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FROM THE CMD'S DESK



AJAY SINGH
Chairman and Managing Director

DEAR READERS,

Welcome aboard SpiceJet!

As we usher in the festive season of 2023, I want to convey my warmest wishes and greetings to all of you. May the upcoming celebrations of Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Milad-un-Nabi fill your lives with joy and happiness. SpiceJet is delighted to be a partner in your celebrations by bringing you and your loved ones closer to each other.

At SpiceJet, celebrations commenced early this year as we reported our highest ever quarterly profit in four years and emerged from our recent challenges. Our net profit surged by 126% to INR 205 Crore in Q1 FY2024, with an operating revenue at INR 2,002 Crore.

This marks the third consecutive profitable quarter for SpiceJet. Your unwavering support and confidence have not only sustained our impressive performance through difficulties but also stand as the driving force behind our consistent record of achieving the highest passenger load factor among all domestic airlines.

In a significant development that will deleverage our balance sheet and allow us to access fresh funding, Carlyle Aviation Partners will acquire 5.91% stake in the Company.

Carlyle's decision to transform its outstanding dues into equity marks a substantial step forward for our enterprise, as it establishes a partnership aligned with our airline's growth trajectory. This move not only boosts our business but also paves the way for transformative possibilities and accelerated expansion.

In July 2023, SpiceJet achieved an impressive Passenger Load Factor (PLF) of 88.9%, the highest among all domestic airlines in the country. Our consistent run at the top of the table is because of the trust placed by our customers who have chosen us as their carrier of choice. We value this trust and will continue nurturing it with innovation and customer centricity.

Achieving a flawless touchdown on August 23, 2023, India's Chandrayaan-3 marked the first Space Mission to successfully land near the Moon's south pole. This momentous event ushers in a new era for Space exploration. I wholeheartedly join the nation and the global community in extending my congratulations to ISRO for this remarkable feat, propelling India into an exclusive league of nations that have successfully placed spacecraft on the lunar surface.

Let's all celebrate the amazing achievement of Neeraj Chopra, who has made India proud by winning the gold medal in Men's Javelin Throw at the World Athletics Championships 2023. This is a historic achievement, and it is a testament to Neeraj's hard work and dedication. He is an inspiration to us all.

I would also like to congratulate Grandmaster Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa for reaching the finals of the Chess World Cup 2023. The young Indian prodigy displayed remarkable resilience against the formidable World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen. This achievement is truly magnificent, and I wish him continued success.

Let us also celebrate the Indian men's hockey team, who have achieved a historic milestone by securing their record-breaking fourth title in the Asian Champions Trophy with a thrilling 4-3 victory over Malaysia in this year's tournament finals.

Jai Hind!



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On World Rivers Day, we explore the journey of a few Indian rivers



Cover

From Nagaland to Maharashtra and Gujarat, and from Chhattisgarh to Madhya Pradesh, come discover the vibrant tribal cultures of India. Here, we see a member of a tribal community from the Northeast in his traditional costume.

spice route

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NURTURING INBORN STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE IN CHILDREN: INSIGHTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS



Every child is born with a spark of uniqueness—a blend of talents, potential, and inherent strengths that set the foundation for their journey through life. This intrinsic strength, coupled with a budding sense of confidence, forms the bedrock upon which children build their identities and navigate the world around them. As parents and teachers, our role becomes that of cultivators, nurturing these qualities to help children grow into resilient, self-assured individuals.

In an informative interview, Dr Manimekalai Mohan, the founder of SSV Group of Institutions, Coimbatore delves into the intrinsic nature of strength and confidence in children, suggesting ways on how parents and teachers can collaborate to enrich further and foster these qualities in every child.

Are strength and confidence innate qualities in children?

Yes, children are born with a unique blend of strengths and potential. From the moment they enter the world, they possess innate qualities that form the foundation of their character, including varying degrees of strength and confidence.

How do parents play a role in nurturing their children's inherent strengths and confidence?

Parents are the first influencers in a child's life. They can foster these qualities by creating a supportive environment where children are encouraged to explore their interests, make choices, and solve problems. When parents listen actively, acknowledge achievements, and offer guidance, children develop a sense of security and belief in their capabilities.

What role do teachers have in enhancing children's strength and confidence?

Teachers are instrumental in shaping a child's educational journey. They can recognise and celebrate each student's individual strengths, whether in academics, the arts, sports, or interpersonal skills. By creating a classroom atmosphere that values diversity and encourages participation, teachers empower students to believe in themselves.



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

How can parents and teachers collaborate to maximise every child's potential?

Open communication between parents and teachers is key. Sharing insights about a child's strengths, interests, and challenges helps create a holistic support system. This collaboration allows us to tailor learning experiences and interventions that boost both strengths and confidence.

What are some practical ways parents can nurture their child's self-confidence?

Parents can foster confidence by offering praise for effort and growth, not just

outcomes. Encouraging healthy risk-taking and providing opportunities for decision-making help children develop a strong belief in their abilities. Moreover, allowing them to embrace failures as learning experiences cultivates resilience.

How can teachers contribute to building students' self-assurance in the classroom?

Teachers can promote self-assurance by creating a safe space where students feel comfortable expressing themselves. Group activities and projects allow children to collaborate, share ideas, and learn from one another. Constructive feedback, timely acknowledgement and recognising progress help build a sense of accomplishment.

In conclusion, what's the key takeaway for parents and teachers?

The inherent strength and confidence within children provide a solid foundation for their personal growth. Parents and teachers are catalysts in nurturing these qualities, offering guidance, opportunities, and unwavering support. By recognising and appreciating each child's uniqueness, we empower them to embrace challenges and reach their full potential confidently. And by understanding the delicate interplay between nature and nurture, we can provide children with the tools they need to flourish and thrive in life. Together, we can shape future generations that stand tall, strong and believe in themselves.





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@flyspicejet I was very thankful and blessed to have staff like Mr Rajat Gupta ji who helped me get back my I phone I lost at Delhi before going to Sikkim trip. He didn't only brought it safe and secure but also thoroughly kept in tuning with our issue. Thanks so much Rajat!



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Thank you @flyspicejet for being very helpful with the senior citizens that we were traveling with. Your staff was very friendly and helpful during the whole boarding and deboarding process. You have a happy customer!

@mukulneetika

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Very Nice experience With Ground Staff As Well As Crewmember Mr. Angrej And Mr.Arjun On Our Jammu-Gwalior Flight Today @flyspicejet @Aayushbindal

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Map not to scale



When:
September 6-7
Where: Mathura
and Vrindavan

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JANMASHTAMI

A widely celebrated festival in India, Janmashtami marks the birth of Lord Krishna, an avatar of Lord Vishnu. While the festival is celebrated in different ways around the country, the cities of Mathura, Vrindavan and Gokul see long celebrations full of colours and grandeur.

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Events

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GANESH CHATURTHI

Vinayak Chaturthi or Ganesh Chaturthi is an important Hindu festival dedicated to Lord Ganesha, the elephant god. The festival typically lasts for 10 days and the most elaborate celebrations take place in Maharashtra.



When: September 19

Where: Maharashtra

"And all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be are full of trees and changing leaves."

Virginia Woolf
English Writer

Image: thequickstyle.com



QUICK STYLE COMES TO INDIA

Internet sensation Quick Style, a Norwegian dance group that had gone viral after dancing on *Kala Chashma* is all set to enthrall you with their quirky dance moves. The celebrated group will perform in Delhi for the first time on a number of Bollywood songs.



When: September 29

Where: Pacific Premium Outlets Mall, Delhi



DELHI MUSIC FESTIVAL

Celebrating the diversity of music, this festival will feature live performances by an impressive lineup of musicians across genres, who will enchant you with their rhythmic numbers. There will be multiple food stalls to tease your taste buds.



When: September 22-24

Where: Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, Delhi



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SACRED ART

Renowned artist Jai Khanna is presenting his new collection of Pichwai paintings, exploring Lord Krishna's diverse forms. Titled "Sacred Forms", the exhibition has been put on display at the Surrendra Paul Art Gallery, New Delhi, by Sangeet Shyamala in collaboration with Art Magnum. Through his art, Khanna tries to portray his own perception of Lord Krishna.

 **When:** Until September 11
Where: New Delhi

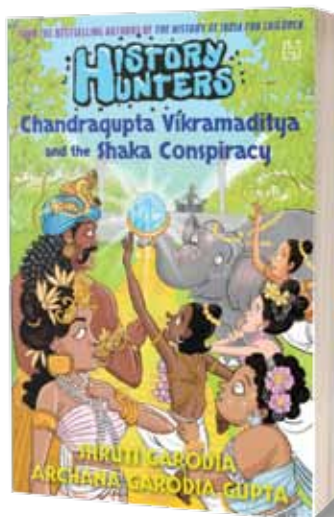


TENNIS FEVER!

The world's best tennis players are set to overwhelm you with their skills in New York as they compete against each other at the much-awaited US Open 2023. The fourth and final Grand Slam competition of the tennis session is a hard-court competition.

 **When:** Till September 10
Where: New York

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STORY-TIME

The *History Hunters- Chandragupta Vikramaditya and the Shaka Conspiracy* revolves around four gutsy kids —Zoya, Noor, Ansh and Rohan — and their elephant buddy Elfu. After their tense encounter with the Mughals, they begin to re-evaluate their past exploits. And yet, they begin another journey of exploring the era of Chandragupta.

LATEST ON ROAD

The second generation Mercedes-Benz GLC SUV was launched in India recently. Experts say the SUV is bigger, looks more premium and also has more powerful engines. Slightly longer, the new GLC is also more aerodynamic!





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Fashion

ART AND LUXURY

Ready-to-wear luxury brand Moonray unveils their new flagship studio in the Kala Ghoda, Mumbai. From raw denims to vegan leather, shop the best of luxury wear at the studio present in the city's most artistic street.



OLD WORLD GRANDEUR

'Engagement at the Estate' is a newly launched attire collection by Priyanka Gupta's label Summer. The collection draws inspiration from garden brunches and soirees and incorporates breezy colour palette and light aesthetics. It includes sarees, anarkalis and sharara sets.

FREE AND FABULOUS

Indian homegrown fast-fashion brand, The Indian Garage Co. has launched its exclusive collection for women titled 'FreeHand'. The collection features affordable and stylish clothing options for women across India, especially in tier II and III cities.



BACK TO DISNEY

Footwear and accessories brand Aldo announced its collaboration with Disney on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. The limited collection celebrates Disney's most popular character Mickey Mouse and his friends. It includes quirky footwear, handbags and accessories that will remind you of childhood.

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JHELUM

Marking **World Rivers Day on September 24** this year, we explore the journey of a few Indian rivers that have been the source of life since ancient times. We start with Jhelum, from the majestic land of Kashmir



Jhelum is among the five rivers associated with the Indus River, including Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Satluj. It originates from Verinag, a beautiful spring situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal range in Jammu and Kashmir and flows through its heartland. It is the main source of water for the majestic Wular Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes of Asia, located near Srinagar. Also known as *Vitasta* in ancient times, this river finds mention in many spiritual texts like *Nilamata Purana*. Recently, a mega cultural event was held in Srinagar as a tribute to the river's heritage.

NEARBY

Visit beautiful hilly towns like Gulmarg and Sonamarg (Sonmarg), which are visited by tourists for enjoying winter sports like skiing. Stop by the Betaab valley for enjoying a quiet time.



22

DON'T MISS



Soothe your senses by taking a stroll around the iconic Dal Lake, a popular tourist spot in Srinagar. Do not forget to take a ride on a colourful *shikara* (Kashmiri boat).

MUST SEE



Witness the beauty of nature at the Tulip Garden, Chashma (Chashme) Shahi and the Botanical Garden. As the mercury drops, other than Gulmarg, make a trip to Pahalgam that hosts a winter carnival.

EAT & SHOP



Explore *wazwan*, a popular multicultural meal in Kashmiri cuisine. Buy authentic Pashmina shawls, carpets, dry fruits and paper mache art from popular markets in the city.

Image: slurpp.com



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GANGA

An ancient river that has seen many kingdoms flourish around it, Ganga and its basin is one of the most strategic in India, and includes commercial hubs like Patna



MUST SEE



Visit the Patna Sahib Gurudwara, a revered site in the city. Catch a glimpse of Mahatma Gandhi's bronze statue, deemed one of the tallest in the world.

DON'T MISS



Visit the Gandhi Ghat, one of the most popular *ghats* in Patna. Apart from having snacks at street food stalls, enjoy activities like boating and a trip on MV Ganga Vihar, a cruise ship.

EAT & SHOP



Try out the famous *dal pitha* (rice flour dumplings) as well as the sweet *thekua* and the popular snack *litti-chokha*. Pick up beautiful wooden crafts and Madhubani paintings.

NEARBY

Around 70 km from Patna is Kolhua, a Buddhist excavation site where stands the famous Ashokan Pillar. It is made of a highly polished single piece of red sandstone and atop it was placed a sculpture of a lion.

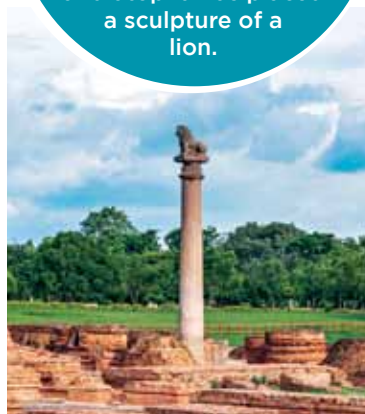


Image: tourism.bihar.gov.in

One of the most revered rivers in India, the Ganga emerges from the Gangotri glacier in the Himalayas. Its headstream, called Bhagirathi, is fed by the glacier. The length of the river is around 2,525 km. In India, Ganga flows through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. There are a number of important cities on the banks of the river including Kanpur, Prayagraj, Haridwar, Varanasi and Patna. One of the largest tributaries of the Ganga, the Ghaghara meets it before Patna, bearing much of the Himalayan glacier water from Nepal. The river has been the main source of livelihood and trading activities in Patna from ancient times. It is also believed that taking a dip in the Ganga washes off all sins.



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INDUS

One of the longest rivers in the world, the Indus has been supporting civilisations since ancient times and is known by various names such as Sindhu or Mehran



The ancient Indus river rises in Tibet at an elevation of about 5,500 m. Flowing all the way from Tibet to India and Pakistan, the river finds mention in ancient texts like the *Rigveda* and is believed to be the source from where the word 'India' is derived. The river is joined by many tributaries like Zaskar, Shyok, Chenab, Jhelum, Beas, Ravi and Sutlej (Satluj). It has been the main source of life in Himalayan cities like Leh in Ladakh.

NEARBY

Situated at an altitude of about 5,500 m near Leh, the Khardung La pass is a biker's paradise as it is one of the highest motorable roads in India. While reaching its top, you can get a magnificent view of the Karakoram Range.

26

DON'T MISS



Connect with your inner self at the Shanti Stupa in Leh. Visit the magnificent Leh Palace along with the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle (around 250 km from Leh), one of the highest in the world. Do not miss visiting the popular Magnetic Hill, about 30 km from Leh.

MUST SEE



Located at a height of 4,350 m, the Pangong Lake is one of the highest saltwater lakes in the world. Visit one of the highest ice rinks in the world, located at about 4,400 m in Changthang. Also visit the Bailey Bridge, one of the highest bridges in the world located in Ladakh.

EAT & SHOP



Try *chutagi* (local pasta in thick soup) along with *chhang* (a mildly alcoholic beverage) and Ladakhi *pulao* (a rice dish made with spices and mutton stock). Buy leather jackets and Tibetan handicrafts from the main market in Leh.

Image: thelocavore.in



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BRAHMAPUTRA

Flowing through India, Bangladesh and Tibet, Brahmaputra is a lifeline for many cities, including Guwahati



28

One of the largest rivers in the world, the Brahmaputra originates in the Himalayas, from the Kailash range. The river flows through India and some neighbouring nations, and ultimately joins the Bay of Bengal. In India, the Brahmaputra basin extends over a total area of 1,94,413 sq km and covers the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Nagaland and West Bengal. Brahmaputra is an important river for irrigation and transportation in Assam, especially in Guwahati. One of the biggest cities in the state and a gateway to major towns in the Northeast, Guwahati has become a budding tourist destination, which offers mesmerising views of the river.

NEARBY

Do visit state capital Dispur's main tourist attraction Bashistha Ashram, a quiet temple complex with a waterfall, said to be the site of the ancient *ashram* of the legendary Rishi Bashistha. You can also visit Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, around 55 km from Guwahati, to spot the rhino.



MUST SEE



Witness the awe-inspiring beauty of nature in Shillong, situated around 100 km from Guwahati. Visit Ward's Lake, Don Bosco Museum and Elephant Falls in the city.

DON'T MISS



Visit the Kamakhya temple, one of the oldest of the 51 Shakti Peethas in the country. Situated at the Nilachal Hills, the temple hosts the famous Ambubachi Mela, an annual festival.

EAT & SHOP



Enjoy *jolphon*, a traditional Assamese breakfast spread. Shop for bamboo products like handbags and mats. Buy aromatic Assam tea and clothing made of Assam silk in the local markets.



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KRISHNA

A source of sustenance in many cities, Krishna also embodies divinity and is revered by devotees



DON'T MISS



Image: yappe.in

Do not miss a visit to the famous Mahabaleshwar temple, which is also the town's centre of spiritual attraction. Offer prayers to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of the temple.

MUST SEE



Catch a mesmerising view of the sunset from Elphinstone Point. Discovered in 1830, this is one of the highest observation points in Mahabaleshwar.

EAT & SHOP



Image: clubmahindra.com

Relish juicy strawberries and carrots or delicious *chikki* in Mahabaleshwar, a popular weekend break for Pune residents.

NEARBY
Visit Panchgani, 19 km from Mahabaleshwar. Panchgani literally means "land between five villages". It was favoured by the British as an ideal summer resort. The town is home to beautiful hills, quaint valleys, forests and waterfalls.



One of the most prominent rivers in southern India, Krishna is not just a lifeline for people but also a source of legends and mythologies. Originating in the Western Ghats and flowing through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and into the Bay of Bengal, it is flanked by major cities such as Pune and Hyderabad. While between Krishna and its many tributaries human habitations have flourished since ages, the river is also considered to be divine. It is said a dip in its waters can wash away all our sins! It originates in Mahabaleshwar, which is a major attraction for devotees. The river's *ghats* (stepped banks of a river) host the mega Krishna Pushkaram festival, which takes place once in 12 years.

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Call of the Tribes

Travelling to discover indigenous cultures has become popular across the world. In India as well, tribal tourism has been gaining ground. On the occasion of World Tourism Day (September 27), here are some journeys you can undertake to explore India's vibrant tribes and their unique lifestyles

TEXT: BINDU GOPAL RAO

India's tribal landscape is as varied as the country itself. Spread across the length and breadth of the country, tribal communities live a vibrant life with ancient traditions, art and craft, and cuisines. These indigenous people have a distinct lifestyle that is now triggering a tribal tourism movement.



Bindu Gopal Rao is a freelance writer and photographer based in Bengaluru. Passionate about the environment, her interests include bird watching. Follow her on Instagram @bindugopalrao and read her work on bindugopalrao.com



Madhya Pradesh is home to several tribes. The Bharia tribe lives mostly in and around the Patakot valley, a densely forested area surrounded by the Satpura range. The valley is rich in herbs and medicinal plants and the Bharia tribe members are known for their knowledge of these herbs. Their food is heavy in forest produce like berries. Their festivals are vibrant filled with music and dances. Another major tribal community, the Gonds, inhabit the forests of the Vindhya, Satpura and Mandla in the Narmada region. They are best known for their intricate art, which is often seen on the walls of their houses. Today Gond art is popular across India. Another old tribal community, the Baigas, are mostly forest dwellers and live in the Mandla and Balaghat districts. They possess a sound knowledge of the therapeutic properties of trees and herbs and their meals primarily consist of such grains as *kodo millet* and *kutki*.

TRAVEL

Drive into Patakot valley, near Tamia, the tribal heartland of the state. Go hiking, camping and spend time with the tribal families! For a glimpse of Gond culture, travel to Patangarh, the village of legendary Gond painter Jangarh Singh Shyam, where every family has at least one artist. Other than Tamia and Patakot, a tribal trail through Madhya Pradesh can include destinations like Mandla, Kanha National Park and Chogan.



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While there

In Bhopal, visit the Tribal Museum for a glimpse of the lifestyle of the seven major tribes in the state — Gond, Bhil, Korku, Baiga, Sahariya, Kol and Bharia — through their crafts.

Image: Lakshmi Sharath



Tattooing or *godna* is a traditional art form practised by some tribal communities in Madhya Pradesh. The designs reflect their beliefs and culture.

A mystical land fabled for its brave tribes living amidst verdant mountains, Nagaland is an alluring destination. With unique traditions and customs, the state is home to a number of tribal communities, including the Ao, Angami and Konyak tribes. A tribal trail of Nagaland can start from Mon, the home of the Konyak tribe, once feared as headhunters. Today, they are known for their tattoos and wood carving. During the Aoleang Monyü Festival in April, the tribe turns out in its best traditional finery — shawls, hats, sashes and jewellery.

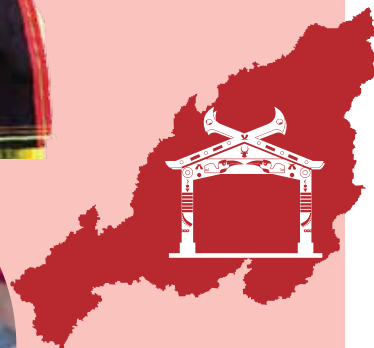


Naga tribal women have their unique method of making pottery with designs mostly inspired by textiles.



While there

On the outskirts of capital Kohima, stop at Kisama Heritage village, which offers a glimpse of the Naga tribal lifestyle, especially during the annual Hornbill Festival, usually held in December.



TRAVEL

The first stop is Khonoma village, the stronghold of the Angami tribe. Walk around this picturesque village. Explore the Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary. The Angami Nagas are known for their art and craft. Do not miss local delicacies like bamboo shoot preparations, pork dishes and rice beer. The Moatsu is an annual festival celebrated by the Ao tribe in the Mokokchung district. Visit the Dzukou valley and the shores of Doyang river, one of the largest in the state.



Image: Tania Chatterjee-fotorbit.com

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While Warli is a name that instantly connects to a distinctive art form, it is one of the largest tribes of Maharashtra region and lives on the outskirts of Mumbai, in the north Sahyadri area. Walvanda, a small village nestled amidst green paddy fields, is where you can experience the unique culture and art of this tribe. They draw minimalistic geometric forms to depict scenes from daily life in a distinct style. Traditionally, this art was used to decorate their homes on special occasions, but now, it is used for home decor items and has become a source of revenue for the artists. Earlier, a paste of rice was used as paint to draw simple patterns on red-brown walls with a chewed bamboo stick as paint brush.

TRAVEL
The Warli village sits in a lush agricultural belt with roads winding through forested areas. Only a few hours from Mumbai, you can enjoy an art session and a tour of the village.

Married women of the Warli community play a central role in creating *chowk*, their most important painting, to mark special occasions.



Image: @TribalArmy



While there

Nearby is Purushwadi, a small village known for its natural settings, waterfalls and wildlife. Every year, a firefly festival is held here, where you can see the forest light up with fireflies.

Image: ruralindiaonline.org





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A community that traces its roots to Africa, it is said that the Siddis arrived in India centuries ago, may be as agricultural labourers. Today, they reside mostly in Gujarat and over time, have absorbed nuances of the local culture. They are well known for their music and dances, especially the Siddi *dhamal*, which originally was a celebratory hunting dance. In this unique dance form, male dancers, with their bodies and faces painted, move energetically to drum beats. Artistes performing *dhamal* are usually viewed with great awe at dance festivals, both in India and abroad. While their meals are heavy in pulses and meats, their spices are a mix of native and Indian flavours. Siddis are known for their hand-stitched quilts, made from colourful fabric pieces.



Image: aditirindani.wordpress.com

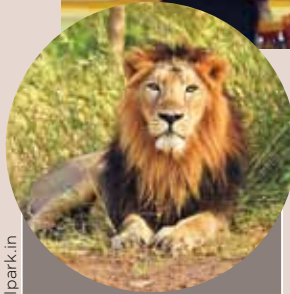


Image: girnationalpark.in

While there

The Gir National Park is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion. Enjoy a safari to spot the majestic beast. Alternatively, you can visit the nearby Gir Interpretation Zone, where lions roam in an enclosure.



During the *dhamal* dance, the dancers wear a unique belt made of shells and their faces and arms are covered in intricate white designs.

TRAVEL

The Siddi village of Jambur is a must-visit when you are in Gir National Park, as it is a great way to understand the community and its culture. Most resorts and hotels here arrange cultural evenings dedicated to the Siddi tribe and their dances.



Image: youthkiawaaz.com

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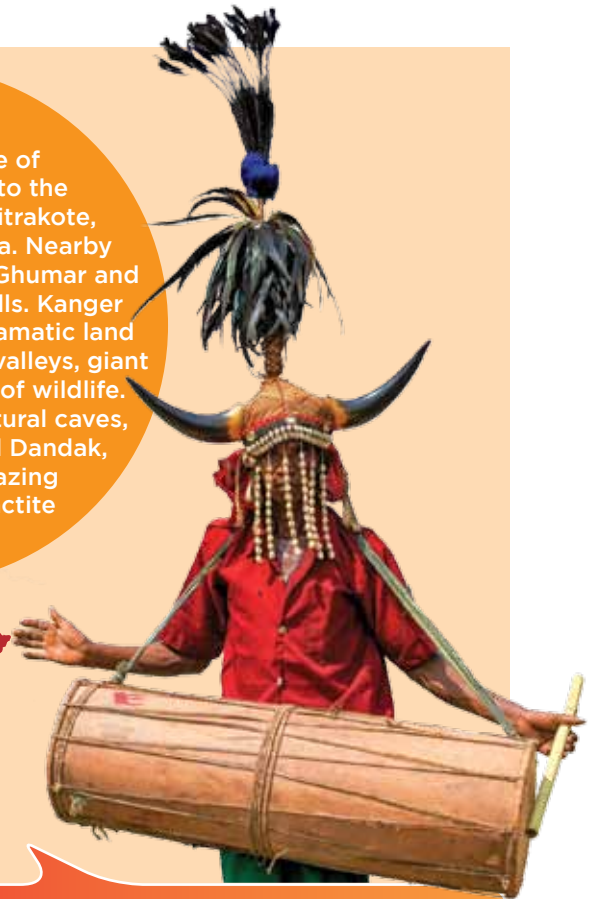
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Chhattisgarh's Bastar is a tribal region with exceptional scenic beauty comprising forests, waterfalls, wildlife, ancient temples and tribal culture. Home to tribes like Gond, Maria, Muria, Bhatra, Halba and Dhurwa communities, it is a treasure trove of tribal art and culture that can be experienced in and around the lush green city of Jagdalpur. The tribal communities have their unique heritage and festivals, with Bastar Dussehra being the most popular. One of the longest festivals in the world, it is held for 75 days and dates back several centuries! The cuisine here is a mix of unique flavours made with ingredients sourced from the forest. Some of the interesting dishes are red ant chutney, *bobo* (rice and lentil snack), *soju* (dessert) and the locally brewed drink *mahua*, made from the eponymous wildflower.

TRAVEL

Explore the stunning landscape of the region with trips to the waterfalls, including Chitrakote, one of the largest in India. Nearby are Shindhadhara, Tamara Ghumar and Mahendri Gimpar waterfalls. Kanger Ghati National Park is a dramatic land with high mountains, deep valleys, giant trees and various species of wildlife. It's also home to three natural caves, Kutumbasar, Kailash and Dandak, famous for their amazing stalagmite and stalactite structures.



The signature craft here is *dhokra*, an ancient method of metal casting. Terracotta is another craft that's popular here.



While there

Start your tribal tour of Bastar from the district headquarter, Jagdalpur. An easy introduction to the tribal way of life can be had at the weekly market or *haat*, where tribals from across the region meet.





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MADURAI, THE THOONGA NAGARAM

The ancient sacred city, with the mammoth Meenakshi Amman temple at its heart, is also known as a gateway to some of the most popular tourist destinations around Tamil Nadu and Kerala

TEXT: LAKSHMI SHARATH

HIGHLIGHTS



MUST-SEE

Do visit the Jain cave temples located atop hills like Samanar Malai



USP

It is believed Lord Indra discovered the presence of Swayambhu lingam in Madurai and he enshrined it in the temple



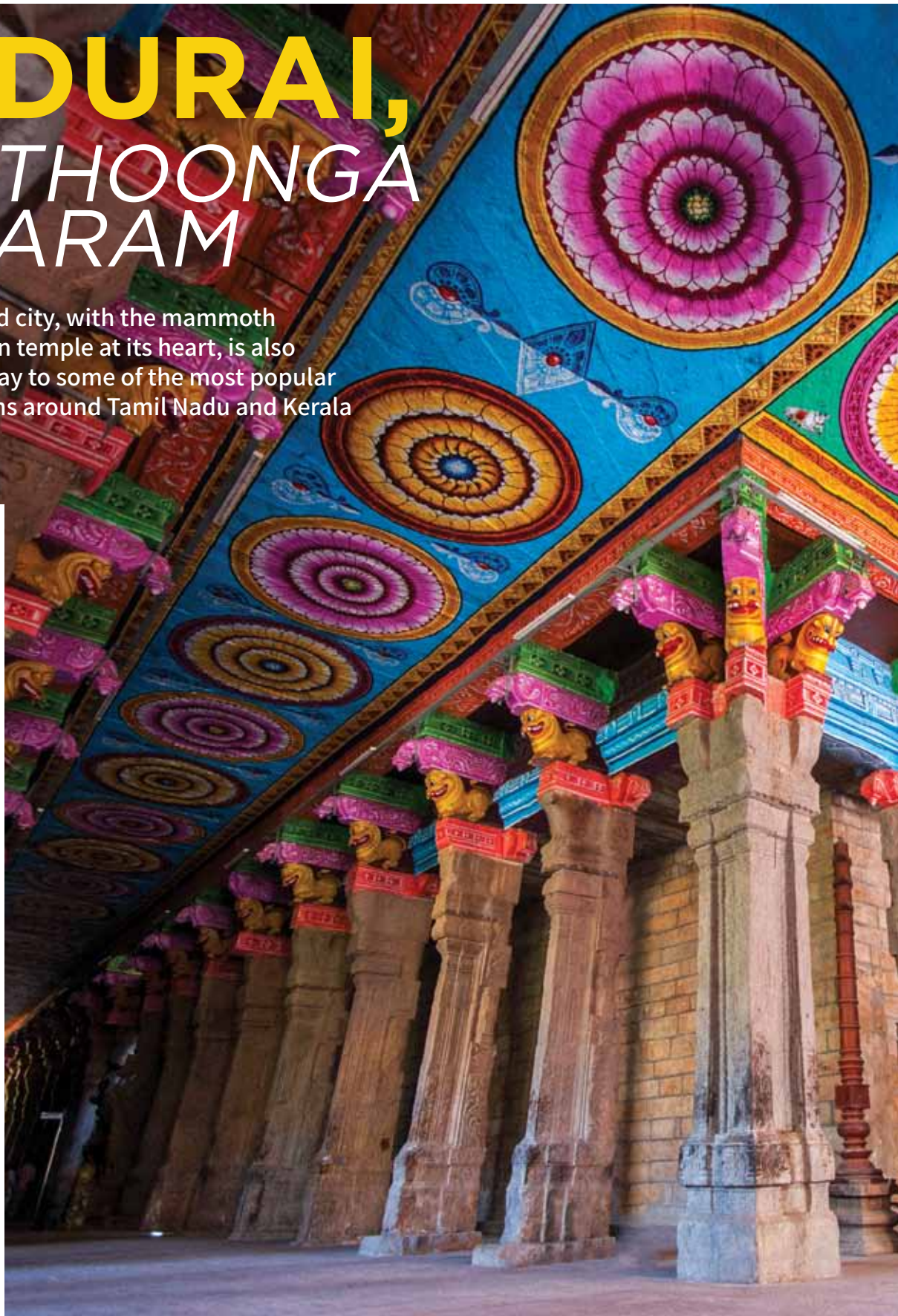
WHAT TO DO

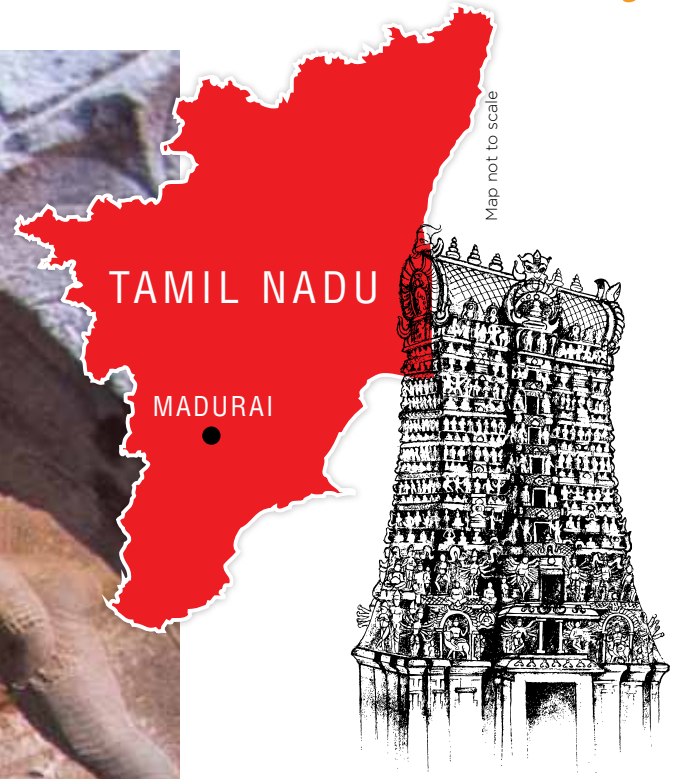
Find peace and serenity at the Vandiyur Mariamman Teppakulam, a tank near Meenakshi temple



HISTORY TIP

It is said Madurai's history dates back to the Sangam era and it was a flourishing centre of Tamil literature





Twelve *gopurams* with the tallest soaring to a towering height, 33,000 sculptures, a hall with 1,000 pillars and the Golden Lotus pond — the mammoth Meenakshi Amman temple is the nucleus of the ancient city of Madurai. It was also known as *thoonga nagaram* or the “city that never sleeps”, owing to its night markets. Madurai is dedicated to the emerald-tinged Goddess Meenakshi, who according to legends, married Lord Shiva (Lord Sundareswarar) and was given away by her brother Lord Vishnu in this very town. This celestial wedding is grandly celebrated every year during the Chithirai Festival. The cultural capital of Tamil Nadu, Madurai exudes a sense of timelessness, tinged with a strong numinous vibe.

But there is more to this Southern city than temples. The grand palace of Nayak dynasty’s ruler Thirumalai Nayak, built in the 1600s, still stands near the temple and is inspired by European styles with a blend of other influences. You can’t miss the



48

WHAT TO EAT

While *idli*, *dosai* and *sambar* maybe the staple diet in all of Tamil Nadu, Madurai's gastronomic flavours are best experienced as street food. While *Murugan Idli Kadai* has given a fillip to the humble idli, the street food here is essentially a non-vegetarian's paradise. *Kothu parotta* and *kari dosa* with *mutton kothu curry* is a speciality. Mutton balls called *kola urundai* is another local favourite. Don't miss *bun parotta*, mushy *idli*, golden *dosa*, *idiyappam* and *sooji appams*.



arches and pillars with stained glass windows and motifs on the ceilings that stand out even today. The grand palace that the king was proud of and its opulent interiors perfectly exemplify the rich history of the region.

JASMINE AND JIGARTHANDA

The land of jasmine and *jigarthanda* (a popular local drink) is famous for its bustling markets. You can't miss the famous banana market with around 20 varieties of the fruit. Madurai *malli* or the indigenous jasmine that grows here is the first flower in Tamil Nadu to get a GI tag. The flower markets in the city are a part of its heritage. There is an old pottery village at Vilachery, where artists make beautiful clay dolls, especially for festivals. The city's textile heritage is reflected in the local saree Madurai *Sungudi*, a beautiful handwoven dream in tie and dye. Madurai is a riot of colours and flavours and you can't leave the city without tasting its quintessential cooling *jigarthanda*!

Madurai is also a gateway to some of the most popular destinations in both Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Kerala. From hill stations like Kodaikanal and Munnar in the Western Ghats to cultural hotspots like Chettinad and spiritual spots like Rameswaram, there are many destinations to explore around Madurai.

KODAIKANAL

Mist-enveloped Kodaikanal is indeed a "gift of the forest", as the name suggests, and is one of the major biodiversity hotspots in Palani Hills. Around 115 km from Madurai, explore the dense forests with murmuring brooks and cascading waterfalls as a variety of birds accompany you. Soak in the serene Kodai Lake, wander around Coaker's Walk, take in the mammoth Pillar Rocks, and get overwhelmed by Guna Caves — Kodaikanal is a surreal destination that will mesmerise you.

MUNNAR

An idyllic getaway into verdant woodlands, Munnar (160 km away) is an emerald dream. The vast expanse of lush tea plantations is blinding as



Image: foodfusion.com

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Know more

Recent excavations at Keezhadi, barely 12 km from the city centre, have unearthed an ancient settlement belonging to 200 BC.



A unique beverage is *paruthi paal* prepared from cotton seed milk!

There are several ancient temples in and around Madurai, like the Azhagar Kovil of Lord Vishnu and the Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple of Lord Murugan.



you get lost in the curtains of mist. A little further away are Thekkady and the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Go on wild safaris to spot elephants and cruise along Periyar Lake, looking for birds and beasts.

WATERFALLS & TIGER RESERVE

Madurai is also the portal to towns like Tenkasi, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin (Thoothukudi) that are a treasure trove of pristine nature, heritage and culture. While you can't miss the Aintharuvi or the Five Falls of Coutrallam, also visit the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) in the Western Ghats. Apart from tigers, the forest is home



to sambar, spotted deer, elephants, leopards, wild dogs, a large number of bird species, reptiles, etc.

PALACES OF CHETTINAD

For those looking for a cultural escapade from Madurai, Chettinad (around 100 km away) is the closest and unfolds a rich tapestry of heritage, art and architecture and cuisine. As you wander around the villages, the rich mansions of the Chettiar community overwhelm you with their ornate designs inspired from across the world. Chettinad dishes are known for the complexity of flavours.

SACRED RAMESWARAM

From Chettinad, you can extend your journey to neighbouring Tiruchirappalli or head on a spiritual sojourn to Rameswaram. Cross the iconic Pamban Bridge to enter the portals of this hallowed town, which, according to *Ramanyana*, is the path undertaken by Lord Rama and his army on the way to Lanka. The Ramanathaswamy Temple with its towering *gopurams*, corridors and carvings is the epicentre of the holy town and the temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is believed Lord Rama had prayed here. Also make a trip to the deserted town of Dhanushkodi!



Best Time to Visit: While Madurai can be visited all through the year, the most apt time is between October and March

Madurai is around 450 km from Chennai.



Lakshmi Sharath
Although she has been to 50 countries across 5 continents, she loves exploring India. Read her works at lakshmisharath.com

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Mulling Over MILLETS

Be it making cakes, kebabs or smoothies, millets can be used to cook a variety of delicacies and not only in the preparation of traditional dishes. As the world celebrates the International Year of Millets 2023, here are some new-age fun recipes to try with this indigenous Indian superfood

TEXT: AARTI KAPUR SINGH & NAMITA KUMAR

The declaration from the United Nations to celebrate 2023 as the International Year Of Millets reiterated what Indians had been practising since ages! It reinforced the advantages these grains have over wheat and rice. India has had a rich tradition of millet consumption, with ancient texts describing their benefits in detail. "Yajurveda has mentions of foxtail and barnyard -- dating millet consumption to before the Indian Bronze Age (4500 BC). If you look at the history of India, our traditional foods were *bajra*, *jowar* and *ragi* - all millets. Wheat and rice



ORANGE SORGHUM CAKE

A unique cake made with candied orange and orange syrup, this is a guilt-free dessert! In the cake recipe, replace refined flour with *sorghum* (great millet) flour and whole wheat flour. You can also use one portion of jaggery with one portion of sugar. Make a sugar syrup and dip sliced fresh oranges in it. Simmer on low flame to make the candies, cool them. Squeeze the juice of one orange into the balance syrup, boil again to make an orange syrup to be used for drizzling on the baked cake. For the cake, add softened butter, sugar and jaggery powder and make a fluffy mix. Add dry ingredients, a little milk and mix well. Do not over mix. Place the candied orange slices and then pour the cake batter over it. Bake and let it cool. Turn the cake upside down and drizzle the orange syrup, and serve!



Millet cultivation is environment-friendly! Growing millet does not require extensive use of fertilisers, pesticides and farm equipment

were introduced in our meals much later," says Chandigarh-based chef Vikas Chawla, who has just launched Jhumroo, a restaurant that serves a millet-intensive menu.

Agrees Gautam Kumar, the executive chef of Moksha Himalayan Spa Resort, Parwanoo, who has been propagating the health benefits of millets to guests at the hilltop wellness property. "Millets ought to be brought back from the godowns of history and onto the tables for everyday meals. Millets are gluten-free and easily absorbed by the body, in addition to being high in fibre, copper, calcium, iron, manganese, phosphorus and magnesium. These are slow to digest and do not induce blood sugar spikes, making them suitable for diabetics. Apart from the numerous health benefits, millets have a distinct flavour that enhances the quality of any food!"

"Ancestral foods like millets are free from modern-day processing and refining methods that help them retain their natural nutrients. A diet based on millets may help prevent hormonal changes in future generations and improve overall health," adds the chef.

KODO BURGER

What if you could eat a burger without thinking about carbs? Here is a burger recipe to help you achieve that! For the kodo millet burger, replace the traditional potato patty with one that is packed with ground millet, watermelon seeds, basil, parsley, coriander, mustard, and cumin. Serve with a zesty chickpea hummus spread over the buns along with lettuce and a mouthwatering tomato salsa on the side!





MILLET PHIRNI

This creamy milk porridge is traditionally made with rice. But rice can easily be replaced with *bajra* or pearl millet. Start by shallow frying about one cup of millet in a little *ghee* (clarified butter). Add water and cover to let the millet soften. In a separate pan, boil and reduce milk and add to the cooked millet. Add saffron strands and bring it to a boil. When the millets are cooked through, add sugar and cardamom powder. Stir well! Cook for a short while and set it aside. Serve with a garnish of chopped almonds!

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STRAWBERRY, BANANA RAGI SMOOTHIE

Dry roast *ragi* (finger millet) flour in a pan till it emits a strong aroma. Add a little hot water and make a dough like mixture. Soak seedless dates in hot water. In a blender, add strawberries, banana, dates, milk, the cooked *ragi* and blend to a smooth texture. Serve chilled.

MILLET DAHI KEBAB

This is a dish that will take many by surprise. Take a portion of boiled and mashed potatoes and add hung curd. Spice it up well. Make a mixture of *bajra* (pearl millet) flour and whole wheat flour, and stir to form a paste using warm water. Take the mixture in hand and shape them into round kebabs. Dip them into the millet flour paste to coat well on all sides. Roll the kebabs in dry roasted *bajra* and then shallow fry. Serve with mint chutney.



The many advantages of millets include easy storage, as compared to other cereals as they have the ability to preserve themselves for 10 to 12 years. Millet agriculture is, therefore, conscious agriculture. Millet cultivation is environment-friendly. Growing millet does not require extensive use of fertilisers, pesticides and farm equipment.

There are around 10 types of millets available today, including Finger millet, Foxtail millet, Sorghum, Pearl millet and Amaranth. Finger millet, also known as *ragi*, is rich in calcium and it may prevent bone diseases, such as osteoporosis. Foxtail millet, also known as *kakum* or *kangni*, is another popular millet and is rich in nutrient value, particularly Vitamin B12. Pearl millet or *bajra* is equally favoured in Indian kitchens and helps in curing stomach ailment.

For those who feel cooking millets is a task and can only be used in traditional recipes of *rotis* and *upmas*, chef Kumar says, "Millets are the most versatile and can be easily cooked to make delicious dishes, including new-age preparations like smoothies and pancakes!" You can use them to make biryanis and kebabs as well.



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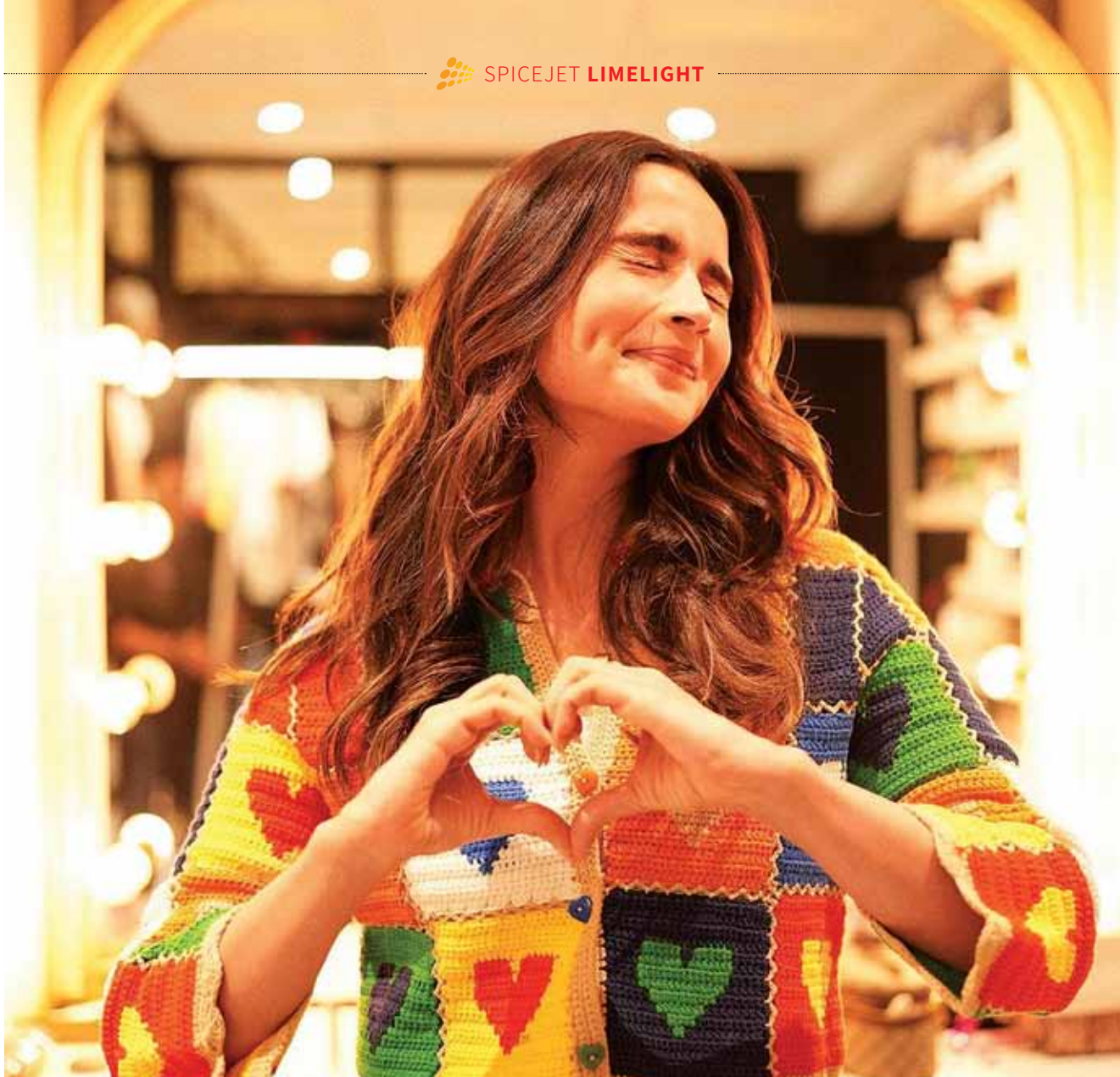
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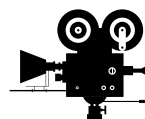
"MY DAUGHTER IS BRINGING ME UP!"

For the last two years or so, actor Alia Bhatt has been constantly in news for her personal and professional life. While professionally, she is on cloud nine, on the personal front, life is all about her daughter Raha

TEXT: AARTI KAPUR SINGH

Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt may be riding high with her recent international debut alongside Gal Gadot in *Heart of Stone*, but that happiness cannot outshine the emotion of "coming back to Raha", quips the young mother.

If the stunner is to be believed, she has "turned a whole new leaf" after motherhood. Speaking about the experience, Bhatt says, "Raha is less than a year old! And I am loving every bit of how she has grounded me. From the biggest to the smallest — every single



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"Every day is a new experience with my daughter, and every day I get a new way of knowing my daughter a little more. But with her, the most important thing I've learned is patience."



Image: netflix.com

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choice revolves around how it will affect her! I feel I am constantly questioning myself if being out at work, being away from Raha and home — am I doing the right thing? So it is not just me bringing her up, she's bringing me up too!"

Multitasking Mom

As with all mothers, Bhatt is juggling a lot. It's true, she has been the busiest in the last two years. In 2022, she starred in four films (one of which she also co-produced), began work on her debut Hollywood project, tied the knot and announced her

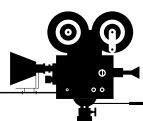
pregnancy. This year, she's had *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani* opposite Ranveer Singh as well as *Jee Le Zaraa* with Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Katrina Kaif going on floors.

"While I am super grateful for the canvases I am being blessed with, seriously, none of that compares to the feeling of seeing that twinkle in my daughter's eyes, or her stretching her arms out to come to me. When I was away for the MET Gala (in New York), I saw her on video call and she laughed the loudest! Trust me, it was the best compliment and recognition," says Bhatt.

But the actress handles the dilemma faced by all working mothers rather well. "I understand Raha needs me, but on days that I am not around, her dad is. Our parents are. I am learning not to let the whole 'be there as a family unit' pressure get to me. Raha is a very calm baby — extremely well-behaved and peaceful. I am a control freak, so days away from her also help me ground myself," she says.

In Her Own Lane

Ignoring naysayers is something Bhatt learnt early on in her career. She has steadfastly turned a deaf ear to criticism since her debut in



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Rapid Fire



Working moms need to do more of what makes them happy. Here are a few things that keep Alia Bhatt going...

Comfort food - I can have *poha* for all meals! And fish made well. On cheat days, I dig into *rasgullas*.

Current ear-worm - "Jhumka" from *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*

Unwind by - Swimming, playing my piano

One thing you can never seem to have enough of - Time! I'd love to be able to toss schedules out of the window.

Destination you would visit again- Has to be Masai Mara in Kenya. That's where we started our beautiful relationship [where Ranbir Kapoor proposed to Alia Bhatt] and I would love to return with Raha.

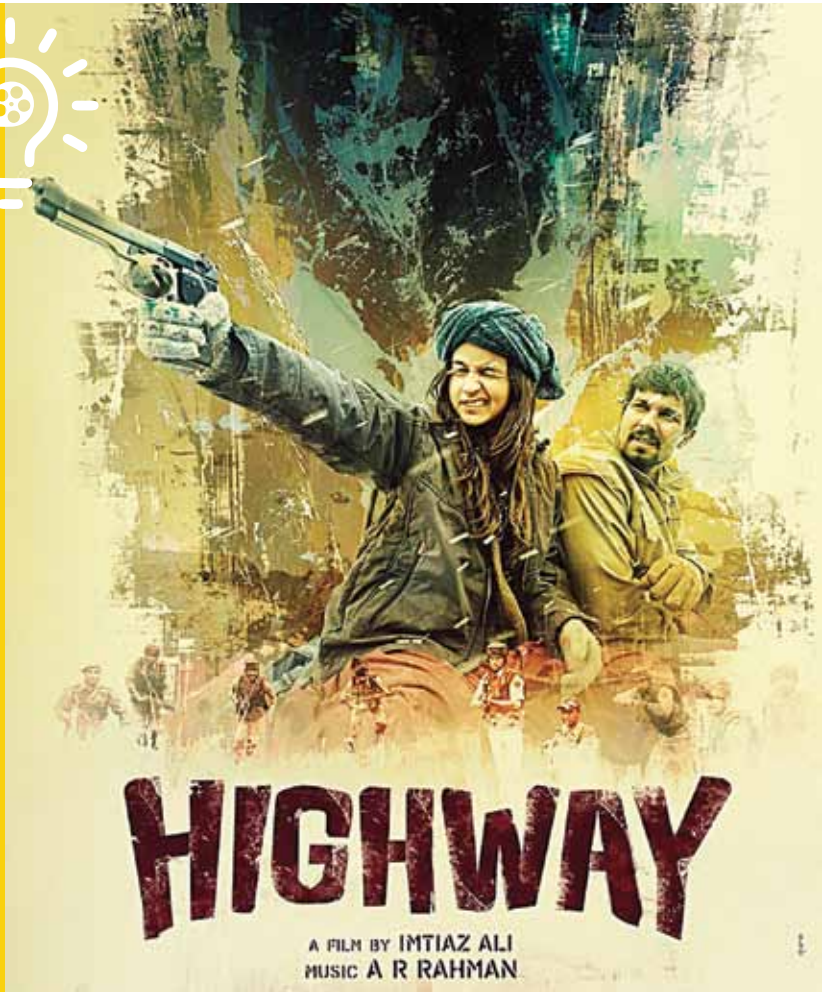


Image: imdb.com

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(Above) A poster from one of Bhatt's films and (left) with husband Ranbir Kapoor

Karan Johar's *Student of the Year* more than a decade ago — most notably during the nepotism debate. But neither trolls nor harsh criticism deny her growth in terms of the characters she plays, and the honesty that she lends to every role.

Highway (2014), *2 States* (2014), *Dear Zindagi* (2016) and *Raazi* (2018), *Gully Boy* (2019), *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022) and *Darlings* (2022) are all compelling roles. "I think I am proud of not reacting to what people say. Initially, it used to bug me. But I had a solid support system in my sister. Earlier, it was my work, and now, it is my parenting. So, there will be constant noises some way or the other. But I think I know best what I am doing and how I am doing it. And if it is privilege, whether with my work, or with the kind of help and support I have in my home, I am definitely grateful for it. And since I am grateful for it, I will obviously not throw it away or take advantage of it. Privilege can be a good support, but you've got to prove yourself too, no?" questions Bhatt.

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Let's have a word in हिन्दी

As we get ready to celebrate
हिन्दी दिवस this month, here are
some interesting facts about the
language

It is
said हिन्दी
got its name
from the Persian
word *Hind*,
meaning 'land
of the Indus
River'

The Central Hindi
Directorate was
established in

1960

under the aegis
of the Ministry
of Education
to promote the
spread of the
हिन्दी language
and develop it.

It's believed the
modern Devanagari
script came into
existence around the

11th century.

The official language
of India is हिन्दी in
देवनागरी script. And it's
spoken by the largest
number of people as
their first language in
the country.



map not to scale



More than

500

million people speak Hindi as a first language and around 120 million as a second language.



1949

हिन्दी दिवस is observed on September 14 every year.

On this day in 1949, **the Constituent Assembly accepted हिन्दी as the official language of India.**

Interestingly, on **January 10, विश्व हिन्दी दिवस is celebrated.** It was started to mark the anniversary of the first time Hindi was spoken in the United Nations General Assembly in 1949.

Hindi is also spoken in some countries outside India, such as Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and Nepal.

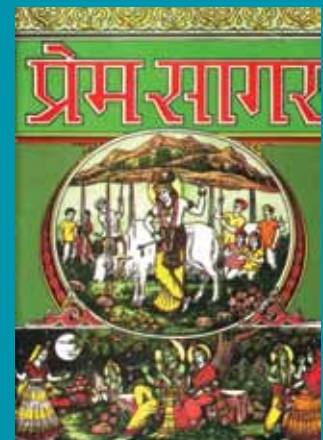


The earliest form of old Hindi was *Apabhramsa*. In

400^{AD},

Kalidas, a famous Indian literary playwright, wrote a romantic play in *Apabhramsa* called *Vikramorvashiyam*.

Prem Sagar or The Ocean of Love, a book on Lord Krishna by author Lallu Lal, was published in the 1800s. It's considered to be the first published Hindi book.



The earliest evidence of Hindi printing is found in *Grammar of the Hindoostanee Language*, a book by John Gilchrist, published in 1796 in erstwhile Calcutta. The book has traces of Hindi/Devanagari texts.





The Wild World

The wild never fails to impress. On the occasion of National Wildlife Day on September 4, here are some beautiful monochromatic impressions of the animal kingdom, right from Africa to Peru



This beautiful picture of two lions sitting together was shot in Africa. A lion is believed to be a royal animal and is known for its powerful body and hunting skills. Over the years, the population of lions around the world has decreased significantly.

Photo: Egor Baliasov (photoawards.com)

It is believed that animals populated the Earth thousands of years ago. However, with increased human settlements and deforestation, the conservation of animals has become the need of the hour. Observing National Wildlife Day on September 4, we take you to various locations around the globe to get a sneak peek of the wild.

Gorillas are the largest of the great apes. These animals are said to be the closest to human beings. They share around 95-98 per cent of DNA with human beings. They are usually found in the tropical forests of Africa.

Photo: Lars Beuskar



This is a close-up photo of a flamingo. Flamingoes are water dwelling, tropical birds known for their thin legs and S-shaped necks. The photograph is captured in bright sunlight in Peru.

Photo: Muhd Fuad Abd Rahim



The fastest mammals on land, cheetahs are usually found in central Iran, India and Africa. It is said that cheetahs can run upto a speed of 114 km per hour.

Photo: Lars Beuskar
(photoawards.com)



A magnificent humpback whale is seen in an almost upright position splashing in the water. Known to be extremely acrobatic, these whales are believed to be quite friendly creatures and are known for having long flippers.

Photo: Vladimir Turkenich





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This is a photograph of a pair of Gemsbok antelope, known for their long rapier-like horns. The pair was fighting in the dusty desert of Etosha National Park in Namibia.

Photo: Johan Swanepoel

The adorable photo of a mother giraffe cuddling her baby is presented beautifully on a striking black background. This shot was captured in Africa. Giraffe is the tallest mammal.

Edited: Editing Master



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SEPTEMBER 2023

YOUR FORECAST THIS MONTH



ARIES

Expect a positive financial outcome. If you are facing obstacles, it means you're moving in the wrong direction. Be honest with yourself. Spend some quality time with your children as they require attention. You might buy a new car. Invest a small sum of money and relax; you might need it later.



TAURUS

Financially, good news is on the cards. However, your love life may not exactly be smooth because all of your activities will be focused towards daily living, family ties and domestic responsibilities. An addition to the family is on the cards. You will invest in your own house soon. Watch your health.



GEMINI

Focus on business. You can work from home and can ensure financial independence. Be sure to double check your negotiations as misunderstandings might arise. If you had any problems at home or with your family, they will begin to ease off, but your desire for romance will increase.



CANCER

Lost income will be retrieved and luck will shine on you towards the end of the week with regards to a new business enterprise. Let go of situations that no longer serve you, they do not deserve your energy. Delay your investment plans for next week. Stay away from unnecessary arguments.



LEO

Assistance and advancements will come to you when you least expect them. Money will be coming in through work you like or a business partner despite any financial problem that caused you a lot of worry. You will experience love and harmony with your sisters and brothers even if you've had a falling-out in the past.



VIRGO

You might be thinking about a purchase. You will be concerned about a partnership and will wonder if you should force the issue, or if the problem will get resolved on its own. Seek help from others. Take your chances boldly. You will be lucky in romance and will benefit through fated meetings.



LIBRA

Money will be slow. You might have conflicts with others or other unnecessary worries. However, there will be financial gains. You won't want something that isn't right, no matter how much you want it, and you won't give up until you get what you want. Your success will come through an impromptu business proposal.



SCORPIO

You will want to take that much-needed break from work but it will keep pulling you back. An unexpected financial gain is on the cards. Maintain emotional balance, keep things in proper perspective and take things slow and easy. If you're facing some trouble, it is better to drop it rather than to struggle with it.



SAGITTARIUS

You will handle your affairs skilfully and complete projects and financial matters on time. A contract in hand is indicated. You will want a marriage or a serious commitment but will struggle between your head and heart; if you let your heart take the lead, sacrifice will have to be made. What will you choose?



CAPRICORN

Your success will come through a new direction in career or a change of heart, mostly romantic or happy. Solutions will come through someone who enters your life and you will be fortunate in knowing which road to take. Do not try to juggle things; try to take one day at a time.



AQUARIUS

You'll begin a new project that might involve important paperwork. If you have to take a test, you'll pass with flying colours. A transfer of ownership will be processed and completed. You will suddenly feel motivated. Finances will start rolling in and you will be able to buy property of your choice soon.



PISCES

You might take up new stuff in your work. Expect a positive flow of creativity and lots of appreciation and words of praise. A wish of yours is coming true, something you might have been longing for quite some time now. An overseas trip might be profitable for you. Marriage is also on the cards.

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





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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

NEWS

SpiceJet Net Profit jumps 126% to INR 205 Crore in Q1 FY2024 as against a loss of INR 789 Crore in Q1 FY2023

Maintains strong performance in passenger business - highest industry domestic load factor of 90%, with an operating revenue at INR 2,002 Crore
Net Profit jumps 104% to INR 17 Crore in Q4 FY2023 as against a loss of INR 458 Crore in Q4 FY2022

SpiceJet reports a Net Profit of INR 205 Crore for the quarter ending June 2023, an increase of 126% as compared to the Net Loss of INR 789 Crore in Q1 FY2023 owing to a strong demand for air travel in India.

For the same comparative period, operating expenses were INR 1,291 Crore as against INR 2,072 Crore. On an EBITDA basis, profit was INR 525 Crore for the reported quarter against a loss of INR 393 Crore for the quarter ending June 30, 2022. Total operating revenue for the reported quarter was INR 2,002 Crore as against INR 2,457 Crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

SpiceJet lowered its Net Loss to INR 1,503 Crore in FY2023 compared to INR 1,725 Crore in FY2022. For the same comparative period, SpiceJet reported operating revenue of INR 8,869 Crore in FY2023 as against INR 6,557

Crore in FY2022. SpiceJet completed the hive-off of its logistics platform into a separate entity, SpiceXpress and Logistics Private Limited effective April 1, 2023.

Consequent to the hive-off there is an improvement of net worth in SpiceJet to the tune of INR 2,557 Crore (from negative INR 4,288 Crore to negative INR 3,232 Crore i.e. positive variance by 25%).

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am happy that despite facing multiple challenges, we have posted a profit in Q1 FY2024. Our team's relentless efforts and dedication and the continuous support from our valued customers have been pivotal in this success. I firmly believe in the potential of our airline, and I am pleased to have contributed to its growth by infusing INR 500 Crore into the company. This infusion

will help bolster our efforts in reviving our grounded planes, for which we have been working tirelessly, strengthening our fleet and expanding our cargo operations."

"Our logistics arm continues to soar. It's exceptional performance, with sustained profits, has been a driving force, contributing to our overall success. We remain focused on adapting to the changing landscape of the aviation industry, identifying and seizing new opportunities, and steering our airline towards greater heights."

In terms of operational parameters, SpiceJet had the highest passenger load factor amongst all airlines in the country. The average domestic load factor was 92% for the March 2023 quarter and 88% for FY2023. SpiceJet had the highest load factor of 90% in Q1FY2024.



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Dr. Ravi Gaur, MD Pathology
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health package
of your choice

04

Monitor your past
results with Health
Trend Graphs

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03

Get access to all
your test reports
in one place

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02

Compare lab prices and
ratings before booking

4.9 ★★★★★



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METROPOLIS

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MAHAJAN

Lifeline

TATA

MAX Lab

...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, Rickey Brown, Senior Cabin Crew (Kochi), takes us around his hometown



MR. RICKEY BROWN
SENIOR CABIN CREW, COK (KOCHI) BASE

Are you originally from Kerala?

Yes, I am from Kerala, a place that soothes my soul.

What is the quality of life here like?

The beautiful land is abundant with greenery and offers a visual treat to the eye. Its stunning landscapes and serene views make it the most desirable place to live in. Locals in Kerala are quite flexible about changes and can accept new traditions and cultures without any hesitation. Though life in Kerala is simple, the quality of life is amazing.

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

The best thing about Kerala is its great flora. There are massive, green expanses

with canals placed at one end and beaches at the other. There are coconut trees towering over every turn, and the pervasive aroma of coffee fills the air. It is like heaven on earth, if you ask me, and every part of this state is admired for its natural beauty.

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

The lifestyle in Kerala is incredibly serene. People are rooted to their culture, which makes it a peace-loving state. This place is a full package of mind-blowing natural beauty, lip-smacking food, vibrant

culture, and traditions. A trip to "God's own country" is worth all your money and time, as it will remain etched in your soul.

How is the nightlife in Kerala?

For a night owl like me, the nightlife here is exciting. Nightlife in Kerala's major cities revolves around bars, pubs, and nightclubs offering a variety of cuisines. Another activity that I would recommend is overnight camping at Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary famous for its diverse forest cover.

Are you a foodie? Which is your favorite eatery in Kerala?

I am a big-time foodie and my all-time favorite place is Salkara by Paragon. I love the cozy vibe and warm ambiance of this place. The place is perfect for relishing a scrumptious meal with family and friends.

How did you discover this place?

I love exploring eateries and cafes with my friends. Although I found this restaurant via some food bloggers, my taste buds instantly got enchanted by their food.

Which are the best places to hang out in Kerala?

The backwaters are the best place for hanging out with friends. These backwaters are a network of brackish lagoons lying parallel to the Arabian Sea coast and blessed with extraordinary beauty and serenity. Another place that I would recommend is Fort Kochi. This place is shaped by the history and culture of all those who have occupied the fort through the ages.

Can you recommend some tourist attractions in Kerala?

With hill towns like Munnar, Wayanad, Vagamon and captivating wildlife sanctuaries like Muthanga in Wayanad and Periyar in Thekkady, Kerala has a diversified topography. Visitors of all age groups can take part in Kerala's famous house boat cruises, which is a wonderful experience. Its unique culture and traditions, coupled with varied demography, make Kerala one of the most popular tourist destinations.



Why do you like Salkara so much?

This place is owned by Paragon Group and is ranked 11th among world's legendary restaurants. Although it serves a variety of cuisines from around the world, including Indian, Chinese, Continental and Italian, my heart always vouches for authentic Kerala food. They also have a special dish called *Samundra*

Sadya, which is a seafood platter with different seafood items and it's delectable.

What other places would you recommend that are near Kerala?

I think the best nearby place is Kochi, fondly known as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea." I hail from Cochin. Kozhikode, also known as Calicut, is another place you should not miss. This kaleidoscopic city is dotted with an array of historical landmarks, tourist spots, and attractions. The city is quite lively and reminiscent of the Dutch and British eras in India.

What are the people in Kerala like?

Locals in Kerala are quite protective of their customs, culture, religions, rituals and practices. They live quite a simple and happy life. They are content with the small things.

Which are the other Indian cities you've stayed in? How is Kerala compared to them?

I have toured across many places in India like Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore, to name a few. However, Kerala is the place where I feel at peace the most. This place is a blessed with natural beauty, bewitching backwaters and greenery. I think it has rightly received the tag of "God's Own Country".

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR FAVORITE DISH AT THE PLACE.

The firm boasts of biryani as their most iconic dish and I am extremely fond of their mutton biryani. It is the exotic spices and herbs in this dish which make it a mixture of Thalassery and Kochin styles of cooking.





Stars Of SpiceJet

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

Customer Experience

ABHISHEK VATSA
GURGAON



Internal appreciation: Abhishek Vatsa has great Social Media experience, and his knowledge brings additional charm. In a short span of time, he has become a strong pillar for the department. We appreciate his commitment to the work and are happy to have him back as a teammate.

Experience with SpiceJet: It has been a glorious journey working with SpiceJet so far. My first stint with the airline was from 2017-2019. The positive experiences have solidified my belief in the organization and further fueled my desire to join back an entirely refreshed team this year under the new leadership. I look forward to the upcoming opportunities and new roles which will further help enhance my skills. This is indeed the best place to work!

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Human Resource

ASHIMA DATTA
GURGAON



Internal appreciation: Ashima's exceptional commitment for ensuring a seamless employee experience and her efforts in navigating complex airline industry demands are truly commendable. Her attention to detail and empathetic approach have contributed significantly to our team's success. Her unwavering support in fostering a positive work environment is remarkable. Her contributions make a real difference and exemplify the values of our team and Spicejet.

Experience with SpiceJet: With 4+ enriching years at SpiceJet, I had the privilege of contributing in various assignments that left a lasting impact. With more than 15 years in the aviation industry, I consistently embraced challenges with a solutions-oriented approach. My role has allowed me to refine my technical skills along with nurturing my leadership abilities as I mentored my team members and fostered a collaborative environment. I'm grateful for all the opportunities, camaraderie and achievements. .

Inflight services

SALIMA VIRANI
HYDERABAD



Internal appreciation: We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible support during the recent accident involving our colleague. Your quick response truly made a significant difference during a challenging and distressing situation. Your willingness to stay by her side, provide comfort and even offer first aid, demonstrated an exceptional level of empathy and professionalism. It is heartwarming to see a colleague go above and beyond to support others in times of need. We are fortunate to have you as a part of our team.

Experience with SpiceJet: I would like to thank you for all the joyful moments shared, amazing support and recognition I've received while working with this amazing Airline. Being recognized as Crew of the Month, Spicy Fit, Best groomed and Best Trainee has made me proud and motivated me to keep doing my best. It's been a great journey, from the happy moments we've shared to the opportunities for travelling. Thanks to SpiceJet for always supporting my growth and helping me strive for excellence.

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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

SCRUMPTIOUS SANDWICHES



VEGETABLE JUNGLEE
SANDWICH
in White Bread

Domestic

INR 350

International

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



ROAST CHICKEN,
SUNDRIED TOMATO
AND BASIL SANDWICH
in Marble Bread

Domestic

INR 400

International

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

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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



Moong Dal Halwa

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



FARMLEY

Cream & Onion Makhana/ Roasted Salted

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



CRAZY CASHEW

COOKIE MAN

Cookies

Double Choc Chip | Blueberry

INR 100 | USD 3 | AED 10

THB 60 | SAR 10



CORNITOS



DUKES

Jalapeño Nachos & Salsa Dip/
Waffly Coffee Flavoured Rolls

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

BEVERAGES

FOOD STRONG

Cold Coffee

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 15

THB 100 | SAR 15



CONTINENTAL

Cappuccino/Masala Chai

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



CHAI POINT



STORIA

Mango Shake/ Mixed Fruit Juice

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



COCA-COLA

Aerated Drink

INR 100 | USD 2 | AED 10

THB 60 | SAR 10



YU

100% Coconut Water

INR 150 | USD 3 | AED 10

THB 80 | SAR 10

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (TAKE-AWAY)

ABSOLUT

Vodka 1 L

INR 1700 | USD 25 | AED 90

THB 740 | SAR 95



JOHNNIE WALKER

Black Label Whisky 1 L

INR 2300 | USD 33 | AED 120

THB 1000 | SAR 125

GLEN MORAY

Single Malt Scotch
Whisky 700 ml

INR 4500 | USD 59 | AED 220

THB 2180 | SAR 225



A. DE FUSSIGNY GRANDE
CHAMPAGNE VSOP

Cognac 700 ml

INR 4850 | USD 64 | AED 240

THB 2350 | SAR 240

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Chardonnay White/Shiraz Red
Wine 750 ml

INR 1750 | USD 23 | AED 90

THB 850 | SAR 90



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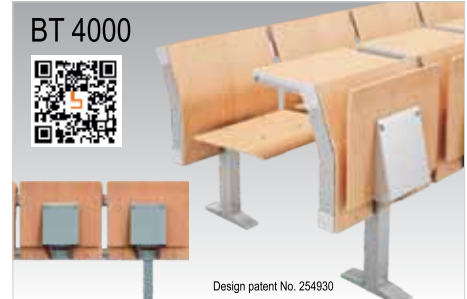
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