake of mankind and those who are privileged should always stretch their hands towards those who are in need." – this is the philosophy Dr. Sohini Sastri believes and maintains. Dr. Sohini Sastri has been following the path of spirituality since her early age and always keen to help her followers with the divine knowledge and power she possessed. They say, if you can achieve one quality in life, 'be kind', Dr. Sastri manifested that saying, through her journey so far. Her wholehearted involvement in numerous social activities, humbleness, and candid nature helps her to stand out from others.

Astrologer, Life Coach, and Philanthropist Dr. Sohini Sastri specializes in Krishnamurti Paddhati, popularly known as KP astrology. It is regarded as the most accurate system of present time.

Along with Vedic astrology, Dr. Sohini Sastri also excels at Palmistry, Numerology, Vastu Shastra, and Color therapy. Being a certified Gemologist, she always recommends and helps her followers to choose genuine gemstones & rudraksh. She has never backed down from spreading the positivity she draws from her spiritual practices. Over the last few decades, she has helped thousands of her followers with astrological prediction and cosmic energy. They say, she has a divine aura and positive vibes around her, which gives a calmness and a sense of certainty to the most disturbed person. In an interview, Dr. Sastri revealed how spirituality and her belief in supreme power has helped her to keep calm and overcome all the difficulties. She has suggested the same for us. She says, "Think one step at a time, keep your calm, meditate, and do something good and impactful for the society through your journey. In the process, you will realize you are not alone, the universe is working for you."

Her enormous contribution to astrology and social reformation made her part of numerous esteemed communities in both astrology and social awareness sector. Among numerous awards and accolades Dr. Sastri has received, few of the latest are -

- Champion of Change, 2018 from Honorable Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu
- Champion of Change, 2019 from former President Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee
- Pride of Nation, 2019 from Honorable Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh
- Indian Achievers Award, 2020 from Honorable Union HRD Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal
- Champion of Change, 2020 from Honorable Governor of Maharashtra Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
- Felicitated by Governor of West Bengal Shri Jagdeep DhanKhar
- Felicitated by Honorable Governor of Uttarakhand Shrimoti Baby Rani Mouriya
- Femina Brand Award, 2021 by Femina India
- Honoured by World Book of Record 2022 for her contribution in astrology, palmistry, vastu shastra etc.

To spread awareness about astrology she has started writing books in laymen language and those books are getting immense popularity. Within a very short career span as an author, she has already published 3 books, i.e. A Complete Guide to Astrology, Handbook of Corporate and Professional Astrology, and Career Astrology Made Easy.

Being a woman entrepreneur, she always expresses the need of woman empowerment and how it can help the society. She says, "Be proud of being a woman, celebrate your womanhood".

We can all agree that she is creating an impact on the society in many fields, be it astrology, women empowerment, or social activities; Dr. Sohini Sastri is the name we are, and we will be hearing repeatedly.







## DRIFTING IN CINEMA

Ang Lee's masterpiece *Life of Pi* came to life in Puducherry. The lanes of the flower marketplace in Grand Bazaar (Goubert market), the Vysial Street, beaches, the promenade and the pier have all been the backdrop for many Bollywood and Tamil movies.

## EARTHEN ART

Puducherry has many pottery studios, the most famous being Golden Bridge Pottery, established in 1971 by Ray Meeker and Deborah Smith. It is known for glazed stoneware pottery.



## SOUL AND SPIRITUALITY

If philosophy appeals to you more than the opulence of rituals, the experimental township of Auroville will provide ample food for thought. Embodying freedom fighter and philosopher Sri Aurobindo's vision of human unity, this settlement boasts a distinctive architectural landscape that harmoniously blends sustainability and spirituality. Both Auroville and the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, a centre for spiritual practice and reflection, speak to one's soul, urging one to embrace a profound lifestyle. You may visit for a day, but find yourself compelled to stay for a lifetime. You can also participate in the annual events like the Auroville Film Festival and the Auroville Literature Festival.

## VARIED FLAVOURS

Seafood by the ocean, French cafes around the town, street food in the bazaars, vegetarian delicacies by the temples, and fresh farm-to-table produce in resident-run Auroville cafes -- a food walk here literally takes you all over the town. Indulge in crepes, ratatouille and lasagna at the seafront cafes; head to Le Cafe or the pink-hued La Maison Rose restaurant with grand colonial architecture.

The bakeries at Baker Street fill the air with the aroma of croissants, baguettes, quiche, cheesecakes, and pies. Mouthwatering *medu vada*, *dosa*, and pineapple *sheera* top the list of South Indian delicacies. Seafood enthusiasts must savour crab *masala* fry and tamarind fish curry, while meat lovers can relish mutton rolls and non-veg *dosas* among other dishes.



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# POSTCARD-PERFECT

Lisbon

From alternative art and culture spaces to modern gastronomic offerings, Portugal's capital Lisbon exudes an unmistakably contemporary vibe

TEXT: PRACHI JOSHI





**W**ith its stunning waterfront, balmy climate and friendly locals, Lisbon is one of the most alluring cities in Europe.

Apart from its many historic attractions and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the city has seen a renaissance of sorts when it comes to everything progressive. Whether you're traipsing through lively neighbourhoods or checking out cutting-edge art and design, this vibrant city will capture your heart.

### WANDERLUST

You might be tempted to start your Lisbon trip by devouring the famous *pasteis de nata* (custard tarts) at their place of origin in the Belém neighbourhood. But before you reach the pastry heaven, alight at the Altinho tram stop and head to the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT). The riverfront museum, which opened its gates in 2016, is not just a cultural centre but also an architectural landmark with its stark white façade and undulating lines. It hosts exhibitions by contemporary artists, architects, and thinkers.

Apart from MAAT, the city is teeming with artist-run spaces and fringe-art galleries that showcase homegrown Portuguese talent alongside international creatives. Galeria Foco in the Intendente neighbourhood is the place to scout for multimedia artists. The artist-run space, Mono, near the Graça neighbourhood, is a low-key cultural space that promotes collective work and critical thinking through exhibitions, performances, and concerts. Dive into the culture and heritage of Portugal at various art museums like the

National Coach Museum and the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, which houses one of the world's most renowned private art collections.

### RECREATION

Lisbon has shops selling high street and couture brands, but if you're looking for something unique, head to the Feira da Lada flea market in the Alfama neighbourhood. Held every Tuesday and Saturday on the streets surrounding Campo de Santa Clara, this is where you will find antiques, handicrafts, *azulejos* (painted tiles), and other bric-a-brac. Further afield in the Alcântara neighbourhood, LX Factory is one of Lisbon's trendiest quarters with co-working spaces, galleries, cafes, and indie design shops. On Sundays, a lively market is set up here where you can buy unique, handmade, vintage or second-hand products.

Don't miss Livraria Ler Devagar, which is probably the coolest bookstore



**Best Time to Visit:** Expect many holiday-themed events, street markets and festive menus at restaurants in November



## Must See

### ARCO DA RUA AUGUSTA

The Rua Augusta Arch (Arco da Rua Augusta) is a neo-classical monumental arch in the Baixa district of Lisbon. Climb up this iconic building for a unique view of the city.

### CASTELO DE SÃO JORGE

Towering dramatically above Lisbon, these mid-11th-century hilltop fortifications dominate the city skyline from every vantage point.



### CAPE ROCA

Cape Roca is the westernmost point of continental Europe. It lies on the Atlantic coast of Lisboa district. It's the point where the land ends and the sea begins. Immortalised in the famous words of Portugal's greatest poet, Luís Vaz de Camões, Cape Roca impresses all who visit.



in Lisbon. Livraria Bertrand in Chiado, certified by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the oldest operational bookstore in the world (since 1732), is a must-visit. It is a modern space with hardwood floors, a high, vaulted ceiling, and polished wooden shelves heaving with books (including English titles). While in the city, get a taste of its vibrant nightlife at some of the best clubs and bars in Lisbon. Bairro Alto, Cais do Sodré or Santos are popular among partygoers.

### GRAB A BITE

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that Lisbon has one of the most exciting dining scenes in Europe. The elegant Chiado neighbourhood is where the action is. Here, superstar local chef José Avillez has multiple restaurants and bars, including the Michelin-starred restaurant Belcanto serving contemporary interpretations of Portuguese food and the relaxed Cantinho do Avillez, where Portuguese cuisine marries international flavours. Also in Chiado, chef André Magalhães gives a modern spin to traditional recipes at Taberna da Rua das Flores (Rua das Flores 103). The restaurant doesn't take reservations, so be prepared to queue up! The menu changes

### MONASTERY OF ALCobaça

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Monastery of Alcobaça is one of Europe's most important Cistercian abbeys.



Image: wikipedia

### AJUDA NATIONAL PALACE

The Ajuda National Palace was the official royal house in the second half of the 19th century. It presents authentic interiors and important art collections.



### GETTING AROUND

Lisbon has an extensive public transport system of trams, buses, and metro. Depending on the length of your stay, get a Lisboa Card for 24/48/72 hours for free or discounted entry at attractions and free travel on all public transport.







#### MUST-TRY

Do ride the popular tram 28E for a unique trip from Praça Martim Moniz to Campo de Ourique.



#### DON'T MISS

From the urban beaches along the Linha de Cascais, the multicultural ones in Costa da Caparica, remote and crystal-clear beaches of Arrábida, to the exotic sands of Sintra, visit Lisbon's seaside stretches.





based on seasons and market availability, but whatever you order will be top drawer.

In the city centre, 2Monkeys restaurant, helmed by chefs Vitor Matos and Francisco Quintas, offers an exceptional concept dining experience through a secret menu. Guests gather around the chef's tasting table for an interactive and sensory experience that's both refined and playful. For a quick bite, head to Time Out Market set inside the 19th-century Mercado da Ribeira to savour the best of the city's eats — try croquettes at Croqueteria. Indulge in a variety of Portuguese desserts such as *arroz doce* (rice pudding) and the traditional creamy *liete creme*, a type of custard.



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One of the most popular music icons of modern times, Dua Lipa also hosts a podcast where she speaks on social issues like women's rights. Here's a sneak peek into the real world of the pop sensation

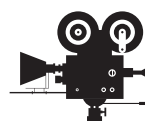
TEXT: AARTI KAPUR SINGH

**T**here are not too many music lovers who haven't grooved to the popular song "Levitating" by London-based singer Dua Lipa. This super-hit single from her 2020 album *Future Nostalgia* not only topped charts but also became a rage on social media platforms. Then came the singer's "Dance the Night" from the 2023 film *Barbie*. While her fans are in millions and spread across the world, not many are aware that this Albanian singer left home and country when she was about 15 years old to pursue a career in music – moving to London from Kosovo and living alone – her decision guided by the confidence in her capabilities. While

her music flows like a dream just as her voice, the pop powerhouse also hosts a popular podcast "Dua Lipa: At Your Service", in which she holds candid and inspiring conversations on a variety of topics and with a wide spectrum of people, including Nobel laureate Nadia Murad and human rights lawyer Amal Clooney. As the singer says, in her life "there is no concept of boundaries or limitations. My music and the podcast, they're different parts of who I am – they make up me", agreeing that the "dua" does represent the duality of her life.

### Music and Movies

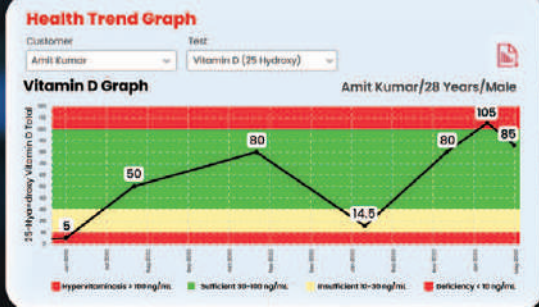
Dua's music and her upcoming





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Image: musicdirect



Future Nostalgia Studio album by Dua Lipa



Dua Lipa at the 2018 UEFA Champions League

## Rapid Fire

With her cool-girl aesthetic and party-girl reputation, she is not just a style icon for her legion of fans, but also endorses major brands and fashion houses. So, here's a rapid-fire with the songstress on her favourite stylish things.

### The best way to make a style statement?

Your clothes and your fragrance - keep both unique!

### Favourite kind of clothes?

For the public, must have colours, gems and glitter. At home, playful and casual are cool for me.

### Favourite fragrance?

Not just because I am with YSL, but it really is Libre Le Parfum!

### Make-up trick to elevate style?

Pick just one thing to accentuate your face. If I do a dark eye or something, then it's probably way less on the lips. Or I'll do more of a lip and then no eye and just take turns. Always use eyelash curlers!

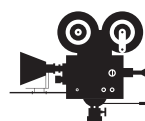
### Memories of India from your 2019 visit

I had heard about India but it was only when I arrived in Mumbai that I realised it was magical. I went around some places in India, including Jaipur, where a local lovingly helped me drape a saree for visiting a temple; I would want to experience it all over again.

album have had her fandom buzzing. The Grammy-awarded star is gearing up for an exciting 2024 as speculation is rife about the release of her much-expected new album. The songstress' well-wishers are certain the new offering will be a departure from her disco-pop avatar and will lean towards more mature notes, based on the '70s psychedelic trend. The singer says, "The album is different - it's still pop but it's different sonically, and there's more of a lyrical theme. I cannot alienate my pop fanbase — they have been so generous and kind. There will be some of that too, along with some new stuff that I am excited about."

Interestingly, the former model is also making her acting debut next year. The first trailer has dropped for *Argylle*, the Matthew Vaughn-directed spy thriller with the cast of Henry Cavill and Dua Lipa. It has a February 2 theatrical release date set in partnership with Universal Pictures. "I am excited about the film, not just because it's my first, but particularly because it is a complex character. More than me, it is my parents who are excited! They have already told me that they want to be at the premiere, if and when that happens. It reminds me of how they were when Warner Music called me at 18. I remember calling my parents in Kosovo and telling them to catch a flight to London so they could come to watch me sing. They have cheered me the loudest," she says.

She is also at the centre of a tug-of-war between the organisers of Glastonbury and Coachella. The star is being considered to headline both festivals in 2024 and Dua is currently weighing the offers. On asking her if she has any







favourites, she retorts in mock irritation, "What would you do? I'm happy, but it is a really tough choice that is not up to me alone. My team, the people I work with — we will all be putting our heads together and taking a call soon. I will probably be involving my fans in the decision-making process as well."

### Devoted to Her Fans

The singer is known for connecting regularly with fans and collaborators beyond the public sphere and the stage. "I always want to be of service to the people who have shown me love. I am because they are!" she insists. Her personal newsletter, Service95, offers curated lists of everything, from her favourite books to restaurants, born out of her own passion for making recommendations to friends and family. Speaking about it, she says, "As artistes in the public eye, I think we all have the responsibility to share opinion, possibly affect them too. I have no problem speaking my mind on stuff that is important to people. I am lucky that my friends, who are writers, artists, designers and all kinds of creative minds, have supported me."

Among her favourite topics to research and discuss is feminism. "I'm not saying males are inferior or females are superior, but I feel strongly about the equality of the sexes. From being told by her choir teacher that her "voice was too weak and low", to being the supportive act for Bruno Mars, Troye Sivan and Coldplay and coming into her own, it has been a "long journey over a short period of time" for Dua.



Dua Lipa at a music festival in Austin, Texas



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# It's streaming history!

Established by The United Nations, **World Television Day** aims to recognise the impact of television on global communication and promote the exchange of ideas. Here are some interesting facts about the household entertainer

62



The first American television station started working in

1928

and BBC transmission began in

1930

The date (November 21) was chosen because it marks the anniversary of the first **World Television Forum** held by the UN in

1996



The word "television" was coined in

1900

by Russian scientist Constantin Perskyi



It is said television came to India in

1959

with experimental transmission from Delhi

India's television industry earned about ₹709 billion in 2022 with subscriptions and advertising revenues put together

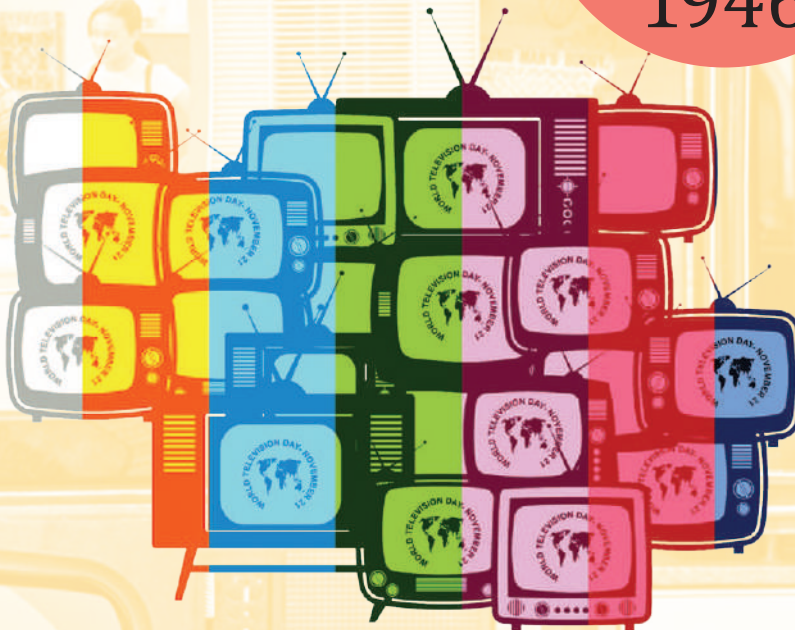






Television continues to be India's largest media, reaching over

**500** million households



The RCA 630-TS was the first television set that was mass-produced. It originally went on sale in **1946**

In **2005**, flatscreen and high-definition televisions were introduced



**3D** televisions started gaining popularity around 2010, after the release of *Avatar*



World's first electronic television is said to have been invented by Philo Taylor Farnsworth in

**1927**



Television viewership in India was at an average minute audience (AMA) of approximately 1.47 trillion in **2022**



As per a **2022** survey, entertainment channels accounted for the highest share of television viewership







**A**lbert Einstein once said, "The only thing you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library." While libraries represent various epochs of human history, they have been the hub of cultural engagement and community resources. There are many beautiful libraries around the world that have earned acclaim for their architectural splendour. Let's take a look.





Admont Abbey Library showcases the art of the European late Baroque period and is one of the world's largest monastic libraries. Its collection of books consists of about 200,000 volumes

**Photo:** LitterART. LeStyrien

# Scripted Grandeur

Libraries are essential pillars of learning and cultural enrichment. From an ancient reading room in Brazil to the frescoed chambers in Prague, here's a glimpse of some stunning artistic libraries across the globe

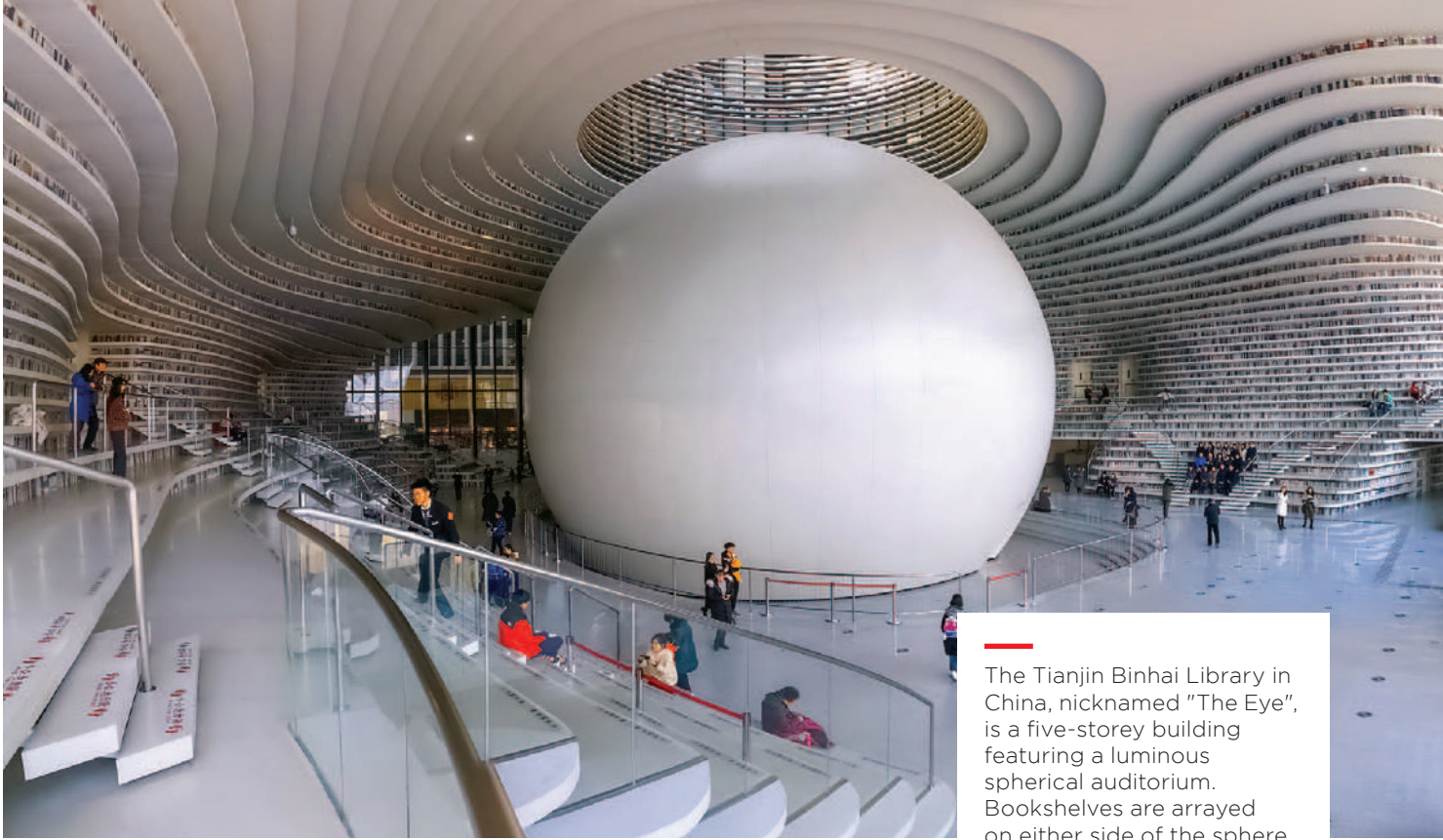
The Old Library of Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, takes one back to the 18th century. It houses the 9th-century gospel manuscript, Book of Kells. The Jedi Library in *Star Wars* is said to have been modelled on this building

**Photo:** Marc Lechanteur

65







The Tianjin Binhai Library in China, nicknamed "The Eye", is a five-storey building featuring a luminous spherical auditorium. Bookshelves are arrayed on either side of the sphere and act as everything, from stairs to seating

**Photo:** cowardlion

The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, opened in 1911, is a premier research centre in New York with extraordinary historical collections, including medieval manuscripts and ancient Japanese scrolls

**Photo:** Carina 70



Rampur Raza Library in Uttar Pradesh dates back to the 18th century and hosts 17,000 manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Pashto, Sanskrit, and other languages. It also has a collection of paintings and palm leaves

**Photo:** PradeepGaurs





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The Royal Portuguese Cabinet of Reading (Royal Portuguese Reading Room) in Brazil has one of the largest collections of Portuguese texts. Boasting Gothic-Renaissance style, its facade was inspired by the Jerónimos Monastery in Lisbon

**Photo:** Diego Grandi



Prague's Strahov Library is one of the best-preserved libraries in the world. Its oldest halls are adorned with ceiling frescoes by eminent painters Siard Nosecký and Franz Anton Maulbertsch

**Photo:** Tilialucida



Contained within a stunning white cube, Stuttgart's City Library is crowned by an inverted ziggurat reading and rotating photovoltaic roof panels. It is one of the world's most picturesque libraries

**Photo:** RossHelen





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NOVEMBER 2023

# YOUR FORECAST THIS MONTH



## ARIES

Business will expand, finances will increase and all the difficulties in your life will start sorting themselves out. You will have the conviction to face all your problems with strength and grace. You will find your partner/ soulmate soon. Health will be good. In general, it is quite a good month for you.



## TAURUS

Your reactions, moods and emotions are going to demand attention. A major obstacle related to your work or personal affairs is about to get resolved. It's time to call up those who owe you money, as there are high chances that you might get it back. Court cases will be resolved, relieving your pressures.



## GEMINI

Control your excitement as it might result in you being a little overconfident. You might make a mistake, so the advice is to go slow. A change in your career is indicated. It is time to start working out. Children might be the reason for your happiness. A foreign trip is also indicated.



## CANCER

There might be circumstances that warrant the abandonment of a project involving papers, may be because you do not want to pursue it. Hold onto your finances as there might be some expenses. Marriage is on the cards. Legal issues will be resolved. This month indicates a happy family time.



## LEO

If you are feeling trapped in a situation, you will be happy to know that it is temporary and will sort itself out. Do not believe in any negative advice or gossip. You might think about dissolving a partnership; go ahead with it. A new business proposal will be presented, which will be favourable.



## VIRGO

You will be pleased with the appearance of some people who will suddenly bring certain positive changes in your life. This can be both professionally and personally. You will consider buying a new car or a property. It's going to be a good month ahead. It is time to feel those butterflies in your stomach as romance is on the cards.



## LIBRA

You might be involved with release forms or something that involves legal, medical or corporate papers. If you have made a mistake in the past that had hindered your progress, someone is going to assist you in that. Financial assistance is coming through a loan. If you were thinking of a trip to a foreign land, now is the time!



## SCORPIO

Material gains is on the cards for you. You might begin a new project or venture and some of your innovative ideas will be backed up by influential people or seniors who would be willing to provide you some kind of tangible assistance or sponsorship. Your health requires attention as your stomach might bother you a bit.



## SAGITTARIUS

A chain of events is about to unfold, which will detach you from all your problems. This will eliminate any kind of negative apprehensions that you might want to be holding onto. Be willing to act upon new ideas as you will derive benefits from them. Name and fame are coming your way. It is quite a favourable time for investing in property.



## CAPRICORN

You will be surprised by a promotional opportunity, which will give you the chance to sell or advertise your product through a media platform like radio. You will get lucky in matters related to the heart. If you have any old debts, you will be able to clear them soon. Start saving!



## AQUARIUS

You are out and about networking this month, which will be quite helpful in solving all your issues easily. All your problems are getting eliminated slowly and steadily. If you feel like you are missing something, you will get it soon. What is yours is coming for you. It is advisable to take a break and get some rest.



## PISCES

You are going to receive a call regarding a business or an employment opportunity, which is going to be different from your field of work. Domestic affairs might require your attention as there might be some misunderstanding that would need to be resolved. Financial gains will make you happy and you will be able to start saving.





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# My Town

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



**MR. MANPREET SINGH**  
CABIN CREW, AMRITSAR

## Are you originally from Amritsar?

Yes, I was born in a village named Verka in Amritsar, known for its atmosphere, green fields and culture.

## What is the best thing about Amritsar?

Amritsar is home to India's most serene sight, the Harmandir Sahib, famously known as The Golden Temple. The gurdwara is a symbol of equality and brotherhood. My favorite part is *Guru ka Langar*,

which is a delicious and fulfilling meal, and the service is done mostly by volunteers who do it of their own free will as part of *sewa* (service). For me, *langar* is a way of cleansing your inner self and becoming grounded.

## What is the quality of life here like?

Life is good in Amritsar, people are open-hearted. The food is great, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, and you will get the best of both

here. Amritsar is also a spiritually inclined city.

## As compared to other big cities, what different lifestyle does Amritsar have to offer?

Renowned as a spiritual centre of Sikhs, Amritsar is one of the most prestigious cities in Punjab. The name "Amrit-Sar" itself is derived from the name of the pool around the Golden Temple which means "pool of nectar". In Amritsar, no one



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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

sleeps hungry as there is 24-hour *langar* service at the Golden Temple.

### What are the people here like?

The people of Amritsar boast a rich cultural heritage and take great pride in their city's traditions. The majority of residents follow Sikhism, which greatly influences their way of life. The most notable characteristics of the people here are friendliness, devoutness and hospitality.

### Which is your favourite eatery in Amritsar?

Dhabas in Amritsar hold a remarkable legacy and Kesar da Dhaba stands out as one of the best. Tucked away in Chowk Passian, a mere 10-minute stroll from the Golden Temple, this hidden gem is a true haven for epicureans. It is an absolute must-visit.

### What do you like the most about Kesar da Dhaba?

Being a profound admirer of Indian cuisine, I am particularly drawn to this place for its *dal makhani*, which is unrivaled in the city. Additionally, their delectable *lachcha paratha*, *palak paneer*, and smoky *baigan bharta* are simply divine. And if you have a sweet tooth, their *phirni* is an absolute must-try.

### What are the best places to hang out in Amritsar?

If you're looking for serenity, I highly recommend visiting the Golden Temple. For a glimpse into the



city's history, make sure to visit Jallianwala Bagh and Maharaja Ranjit Singh Museum. And if you're in the mood for some shopping, head over to Hall Bazaar and Katra Jaimal Singh, where you can find ethnic Punjabi suits and the famous *juttis*. For youngsters seeking a fun hangout spot, Club House and Bon Adda at Airport Road are a must-visit.

### Please describe your favourite dish at the place.

The eatery is renowned for its *paratha thali*, but my personal favourite is its signature dish, *palak paneer*, which pairs perfectly

with *lachcha paratha*. As for desserts, I cannot resist indulging in *phirni*.

### What attractions in Amritsar would you like to recommend to a tourist?

Undoubtedly, the crown jewel of Amritsar is the Golden Temple. This magnificent shrine, built in the 16th century, serves as an open house of worship for people from all walks of life and religious backgrounds. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in India.

### Apart from Amritsar, what other nearby places would you suggest for a visit?

The areas surrounding Amritsar are blessed with hill towns, hiking trails and wildlife reserves, making them ideal for both adventure and nature travellers. Some notable tourist destinations include Dalhousie, Khajjiar, Palampur, Dharamshala and McLeodganj. If peace is what you seek, then you should surely pay a visit to the Anandabodhi Tree and Dhamma Dhaja Vipassana Meditation Centre.

### Which other places in India have you stayed in? How is Amritsar compared to them?

Having travelled extensively through India, I can say that Amritsar stands out. In 2019, the Golden Temple of Amritsar was recognised as one of the top 10 most-visited places in the world. This temple is renowned for its grandeur. The affordability of the culinary offerings is unmatched. From five-star hotels to its international airport, Amritsar truly offers a comprehensive package for visitors.

## HOW DID YOU DISCOVER KESAR DA DHABA?

Whenever I venture out with my family or friends, I make it a point to explore new diners. My selection process involves considering factors such as the menu, ambience and reviews. Based on my personal experiences, I find that reviews are the most reliable way to judge an eatery. And Kesar da Dhaba was one place where all my criteria were met.



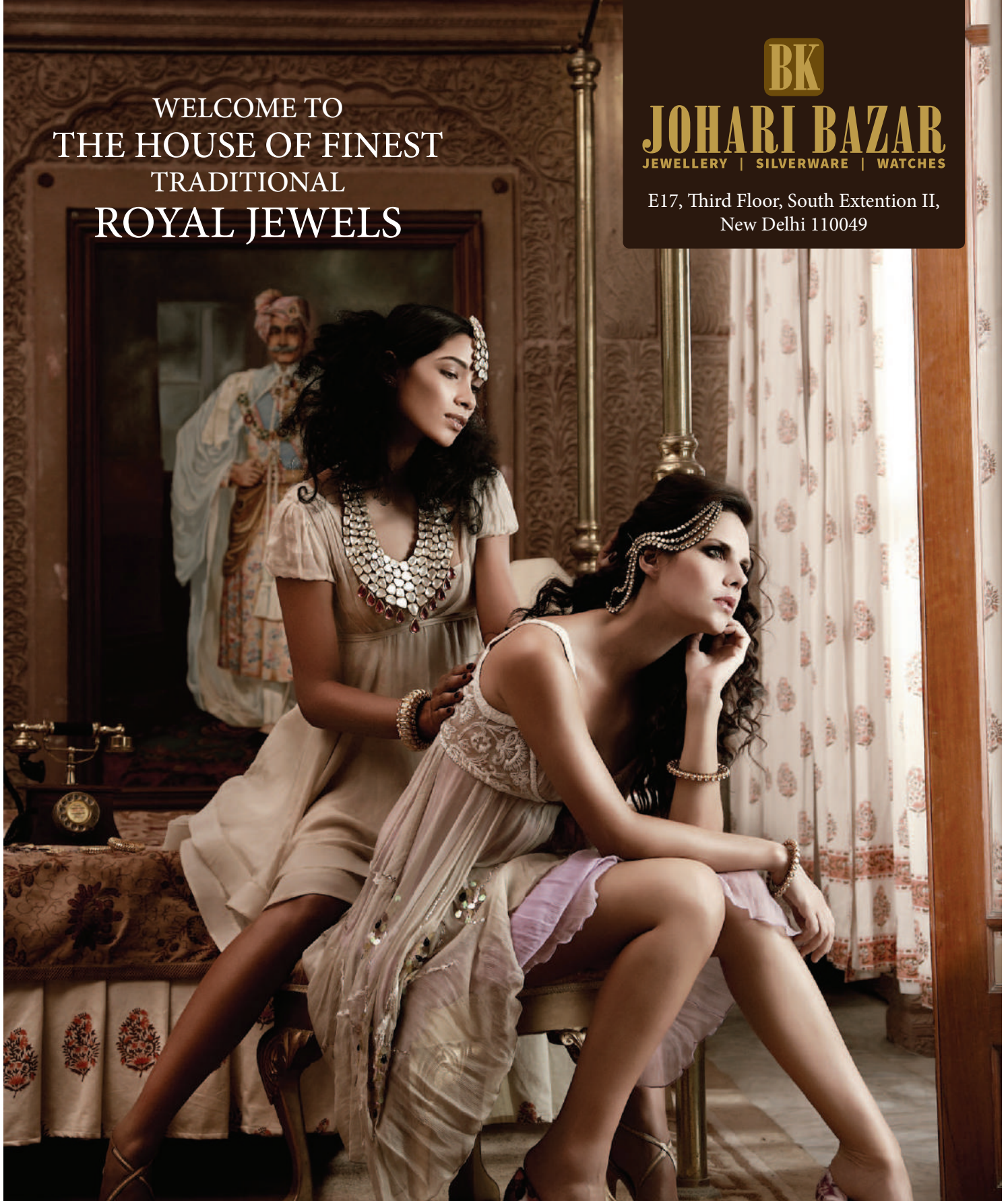


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# Stars Of SpiceJet

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

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Engineering

**RAVI ROSHAN**  
DELHI


**Internal appreciation:** Ravi Roshan has been an inspiration for all at SpiceJet. He works relentlessly for making sure that all aircraft are kept in a proper condition. He is our go-to professional who guides the engineering team in routine maintenance and other things such as AOG. He also possesses an impeccable technical aptitude and a varied skill set. He is energetic and positive all the time.

#### Experience with SpiceJet:

The journey with SpiceJet has been incredible. My friends and colleagues have always been a source of inspiration for me. They motivate me to work harder each day and proceed in the direction of my dreams. I am grateful for all of it.

Catering

**LAHU DEDE**  
MUMBAI


**Internal appreciation:** Lahu is a proactive person who earned trust, admiration and respect of his colleagues with his honesty. His ability to overcome challenges with efficiency is admirable. He never hesitates in taking up tasks and completing them with utmost ease.

**Experience with SpiceJet:** I have been working at the SpiceJet catering department for the past six years. I have learned a lot from my teammates and seniors in this course of time — from understanding the organised procedures to taking any steps further with great planning and concentration. I think, learning careful

planning before taking the next course of action is important. I am very happy with all that I have achieved so far, and now, I can share my expertise with my juniors and extend a helping hand to my teammates, which will help them in carrying out their work efficiently. Even during the time of the pandemic, when we were facing some challenges, we did our best to deliver our services to our valued customers. My seniors and teammates always appreciated my efforts. I feel proud and will definitely strive to serve my company better. Thank you SpiceJet for giving me the opportunity to express myself.





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# 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



Mast Masala



ORGANIC ROOTS

**Tomato Soup**

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



YU

**Chilli Chicken Noodles Chilli Manchurian Noodles Bombay Rava Upma**

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



**Hyderabadi Masala Biryani**

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



**Indori Poha**

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



**Three Cheese Pasta**



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/  
Waffu 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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CHEESE SANDWICH  
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**Domestic**

INR 350



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

CHICKEN MASALA  
in Multigrain 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

FOOD STRONG

**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



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