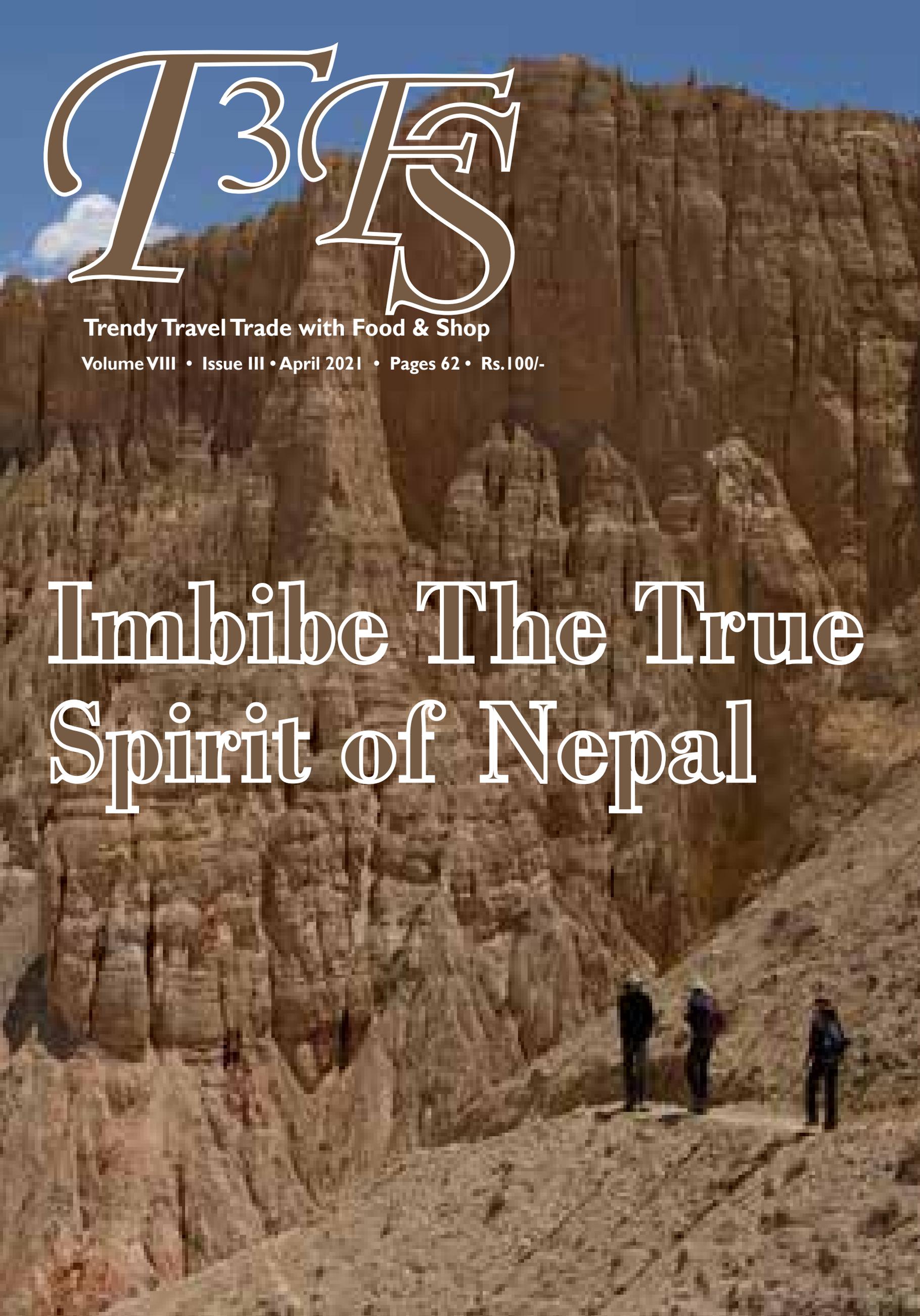




T3FS

Trendy Travel Trade with Food & Shop

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Imbibe The True Spirit of Nepal



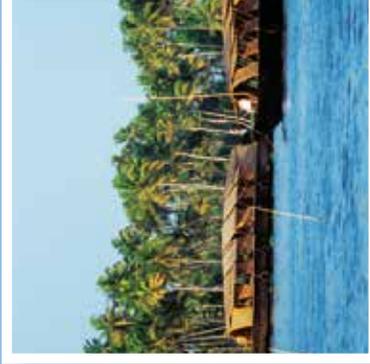
Royal Journey of India

18 to 20 Nights
Delhi - Jaipur - Pushkar - Ranthambore
Sawai Madhopur - Kota
- Bundi - Chittorgarh - Bijaipur -
Udaipur - Kumbalgarh - Jodhpur -
Jaisalmer - Bikaner - Mandawa - Delhi



Archaeological Tour of Rajasthan

21 to 23 Nights
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Bikaner - Gajner - Jaisalmer - Osian
- Khimsar - Manvar - Jodhpur - Rohet -
Mount Abu - Udaipur - Dungarpur
- Deogarh - Ajmer - Pushkar - Pachewar
- Ranthambore - Agra - Delhi



Majestic Kerala

14 to 15 Nights
Mumbai - Mangalore - Bekal - Wayanad
- Kozhikode(Calicut)
- Cochin - Thekkady - Kumarakom -
Quilon - Varkala - Kovalam



Enchanting Himalayas with Taj

13 to 15 Nights
Delhi - Agra - Darjeeling - Gangtok -
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Paro - Delhi



Tribal Trail

15 to 17 Nights
Bhubaneswar - Dangmal - Bhubaneswar
- Baliguda
- Rayagada - Jeyapore - Rayagada -
Gopalpur - Puri - Bhubaneswar



Buddhist Temple with North East India Tour

14 to 16 Nights
Delhi - Varanasi - Bodhgaya - Patna
- Kolkata - Bagdogara - Darjeeling
- Pelling (Pemayangtse) - Gangtok -
Kalimpong - Bagdogra - Delhi

Travok

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Gujarat
Tourism

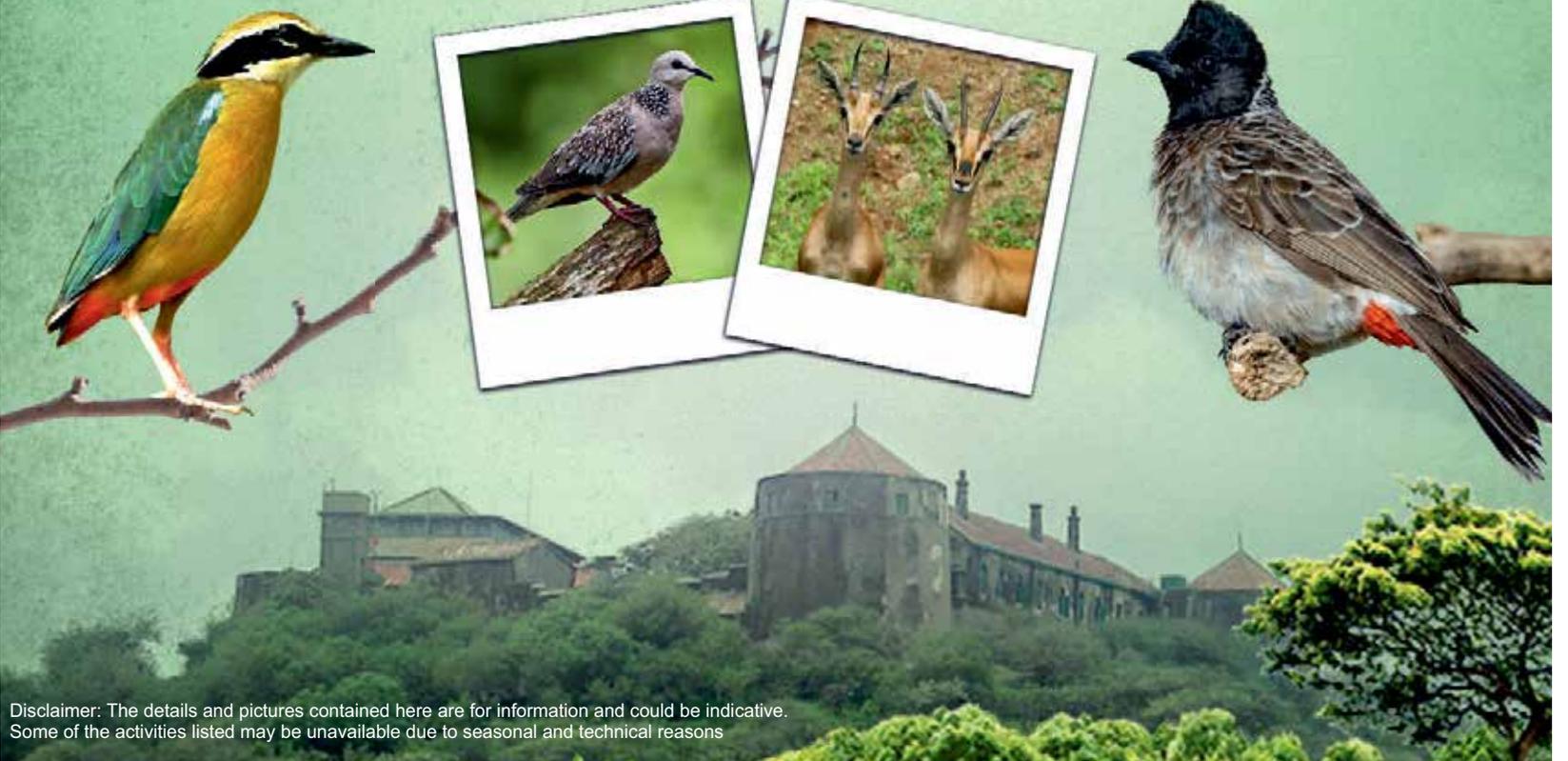
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE



Dear Reader,

In T3FS April 2021 edition we covered the untouched Nepal. Nepal is a fascinatingly diverse country that draws tourists for a variety of reasons. Some come for the mountains, hoping to climb or trek in the Himalayas, while others are drawn to the culture and the famous city of Kathmandu, and still others come in search of spiritual awakening.

We focused on Dolpa Nepal. Trek through hidden valleys, visit ancient Shey Gompa, see the pristine, turquoise waters of Phoksundo Lake.

Trekking in the remote region of Dolpa leads through scenic, hidden valleys and ancient shrines like Shey Gompa. Enjoying fascinating views of the pristine waters of Phoksundo Lake, encountering yak caravans that cross the high-Himalayan passes and mountain people who live in some of the highest settlements on earth like the Dho-Tarap valley; Dolpa is out of this world.

Dolpa's extraordinary natural beauty was exquisitely captured in the Oscar nominated film "Caravan". Trekking in this Himalayan region is an unforgettable adventure.

Dolpa is confined by the Dhaulagiri range in the south and east, Mt. Sisine

and Kanjiroba in the west and the Tibetan plateau towards the north. Lake Phoksundo's shimmering turquoise waters never fails to fascinate visitors, making it one of the major attractions of Dolpa.

In hospitality, we focused on the most secluded beach resorts. When can we travel carefree again? That's one of the most common thoughts running on our minds in recent times. As we satisfy our cravings for now with multiple insta #throwbacks, #mood, #want, #wanderlust, here's an inside dope on some of the most secluded beach resorts in the world.

There is an increase in demand for anything to do with 'private' – from planes to villas or private islands as affluent travellers are seeking isolation and seclusion whilst realizing the need to escape from the confinement of their homes after months, or actually a year! These resorts will ensure that you are able to enjoy exploring the destination and savour in the luxury while maintaining your much-needed privacy and isolation.

In Lifestyle, we covered various new trends.

Vedika Sharma
vedika@fabianmedia.net



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Get surrounded by Nature in the Czech Republic

The picturesque country of the Czech Republic is beautiful destination known for its fairytale like castles, but it is also a country that is home to miles after miles of natural wonders and scenic marvels.

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Most secluded beach resorts for your next vacation

When can we travel carefree again? That's one of the most common thoughts running on our minds in recent times. As we satisfy our cravings for now with multiple insta #throwbacks, #mood, #want, #wanderlust, here's an inside dope on some of the most secluded beach resorts in the world.

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Island resorts leading recovery in global leisure travel

Island resorts around the world will lead the recovery in leisure travel, according to research carried out ahead of Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2021, which will be in a hybrid format, with the in-person event taking place on 16-19 May at the Dubai World Trade Centre and the virtual event to be held the following week, on 24-26 May.

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Restaurant with Portuguese Food

Grand Lisboa Palace to have Michelin-starred chef at the Portuguese restaurant.

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Reveal of Virgin Galactic's new Spaceship VSS Imagine

Land Rover has announced a three-year extension to its global partnership with Virgin Galactic, the world's first commercial 'spaceline'.

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BMW 6 Series Launched in India

The new BMW 6 Series has been launched in India. Locally produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai, the car is available in one petrol (newly introduced BMW 630i M Sport) and two diesel variants (BMW 630d M Sport and BMW 620d Luxury Line).

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Celebrate Poila Baisakh with new Jewellery Collection

Avama Jewellers, Creative Jewellery brands, Shi & Pretios have launched their exclusive capsule collection for the upcoming festival, Poila Baisakh.

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Agoda helps Hotel Partners meet Travelers

Digital travel platform Agoda has launched Agoda Special Offers (ASO) globally, following soft launches in key Asia markets. The Agoda Special Offers product is supported with dedicated landing pages across 10 markets and more than 1,700 hotels are already on board to help meet consumers' desire for extra perks with their stays. According to a recent Agoda customer survey, receiving additional perks, such as free room upgrades and early check-in, is the second most important factor in a customers' travel decision after price. Hotel partners can now easily offer these desired benefits on Agoda, as well as leverage its platform's global reach to amplify these promotions to a wider range of customers loyal to the Agoda brand.

"This past year, we have seen travelers re-explore their own domestic markets, staying hyper local and for the most part staying in places and hotels they are familiar with. But recently, we have seen growth of travelers that are all about self-care, pampering and indulgence, because quite simply they "are worth it". But this traveler is savvy about deals and has high expectations. They want to find comparisons in one place, and that's where Agoda Special Offers product comes in," explained Eric Casals, Regional Director Southeast Asia and Oceania, Agoda. "By providing more benefits that travelers are looking out for, hotels can expect higher customer satisfaction, more spend at their property with greater utilization of their facilities. With the launch of Agoda Special Offers, we hope to help partners connect to a wider audience, and drive more bookings by providing what today's consumers are looking for."

Global Travel Trends Report

American Express has released the American Express Travel: Global Travel Trends Report¹, providing unique insight into consumer sentiment towards travel nearly a year after the COVID-19 pandemic began. Indians rank "most interested" in future travel with 84% respondents daydreaming about travel at least once a week. The report was compiled following a survey in seven countries across the globe (United States, Australia, India, Canada, Mexico, Japan and the United Kingdom).

Manoj Adlakha, CEO & SVP, American Express Banking Corp. India said, "Amex Trendex highlights pent up travel demand and some behaviours unique to our market. 91% respondents in India are interested in choosing a trip or experience that supports the local community, showing an understanding of the pandemic's impact on the travel industry and their intention to support recovery. According to the survey, Indians are most keen to plan future travel and we have been seeing similar trends in Cardmember enquiries to our concierge desks. We continue to invest in capabilities and partnerships to deliver best-in-class access and experience to our Cardmembers. We have just revamped our airport lounge in Delhi and made significant value enhancements on our Platinum Card product to meet the lifestyle and travel expectations of our customers. The survey also throws light on the changing paradigm of luxury, especially in the travel and hospitality space. We continue to explore avenues to associate with like-minded partners to fulfill the needs of our Cardmembers."

First Ocean Cruise Line to Return to Sailing in the Americas

In a joint virtual press conference with the Honorable Dionisio D'Aguiar, Minister of Tourism & Aviation for The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Crystal Cruises announced its plans to restart cruising with new close-to-home Bahamas Escapes beginning July 3, 2021 with a series of 16 seven-night, round-trip cruises from Nassau on its award-winning flag ship, Crystal Serenity. In addition to its Nassau itineraries, Crystal will also offer 16 seven-night voyages round-trip from Bimini beginning on July 4, 2021. With her new Bahamas Escapes cruises, Crystal Serenity becomes the first ship to homeport in The Bahamas, as well as the first ocean ship to sail from the Americas since the cruise industry's voluntary halt in operations almost a year ago. In attendance at press conference announcing the new Bahamas Escapes cruises were Jack Anderson, Crystal's interim president and CEO, Minister D'Aguiar and Director General Joy Jibrilu, The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism.



"Like our guests, we have been eagerly looking forward to the day we can welcome them back on board, and we're thrilled that this day will come in The Bahamas," Anderson said. "The new Bahamas Escapes cruises will allow travelers to enjoy luxury cruising now, as well as bring much-needed benefits to the local workforce, airlines, restaurants, retailers and hotels for pre- and post-cruise stays. The launch of these cruises will also drive economic growth to The Bahamas, which, like other destinations around the world, has been negatively affected by the global pandemic."

Dream Cruises Celebrates its 100,000th Passenger

Dream Cruises and Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore (MBCCS) have welcomed Singapore's 100,000th cruise passenger since the commencement of safe pilot cruises in the city. Starting with World Dream's first sailing from 6 November 2020 has been a worry-free journey for guests aboard, with their health and safety being the number one priority for Dream Cruises.



As the lucky guest, Mr. Amin Abdul Rahim and his family were presented with a collection of prizes and goodies including an upgrade to The Palace suite accommodations for their upcoming voyage.

"Having pioneered the safe pilot cruises in Singapore, we are excited to be part of this important milestone to celebrate Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore's 100,000th cruise passenger since the program started and who sailed on World Dream on 12 March 2021. We hope to continue to welcome more Singapore residents aboard World Dream throughout the year," said Mr. Michael Goh, President of Dream Cruises. "As a testament to our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our guests and crew, we are also proud to announce that World Dream recently became the first cruise ship in the world to receive a 3-year Certification in Infection Prevention - Maritime (CIP-M) from DNV, complementing the CruiseSafe Certification by the Singapore Tourism Board and DNV."

Covid Warriors

FAITH the policy federation of all the national associations representing the complete tourism, travel and hospitality industry of India (ADTOI, ATOAI, FHRAI, HAI, IATO, ICPB, IHHA, ITTA, TAAI, TAFI) & cause partner AIRDA wants all tourism, travel & hospitality staff to be designated as Covid warriors and be vaccinated irrespective of their age.

Indian tourism is entering the peak holiday season 2021 for domestic travel in India which is historically estimated to generate more than 60% domestic tourism business. In a few months we will also be entering the October - March season which is the peak season for inbound travel accounting for conventionally more than an estimated 70% of the tourism business.

To get into a state of readiness, FAITH has requested to be put in motion the policy that all tourism, travel & hospitality staff in India be dedicated as frontline Covid warriors and be allowed to be vaccinated at all sites of tourism, travel & hospitality companies irrespective of their age criteria. This will send a strong message of Indian Tourism getting ready to receive visitors in a safe and responsible manner. This can also be the cornerstone of Indian Tourism's tactical communication strategy and will be a big competitive advantage and a key selling point for revival for all segments. FAITH has requested this to be taken up with the PMO and health ministry and for advice to all state governments accordingly.

Tourism to be treated as a Common Agenda

Indian tourism and hospitality industry is going through a bleak phase despite the resilient and brave front by hotel players. The constant pummeling from the pandemic has led to losses exceeding Rs. 1.25 trillion (40%) in revenue and 50 million jobs across the sector. While travel is still discretionary, for many people it is a necessity. In order to deal with the unprecedented crisis, there is a dire need to develop innovative strategies. On behalf of the industry during the recent BITB conclave attended by 150 delegates and senior leaders from Travel & Tourism industry, the Hotel Association of India (HAI) called upon industry stakeholders to treat Tourism as a "Common Agenda" and also highlighted the need to make tourism viable, sustainable, accessible and affordable for all.

"One of the biggest pillars of Indian tourism is its heritage. Today, more than 90% of the country's heritage is in urgent need of revitalization. Its conservation is important for identifying, analysing, recording and protecting cultural resources. It is also an important tool for defining the landmark within the heritage area as well as to generate economic return and support the tourism industry. It not only preserves our historical legacy from further degradation but also strengthens the essence of the country's rich past. Travel is not just about a destination; the journey is equally important. Attention to this will enhance tourism business.", Mr KB Kachru, Vice President, Hotel Association of India and Chairman Emeritus & Principal Advisor-South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group.

SKAL Networking Event in Hyderabad

SKAL International Hyderabad, the world's largest tourism and hospitality organization conducted its Tourism Networking event in Radisson Hyderabad Hi-Tech Hotel in Gachibowli. The event started with the National anthem and Skál Hymn. It was a proud moment for Skál International Hyderabad by having the three super powers in one stage on Skál event USA - TURKEY - UNITED KINGDOM.



His Excellency Dr Andrew Fleming was the Chief Guest, The British Deputy High Commissioner, British deputy high commission, Hyderabad, The Guest of Honour was His Excellency Adnan Altay Altinors, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Hyderabad and Special Invitees were Ms Annette Dsilva, Commercial Advisor, United States Commercial Services of United States Consulate General, Hyderabad, Ms Cholada, Director, Thailand tourism, Dr Chinnam Reddy, Director Nithim, Hospitality College, Hyderabad and Earnest Immanuel, Director, International Institute of Hotel Management. Hon Secretary Sk Monik Dharamshi of Skál International of Hyderabad did the welcome speech and invited all the delegates and honoured them, President N S N Mohan gave a speech regarding tourism and its opportunity for promotion of Telangana and AP as a destination in the global market and insisted on teamwork, contribution team building, networking with the Skál members doing business with each other and stated this was the idea of Skál by the founding fathers.

Wales Beckons steps in India

Prateek Hira has been appointed to the board of Directors of Fly2Wales Holidays Ltd. U.K. He brings with him 27 years of experience and expertise in tourism. Apart from the travel companies Prateek is associated with, he is known for his close involvement with tourism education in India as an academician and for being very closely involved with tourism planning with the government. His



Prateek Hira

grip on Indian market, tourism researches and his experience as a tourism academician will lead Wales Beckons in a new direction, especially in Indian market. "A man of many talents, Prateek will be a valued colleague and will play a large part in promoting 'Wales Beckons' and Wales itself, a country which he has found to be very appealing" says Peter Rees-Jones, Founding Director of Fly2Wales Holidays Ltd., 'Wales Beckons' (a trading name of Fly2Wales Holidays Ltd., U.K), a DMC for Wales in United Kingdom has seen India as a fertile market for leisure travellers who travel to England and Scotland in huge numbers but often due to their ignorance or lack of information omitted Wales from their itineraries to the United Kingdom.

NEI UK has enjoyed a very high reputation in Wales and India when it comes to outbound travel from Wales to India and now with Wales Beckons it also forays into inbound business in Wales.

IVS Solutions Sets Record with 100% Overseas Placement

Continuing its glorious streak by counseling more than 10,000 students every year since 2012, IVS Solutions, a one-stop online platform for education, career, visa and foreign investment, has become the most successful education counseling and immigration firms in India. IVS Solutions has achieved commendable success in providing 100% placement assistance to its students. Additionally, IVS Solutions has helped 90% of its students become successful professionals and gain permanent residents status in the countries

like Canada and Australia. The success achieved by the students counseled by IVS Solutions speaks volumes about the hard work of the firm.

Mr. Sachin Sharma, Founder, IVS Solutions said, "We take pride in providing our students a direction for growth in their career. We have students who came to us for counseling as a student and today they are successful professionals and permanent residents of the most desired foreign countries across the world. Our students are our top priority and we search for a university according to the best

fit for every individual student depending on the criteria and reasons of studying abroad."

Ms. Ruchika Sharma, Managing Partner, IVS Solutions added, "We understand that a lot of students are looking for permanent residency of other countries and hence at IVS Solutions we provide education and immigration services to our students under one roof. All our services are completely online and our counselors are available to our students at all times around the world."

Lumi: Spread its Wings

Lumi, the car rental business of Seera Group, is expanding its retail service network in Saudi Arabia, having won the bid to open counters at Jeddah King Abdulaziz International Airport, Ta'if Regional Airport and Al-Baha Domestic Airport in Saudi Arabia. These join the current network of 8 airport counters and the total network of 26 branches in the region. Accelerating the development of some sophisticated technology solutions, Lumi is swiftly becoming one of the

top car rental brands offering digital-driven services in the Kingdom. This progression is also part of Seera's omnichannel strategy to create a seamless experience across different channels for the customers. Lumi is also carrying out major refurbishments at their branches by starting with the Al Olaya branch that is located in the financial district of Riyadh. The branch has been redesigned, with a new fresh look, a new layout, featuring the latest technology offerings, enabling customers

to have a hassle-free, quick, and easy booking experience. Lumi has strengthened its services by creating time saving processes including the digitisation of the entire operations at the airport counters. The Tamm service has also been integrated to speed up the government registration for customers who are looking to rent a vehicle. Lumi's digital-first branches will also feature ID scanners and agents onsite for consultation.

Visa Application Services Restart

The last quarter has witnessed intermittent activity for the international travel community, with borders opening sporadically in step with vaccination drives in various regions. Weat VFS Global, the world's leading visa services organisation, would like to keep you apprised of the re-openings of Visa Application Centres in India, and other efforts currently undertaken according to the regulations set by our client governments. Below is a consolidation of the latest 'restart' updates in visa application operations in India since June 2020.

At present, the visa application process (in various categories) for over 40 governments has resumed at select Visa Application Centres across India. VFS Visa Application Centres across India remain open as of 07 April 2021, though timings and days of working may vary, according to pandemic-related regulations.

Restart of other visa application processes

Please note that VFS Global Visa Application Centres can open only when the concerned Embassy / Consulate provides approval and directs it to do so. It does not decide on re-opening of any Centre on its own. Some countries may have limited slots opened for appointments at present

and only in certain cities. Customers are advised not to fall prey to touts or fraudsters who offer false promises of appointments / visas / job / immigration in exchange for payment.

Health and safety precautions at the Centres

As an extra layer of caution to ensure the health and safety of customers and employees alike, VFS Global has established standardised protective measures to be followed across centres, including physical distancing and sanitisation, body temperature checks, use of masks and sanitizers, disinfecting high-contact surfaces, etc. Customers exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, including high fever, cough and difficulty in breathing will not be permitted to enter the centre.

COVID-19 test booking and health insurance services

Anticipating customer needs further, VFS Global introduced online booking of COVID-testing facilities at the beginning of September. Being ahead of the curve with their operational excellence, the company has ensured the utmost comfort to customers by allowing them to avail this facility at their doorstep as well. This service has been rolled out in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh,

Jalandhar, Chennai, Pune and Kochi. For greater convenience, health and travel insurances are also readily available for purchase for customers visiting VFS Global Visa Application Centres.

'Visa At Your Doorstep' service

As an optional service to customers wanting to complete their entire visa application submission process from the comfort of their home or office, VFS Global continues to provide the "Visa At Your Doorstep" servicewhereby a customer can submit the application, enrol biometrics, and get the passport couriered back to their his/her location of choice.

Courier service

As a precautionary measure, customers may also opt for our courier servicesto get their passports delivered to their preferred address, after adjudication by the concerned diplomatic mission. This service may also be made mandatory by certain countries.

We are committed to sharing timely information on re-openings with our customers in all countries, on our social media channels and the COVID-19 Customer Advisories page that is updated in real time.

Madhya Pradesh: A Versatile State

Being one of the economically rising states of incredible India, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board participated in SATTE 2021 to educate and highlight growth in the tourism sector held at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi – NCR from 24th to 26th March.

• T3FS Desk

The three-day expo witnessed several exciting partnerships and announcements that promised to predict in new trends of the industry. It provided a platform for all stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality industries to interact and transact business opportunities.

Madhya Pradesh Government has identified tourism as one of the leading sectors for developments and aims to promote MP as an attractive destination for both domestic and international travellers. There is a sustained

focus on infrastructure development, restoration of heritage sites, development of natural reserves and biodiversity, promotion of sustainable and responsible tourism as well as rural tourism. The exhibition saw top-notch, industry influencers, travel enthusiasts, corporate, business heads, travel operators and media professionals from different corners of the country, which came to visit MP stall, exchanging views and opinions on newly developed facilities & services by Madhya Pradesh Tourism.



Mr. Yuvraj Padole Deputy Director, Events and Marketing, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board

Madhya Pradesh is among the most exciting tourist destination in the country and has immense potential for the growth of inbound tourism. Madhya Pradesh is a versatile State having variety of tourism products, we have activity filled tourist destinations, wildlife safaris, natural scenic beauty, adventure activities, camping, water sports, Cuisines, Heritage, Tribal culture, Handicrafts, Wellness and Mindful Tourism and many more things to explore and experience. The State has also developed Home Stay, Gram Stay and Farm Stay schemes so that tourists can stay and experience rural culture and traditions of the State. We are creating new opportunities and initiatives to promote the state and its rich cultural, natural and architectural heritage and its traditions and history.

Mexican Film Series

The Embassy of Mexico in India inaugurated “Mexican Film Series”, a screening of four internationally acclaimed contemporary films from Mexico to mark the reopening of public events.

The Embassy of Mexico in India in collaboration with the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi has organised an exclusive screening of four award-winning Mexican contemporary films especially handpicked to kick-start its first public event this year.

The “Mexican Film Series” was inaugurated by Minister Judith Arriega Munguia, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Mexico in India, on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The first film shown was *The Dove and the Wolf* by Carlos Lenin Treviño, which received the Art Peace

Award at the Locarno Film Festival in 2019 and the Selected Talents Award for female character at the Berlinale in 2020.

Welcoming the guests, Minister Arriega highlighted the significance of the contemporary Mexican cinema with its high quality, successful films which have been recognised and applauded globally. Notable amongst these are celebrated Mexican film makers like Alejandro González Iñárritu, María Novaro, Guillermo del Toro and Alfonso Cuarón, and some lesser-known, however equally important, names like Carlos Reygadas and Michel Franco whose innovative and experimental styles

reflect in their movies and embody the growing Mexican cinema and its sensibility.

Both the films screened on the weekend were well-attended by film lovers. The non-ticketed event continues on March 1, with Lillian Lieberman’s award-winning documentary, “*Visa al Paraíso*” (Visa to the Paradise), which throws light on the life of Gilberto Bosques, Mexico’s General Consul to France between 1939 and 1942; and concludes on March 2, with award-winning director Carlos Reygadas’s “*Nuestro Tiempo*” (Our Time), winner of the Critics Prize for Best Foreign Film at the Sydney Film Festival 2019.



Imbibe The True Spirit of Nepal

Nepal is a fascinatingly diverse country that draws tourists for a variety of reasons. Some come for the mountains, hoping to climb or trek in the Himalayas, while others are drawn to the culture and the famous city of Kathmandu, and still others come in search of spiritual awakening.

• **Vedika Sharma**

Here come with us to touch the untouched Dolpa, Nepal.

Trek through hidden valleys, visit ancient Shey Gompa, see the pristine, turquoise waters of Phoksundo Lake.

Trekking in the remote region of Dolpa leads through scenic, hidden valleys and ancient shrines like Shey Gompa. enjoying fascinating views of the pristine waters of Phoksundo Lake, encountering yak caravans that cross the high-Himalayan passes and mountain people who live in some of the highest settlements on earth like the Dho-Tarap valley; Dolpa is out of this world.

Dolpa's extraordinary natural beauty was exquisitely captured in the Oscar nominated film "Caravan". Trekking in this Himalayan region is an unforgettable adventure.

Dolpa is confined by the Dhaulagiri range in the south and east, Mt. Sisine and Kanjiroba in the west and the Tibetan plateau towards the north. Lake Phoksundo's shimmering turquoise waters never fails to fascinate visitors, making it one of the major attractions of Dolpa.

Settlements here are generally at amazing altitudes of 3,660 m to 4,070 m and the people are devout Buddhists who have been trading with Tibet for centuries. There are 130 gompas (Buddhist monasteries) in Dolpa which speaks volumes for their religious fervor.

One of the delightful moments during the trek is the sight of long yak caravans that even today endure immense hardships negotiating the harsh, icy terrain, crossing high mountain passes, carrying goods for



barter to the other side of the Himalayas.

Closely linked with Tibet, the people speak Tibetan, look Tibetan and retain their Tibetan heritage and culture which are highlighted by religious ceremonies in their monasteries where Tibetan Buddhism prevails.

Little has changed in the way of life for these hardy people who strictly follow the customs and beliefs of their forefathers who came over from Tibet centuries ago. This trek is an opportunity to meet these simple folk who live under extreme conditions just making ends meet.

Opened up for tourism only in 1989, these high mountain valleys remained unexplored and largely unseen by outsiders. Isolated by the difficult topography, the people in this region have preserved their culture and live a life untouched by the trappings of modern society. Dolpa is one of the Restricted Areas of Nepal so trekkers require a Trekking Permit from the Department of Immigration in addition to the TIMS card to trek in this region. Trekkers must be extremely fit to endure the long and strenuous stretches en route.

What all you can do in Dolpa?

Trekking

Nepal is the world's premier destination for trekking and is the country where commercial trekking was pioneered back in the early 1960s.

Nepal has attracted trekkers from around the world since the 1960s when Col Jimmy Robert's organized the first commercial trek. Trekking has been the leading activity of tourists in Nepal and thousands take to the Himalayas, some doing a few days of hiking while others take on a month long trek through valleys and high mountain passes. Two of the most popular trekking regions are the Everest and Annapurna where many different trails can be followed while the other popular treks are in the Langtang and Kanchenjunga regions. The most challenging is the Great Himalayan Trails, an extensive trail system that covers Nepal from Humla and Darchula in the west to Kanchenjunga in the east. The diversity of trekking trails in Nepal cannot be found in any other part of the world. In fact, the lowest point in Nepal is 59 m above sea-level in the Tarai region while the highest point is Everest, 8,848 m above sea-level, the two points being only 200 kilometres apart as the crow flies.

A majority of visitors to Nepal come in via the Tribuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. It is in Kathmandu that

trekkers need to acquire their permits and other documentation, either from a trekking agent or from the appropriate offices. These documents will be checked along the trekking route. For those with little time on their hands, there are half-day hikes from Kathmandu to witness breathtaking Himalayan views.

Trekking in Nepal today is completely different from that of the 1960s. In all the main trekking areas, the National Parks and Conservation Areas lodges have been established where trekkers can find accommodation, food and meet other trekkers and locals along the way. A majority of the trails are well maintained and in many cases are sign-posted.

The lodges are well appointed and have facilities for charging batteries and the larger villages often have email facilities. The length, the difficulty and timing of the treks vary greatly and to add to that once outside of the main trekking areas, transport becomes more problematic and often involves at least two journeys made on domestic scheduled flights. Many treks in Nepal begin with a domestic flight to the starting point and many are in remote areas with no road access. Several days of trekking is required to reach the higher mountain areas from the local centers of population and administration.

Nepal has six distinct and diverse vegetation zones ranging from Tropical below a 1,000 m through Sub-tropical 100m - 200m, Lower Temperate 1,700 m - 2,700 m, Upper Temperate 2,400 m - 3,000 m, Sub-alpine 3,000 m - 4,000 m and Alpine 4,000 m to the snowline, above the snowline it is a Himalaya tundra like wilderness. The higher altitudes are home to the elusive Snow leopard, Himalayan Thar, Musk deer and other rare species.

Although the popular treks in Kanchenjunga, Everest, Manaslu, Annapurna are able to provide lodge accommodation, the less frequented treks in those areas and also in other areas west of Annapurna will generally require camping style trek support.

Trekkers can find a trail any time of year. The southern areas of Nepal receive higher levels of precipitation. However, some routes along the Great Himalaya Trails lie in the rain shadow, a dry area on the leeward side of a mountain namely Mustang to the north of Annapurna and Manaslu, Dolpa to the north of Dhaulagiri and the far west of Nepal to the north of Saipal Himal. Post monsoon the weather tends to be clearer. Winter is good but colder with shorter days and spring can be affected by seasonal rain and snow storms. Summer is short and is quickly followed by the monsoons. Monsoon treks are usually in the dry Manang and Mustang areas.

However, the rains don't pour 24 hours a day and they bring spectacular flowers to life. It is also the perfect time to consider one of the regions in the rain shadow which typically feature a more barren Tibetan type scenery as opposed to the greenness on other side.

It is important for tourists to know that the main income generating activity of the people from the hill regions is tourism, and they typically earn wages working as trekking porters or guides. Hiring a porter does not mean that you are weak, it means you value the Nepali culture, you are providing an extended Nepali family with an income and at the same time you are making a friend and trekking with a local person who is well versed in the local cultures, festivals, and all the other issues that can turn a good trek into an outstanding experience of a life time.

It is possible to trek alone or without a Nepali guide, but you would not know what to do in a major storm, zero visibility and plunging temperatures at possibly 5,000 m? Make sure you have all the permits required, and be environmentally and culturally aware.

Mountaineering

With eight of the world's highest mountains in the country, Nepal is

a mountaineer's paradise. The ultimate glory of mountaineering is reaching the summit of Mt. Everest, but there are other technical challenges like Lhotse beside it or you can take on any of the other 326 climbing peaks that are waiting for you!

The Nepal Himalaya is the most formidable mountain range in the world with nearly a third of the country lying above the elevation of 3,500 m. Eight of the world's highest peaks lie within Nepal's territory: Everest, Kanchenjunga, Lhotse, Makalu, Cho Oyu, Dhaulagiri, Manaslu and Annapurna, which are all over 8,000 m above sea level. The first to be climbed among them was Annapurna in 1950 by a French Expedition with Maurice Herzog as leader while Everest was first summited by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953 with a British Expedition led by John Hunt.

Besides these eight giant peaks, there are 326 other mountains within Nepal which are open for mountaineering expeditions and out of them, 103 have never been climbed before. Nepal offers mountaineers more opportunities than any other country in the world, and throws endless challenges at them including the less glorified trekking peaks which still require climbing gear and climbing skills if you want to climb them.

Nepal's climbing history goes back a long way starting with the early explorers from British India who were lured by lofty peaks and the challenges of climbing virgin peaks where no human had set foot before. By the



1960s Nepal's trekking and mountaineering industry was well established with private companies providing all logistics including porters and guides for a full expedition that would spend months in the mountains. Today there are many companies that will take care of every aspect of mountain climbing and all the mountaineer has to do is arrive in good shape physically and mentally, prepared to take on the challenge and not worry about equipment and supplies. Most of the Everest expeditions are handled by well-known and trusted private companies.

The reputation of the Sherpas is built on mountaineering with many of these mountain people achieving glorified status with their multiple climbs of Everest and other 8000m peaks. Most expeditions wouldn't go up without the loyal, hardy and extremely reliable sherpas. They risk their lives for their clients and are often called upon to rescue a climber in trouble. Although today there are many other ethnic groups involved in the service, they are generally referred to as Sherpas.

Despite all the attention being grabbed by mountains like Everest and Annapurna, the latter more for trekking than climbing, there are other peaks being climbed on a regular basis but don't make headline news. Lhotse, Ama Dablam and Manaslu are also





climbed often besides trekking peaks like Mera, Island and Yala peaks which are quite popular. There are also climbers looking to climb virgin peaks as Nepal from time to time, opens up new, unheard of peaks for climbing and who wouldn't want to be the first to climb!

Nepal has designated the Annapurna, Manaslu and Kanchenjunga regions as Conservation Areas while Sagarmatha (Everest), Langtang and Shey-Phoksundo (Dolpa) are national parks while other mountain areas might not fall into these categories but are designated as 'Restricted Areas' as they are close to Nepal's northern border. While the infrastructure of, and accessibility to Sagarmatha, Annapurna, Manaslu and Langtang are well developed and easily accessible enabling mountaineers and expeditions to make quick progress to their base camps the remaining areas, including the restricted areas are still very remote, where rescue or help from external sources will be difficult or unlikely and access to these areas is complex and at times difficult. Expeditions into those areas require a completely different approach, level of commitment and organizational ability to succeed on their chosen summit.

The mountains of Nepal are grouped into different categories depending on their height and under whose authority they lie. The Ministry of Tourism is responsible for the expedition peaks above 6,500 m, while the Nepal Mountaineering Association is responsible for mountains that are known as Trekking Peaks. These peaks range in altitude from 5,800 m to 6,584 m, and call for climbing skills and climbing gear and should not be taken lightly despite the misleading title. Expeditions to peaks below 5800metres do not require climbing permits although they will require other forms

of permits to enter specific regions. All expeditions are required to pay refundable garbage deposits while expeditions to peaks above 6,500 m will also be required to employ a Liaison Officer. The best time for mountaineering expeditions is pre- monsoon when the weather is better, especially at altitude, although the visibility might be restricted with the pending monsoon conditions. Autumn is good for the slightly lower peaks, while winter is cold with short days and early spring might be subjected to seasonal snow storms. However, in these times of global warming and climate change, the seasons are no longer as predictable as they used to be.

Today in Nepal it is possible to book onto either a commercial expedition to attempt any of the larger mountains or to attempt a trekking peak with one of the many Nepali trekking agents. If an independent expedition wishes to attempt any of the 'legally' open peaks then they should read the appropriate policies and procedures legally required under the current Nepal Tourism Act (Provisions relating to Mountaineering).

Meet the People

Meet the friendliest people you've ever met. Feel their optimism and embrace their genuine warmth.

Put your hands together and say Namaste and smile as they return your gesture with genuine smiles of acceptance. 'You are welcome, you are our guests' say the friendly smiles. Nepali people are some of the friendliest people in the world which is one of the reasons visitors keep coming back.

Nepal is an incredibly diverse country and home to multiple religions, race, tribes, and cultures. The country has over 100

ethnic groups and is virtually a melting pot of many (more than 90) languages and ethnicity.

It's fascinating to learn how people have adapted to their environment in amazing ways. Because of the inaccessibility of the mountains some people's lives have changed very little in the last century. You can still encounter caravans of mules transporting essential goods to and from distant settlements in the Himalayas. Oxen plough the land, black smiths make tools and bullock carts still transport grain and straw from the fields in the plains. Firewood is still a major source of energy for cooking in villages which are like an open air history museum.

City life may look modern with all the trappings of modernity, but traditions and cultures remain the same as they were centuries ago. Much of the festivals are celebrated exactly as they were centuries ago with some locals representing forgotten kings who once ruled over their ancestors. Ancient rituals are adhered to in their original form as people are deeply religious and visit the temples daily.

A Nepali family once introduced to you is most likely to invite you in for a meal. Even the poorest people will share their meal with guests. Perhaps, this is the major reason, why a tourist cannot remain a tourist for very long in Nepal. Once a tourist begins to know the place and its people, he is no longer a stranger - he is a valued guest.

The best means of meeting the people of Nepal are during a trek or just strolling down the streets of the cities or during one of several day tours offered by local tourism operators.

Tourists visit Nepal repeatedly and that says it all about the attachment they feel..

Connect with Maldives, Your Safe Haven

After the closure of the borders and travel restrictions were imposed, Visit Maldives continued to maintain destination presence across the Indian market as part of the global crisis marketing strategy.

• T3FS Desk

The very first offline events in India were kicked off on Monday, 22nd March 2021 with a high level press conference followed by a Roadshow in Delhi hosted by VisitMaldives. Maldives will also be showcased at the South Asia's Travel & Tourism Exchange (SATTE) in Delhi from 24-26th March. The Maldivian delegation for the events in India will be led by Hon. Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, Minister of Tourism; Mr. Thoyyib Mohamed, Managing Director of Visit Maldives and Dr. Hussain Niyaz, High Commissioner of Maldives to India.

The Press Conference titled 'Maldives: Media Meet' was addressed by high level speakers from Maldives, Hon. Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, Minister of Tourism; Mr. Thoyyib Mohamed, Managing Director of Visit Maldives and Dr. Hussain Niyaz, High Commissioner of Maldives to India. Latest updates from the Maldives and the tourism industry were shared at the press conference attended by key travel trade and mainstream media of India and Delhi region.

Key topics of interest were addressed from the angles of tourism and foreign policy and marketing. These included the success story of the Maldives tourism during the pandemic, India becoming the top source market to Maldives and the marketing plan for India as well as the travel bubble between India and Maldives. Furthermore, updates on the vaccination programme and important information and updates for travellers were shared.

Prior to the press conference and roadshow, the Managing Director of Visit Maldives and the Visit Maldives team attended meetings with Outbound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI), GoAir Airlines and Yatra to discuss collaborative efforts to promote Maldives in the Indian market. In addition, a meeting was conducted with Thomas Cook

in which the company remarked upon the success of the strategy during the pandemic and future marketing plans.

The Press Conference was shortly followed by the Maldives Roadshow 'Connect with Maldives, Your Safe Haven' targeting top travel trade of India. The roadshow created the opportunity for the 11 companies from the Maldives tourism industry who participated at the event to connect with over 100 key travel trade partners from the Indian market to generate new business leads and engage in one-on-one networking opportunities.

From the overall destination perspective, a presentation was given highlighting destination information, key updates and travel information.

The main marketing message communicated to the travel trade was that Maldives is one of the safest destinations to travel during this time due to the unique geographic isolation of the islands, the one island one resort together with the stringent health and safety protocols in place. The event held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Delhi concluded with dinner and a raffle draw. Raffle prizes

were sponsored by Baglioni Resort Maldives and Adaaran Club Rannalhi.

Statistics published by the Ministry of Tourism reveals that India is currently the top source market for tourism in the Maldives. The latest statistics published by the Ministry of Tourism indicates that as of 17th March 2021 Maldives welcomed a total of 243,979 travelers with an arrival figure of 57,965 travelers from India. Visit Maldives plans to continue this momentum of growth by conducting several marketing activities in India.



Set Your Travel Goals

Give wings to your travel goals by experiencing these 5 train journeys in India

• T3FS Desk

Travelling is fun. You get to explore new cities, meet people and try out different food cuisines. That's 'Jannat' for a travel nerd. But thanks to COVID-19, the tourism industry has taken a hit. UNWTO states that export revenues from international tourism have registered a loss of US\$ 935 billion. This amount is only going to mount up, as several countries have still closed their doors to foreigners. Amid the strict international travel restrictions in place, what can an Indian do to satisfy his travel needs? Well, the safest bet is to travel within the country.

While many might consider heading to the beaches or opting for a road trip to the mountains, how about experiencing a train ride? You get to relax, enjoy the view and spend quality time with your friends and family while on the move. Below we have listed five train journeys that are worth your time and money.

Kalka Shimla Toy Train

There are two reasons why people travel to Shimla- to capture the mesmerizing view of the mountains and enjoy the toy train ride. Built-in 1903, the train is known for its engineering masterpiece, which covers 102 tunnels, 919 stunning curves and 864 bridges. The journey starts from Kalka, taking you through amazing views of the waterfalls, lush forests and rugged mountains. Till the time it reaches Shimla, you will be awestruck by the beauty of the city, which retains the title 'Queen of hills'. This ride is so special that it is listed as a UNESCO site. Generally, five trains cover the distance between Kalka and Shimla- Shivalik Deluxe, Himalayan Queen, Rail Motor, Shimla Kalka passenger and Shimla Express, with the fare starting from Rs.70.

Mandovi Express

Started in 1999, the Mandovi Express has been in service for over 21 years. It has been named after the Mandovi River, which is known as the lifeline of Goa. The train operates between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Madgaon Junction, which is the primary railway station in Goa. The train covers 581 kms with an average journey time of 11hr 50min and is known for its tasty food that includes a mixture of regional cuisines like Gujarati dabelis, methi vadas, soups, idli-vadas and more. With the help of



comfortable seats, great hospitality and delicious food, the journey with Mandovi Express promises to deliver an enjoyable experience to the passengers.

Indian Maharaja Deccan Odyssey

If you want to feel like a true king, then Deccan Odyssey is your way towards it. The train is built to mimic the traditions of various royal eras of Maharashtra. It operates between Delhi and Mumbai with 21 coaches. The entire train is stocked with facilities like internet connectivity and air-conditioning to give utmost comfort to the passengers. Other provisions like a well-stocked bar, multi-cuisine menu, conference cart and spa give an unforgettable experience once you onboard Deccan Odyssey by paying a minimum fare of Rs.5,12,400.

Golden Chariot

When people want to travel in style, they hop on the Golden Chariot. The train covers the territories of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu along with Pondicherry and Goa. Once inside, the passengers are greeted with alluring hospitality and bombarded with a 360-degree view of the age-old tradition. The decor of the train creates an elegant atmosphere, which makes landscapes pass by even more magical. With a starting price of Rs.53355, passengers get the best of suites, dining experience, spa and more at their service.



Dinesh Kumar Kotha
Co-founder & CEO
Confirmtk

The Toy Train

Hopping on the Darjeeling toy train is an opportunity that one would rarely want to miss. It's accorded by UNESCO and for the right reason, of course. The train functions between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling with the help of a small steam engine. As most of the train components are close to 100 years old, it runs at a slow pace, allowing passengers to absorb the surrounding beauty of the hills. The toy train takes you through the villages and local shops with children waving at you, a moment a photographer will cherish forever. By paying a minimum of Rs.1420, you can get the ride of your life and enjoy the view of Batasia Loop, covered in the lap of hills.

While it's hard to predict the end of COVID-19, the above five train journeys can act as your travel saviour until this nightmare is over.

Azerbaijanis: Arrival of spring

The coming of spring is felt worldwide, but in Azerbaijan people cherish it with extra care and symbolism. Here, it is celebrated with the Novruz holiday, which is inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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The holiday itself takes place on the vernal equinox, March 20-21, however preparations begin a month in advance. Below are some of the fascinating traditions and rituals Azerbaijanis do to celebrate Novruz:

Experience the elements

Azerbaijan is one of a few countries where you can see all of nature's four elements so perfectly symbolised: by the Caspian Sea, the burning mountain of Yanardag, the rocks of Gobustan and Baku, which is rightly nicknamed "the city of winds". Every year on each of the last four Tuesdays (known as Charshanba) before Novruz, one of these elements is celebrated. It's believed that on the first still waters start to move, while on the second bonfires are kindled, and on the third a warm breeze brings life to water and fire. The last Tuesday, known as Akhir Charshanba, is when trees shoot new leaves and spring finally begins.

Symbols of new life

Samani, green sprouts of wheat seeds, is an important symbol of the Novruz celebration. It is an essential decoration at the holiday meal representing the revival of nature. People also believe that growing samani will bring abundance, wellbeing and prosperity to their family in the coming year. Every family grows their own, but small shops, bazaars, and even modern supermarkets sell samani in the lead-up to Novruz.

Exploring ties to fire

National holidays usually grow out of a people's spiritual world and beliefs. and Novruz is often linked to Zoroastrianism for its multiple links to fire. On the four Tuesdays leading up to the holiday, as well as during the holiday itself, one of the main rituals is jumping over a bonfire, with each house or neighbourhood making their own. Young and old alike jump over them to rid their troubles and purify their souls going into the new year. Interestingly, ancient phrases like "I swear by fire," "I swear by the sun," "I swear by the light" and "May your hearth never go out" are still used by Azerbaijanis today.

No festivity without delicious food

Traditional festive foods are cooked at Novruz. Plov, or pilaf, is the main festive dish along with pastries and sweets. A beautifully decorated tray, or khoncha, with samani (green sprouting wheat) placed in the centre, is filled with nuts, candles, treats and sweets, each of which has a symbolic meaning. These sweets have an ancient significance: the round, yellowish goghal represents the sun, while the crescent-shaped shekerburasymbolises the moon, and pahlkava signifies both the sky and the stars, the seven layers of diamond-shaped dough reflecting the layers of the sky and the hazelnuts in the centre representing stars.

Rituals for young people

Novruz is especially exciting for young people as it features a wide range of games, performances and rituals. One of them is the "ear divination" game, which has a deep educational, moral and psychological meaning. People, particularly young girls, take a cup of water, a mirror and a key, make a wish and approach their neighbours' doors to discover if their wish will come true in the next year or not. They put their ear to the door, secretly listen in to conversations inside the house, and interpret the first word they hear in relation to their wish. Therefore, it is customary to talk positively and express good wishes during the holiday.



May peace be upon you

Novruz is not just a time for celebration, food and fun. It's a time for love, peace and equality. Those who have fallen out during the year are supposed to forgive one another and renew their relationship, while relatives and neighbours visit each other and exchange gifts. It brings together different sections of the population, strengthens mutual understanding and social cohesion. One of the golden rules of Novruz is that people should never curse, lie, swear or gossip – they shouldn't do anything bad.

Spring Blooms in California

Wildflower season is beginning! Below are some of the places where visitors can safely and sustainably enjoy spring blooms across California.

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While visiting, be sure to maintain six feet from others, sanitize your hands frequently and wear face coverings when in close proximity to other hikers. Also, be sure to observe all trail signs to preserve the flowers for future visitors.

Enjoy a Vibrant Wildflower Bloom on the Remote Channel Islands

After winter's rains from late January through March, California's remote Channel Islands erupt in a vibrant wildflower bloom. The island's signature flower may be the coreopsis, which spreads itself across parts of the islands in vast fields as a sea of brilliant yellow flowers. The spring bloom coincides with the migration of Pacific Gray Whales (through the middle of April). Island Packers runs trips out to the islands from Ventura Harbor.

Fresno County Blossom Trail is the Ultimate Change of Scenery

Set sail in a sea of blossoms by cruising along a more-than-60-mile driving path in Fresno County. During a typical spring, the Fresno County Blossom Trail draws travelers from around the globe. The blooming fruit tree orchards, and the fluttering pink and white petals, make for a beatific backdrop for photos. Now is the time to visit, as blossom season begins in mid-February and winds down around the end of March. Safely travel the self-guided tour in the comforts of your own vehicle.

The Golden Fields of Sonoma Valley in Springtime

Before the grapes start to bud, Sonoma



Valley's vineyards become a blanket of stunning yellow mustard flowers, which provide the soil with vital nutrients and act as a natural pest repellent. It's easy to see these golden fields as you drive throughout the valley but if you want a closer look, Highway 12 is a great place to pull over (in a safe location) and snap a picture. Other photo-worthy spots include B.R. Cohn Winery's iconic "mustard flower hill," the terrace at Gloria Ferrer Vineyards and Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Kenwood. The flowers can be enjoyed from January through April.

Spring Arrives in Glorious Color in San Diego

From March through April, drive out to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in San Diego's rural East County for a spectacular display of color. Guests enjoy a vibrant kaleidoscope of wildflowers, from tiny bursts of color no larger than the head of a pin to towering ocotillos with fiery spines of scarlet blossoms. The wildflower bloom depends on timing and the amount of winter rainfall, and can last two to six weeks. From March through May 10, guests can also stroll through 50 acres of beautiful Giant Tecolote Ranunculus flowers at the Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch in San Diego's North County.

Socially Distanced Spring Blooms in Orange County

There are a variety of parks and trails where nature lovers of all ages can view wildflowers safely and sustainably throughout Orange County. Highlights include Weir Canyon Trail at OC Parks' Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park in Laguna Niguel, Laguna Coast Wilderness Park in Laguna Beach and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park in Trabuco Canyon. There are also a variety of seven-day self-guided access trails in the City of Newport Beach's Buck Gully Reserve and the City of Irvine's Bommer Canyon. The peak wildflower bloom typically occurs mid-March to mid-April.

Socially Distanced Blooms in Monterey County

Every spring in Monterey County from early April through May, the seaside town of Pacific Grove's magenta ice plants bloom along its rocky coastline. The best time to view the *drosanthemumfloribundum* is on a sunny day in early April through May at midday, as the flowers remain closed when it is overcast and cold. Start at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove and follow the trail along Ocean View Boulevard towards Pebble Beach for the best stretch of the blooms.

Germany Inbound Tourism Increase

As expected, German incoming tourism suffered massive losses in 2020. At the same time, the importance of European source markets for Germany's inbound tourism increased again during the Covid 19 pandemic.

• **T3FS Desk**

This is evident from the detailed overnight stay figures now available from the German Federal Statistical Office.

Accordingly, from January to December 2020, a total of 32.0 million international overnight stays were registered in hotels and accommodation establishments with at least ten beds - a decrease of 64.4 percent compared to the previous year. This represents a drop in the ten record years, the number of overnight stays fell to around the same level as in the period immediately after reunification. In 2020, guests from Europe generated 27.2 million overnight stays. This means that Europe's share of the total rose from 74 to 85 percent. From overseas, the American source market, with a share of 6.3 percent of Asian source market with

6.0 percent of the previous year. Overall, the German states of Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin and Hesse recorded 45 million fewer international overnight stays than in 2019 - this represents around 75 percent of the total decline in German inbound travel in 2020.

For example, according to Forward Keys analysis, flight capacity in 2020 was 62 percent below 2019 volumes, with global flight arrivals to Germany down 70.4 percent year-over-year. The declines from the major markets were significantly higher than from the 13 strongest EU source markets (down 67 percent).

Rim states stabilize incoming

The nine countries bordering Germany generated 56.6 percent of all international overnight stays in 2020 - in 2019, their share was 42.5 percent. In 2020, the Netherlands was the highest-volume source market for Destination Germany, with 5.8 million overnight stays and a market share of 18.1 percent. Switzerland followed in second place with 3.1 million overnight stays (market share 9.8 percent). Poland rose



from eighth to third place in the ranking of incoming markets with 2.2 million overnight stays and a market share of 7.0 percent. Austria (1.9 million overnight stays) and Denmark (1.5 million) came in second. The most important overseas markets in 2020 were the USA (1.5 million overnight stays) and China (0.4 million overnight stays).

Tourist destinations: from the city to the countryside

The hotel industry - especially in the cities - was hit harder than average by the pandemic-related declines in 2020. For example, the number of international overnight stays in cities with over 100,000 inhabitants fell by 71.4 percent year-on-year. This is also reflected in the results of the city states of Berlin (minus 76.0 percent) and Hamburg (down 69.7 percent) and is striking in light of the fact that Germany was the market leader in Europeans' city and cultural trips until 2019, is particularly significant. At the same time, the decline in international overnight stays at campsites was much more moderate at minus 53.8 percent. The results for the hotel industry correlate with analyses by MKG Olakala: According to this, the overall hotel occupancy rate fell from 72 percent in 2019 to 29 percent in 2020, and the average price per hotel night (room-only) fell from 94 to 84 euros during the same period.



Petra Hedorfer, Chairwoman of the Board of the German National Tourist Board (GNTB)

The Covid 19 pandemic initially affected all source and destination markets of international tourism equally. However, during the recovery phase in the summer months of 2020, we were already able to welcome travelers from the neighboring countries again. Increasing demand from overseas markets was countered by applicable travel restrictions and corresponding flight capacities.

Must visit iconic movie locations in Hong Kong

Hong Kong Known for its picturesque and strategic geographical locations, it has always been the go-to country for cinema lovers and explorers alike. While visiting any such notable location, cinematic recall makes the experience of the place surreal.



There are a huge number of well-known movies that were shot in Hong Kong that not only achieved great success among a global audience but also overwhelmed millions of people with emotions and conveyed long-lasting impressions.

Unfortunately the pandemic has forced the world to stay indoors. But globetrotters would tell you that they are already marking these popular hotspots on their next travel itinerary!

Must visit iconic movie locations in Hong Kong for your bookmark:

Grand Millennium Plaza, Sheung Wan

Grand Millennium Plaza is often seen in the Hong Kong films. If you're a regular viewer of Hong Kong films, chances are that you've seen Grand Millennium Plaza on screen. It has appeared in various movies, some of them are Firestorm and the recent Chinese New Year comedy A Lifetime Treasure.

Wan Chai Wet Market

Paul McGuigan's 2009 supernatural thriller *Push*, starring Chris Evans and Dakota Fanning, was a rarity among Hollywood productions in Hong Kong in that almost the entire film was set and filmed in the city. The many Hong Kong movie locations featured include Wan Chai's wet market, just south of Johnston Road, near the MTR station.

Montane Mansion, Quarry Bay

This giant residential block consists of



five different buildings – dubbed by some as 'Monster Building' for their sheer size – Montana Mansion got its biggest global exposure when *Transformers: Age of Extinction* featured the building and its surrounding streets in its climactic final battle. It's central courtyard has appeared in numerous music videos, fashion shoots and, more recently, Instagram feeds.

Victoria Harbour

One of the most iconic movies which featured Hong Kong was *Die Another Day* starring Pierce Brosnan's James Bond who escapes custody by diving into the waters of Victoria Harbour, emerging at Causeway Bay's Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.

International Finance Centre

The Batman movie series is amongst the most famous ones in today's generation. Hong Kong was one of the destinations where the movie "The Dark Knight" was shot. A C-130 cargo plane was seen flying among the city's famous skyline as part of the filming for "The Dark Knight."



Get surrounded by Nature in the Czech Republic

The picturesque country of the Czech Republic is beautiful destination known for its fairytale like castles, but it is also a country that is home to miles after miles of natural wonders and scenic marvels.

• T3FS Desk





The Czech Republic is surrounded by mountains which separates it from its neighbors.

When in the Czech Republic, surround yourself with nature and places you will

never be able to forget, explore caves and rock cities, walk through fairy-tale like landscapes of nature parks, forests and breath-taking gorges filled with beautiful lakes and rivers.

Anyone who appreciates stunning nature, clean air in their lungs, and active movement will feel as if they are in paradise when exploring and hiking through the mountain ranges in the Czech Republic. The highest

mountain in the Czech Republic is Sněžka; during wintertime to go up Praděd; the highest mountain in the Jeseníky you will need to go on foot or skis.

Here are names of a few more mountains in the Czech Republic:

- the South Bohemian Šumava Mountains
- Mount Radhošť- a place steeped in myths and legends
- Mount Říp- the heart of Czech history
- Lysá Mountain - highest peak in the Beskydy Mountains
- the Jizera mountains
- Krkonoše Mountains

Another enticing mystery that awaits you here are the underground tunnels and rock caves. Whether





these caverns were created by nature over millions of years or by work of hands digging in mountains, they are a must see! When exploring these caves, you will see more than just stalagmites, stalactites and

dripstone, these caves and underground tunnels will take on a trip into a hidden world underground for example when exploring the caves of Mladeč you will see a ritual burial with figurines of prehistoric

people, and one of the attractions of the Chýnov Cave and Bozkov Caves is an underground lake, in the Punkva caves of the Moravian Karst you will find the Macocha Abyss whose depth of nearly 140 metres,

discover the underground world of the Tuřold Cave, located on the outskirts of Mikulov.

The scenic countryside features numerous national parks and nature reserves perfect for hiking, cycling, golfing, and enjoying the natural beauty. The Krkonoše National Park is one of the most valuable





natural areas in all of Central Europe, the Bohemian Switzerland National Park is a breathtaking landscape of pine forests and deep valleys where you will see the rarest of plants and animals in the Czech Republic. Declared the first geopark in the country by UNESCO, the Bohemian Paradise area is one of the most popular tourist destinations

in the Czech Republic. Another beautiful natural park is the Šumava National Park which was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, in the Podyjí National Park even though it is the smallest Czech national park it is exceptionally beautiful and will give you the feeling of being in the Amazon in Czech Republic.

Visit the Czech Republic to explore the wonderful landscapes with high mountain slopes, flat ridges, alpine meadows with colorful wildflowers, unspoilt scenery full of distant views, unique and bizarre rock formations, devilishly beautiful lakes, and underground mysterious rivers and lose yourself in the natural wonders.



Vaccines Shipment by Cathay Pacific Cargo

On March 26th, 2021, Cathay Pacific Cargo, a leading global air freight operator, partnered with EFL Global, a leader in supply chain solutions, to uplift a COVID-19 vaccine shipment out of Hyderabad, India.

The shipment was uplifted from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport to Paraguay via Miami International Airport. The shipment included 10,000 vials with a total of 100,000 vaccine doses, successfully delivered through the airline's fleet B773ER, a cargo-only-passenger flight from Hyderabad to Hong Kong. This was followed by a quick transfer onto Cathay Pacific Cargo freighter B747-8F from Hong Kong to Miami. The vaccine shipments were assigned a unique handling code "VAC" that denotes a special SOP used for handling and notifying all concerned teams at origin, transit, and destination. This protocol ensures that vaccines are stored within the required consistent temperature ranges of 2-8 degrees Celsius from acceptance to delivery. Crucial steps such as the later release of the shipment from warehouse to airside at origin and an early release from aircraft to warehouse at the destination were taken to minimise exposure and

temperature fluctuations. Additionally, priority towing at ramp for all flights was provided to avoid exposure to external conditions. Mark Sutch, Cathay Pacific Regional General Manager - South Asia, Middle East and Africa, said, "Cathay Pacific Cargo has been serving the Indian market with a robust network and strong product offering and we are happy to be able to support vaccine delivery during this crucial time. Our 'Vaccine Task Force' is well equipped to handle the shipments with utmost care they require and we are sure the success of this delivery will open many new avenues." Senthilnathan Shanmugam, EFL Global CEO and Managing Director for India, said, "EFL offers a unique hub and spoke solution through its strategic global reach and capabilities, that are in line and supportive of inoculation efforts across continents and geographies. An extensive network in the Indian Subcontinent, pharma vertical experience, expanding reach across the Americas

through key gateways like EFL Miami, and key partnerships with the likes of Cathay Pacific Cargo, we stand committed towards a global recovery."

To ensure safe delivery with superior product quality, Cathay Pacific Cargo developed a bespoke solution called the 'Vaccine Task Force.' Cathay Pacific Cargo's Vaccine Solution draws on the best of its products, Pharma LIFT and Priority LIFT, and adds more, including guaranteed priority upload for shipments and the accelerated roll-out of Ultra Track, the new name for the next-generation track-and-trace system, which Cathay Pacific Cargo has been trialling over the past 12 months. Cathay Pacific, along with its subsidiaries Cathay Pacific Service Limited and Hong Kong Airport Service Limited, have also received airport-wide recertification of IATA's CEIV Pharma accreditation at Hong Kong International Airport, offering a complete level of quality assurance at every stage of the import and transshipment journey.

Journey of Etihad Airways during Pandemic

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, marks one year since the UAE announced flights were to be grounded due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In recognition of this, Etihad has released a video charting the key milestones in the most challenging year in aviation history.

At the start of the pandemic, Etihad took advantage of having most of its fleet on the ground to complete the most extensive aircraft maintenance programme in its history. All 96 passenger aircraft were surgically and clinically refreshed so they looked like they were fresh out of the hangar. This included minor maintenance tasks, such as seat repairs and updates to Inflight Entertainment Systems, to bringing forward scheduled engine changes and modifications on several aircraft. In addition to normal scheduled flights, Etihad operated special freighter and humanitarian flights to countries in Africa, Europe and Asia including Havana and Costa Rica – destinations the airline had never flown to before.

Etihad Cargo, the airline's freight operation, had a strong year, driven by huge demand for medical supplies such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and pharmaceuticals. In November 2020, Etihad joined the Hope Consortium, an Abu Dhabi-led coalition formed

to facilitate the distribution of Covid vaccines across the world. The consortium has a complete end-to-end supply chain solution covering demand planning, sourcing and world-class facilities for transporting temperature sensitive cargo at ultra-cold conditions up to -80°C.

Internally, Etihad also launched 'Project Vision', which prioritized envisioning what the travelling public would want from an airline post-Covid. The first initiative to be inspired by this, in June 2020, was the Etihad Wellness programme. This involved the introduction of Wellness Ambassadors, who are available to support guests with their health and wellbeing needs online, at the airport and on board.

In another world-first, on 10 February 2021, the airline announced 100% of its crew on board – both cabin crew and pilots – were vaccinated against Covid. This achievement was a result of the organisation's tremendous efforts to ensure the health and wellbeing of its employees.

Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Aviation Group



As the pandemic took hold, the announcement on 23 March 2020 to ground the UAE's airlines was not entirely unexpected, yet it was the toughest day of my career. Despite the unthinkable challenges, we recognise there have been so many accomplishments and small victories over the past year. We quickly realised that we needed to turn this negative into an opportunity, and that's when the innovative, entrepreneurial spirit we're known for kicked in. Our agile operation allowed us to react quickly to the changing market conditions and regulatory framework, at the same time as developing the pioneering Etihad Wellness programme. Having been the first airline to require 100% PCR testing before departure and again on arrival, we then became the first airline to operate with all crew on board vaccinated.

Do you Know?

- One year since 23 March 2020, when the UAE grounded all passenger flights due to the pandemic
- Etihad's trail-blazing response included the launch of Etihad Wellness and an extensive maintenance programme
- Only airline in the world requiring all guests to show a negative PCR test before travelling and testing again on arrival
- World-first: Etihad announced all crew on board are vaccinated

Ethiopian Marks One Year Since the First Preighter Operation

On 25th March day last year, Ethiopian Airlines operated its first cargo only service on a passenger aircraft with its Boeing B787-900.

The flight departed on 25th of March 2020 from Addis Ababa to Kinshasa carrying more than 16 tons of much-needed PPE and other shipments inside the cabin and the belly of the aircraft. Following the sharp decline in passenger number due to the pandemic, Ethiopian swiftly shifted focus to cargo operations and became among the very few pioneers to load cargo on passenger aircraft's cabin. Immediately afterwards, Ethiopian demonstrated remarkable agility in its response to the increased cargo demand in the wake of the pandemic by reconfiguring 25 passenger aircraft into freighters using its own internal MRO

capabilities and distributed the much-needed Personal Protective Equipment and medical supplies across the globe.

A year since its first Preighter operation, Ethiopian has operated 5,645 Cargo flights on the cabin of passenger aircraft and transported more than 121,750 tons of cargo across its vast global network. The flights added an immense value to the total of 33,182 flights and 735,869 tons of cargo transported during the period from March 25, 2020 to March 25, 2021. Since the start of its first cargo flight on passenger seat last year, Ethiopian has been increasing its capacity to become an ideal shipment partner of many humanitarian organizations including the WFP. Besides, Ethiopian has been hailed for its efficient delivery of essential medical supplies donated by Alibaba Foundation, WHO and donor governments to all African countries. The

airline is currently working in collaboration with UNICEF and Cainiao for the global vaccine distribution.

Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam, CEO, Ethiopian Group



25th March marks one year since the beginning of our first Preighter flight service as a way to manage the unprecedented global crisis. The single Preighter flight that started on this day last year has helped our airline navigate the storm so far. We are extremely honored to have served our customers during the most difficult times. Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services has been a critical player in the global fight against the pandemic by distributing medical supplies and PPE to places with limited access to transportation.

Domestic passenger traffic witnesses a flat Y-o-Y growth in March 2021

Domestic passenger traffic in March 2021 has been estimated at ~77-78 lakh, implying a flat growth on a Y-o-Y basis on a low base of March 2020 (which had witnessed a Y-o-Y decline of 33.1% in domestic passenger traffic) as domestic travel was affected with effect from March 25, 2020. Passenger traffic in March 2021 witnessed a marginal sequential decline of ~1% over ~78.3 lakh domestic passenger traffic in February 2021. The airlines' capacity for March 2021 was around 2% higher than their March 2020 capacity (~71,300 departures in March 2021, against 69,910 departures in March 2020). On a sequential basis, the number of departures in March 2021 were higher by ~11%. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) permitted increasing the capacity to 45%, with effect from June 27, 2020; post the initial recommencement of operations of the scheduled domestic flights, with effect from May 25, 2020 to a limited extent i.e. a maximum 1/3rd of their respective approved

capacity of the Summer Schedule 2020. It further permitted increasing the capacity to 60%, with effect from September 02, 2020, to 70%, with effect from November 11, 2020; and further to 80%, with effect from December 03, 2020. While the scheduled international operations are yet to start, the MoCA has permitted international operations under the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) and Air Transport Bubbles (ATB). Under the VBM for evacuation of Indian citizens from foreign countries, which started from May 07, 2020, the international passenger traffic (inbound and outbound) for Indian carriers has been ~30 lakh for the period May 07, 2020 to March 31, 2021. For March 2021, international passenger traffic for Indian carriers under VBM was recorded at ~4.5 lakh, a sequential increase of ~12%.

As for the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, following the pandemic, crude oil prices declined materially – reaching a low of ~US\$19/ barrel in

April 2020, thus leading to a decline in ATF prices. However, the crude oil prices have increased gradually since then, and currently ranges at around US\$65/ barrel. Consequently, the ATF prices increased sequentially by 24.1% in July 2020 and by 4.2% in August 2020. However, it declined sequentially by 3.4% in September 2020 and by 5.6% in October 2020, before increasing by 4.6% in November 2020, by 9.1% in December 2020, by 10.2% in January 2021, by 5.4% in February 2021, and by 10.4% in March 2021. It declined sequentially by 1.8% in April 2021. While until February 2021, the ATF prices were still lower on a Y-o-Y basis, the March 2021 prices were higher by 3.0% on a Y-o-Y basis, and April 2021 prices have been higher still by a whopping 59.8% on a Y-o-Y basis, attributed to the low base of April 2020, when the prices declined sequentially by 36.7% due to the impact of the pandemic.

flydubai Resumes Flights to Asmara

flydubai, the Dubai-based airline, has resumed flights to Eritrea's capital Asmara with a weekly flight service. Flights to Asmara start from 15 April and will operate between Terminal 2, Dubai International (DXB) and Asmara International Airport (ASM).

With the relaunch of flights to Asmara, flydubai has been steadily increasing its operations and has recently announced the start of flights to a number of destinations including Doha, Istanbul and the Maldives as well as new routes such as Malta, Tel Aviv and Tirana. flydubai

offers convenient and reliable travel services. Passengers will have the option to experience Business Class enjoying space and privacy in the cabin, a comfortable spacious seat, inflight entertainment with the latest films and TV shows available to watch and a range of dining options. Passengers travelling in Economy Class will enjoy a Recaro designed seat offering optimal levels of space and comfort in the air. flydubai continues to roll-out WiFi across its fleet enabling passengers to stay connected during their flight and can browse the web, send emails, use social networks and get the latest news.

Operating from Terminal 2, Dubai International, flydubai offers its passengers a convenient and efficient way to arrive and depart from Dubai.

Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai

We continue to reopen destinations on our network and look forward to offering our passengers the convenience of direct airlinks to Dubai.



IndiGo: Disbursement of 99.95% customer credit shells and refunds

Since the resumption of operations in May 2020, IndiGo has been rapidly refunding amounts owed to customers whose flights had been cancelled during the lockdown. The airline has already processed close to INR 1030cr of refunds, which amounts to about 99.95% of the total amount owed to its customers. The pending credit shells are mostly cash transactions wherein IndiGo is awaiting bank transfer details from the customers.

Mr. Ronojoy Dutta, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo

The sudden onset of Covid19 and the resulting lockdown, brought our operations



to a complete halt by the end of March of 2020. As our incoming cash flow through ticket sales got impacted, we were unable

to immediately process refunds for cancelled flights and had to create credit shells for the refunds that were due to our customers. However, with the resumption of operations and a steady increase in demand for air travel, our priority has been to refund the credit shell amounts in an expedited manner. We are pleased to share that we have disbursed 99.95% credit shell payments and will complete the remaining payments as soon as we receive requisite details from the customers. We would like to thank all our customers who stood by us for their patience and understanding during this unprecedented crisis.

22 Routes Inaugurated Under UDAN in 3 Days

In a constant endeavour to connect the unconnected regions, 22 new routes have been operationalised in the last 3 days under the UDAN scheme out of which 6 new routes have been operationalised in North-East India.

First direct flight from Shillong (Meghalaya) to Agartala (Tripura) under the UDAN scheme was flagged off today after the successful commencement of the flight operations on Shillong (Meghalaya)- Silchar (Assam) route yesterday. Senior officials and other important stakeholders of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Airport Authority of India (AAI) were present. The operationalisation of these routes aligns with the objectives of UDAN scheme to strengthen

the aerial network of the country, create affordable, yet economically viable and profitable air travel on regional routes. Till date, 57 unserved and underserved airports (including 5 heliports + 2 water aerodrome) with 347 routes have been operationalised under UDAN across the length and breadth of India. On 28th March 2021, 18 new routes were flagged off under the UDAN scheme. The routes that commenced operations were Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) to Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) which is a state supported UDAN route, Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh) to Bangalore (Karnataka), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), and Chennai (Tamil Nadu), from Agra (Uttar Pradesh) to Bangalore (Karnataka) & Bhopal (Madhya

Pradesh), from Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) to Bhubaneswar (Odisha) & Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). In addition to these routes, new flight connectivity was established from Dibrugarh (Assam) to Dimapur (Nagaland).

The Indigo airlines was awarded the Shillong-Agartala, Shillong – Silchar, Kurnool - Bangalore, Vishakhapatnam, and Chennai routes under the UDAN 4 bidding process last year. In addition to these, Agra to Bangalore and Agra to Bhopal route under UDAN 3, Prayagraj to Bhubaneswar and Prayagraj to Bhopal route under UDAN 2, and Dibrugarh to Dimapur were awarded under UDAN 3 bidding process. Alliance Air was awarded the Lucknow – Gorakhpur route under the UDAN 3 bidding process.

Kurnool Airport inaugurated

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, MoS, I/C, Civil Aviation inaugurated the Kurnool Airport, Orvakal, Andhra Pradesh in a virtual ceremony.

Shri Yeduguri Sandinti Jagannathan Reddy, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh attended the inauguration at Kurnool airport along with senior officials and other important stakeholders. Senior officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) & Airport Authority of India (AAI) also attended the event virtually. Kurnool is the 6th airport in Andhra Pradesh to become functional after Kadapa, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Rajahmundry & Vijayawada.

The flight operations at Kurnool airport will commence on 28th March 2021 under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – UdeDesh Ka AamNagrik (RCS-UDAN). Direct flight operations to Bangalore, Vishakhapatnam and Chennai will bring the region closer to the major hubs in the South India. These routes were approved by the MoCA under the UDAN 4 bid process last year. The Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh will jointly share the VGF towards the operations on an 80:20 basis. Till date, 56 unserved and underserved airports (including 5 heliports+ 2 water aerodrome) with 325 routes have been operationalised under UDAN across the length

and breadth of India.

Kurnool is the judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh and a historical hub of the country. The place is famous for its mighty caves and temples. The city of Kurnool lies on the banks of the Tungabhadra River and, Nallamalas mountain hill range runs parallel. Moreover, Famous tourist spots include Nallamala Forest, Ahobilam, Belum Caves, Mahanandi, Mantralayam, Orvakal, Sangameshwaram, Kethavaram and KalvaBugga. This air connectivity will fulfill the aspirations of the people of Kurnool and provide impetus to the local economy and tourism.

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Recovery in the Domestic Aircraft Traffic

With the increase in the domestic airlines capacity to 80% of pre-covid levels in December 2020 from 33% in May 2020, the recovery in the domestic aircraft traffic has been gradual, reaching 73% of previous year level in January 2021.

The recovery in the domestic passenger traffic was gradual, in line with the phased reopening of economy. The passenger traffic recovery in recent months, which reached 15.2 million in January 2021, is supported by increase in capacity of airlines, travel during festive and wedding season. Some resumption in travel to key leisure destinations with onset of fatigue due to work from home is also visible. As for the ramp-up in the international aircraft traffic, it has been subdued at 40% of previous year's level with traffic limited to air travel bubble arrangements and Vande Bharat flights. Similarly, the domestic passenger traffic has reached around 61% and international passenger traffic at 23% of pre-covid level in January 2021. In 10M FY2021, the aircraft traffic is lower by 60% Y-o-Y and the passenger traffic by 72% Y-o-Y.

Giving more insights, Ms. Anupama Arora, Vice President, ICRA says, "We expect passenger traffic to grow by around 133% in FY2022 and 14% in FY2023 after a contraction of 63% in FY2021. Given that the domestic recovery is hampered by sluggish demand from

leisure and business travel and the recovery in international travel is contingent on various Government measures for control of Covid amid surge of variants as well as success of mass vaccination, the domestic traffic is likely to reach pre-Covid levels in FY2023 and international in FY2024."

On the cargo front, the cargo volumes witnessed faster recovery compared to passenger traffic, reached 89% of previous year level in January 2021 - domestic cargo volumes reached 91% and international 88% of previous year. This is due to the trade of essential supplies majorly in the pharmaceutical, medical equipment and agricultural produce sectors besides the expanding e-commerce business. The cargo volumes are likely to grow by around 36% in FY2022 and 6% in FY2023 after a contraction of 25% in FY2021 - reaching pre-Covid levels in FY2022.

Planned capex of major airports was around Rs. 77,000 crore during FY2020-FY2024 prior to pandemic. However, the slower project execution and the significant decline in the traffic and the consequent revenues and cash

flows resulted in the companies to preserve cash and defer the capex. There could be a delay in the commercialisation of expanded capacity by 9-12 months.

Of the financial side, adds Ms. Arora, "Significant contraction is likely in operating income (OI) by 60% Y-o-Y in FY2021 due to the steep correction in the traffic levels. Although the airport operators implemented various cost cutting measures, the decline in the OI and lower absorption of overheads is expected to result in operating losses at 32%. Recovery in traffic in FY2022 is expected to result in an increase in OI by 85%, but lower than FY2019-FY2020 levels. While the EBIDTA is expected to improve in FY2022, it is likely to remain moderate at 18%, when compared to historic levels of around 40%. Operating losses in FY2021 are likely to result in weak debt coverage metrics; however, liquidity remains adequate to meet debt obligations. Liquidity profile of airports would vary basis the extent of ramp up in traffic, ability to monetise real estate and their ability to secure timely refinancing."

Provisional IND A- and Stable

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has rated Yamuna International Airport Private Limited's (YIAPL) proposed term loan as Provisional IND A- and stable.

The rating reflects the moderate construction risk, significant traffic growth potential in the Delhi-National Capital Region, the stable regulatory regime of the sector, the strong financial profile and long-standing experience of the sponsor ZAIA in the airport sector as well as a suitable debt structure of the project.

Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) considers that this credit rating testifies Zurich Airport International's (ZAIA) commitment to support the India growth story, and the importance of experienced and financially sustainable investors for the strategically important aviation sector in a very challenging market environment.

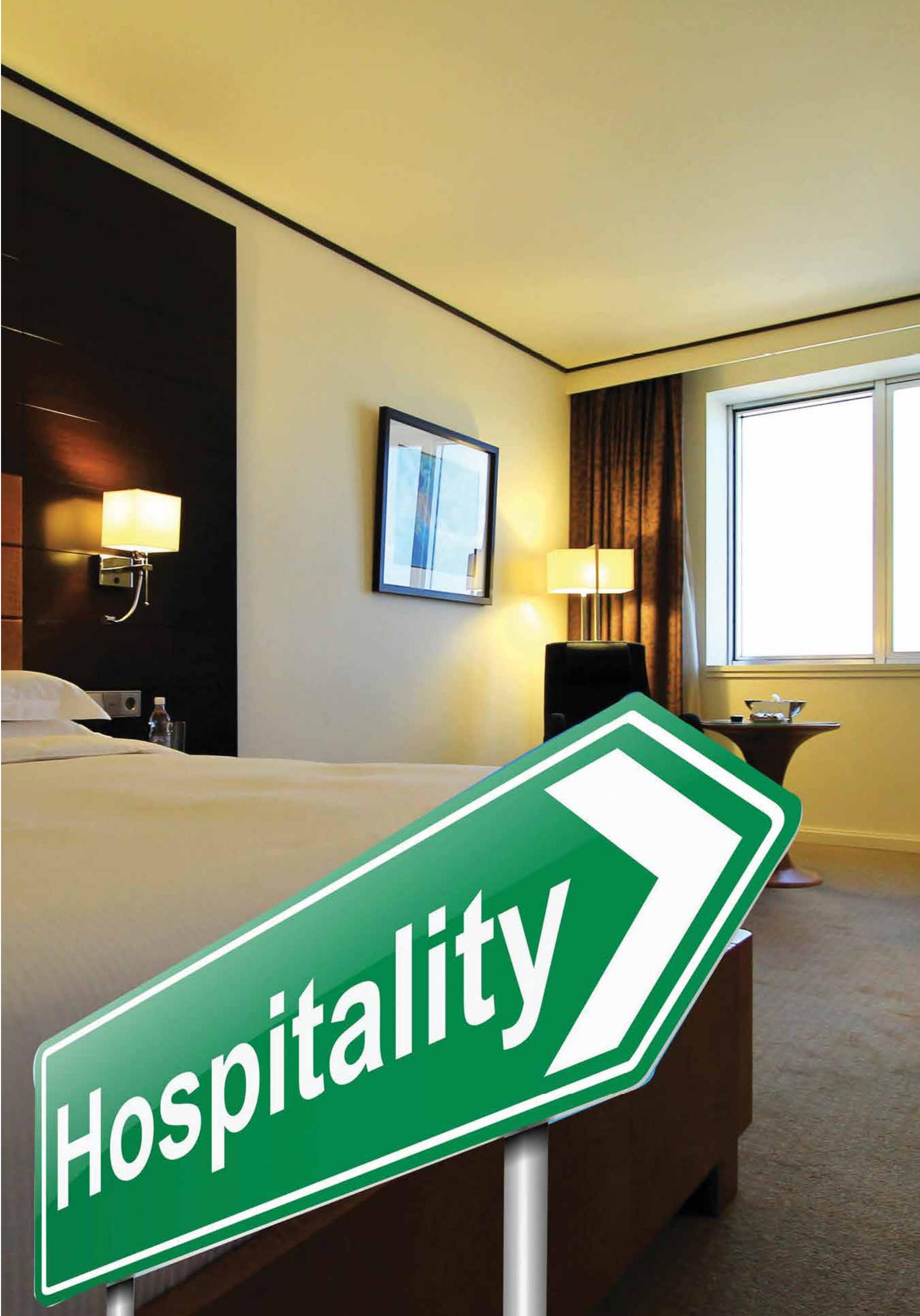
YIAPL is committed to building a world-class airport in India which will play the role of a catalyst for the economic growth of India & Uttar Pradesh. The investment in Noida International Airport (NIA) will fuel the economy in NCR, Greater Noida, and the state of Uttar Pradesh, thereby also generating substantial direct and indirect job opportunities in the region. NIA will be a digital greenfield

airport, enabling seamless flows through the airport, a pleasant travel experience as well as tailored-made and efficient infrastructure for its logistics partners. Once fully constructed, the Noida International Airport will be a thriving international airport serving the National Capital Region of Delhi and the fast-developing Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development area between Delhi and Agra.

With the investment in the Noida International Airport project, Zurich Airport International commits to be a trusted partner for the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh by supporting the national agenda through infrastructure development and job creation. Zurich Airport International AG is the sole shareholder of YIAPL. YIAPL was incorporated as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to develop the greenfield Noida International Airport in Jewar.



In October 2020, the Government of Uttar Pradesh signed the concession agreement with ZAIA, a 100% subsidiary of Flughafen Zürich AG, to commence the development of the Noida International Airport at Jewar for a period of 40 years. ZAIA received the security clearance from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to develop the Noida International Airport at Jewar in May 2020, after winning the contract to build and operate Noida International Airport (DNIA) in Greater Noida in November 2019.



Hospitality

Most secluded beach resorts for your next vacation

When can we travel carefree again? That's one of the most common thoughts running on our minds in recent times. As we satisfy our cravings for now with multiple insta #throwbacks, #mood, #want, #wanderlust, here's an inside dope on some of the most secluded beach resorts in the world.

There is an increase in demand for anything to do with 'private' – from planes to villas or private islands as affluent travellers are seeking isolation and

seclusion whilst realizing the need to escape from the confinement of their homes after months, or actually a year! These resorts will ensure that you are able to enjoy exploring

the destination and savour in the luxury while maintaining your much-needed privacy and isolation.

Samujana Villas



SAMUJANA's name comes from the blend of Koh 'Samui' and the word 'Jana', meaning coral in Moroccan, due to its stunning hillside location overlooking a coral cove, with private beach access and uninterrupted views of Samui. Samujana's definition is very simple – 23 charming villas from 1 to 8 bedrooms, all with oversized private infinity pools, modern Thai architecture and breath-taking views, 5 star hotel services and details

that make the world of differences, the perfect place for friends and family to gather and have a great time. Each Villa comes automatically with its private Villa Manager and villa maid, state-of-the art leisure facilities and the latest in audio and media amenities, your private villa is your HOME away from home and if you really fancy having your own private chefs, you need just to ask and will take care of the rest.

Jumby Bay Island Resort

Set in one of the most beautiful untouched locations in the world, Jumby Bay Island is a private island of simple pleasures in the Caribbean nation of Antigua & Barbuda, just two miles off mainland Antigua. Ringed with coral reefs and easily accessed by a short private boat transfer from mainland Antigua, with not a car in sight, this dreamlike isle of white-powdered beaches and winding bicycle paths is a one-of-a-kind hideaway.

Surrounded by lush tropical foliage, Jumby Bay Island spans 300 private acres and is home to 4.5 miles of pristine shoreline, with the main resort presiding over some of the most fiercely protected beaches in the Caribbean. This pristine island sanctuary is so safe and is exactly what people need now. A place to reconnect with nature, in an unhurried atmosphere with the meticulous attention of the resort's team for your peace of mind.

Jumby Bay, features 28 tastefully decorated suites and luxury vacation villas spread across a beautiful private island, two miles off the coast of Antigua. Just steps away from pristine white beaches, each suite is a tranquil oasis offering spectacular views of the Caribbean Sea.



Bawah Reserve Indonesia



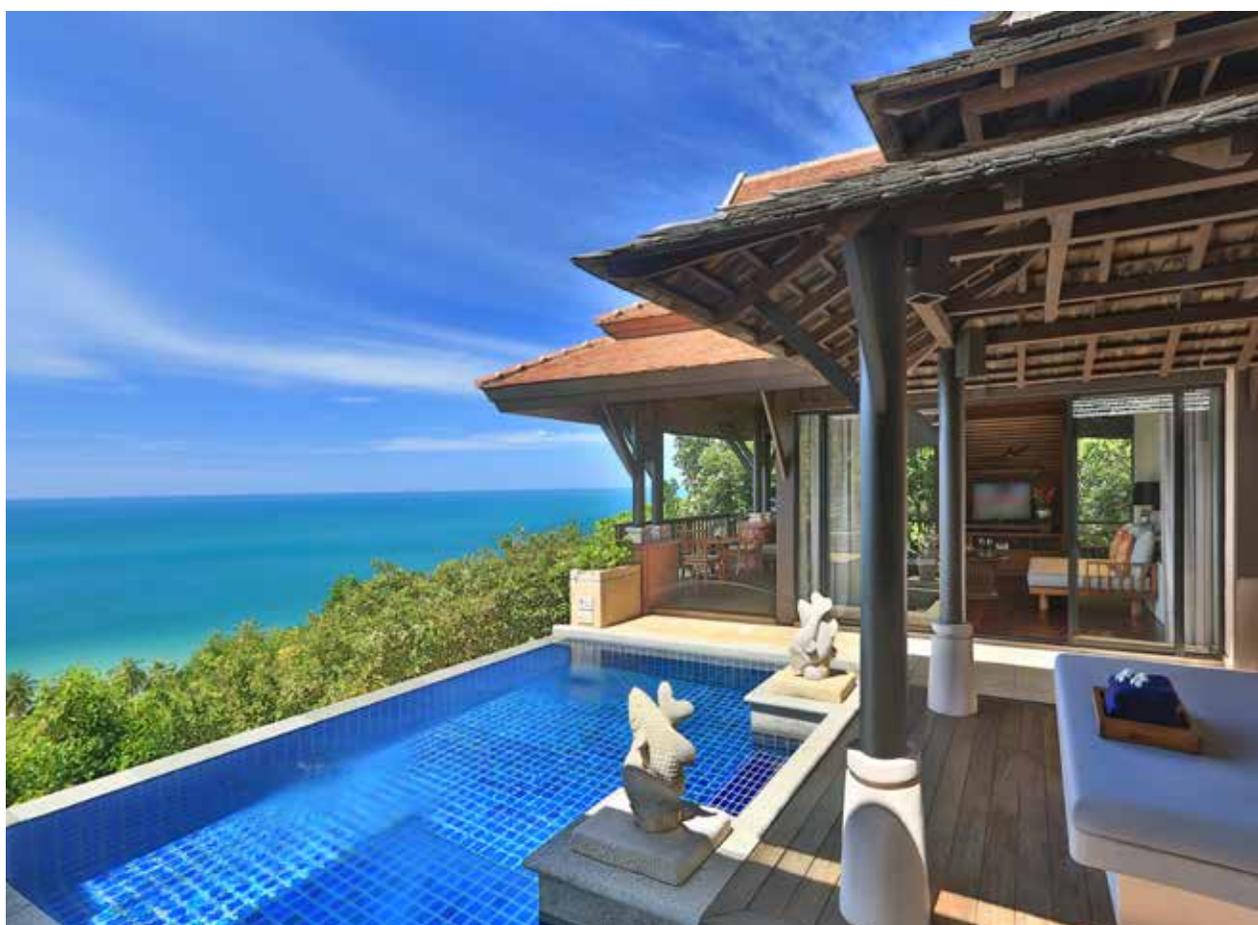
Bawah is an exceptional barefoot, back-to-nature private island eco-resort, set in a previously uninhabited marine conservation zone across six lush, forest-canopied islands, three sheltered lagoons and 13 beaches. Surrounded by clear turquoise waters, blue lagoons and coral reefs, this pristine destination caters to outdoor adventurers with an appetite for indulgence as well as paradise seekers looking for relaxation. Bawah offers the true meaning of sustainable luxury and the joy here is that you don't have to share the sand with the crowds. With thirty-six sustainably made suites, the exclusive resort offers a sensational private island experience in a remote, untouched part of Indonesia.

Pimalai Resort & Spa, Krabi

Set in one of the most beautiful untouched locations in the Koh Lanta's first five-star resort, Pimalai Resort & Spa has been redefining luxury hospitality on the Andaman Island since it launched almost two decades ago. The award-winning property, located on the laid-back southern tip, cascades through 100 acres of tropical jungles easing its way towards one of Thailand's best beaches: Kantiang Bay. At Pimalai, it's 900 meters beachfront and 100 acres of paradise will rekindle your love for nature amidst lush tropical forests and the endless Andaman waters.

40 years ago, the owners and developers of this resort discovered lush, hilly land at the tip of Koh Lanta. They envisioned a personal paradise, a place where children could learn about and inherit a love for nature. They fell in love with the vivid azure cove, golden strips of sand and the verdant green of the surrounding mountains and realized that such beauty was meant to be shared. So for the next 30 years, the two of them, with a group of like-minded family and friends as business partners, built the Pimalai estate. Unlike the rest of Koh Lanta which had given way to resorts, beach vendors and the hectic buzz of tourism, the natural setting of Pimalai remains virtually untouched up to this day.

With rooms and villas situated some 60 to 80 metres above the sea level in a serene rainforest offering unrivalled ocean views, magnificent sunsets and all-round privacy, Pimalai is the perfect destination whether it's a family trip, a romantic getaway or a picture perfect beach wedding. With no immediate neighbors, the 121-room resort is a serene sanctuary where guests can feel completely at peace in their private surroundings.



International Transgender Day

Mercure Hyderabad KCP celebrated the International Transgender Day to raise awareness about the discrimination faced by transgender community.



The event started with a warm welcome with a welcome drink by the staff, followed by lunch and conversations. The struggles and fundamental right of dignity and live freely in the society same respect is all what the community wants. Ensuring this creates awareness in the society that we live-in was the motive.

The team at, Mercure Hyderabad KCP had lunch with them at Cayenne and post lunch a session to understand their struggle

was conducted, in order to identify the scope how and where to help them and find equal opportunities for them..The session enlightened the thoughts and learning's about the diverse beliefs, values, opinions, tradition and culture.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Soumitra Pahari, General Manager, Mercure Hyderabad KCP said "We at Mercure Hyderabad KCP are committed to doing everything within our scope for the

betterment of our society. We are delighted to celebrate the International Transgender Day at our hotel. This was to celebrate the transgender community and a small step towards gaining equality, rights and respecting day-to-day life. We all had a wonderful time together and hope this initiative will bring about a change the mind-set of the society, by eliminating the discrimination and misconceptions about the transgender community."

Ushering in the new era of Indian wedding

IHG Hotels & Resorts is here to make "beautiful wedding" dreams come true with a special bundle offer to help couples make the most of this momentous occasion in their lives when they are ready to say yes.



Elaborate events have long been a cornerstone of the wedding industry in India, guests and wedding planners alike have worked hard to up the wow factor with extravagant decorations, sumptuous menus and long guest lists. Under the current circumstances and with health and safety in mind, guests have been taking a less traditional approach. Families and couples are now looking at organizing more intimate weddings and special occasions in accordance with the local government guidelines.

IHG® Hotels & Resorts select venues across brands including InterContinental, Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn hotels in India, Nepal and Bangladesh have been adapted to create bespoke experiences, making them a perfect match for couples looking to host intimate and beautiful wedding events. IHG's team of professional event specialists have customised their venues and services to cater to smaller yet glamorous or one-of-a-kind events with a relentless focus

on health and safety so guests can leave every worry behind.

IHG Hotels & Resorts has put together a special offer available from 1 March until 30 April 2021, for weddings from 1 May 2021.

With smaller weddings, guests who want to include larger number of people in their special occasions are finding alternate and innovative solutions to do so. Splitting the invitee list based on the type of ceremony is a popular option - many guests are choosing to invite younger family members or friends for pre-wedding celebrations and the elders for the main wedding event, while others are hosting 'virtual weddings', live streaming the ceremony for families and friends based in different parts of the country, and the globe.

IHG has enhanced the experience for its hotel

guests, by redefining cleanliness and supporting guests' personal wellbeing throughout their event and stay at the hotel. Using new, scientific protocols and service measures, partnering with industry leading experts Cleveland Clinic, Ecolab and Diversey, and launching a global IHG Clean Promise, these strengthened measures are giving guests greater confidence and hotel teams the protection needed.

For all social events, teams across IHG hotels ensure that every touch point is sanitized and proper hygiene is maintained across all operations, throughout the event. Hotels are using technology where it can make a difference. This includes deploying enhanced, highly visible and more frequent cleaning measures, and applying new standards and service approach to food and beverages as well.

Domestic Tourism in The Post Covid India

Signum Hotels & Resorts Pvt. Ltd, a hospitality brand operating hotels in India as well as overseas, announced a strategic joint venture with the leading real estate player, IQI India.

The joint venture committed an investment of USD 150 Million in developing hotel assets across the country, and globally, over a period of 2 to 5 years. The joint venture, announced at a press event in the city, comes at a time when the Indian hospitality industry is triggering a recovery phase. Though the investments in the sector are at its lowest, the partnership will capitalize on the opportunity to identify and acquire assets at competitive deals, and aims to develop 5000 keys over a period of next 2-5 years. The expansion will be fueled through mergers, acquisitions and property investments across metros, tier 2 and 3 cities in India to promote domestic as well as inbound tourism to experiential destinations, pilgrimage, getaways and key places of interest.

Addressing media at the event, Mehul Sharma, Founder & CEO, Signum Hotels & Resorts Pvt.

Ltd. said, 'We are pleased to be forming this strategic joint venture with IQI India to accelerate our expansion in the country where IQI brings in assets and Signum operates these assets. No hotel brand is successful without a real estate partner, and this joint venture will capitalize on IQI's global real estate prowess to identify and develop the right assets.' Mehul further added, 'At present, domestic tourism is the leading light to recovery for the Indian hospitality industry, and our partnership aims to further fuel growth in the domestic sector, in turn generating more employment opportunities and contributing to government's #vocalforlocal initiative.' IQI India, is the India arm of the Global IPC IQI based in Malaysia having operations in 17 countries through PaMa D'Globizen. Pankaz Jain, Chairman and Managing Director, IQI India and Chairman PaMa D'Globizen said, 'Our team



experience of decades in the India Real Estate and Retail Market coupled with our access and network through more than 200 cities across India fosters our confidence in the Indian hospitality market and we are eyeing an aggressive expansion in commercial real estate segment. It is about time Bharat gets an experience that has been closely nestled in the urban India and at the same time open up the gateways of the real Bharat to the world to relish and capture in their selfie moments.'

While expansion in the Indian market will remain the focal point of this collaboration, opportunities to expand overseas will also be explored given IQI's strong International presence. Regions in South East Asia like Singapore, Bangkok and Indonesia, significant parts of Europe and Americas will remain of particular interest for any expansion opportunities.

SLS Announces First Hotel in the Middle East

Accor, a world-leading hospitality group, announced the expansion of the international SLS Hotels & Residences brand to the Middle East with the opening of SLS Dubai.

Developed in partnership with World of Wonders Real Estate – the new property is one of Dubai's tallest buildings and is officially welcomed guests and residents on April 5, 2021. The highly anticipated opening is a testament to the SLS brand's longstanding reputation and experience in creating and delivering extraordinary, unforgettable and timeless experiences. This news comes on the heels of Accor's latest phase of expansion following its acquisition of sbe's hotel brands and its planned joint venture with Ennismore, which will see the creation of one of the world's largest and fastest growing lifestyle operators.

Using the SLS Hotels & Residences' global perspective gained from its expanding network of hospitality properties, SLS Dubai presents a host of truly enriching and elevated experiences via its portfolio of diversely distinct luxury brands. From Fi'lia, the entirely female-run restaurant that celebrates food & identity, to Carna by the award-winning Italian butcher Dario Cecchini's contemporary steakhouse, SLS Dubai's culinary venues are a testament to the hospitality hallmarks of the SLS brand. Located in the Downtown

district, SLS Dubai offers incomparable 360-degree views over the city, with unobstructed views of the iconic Burj Khalifa, along with a clear overhead of the calming Dubai Creek. The impressive 75-storey tower makes SLS Dubai one of the tallest hotels and residences in the region. Developed in collaboration with international architecture firm Aedas, SLS Dubai features 254 expertly designed hotel rooms by acclaimed designer Paul Bishop, 371 residential units, 321 hotel apartments and in true SLS fashion, contemporary art, sleek accents & exceptional fittings that are unique characteristics of the brand's DNA. Bishop, along with his team at Bishop Design, are responsible for the design of the hotel in its entirety, including all of the F&B venues, publicspaces as well as the rooms.

Dakota Development, a subsidiary of sbe, provided technical service support for the entire development process including partnering with Bishop Design on SLS's public spaces and food and beverage venues. Hotel guests will enter through the ground atrium, take an express elevator to the opulent Sky Lobby on the 71st floor, giving them panoramic views of the city's skyline. Floor-to-ceiling windows and a grand marble bar highlight

S Bar, a lounge area where the menu is playfully divided between healthy, angelic options and sinful, decadent ones. Take your pick.

On the 75th floor, sits Privilege, a lounge and nightlife venue, featuring the region's highest two infinity pools offering coveted and unobstructed views of Dubai. Privilege is also home to the iconic SLS brand duck, placing it at the top of Dubai's most Instagram-worthy destinations.

A modern yet sophisticated coffee brand, called EllaMia, greets guests on the ground floor. Promising a sensory and sensual experience, 12 Chairs is a caviar bar that showcases the very best of caviar exclusively reserved for only a few select guests. SLS Dubai also includes sbe's signature Ciel Spa, the epitome of luxury with treatment rooms, plunge pools, a hair and nail salon, a fully equipped gym and two outdoor terraces. Ultimately, SLS Dubai Hotel & Residences is a locale that celebrates what it means to be part of a global community - one where likeminded individuals seek connection, inspiration, wellness, art and lively conversations - essentially, the pulse of the SLS experience. Residents of Dubai and travellers of the world, it's time to let the magic begin.





Island resorts leading recovery in global leisure travel

Island resorts around the world will lead the recovery in leisure travel, according to research carried out ahead of Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2021, which will be in a hybrid format, with the in-person event taking place on 16-19 May at the Dubai World Trade Centre and the virtual event to be held the following week, on 24-26 May.

• T3FS Desk

Many island economies are dependent on tourism and nowhere is this more apparent than in the Indian Ocean islands of the Maldives (28% of GDP) and the Seychelles (over 55% of GDP), which are both expecting a bumper Easter holiday period. With both islands less than four hours 30 minutes away, Emirates has added an extra four flights taking its weekly schedule to 28 flights.

Meanwhile, Air Seychelles is launching a weekly flight to Dubai to cope with the

increased demand, which is in addition to two extra flights a week that Emirates is adding to its existing schedule of five weekly flights to Mahe.

“Both islands tick all of the proverbial boxes for tourists,” said Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Travel Market. “Even though demand maybe pent-up, visitors will still want direct flights, easy access, reasonable restrictions, low COVID cases, good vaccination rates, open and in some cases isolated resorts, with a natural

environment including quiet beaches,” added Curtis.

The Maldives is expecting to have its 500,000 inhabitants vaccinated by August and with less than 100,000 citizens, the Seychelles is hoping for 100% vaccination within the coming months.

And although both countries have a list of approved countries, the Seychelles and the Maldives only require visitors to provide a negative PCR test 72 or 96 hours



respectively, prior to arrival, no proof of vaccination or quarantine is required.

“And after a standard temperature check upon arrival at the hotel, guests in the Maldives can roam freely, they only need to wear a mask indoors, with similar restrictions applicable in the Seychelles,” added Curtis.

However, many travel professionals feel that the real game changer is that both countries will accept any fully vaccinated visitors. And with the global rollout expected to accelerate, as more vaccines are approved and manufactured, island nations will be the catalyst for increased international leisure travel.

Other islands with great potential for the Middle East’s outbound market are Sri Lanka, Cyprus and the Greek islands. Emirates and Etihad operate seven flights a week to Colombo and visitors need a negative PCR test 96 hours before arrival and then two further tests within the next seven days. The Sri Lankan government aims to have the entire country of over 21 million vaccinated by the end of 2021, currently that figure stands at around 500,000.

“With three weekly flights from Dubai, Cyprus is another interesting case and from April, it will welcome Israeli tourists who have had both vaccination doses,” said Curtis.

The Greek authorities aim to vaccinate the vast majority of their 10.35 million population by this summer (more than

725,000 have been vaccinated so far) to help revive their tourism sector and again Greece is well connected with five weekly flights between Dubai and Athens.

Exhibitors from island territories participating at ATM this year include the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation, Greek National Tourism Organisation, Cyprus Ministry of Tourism, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, Philippines Department of Tourism and Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, among others.

Now in its 28th year and working in collaboration with DWTC and Dubai’s Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM), the theme of ATM 2021 will be ‘A new dawn for travel and tourism’.

ATM 2021’s strategic partners include Dubai’s Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) as Destination Partner, Emaar Hospitality Group as Official Hotel Partner and Emirates as

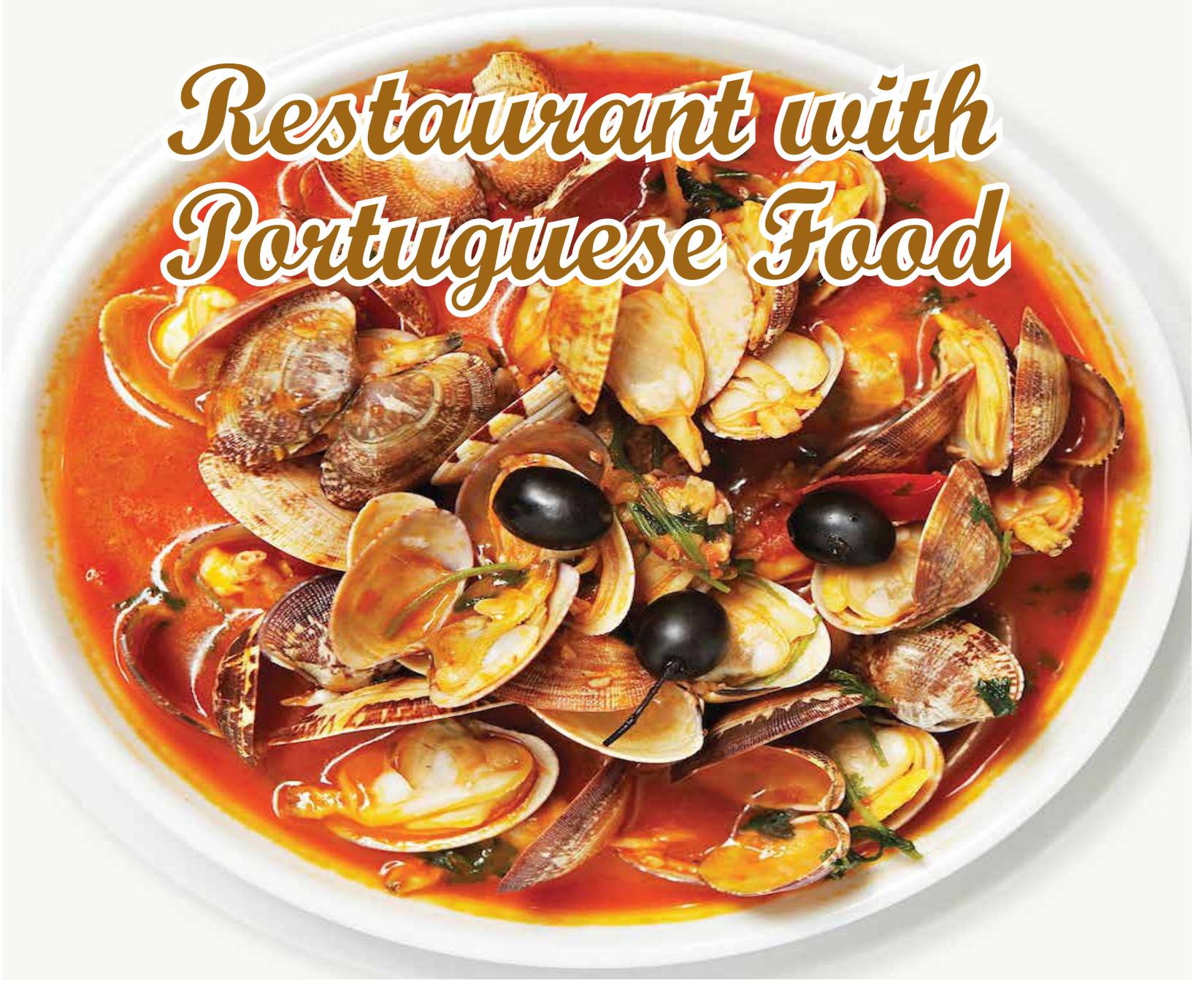
Official Airline Partner.

Dubai is one of the safest cities in the world to visit with a wide range of precautionary measures in place to ensure the safety of tourists at every stage and touchpoint of their travel journey, from arrival to departure.

Dubai’s commitment to maintaining the highest standards of hygiene and safety and its effective citywide management of the pandemic received a **strong endorsement from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which gave the city a ‘Safe Travels’ stamp.**



Restaurant with Portuguese Food



Grand Lisboa Palace to have Michelin-starred chef at the Portuguese restaurant.

The soon to open Grand Lisboa Palace Hotel will have a Portuguese restaurant with a Michelin gastronomy guide confirmed Angela Leong, co-chair of SJM's parent company. She also informed that the new hotel is expected to open in the first half of 2021.

"I can tell you that we're going to have a restaurant with Portuguese food and a very popular chef from Portugal. I'm not going to make his name known yet, but if he says his name in Portugal, everyone knows who he is. It's still a mystery, and then it's going to be a surprise", said Angela Leong, who hopes to surprise Portuguese and locals who like Portuguese food. "We want to surprise all Portuguese people and citizens who like Portuguese food". She promised, "It's going to be a restaurant with great food."

The identity of the chef remained secret, but she pointed out that the chef was distinguished by the Michelin brand guide and that his name is well known in Portugal. However, the co-chairman of SJM's parent company acknowledged that the outbreak could cause the opening of the restaurant to

be postponed. "Due to the outbreak of the disease, the chef has yet to arrive in Macao. He is currently in Portugal, but she made it clear that after the outbreak, he will return to Macao to run the restaurant.

Macao is recognized by UNESCO as one of Asia's leading culinary destinations for its 400-plus-year-old Macanese culinary heritage and emerging status. This UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy is home to a number of internationally renowned chefs as well as some of the world's finest and most imaginative restaurants.

When it comes to unprecedented innovative dining experiences (and similarly high

consumer expectations), Macao's culinary scene is full of inventiveness. Many of the region's chefs are now putting their skills to work to encourage healthy eating in an unexpected, upscale way that appeals to both local and tourists.



Celebrity Chef Jeremy Nguee brings Singaporean cuisine alive



Chef Jeremy Nguee, Consultant Chef, Mai Bao

Wherever you go in the world, the one common thread running across cuisines is the legacy. Good, honest ingredients influence all our food legacies. And Singaporean cuisine exemplifies that quality. I am basing this masterclass experience on the fact that Mai Bao is the go-to and the only place for true Singaporean Cuisine and guests can revel in the Singaporean spirit at this Singaporean food masterclass.

Singapore is regarded as a haven for foodies, given its culinary offerings which suit every palate. The city’s local street fare is a delicious melting pot of Singapore’s diverse cultures, while the country’s vibrant fine dining scene has emerged as one of the world’s most exciting, featuring many celebrity chef restaurants.

• **T3FS Desk**

With the opening of Mai Bao, a modern Singapore street food restaurant launched at DLF Avenue Mall, Saket in January 2021, the Delhi audience can taste a wide-ranging menu of Singaporean culinary delights. Its creatively crafted menu conceptualized by Singaporean celebrity Chef Jeremy Nguee includes some of Singapore’s signature dishes such as Hainanese chicken rice, NasiLemak, Laksa, Chilli Crab, Salted Egg prawns, Popiah, Satay and HokkienMee. Chef Jeremy has trained the team of professionals at Mai Bao for more than a year to provide an authentic Singaporean taste to the restaurant’s creations.

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB), India and Mai Bao collaborated with Chef Jeremy to conduct an exclusive virtual Masterclass for Indian media and influencers from his residence in Singapore. They put their culinary skills to the test and learned from Chef Jeremy how to whip up 3 easy-to-prepare Singapore delights: vegpopiah (spring roll), chicken bao(pork cha siu and yam puff) with traditional sauces and Onde-Onde (glutinous rice ball dessert). Chef Jeremy also shared the secrets of some of his

favorite authentic Singaporean dishes and his culinary journey.

This event had the support of Enterprise Singapore, which has curated a range of Singapore food products to give the participants a headstart in experimenting with culinary creations.

While travel between the two countries remain at a standstill due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the STB continues to engage the Indian audiences through innovative ways. The hybrid Masterclass brought the experience of cooking Singaporean culinary delights across borders into a restaurant space in New Delhi.





TIME Oak celebrates Ramadan with authentic Iftar

Indulge in an irresistible array of Arabic dishes featuring flavours from Cairo to Dubai, at Pranzo and Al Bal restaurants at TIME Oak Hotel & Suites.

Break your fast with dates and fresh fruit juices, followed by a variety of authentic hot and cold mezzeh and a choice of assorted soups and salads from the salad bar.

Main course dishes include an aromatic special lamb ouzi served with oriental rice, mixed grills, including beef, chicken and seafood as well as pasta dishes.

For dessert, a variety of dried fruits and delectable traditional Arabic desserts + famous Um Ali and French pastries

In addition, there will be a live cooking station with daily specials from the Chef such as kunafa and koshari, served from a Ramadan cart, as well as an action food station with saj, pizza and homemade breads.



Power Couple Of Reve – Stéphane and Pascaline

Reve is a European Bistro, which is known to bring French hospitality to New Delhi with its authenticity. It has a very homely and comforting vibe. The restaurant is highly eco-friendly and hence they work with local vendors and suppliers.



Owned by Ishan Yadav, Reve is run and managed by the power couple Stéphane and Pascaline who flew all the way from France to treat Delhiites with their authentic French dishes.



While one is an executive chef, the other is a manager and together they make a perfect combination that has resulted in the humongous success of Reve. Their passion for food, and love and respect for each other have made Reve what it is today.

Ohri's Uppu Celebrates True Flavours of Ugadi - Shad Ruchulu

Ohri's Uppu, announced a special Ugadi Vindu Bhojanam-Shad Ruchulu, a celebration of 6 flavours of Ugadi.

“Shad Ruchulu” celebrates the six tastes of Ugadi which is - Bitter (Neem Flower), Sour (New Tamarind), Tangy (Tender Mango), Spicy (New Chili), Sweet (New Jaggery) & Salty. “Shad Ruchulu” - includes two Family meals or Packages in veg and Non-Veg. There will be a common veg thali with all the tastes and special dishes of Telugus made for the occasion.



Barents: A whisky of superior character and style

Barents Premium Whisky originates from the house of Rock and Storm Distilleries Pvt. Ltd. and is a small-batched distilled gold reserve whisky.



*Ashu Ratan Khare
Director at Rock and Storm Distilleries*

It was introduced in September 2019, inspired by the exploration trips of the famed Dutch Arctic explorer of the 16th century, Williem Barents. This whiskey comes with a sophisticated coating of aromatic notes. It has a delicate layer of spices, offering the finest drinking experience at a pocket-friendly price, with consistency or taste.

The inspiration was to make a premium whiskey, with packaging benchmark of single malt whiskeys in mind. Barents has been made possible using materials that were earlier only experienced with imported whiskeys and spirits. As the aroma of sweet spices with a hint of floral mellow toast takes you on a new journey, Barents intends to surprise your palate with each drop. Dominated by a smooth Rich & Sooty, the Nutty and Toffee flavors arouse a sensation with a burst of fruity punch, eventually leaving a lasting Smokey flavor with a trace of Bourbon cask.

The concept that followed was to inspire the company and its customers through Williem Barents' discovery voyage. His zeal to discover and insatiable hunger for adventure embarked his name in the history. His tales motivated us to never stop trying, the same message that we relay to our consumers and whisky lovers through Barents. Thus, started out with



industry findings, accompanied by online and offline studies, keeping in mind the current offerings in the market and consumer wants. Identifying this gap, Barents journey started out to satisfy the consumer palate and the experience they desired. #TrulyCraftedForTheUndyingSpirits.

Since the last decade, the premium market segment has expanded rapidly and faster than the other segments of the beverage industry. Consumers are now very mindful of what they drink and are quite likely to try something different more often than not, as well as to improve their knowledge of whisky. Keeping the same thought while developing Barents, they give consumers the premium experience from segments above.

Barents was launched to introduce a brand in the premium market, yet to give consumers the pleasure of drinking a scotch or even a single malt. As a consequence, offering the greatest experience with the amount of customer capital. Therefore, Barents Premium Gold Reserved Whisky is priced at 840 INR for a 750ml of bottle. This is a small-batched handcrafted blend for those who fall seven times, stand up eight!

The parent company of Barents, Rock & Storm Distilleries Pvt. Ltd. is India's finest distillery, a unique indigenous brand, headquartered in Delhi. The company is already involved in IMFL products, with over 2500 crores of sales during the last five years.

*Rating: 08/10
Comment: Smokey
flavour*

One of India's Premium Strong Beers

Dave Barry rightly said "Not all chemicals are bad. Without chemicals such as hydrogen and oxygen, there would be no way to make water, a vital ingredient in beer." **Bad Monkey Beer is not an exception.**

Apart from tea and coffee, beer is the most widely consumed beverage and the world's first and most popular alcoholic beverage. All other beverages would pale in comparison to their popularity or amount of consumption.

Bad Monkey beer appears to be new in taste, with a strong blend of malty and citrusy grains. Leading towards its superior quality and tremendously budget-friendly rate, is one of Bad Monkey Beer most common popular variants.

Rohan Khare, the founder of Bad Monkey, is an enthusiast about beverages (ranging from spirits, beer as well as coffee). The founder graduated with a management degree from Delhi University, followed by a WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) Level 3

certification, which introduced him to global liquor brands and industry. He acquired in-depth experience in the liquor industry at the Rock and Storm Department of Product and Innovation.

The founder of Bad Monkey, Rohan Khare observed that having a strong beer in India is not synonymous with quality and longevity. There was a void in the powerful beer market for an easy-drinking strong beer. With previous experiences in the industry, he realized the potential and was eager to fill this gap, with an enthusiasm for giving customers a better experience of strong beer. Hence, Bad Monkey was born.

The firm was established in July 2018, with the primary intention of offering the customer belt a dynamic and an artisan beer, a special "brewtastic" experience to the beer lovers. With the long-term vision of giving consumers a variety of expressions, initial years were spent to idealise and grow the strong variant to satisfy the consumers' palate.

Then Indian market was introduced to the Bad Monkey beer, made from fine barley and hops. A beer that offers both the spunk that strong beer lovers long for and a pallet flavor that improves the drinking experience. This

finely brewed beverage is accentuated with 8 percent alcohol power. Bad Monkey beer lingers 'smoothness' and redefines velvety finish in every sip.

The award-winning taste makes Bad monkey beer stand out in the beer industry and is a eminent introduction to the strong beer market. It is made and available for everyone's needs. Bad

Monkey Beer's finest ingredients are widely known for its USP i.e., consistent quality, and as an easy-to-drink strong beer. The materials are typically imported- while the grains are imported from Europe, the hops are imported from the USA. The water from the Himalayas is used in the brewing process for Bad Monkey.

Available in 650 ml quantity bottles and 500ml cans, this strong beer quenches thirst like no other. it is also within easy reach in the market in 330 ml pints. The bottle is priced at 135 INR, can at 100 INR, and a pint at 70 INR.

The beer is being brewed in its manufacturing plant in Punjab and is being sold in the markets of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh,

Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand. Bad Monkey's export process has already started in just a short span of time and has been very much welcomed in Australia and New Zealand.



*Rohan Khare
Founder
Bad Monkey Beer*



*Rating: 09/10
Comment: Strongest beer with
an 8 percent alcohol level.*

Take a Chill Pill

Summer is around the corner, but this year lets party inside our homes. We are spending more time in our homes and afraid to venture out, but it should not stop us from getting experimental or trying new things.

Fruzzanté is an Indian brand and makes sparkling alcoholic beverages from Indian fruits. Real fruit juices are extracted without adding any preservatives or additives and then the juice is carbonated to give it the frizz and thus the name to the brand Fruzzanté. They currently have the following range to offer Mango, Starfruit, Chikoo, Strawberry, Pineapple and soon to be launched Orange. This brand truly represents Farm to bottle concept.



Strawberry Summer blast by Sasha Anand

Ingredients:

- Vodka – 30ml
- Ice Cubes – 3 to 4
- Lemon Juice – 20 ml
- K's kitchen Strawberry conserve – 2 tbsp
- Fruzzanté Strawberry – 1 bottle per serving
- Fresh Strawberry – 1 per glass

Method:

- Take shaker and put ice in it
- Combine lemon juice & K's strawberry conserve & vodka
- Shake vigorously for about 30 secs
- Strain into wine glass & top it up with Fruzzanté strawberry
- Cut small slit at the centre of the strawberry and place it on the lip of the wine glass

Tropical Bellini by Priyanka Save

Ingredients:

- 30ml fresh Papaya puree
- Dash of lime
- Crushed ice
- Fruzzanté Chikoo
- Slice of Papaya for garnish

Glassware:

- Champagne Flute glass

Bar tools:

- Bar spoon

Recipe:

In a flute glass, add some crushed ice followed by Papaya puree and a dash of lime. Using a bar spoon as landing pour 30ml super chilled Fruzzanté Chikoo. Give it a mix with the bar spoon. Top up the rest of the drink with Fruzzanté Chikoo. Use frosted glass and pour over a bar spoon to avoid foaming. Garnish with a Papaya slice and serve.

Margarita with a Sary Twist by Nagesh Pai

Ingredients:

- 30ml Tequila
- A dip of local honey
- 30ml fresh starfruit juice
- Fruzzanté Starfruit
- Starfruit slice for garnish
- Salt & Paprika for glass rim

Glassware:

- Margarita glass

Bar tools:

- Cocktail shaker

Recipe:

In a cocktail shaker add tequila, starfruit juice and honey. Shake it well. Take a margarita glass, wet the rim using a slice of starfruit and rim it with salt followed by paprika. Garnish with a star cut section of Starfruit. Pour the mix from the shaker in the margarita glass and top up with super chilled Fruzzanté Starfruit.

Lifestyle



Reveal of Virgin Galactic's new Spaceship VSS Imagine

Land Rover has announced a three-year extension to its global partnership with Virgin Galactic, the world's first commercial 'spaceline'.

• T3FS Desk



Joe Eberhardt, President and CEO, Jaguar Land Rover North America

Accessible space travel for explorers worldwide is the next great big adventure. Land Rover is proud to work alongside the Virgin Galactic team to support all future astronauts as they push the boundaries of personal adventure even further.





Virgin Galactic's latest spaceship was unveiled, supported by a Range Rover Astronaut Edition. Land Rover will remain an integrated part of Virgin Galactic's day-to-day operations as the company completes test flights with 'SpaceShipTwo' and begins a regular commercial service.

Land Rover vehicles are part of daily life for the Virgin Galactic team, with roles which include towing the space vehicles, carrying equipment and clearing runways before take-off. They played key roles during the company's first two spaceflights which saw Virgin Galactic become the first private company to fly humans to space on a spaceship designed for commercial service.

A fleet of Land Rovers also supported Virgin Galactic's relocation from its manufacturing and test facilities in Mojave, California, to Spaceport America in New Mexico – the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport.

Virgin Galactic has already signed-up around 600 Future Astronaut customers, who will be transported to their flights from Spaceport America, in Land Rover vehicles.

In 2019, Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson and Jaguar Land Rover Chief Creative Officer Prof Gerry McGovern OBE unveiled the Range Rover Astronaut Edition. Created by Land Rover SV Bespoke and offered exclusively to Virgin Galactic Future Astronauts, these luxury

SUVs celebrate the partnership's shared values and the Future Astronaut community's historic contribution to the democratization of space.

Virgin Galactic has a team of eight highly experienced pilots and is preparing for its next rocket-powered flight in New Mexico. Founder Sir Richard Branson is planning to fly to space later in 2021.



Michael Colglazier, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Galactic

Land Rover vehicles provide invaluable support on the ground in Mojave and at Spaceport America in New Mexico. It is also fabulous to see our Future Astronauts around the world enjoying the unique Range Rover Astronaut Edition. We are delighted to be able to extend this strong partnership. With a shared pioneering spirit, pursuit of adventure and vision to push the boundaries of travel, this is a natural collaboration between our two companies and one that will take exploration to new heights.



The Vantage F1® Edition



The new Vantage F1® Edition is a new breed of Aston Martin. One that celebrates the marques return to Formula 1® for the first time in over 60 years and establishes the Vantage as a true sports car. It is also the first core model to benefit from direct input from Aston Martin's recently appointed Chief Executive Officer, Tobias Moers.

• T3FS Desk

As a core production offering, the new Vantage F1® Edition sits at the top of the Vantage model line. Motivated by an exciting return to Formula 1® and as a direct result of the engineering that went into the development of the Vantage as an Official Safety Car of Formula 1®, which makes its debut at the Formula 1® Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2021 this month, the Vantage F1® Edition is the ultimate expression of performance and dynamism; it is the fastest and most focused of

the already sporting Vantage.

Not only is it the most powerful, but the Vantage F1® Edition benefits from unique and significant chassis and aerodynamic improvements developed by Aston Martin's hugely experienced engineering team. While the luxury brand's Aston Martin Cognizant Formula One™ team was busy preparing a return to the grid, the engineering team behind the infamous road cars were too, creating the

ultimate Aston Martin Vantage which could take on the role of an Official Safety Car of Formula 1®. Set to work by Chief Executive Officer, Tobias Moers, the task was to develop significant performance enhancements, driven by improved lap time performance in order to successfully carry out its role on the F1® track, but without compromising its on-road capabilities. Notably, it would do so without the fitment of aggressively track-optimised tyres. Following the success of these enhancements,

Moers instructed the integration of these into the production car, ultimately developing the new Vantage F1® Edition. The most sporting Vantage in the production range and in essence, a replica of the Vantage Official Safety Car of Formula 1®. An exciting proposition for Aston Martin customers.

The engineering team targeted intelligent, incremental improvements across multiple areas of the Vantage F1® Edition's auto-only powertrain, chassis and aerodynamics to bring out more character, increase tactility and expand its outright capabilities.

Starting with the 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 engine, power is up by 25PS to a new maximum of 535PS. Peak torque remains unchanged at 685Nm, but that peak is sustained for longer to further increase tractability and in-gear urgency. This relentless, muscular performance has been further enhanced by work to the 8-speed automatic transmission, with an optimised torque cut during upshifts that reduces shift times and increases the feeling of directness and precision. This torque management also enhances the driver's sense of control and connection during downshifts specifically under heavy braking and allows for finer control when the driver is balancing the car at its limit of traction. While noticeable in all circumstances and conditions, these improvements are especially beneficial when driving on track.

Moving to the chassis, the team's focus centered on the suspension and steering, with further detailed underbody modifications to increase front structural stiffness for a further improvement in steering feel and response. Reworked damper internals have increased the dampers' effective force range. This increase in bandwidth brings a noticeable improvement in vertical body control - both through high speed compressions and over crests - without any deterioration in low-speed compliance.

To compliment changes to the dampers, the chassis also benefits from increased rear spring rate and lateral stiffness to help sharpen turn-in, increase traction (especially over bumps) and ensure the rear-end is tuned to compliment the front-end's rate of response. Further improvements to response and - crucially - to what the driver feels have been made to the steering system, allowing feedback from the road to be transmitted more clearly, which in turn helps build a detailed sense of available grip.

With the chassis hardware optimised, attention turned to the wheels and tyres, increasing from 20" on the regular Vantage to 21" as standard for the Vantage F1® Edition. Developed specifically for the F1® Edition with Pirelli, it is the first time Vantage has been fitted with 21" tyres. Much like the other dynamic changes, the switch to a lower profile tyre provides greater feedback to the driver to ensure progressive on-limit handling to give maximum confidence in



even the most extreme track driving scenarios.

Completing the Vantage F1® Edition's performance enhancements is a comprehensive aero kit, bringing improvements that can be felt from the driver's seat and measured against the clock. Designed to deliver positive front and rear downforce, totaling 200kg more downforce than Vantage at top speed - as well as optimising the overall balance of the car, the aerodynamic changes comprise a full-width front splitter, front dive planes, underbody turning vanes, and - most obviously - the new rear wing. The rear diffuser remains unchanged but is still a core feature in the delivery of the aerodynamic performance working in tandem with the new aerodynamic features

The Vantage F1® Edition expresses its intensified performance with limited, yet distinctive colour palettes and trim options, including one that celebrates Aston Martin's return to Formula 1® with an Aston Martin Racing Green colour scheme, mimicking that of the Aston Martin Cognizant Formula One™ Team car, as well as the Official Safety Car of Formula 1®. Exterior paint colours are available in both a Satin or Gloss finish, and other colour options include Jet Black and Lunar White, all of which are complimented by a Solid Matte Dark Grey racing graphic. Inside the Vantage F1® Edition features new Obsidian Black Leather and Phantom Grey Alcantara upholstery and trim, with a choice of Lime Green, Obsidian Black, Wolf Grey or Spicy Red contrast stripe and stitching.

The Vantage F1® Edition - available as Coupe and Roadster - is further distinguished by its vaned grille as standard, 2x2 Twill Carbon Fibre exterior detailing, unique graphics, quad exhausts and a new design of Satin Black Diamond Turned 21" alloy wheel.

Aston Martin Chief Executive Officer, Tobias Moers said: "Performance is at the heart of

every Aston Martin, but when it wears an F1® badge it has to be a truly exceptional car. Vantage was already the most focused sports car in our range but in the development of our Official Safety Car of Formula 1®, it had to be a true athlete: more powerful; more agile; more immediate and more exciting to drive. And - of course - quicker and more capable in a race-track environment. I set the engineering team a tough target, as I was insistent that gains in performance came via genuine improvements in the car's dynamics, and not by fitting track-optimised tyres. The results speak for themselves. A Vantage to appeal to the most discerning drivers and a new model that marks an exciting moment in Aston Martin's history".

The new Vantage F1® Edition is on sale now with a recommended retail price from £142,000 in the UK and €162,000 in Germany with deliveries scheduled to begin in May 2021.

DO YOU KNOW?

- *Vantage F1® Edition is the most track-focused production Vantage to-date*
- *Based on the Vantage as an Official Safety Car of Formula 1®*
- *Project objective to significantly improve lap time performance*
- *Vantage F1® Edition benefits from package of engine, chassis and aerodynamic upgrades*
- *Power output increases by 25PS to 535PS*
- *Deliveries scheduled to begin May 2021*



BMW 6 Series Launched in India

The new BMW 6 Series has been launched in India. Locally produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai, the car is available in one petrol (newly introduced BMW 630i M Sport) and two diesel variants (BMW 630d M Sport and BMW 620d Luxury Line).

• T3FS Desk

After establishing the benchmark in the executive sedan segment, the new BMW 6 Series now takes this supreme character to new heights. A distinctive design, striking presence and outward BMW sportiness combined with best-in-class luxury and travel experience elevates its position by many notches. Driving pleasure and efficiency are enhanced by a further developed spread of engines and cutting-edge innovations. Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "The new BMW 6 Series recrafts luxury and adds a truly unique dimension to the executive class segment. It has the practicality of a crossover, the dynamics of a sports car, the silhouette of a fastback and the luxury of a sedan. The personality of the BMW 6 Series distinguishes it clearly from the crowd and is the reason for its long-lasting success. It is the vehicle of choice for modern leaders who expect the best luxury and comfort when they are at the rear. And nothing short of 'Sheer Driving

Pleasure' when they take the wheel. It is an expression of style and beckons those who won't settle for anything but the best."

The car is available at attractive introductory

prices (ex-showroom) as follows –
BMW 630i M Sport - INR 67,90,000
BMW 620d Luxury Line - INR 68,90,000
BMW 630d M Sport - INR 77,90,000

Price prevailing at the time of invoicing will be applicable. Ex-showroom prices inclusive of GST (incl. compensation cess) as applicable but exclude Road Tax, Tax Collected at Source (TCS), RTO statutory taxes/fees, other local tax cess levies and insurance. Price / options are subject to change without prior notice. For further information, contact an authorised BMW dealer.

The new BMW 6 Series is available in new exciting colours - BMW Individual finish

Tanzanite Blue metallic is offered for the first time. Phytonic Blue metallic, Piemont Red metallic and Bernina Grey Amber effect variants have been added to the color range. Online bookings done till 30 April 2021 will enjoy an attractive offer on limited units. These cars will come with complimentary Original BMW Accessories and Lifestyle Collection products worth INR 1.5 Lakh. Presented from the Aftersales Lifestyle catalogue, the package includes products such as Mont-Blanc for BMW, BMW Display key, Headphones for Rear Seat Entertainment etc. Thanks to BMW India Financial Services, customized and flexible financial solutions can be designed as per individual requirements. BMW 360° offers exclusive financial packages with great value and absolute peace of mind. Customers will enjoy a hassle-free ownership experience with low monthly payments, assured buy-back of up to 4 years and flexible end of term options. Service Inclusive and

Service Inclusive Plus further reduce cost of ownership. Customers can choose from a variety of service plans according to duration and mileage. The packages cover Condition Based Service (CBS) and maintenance work with plans ranging from 3 yrs / 40,000 kms to 10 yrs / 2,00,000 kms. The service packages are lowest in the segment starting at approximately INR 52,000 for a 3-year period.

The new BMW 6 Series.

The exterior design flows smoothly over into the front headlights and now creates a sharper angular expression. New contours for the BMW kidney grille and headlights immediately bordering it on either side make a striking impression. Standard equipment includes new full-LED Adaptive headlights. Newly added BMW Laserlight, unique in this vehicle segment, distributes light perfectly up to 650 meters. The slope-like roofline overflows with coupe elegance. More modern and cleaned up – that is the first impression of the rear with broad, muscular lines, attractive LED rear-light design and two freeform tailpipes.

Interior of the new BMW 6 Series justifies that this is the perfect travel companion – generously spacious with luxurious comfort and bespoke material selection. Newly designed controls on the centre console in high-gloss black look elegant. Interior trim selections enhance the luxurious appeal – BMW 630i and BMW 620d offer Natural Leather Dakota trim with fine wood trims and BMW 630d offers a refined premium option with exclusive ‘Nappa’ leather upholstery with diamond stitching. Comfort Seats offer fully electric seat adjustment with memory function on the driver as well as passenger side. A rear seat bench with electrically adjustable backrest angle and comfort headrest cushions adds extra comfort for long journeys. The two-part panoramic glass sunroof adds bright natural sunlight and enhances the sense of spaciousness in the cabin. Ambient Lighting with six dimmable designs creates an atmosphere for every mood. The car has four-zone automatic climate control with extended features. Adding to the luxurious feel are features such as electroplated controls, electrically adjustable roller sunblinds and soft-close function for doors. Luggage compartment has a capacity of up to 600 litres, extending to 1,800 litres thanks to the 40/20/40 split. Thanks to unrivalled BMW TwinPower Turbo technology, the petrol and diesel engines meld maximum power with exemplary efficiency and offer spontaneous responsiveness even at low engine speeds, offering best-in-class acceleration figures. The 2-litre 4-cylinder petrol engine of the BMW 630i generates maximum output of 258 hp and peak torque of 400 Nm with 0-100 kmph acceleration in just 6.5 seconds. The 2-litre 4-cylinder diesel engine of the BMW 620d develops maximum output of 190 hp and peak torque of 400 Nm with 0-100 kmph acceleration in 7.9 seconds. The 3-litre 6-cylinder in-line diesel engine of BMW 630d produces maximum output of 265hp and peak



torque of 620 Nm with 0-100 kmph acceleration in 6.1 seconds, making it the quickest car in its segment.

The eight speed steptronic sport automatic transmission performs smooth, almost imperceptible gearshifts. For even greater driving pleasure, it comes with steering wheel paddle shifters and cruise control with braking function. The standard Adaptive 2-axle Air Suspension with its self-levelling feature maintains constant height irrespective of the load, providing great comfort. It offers maximum ride comfort and extreme sporting capability. Individual electronically controlled dampers offer exceptional precision and improve the drive and handling dynamics. The damper response settings vary according to the mode selected with the Driving Experience Control switch, that allows driver to choose between different modes to suit the driving conditions - Comfort, Comfort+, Sport, Sport+ and Adaptive. Best-in-class entertainment features complement the comfortable long journeys. The latest version of the Rear-seat entertainment Professional comprises two 10.25" touchscreen monitors with full-HD technology, a Blu-ray player, screen mirroring function and two USB ports. Harman Kardon Surround Sound System conjures an engrossing treat for the ears. High-end 16 speaker system with woofers generates an impressive audio experience in all seats that is unique worldwide in the automotive sector.

Modern cockpit concept BMW Live Cockpit Professional with BMW Operating System 7.0 includes 3D Navigation, a 12.3-inch fully-digital digital instrument display behind the steering wheel and now bigger 12.3 inch Control Display. The occupants can operate a number of functions simply by speaking to their BMW Virtual Assistant. Hands do the talking with BMW Gesture Control (in BMW 630d) that recognizes six pre-defined hand movements for control of a number of functions. The smartphone holder integrated

into the centre console allows inductive, Wireless Charging for mobile phones. Wireless Apple CarPlay® / Android Auto ensures seamless smartphone connection with the car to access several functions.

Parking Assistant with Rear View Camera makes parking in tight spots easier. Reversing Assistant provides unmatched support in reversing out of a parking spot or through narrow driveways. It keeps a record of the last 50 metres driven and assists by taking over the steering. With the Remote Control Parking function, a driver can manoeuvre the vehicle into a narrow parking space from outside using the BMW Display Key. BMW EfficientDynamics includes features such as 8-speed Steptronic Sport Automatic Transmission, Auto Start-Stop, Brake-Energy Regeneration, Electronic Power Steering, 50:50 Weight Distribution and ECO PRO mode in Driving Experience Control. BMW Safety technologies include six airbags, Attentiveness Assistance, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Brake Assist, Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) including Dynamic Traction Control (DTC) and Electronic Differential Lock Control (EDLC), Cornering Brake Control (CBC), electric parking brake with auto hold, side-impact protection, electronic vehicle immobilizer and crash sensors, ISOFIX child seat mounting and emergency spare wheel.



Celebrate Poila Baisakh with new Jewellery Collection



Avama Jewellers, Creative Jewellery brands, Shi & Pretios have launched their exclusive capsule collection for the upcoming festival, Poila Baisakh.

• T3FS Desk

Avama Jewellers by Abhishek Kajaria (Fine Jewellery): Jewellery is a rage in the fashion industry now. As we all know, PoilaBaisakh is the first day of the Bengali New year- and is impossible for any Bengali woman to skip wearing jewellery pieces on this particular day. Resonating with the current trend, Avama Jewellers by Abhishek Kajaria has launched their beautiful latest PoilaBaisakh collection, ‘Manika’. The amalgamation boosts of exquisite jewelry, which is traditional, yet with a contemporary twist. The statement Chandbali earrings and ‘Jhumko’ in gold and polki too are a big head turner this PoilaBaisakh. Among the young generation- the trend is for dazzling earrings and elegant ‘Mantasha’ that can be worn on any occasion. Be it for your day function or evening- Avama Jewellers by Abhishek Kajaria has all kinds of jewellery for every age group. Ethereal ‘SaathNoliHaar’ (layered necklaces), smart sleek ‘Chik’ (choker), elegant

‘Kaan-Pasha’, exquisite ‘Bala’ are enjoying a revival too this season. The evergreen-Navaratan jewellery is back in trend and Avama Jewellers has some stunning assortment in their new PoilaBaisakh collection. Come and experience an entirely new and graceful way to celebrate the essence of the first day of the year with the ‘Manika’ collection which includes alluring necklaces, magnificent bangles, majestic rings and exquisite earrings. Share your love for jewellery with our great collection this

season.

Shi Fashion (Fashion Jewellery): It is yet another Bengali New year – we call it PoilaBoishakh. According to the Bengali calendar, it’s not just the first day of the year, but also an emotion. PoilaBoishakh is the haalkhata time – the auspicious day to open the ledger. From visiting a saree shop to a jewellery store, Bengalis welcome the summer by cherishing delightful sweets and drinking glasses of sherbet. The latest PoilaBoishakh collection by Shi,





‘Goynaa-er-baaksho’, is an assemblage of traditional jewellery, with a contemporary twist. Along with the statement Chandbali earrings, the Jhumko in silver and gold-plating and the polki are highly in demand during this celebratory season. Dazzling earrings and elegant Haar(necklaces) are also a favourite among the younger generation. Chik (choker) and Bala are back again in fashion! This alluring collection has been specially designed in silver and handcrafted with Swarovski crystals and semi-precious stones, keeping in mind the heritage and culture of Bengal. This PoilaBoishakh, gift your loved ones from our delightful collection and spread the good wishes of this festival! So take your pick from the impressive range of jewellery at ‘Shi’ and welcome a new beginning!

Pretios (Fashion Jewellery):

Noboborsho is one of the most prominent cultural festivals celebrated in Bengal. It marks the arrival of the Bengali New Year. Celebrated on the first day of the boisakhmonth according to the Bengali calendar this day is also referred as PoilaBoishakh. It is one such festival where Bengalis of all walks of life come together to make it colourful, bright and joyous. Women dress up in their best sarees and the men put on their traditional kurta-pyjamas. The fashion trends tend to change every year but what distinguishes one individual from the other is the way they carry their attire and the accessories they choose to complete their look, especially the jewellery. The jewellery industry tends to ameliorate their collections with each passing year matching the needs and

the trends of the period.

Keeping in mind the trend this year, Pretios by DwitiBhuwalka has introduced a brand new collection, ‘Sonaa’, to make you look better than ever. The agglomeration comprises of traditional jewelry, with a contemporary twist for the modern-day woman. ‘Jhumko’, ‘Chik’, ‘KaanBaala’, the collection is perfectly crafted for the occasion.

‘Pretios’ enthral its patrons with their refined taste in designs that epitomize the spirit of femininity, elegance and grace. With the usance of the ethereal Swarovski Zirconia and a metal called Sterlium, Pretiosensures that each piece is scratch resistant, non tarnish and hypoallergenic. Driven by a holistic vision of luxury and designs, Dwiti offers fresh and contemporary sensibilities with a global appeal, yet remains very Indian.

A Day of Living Dreams

So you're engaged to be married and busy planning the when and the where. The possibilities are exciting but also seemingly never-ending – as are the opinions fired at you from every angle.

• T3FS Desk

How can something so fun turn so stressful? Many couples describe this as the light bulb moment where they entertain the thought “Would it not be easier to wed on a private island in the middle of nowhere?”

The answer is almost always “yes” – it is easier, much easier. Bawah Reserve Indonesia, an exclusive private island resort, shares why:

The invitation list

A destination wedding naturally limits the numbers. Your close family and friends will often go the distance to be there for you, but many peripheral guests will make their excuses, leaving you with a smaller, more genuine group.

Top Tip:

If you are looking for an intimate affair, choose a boutique destination that can only accommodate a limited number of guests. That way you and your party benefit from true privacy during your stay.

All taken care of!

Many resorts have a wedding manager to take care of the details for you. They can arrange everything from the catering and the cake to your make-up and hair, leaving you with fewer wedding tasks to manage yourselves.

Top Tip:

Choose a destination that allows you to tailor plans to your wishes. There are many resorts offering this so don't be pressured into buying a set package. This is your day and your dreams – so own it.

Relax and enjoy

As resort guests, no one in your party needs to worry about practical plans, like they do at home. Instead everyone is on holiday mode, relaxed and stress-free to enjoy your special day.

Top Tip:

Choose a resort that offers meals included in the rates. Then you and your guests can dine together every night without worrying about additional costs.

Picture perfect

A resort destination is usually located in natural beauty, which means the backdrop for your wedding photos is ready. Beautiful memories can be captured very naturally without you have to lift a finger or spend a huge amount on flowers.

Top Tip:

Check out the resort of your choice on Instagram. Instead of scrolling through the resort's own images, take a look at the tagged images by tapping on the person icon next to the grid icon. This will show you what guests' images look like, and give you a flavour of the types of images you can expect to take too.

No more logistics

Choose a resort that can offer a selection of venues for you and your party to celebrate. The ceremony may be in one location, drinks and canapés in another, while the wedding meal is on a beach or in a restaurant. Instead of parades of cars and taxis and worrying whether uncle Bob has had too much drink to be able to drive, you can easily glide from space to space, allowing more time to soak up the atmosphere and the bubbles!

Top Tip:

Make sure the destination you choose does offer more than one space for your party. It can be a little dull if you are stuck in one space for the entire event.

More than just a day

Choosing a destination wedding makes your special day become more like a special week! It's likely you and your guests will have some time at the resort before and after the big day, so the celebrations can go on and on.

Top Tip:

Look for a destination that offers long-stay packages or deals.

Time for each other

Be sure to make time for each other during your trip, rather than spending all your time



entertaining family and friends that have come with you. A good wedding destination will provide plenty to do for your guests on their own.

Top Tip:

Choose a resort that allows you one romantic night a deux – whether that is a special romantic meal for two, a special activity or maybe a different suite in another location to give you private together time.

Easy Access

If you and your guests are flying in from different parts of the world, be sure to choose somewhere in close proximity to a major airport. This way flights will be more regular and won't break the bank.

Top Tip:

Choose a resort that handles travel logistics for you. Then you and guests don't need to spend hours coordinating pick-ups and drop-offs.

Lotus Herbals launches



Lotus Botanicals

Lotus Botanicals introduces a range of pure, potent and truly transformative beauty skincare and haircare products.

• T3FS Desk

The natural and organic beauty market has never looked this attractive. It has witnessed a massive surge in recent years and is poised to touch the \$54 bn mark by 2027. Lotus – one of India's most respected beauty companies – has entered this growing market with Lotus Botanicals' launch.

With a focussed D2C strategy, the company plans to leverage the growing e-commerce industry. Consumers will be able to order Lotus Botanicals range of skin and hair care products only through Lotus Botanicals and other third-party e-com channels.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Nitin Passi, Managing Director, Lotus Herbals, said, "With the pandemic and the shift of attention towards all things safe and natural, Lotus Botanicals has made it a mission; to create products that are a harmonious balance between nature and science".

He further added, "We believe that beauty and nature have to co-exist. Wellness cannot

come at the cost of nature, and therefore all our products are formulated using potent plant botanical extracts and are completely free of harmful chemicals. The packaging for this brand is either completely recyclable or FSC certified." He also expressed his gratitude towards the consumers, saying, "We are thankful to our consumers for the immense love they have shown to our products."

The current product range of Lotus Botanicals comprises of Vitamin C and 1st time in India, Baking Soda for skincare and Ginger and Red Onion range for haircare products. With some of the most reputed certifications, each product caters to specific skin and hair concerns. The products are suitable for every skin and hair type as well.

The entire range is free of paraben, silicone and sulphates. It is also cruelty-free and 100% vegan. For now, this brand is available on the website www.lotusbotanicals.com. Very soon, the entire range will be available on many third-party e-com portals.



*Nitin Passi
Managing Director
Lotus Herbals*

*Rating: 08/10
Comment: Products
are worth to use*

#Ragda

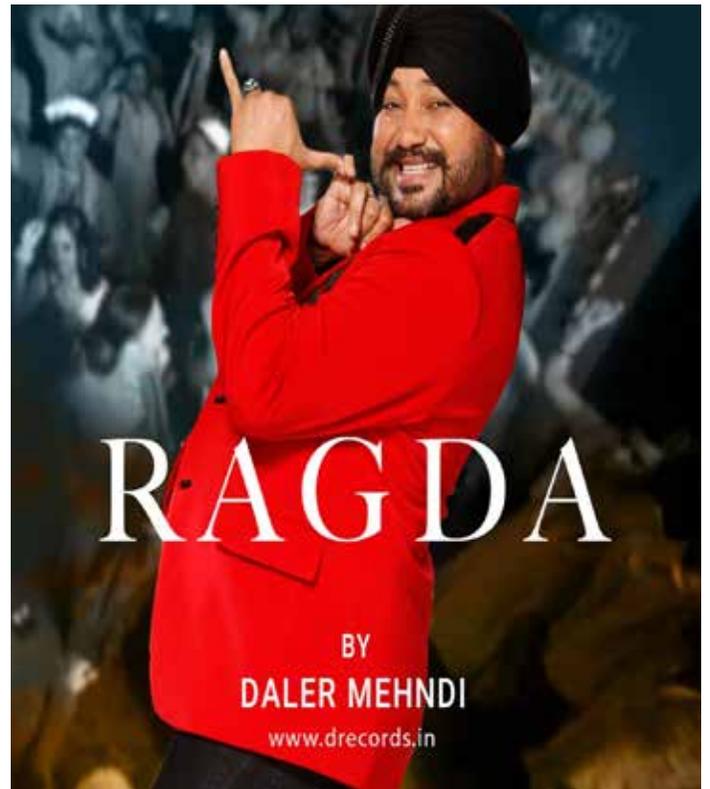
Indian pop icon Daler Mehndi has come with yet another peppy song 'Ragda' under the production Drecords.

The song is sung and composed by Daler Mehndi and directed by the famous director Ahmed Khan. The song is a fusion of Bhojpuri and Punjabi language. The music is very catchy and like other Daler Mehndi songs, this song is surely going to hit the charts.

Very few people know that Daler Mehndi belongs to Patna and Bhojpuri is his mother tongue. When he entered the music industry, he became a sensation in Punjabi music industry. Over the years, all his songs have been a huge hit with some lively and energetic music. He composed this music with an intention to show the love for Bhojpuri music. Adding on to the list, the Ragada song will set your mood

right. The lyrics are vibrant and bring a smile to your face. Daler Mehndi's songs have always been quite popular and expresses joy and the 'Ragda' song is another feather to the cap. The video was shot in the backdrop of a railway station, Daler Mehndi can be seen singing and dancing to this catchy number.

Talking about the launch, the iconic singer said, "Most of the people don't know that my mother tongue is Bhojpuri but I became famous for the music in Punjabi genre. I am glad people have loved my music all this year and I was able to contribute to



Punjabi music. Now, I feel that I should also contribute to my mother tongue and thus the music is a fusion of Bhojpuri and Punjabi. The lyrics are simple and fun. I personally love and enjoy this music and I hope people will shower the same love and wishes as they did for all my previous songs."

Sale of prime 10-acre land in Kalyan, Mumbai

JLL India, the country's largest real estate consultancy and professional services firm, announced the closure of an exclusive transaction of 10.3 acres of land parcel in the micro market of Kalyan in Mumbai.

Mahindra Lifespaces executed the agreement to acquire this land from Ecohomes Townships LLP. JLL was the exclusive transaction partner for the said land deal for both parties. The deal was closed using a hybrid model of both online and offline technologies during and after the lockdown.

The land parcel located at the Kalyan Bhiwandi junction on Mumbai-Nashik Highway is approximately 300 meters away from the proposed Ranjnoli metro station. The micro-market of Kalyan has seen launches by large and trusted developers in the last couple of years on the back of high end-user demand. Further, it has seen rapid growth in demand for affordable housing with a boost in connectivity due to several key infrastructure developments.

"We see great growth potential in the micro markets like Kalyan in the coming years. The government's policy push has paved the ground for a greater recovery of the residential market. Today, we see the end-user back in the market due to softening interest rates and

better bargains being offered to the buyers," said **Karan Singh Sodi, Managing Director - Mumbai Metropolitan Region, JLL.**

"While this deal was initiated during the lockdown period, we interjected technology into our day to day interaction with the clients to successfully close the deal," he added.

"The runaway success of our first residential project in Kalyan validates the growing demand for high quality, aspirational homes by trusted brands in this attractive suburb. Our latest land acquisition in Kalyan is aligned to our strategy of strengthening our presence in high-performing markets. We look forward to delivering our next outstanding project in Kalyan," said **Arvind Subramanian, Managing Director & CEO, Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd.**

Demand in residential market on an upswing

Aided by policy push by the Government of India, the residential market across pan-India

has been on an upswing, with fence sitters rapidly converting into buyers due to lower interest rates and a 'buyer' favouring market. So much so that the Q1 (Jan-March) 2021 residential sales have recovered by more than 90% of the volumes, witnessed in Q1 2020 (pre-Covid 19) across the top seven cities. Importantly, sales either improved or stayed at similar levels (in Q1 2021 when compared to Q4 2020) in majority of the residential markets under consideration. Mumbai has consistently been the largest contributor to sales in the last four quarters.

Sustained growth of the sector expected in 2021

Guided by the expected economic growth trajectory, the uncertainty around the stability of jobs and incomes is only expected to reduce in the coming quarters. This is likely to have a direct positive impact on the housing sector with enhanced buyer confidence.

A snoring partner: The new reason for infidelity

A snoring partner by your side is indeed a nightmare. No female would want to spend sleepless nights while sharing the space with her husband who is a snorer. This continued inconvenience and lack of sleep can eventually create frustrations and tensions in the relationships. In the worst case scenarios, this becomes the reason for adultery.



No matter how odd it sounds, it is indeed a fact that a snoring partner leads to the wives seeking solace outside the marriage and they end up committing infidelity.

There are some partners who relocate to the spare space in the middle of the night owing to the constant snoring as they wish to have a few hours of peaceful sleep. On the other hand, there are wives who resort to changing the partner instead of changing the room. What is often unnoticed is that adultery comes with its fair share of significant changes when practised. Our at Gleeden survey suggests that before the pandemic, the wives who were unhappy with their husbands had an opportunity to spend quality time with the other man. However, now in the pandemic era,

fantasizing and daydreaming about the good times spent together is the ideal escape route for the wives from their noisy husbands.

Until now, snoring was associated with the harmful effect on health. However, now it is also linked with affecting relationships and reducing sexual desire amongst the couples. This trend has been highlighted by Gleeden, the first of its kind portal for extramarital encounters and they mention that snoring is the major cause of infidelity. Furthermore, 50% of wives in the region accepted that their husbands were the major cause of their infidelity. 44.5% admitted that due to lack of sleep, they tend to be irritable and this is what refrains them from putting efforts into their relationship. 38% state that snoring is the major

cause for their arguments with their partners and 36.24% confessed that this has a direct impact on their relationship and reduces their craving for their partner.

When probed about their relationship status during the lockdown, 37% admit fantasizing about other men. 32% share that they actually think about someone else that is another man while masturbating and 28% confess that they think about the other man while having sex with their husbands. Sleep is indeed an essential element of our lives and in fact relationships. Along with trust and communication, good sex life and sleep are equally important. Additionally, wives desire to sleep peacefully next to their partners and consider this as an important part of a healthy relationship.

Lavazza Group Carbon Neutral by 2030

Lavazza Group took advantage of the presentation of its 2020 results to announce the “Roadmap to Zero”, its ambitious plan to completely neutralise the Group’s carbon footprint by the end of 2030, with an investment of about EUR 50 million in the 2020-2021 period alone.

In 2020, against a highly complex economic and social backdrop that has seen world markets severely hit by Covid-19, the Group reported turnover of EUR 2.085 billion and operating cash flow of EUR 125 million, in line with 2019, as well as solid Retail channel growth in its core markets.

“We are basing our approach to this complex period on three priorities: personal health and safety, business continuity, and future development,” said Antonio Baravalle, Lavazza Group CEO. “In 2020, we delivered good results despite the difficult period, pursued the development of our projects, and continued to look to the future by investing in and focusing on the innovation and sustainability

that are increasingly central to our strategy.”

The Group is therefore determined to continue to integrate ESG criteria into its business operations, with the implementation of an environmental sustainability strategy focused on carbon neutrality and the circular economy, in line with the UN 2030 Agenda signed in 2017.

There are various areas of action, one being today’s announcement of the “Roadmap to Zero”, which will completely neutralise Lavazza Group’s carbon footprint by the end of 2030 with a three-pronged approach: emissions monitoring and measurement; ongoing processes to improve efficiency and reduce impacts; and offsetting

residual emissions that cannot be reduced.

This ambitious plan has already enabled the Group to reach an important milestone at the end of 2020: zero impact from the direct CO2 emissions generated by all the company’s activities, including production facilities, offices, flagship stores, corporate vehicles (scope 1), and from indirect emissions generated by the purchase and consumption of electricity, heat and steam (scope 2). By the end of 2030, indirect emissions will be offset across the entire supply chain, both upstream and downstream of Group operations (scope 3), from green coffee to packaging, logistics and disposal.

Dating arena witnessing major shifts

Before the pandemic, dating was a hybrid concept wherein both physical and online methods were used for searching the love interests. However, the pandemic's occurrence brought about a shift in the dating space, and users were hooked onto the dating apps for finding the love of their life.

This trend continued growing owing to the on-going COVID-19 associated risk and hence daters preferred swiping left and swiping right from their mobile screens in the comfort zone of their homes rather than dressing up and stepping out.

However, with the changing times, the dating scenario has also witnessed major shifts. **QuackQuack**, India's leading dating platform highlights the same via its report and states that various old-fashioned trends are making a comeback in the dating community and there are various notable changes in the behavior and ideology of men and women daters.

Key highlights of the report

- **No more casual connections-** Majority of the users (60%) seek emotional attachment whereas 40% look for physical connection. While 73% females find an emotional connection with their partner to be important, 55% men give preference to emotional attachment whereas 45% males are inclined towards physical intimacy. The women daters crave all the more for emotional attachment as compared to male daters. Urban areas (63%) daters give preference to emotional attachment whereas more than 40% users from small cities and towns are upfront about their priority for physical connection

- **Meeting in person critical to developing genuine connections-** Majority of the users (80%) look forward to meeting their partners in-person to develop genuine connections. 72% daters comprising of the users between 21-30 age group prefer the same. On the contrary, 46% of the young generation below 20 years age group, are fine with virtual dating. 78% men and 60% women users choose meeting in person over virtual dating.

73% users from both metropolitan cities and towns no longer worry about the pandemic and express their desire to meet their date in person and only 27% keep virtual dating as an option

- **Old-school physical meeting essential before committing-** Majority (58%) of users in the 18-30 age category are of the opinion that virtual date is not sufficient and that they look forward to having a physical date to meet their partner. A startling 61 percentage of both men and women daters desire to meet their date before taking the big step. However, out of these, 39% daters are flexible and can consider virtual dates to be the decisive factor for the relationship as well. Despite living a modern lifestyle, 61% of people from metros and top cities prefer the old fashioned way of physically meeting before committing to their partner for a relationship

- **Finding the partner putting an end to app usage-** Majority of the daters (70%), continue using the app despite finding the partner and want to keep their options open whereas only 30% delete the app. 73% of male users and 54% of female users continue using the dating app. Men daters openly express that it is highly unlikely of them discontinuing the usage of the app. On the other hand, 46% women daters delete the dating app once they have found a partner. Despite possessing modern values, 64% users in metro cities delete the dating once their partner search comes to end whereas 70% of users from small cities continue using the app

On the whole, the report suggests that the dating ballgame is ever-evolving and is witnessing major changes with many old school trends making a comeback. Physical dates are given preference despite the

pandemic situation and are the deciding factor for the daters for committing to their partners. In the present fast-paced life, users crave emotional attachment while physical intimacy is secondary for them. This shows that no matter what the situation is, love is and will continue to blossom!



Ravi Mittal, Founder & CEO of QuackQuack

While the online medium altered the working of the dating community, I am glad to share that the old school trends are making a comeback and users prefer meeting in person before committing themselves into the relationship. Additionally, the metropolitan cities despite leading a modern lifestyle, give preference to emotional attachment and meeting their date physically rather than dating virtually. All in all, I am glad that the dating apps are fulfilling their purpose and we hope all the daters eventually find their 'someone special' soon.

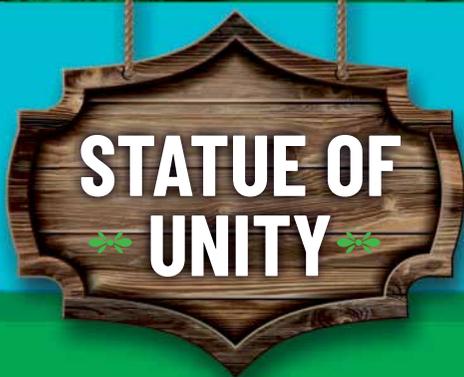


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Disclaimer: The details and pictures contained here are for information and could be indicative. Some of the activities listed may be unavailable due to seasonal and technical reasons.





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4D3N Bali Safari

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(1Night at Mara River Safari Lodge +
2Night at South Bali)

BALI SAFARI & MARINE PARK



Includes :

- Safari Journey at Bali safari Park
- Breakfast with Lion at Tsavo Lion Restaurant
- Indian Cuisine Lunch or Dinner where available and specified

3D2N + 3rd Night Free

Relaxing Me

| USD 158

based on 4 hotel

Inclusion :

- 3 Nights stay at selected hotel with breakfast included
- Return airport transfer
- FREE : 1x 60Mins Massage OR 1x Meals at certain hotel
- FREE : Hard Rock Cafe Meals Voucher
- Choice of 1x Full Day Tour OR 1x White Water Rafting

3D2N

Villa Indugence

| USD 278

based on 4 hotel

Inclusion :

- 2 Nights Stay at Selected Villa with breakfast included
- Return Airport Transfer
- FREE 1x 60mins massage (Min. 3 nights stay)
- FREE 1x Full Day Car at Disposal with English Speaking Local Host
- FREE : 1x Indian Cuisine Voucher at all outlet Gateway of India Restaurant

5D4N Bali Safari

| USD 258

based on 4 hotel

(1 Night at Lovina Beach +
3Night at South Bali)

Inclusion :

- Wild Dolphin Searching at Lovina Beach, 2 full day tours
- Indian Cuisine Lunch or Dinner where available and specified in the program
- Free 1 x 60mins massage or set meal at certain hotel



Borobudur Temple, Jogja

Bali - Jogja

5D4N Discovery

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2 Night at Bali + 2 Night at Jogja
based on 4 hotel



Gedung Sate,
Bandung

Bali - Bandung

5D4N Discovery

USD 338

2 Night at Bali + 2 Night at Bandung
based on 4 hotel



Sand Island, Lombok

Bali - Lombok

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