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# FROM THE CMD'S DESK



**AJAY SINGH**  
Chairman and Managing Director

## DEAR READERS,

Welcome aboard SpiceJet!  
The festive season is here! May the celebrations and festivities of Navratri, Durga Puja and Dussehra bring happiness and prosperity to you and your loved ones. These festivals have a special significance as they symbolise the triumph of good over evil and are a harbinger of the achievements that await us for our efforts.

As demand for festive travel picks up starting this month, SpiceJet looks forward to serving to the maximum. We have added new routes and flights to airports across the country to cater to the increased demand for seats during the festive season. Our capacity to serve more passengers received a timely boost as deliveries of ten Boeing 737 aircraft have commenced. Ten grounded aircraft will also re-join our fleet as we look forward to carrying a record number of passengers during the festive season.

India's emergence as an important aviation hub continues as the civil aviation industry maintains a rapid growth trajectory. As India's favourite airline and one of the largest regional players, we continue to play an important role in the growth of aviation in the country. We continue to enjoy one of the highest passenger load factors (occupancy) and with new routes and flights being added, our contribution towards making flying more accessible and to the growth of the sector will continue.

As India continues to shine on various global platforms, join me in congratulating the U-16 team on winning the SAFF U16 Championship of men's football. The team emerged victorious in a high-octane final with a fine display of tactical prowess and control. That the team did not concede a single goal during the entire tournament speaks volumes about the talent and skill of this young team.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Team India on winning the Asia Cup. Thank you for the wonderful display of sportsmanship and remarkable skill throughout the tournament. The collective hopes and dreams of a billion citizens hinge on the Indian contingent at the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup. I join the nation in wishing the team all the very best. Let us support, cheer and enjoy the wonderful game.

Jai Hind!



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With the festive season around the corner, celebrities share their best memories

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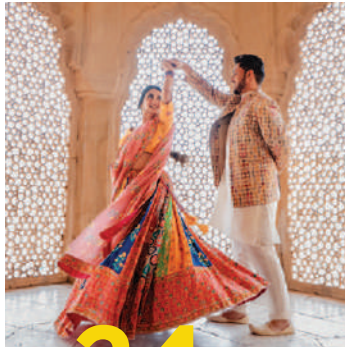
Mark your calendar with the best events of the season



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## LIMELIGHT

Popular singer AP Dhillon talks about his journey of success



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## NETWORK

We explore some of the top wedding destinations in India



## Cover

India decks up in bright hues to celebrate diverse and vibrant festivals this season. On the cover are colossal effigies of Lanka king Ravana and his family that are burnt on Dussehra.

# spice route

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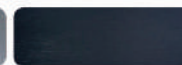
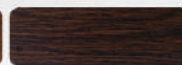
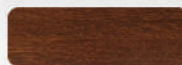


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# Buzz On Social Media



@flyspicejet... Chance to get fly with spicejet... First time. My Mataji - Grandmother and my seats number were apart... But, the crew members adjusted it next to each other. Overall it was a nice experience !!!



@adarshkwarman

Met Vaibhav Tiwari at Gorakhpur airport, I was travelling with my 2 infant kids and wife, the service provided by Mr Vaibhav Tiwari was phenomenal, quick check out and very helpful, haven't ever met such great services anywhere in India.... hats off to spicejet

@rasool\_muddasir

@flyspiceje Muadsir Khan Srinagar. I met Mr Mudasir ground staff at Srinagar Airport, for our flight to Delhi, the staff is very supporting and kind. Didn't face any trouble during my visit to airport.

@freedykapoor

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

@RunMachineSuraj

@flyspicejet had a great experience on my flight 8187 today. Had my pet in cargo was handled extremely well. Varun at the cargo at T3 was great and so was the onboard crew, kept me reassured. #spicejet

@abie79

@flyspicejet Thank U finally reached home on time.. I was scared on last experience but you have improved now..

@301at07018

@flyspicejet travelled today Delhi to Patna. Excellent Hospitality by Payal, Pratibha, Veronica, Deeksha. Thanks a lot to @flyspicejet team. #Happytravellingwithspicejet:)

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## Let us take your memories places!

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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:** October  
**Where:** Japan



### JAPAN: FALL PARADISE

Japan exhibits a burst of colours in autumn. While Nagano prefecture in the Honshu island gets covered in a blanket of purple Japanese gentian flower, other places witness a variety of deciduous trees covered in red, orange and yellow leaves, creating a scenery to remember.





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## Events



### SUNBURN ARENA

Gear up for an evening of trance and electronic music as renowned Dutch DJ Armin van Buuren comes to India for a four-city Sunburn Arena tour.



**When:** October 5-8

**Where:** Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi NCR



### FOLK EXTRAVANGANZA

Rajasthan International Folk Festival is ready to entertain people at Jodhpur's majestic Mehrangarh Fort. It will showcase performances by an array of national and international artistes.



**When:** October 26-30

**Where:** Jodhpur, Rajasthan

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**“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”**

**Mahatma Gandhi**  
Freedom Fighter



### GANDHI JAYANTI

This marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The day is also celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence by the United Nations to uphold the principle of *ahimsa* (non-violence), advocated by Gandhi.



**When:** October 2

**Where:** Around the world



### DURGA PUJA

Durga Puja marks the victory of Goddess Durga over Mahishasura and is celebrated with great religious fervour. The festival is considered one of the most important in Hinduism, with magnificent puja pandals set up in Kolkata and some other cities.



**When:** October 20-24

**Where:** Across India, mainly West Bengal





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- Specialization courses taught by Senior Practitioners
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Movies | Books | Sports



## CRICKET WORLD CUP

India is all set to host the 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup across various cities. This is the first time that India will be the solo host of the tournament. Ten teams will be competing with each other for the number one spot.



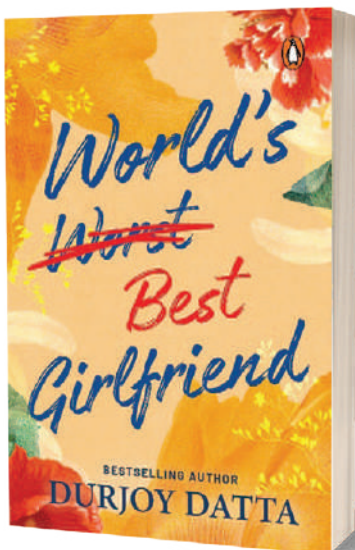
**When:** October 5 - November 19

**Where:** India



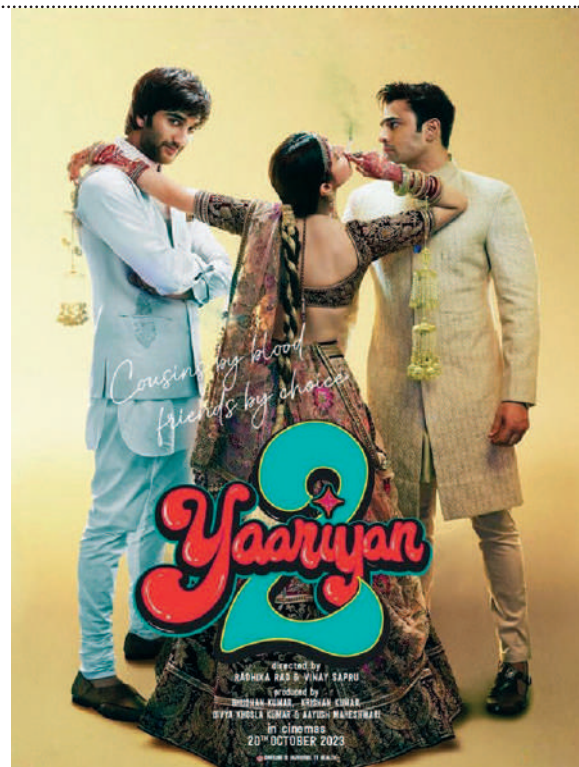
## LIFE AND ARTISTRY

*Manu Parekh: Crossover of Cultures* is a biographical documentary on the life of the renowned Indian artist. Directed by Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya, it gives insights into the thought process behind each of his masterpieces.



## BESTSELLING ROMANCE

Durjoy Datta's latest release is all about love and romance. The bestselling author's 20th novel, titled *World's Best Girlfriend*, takes us through the fairy tale romantic story of Daksh and Aanchal as they navigate their individual lives.



## TALE OF FRIENDSHIP

Directed by Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru, *Yaariyan 2* is the sequel of 2014 film *Yaariyan*. The movie features Divya Khosla Kumar, Yash Daasgupta, Meezaan Jafri and Pearl V Puri. The story revolves around three cousins.



**When:** October 20

**Where:** India



**AUDACITY WANTED.**



## Fashion

### GOLD GRANDEUR

If you are planning to buy jewellery this festive season, you can opt for Tola & Carat's latest collection of traditional-yet-contemporary pieces, ranging from beautiful gold earrings to pendants and rings in various designs.



### MITHAI WITH A TWIST

During festivals, sweets are more than just treats! Chef Ajay Chopra's new venture, Kshir and Canele brings a gourmet twist to traditional Indian sweets (*mithai*) and patisserie. The store has opened in Gurgaon.

### GLOW LIKE A CHILD

For a perfect glam look during festivals, check out the new makeup range by Lovechild by Masaba, including primer, concealer, illuminator, and two signature fragrances.



### LUSCIOUS AND GLAZED

Give your lips a natural finish with the new hydrating lip oil launched by Katrina Kaif's brand, Kay Beauty, for nourishing and moisturising the lips.

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# TAMIL NADU

This wedding season, we bring you breathtaking destinations you can choose from to celebrate your big day. We start with Mamallapuram, an ideal location for a traditional wedding



Image: athea

24

## DON'T MISS



Image: athea

The complex is an iconic example of Southern Indian temple architecture. Its grand backdrop is perfect for a pre-wedding shoot.

## MUST SEE



While you are there, do explore popular attractions like the open-air relief called the "Descent of the Ganges" and "Krishna's Butterball", a wonder that defies the laws of gravity. It does not fall or move.

## EAT & SHOP



Fresh seafood dishes can be added to a wedding menu and local stone and seashell artefacts can be used in the decor.



For your wedding feast, you can offer a scrumptious full-course South Indian sit-down meal served on a banana leaf for a taste of the region's unique traditions.

Just a couple of hours from Chennai, by the Bay of Bengal, stands Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram with its ancient rock-cut temples. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the grand complex with giant open-air reliefs and the majestic Shore Temple has emerged as a popular pre-wedding photography destination, while the resorts along the coast host grand marriage events. "From sea-facing farmhouses for close-knit weddings to glamorous five-star resorts, Mahabalipuram offers a variety of options," says a Chennai-based marriage planner, adding, "it's perfect for those looking for a sea-side wedding with stunning cultural references." Its easy connectivity to the Chennai airport is another advantage. Nearby is Dakshinachitra, an elegant building that houses a museum of art and architecture, which makes for an interesting backdrop.

The nearest well-connected airport is Chennai. SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Chennai from Colombo\*, Bagdogra, Pune, Ahmedabad, Khajuraho, Goa and many more destinations in India. Book now at [www.spicejet.com](http://www.spicejet.com).

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# GOA

A favourite among youngsters, Goa offers stunning beachside locations and a vibrant party scene for your big day



Image: Together Studios

Beach paradise Goa is among the first choices for many couples while planning their big day. With beautiful sea-facing locales, eclectic cuisine and a mesmerising ambience, Goa is perfect for weddings of all types. Wedding planners love that arrangements can be made to suit any budget and everything required for a wedding can be sourced locally. "Many couples prefer Goa for its party scene; it's one of the best in India," says an event planner. Photographers love Goa's varied landscape. "Every beach has a different mood and photo-shoots look stunning. Shoots can also be done in the Portuguese neighbourhood Fontainhas," says a photographer.

Enjoy a pre or post-wedding party on a private cruise on the Mandovi river. Weddings can also be arranged on yachts with a selected guest list.



## DON'T MISS



From luxury hotels with private beaches to cosy homestays, Goa has a varied choice of wedding venues. Other than the popular beaches, South Goa is sought-after for weddings.

## MUST SEE



The elegant churches and forts of Goa make for memorable images. If you want to have an intimate church wedding, there are many options to pick from. Some hotels in the old Fontainhas area also host weddings.

## EAT & SHOP



Image: celebrationinmykitchen

If you are a seafood lover, you can incorporate some local dishes in your wedding dinner. The hot and tangy *ambotik* fish curry, the *poi* (*poe*) bread and the sweet *bebinca* are some options. Buy local crafts and cashews as gifts.



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# KERALA

Kochi, marked by verdant surroundings and serene backwaters, offers a perfect location for your dream wedding



Image: Twogether Studios

## DON'T MISS



For an intimate wedding, book one of the traditional houseboats. With a selected guest list, you can host a unique wedding on these gigantic boats as they cruise through the backwaters.

## MUST SEE



Image: weddingwire

A simple wedding can be held inside a temple complex as well. Kochi has several temples, including the Chottanikkara Bhagavathy Temple.

## EAT & SHOP



Local handicrafts like Kasavu sarees can be added to your trousseau or given as gifts. Local dishes like *puttu kadala* and *thattu dosa* can be added to the menu, apart from *breudher* bread, which lends a Dutch flavour.

For an out-of-the-box wedding photoshoot, head to Kochi's fascinating tea plantations to click the most stunning pictures with your partner.

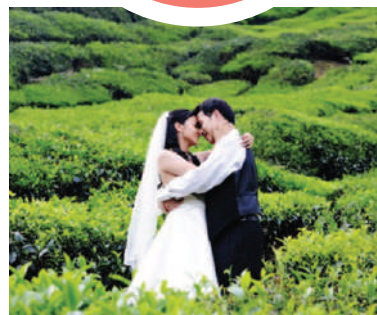


Image: birdsholiday

Kochi, in 'God's Own Country' Kerala, serves as an iconic wedding destination due to its exotic scenery combined with lush greenery. Its iconic backwaters and ancient neighbourhoods serve as a perfect backdrop for weddings. For stunning photography head to the beautiful Areekkal waterfalls, Kadamakkudy Islands, Old Railway Station, Willingdon Island and Fort Kochi. Throwing light on the beauty of Kochi, a wedding planner says, "Kochi is complete with brilliant green grassland and forests, gently swaying palm trees, languid backwaters, mighty hills and endless, pristine beaches." From an old-school wedding at an ancient temple to a romantic wedding by the beach, Kochi has it all to make it to your list of favourite wedding destinations.





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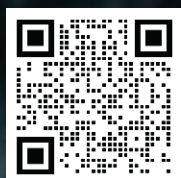
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# ANDAMAN

Make the most of the iconic Havelock Island and Neil Island, brimming with natural beauty, for a ceremony that you will remember forever



Image: Twogether Studios

Adventure lovers can take their vows underwater in a colourful marine environment as Andaman has the facility of underwater weddings and photo-shoots.

All about serene beaches and a rich marine life, Andaman is emerging as an iconic wedding destination in India. Out of the many locations in the Andaman and Nicobar islands that provide a perfect backdrop for a beach wedding, Havelock Island is the most popular one. With its beautiful beaches and rolling hills, the island is known for its pristine beauty and romantic setting. Next come Neil Island and Port Blair. "The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are one of the most naturally beautiful destinations in the world, and they are perfect for weddings," says a wedding planner. You can take a ferry from Port Blair to Havelock.



Image: havelockislandbeachresort

## DON'T MISS



Image: andamanislands

Visit the Radhanagar beach in Havelock Island, also ranked as one of the best beaches in Asia. It is one of the most sought-after beaches for weddings and photo-shoots.

## MUST SEE



The tranquil Neil Island is another excellent choice for destination weddings. Port Blair offers venues for bigger gatherings. While planning, do make sure to keep a day free for site-seeing.

## EAT & SHOP



Seafood dishes like fish curries, prawns and lobsters can be served to guests. Traditional handicrafts and seashells can be gifted as souvenirs.



The well-connected airport is Port Blair. SpiceJet connects direct and one-stop flights to Port Blair from Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai and many more destinations in India. Book now at [www.spicejet.com](http://www.spicejet.com).





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# RAJASTHAN

Add a regal touch to your nuptials at royal Jaipur dotted with forts that were once inhabited by Rajput kings



Image: Wedding Diaries By OMP

## DON'T MISS



The exquisite Albert Hall Museum, one of the oldest in the state, or the Hawa Mahal with its picturesque *jharokhas*, make for unique backdrops for wedding shoots.

## MUST SEE



Around 170 km away, Sawai Madhopur (near Ranthambore) is another popular wedding destination, where actors Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal got married. It has several luxury venues.

## EAT & SHOP



Delicious snacks and local Rajasthani sweets can be a part of a wedding meal. Paintings, carpets and traditional handicrafts can be unique gifts.



Customise special hampers for your guests to include ethnic decor items, mirror work products and trinkets. For a local touch, the bride can try Rajasthani *mehendi* patterns.

Famous for its grand forts and palaces, vibrant culture and premium hotels, Jaipur and its surrounding areas are much sought-after wedding destinations in India. Jaipur's palaces and ornate *havelis* have been host to a number of high profile nuptials. "Jaipur has excellent connectivity, which makes it convenient for guests," says Ankita Jain, a Jaipur-based wedding planner and designer. "Jaipur also offers multiple venue options for weddings within varied budgets," she adds. While weddings are mostly held at the many heritage hotels in the city, for a unique statement, you can also arrange it in the stunning City Palace.

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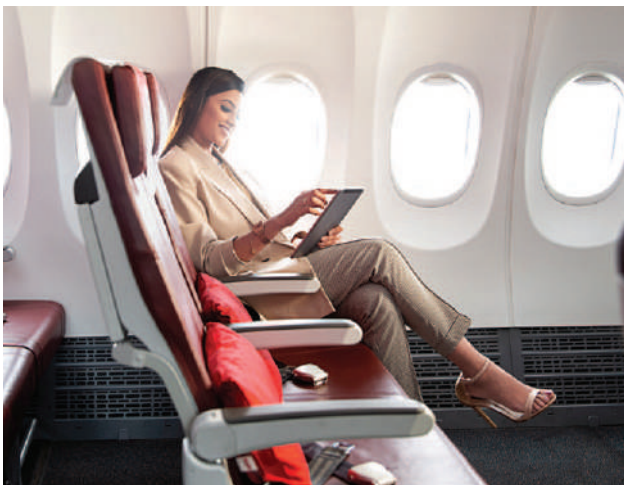


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## Mark the dates

Durga Puja:

**Oct 20-24**

Dussehra:

**Oct 24**

Diwali:

**Nov 12**

Chhath:

**Starts Nov 17**





# Now landing *Festive Nostalgia*

Festivals are about bonding with family and friends and celebrating with your loved ones. With the festival season upon us, we speak to a few celebrities about their festive memories

TEXT: NAMITA KUMAR

**E**very autumn, as the rain clouds clear and there is a nip in the air, the festive fervour grips the country. The autumnal festive season in India, characterised by bustling crowds, illuminated streets, and the scent of incense, holds a unique significance for everyone. However, there is a common emotion shared by those who live far from their loved ones and hometowns – a profound sense of nostalgia and longing for home. This feeling is so powerful that not even a million distractions can fill the void. Whether it's visiting Durga Puja *pandals*, enjoying the festivities of a Dussehra *mela*, lighting *diyas* during Diwali, or savouring *thekua* (a sweet dish) during Chhath, these festive days bring back memories of cherished moments spent with friends and family!







**“As a child, I used to love gorging on fried savouries and sweets during Diwali. I would love to rewind to those times once again.**

Actor Mona Singh

wherever my father was posted at that time. That taught me the importance of buying local and supporting artisans. Even today, I buy only handmade earthen *diyas* and other décor items. Not only do they look good but also remind me of the countless festivals spent in remote parts of the country with my family,” says Singh.

During these festivals, neighbourhoods and houses are beautifully decorated, and entire communities come together to celebrate. Beneath the surface of each of these festivals lie the uncomplicated pleasures and rituals that tie us to our origins, faith, and homes. Recalls actor Daisy Shah, who has thrilling memories of Navratri in Mumbai, “The best part of Navratri would be the *garba* that we used to play. I used to love getting dressed up in ethnic wear and dancing the nights away with friends.” Another actor who misses her *garba* nights is Shraddha Kapoor, who has often spoken about sneaking out of home during Navratri with friends.

For actor Mona Singh, who has celebrated Dussehra and Diwali in all corners of India due to her father's life as an Army man, festivals mean shopping. “When I was young, we would shop for new clothing and decor from







**"My fondest Durga Puja memories are from my childhood, when we used to celebrate with the entire family at my grandfather's house near Dum Dum. While the rituals were important, playing with cousins and feasting mattered a lot to us!"**

Actor  
Prosenjit Chatterjee



No Indian festival is complete without food. Durga Puja too is associated with a variety of dishes. Interestingly, there are many recipes and methods of preparing these dishes, unique to every family or neighbourhood. In essence, the aroma of the food is a form of returning home, even if only in your thoughts.

For casting director and Bollywood actor Abhishek Banerjee, Durga Puja memories from his growing up days are strongly associated with food — be it the delicious Kolkata street food or the divine *bhog* offered to Goddess Durga. For him, *bhog* is sacrosanct. Recalling one of his fondest Durga Puja memories from Mumbai, he says, "I saw director Anurag Basu the very first time at a pujo *mandap* serving *bhog*. It was important for me to talk to him about my career, but I didn't. I couldn't have interrupted a *bhog* service." Banerjee also swears by the delicious meals every Bengali loves to feast on after the day's rituals are over, especially *Moghlai porotha* (a deep fried *paratha* with a filling of minced meat).



**"There is something special about the way *bhog* is cooked. The dishes are simple. Yet, when they are offered to Maa Durga and distributed among devotees, they take on a special aroma and flavour. Even the best chefs can't match the taste of *bhog*."**

Actor Abhishek Banerjee





From the art of *rangoli* making (colourful patterns to decorate homes) to participating in community Ramlila shows (traditional theatre that showcases the epic *Ramayana*), Indian festivals and art forms are often interlinked. Actor Shah Rukh Khan has very famously spoken about his early days in Delhi, where during a Ramlila act, he realised he had it in him to explore the vocation. "I used to be cast as a monkey with a long tail in the local Ramlila show. I would jump around and confidently interact with the audience. Those shows helped me lose the fear of crowds," the actor has said.

For decades, actors have come together to put up prestigious Ramlila



"For me, Diwali and Dussehra mean fun, food and brand new clothes. If you are a *Punjabi*, all this is a must. My childhood was spent in Delhi. I burst crackers only for *shagun*. I am concerned about the environment. I also want my children to learn all about it and breathe in fresh air.

Indian television presenter Manish Paul



**October this year marks the celebration of several major festivals in India, including Durga Puja, Navratri, and Dussehra**

performances across the country. Some of the most popular ones are held in Varanasi and Delhi. Ramlila acts held during Dussehra have been the training ground for many now-established actors. Television star Rohitashv Gour, who plays Manmohan Tiwari in the popular television show *Bhabi Ji Ghar Par Hai*, says, "I started my career as an actor from Ramlila in the small town of Kalka, where I grew up. I was a teenager and I used to be cast in supporting roles but the rehearsals, the style of dialogue delivery and facing the audience taught me a lot. Those shows gave me the first taste of theatre!"







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Notably, Indian festivals encompass numerous customs that require the participation of the entire family and close relatives, whether it's cleaning and decorating the house, preparing *prasad* (offerings to deities), or helping with the puja. Reflecting on his memories of Chhath, actor Pankaj Tripathi reminisces about the days spent at his home in Belsand village of Gopalganj district, Bihar. "Be it Jitiya, Teej or Chhath, every festival of Bihar is special. Chhath is a *mahaparv* [biggest festival] for me, and I always emphasise how it celebrates nature. It is celebrated over several days and the first three days are very special – *Nahay Khay, Kharna* and *Sandhya Aragh*. Even today, I insist on making *thekua* at home. As a boy, I recall my mom fasting and the festival being extremely pure and pristine. The village would gather around River Gandak for the *arghya* [prayers to Sun God]," he recalls. Chhath is deemed one of the most eco-friendly festivals by environmentalists. From the *prasad* to the offerings, it involves the use of seasonal fruits, vegetables



**"I love to celebrate Chhath at my village with the rest of my family and try to return home every year with my wife and daughter. I still carry the *tokra* [basket] of *arghya* offerings on my head. Time is a small sacrifice to make if I get to spend some moments of joy at home."**

Actor  
Pankaj Tripathi



and cereals. Devotees go for holy bathing and observe a fast during this festival. Chhath puja is dedicated to the Sun God.

Tripathi adds: "Every year, I make sure that I spend time with my wife and child at my hometown during Chhath. I have many memories from childhood associated with this festival. I love the rituals and observe them with utmost fervour and enthusiasm. Spending a few moments of joy at home is priceless. Due to work commitments, if I can't go home on Chhath, I celebrate it in Mumbai with my family. Another festival I have very fond memories of is Durga Puja. This festival was also celebrated with great enthusiasm in Patna during my growing-up days."



Image: insta/bihar\_vibes



**"For me, Chhath is incomplete without the entire family coming together."**

Actor Sanjay Mishra





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# NINE NIGHTS IN AMDAVAD



Navratri in Ahmedabad is a vibrant showcase of its heritage and culture through traditional dance, food and rituals

TEXT: ANIL MULCHANDANI

## HIGHLIGHTS



### WHAT TO SEE

Visit the Bhadra Fort built by Ahmed Shah, founder of Ahmedabad, which was used by the British as a prison during the colonial period.



### WHAT TO BUY

Shop for intricate Patan ni Pachedi paintings, Patan Patola sarees and Bandhej garments.



### WHAT TO DO

Take a tour of the Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram, from where Mahatma Gandhi conducted major activities of Indian Independence.



### USP

The city is dotted with wood-based architecture with intricate carvings, an integral part of its heritage.







GUJARAT

AHMEDABAD

Map not to scale



Come autumn and Ahmedabad decks up for Navratri, a vivacious festival that lasts for nine days. In Gujarat, Navratri is not just about religious devotion but also revelry, in which the entire community takes part. People throng the streets in traditional clothes to attend various *garba* and *dandiya* programmes at different venues in Ahmedabad. This is the best time to visit the city as it can be seen at its liveliest and colourful best.

India's first UNESCO-listed World Heritage City, Ahmedabad has an incredible diversity of architecture, from huge mosques to magnificent monuments. The city, built on the ancient site of Ashaval and Karnavati, was founded in 1411 AD by Sultan Ahmed Shah. It is home to many monuments like Jhulta Minara and Amritvarshini Stepwell. The city's heritage can be further witnessed in traditional residential clusters called '*pol*s' exhibiting remarkable urban planning with water-harvesting and community activities. The *pol*s are micro-neighbourhoods with houses, public areas and bird-feeding structures called *chabutras*. Many of the *pol*s have mansions called *havelis* featuring exquisite wooden facades with artistic wood carvings on their



## What to eat

When in the city, try street food like *navtad samosas* (tiny crispy triangles made of refined flour called *pattis* and stuffed with lentil or potatoes), found best in the Gheekanta market. They are known to have been introduced in Ahmedabad in the 1950s.



During Navratri, relish special *thalis* anywhere in Ahmedabad. The flavourful vegetarian dishes like *aloo ke pakode*, *shakarkandi chaat*, *lauki ki subzi*, *samak ke chawal*, *kuttu poori*, *saboodana papad*, etc., are served even late at night.



At Sindi Market and its neighbouring Revdi Bazar, you will find Sindi stalls selling *sanna pakoras*, crispy double-fried fritters made with chickpeas and gram flour.



Visit Azad, a popular eatery that dates back to 1947, to relish dishes like *dal pakwan*. For dessert, buy Karachi *halwa* and *malai barfi* in the area.



balconies, brackets and pillars, and fine stucco work. While wandering around the *pols*, you can see temples and Jain shrines with beautiful vegetable-colour dyed walls and corbelled domes.

Walk down the *pols* to the historic market square called Manek Chowk, where the bullion and jewellery markets thrive. Here, you can see the grand Jama (Jumma) Masjid, built around the 15th century. The mosque has a large marble-paved courtyard with a pool in the centre and an enclosed arcaded gallery on three sides with fine calligraphy. The façade has some fine lattice windows flanking the arches.

### BUSTLING MARKETS

Located close to this mosque, the Teen Darwaja is a triple archway with intricately decorated walls on the piers between the arches. From here, you can walk through Manek Chowk to Badshah-no-Hajiro, the tomb of Ahmed Shah and his queen's tomb known as Rani-na-Hazira. Once the markets open, you can shop for clothes to wear for Navratri events. The traditional attire of women for *garba* is called *chaniya-choli-odhni*. The *chaniya*, also called *lehenga* or *ghagra*, is a heavily gathered drawstring skirt. The *choli* is a brightly coloured blouse and the *odhni* is a scarf or a stole. Dhalgarwad and Ratanpole are the main areas to shop for traditional clothes and silver jewellery.

Male dancers wear embroidered garments called *kediya* (*kediyu*) that are worn over a colourful *kurta*, teamed with brightly coloured *dhoti* or pyjamas and often accompanied by colourful turbans and embroidered footwear called



Best Time to Visit: October to February is an ideal time to explore Ahmedabad





Image: Wikipedia



Image: Priyanka Tiwari-YouTube



Image: whatshot.in

*mojdis*. As you walk down the markets, you can see costumes and ornaments hung on shop fronts for sale. Ramakda Market is a well-known hub for buying *dandiya* sticks and accessories. The evening market at Law Garden is famous for *chaniya-choli*, jewellery and trinkets.

People come out on the street squares to worship Goddess Amba and dance – this is called Sheri Garba. For grand Navratri celebrations, head to the west bank of River Sabarmati. By night, the city is a blaze of colours with dancers in their ethnic attire dotting the streets and lanes. Vibrant events are held at clubs, schools, colleges and party lawns.

### THUMPING CADENCE

The rhythm of *garba* and *dandiya raas* reverberates across Ahmedabad during Navratri, as people groove to peppy numbers belted by celebrated musicians. Large-scale events are held at multiple venues across the city. Rajpath Club, Karnavati Club and Karnavati University organise popular celebrations attended by youngsters. On the other hand, smaller and more

intimate programmes are held in residential colonies. Traditionally, the dances are centred around a *mandvi*, which is a structure made for holding *dias* (wick-lamps).

An intrinsic part of these *garba* nights is also the food. Ahmedabad's heritage lies in its antique restaurants as well. Chandravilas is one such place that was started as a small tea cart around 1900 and is said to have launched the first-ever Gujarati *thali*. This restaurant was once frequented by freedom fighters and is a must-visit in Ahmedabad for celebrities and tourists. It is famous for a sumptuous breakfast of *fafda* (chickpea flour fritters), *jalebi*, a papaya relish called *cheen* (papaya *sambharo*), and chutneys. Das Khaman is an establishment dating back to 1922, famous for its *farsan* (snacks). *Dal kachoris* and *batata vadas* are also popular, and in the *pols* you can dig into *kela vada* and banana chips.



**Anil Mulchandani** is the author of travel guides, commemorative books and food guides. Based in Ahmedabad, he has lectured about the culture, cuisine, business and heritage of Gujarat at seminars, symposiums and conferences.





# MSTC LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST PORTAL FOR SALE OF ELV (END-OF-LIFE VEHICLE)



**M**STC Limited., a Mini Ratna Category-I CPSE under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India (GoI), is one of the leading e-Commerce related service provider across diversified sectors therein driving innovation, sustaining environment through Circular Economy to providing equitable distribution of natural resources through e-commerce activities. MSTC offers e-auction/e-sale, e-procurement services, development of customized software/solutions which has yielded significant saving of virgin resources through sustainable and eco-friendly recycling.

Incorporated in 1964, MSTC in its 59 years of journey has transformed itself from a small, canalized agency to a large multi-product diversified company. In this millennium, MSTC emerged as the fastest growing Public Sector E-Commerce Company in India, headquartered in Kolkata, promoting transparency and speed in delivery of services. MSTC has a vast experience of over 3.5 lakhs auctions while serving over 4.0 lakhs users and has emerged as the preferred service provider for various government and Government administered entities (both Central and State).

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From prestigious e-auction of Coal blocks to several major and minor mineral blocks, MSTC, has

been setting several milestones in providing e-commerce solutions vis-à-vis the much-desired platform service provider to GoI for its flagship schemes viz DEEP, 4G/5G spectrum, DDUGJY, SHAKTI, UDAN, Bank NPAs, Mines & Minerals etc through which it has connected and rendered plethora of citizen centric benefits to the common man.

Very recently, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has notified the Vehicle Scrappage Policy named as Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Program (VVMP) and mandated to use MSTC's auction portal for channelizing and selling of End-of-Life vehicles (ELV) owned by the Central and State Government departments, govt. organisations, autonomous bodies etc. to the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSFs) only. The Policy envisages to create a robust ecosystem for safer roads with structured scrappage sector there by making the roads safer and air cleaner while boosting availability of low-cost raw materials for the secondary sector as well as enhancing auto sector sales in environment friendly manner.

The newly launched end of life vehicle (ELV) Portal of MSTC (URL: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/elv/index.jsp>) besides sourcing government owned ELVs to Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) is also facilitating individual ELV owners and RVSFs under a single platform for recycling of their end-of-life vehicles. Both, private & individual vehicle owners can dispose of their old vehicle for free, with ease of mind just by registering at MSTC's portal and uploading their vehicle details. The system immediately networks the vehicle information of respective sellers with the RVSFs to facilitate procurement of the ELV from the owner at a right price with due

documentation and incentives as per Govt. of India's VVMP policy. In the process the seller gets a single point access to all RVSFs in India and better scope of negotiated price on old vehicle as well as all benefits of the VVMP policy of Govt. of India, including all exemptions, incentives and discounts against new vehicles resulting in peace of mind of through a transparent transaction mode. Similarly, RVSFs gets a single point sourcing of raw materials at own convenience and ease from all Govt. Depts., Private Institutions as well as individual ELV owners across the country.

MSTC through MMRPL (a JV Company with Mahindra Group) has also forayed into ELV and White Goods Recycling sector under the brand name CERO, having a pan India network of 41 vehicle collection centers / RVSFs. CERO is just a call away at 1800-267-6000. MMRPL having the first state-of-the-art fully operational auto shredding plant in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh for recycling of ELVs and other white goods which are converted to shredded scrap as feedstock/raw material of secondary steel plants.

On a journey spanning about six decades, MSTC thus has grown from a scrap trading company to a multi-faceted e-commerce company driving positive change.





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# "THE BROWN MUNDE IS BEING HEARD"

India-born Canadian artiste AP Dhillon is a rising global star in the hip-hop music genre, with hit songs such as *Brown Munde*. His musical journey seems like a dream, one that scores of Indian youngsters chase

TEXT: AARTI KAPUR SINGH

From a small-town boy raised in the hinterlands of Punjab to a globally recognised artist, Amritpal Singh Dhillon has come a long way. His life has been captured in a recent documentary, *AP Dhillon: First of A Kind*, for the OTT platform. His remarkable story is the stuff that riveting film narratives are made of — a desi immigrant boy leaves his home and family to travel to a foreign land to fulfil his dreams.



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## “My focus never shifted from music inspite of many hardships throughout my journey”

The *Brown Munde* singer, while describing his journey, says, “Long, laborious, full of learning and a lot of fun! I was at a state when no one wanted to work with me. And that is when I decided to be fully independent. It may have taken a while, but it was really worth it!”

Underlining how important staying passionate was to his journey from Punjab to Canada, and now as an international celebrity, AP says, “All of us enjoy what we do. And we want to continue doing it better and better. From jamming in cold rooms to experimenting with the essence of the folk and other music we grew up listening to, the challenges and inspirations have been many. But this

is what I always wanted to do and I was stubborn about it!”

### Focus Pays

Familial resistance was naturally there but young AP was unfazed. “My *dadi* would always encourage me, even singing to me at times. My parents thought she was just an indulgent grandparent. Of course I was told to choose a good course, finish studies and find a stable job. But then, I am also glad for getting the opportunity to move abroad where I could juggle music and earning a living,” he recalls, adding, “I knew what I had to do. That focus never shifted.” This was despite several hardships. “Working multiple shifts, being denied a room in a hotel because I did not have a credit card, surviving on eggs and bread for days - all of that was so worth it!” says AP. A lot of these details were revealed to the world via the recent documentary,

and AP says it probably is the best way to know him.

### The Man Behind the Enigma

There wasn’t much known about AP Dhillon and the documentary is a fly-on-the-wall account of his life and times. “I’ll be honest. I am not much of a talker. I am learning now. And when they first started shooting the documentary, and the camera was following us everywhere, I was rather irritated with how obstructive it was getting. But then, I think it is the best way. Rather than talking about myself, I would much rather have people see who I am,” confesses AP.

The otherwise shy singer thrives on the adulation of fans, as the documentary on his life and journey reveals. “It was such a high when we did our first show. In the midst of our performance, whilst there was no nervousness, I actually fumbled for a second with a lyric because I



# Rapid Fire



An enigma since he made a mark in the global Punjabi music scene, and changed its fabric, here are a few lesser known details about him.



Dhillon performing at a concert

**Thoughts on playback for Bollywood-** I am not averse to it, but it will have to make sense in the larger picture. I love making music and if that is contributing to a film, why not?

**Your inspiration-** Anything and everything! Like with *Ma Belle*, it was just a mood I was in. It wasn't melancholy or anything. Yes, there are times when we face artistic blocks. Then I wait patiently for the inspiration to come organically. I don't like forcing it.

**Favourite genre of music-** Literally anything. Perhaps, I won't listen to metal. But mostly folk or jazz.

**If not a musician/singer, then what?** I'd rather be dead!

**A place that inspires you-** The rural countryside - mostly Punjab.

**A place on the travel bucket list-** Kashmir, Ladakh and Andamans in India. I also want to travel to the eastern European regions.

was so overwhelmed with the crowd. It was for a split second, I think. But the crowd knew every single verse! If this is not blessed, I don't know what is," says AP.

The one question that everybody is curious about, in the midst of speculation, is his relationship status. When asked, AP declares with conviction: "I am definitely single!" Talking about his mates, the singer adds with a laugh, "We are married to the game." When pressed further, AP shrugs, hinting that he is indeed single.



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# It's the '90s ONCE MORE

From Barbie to Archie, characters from the past are ruling our present

TEXT: SHRUTI KOTHARI TOMAR

**G**reta Gerwig's recent film *Barbie* has broken all records. Within weeks of being released, the film made an astonishing USD 1 billion at the global box office. While many experts credit its success to Gerwig's complex emotional and entertaining treatment of the cross-generational icon, many believe the story's nostalgia appealed to moviegoers. Interestingly, it is not just Gerwig who is taking us on a trip down memory lane. While *Barbie* is enjoying the limelight, in the pipeline are movies based on *Archie Comics* and *Shaktimaan*, taking us back to the era when reading was still a popular

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pastime, and characters from comic books were our best friends.

We are seeing strong inspiration from the past, especially the '90s, all around us – from fashion, film, books to movies and OTT series. Says Heena Singhal, author (*Songs of the Reed*), painter and children's book illustrator, "They say there is always a child within us no matter how far along on this journey of life we move. And we've had a childhood devoid of the Internet. With these glimpses of nostalgia that pop up around us, we revisit the old days we had spent in the colourful and dreamy pages of comic books and movies that gave us lifelong superheroes we admire to date."

We've been engulfed by this nostalgia for a while now. Hollywood rang in success after success with the movie adaptation of the superhero Spider-Man that took the childhood reminiscence of the netted hero and brought him alive on the silver screen, making it a hit that was not witnessed before in the cinemas. Netflix took the tale of the '90s cult show, *The Addams Family*, to stupendous success as *Wednesday* in late 2022; *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, a sitcom from the '90s, made a comeback

last year, and *That '70s Show* has inspired *That '90s Show* in a nostalgic derivative for fans.

Research says the uncertain times of the pandemic revived our longing for the past and gave rise to the popularity of nostalgia stories. And that is continuing. The '90s generation has come of age and as this decade closes in on us, we're putting on our rose-tinted glasses and holding on to the '90s aesthetics and popular trends dearly while expressing it through films, books and TV. Even in fashion, from dungarees to Birkenstocks and high-waisted flared trousers, our love for the '90s is serious and here to stay.

Closer home, *The Archies* ensemble is all set to come alive on our screens and director par excellence, Zoya Akhtar, who's given the Indian film industry popular movies like *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*, *Dil Dhadakne Do*



Image: rottentomatoes

**Chacha Chaudhary, known for his innate ability to solve every problem, was every child's beloved hero**

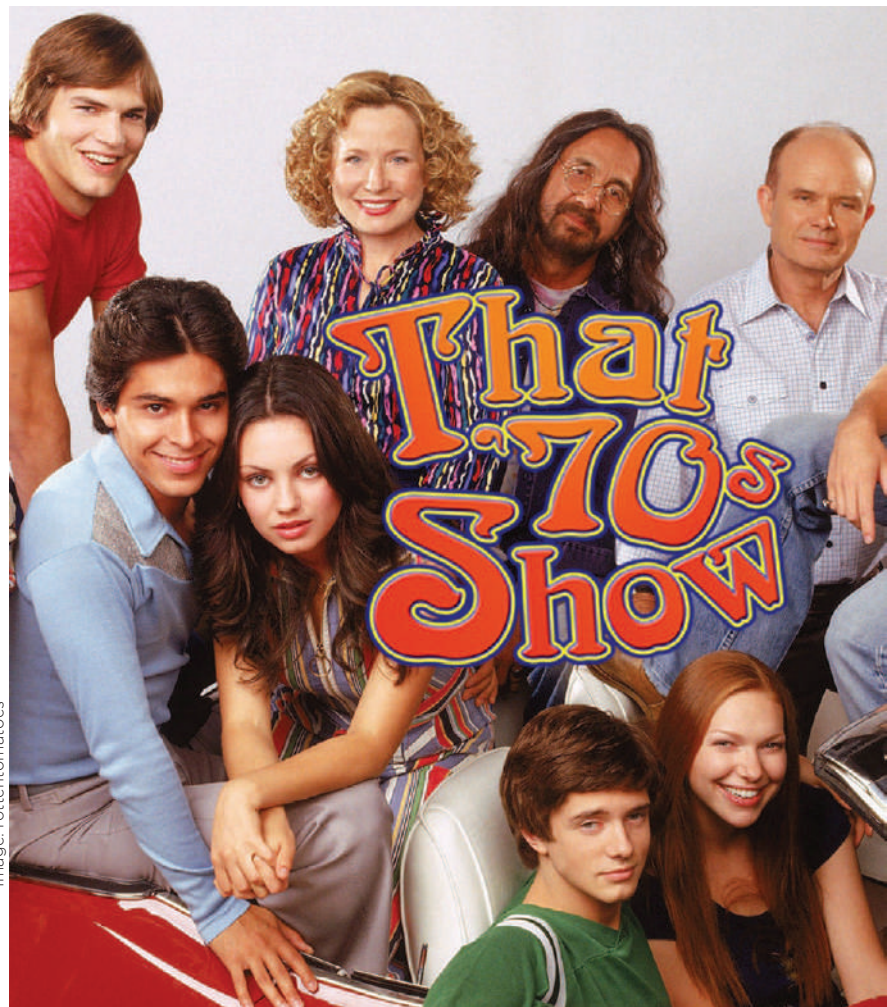


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## Archie Comics spoke about things we could relate to, from heartbreaks to friendships, and just fitting in

and *Gully Boy*, is directing the new-age *Riverdale* teens in this live-action flick. It is set in a utopian world in the salubrious climes of Ooty, where dancing, singing, biking and picnicking warrant no occasion, and the solitary dark cloud appears to be Archie's hopeless chase of both scholarly Betty and the seemingly inaccessible Veronica.

Why this walk down memory lane to revisit our favourite characters, our beloved stories, and the vibes of a decade that shaped us? Does it lend a sense of home and belonging in the highly unpredictable times we live in and/or have lived through? Psychologist Shivmpu Ahuja explains, "Nostalgia and throwbacks are often sharper in our collective memories during intermediate periods of enormous paradigm shifts and societal or cultural alterations. It keeps our sense of nostalgia in good health."

Talking about *The Archies*, Aparna Gopalakrishnan, proprietor and illustrator, Doodle Soup by Aparna, recalls, "The comic series has been such a big part of every

'90s kid's childhood — buying that one comic book at the train station or exchanging your precious book for another from a friend or if you got really lucky, receiving a hand-me-down collection from a cousin who had outgrown them. The storytelling was fabulous! There was such a diverse mix of characters, and you could relate to most of them at one point or the other. The style of illustration was so unique, with just the right amount of detail and pops of colour. More than anything, *Archie Comics* spoke about things we were going through; young love, heartbreaks, friendships and just fitting in. Life is certainly different now, so it'll be interesting to see it evolve from the yellowed pages of a comic book to a screen!"

Last year, Excel Entertainment joined hands with Diamond Toons, the publishers of *Chacha Chaudhary* and *Sabu*, to feature characters from the Katrina Kaif-starrer *Phone Bhoot* in the *Chacha Chaudhary* comic series. Internationally, Mattel is planning to bring Barney and Hot Wheels to the big screen. It looks like nostalgia is here to stay and could just be the thing that drives us into the future.





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**1,55,000**

post offices under India Post



Post offices in India deliver letters, postcards, value payable articles, parcels, holy offerings from religious shrines, and also remit money in the form of money orders

In 1727, the East India Company started establishing post offices in India. The Calcutta General Post Office (GPO) was established in 1774, followed by Madras GPO in 1786 and Bombay GPO in 1794



Some say Mughal emperor Babur had developed runner services along the road from Agra up to Kabul, with six horses stationed at every 36 miles. Suri empire founder Sher Shah Suri is also said to have kept

**3,400**

horses with riders exclusively for the despatch of news



India Post promotes philately (collection and study of postage stamps) and releases commemorative stamps on various themes. India's first stamp, circular in shape, was released in 1852



India Post offers several financial services, including Savings and **Postal Life Insurance / Rural Postal Life Insurance, Small Savings Scheme.**

It also offers services like e-post, e-commerce and mobile banking



The Post Office savings bank is the oldest and by far the largest banking system in the country



The first stamp of Independent India, issued on November 21, 1947, depicted the national flag with the slogan "Jai Hind" in Hindi



The country has been divided into

**23**

postal circles. A Chief Postmaster General heads each circle. The circles are further divided into regions and each region is headed by a Postmaster General



India Post is a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), an international organisation that coordinates postal policies among member countries

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**India Post plays an important role in discharging government services such as payment of pensions to senior and retired citizens**

India Post functions under the Ministry of Communications and has one of the most widely distributed postal networks in the world

Post offices in India follow a 6-digit PIN Code system, which was introduced in India in

**1972**



Speed Post is a popular domestic express courier service provided by India Post. It offers fast and reliable delivery of letters and parcels weighing upto 35 kg. The service provides time-bound and express delivery





# Palatable and Piquant

The World Food Day is celebrated every year on October 16 to commemorate the date of the founding of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945. We mark the occasion with artistic frames of some delicacies





Using fruits and nuts in a dish is a smart way of adding colour. Here's an artist's impression of a play of hues with cheese and fruits

**F**ood is an art — a delicate combination of the right ingredients and techniques to produce a symphony of flavours that not only teases your palate but also plays with other senses. It is a true reflection of a region's culture and way of life. We bring you some aesthetic and dramatic impressions of food from around the world!

*Modak* is a sweet rice flour dumpling filled with grated coconut and jaggery. It is a popular Indian dessert and is considered a favourite of Hindu deity Lord Ganesha

**Photo:** Lara Jameson-pexels







Molecular gastronomy is revolutionising the presentation of food. An example of this are these red jelly dessert cubes

**Photo:** Nadezda Murmakova

Small pieces of bread layered with avocado and edible flowers. Adding such flowers to a dish can enhance its presentation

**Photo:** zi3000

Sushi is one of the most popular dishes of Japanese cuisine. It is made with rice flavoured with vinegar, seafood, vegetables and other ingredients

**Photo:** Marcos Kohler-pexels







A perfect crunchy exterior with a gooey filling inside is what makes waffles so delicious! Garnish with berries, mint leaves and syrup to get the perfect dish

**Photo:** Liudmila Anufrieva



For a refreshing dessert, try a vegan cashew cake made with blueberry, acai, mint and nuts. Vegan foods are made from plants and plant-based products

**Photo:** Artem Evdokimov

Soft, juicy momos in warm soup, topped with veggies, make for a wholesome meal. *Jhol momo* and *mokthuk* are some of its well-known variations

**Photo:** Momo King-pexels

Corrigendum: A photograph published in the September 2023 issue of the Spice Route magazine's Montage section erroneously described a leopard as a cheetah. The erratum is regretted. - Editorial Team



OCTOBER 2023

# YOUR FORECAST THIS MONTH



## ARIES

You will have to juggle your work, appointments, and social affairs successfully this month. However, love will play a more important role for you in the coming days. You will overcome all financial obstacles and a cheque, settlement or subsidy is also on the cards. Health reads fine.



## TAURUS

You will be successful in getting something you've wanted for a long time. It will come to you itself. A surprise call from a lover or an admirer could be expected. Travel might irritate you a little or you might face some issues regarding your car or mode of transportation. You will enjoy good health.



## GEMINI

Money will come to you through commissions, trade or mortgage. If a financial need arises, you will be able to cover it. Your emphasis will be on your work, studies and reaching your goals rather than socialising. Embrace the forthcoming changes. Health reads fine.



## CANCER

A delay of payment or loss of income might disappoint you. But good fortune or tidings will come with the entry of an admirer or a benefactor. You will also take an unexpected trip or choose an uncommon mode of transportation. Take care of your health and increase your vitamin and protein intake.



## LEO

Problems with paperwork or paper-related projects will be amended. When it comes to work, you will gain unsought assistance from influential people in the form of a proposal that could result in financial gains, in case you accept it. Expect a reunion with old friends or loved ones. Your health reads fine.



## VIRGO

You might be concerned about a business partnership and wonder if you should force the issue. A new romance with someone extremely charming, comforting, or well-to-do is on the cards. Your emotions will be a mixture of confusion, excitement, worry and hope. Watch your health during the low-energy periods.



## LIBRA

Financial problems will soon be resolved, and a business activity or an adjusted financial statement will give you an unexpected bonus. As far as romance is concerned, better times are ahead. Good luck regarding travel is also indicated. Exercise to improve circulation or recovery from an injury.



## SCORPIO

There will be correspondence connected with your work that will involve emails and phone calls or an app. You will enjoy spending money on others. You will enjoy socialising with your friends or family or might move to a new environment for relaxing. Expect communication from a relative. Health seems good.



## SAGITTARIUS

You will want to make it on your own, be financially independent, own your own business, or work out of your home. A new course of action will be proposed. You will have many emotional swings and will be daydreaming about love and romance. Make sure to keep a count of those wine glasses and pizza slices while partying.



## CAPRICORN

You'll soon begin a new enterprise (or retrieve a past one) that will bring in more money. Memories of the past will begin to fade away and you will accept new opportunities. An awaited message will arrive with positive results, possibly from an admirer. Do not overindulge in drinking.



## AQUARIUS

Your financial situation might be precarious, but good news will soon arrive regarding a financial gain that will shed new light on the way you view your future security. Expect a pleasant surprise, and/or someone from a doctor's office will call. You may suffer from anxiety or nervous exhaustion but it is temporary.



## PISCES

There will be financial gains and an error will get corrected. Don't let appearances and circumstances sway you or cause you to veer from your ideal. What you want is right under your nose, just waiting to be discovered. You could have problems with your legs or a surgery will be suggested, but resting will do wonders.

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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**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)



# NEWS

## SpiceJet partners with Mankind Pharma to raise awareness about quality healthcare

SpiceJet, one of India's major domestic airlines, has collaborated with Mankind Pharma, a reputed global pharmaceutical firm, to elevate brand awareness. Two Spice Jet planes displaying Mankind's vision of providing international quality API medicines took off on September 21, as a part of the larger campaign aligned with one of the core focuses of the G20 India Presidency's health initiatives, Universal Healthcare. The spectacular display on SpiceJet's plane with Mankind's logo not only captures the brand's journey and vision, but also serves as a testament to Mankind Pharma's dedication

to innovation and raising the bar in the healthcare industry.

About the collaboration, Mr. Debojo Maharshi, Chief Business Officer, SpiceJet expressed, "On behalf of SpiceJet, I congratulate Mankind Pharma for their vision of introducing 120 DMF quality API medicines in India, which is a testament to their commitment to quality and excellence in the pharmaceutical industry. We are proud to have once again partnered with them in celebrating this achievement by wrapping two of our Boeing 737 aircraft in their livery. SpiceJet's unique flying billboards have become an

integral part of the promotions for various top brands, and we are happy to have offered this innovative and effective medium to Mankind Pharma once again. We hope to continue a long and fruitful association with them."

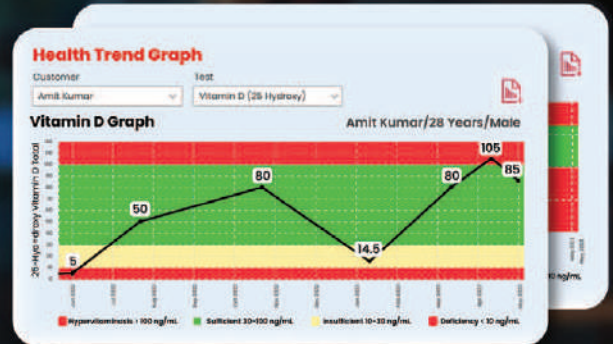
Mr. Rajeev Juneja, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Mankind Pharma, expressed his excitement and shared, "At Mankind Pharma, our continuous endeavour has been to improve lives through groundbreaking healthcare solutions. Our goal is to enable access to international quality API medicines for everyone. This led to the introduction of 120 DMF quality API in our medicines."

The visibility and reach offered by SpiceJet's extensive network have provided an ideal platform to raise awareness about Mankind's vision. This collaboration has strategically leveraged SpiceJet's wide customer base and market presence to effectively communicate the message of Mankind Pharma's dedication to excellence in medicine production.



## ENJOY INNOVATIVE & ONE-OF-A-KIND HEALTH TREND GRAPHS

Compare past results of each parameter tested irrespective of the lab in just one graph!



**01**

Select a test or health package of your choice



**04**

Monitor your past results with Health Trend Graphs

#HealthTrendGraphs

**02**

Compare lab prices and ratings before booking



**03**

Get access to all your test reports in one place

#AllReportsAlwaysAvailable

4.9 ★★★★★



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MAHAJAN

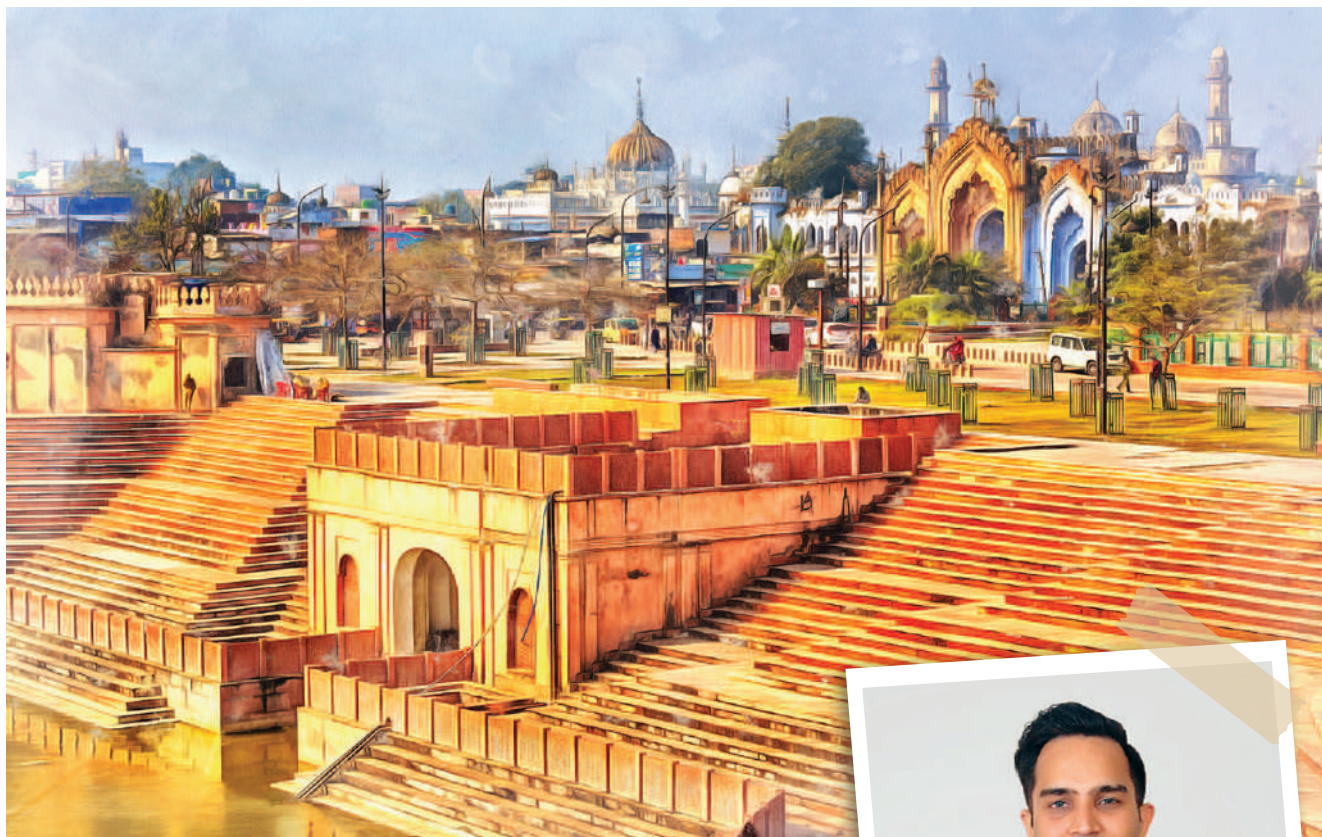
Lifeline

TATA 1mg Labs

MAX Lab by MAX Hospitals

... and many more





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# My Town

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



**MR. RAJAT GULATI**  
CABIN CREW, DELHI BASE

## Are you originally from Lucknow?

Yes, I am from Lucknow, the 'City of Nawabs'. It flourished under the Nawab of Awadh.

## What is the quality of life here like?

Lucknow is regarded as a culturally rich city, because of its heritage, art, music, and food. It is well known for its beautiful embroidery work *Chikankari*. The city is blessed with a good number of architectural wonders that will mesmerise you with grace and elegance. It is also popular for its lush green gardens.

## What is the night scene here like?

Among many places to visit in Lucknow at night, one of my favourites is Hazratganj market. It's similar to a spot that is a legendary place of the British times and looks like a late-night movie show. Also, in Subhash Marg, there is a place that sells a variety of *paans* (betel leaves) and is a huge attraction, especially at night. In Gomti Nagar, Spice Caves has the best nightlife, and it is open after midnight and the most charming element of this bar is a cave-like vibe and broadcast of live

occasions, and I always make sure to take my family there whenever I visit Lucknow.

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

Lucknow has established itself as a land of *tehzeeb*, grand architecture, beautiful gardens, delectable cuisine, and more. The best thing for me here is its culinary delights such as *kebabs*, *biryanis*, *nahari kulchas*, and sweet delicacies like *shahi tukda* and *makhan malai*. The nawabs of Awadh had a significant influence



on the development of this royal gastronomy, making Lucknow a foodie's paradise.

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

Lucknow is a historically important city and for many centuries it was the heart of North Indian culture. Life in Lucknow is slow-paced and relaxed. Lucknow has a unique charm and character that attract people who are looking for a peaceful lifestyle, rich cultural heritage, affordable cost of living and delicious food.



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

The moment you enter the city, it will gladly take your hand and show you its past and present. It is dotted with Mughal and British Raj-era structures and tombs like the Residency, Bara Imambara, Rumi Darwaza, and Jama Masjid. Visiting Bhool Bhulaiya is a must-do when in Lucknow. Even the streets of Lucknow are a foodie's paradise; at every 100 m there is a different stall, a different aroma, and a secret recipe that will blow your mind.

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

Lucknow is renowned for its historical monuments. Places like Moti Mahal Palace, popularly known as Pearl Palace is a great birdwatching spot. Another place I would like to suggest is Ramakrishna Math, a monastery established in Nirala Nagar. It is an all-monk institution dedicated to Sri Ramakrishna. Some other places are Shahi Baoli, Janeshwar Mishra Park and Husainabad Clock Tower etc.

### How did you discover the eateries?

Discovering different local cuisines as a foodie has always been my forte, leading me to this place. The name Tunday Kababi itself carries an intriguing story behind it. Legend has it that Haji Murad Ali, the *kebab* maker and the founder of the shop, had only one working arm. However, his disability did not hinder his passion for cooking.

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

The *kebabs* made here are prepared using a closely guarded secret family recipe, with the women of the family crafting a special masala that incorporates a total of 160 different spices. The owner employed individuals who could skillfully pound the meat with just one hand, transforming it into a fine paste that would effortlessly melt in one's mouth, releasing the flavours of the intricate masalas.

### Describe your favourite dish.

Renowned for its unique flavour and texture, this place makes *kebabs*

with finely minced meat along with the marination of a mixture of spices and shallow fried on a hot griddle. The first bite will make you fall in love with it especially when the soft, delicious *kebab* melts in your mouth.

### What other places would you recommend near Lucknow?

Ayodhya is one of the best places to visit near Lucknow. It is a spiritual centre situated by River Sarju. If peace is what you seek, then you should surely pay a visit to the Ananda Bodhi Tree and Vipassana Meditation Centre.

### What are the people here like?

The people of Lucknow are known for their hospitality, values, and etiquette also known as *tehzeeb*. People mix sophistication with warmth and courtesy added with generous doses of love to give you the politest language and lifestyle. People here have their own refined style of doing each and everything. The lifestyle in Lucknow is one of a kind and the place still dwells in its old-world charm.

## ARE YOU A FOODIE? WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE EATING PLACE IN LUCKNOW?

Food might be just a word for others but an emotion for me. A culinary trip to Lucknow is something that food connoisseurs long for. Places like Tunday Kababi, Idris Biryani, Rahim's, etc, are just some places I make sure to visit whenever I go home.







# 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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Flight Support Centre

**UMANG SAINI**  
GURGAON



**Internal appreciation:** We appreciate Umang's exceptional commitments as a seamless employee. Her attention and dedication towards work have contributed significantly to our success. Her contributions make a real difference and exemplify the values of our team and SpiceJet. We are happy to have her as our teammate.

**Experience with SpiceJet:** My journey at SpiceJet has been remarkable, progressing from an intern to a part of the Flight Support Centre team. This role has heightened my dedication to aviation and cultivated a strong sense of responsibility, leadership, and analytical prowess. I wholeheartedly express my gratitude for granting me the opportunity to pursue my passion. I owe my success everyday to the seniors who recognised my potential and guided me.

Reservations

**ANKUR ARORA**  
GURGAON



**Internal appreciation:** From a brand new Reservations Executive in 2005 to AGM in 2023, Ankur's journey has been phenomenal. In his second innings in 2019, Ankur has contributed immensely to the betterment of the department. He is a man of integrity with experience in operations and customer service. He has a hawk's eye and is a process-oriented person.

**Experience with SpiceJet:** It has been a great journey till now. Efforts are always recognised and rewarded by the management. I must say that this organisation has given me immense learning and opportunity to perform. And working with SpiceJet is an absolute honour.

IT

**NILESH BHANDARI**  
BENGALURU



**Internal appreciation:** Nilesh has brought unique and innovative ideas across several SpiceJet departments. His vision and attention to detail is truly commendable. A pioneer in introducing AI-based designs and videos to the organisation, he has paved the path for AI-generated content. His professionalism and work ethic make him a great asset.

**Experience with SpiceJet:** My experience of 2+ years with SpiceJet has been wonderful. I have been given the opportunity to work on many different projects, which allowed me to explore new ideas and put my visualisation abilities to improve user experience. I am extremely grateful for all the opportunities.

Ground services

**KAUSHAL VYAS**  
DUBAI



**Internal appreciation:** Mr Kaushal Vyas is a hardcore professional who has risen from ranks to the coveted post of Station Manager, Dubai, with his sheer dint of hard work, perseverance and positive frame of mindset. Based on his yearning to shoulder professional responsibilities and recognition by SG management to undertake the role of Airport Manager, Mr Kaushal Vyas has successfully donned the cap of a 'leader' at various stations.

**Experience with SpiceJet:** Hello Readers! I have been associated with this Red, hot and Spicy airline since Aug 15, 2006, and since then, I have loved being employed here as this undying brand has provided me numerous challenging opportunities to learn, adapt and grow.

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



# The Mid-Air Feast

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

## READY-TO-EAT

NISSIN

**Cup Noodles**

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

Spicy Chicken



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



**Indori Poha**

**Three Cheese Pasta**

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



FARMLEY

**Cream & Onion Makhana/ Roasted Salted**

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



CRAZY CASHEW



CORNITOS

**Jalapeño Nachos & Salsa Dip/  
Waffu Coffee Flavoured Rolls**

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



DUKES



## SCRUMPTIOUS SANDWICHES

SPINACH, CORN &  
CHEESE SANDWICH  
in Marble Bread

**Domestic**

INR 350



**International**

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 Marshmallow**

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 750 ml**

**1 Bottle**

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

**2 Bottles**

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



HARDY'S PREMIUM SELECTION

**Chardonnay White Wine 750 ml**

**1 Bottle**

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

**2 Bottles**

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



A. DE FUSSIGNY GRANDE  
CHAMPAGNE VSOP

**Cognac 750 ml**

**1 Bottle**

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

**2 Bottles**

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



Take-away bottles are not for on-board consumption.



The Featherlite logo is displayed in a red rectangular box at the top left of the page. The word "Featherlite" is written in a white, stylized, italicized font.

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