

T3FS

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Trendy Travel Trade with Food & Shop



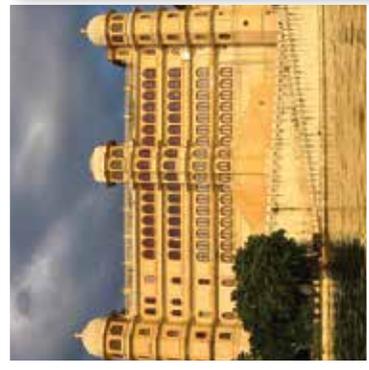
**Which flavour of India
would you like to
experience**

**Sustainable Tourism:
Confidence to Explore
India Responsibly**



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
Delhi - Jaipur - Samode - Nawalgarh -
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 -
Phuntsholing - Thimphu - Purnakha -
Paro - Delhi



Tribal Trail

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



Buddhist Temple with North East India Tour

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

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE



Dear Reader,

With the July 2021 edition you will get to know a lot about India. India is the world's seventh largest country by area, and with over 1.3 billion inhabitants, it is the world's second most populous country and democracy, extending from the Himalayan highlands to the tropical greenery of Kerala, and from the sacred Ganges to the Thar desert sands.

India is the vast glorious land, being blessed with diverse culture and intensely beautiful landscapes. Each and every state of India has a distinct identity and has something special to offer. Every state leaves an unforgettable impact on the minds of travelers. Some of the remarkable tourist destinations are Rajasthan, Kerala, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Varanasi, Agra and Ladakh that has so much to explore and providing scopes to carry out various activities.

India with its name is a single country but it is a nation of many worlds in its own from tribal tourism to beach tourism, from pilgrimage tourism to adventure tourism, from wildlife tourism to cruise tourism you just name it, you have it. Undoubtedly, India is a 365 Days tourist destination.

In Hospitality we covered Master Chef Australia Season 13 streaming on Disney+ Hotstar premium. The

competition that began with 24 of the best home cooks bringing their cultural and extraordinary cooking talent to MasterChef Australia Season 13, now Streaming on Disney+ Hotstar Premium, bowled over viewers and culinary enthusiasts across the nation.

It has been an amazing journey with many exciting challenges and dishes from the different cultures spiced up with culinary expertise that is now drawing to its final stages. After battling it out through pressure tests, eliminations and many mystery boxes, MasterChef Australia Season 13 has got their top 10 contestants who will be fighting for the coveted title. This season has seen the most simple and unheard dishes making highlights. Right from Kishwar's Khichdi to Tommy's Zucchini BánhCuốn, we bring you a list of top 10 recipes from the top 10 contestants that have stood out.

Whereas, lifestyle focused on real estate. Institutional investors deployed USD1.357 billion into the Indian commercial real estate market in the second quarter (April- June) of 2021, representing a ninefold increase year-on-year, according to JLL's 'Capital Markets Update Q2 2021' report released. Capital deployments in the April-June period represented the most active second quarter in five years.

Vedika Sharma

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Contents



Which flavour of India would you like to experience

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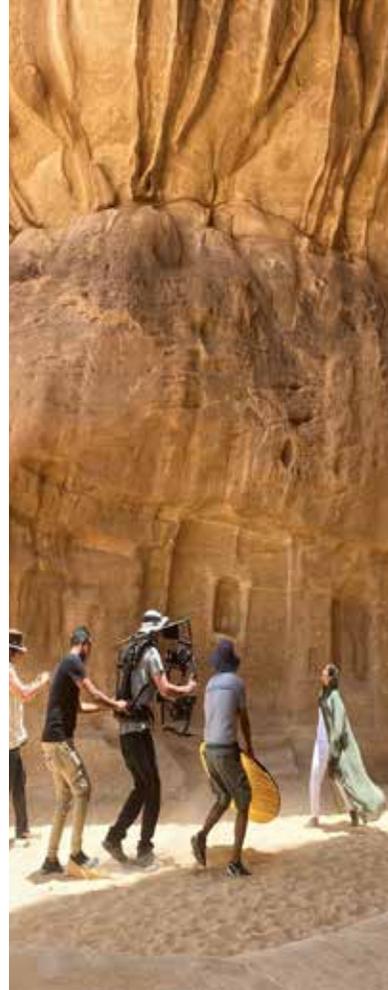
Pg12



Sustainable Tourism: Confidence to Explore India Responsibly

'Sustainable Tourism: Confidence to Explore India Responsibly', at FAE 2020, an initiative led by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in partnership with FICCI.

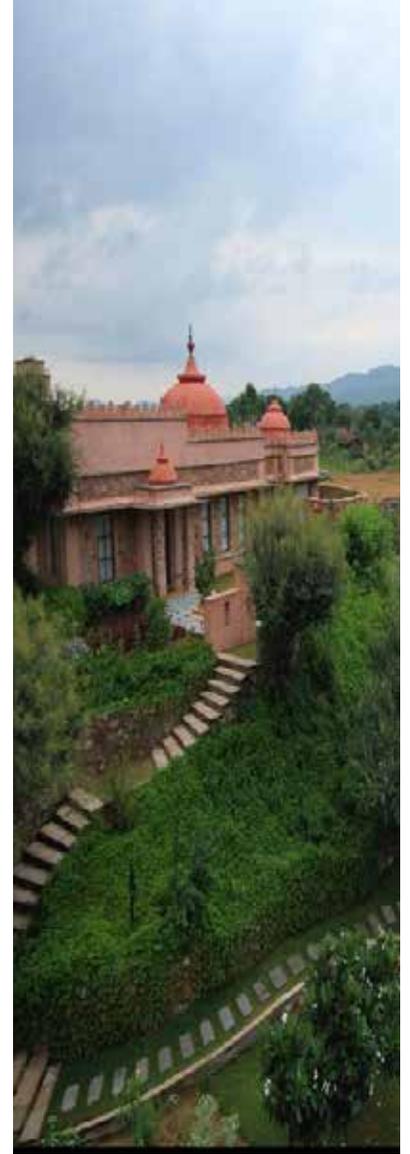
Pg20



International Film and TV Production in AIUla

A delegation from Film AIUla, the Royal Commission for AIUla's newly established film agency, arrived at Cannes Film Festival to promote international film and TV production in AIUla, a region of outstanding natural and cultural significance globally in northwest Saudi Arabia.

Pg22



Tree of Life Resort & Hotels collaborate with eZeeTechnosys

eZeeTechnosys, the best hotel-tech provider in the South-Asia region recently forged an association with the Tree of Life Resort & Hotels making it one of the largest premium properties on eZee's portfolio of hotels.

Pg34



Masterchef Australia S13

As the competition for MasterChef Australia Season 13 inches close to the finale, it won't be an easy call for the judges to decide who takes the coveted trophy home this year.

Pg40



Hilton Honors: Dining 'Like a Member'

Hilton Honors, the award-winning guest loyalty program for Hilton's 18 world-class brands, announced its Asia Pacific new dining offer, 'Like a Member', giving guests an opportunity to join Hilton Honors and enjoy its privileges in their locales, even without staying on property.

Pg42



CapitaLand: Private Fund in India

CapitaLand has launched its second logistics private fund of \$400 million (INR22.5 billion) to expand in India's logistics sector, one of the largest globally.

Pg46



Tel Aviv: Gay Pride Parade

Over 100,000 people gathered along Tel Aviv's seafront promenade on June 25, 2021 to march in one of the largest pride parades held worldwide since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pg49

Travel in Newer Ways

Indians are looking at travel in newer ways and exploring flexible, nearby travel and travel to work remotely, according to new YouGov research conducted in May 2021.

The survey showed that 43% of Indians would like to travel this year when able to (66% to destinations that are a drive away) and are excited about visiting new places with loved ones, relaxing in nature, enjoying offbeat destinations and sharing their experiences and recommendations with others. A third would like to spend time travelling and working in different locations.

Looking forward to travel - While the timeline for travel recovery depends on a number of external factors such as vaccination coverage, Indians continue to be eager to get back to travelling and connecting with new people and places; The survey showed that 43% would expect or plan to travel in the year and 66% would consider trips that are within driving distance; More than a third of respondents (36%) would like to travel and explore new places with loved ones. About eight in ten (78%) said they would like to be closer to their family in order to receive or provide support

Flexible living and working - A third of Indian travellers (33%) would like to spend time travelling and working 'anywhere' in different locations, in a post-pandemic world; About two-thirds (62%) of respondents say they would opt for off-peak times of the year to travel.

Aviareps India: First-Ever 3D Virtual Roadshow

AVIAREPS India, successfully concluded its very first 3D digital roadshow in India with 12 partner on board representing tourism destinations namely Brussels, Miami, Moscow and St.



Petersburg, hotel brands namely Radisson Hotels and RoccoForte Hotels, tourism products offering in Brussels namely Choco Story and the biggest tourism attractions - Atomium and Mini Europe, car rental services of Budget Rent a Car and finally important suppliers namely MP Benelux and Get to Belgium.

Held from 23-24 April 2021, the virtual roadshow ended on a high note and garnered the presence of industry visitors from all corners of India.

Over the two days of the virtual fair, a total of 250+ attendees from the vibrant Indian outbound travel fraternity ensured 350+ pre-scheduled meetings and 1710 contacts exchanged via booth visitations as well as allowing agents to interact amongst themselves thus making this a highly interactive platform.

During the most challenging year gone by, AVIAREPS decided to make use of digital tools such as a 3D virtual platform so as to allow for interactions and business exchanges to take place, thereby keeping our industry connected. AVIAREPS have been regularly organizing virtual events across the globe. This platform has been designed with an intention to replicate a physical fairs with exhibitors having their uniquely designed booths.

Booking.com: Practice Sustainable Travel

Lockdown has been hard in many ways with travellers itching to get out and explore this big, beautiful world of ours again. This pause has led us to reflect on our impact on the environment and local communities for when we do start taking trips again. According to Booking.com's 2021 Sustainable Travel Report, 88% of respondents revealed that it has encouraged them to travel more sustainably in the future and 75% of Indian travellers believe that people have to act now to save the planet for future generations.

Luckily, making sustainable choices has become easier and more affordable than one might expect. There are many simple ways we can limit our environmental impact, and better support and engage with local communities during our upcoming trips. To help make it easier for everyone to travel more sustainably, Booking.com shares 7 handy tips to create a positive impact on your next trip, when it is safe to do so again.

Picking a more sustainable place to stay for your next trip is a great place to start - and it doesn't necessarily mean spending a lot of money. There are plenty of sustainable options for every budget and taste. In fact, 98% of Indian travellers from a recent Booking.com research say that they want to stay in a sustainable accommodation in the upcoming year. One of the easiest ways to confidently book a more sustainable property is to check and see if it has an established eco-label or third-party sustainability certification. There are numerous, reputable third-party sustainability certifications that properties can work towards and achieve.

Crystal River Cruises: Complete 2021 Deployment

Crystal River Cruises, the World's Most Luxurious River Cruise Line, has announced its final deployment for 2021, featuring 35 voyages ranging from seven to 11 nights and exploring the historic cities, cultural treasures and UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Rhine, Danube and Moselle rivers. Sister ships Crystal Ravel and Crystal Debussy are set to return to Europe's famed waterways on August 29 and August 30, respectively, with a focus on the line's most popular and destination-rich seven-night Rhine and Danube itineraries, as well as voyages showcasing the fairytale beauty of the Mosel Wine Region. Every 2021 river voyage is highlighted by at least two overnight stays, with many voyages offering three overnights, allowing guests to further immerse themselves in the ports' charm and history, or venture to nearby towns for broader experiences.

Plans are well underway to resume river cruising in August thanks to recent positive news from the European Union allowing entry for vaccinated passengers with all countries on Crystal River Cruises' itineraries now open for river cruising.

"We are looking forward with great excitement and anticipation to welcoming our guests back aboard our all-suite, all-butler serviced river ships to share the stunning cultural sights and natural beauty of Europe's most treasured river destinations," said Walter Littlejohn, Crystal River Cruises' senior vice president and managing director. "While our Christmas Market voyages are completely sold out there is still availability for select voyages, which we know will be welcome news for guests who have been postponing their plans waiting for travel restrictions to ease.

FICCI urges Government to Support

The effect of the pandemic continues to wreak havoc on lives and livelihood for the second consecutive year. While some sectors are slowly opening up again, for the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, the struggle continues to make ends meet. The industry had contributed USD 194 billion to the Indian economy in 2019 and created about 40 million jobs i.e. 8 percent of its total employment. The industry came to a halt due to the pandemic and this has created a ripple effect through the industry resulting in many hotels and businesses closing down and job losses for many of those who depended on this industry for their livelihood.

Health experts have predicted that a third wave of COVID19 is inevitable. The government needs to act now and provide immediate relief measures to resolve the urgent liquidity crisis faced by the industry.

FICCI has once again appealed to the government for the moratorium on all working capital, principal, interest payments, loans and overdrafts which ended in August 2020 to be extended by another 1 year i.e. August 2021.

The RBI's resolution framework, which was prepared during the first wave of the pandemic, needs to be reviewed. With the continued impact of the second wave, it will take a minimum of 4-5 years for the hotel industry to see a return to some semblance of normalcy in its operations. In this situation, the period of restructuring and the ratios needs to be reviewed. It is imperative that the period of restructuring for this sector be extended till March 2024 - 2025.

Golfing in Thailand Survey 2021



Amazing Thailand is a dream destination for golfers from all around the world. Its 250 top quality golf courses ideally located throughout the country, having world class Golfing facilities, reasonable green fees, friendly caddies and many other attractions continue to attract golfers to visit this country.

In its continuous endeavour to keep track of latest trends and mind set of the golfers, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) & Sports & Leisure Worldwide (SLW) conducted its second survey on 'Golfing in Thailand' with Golfers in India during 21st June – 5th July 2021. The surveyed sample group was made up of Golfers from all over India and consisted of:

Responses: 1001 (From all over India)

Age-group: Below 35- 4.49% Ages 35-44 -10.45% Ages 45-54 -26.23% Ages 55- 65 – 35.11% above 65- 23.72%

The survey resulted in some important facts coming to the fore. Most Golfers a whopping 97% of those surveyed rated Thailand as one of the best golfing destinations. Thai Hospitality followed by Value for money and affordable luxury, were the top three key factors similar to previous survey last year which prompts these golfers to travel to Thailand to play golf. Thailand's close proximity to India was another key factor in influencing the Indian golfers mind in deciding Thailand as the premier destination for Golf holidays.

Google Pay: tokenization

Google Pay announced further expansion in the footprint of bank partners offering cards tokenisation on the Google Pay app, a feature that enables users to make debit or credit card payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone without having to physically share their credit or debit card details.

After successfully rolling out tokenization with Kotak Mahindra Bank, SBI Cards and Axis Bank, Google Pay has now added debit cards by SBI, IndusInd Bank and Federal Bank and Credit cards by IndusInd Bank and HSBC India to its slate.

The feature also works with online merchants, delivering more native and seamless OTP experiences without redirecting users to 3D Secure sites.

With tokenization, Google Pay will enable safe and secure omnichannel experiences to help consumers:

- Use Near-field communication (NFC) capable devices/ phones to make contactless payments at over 2.5 million Visa merchant locations
- Scan and pay at more than 1.5 million Bharat QR enabled merchants
- Pay bills and recharges from within their Google Pay app using their credit card

SBI is the country's largest issuer of debit cards and combined with IndusInd Bank, Federal Bank & HSBC credit cards, the development extends the facility of tokenization to millions of card users in India.

To enable the tap and pay feature using the smartphone phone, users will have to do a one-time set up by entering their card details and follow it by entering the OTP they get from the bank to add their card to the Google Pay app. After the registration, the feature can be used to make payments at NFC-enabled terminals.

HRANI welcome Delhi Government decision

The excise department of Delhi government has allowed waiver of licence fee for pubs, restaurants, and hotels serving liquor for about two months as they were closed due to the coronavirus induced lockdown from 16.4.2021 to 20.6.2021. The department has also extended the date of 30.6.2021 for payment of excise fees for 2nd Quarter till 31 July, 2021. The order has been issued by Sh. Anand Kumar Tiwari, Dy. Commissioner (Excise).

The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Northern India (HRANI) had made representations to the Excise department and Deputy Chief Minister Sh. Manish Sisodia in this regard.

A Hotel or bar or restaurant is liable to pay the license fee in advance before the start of the financial year according to the nature of permit depending on the seating capacity and the fees varies according to type of license.

"The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Northern India (HRANI) has made similar representations in all the ten states & UT's that have levied the excise licence fee, the association's President Surendra Kumar Jaiswal said.

He added that if the business is non-operational, the fee should not be levied. "Moreover, businesses were shut because the government had asked them to. We are glad that Delhi has agreed but we will continue to plead with the remaining states for the waiver."

"Many restaurants in the city have not resumed the dine-in facility till now, fearing low footfall and increased losses. Some restaurants and bars have already closed permanently due to the ongoing crisis" Garish Oberoi, Chairman, Delhi State Committee and Treasurer HRANI said.

IATO UP Chapter Organises Hybrid Meeting

Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) Uttar Pradesh Chapter organised its hybrid meeting on 9th of July in Varanasi at Hotel Clarks under the chairmanship of Mr. Prateek Hira, Chairman UP Chapter and Mr. Vikram Singh, Co-Chair of the chapter.



This meeting was supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India and was attended by about 50 members including IATO's Regional Chairman of North India, Mr. Sunil Gupta who spoke about all the efforts that IATO has made in the past few months to ease the pain of the industry. MOT's Regional Director - North, Mr. Anil Oraw also joined the meeting and assured the members of Ministry's support for early revival of tourism in India.

The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the road map of tourism in Uttar Pradesh and Prof. Pravin Rana of Banaras Hindu University delivered a talk on the topic "Reinvent to Rebound". A power point presentation by Prof. Rana set the tone of discussions and deliberations that followed.

Chairman of IATO UP Chapter, Mr. Prateek Hira said, "It is very important that as tour operators, we reinvent ourselves and look at other revenue heads than just the traditional ones, in order to rebound much earlier, when things start falling in place".

Co-Chair of IATO UP Chapter, Mr. Vikram Singh said "We need to come out of our comfort zones and explore new areas and that is the reason that operators are touring nearby towns to expand the potential of Varanasi".

ITB Berlin 2022: Restart and Recovery

The World's Leading Travel Trade Show releases details of a hybrid concept and for taking part in the live event from 9 to 13 March 2022 in Berlin

Demand is high for the annual business highlight of the international travel industry. In March 2022 ITB Berlin – The World's Leading Travel Trade Show® – is planning an in-person edition of the event whose success story spans more than 50 years – to which virtual elements will be added. As part of a three-phase trade show concept, the run-up will consist mainly of matchmaking and appointments. During the actual event ITB Berlin will provide a platform for business, networking, content and dialogue, and with its physical and hybrid trade show stands will create a setting for successful participation in the event. After ITB Berlin, over a period of one to two days the virtual Business Days will round off the concept with virtual appointments and livestreams.

As early as February 2022, access will be available to a virtual trade show platform where exhibitors, trade visitors and the media can make advance contact and find relevant content. The focus of the World's Leading Travel Trade Show will be on Saxony, the Official Partner Destination, which at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 March 2022 on the eve of the event will open ITB Berlin with a festive gala at the CityCube Berlin, which will also be livestreamed. On Wednesday, 9 March, the Berlin Exhibition Grounds will open their doors to exhibitors, trade visitors and the media, observing the latest hygiene rules and a safety concept which ITB Berlin will coordinate with the local authorities and will previously test.

KTM Society: Covid Vaccination Drive

Kerala Travel Mart Society (KTM) is organizing a Covid Vaccination Drive in collaboration with the Kerala Tourism Department, to give priority to those who are working in the tourism sector. The aim is to make Kerala the first 100% tourism vaccinated state in India by providing complete vaccination to those working in the tourism sector and other tourism associates.

The motive of KTM is to declare the tourism sector safe by vaccinating everyone who is a part of it. This is essential for the re-opening of tourism in Kerala. To reach this goal Tourism Department has introduced priority vaccination for the age group of 18-44 years and has appointed nodal officers to carry out this task. In addition to this, district-wise KTM members have been appointed as liaison officers to assist nodal officers with this initiative.

Mr. Baby Mathew Somatheeram has informed that KTM has also launched a vaccination Drive in collaboration with private sector hospitals to expedite the vaccination of people of all age groups who are working in the tourism sector. For more information on this vaccination drive and its coordination, KTM has launched a help desk (Phone No. 9747720077). Mr. Baby Mathew Somatheeram requested that all members of the tourism sector to utilize this opportunity and get vaccinated. This will help our industry to prepare for the safe re-opening of the tourism sector in Kerala and restart our businesses soon.

Odisha: Financial Package for Tourism Sector

Mr Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Minister of Tourism, Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Government of Odisha said that while in the government scheme of things tourism may rank a little lower than other priority sectors like health, education, it is an important sector that must be supported.

Addressing the virtual roundtable on 'COVID-19: Impact on the State Tourism Sector', organized by FICCI, Mr Panigrahi said that the budget allotted for the tourism sector this year has seen an unprecedented increase. The Chief Minister wants to take Odisha tourism to global standards. We all must understand that the sector needs help to bounce back. "The Chief Minister is expected to soon announce financial packages for the tourism sector. The need is to work towards sustainable tourism, and we cannot have a situation where risk management is not taken care of," he added.

Mr Vishal Kumar Dev, Principal Secretary, Sports and Youth Services and Tourism, Government of Odisha said that the government is aware of the concerns faced by the tourism and hospitality sector. "We are working on a detailed support package to be offered to the industry, which would include hotels, restaurants, tour operators, and self-employed people including photographers, guides, etc., among others," he added.

Highlighting the measures to promote Odisha tourism, he said that we are looking at roadshows, road trips from the neighbouring states, and scaling up of eco-retreats to cover more destinations. We have selected a partner that will help us in curating various itineraries and immersive experience packages to promote these packages, Mr Dev noted.



Which flavour of India would you like to experience

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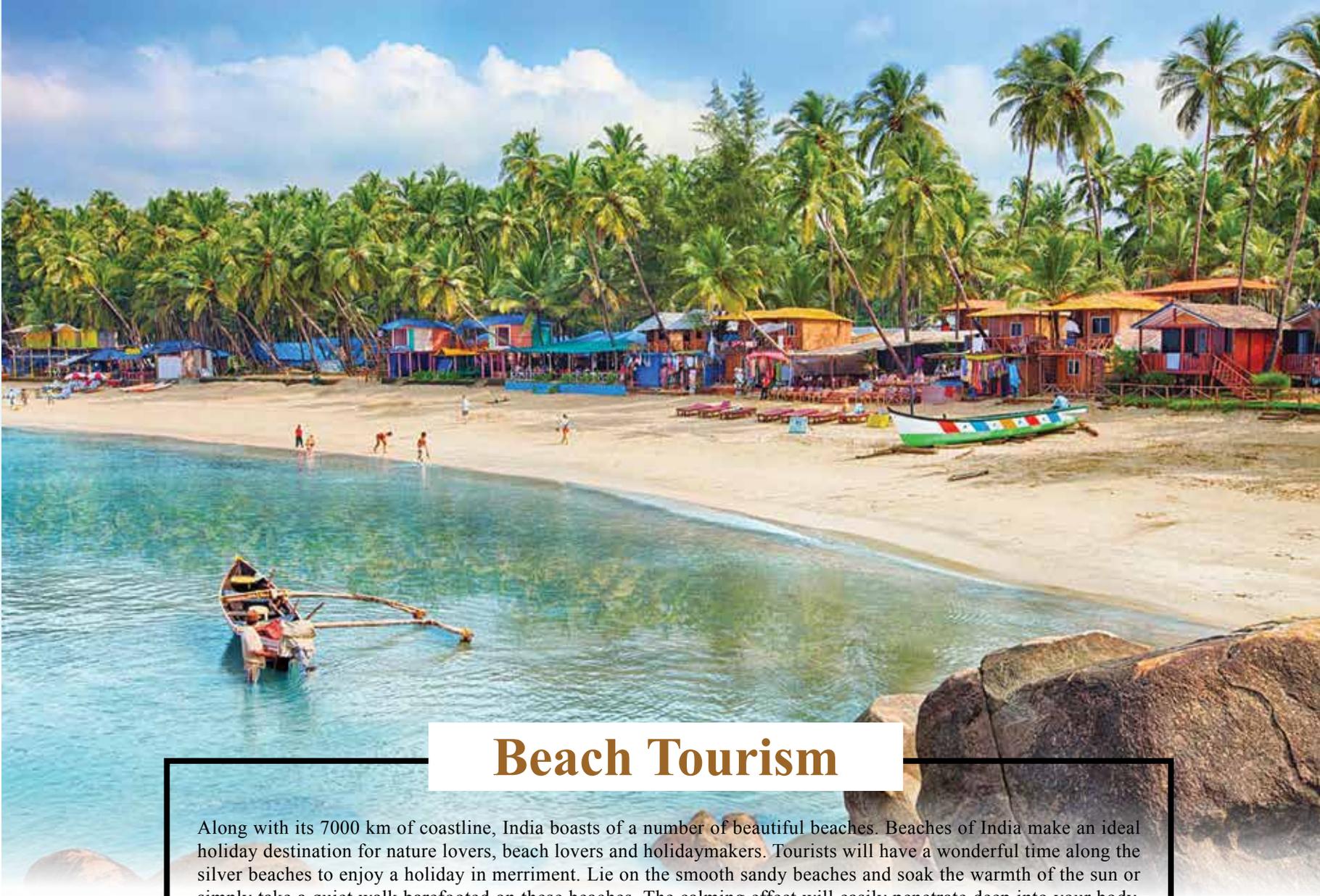
• **Vedika Sharma**

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tourism to beach tourism, from pilgrimage tourism to adventure tourism, from wildlife tourism to cruise tourism you just name it, you have it. Undoubtedly, India is a 365 days tourist destination.





Beach Tourism

Along with its 7000 km of coastline, India boasts of a number of beautiful beaches. Beaches of India make an ideal holiday destination for nature lovers, beach lovers and holidaymakers. Tourists will have a wonderful time along the silver beaches to enjoy a holiday in merriment. Lie on the smooth sandy beaches and soak the warmth of the sun or simply take a quiet walk barefooted on these beaches. The calming effect will easily penetrate deep into your body. The vast stretches of sea water have a unique ability to carry away all your worries and heartaches along with its waves. Tour to any lovely and picturesque beaches in India will offer visitors an opportunity to catch the glimpse of marine life, coastal vegetation and the picturesque surrounding.

Beaches In

Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Corbyn's Cove And Chirya Tapu Beach, Radhnagar Beach, Harminder Bay Beach, Karmatang Beach, Ramnagar Beach.

Goa: Anjuna Beach, Baga Beach, Dona Paula, Calangute Beach, Benaulim Beach, Cavelosim Beach, Chapora Beach, Candolim Beach, Bogmolo Beach, Miramar Beach, Palolem Beach, Vagator Beach, Varca Beach.

Kerala: Alappuzha Beach, Bepore Beach, Dharmadam Island, Ezhimala Beach, Fort Kochi Beach, Kovalam Beach, Kumarakom Beach, Kappad Beach in Kerala, Marari Beach, Moppila Bay, Muzhappilangad Beach, Pathiramanal Beach, Payyambalam Beach, Sankhumugham Beach, Tanur Beach, Thangassery Beach, Thirumullavaram Beach, Varkala Beach.

Tamil Nadu: Marina Beach - Chennai, Mahabalipuram Beach, Rameshwaram Beach, Kanyakumari Beach, Covelong Beach.

Andhra Pradesh: Bheemunipatnam Beach, Ramakrishna Beach, Manginapudi Beach, Mypad Beach, Rishikonda Beach, Vodarevu Beach.

Gujarat: Ahmedpur Mandvi Beach, Beyt Dwarka, Diu Beach, Somnath & Veraval Beach, Chorwad, Madhavpur Beach, Gopnath Beach in Gujarat.

Karnataka: Bhatkal Beach, Karwar Beach, Malpe Beach, Maravanthe Beach, Murudeshwar Beach.

Maharashtra: Basein, Dahanu-Bordi Beaches, Ganapatipule Beach, Juhu Beach, Marine Drive - Chowpatty Beach, Madh Island Beach, Marve-Manori-Gorai, Murud - Janjira, Harnai Beach, Kihim & Mandwa, Shriwardhan - Harihareshwar, Tarkarli, Velneshwar, Vengurla - Malvan, Vijaydurg - Sindhudurg.

Odisha: Balighai Beach, Chandipur Beach, Gopalpur On Sea, Konark Beach, Paradeep Beach, Puri Beach.



Tribal Tourism

India has the largest tribal population in the world. India houses 437 types of tribes, inhabiting the forest and hilly region, which makes around 8 percent of India's total population. Largely unaffected by the modern world, they're very simple and often curious people, who have retained their rituals and customs. Simple by nature these people are also often very curious. Entry to the lives of the tribal may require you permits but will never fail to give you an experience of another world, separated and secluded from the culture we abode in. On the basis of their native language, the Indian tribes can be segregated into 4 categories: Indo - Aryans Speakers, Dravidian Speakers, Tibet- Burmese speakers and Austric Speakers.

States must visit once to witness Tribal Tourism

Nagaland

Nagaland's blue-hued mountains and emerald

expanses comprise an intriguing world of ancient rituals and proud people. Nagas has evolved into a generic term for many tribal communities in the North East. There are 16 major and numerous sub-tribes spread over Nagaland's seven districts.

Andaman & Nicobar

The Andaman Islands are home to four 'Negrito' tribes – the Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinelese. The Nicobar Islands are home to two 'Mongoloid' tribes – the Shompen and Nicobarese. The 'Negrito' tribes are believed to have arrived in the islands from Africa up to 60,000 years ago. All are nomadic hunter-gatherers, hunting wild pig and monitor lizard, and catching fish with bows and arrows. They also collect honey, roots and berries from the forest. The 'Mongoloid' tribes probably came to the islands from the Malay-Burma coast several thousand years ago.

Odisha

Odisha is the homeland of 62 types of tribes

and 29% of its population is tribal. Travel to these little villages in the valley, their aged old traditions, the weekly markets, the amazing hikes on the spectacular landscape or the drum bits during the evening as they dance to the tune of Dhemsa can not only be a lifetime travel experience but also a learning experience for all.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh is one of the best states of India for the purpose of tribal tourism. Almost one-third population of the state consists of the people representing various tribes such as Gonda, Baiga, Korba, Abhuj Maria, BisonHorn Maria, Muria, Halbaa, Bhatra and Dhurvea tribes. Most of them live in the dense forests of the Bastar region the largest tribal district of the state with over 70% of its total population comprising of tribals. This is about 26.76% of the total tribal population of the state.





Medical Tourism



The capability of wellbeing frameworks, created through hundreds of years of the shrewdness of this old progress would be completely tapped. This is being finished by situating India as a focal point of Ayurveda, Yoga, Sidha, Naturopathy, and so forth together with the profound theory that has been fundamental to the Indian lifestyle.

From the quality of therapy, the range of procedural and treatment options, infrastructure and skilled manpower to play out any Medical system with zero holding up time, the rundown of advantages of going for medicinal treatment in India are many.

The key offerings which bring medical tourism in India are high-quality amenities, cost-effectiveness, zero waiting time, travel opportunities, ease of visas etc.

India is one of the cheapest destinations in the world for the most complicated surgeries and treatments. In India, heart bypass surgery costs only US\$5,200 – compared to US\$144,000 in the US, and US\$15,121 in Thailand.



Desert Tourism

Whenever you feel like taking a desert camel safari in India, you can experience it in the north-western and northern regions of the country. These arid lands have been quite popular as holiday destinations with travellers.

Large parts of Rajasthan in the north-west and Ladakh in the northern extreme of India contain deserts.

The Thar Desert is the most colourful desert in the world. Lying between the Rajasthan, Western India, Thar desert makes Rajasthan

one of the most sought after destination. Discovering the desert in India is not only full of giving an opportunity to explore the tremendous land of sand, but also be aware of its rich cultural and historical heritage, which comprise its inseparable parts.



Hot Air Ballooning: Jaipur in Rajasthan and Lonavala near Mumbai are the two most favourable for hot air ballooning.

Scuba Diving: To experience the colourful coral life Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the state of Goa or the town of Murudeshwar in Karnataka are the best places to visit.

Wildlife Safari: The country has loads of protected areas like Corbett, Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Pench national parks, where wildlife safaris can be availed.

Camping: The places to rejuvenate in the lap of nature while camping are Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh.

Skiing: Gulmarg and Manali are the destination for best experience of skiing in India.

Adventure Tourism

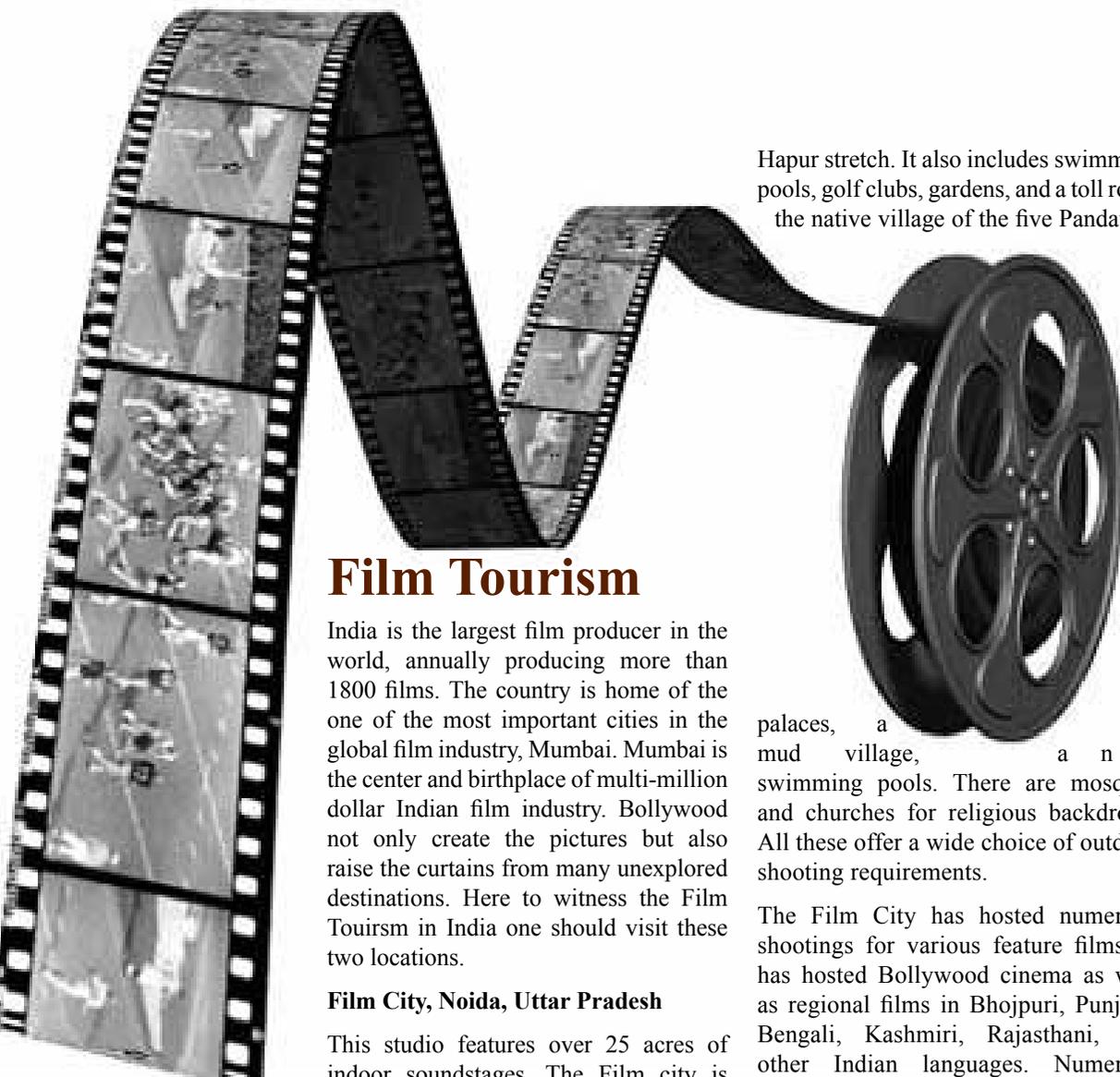
Adventure travel involves exploration or travel to remote exotic areas. Adventure tourism is rapidly growing in popularity as a tourist seeks different kinds of vacations. Here are the few adventure activities with the best location to take one in a lifetime experience.

Treks: There are so many trek options at a number of destinations like Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir.

Motor Bike: Biking trips on the Leh-Manali highway and through South and West India are the most adventurous activity one must try once in their lifetime.

River Rafting: Uttarakhand and the village of Kolad are two prime destinations for the best rafting experience in India.





Film Tourism

India is the largest film producer in the world, annually producing more than 1800 films. The country is home of the one of the most important cities in the global film industry, Mumbai. Mumbai is the center and birthplace of multi-million dollar Indian film industry. Bollywood not only create the pictures but also raise the curtains from many unexplored destinations. Here to witness the Film Tourism in India one should visit these two locations.

Film City, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

This studio features over 25 acres of indoor soundstages. The Film city is located on the Yamuna river banks. It also has a Massoori village on the Ghaziabad-

Hapur stretch. It also includes swimming pools, golf clubs, gardens, and a toll road, the native village of the five Pandavas,

palaces, a mud village, and swimming pools. There are mosques and churches for religious backdrops. All these offer a wide choice of outdoor shooting requirements.

The Film City has hosted numerous shootings for various feature films. It has hosted Bollywood cinema as well as regional films in Bhojpuri, Punjabi, Bengali, Kashmiri, Rajasthani, and other Indian languages. Numerous views, news, and current affairs programs have been filmed here. This

has attracted politicians, celebrities, and bureaucrats making it a VIP place. Its success story has drawn filmmakers and foreign delegations from outside India. They have explored the possibilities of culture exchange programs and joint ventures.

National Museum of Indian Cinema, Mumbai, Maharashtra

The Museum is housed in two buildings – the New Museum Building and the 19th century heritage building, Gulshan Mahal – both at the Films Division complex. The Museum showcases history of India Cinema and has ample artefacts, digital elements including kiosks, interactive digital screens, information based screen interfaces, etc.

Film properties and costumes, vintage equipments, posters, copies of important films, promotional leaflets, sound tracks, trailers, transparencies, old cinema magazines, statistics covering film making & distribution etc. are displayed in a systematic manner depicting the history of Indian cinema in a chronological manner. NMIC not only provides a store house of information to the laymen, but also help film makers, students, enthusiasts and critics to know and evaluate the development of cinema as a medium of artistic expression.

Cultural Tourism

Indian culture often labeled as an amalgamation of several cultures, spans across the Indian subcontinent and has been influenced by a history that is several millennia old. India's culture and diversity make it a land of unlimited opportunities. Each city and state has so much to offer in terms of the heritage, architecture and experience that can be explored.

The diverse culture of India has always intrigued one and all and has been a major crowd puller of tourists from all across the globe. Every city of India has its own culture, thus offering a vacation with unmatched cultural experiences through its food, traditions, clothes, festivals,



structures, topography and more. Indian culture is steeped into tolerant Hindu religion enriched with Vedas, Upanishads, Aranyakas, Puranas, Smritis, Srimad Bhagwat Gita, Ramayana and Mahabharata. Yoga, Ayurveda, several sects, many gods, centuries old rituals and traditions, thousands of years old festivals etc. make culture of India colourful, vibrant and relevant. Such an exotic and incredible culture has given birth to culture tourism in India.





Spiritual Tourism

For over 4,000 years, India-one of the most spiritually enriched places on earth has been the cradle of spirituality. Actually, the Land of the Vedas and Temples, India is the Spiritual Capital of the World. One of the most interesting things about India is that it is home to a diverse range of spiritual and religious beliefs, traditions and places of worship, these are most evident in the many varied spiritual places in India and make India arguably the most unique and captivating country to explore. Few must visit spiritual places in India are:-

Haridwar, Uttrakhand

No spiritual journey is considered complete without a trip to Haridwar in North India. The land of legends and tales located in the foothills of the Himalayas and cleansed by the holy Ganga is considered as the holiest place to wash the sins.

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Varanasi is also known as Spiritual capital of India. It is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities and is dripping in history and spirituality. It is one of the seven Hindu and Jainist holy cities, or Sapta Puri, in India. Buddhism is said to have been founded in Varanasi as well.

Bodhgaya, Bihar

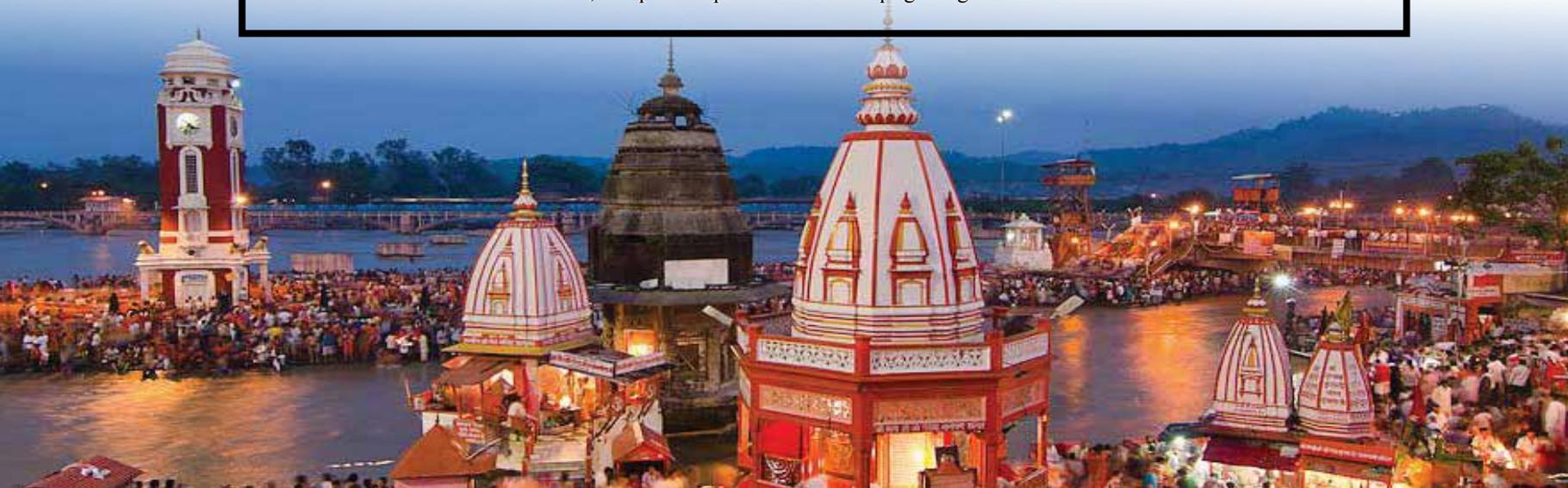
Bodhgaya is a famous Buddhist pilgrimage in the world. Located in Bihar, this is the place where Lord Buddha became enlightened under a Bodhi tree.

Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab

The magnificent Golden Temple is situated in the beautiful city of Amritsar. It has four gates, which symbolises equality and is open to its worshipers, irrespective of their caste, creed and sex.

Tirupati Balaji, Andhra Pradesh

Devoted to Lord Venkateshwara, Tirupati temple is a must visit pilgrimage destination for Hindus.





Heritage Tourism

India is famous in the world over for its rich heritage and ancient culture. The country's cultural diversity and glorious history attracts millions of tourists each year to visit its numerous heritage sites scattered throughout its lands. India's rich heritage is amply magnified by the numerous monuments, temples, forts and palaces that bear testimony to a glorious bygone era. The most popular heritage site

that every person knows about is of course the Taj Mahal and is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The maximum number of tourists who come to India visit the Taj Mahal for it is one of the 7 wonders of the world. It is made of marble which has intricate inlay work done in an exquisite and meticulous style. The Mandawa castle in Rajasthan, built in 1775 reflects India's rich heritage and attracts thousands of tourists each year to Rajasthan which seems especially popular for its antique

paintings, jade jewelry, palaces, and costumes. Mahabalipuram has sculptural and architectural sites which are considered the greatest in India. Mahabalipuram has cave temples that have been carved from granite blocks and belong to the 7th century.

India's glorious past and cultural diversity make a potent blend which attracts millions of tourists each year to its heritage tourist attractions.



Sustainable Tourism: Confidence to Explore India Responsibly

‘Sustainable Tourism: Confidence to Explore India Responsibly’, at FAE 2020, an initiative led by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in partnership with FICCI.

• T3FS Desk

Mr Mandip Singh Soin, FRGS, Member- FICCI Inbound Committee; Founder and Managing Director, Ibex Expeditions and Founding President, Responsible Tourism Society of India moderated the inaugural session while the following session was moderated by Mr Dipak Deva, Co-Chair, FICCI

Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Committee; Chair, FICCI Inbound Committee and Managing Director, SITA, TCI & Distant Frontiers. Ms Kerrie Hannaford, Vice President- Commercial, South Asia, Accor; Mr Rohit Kapoor, Chief Executive Officer, OYO INSEA (India & South-East Asia); Mr Kamal Hingorani, Chief Customer

Service Officer, SpiceJet Ltd, Mr Rakshit Desai, Chairman, FICCI Corporate & MICE Tourism Committee & Managing Director, FCM Travel Solutions; and Mr Ranjit Phillipose, Area Director – Middle East and General Manager, Taj Dubai, The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) also put forth their views.



Arvind Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

Many tourism destinations have been embracing sustainability and taking action to address the environmental impacts, but this practice should be more universal. Similarly, businesses in tourism, large and small, have introduced environmental management systems to keep up with the demands of the sector. The tourism sector is a significant user of non-renewable resources and a generator of waste and pollution. Therefore, national and state tourism policies should recognise sustainability practises and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the vision and strategic direction for tourism. This may require a rethinking of the indicator of tourism success, away from volumes and towards more holistic concepts of value and impact at the destination level.

Government has come out with a Draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism. Comments and suggestions from all stakeholders, associations, and state are welcomed. Some of the measures that we have proposed in the strategy is the certification scheme for sustainable tourism. This can later be extended to destinations and other industry stakeholders as well. We will also work with industry, NGOs for the dissemination of information, education and communication campaigns on sustainable tourism and the adverse environmental impacts of tourism in certain parts of

the country. There will also be an effort to do a state assessment and ranking. This will be a clear strategy to motivate states adopt sustainable tourism. This assessment will be used to identify initiatives in the states and build a capacity and future roadmap towards better sustainable practises in tourism. We will aggressively promote sustainable tourism certified products and enterprises.

No such strategy can succeed without public-private and community partnerships, especially where sustainability is concerned, the private sector and the community have a very important role to play.

Rakesh Kumar Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

Future is sustainable tourism. Unless we accept and have a shared vision that it is our future, our efforts will not really commensurate. Even before the pandemic, the need for sustainable tourism was out in the open, and now, particularly with this agenda of SDG 2030 for sustainable tourism in our strategy, we have marked out that not only three, but sustainable tourism can contribute to all 17 on SDGs. It aligns with multiple fronts and so we must be convinced that this is a goal worth pursuing.

We need to make it a win-win proposition for the government, the industry, and the people at large. We must look at making sure all stakeholders are equally the responsible for the campaign- unless people start demanding and valuing sustainable tourism, the supply side – the government, and the industry, will still have a laid-back, complacent attitude.



Vishal Kumar Dev, Principal Secretary, Tourism Department, Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha

We have adopted an integrated approach as far as the development of our destinations is concerned. A large number of day picnickers, for example, is a big challenge because they litter the place. The best way to deal with this would primarily be to make the local community responsible for ensuring that the standards defined are enforced..

In the last one- one and half years due to the pandemic there has been a very strong realisation that sustainability and responsible tourism is the way forward. It is not just the industry, even the travellers are aware and sensitive of the footprint that they are leaving. Sustainable tourism will, therefore, also act as a competitive advantage, whether it is a country or a state or a hospitality group.



Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary Tourism, Culture and Public Relation Dept and MD, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Board, Government of Madhya Pradesh

Things are being looked at differently in the post-pandemic world. There is, however, a definite shift when it comes to the choices of eco-conscious travellers– from luxury to authentic. While the tourism department must work continuously to ensure adequate footfall in the state, it is also now time that we take certain measures that ensure minimum carbon footprints in the state.

Madhya Pradesh boasts of many hidden jewels and is a treasure trove for people who love nature and remote land experiences- it is much more exploratory in nature. “We have, therefore, taken a firm step in making responsible tourism the main plank of our tourism policy. We have tried to devise various tourism products around the concept of responsible tourism that leads to community- centric, inclusive, regenerative, and sustainable tourism.

K Jayakumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism & Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim

Off late rural tourism has picked up well in the state. The state government has also stepped in and is standardising the services that are made available at the homestays. Along with homestays we have also introduced the concept of farm stays. We have several rural clusters and rural tourist facilitation centres that help tourists in getting information.



Rupinder Brar, Additional Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

Not everyone travels out of country for more than once or twice a year, hence, the opportunity to tap into aspirational Indians who are looking to travel for long weekends is huge. The lesser-known products are not just being developed for the domestic market but also for the inbound travellers who are looking for more experiential learnings, experiences of India in its most colourful form, cuisine, arts, crafts, heritage, among others.



Mukesh Kumar Meshram, Principal Secretary, Tourism & Culture and DG, Tourism, Uttar Pradesh Government

In the vision document of Ayodhya, we have specifically asked for basic elements and principles of traditional and Vedic architectures and design keeping in mind the climatology of the particular area.

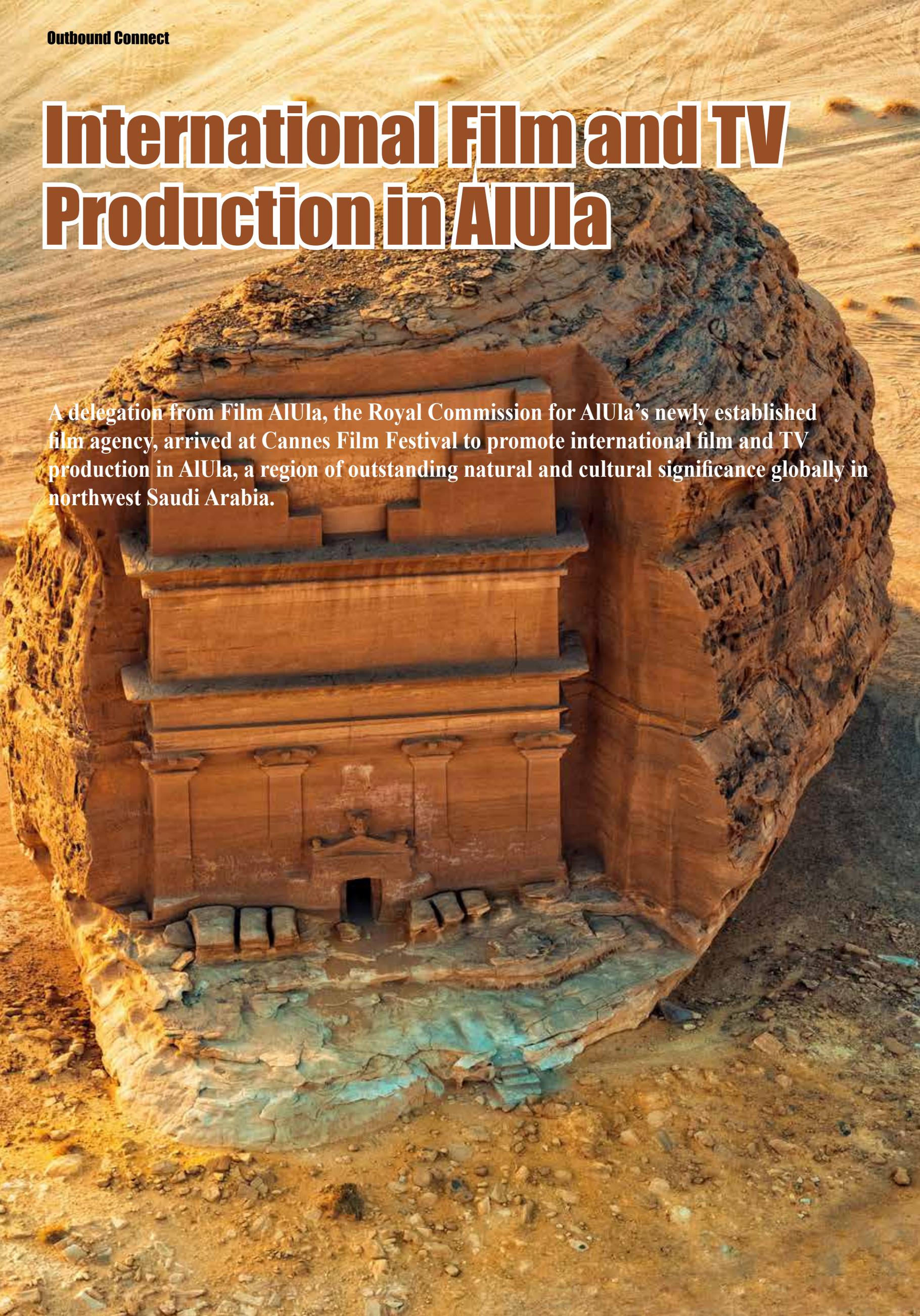
Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI; Chair, FICCI Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Committee & CMD, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group

The travel, tourism, and hospitality industry has been hit very hard by the pandemic. On behalf of FICCI and the industry, I would like to thank the Ministry of Tourism for the recent announcement on free tourist visas for up to 5 lakh tourists. This will give a major push to the revival of inbound tourism, which we are all looking forward to.



International Film and TV Production in AlUla

A delegation from Film AlUla, the Royal Commission for AlUla's newly established film agency, arrived at Cannes Film Festival to promote international film and TV production in AlUla, a region of outstanding natural and cultural significance globally in northwest Saudi Arabia.



Having launched at the Berlinale earlier this year, this is the first appearance for the destination at Cannes. Film AIUla also announced its new facilities which will accommodate 150 film crew and will include production offices and recreational facilities as well as an outdoor cinema. The first phase of construction is already underway with accommodation to be available by the end of 2021.

The Cannes Film Festival, celebrating its 74th edition, will take place from July 6 to 16, 2021. Film AIUla will showcase an extraordinary, mostly unexplored destination which presents filmmakers and the world at large with some of earth's most sensational scenery.

The vast scope of impressive landscapes located along what was historically known as the Incense Route, is home to 200,000 years of history. Including the ancient city of Hegra, the Kingdom's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, the region features historical sites dating back to the Neolithic era through to the Ancient Arabian Kingdoms of the Dadanites and Nabataeans, the Roman era and the early Islamic period.

The terrain features breath-taking rock formations, volcanic craters, lush oasis, untouched wilderness, fascinating wildlife, microclimates, and vast sandstone canyons. The extraordinary sweeping vistas present the perfect backdrop for a wide range of genres such as historical epics, fantasy adventures, extra-terrestrial worlds, and dramatic war movies, and can stand in for an array of different locations, countries, cities, or even another period in time.

AIUla is beginning to attract a growing number of international and regional productions. It will soon welcome the upcoming action thriller *Kandahar*, directed by Ric Roman Waugh and starring Gerard Butler. Many local productions including *Noura*, directed by Tawfiq Al-Zaidi, will also shoot in AIUla, the latter partly financed by the Film Commission at the Ministry of Culture. The region is also attracting a broad range of documentary projects due to its many layers of rich history and culture and untold stories.

Production companies who choose to film in AIUla can benefit from a range of incentives such as free bespoke production support, location scouting, expert knowledge of filming in Saudi, assistance in sourcing equipment and professional crew locally and regionally, and, of course, year-round sunshine. Producers can expect a production-friendly setup location, a range of accommodation options with a skilled English-speaking team of experienced and established production experts to guide and

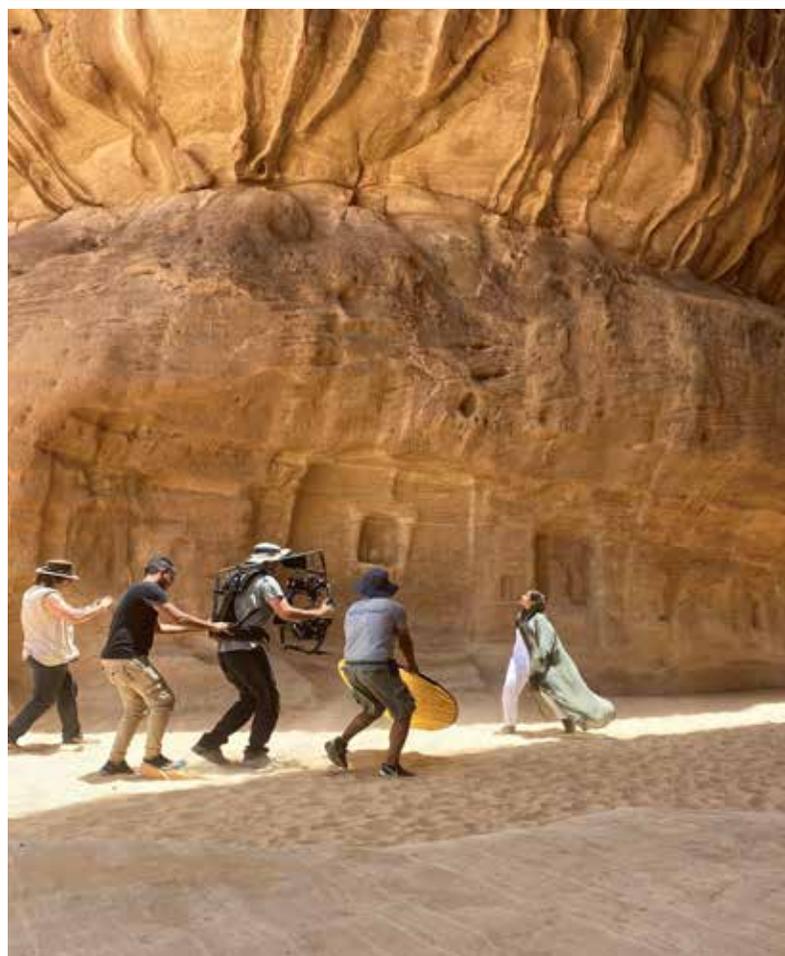
support them every step of the way.

As well as the new fit-for-purpose film crew accommodation, a range of other accommodation includes the 100-guest room *Habitas AIUla*, and the 79-room *Banyan Tree Ashar Resort*, both set to open this autumn.

Film AIUla is in the Saudi Pavilion, number 120, at the Festival alongside the Saudi Film Commission, Ministry of Investment, Red Sea International Film Festival, Neom, MBC, Ithra, Nebras Films, Cinewave, Telfaz 11 and Arabian Pictures. The Pavilion, located in the International Village, will host several industry gatherings to build international relationships within the industry and share with a global audience the development of Saudi Arabia's flourishing film and TV industry.

Stephen Strachan, Film Commissioner at The Royal Commission for AIUla, explained: "Our objective at Cannes Film Festival is to connect with the international film industry to introduce AIUla as a truly unique and exciting film destination, now open for international production."

"The Festival is the perfect platform to boost the development of the film-friendly ecosystem within the country, highlight the young pool of talent and experienced crew, and showcase this region of outstanding natural beauty and cultural significance which set it apart as a truly dynamic filming destination."



Dubai at the Forefront of Global Tourism Recovery



As Dubai marks a year since reopening its borders to international tourists on 7 July 2020, the latest data published by Dubai’s Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism) shows the city welcomed 3.7 million overnight visitors during the 11-month period from July 2020 to May 2021. The positive performance reinforces the leading role Dubai is playing in global tourism recovery.

• T3FS Desk

According to the data published by Dubai Tourism, the emirate received more than 1.7 million visitors between July and December 2020 from markets that were open, and an additional two million visitors in the first five months of 2021.

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai said: “The new data reveals that Dubai’s tourism rebound is gathering pace despite the current challenges faced by international markets. The growing momentum of recovery not only reflects the fundamental strengths of Dubai’s tourism sector and the diversity of its source markets but also the emirate’s economic resilience and agility in the face of a rapidly fluctuating global environment. We have seen inspiring commitment and proactivity from all stakeholders in the public and private sector to work together to adopt innovative approaches that can consolidate the sustainable recovery of the sector. Furthermore, Dubai’s ability to implement a rigorous precautionary protocol regime has made the city one of the world’s safest destinations for travelers. As we gear up to host Expo 2020, these exceptional standards will enable us ensure the event provides the highest global benchmarks of safety and security for all visitors.”

Travel restrictions in key traditional source markets affected the industry’s overall performance over the past year but strongholds like India and UK retained their dominance to be

among the top five traffic generators during this period, along with Russia, Pakistan and Egypt. The evolving travel landscape has, however, brought forth some noteworthy performances from other feeder and emerging markets, especially CIS countries like Kazakhstan and Ukraine, and East African markets Ethiopia and Sudan, that have all exhibited strong growth potential to be among the top 15 source markets for Dubai since it reopened its doors to global travellers.

Dubai’s recovery strategy, implemented in close coordination with stakeholders, proved crucial in reinvigorating the domestic hospitality market in May 2020, preparing the ground for the return of international visitors to the city in July 2020. Pent-up demand for staycations among UAE residents, both Emiratis and expatriates from over 200 nationalities, drove tourism growth with hotel occupancy rising significantly from 35 per cent in July 2020 to 58 per cent in May 2021. Hotel occupancy in Dubai peaked in December 2020 (69 per cent) and in January 2021 (66 per cent) with the city ranking second globally in terms of occupancy after Singapore and ahead of Paris and London, according to data from hotel management analytics firm STR. Notably, the average daily rate (ADR) recovered from AED238 in July 2020 to AED383 in May 2021. Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19 across sectors, Dubai continues to represent a major opportunity for hotel developers. A total of 591 hotel establishments with 100,000 rooms were operating in July 2020 in full compliance

with health and safety protocols. This has now increased to 715 hotel establishments offering 128,000 rooms in May 2021.

The concerted efforts of Dubai Tourism and partners to drive demand for domestic travel saw city hotels welcoming 5.5 million domestic visitors for the period between July 2020 and May 2021, compared to 2.66 million domestic hotel arrivals during the period July 2019 to May 2020, an astounding year-on-year growth of 106 per cent.

A variety of safety initiatives were launched, including a wide range of precautionary measures, in addition to effective testing and vaccination programmes. Dubai Tourism, Department of Economic Development and Dubai Municipality are also taking a zero-tolerance approach towards non-compliance. Dubai’s extensive and sustained efforts at containing the pandemic won international recognition with the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) awarding the city a ‘Safe Travels’ stamp.

In addition to restarting leisure events, Dubai also developed a successful model for the recovery of the business events sector, which paved the way for the resumption of international events in October and subsequently the hosting of mega events such as GITEX in December 2020 and Gulfood, Arabian Travel Market and Arab Health in February, May and June respectively this year. Since September 2020 to mid-May, Dubai hosted a total of 3,136 business events that were attended by 813,832 delegates.

The Diversity of Macau Festival - 3D Paper Art Creation by Benson Lam

Taipa Village Cultural Association is delighted to present its first-ever paper sculpture show, entitled “The Diversity of Macau Festival”.

Created by paper engineer Benson Lam, the exhibition showcases the traditions of Macao’s festivals, the beauty of urban scenes, Macao’s lifestyle and traditional Portuguese charm with a variety of three-dimensional paper art creations made by applying “low poly” interpretations of geometry to generate sculptural forms, giving rise to vibrancy and vitality to this artistic and culturally rich city.

Born in Macao, Benson Lam has studied and worked in Hong Kong, Milan, Barcelona and New York for more than 10 years, specialising in visual merchandising and three-dimensional paper modelling, design and training. He has also been appointed as a window display instructor in the 43rd World Skills Competition, organised by Macao’s Labour Affairs Bureau, and occasionally teaches summer courses held by the city’s Education and Youth Bureau. He is currently running a production studio in Thailand and another in Malaysia, supplying pre-cut kit materials, production and training.

“Paper engineering is the way to make paper not ‘flat’! It is magical.” Benson says. “Art is living, and it should be adapted to our daily lives. Going beyond conventional decorative and visual stimulus purposes, paper craft should also be functional to give spirit to life.”

Low poly is a style of design that uses geometrical calculations to transform an image into a certain number of polygons. The sharp angles and sculptural appearances that result lend any object depicted a striking style characterised by flat planes. As the only three-dimensional paper creation show in Macao, this unique exhibition mixes polygonal digital art with low poly paper forms, polygonal paper light boxes and polygonal paper craft to showcase the diversity and functionality of paper art.

“It is our honour to invite Benson to present his vivid collection of paper sculptural works in Taipa Village” says Pamela Chan, Vice President of the Executive Board at Taipa Village Cultural Association. “Paper is considered a rare art interpretation due to its fragility. However, by boosting creativity beyond its traditional boundaries, its potential can be fully realised,

giving it incredible vitality and sculptural qualities.”

Taipa Village Cultural Association continues to bring together the endeavours of local and international artistic talents, exhibiting myriad artworks at Taipa Village Art Space. This first paper art exhibition further cements Taipa Village’s position as a leading cultural and artistic destination in Macao, and underlines its invaluable contribution to the promotion of the territory’s cultural and creative industries.



Eight places to go stargazing in New Zealand

New Zealand is celebrating the arrival of Matariki, a significant time in the New Zealand cultural calendar marking the beginning of the Māori New Year



Each year the Matariki cluster of stars - known to astronomers as Pleiades or the Seven Sisters - rises in New Zealand skies. Believed to have formed more than 100 million years ago the cluster plays a pivotal role in modern and ancient Māori mythology. Closely connected with the maramataka (the Māori lunar calendar), the reappearance of Matariki in the early morning sky brings the old lunar year to a close and marks the beginning of the new year. Hence, Matariki is associated with the Māori New Year.

Interestingly enough, in 2022, Matariki will be recognized as an official public holiday on Friday June 24, 2022 in New Zealand. The holiday will provide opportunities for visitors domestically and offshore to plan holidays in the middle of the year, to recharge, to reconnect, to celebrate and set new travel goals.

The Matariki celebration is essentially based around 3 major principles:

- Remembrance: Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki
- Celebrating the present: Gathering together to give thanks for what we have.
- Looking to the future: Looking forward to the promise of a new year.

Matariki's focus on the night sky is fitting as New Zealand boasts some of the best stargazing opportunities in the world.

Here are some spots to check out the twinkling galaxy at its clearest.

Certified International Dark Sky Places:

Aotea (Great Barrier Island), Hauraki Gulf

Aotea (meaning white cloud in Māori), also known as Great Barrier, is New Zealand's sixth-largest island and completely off the grid, with no reticulated electricity supply.

Made up of steep forested hills, wetlands and sandy bays, all residents (approximately 1,000 permanent) are responsible for supplying their own power through solar, wind or gas. There are no billboards or streetlights. And the complete lack of light pollution makes for a stunningly sparkly stratosphere. As a result, Aotea was the first island in the world, and one of only a few destinations that have been granted Dark Sky Sanctuary status by the International Dark Sky Association. To be awarded this status, a location must have an "exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights".

A place of rugged beauty and untouched

wilderness, Aotea is one of the most tranquil and unspoilt places in the wider Auckland region. You can reach the island either by ferry or a short 30-minute flight from Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.

Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, Canterbury

The Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve is 4,300sq km of gold standard stargazing. This was the first reserve to be awarded gold status, meaning nearly non-existent light pollution. The formalisation of restrictions on light pollution have been in place since the 1980s. The sheer brightness of the stars, contrasted by the ring of mountains surrounding the Mackenzie Basin, is utterly breathtaking.

The outdoor lighting controls have not only helped make the area one of the clearest, darkest, and most spectacular places in New Zealand to view the night but have also helped conserve energy and protect local wildlife.

There are a number of ways to take a stargazing tour in the Mackenzie Region and keen stargazers will be able to see amazing constellations that can only be seen in the southern hemisphere, including the Southern Cross, the Magellanic Clouds and the Milky Way.

Rakiura (Stewart Island), Southland

The clue is in the name: "Rakiura", the original Māori name for Stewart Island, translating to "glowing skies" in English. Named the world's fifth Dark Sky Sanctuary in January 2019, it is, simply, one of the best places in the world to spot the Aurora Australis, the southern hemisphere equivalent of the famed Northern Lights.

Stewart Island's population is in the vicinity of 400 people, so there's a refreshing lack of light pollution. Plus, its far-south vantage point means you'll see celestial features not visible from any other spot in the country.

Observation Rock is a viewing platform close to the town centre of Oban. Only a 30-minute walk from the town centre, it is a great place to view the night sky as well as the islands majestic sunrises and sunsets. The view is 270 degrees and the main view is to the south.

Tongariro Night Crossing, Central North Island

The Tongariro Alpine Crossing is often declared one of the best day hikes in the world, for its scenic confluence of volcanic features, dramatic mountains and brightly coloured lakes. But try

it at night, assisted by a headlamp and a guide to turn the scenery overhead into the main attraction. Turn off your lamp and let your eyes adjust to the glimmering wonder-world above, framed by the looming silhouettes of the grand old trio of mountains: Ngauruhoe, Ruapehu and Tongariro.

The Ātea a Rangi, Waitangi Regional Park, Hawke's Bay

Celebrate Matariki – the Māori New Year and watch the Matariki star cluster rise above The Ātea a Rangi. Located in Waitangi Regional Park, the celestial star compass known as Ātea a Rangi is used to teach traditional Māori navigation methods and tell stories of those who navigated the oceans to arrive and settle here in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Martinborough, Wairarapa

Martinborough is aiming to be the next Dark Sky Reserve in New Zealand and has one of the darkest and most pristine skies in the country. The town has already achieved an IDA "3K City" classification, which means it has shielded LED outdoor lighting with a colour temperature of 3000 Kelvins or less – reducing sky glow and light pollution. Nearby Castlepoint is a great spot for stargazing, where you can watch the Milky Way rise above the famed lighthouse.

Otago Peninsula, Dunedin

The Aurora Borealis, is a must see for many night sky watchers around the world but the lesser-known Aurora Australis or Southern Lights is no less spectacular. From Dunedin, the Otago peninsula coastline provides a clear and breath-taking view of the night sky, along with a magical backdrop of coastal bird calls echoing across Hoopers inlet. In the right conditions, the Southern Lights appear just over the southern horizon creating remarkable reflections in the water much to the delight of budding photographers. What's more, this nightscape is set to get more dramatic thanks to Dunedin Dark Skies Group, who've pledged to replace all the city street lights with 3000K LEDs.

Tawharanui, Auckland

You don't need to travel far from New Zealand's largest city Auckland to see a spectacular light show. Tawharanui Peninsula is just over an hour drive from downtown Auckland. By day it is home to one of New Zealand's most beautiful beaches, by night it has one of the country's most epic night skies. You'll even get the chance to spot one of the country's endemic, and notoriously shy, birds, the Kiwi.

Final Tickets for Russell Peters' Spellbinding Show

Fans of Canadian comedy megastar, Russell Peters, are in for a treat on Yas Island, one of the world's leading leisure and entertainment destinations, with an exclusive package to see the comic perform at Abu Dhabi's latest entertainment venue, Etihad Arena, alongside staying at one of Yas Island's leading hotels.

Comedy fans over the age of 21 will be able to book in groups of either two, or four individuals to stay on Yas Island and see Russell Peters in action when he performs in Abu Dhabi on Friday, September 17th, 2021 at 8:30pm. Guests looking to make the most of their visit will also be able to add-on visits to Yas Theme Parks and attractions, including Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi, and Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi, and CLYMB™ Abu Dhabi, as well as other attractions and museums including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Qasr Al Watan, Qasr Al Hosn, alongside karting for adults at Yas Marina Circuit and a tour of the iconic racing venue.

Packages are available to book on YasIsland.ae from July 7 onwards, and are available on a first come, first served basis.

All hotels on Yas Island – including W Abu Dhabi – Yas Island and the newly opened Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island – are available in the offer. With a plethora of award-winning dining and culinary options available at all hotels and at the iconic dining venue of Yas Marina, guests will be treated to a night to remember on Yas Island.

Russell Peters is a global comedy superstar, returning to Abu Dhabi for one night only. A regional favorite, with keen observations on race and culture, this will be the funnyman's first international show following the pandemic. Peters has been named as one of Rolling Stone's 50 Best Comics of All Time, and has set attendance records at venues worldwide.



Israel welcomes its new Tourism Minister

Yoel Razvozov began serving as the Minister for the Israel Minister of Tourism on 15 June 2021.

Razvozov, who first entered the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) in 2013, having served as Chairperson of the Sports Lobby of the Knesset and Chairperson of the Generation and a Half Lobby since 2015. From 2013-2015, Razvozov was appointed Chairperson of the Committee for Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Affairs. Minister of Tourism Yoel Razvozov said that he intends to work vigorously to bring the tourism industry back to full operations. "My first task as Minister of Tourism is to build a correct and effective outline for the easing of conditions for tourists to enter Israel - of course, without endangering the citizens of Israel and in cooperation with the professional bodies in the Ministry of Health," said Minister Razvozov.

Razvozov sponsored laws that encourage urban renewal and laws to lower the cost of living. He

has also spearheaded the fight for civil burial, designed to allow for a proper burial for anyone who is not Jewish according to Jewish law or for anyone who wants a burial service that is compatible with the secular lifestyle.

Razvozov has worked to promote the rights of Holocaust refugees and to increase veteran allowances. He has promoted the integration of immigrants in the public health system and education system, and sponsored persistence bonuses to immigrant teachers. Razvozov has also promoted assistance for lone soldiers and worked to integrate immigrants in the job market. He has also worked for harsher punishments for violence in sports, for professional athletes and to promote sport in the community.

Razvozov initiated a revolution in the salaries of Olympic athletes in Israel, in which the salaries

of professional athletes and that of athletes with the potential for success was doubled. A million shekels were allocated towards increasing the salaries, and an additional NIS 30 million were added per year to develop infrastructures and to support future athletes in the less popular sports. Just prior to the dissolution of the 19th Knesset, Razvozov passed a law for harsher punishments for violence in sports.

Razvozov is a former Olympian judoka. At the age of 16, he was Israeli champion, and held this title for 10 consecutive years. He served as captain of Israel's national Judo team, winning two silver medals in the European championship, and represented Israel in the 2004 Athens Olympics. Prior to entering politics, from 2008-2013 Razvozov served as Chairman and Director of the Israel Olympic Committee and held the sports portfolio in the Netanyahu City Council.



Hahn Air: New Vice President Airline Business

Hahn Air announced the appointment of Christoph Althoff as Vice President Airline Business. The industry professional joined the Hahn Air team on 1st July and will be in charge of an international team of experts managing the partnerships with Hahn Air's more than 350 partner airlines worldwide as well as acquiring and implementing new partner carriers.

Christoph Althoff is taking over from Steve Knackstedt who has been in this role for more than 13 years and who will retire at the end of 2021. Christoph Althoff studied in Germany, Argentina and the US, and holds a degree in International Relations & Economics. He started his career as a strategic consultant for telecom companies across Europe. In the past 17 years, he has been working for major travel industry players such as PROS Holding and Amadeus where he successfully developed data-driven and customer-centric sales strategies for airlines and other travel-related clients. An expert in digital retailing channels, he acquired a proven track record of building and leading sales and account management teams in charge of optimising airline revenues. He has been living in Madrid, Spain, for more than 20 years and speaks German, English and Spanish.

Christoph Althoff comments: "When I was with Amadeus and PROS, I already worked closely with Hahn Air. It was impressive to witness the speed, professionalism and enthusiasm of the Hahn Air colleagues and I am very much looking forward to be part of the team and to enable the partner airlines to optimise their revenue with Hahn Air's distribution solutions."

Steve Knackstedt joined Hahn Air in 2007 after 28 years in various senior operations and sales positions with Continental Airlines and as a consultant for Cologne-Bonn Airport. Together with his team, he has enabled the Hahn Air partner airlines to optimise their indirect distribution strategy with products such as HR-169, H1-Air, X1-Air, HR-EMD and HR-Corporate.

"We are very pleased to welcome Christoph

in our team", said Alexander Proschka, Executive Vice President Commercial at Hahn Air. "We are convinced that our teams and partners will benefit of his industry knowledge and leadership skills as well as his expertise in forward-looking technologies and sales strategy. At the same time, we would like to thank Steve for his loyalty and commitment during the past 13 years. He has been instrumental in building one of the largest interline networks in the world and has facilitated the growth of the Hahn Air distribution solutions."



IndiGo commences operations from Darbhanga

IndiGo, India's leading carrier, operated its maiden flight from Darbhanga, the newest domestic destination in the 6E network.

The flight took off in presence of Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament and Member Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture and Civil Aviation and Shri Sanjay Jha, Minister, Water resources and information and public relations (Govt. of Bihar). Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Chief Strategy and Revenue Officer, IndiGo said, "We are pleased to expand our regional presence and begin operations from cultural land of Darbhanga, Bihar. It is in line with our commitment to augment

the domestic connectivity within the country, to enable increased access and mobility. These new flights from Darbhanga to Kolkata and Hyderabad will enhance connectivity between the three states and promote trade and commerce in the region. IndiGo is committed to provide wider networks with an affordable, on-time, safe and hassle-free travel experience onboard our lean clean flying machine".

Darbhanga, one of the largest metropolis in Bihar, is also one of the fastest growing cities in

the country owing to the increasing opportunities in manufacturing and trade across the state. These connections will enhance business opportunities in the city and nearby areas. Darbhanga will now be connected to IndiGo's network through nonstop services to Hyderabad & Kolkata



Domestic passenger traffic witnesses a 41-42% sequential growth in June 2021: ICRA

For June 2021, domestic passenger traffic is estimated at ~29-30 lakh, implying a sequential growth of ~41-42% compared to ~19.8 lakh in May 2021. The airlines' capacity deployment for June 2021 was around 46% higher than June 2020 (~31,700 departures in June 2021, against 21,696 departures in June 2020). On a sequential basis, the number of departures in June 2021 were higher by ~14-15%, as Covid-19 infections demonstrated a downward trajectory. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) permitted increasing the capacity deployment on domestic routes gradually from 33%, with effect from May 25, 2020, to 80%, with effect from December 03, 2020. However, it reduced the permissible capacity deployment to 50% of pre-Covid levels with effect

from June 01, 2021 due to the resurgence of the second wave of the pandemic. It has now permitted increasing the capacity to 65% with effect from July 5, 2021, applicable up to July 31, 2021.

On July 01, 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced a scheme providing financial support in the form of working capital/personal loans to ~10,700 regional level tourist guides recognised under the Ministry of Tourism and tourist guides recognised by the state governments and travel and tourism stakeholders (TTS) recognised by the Ministry of Tourism. TTS' will be eligible to get a loan upto Rs. 10 lakh each, while tourist guides can avail loans upto Rs. 1 lakh each. This is expected to provide the much-needed-liquidity support to the

TTS, which in turn is expected to boost the overall travel and tourism sector, of which aviation remains a key beneficiary. Additionally, to provide an impetus to the tourism industry, the finance ministry announced a scheme to issue one-month tourist visas free of charge to first five lakh customers, validity of which is until March 31, 2022 or issuance of five lakh tourist visas, whichever is earlier. This is a right step towards demand push for the airlines sector, primarily directed at inbound international travel. However, impact of the same is expected to be realised only once scheduled international operations are permitted by the Government on a regular basis and the global fear psychosis related to travel to India subsides.

Development of Sea Plane Services in India

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India and Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India for development of Sea Plane services in India was signed.

The Cathay Pacific Group recently released its 2020 Sustainable Development Report that summarises the initiatives that were brought about by the pandemic including new safety measures and policies introduced to support its customers and employees through the global health crisis. The report also points at the progress made in reducing carbon footprint, along with measures taken to tackle operational sustainability matters.

Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Hardeep Singh Puri were present during the MoU signing ceremony held here today.

Signing of this MoU is a major milestone for making seaplanes project a reality very soon. This MoU envisages development of Non Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services within territorial jurisdiction of India under RCS-UDAN scheme of government of India. As per MoU, a Co-ordination Committee with officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and Ministry of Tourism (MoT) is to be set up for timely completion of

operationalisation of Seaplane services at various locations. MoCA, MoPSW, SDCL will consider operationalising of Seaplane operating routes as identified/suggested by all agencies.

MoPSW would identify and develop water front infrastructure of Aerodromes/ locations and obtain required statutory clearances / approvals in coordination with MoCA, DGCA and AAI by defining the timelines for all activities involved in the development of facilities for starting seaplanes operations.

MoCA would carry out bidding and select potential airlines operators based on their commercial consideration through bidding process, incorporate the locations/routes as identified by MoPSW & routes identified through bidding process in UDAN scheme document. MoCA is also obliged to provide funds/financial support in respect of water aerodromes awarded under RCS-UDAN scheme and coordinate with Chief Secretaries of all States for the Seaplanes operations.

On the occasion, Shri Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State(IC) for Civil Aviation



stated that this MoU between the two Ministries will help in expediting the development of new water aerodromes and also operationalization of new seaplane routes in India. He further stated that this will give a big fillip to the provision of a new kind of tourism service in India.

Speaking on this occasion, the Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya stated that signing of this MoU will be a game changer both for Indian Maritime and Civil Aviation sector as it will not only enhance seamless connectivity across the nation by promoting eco-friendly transportation through Seaplanes but also give a boost to the tourism industry”.

First aircraft purchase agreement

July 7 marked another significant day in the history of Indian aviation industry with the signing of first aircraft purchase order by a GIFT city (Gujarat International Finance Tec) based leasing company under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan of the Government of India.

Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) presided over the signing of the purchase agreement between Vman Aviation, GIFT City, Gandhinagar and Airbus Helicopters SAS (Marignane, France) in an event held today at the Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi. Shri VishokMansingh, CEO, Vman and Mr. Remi Maillard, President, Airbus India and Managing Director, South Asia region signed the agreement. Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman AAI and Shri Amber Dubey, Joint Secretary, MoCA along with other senior officials were present during the signing agreement.

Congratulating both the companies, Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, MoCA said, “The aircraft purchase signing is a landmark event in the Indian aviation history. This agreement is the result of the efforts put in for the last 4-5 years to create a viable leasing & financing ecosystem in the country. This is a new business segment coming to India and the Government of India shall continue to provide all possible help to promote leasing activities in India under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.”

Under the Atman Nirbhar Abhiyan, GIFT IFSC, with various incentives from the government of India and low set up costs,



has become very attractive for lessors. They can leverage the fast growing civil and military aviation market in India and abroad.

Etihad Airways: Verified To Fly

Etihad Airways has extended its 'Verified To Fly' travel document initiative, enabling travellers to validate their Covid-19 travel documents before arriving at the airport, to routes across its global network.



Available for the vast majority of Etihad flights, to use the Verified to Fly service passengers sign-up by visiting Manage my Booking and following the simple instructions to upload and submit their travel documents. Guests will receive confirmation once their documents have been approved in line with government requirements and can travel to the airport with confidence and peace of mind, knowing they have met all essential requirements before their flight.

With the formalities out of the way, verified travellers enjoy fast track check-in at the airport through the dedicated Verified to Fly desk for a quicker and smoother experience. Early trials showed that Verified to Fly Guests saw their processing times at the check-in desk almost halved and the average



queuing time for all Guests reduced— helping expedite journeys and maintain social distancing at the airport.

Launched at the start of June, Verified to Fly has proven a successful tool helping people return to travel, providing passengers with confidence they have the necessary documents to meet government Covid-

related travel rules to be allowed to fly. A key benefit of Etihad's Verified to Fly programme is passengers are only sharing their data with the airline itself, with no third-party involvement.

John Wright, Vice President Global Airports and Network Operations, Etihad Airways, said: "Verified to Fly has proven hugely popular with our guests, as they get a fast track experience when checking in at the airport if using Verified to Fly.

Removing guess work from the process, guests also value the assurance that when they arrive at the airport, they have already met all Covid travel requirements.

"We appreciate these are challenging times for travellers and this has been a key initiative to simplify our guests' journeys as much as possible."

Cathay Pacific Cargo: Envirotainer Releye RLP container

Cathay Pacific Cargo has added to its extensive cool-chain options for customers by being the first Asian air-cargo carrier to offer the Envirotainer Releye® RLP for carriage on its aircraft fleet.

The Envirotainer Releye® RLP is available across four ports in South Asia, including Mumbai, Hyderabad, Dhaka and Colombo.

The Envirotainer Releye® RLP is an LD11-sized unit with a unique air flow technology for maximum temperature stability, and has been designed to meet shippers' requests for greater load flexibility. The RLP-size container fits three Euro pallets (or two-US pallets) and fills a strategic gap between the larger RAP and smaller RKN-size containers to enable mixing and matching of pallet sizes based on shipment volume.

The unit uses rechargeable batteries to power its electric heating and compressor cooling system, which can be controlled from an external panel. A single battery charge will power the system for more than 170 hours.

The Releye® RLP also offers fully integrated live monitoring.

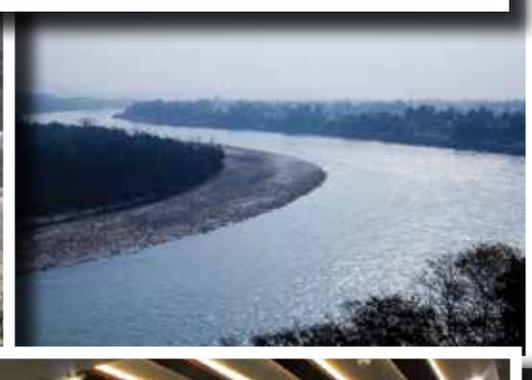
"Cathay Pacific Cargo is elated to be the first Asian carrier to approve and offer the new Envirotainer Releye® RLP container unit to our customers," said Rajesh Menon, Regional Cargo Head, South Asia, Middle East and Africa (SAMEA). "Continuing to fulfil our core values, the introduction of this unique container unit in the key markets, especially in the SAMEA region is a step in the right direction, to provide our customers with an array of specialised offerings. With the latest developments, at both Cathay Pacific and Envirotainer ends, not only will be able to provide our customers with the latest innovations, but also help our industry move forward."



Don Harrison, Head of Global Key Accounts, Airlines at Envirotainer added: "Cathay Pacific Cargo is a long-term partner to Envirotainer, and I'm thrilled that it is the quickest airline in Asia-Pacific to qualify our latest innovation, the new Releye® RLP container. Cathay Pacific Cargo's extensive network and Pharma LIFT product will continue to be an asset to pharma shippers globally; now with the inclusion of the Releye® RLP its impact will be even greater."



Ell Bee



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flydubai launches daily flights to Warsaw

flydubai, the Dubai based airline, has announced the start of daily flights to Warsaw (WAW) from 30 September. Warsaw will become flydubai's second destination in Poland after Krakow (KRK) which

Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai, said: "we have been flying to Krakow in Poland since 2018 and by adding Warsaw to our network we are providing our passengers with more options for travel to and from Poland. We look forward to creating travel and trade flows with our daily service."

Warsaw is Poland's capital and is famed for its eye-catching architecture, green outdoor spaces and a wide variety of cafes and restaurants. Located on the Vistula River, Warsaw is a great option for those looking for a historical city break.

Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai, said: "we are pleased to see our network in Europe grow further with the start of operations to Warsaw. With daily flights to Warsaw, and more countries lifting restrictions on international travel, passengers will have the opportunity to explore more destinations on the flydubai network."

With international travel restrictions gradually easing, flydubai has grown its network to over 90 destinations including several seasonal summer routes such as Batumi in Georgia, Bodrum and Trabzon in Turkey, Mykonos and Santorini in Greece, Naples in Italy, Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt and Tivat in Montenegro.

flydubai's network offers passengers the chance to explore a range of cities rich in culture, heritage and activities such as Baku, Bucharest, Budapest, Istanbul, Ljubljana, Tbilisi, Tirana and Yerevan. In addition to the city breaks, flydubai also offers flights to some of the best beaches and tropical hotspots in the world including the Maldives and Zanzibar.

Emirates will codeshare on flights to Warsaw, offering travellers more seamless connections through Dubai's international aviation hub to 168 destinations between both the Emirates and flydubai networks including Australia, China, Indian Ocean, Japan, South



Asia, and the United States.

flydubai's passenger experience has been redesigned to enable travel in a safe environment that minimises crew and passenger contact and offers passengers confidence to travel at every step of their journey. Passengers who book a flight through flydubai.com will receive complimentary global cover for COVID-19 related costs to offer greater peace of mind when travelling.

Passengers are required to make sure that they are up to date with the regulations from the IATA Travel Centre and the IATA destination tracker for their whole journey, and follow the guidance issued by the authorities and the airline.

COVID-19 AIRLINE SAFETY

Garuda Indonesia has been certified with the highest 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating from Skytrax, becoming the first airline in Southeast Asia to currently achieve this recognition.

The national flag carrier, Garuda Indonesia has been successfully certified the highest "5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating" from Skytrax, an independent international air transport rating organization based in London, United Kingdom.

The predicate "5 - Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating" is the highest rating given to global airlines for implementing the best health protocols in all flight services amid a pandemic situation.

Garuda Indonesia becomes the first airline in Southeast Asia as well as being the only airline from Indonesia that has successfully achieved this recognition, together with other 8 world airlines that currently have obtained the highest "5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating".

This achievement is based on an audit process completed in June 2021, covering all aspects of flight safety and the implementation of hygiene protocols introduced by Garuda

Indonesia, especially in providing the best service in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The assessment was monitored starting from the pre-flight, in-flight to post-flight stages, such as aircraft cleanliness, information regarding COVID-19, the application of physical distancing, the availability of hand sanitizers, adjustment of meal service, and other supporting aspects.

Irfan Setiাপutra, President and CEO of Garuda Indonesia said, "Becoming the first airline in Southeast Asia to successfully receive the 5 Star COVID-19 safety rating, was a testament of Garuda Indonesia's

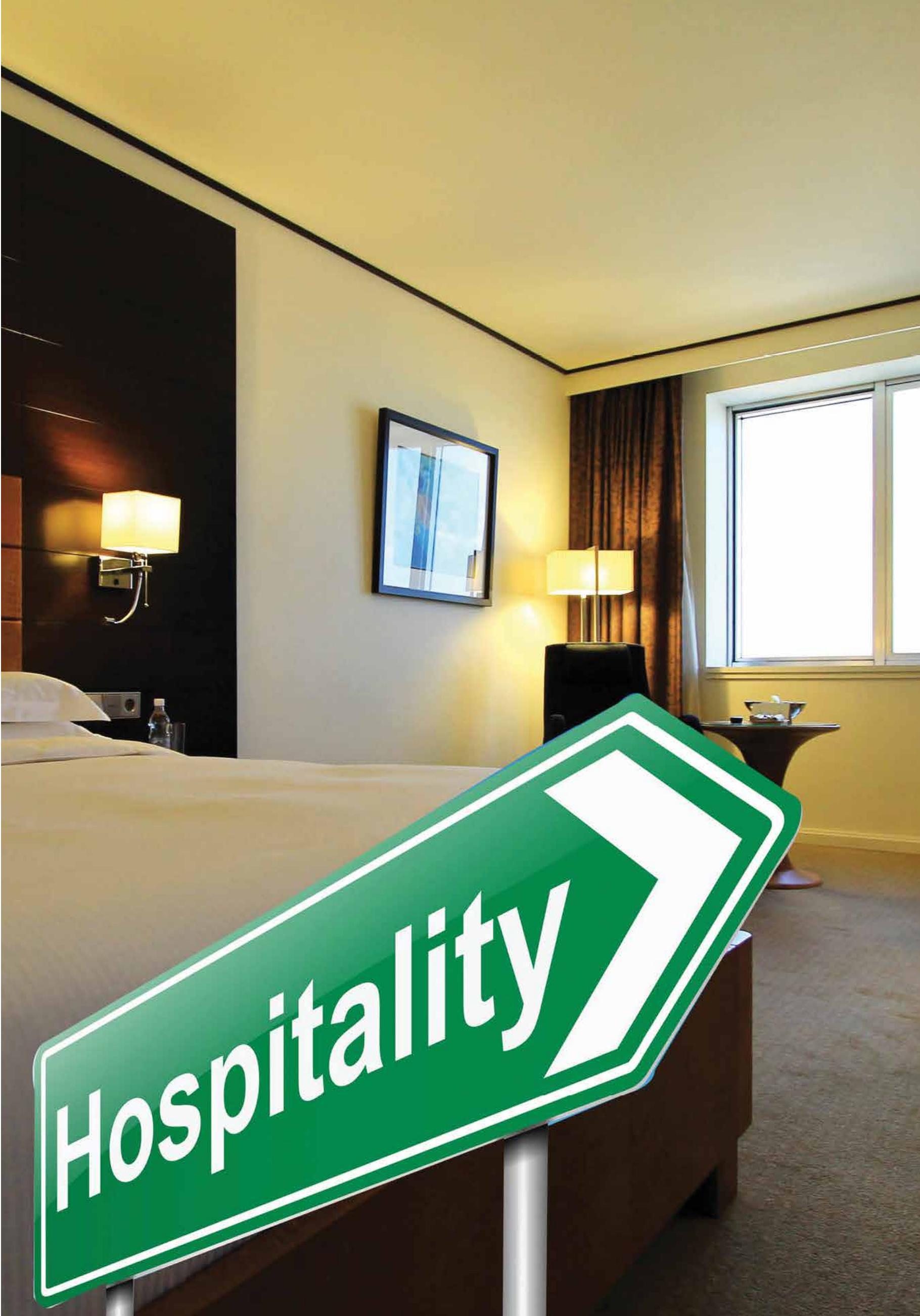
unwavering commitment to provide safe, comfort and convenient travel experience in these unforeseen circumstances. While we are resiliently trying to adapt to the challenges faced by our society and our industry at this very moment, this accolade gives us motivation and energy to continuously present our best effort toward providing unparalleled services by

implementing comprehensive and consistent health and safety measures of COVID-19 in all of our operational touchpoint."

"We believe the essence of true comfort is our customer trust in the quality of flight safety and services. Hence, Garuda Indonesia will boundlessly uphold our long-standing commitment to understanding your needs for comfortable and reliable flight, because you matter," said Irfan.

Meanwhile, the CEO of Skytrax, Edward Plaisted, revealed that according to the results of the audit that had been carried out, Garuda Indonesia deserved to receive "5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating.

"In the current challenging situation, Garuda Indonesia can survive and always committed to providing the best service to passengers by implementing safety aspects and health protocols consistently, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide a sense of security and comfort for all customers of air transportation," said Edward.



Hospitality

Tree of Life Resort & Hotels collaborate with eZeeTechnosys

eZeeTechnosys, the best hotel-tech provider in the South-Asia region recently forged an association with the Tree of Life Resort & Hotels making it one of the largest premium properties on eZee's portfolio of hotels.

• T3FS Desk



The partnership will add momentum to the revenue growth of the award-winning hospitality company by optimizing its operations.

This relationship will include a total of 10 hotels across the country and the deliverables will entail providing tech solutions ranging from Cloud PMS to Financial Accounting Integration. Tree of Life's association with eZee will not just re-establish the platform as the most sought-after hospitality tech provider in India but also position them as the number one software provider for mid to large-sized hotel groups.

With this association, eZee has once again managed to establish itself as a market leader in India managing to grow its customer base by 25% in the last year despite the pandemic-led slowdown.

This engagement with Tree of Life will include the following services: Cloud PMS, Booking Engine, Channel Management, POS and Financial Accounting Integration.

Adding to it Mr. Akhil Anand, Director, Tree of Life Resort & Hotels said, "There are just a handful of well-designed and comprehensive cloud-based applications

which take a holistic view of the hotel business. eZee certainly seems to be one such option and after having been through our implementation recently and having used the system for some time, I can certainly vouch for things like 1) Thoughtful and easy to understand UI/UX 2) A one-stop-shop for key elements of revenue management, booking engine, PMS, POS, review management, etc 3) Reasonably priced for mid-size hotels and finally 4) A supportive and proactive support team. I am sure we will be able to achieve our long-term goals with this serving as a crucial part of our tech ecosystem."

eZeeTechnosys is the leading affiliate of Yanolja's global hospitality solutions business. Yanolja is the fastest-growing No.1 OTA and the only 'Unicorn' among travel-related companies in South Korea. In the online business, as a 'Super App', Yanolja provides all services covering travel including accommodation, leisure, and transportation. Together with eZee, Yanolja is now also one of the global Top 2 PMS providers in the world, having fully integrated the entire hotel operations, covering from the front office to the back office. Yanolja connects the B2B2C value chain of the global hospitality industry

with a one-stop network integrated into a single platform.

Mehul Fanawala,
Director of Enterprise Sales & Head of Inbound Sales, eZeeTechnosys



eZee has always aimed to empower the hospitality industry with profitable, efficient business and latest technologies. We have listened to our customers and addressed their requirements with consistent innovations and enhancements in our solutions. That is one of the crucial factors of why the industry loves eZee. While the pandemic has slowed the industry down, we cannot deny the fact that technology has taken over as an elemental requirement of businesses. Associating with Tree of Life Resort & Hotels affirms that. I am sure, eZee's modern solutions will surpass their expectations.

TIME Opens Asma Hotel in Dubai

TIME Hotels held the soft opening of its much-anticipated TIME Asma Hotel in Dubai's Al Barsha 'shopping' district on Tuesday 15 June.

The new four-star property has a remarkable feature – its management team consists entirely of women, including the hotel manager Alexandra Kelner and 80% of the hotel's employees.

Commenting, TIME Hotels' CEO Mohamed Awadalla, said: "It has always been integral to our corporate strategy to diversify our workforce and offer equal opportunities to all members of staff.

"Under the leadership of Alexandra, all areas of the hotel operation will be managed by women, from HR to sales, F&B, finance, front office and housekeeping – even our executive chef is a woman.

"I am sure that this talented all-female management team will provide inspiration to all women who want to carve out a successful career in hospitality," added Awadalla.

The hotel, which will have its grand opening in September, consists of 232 rooms over six floors with a gym, which has exclusive opening times for women, swimming pool, jacuzzi, four meeting rooms, a business centre and two restaurants, for both male and female guests. Zaytuna, serves Middle Eastern cuisine, with an open kitchen in a market-style setting and La

Dolce Vita as the name would suggest is a casual, Italian-themed restaurant.

Moreover, there are floors reserved exclusively for female travellers with dedicated services, including: female room service, a female-only check-in counter and guest relations. Other features include bespoke beauty products, in-room beauty treatments, as well as enhanced amenities in each room. The hotel will also offer dedicated parking spaces for women.

According to Catalyst, a global organisation that promotes women in the workplace, in 2019, the proportion of women in senior management roles globally grew to 29%, the highest number ever recorded and 87% of global mid-market companies had at least one woman in a senior management role in 2020.

Indeed, French national Kelner's advancement is a classic example of career development. Having graduated from the School of Management in Yvelines, near Paris, she held senior positions in hotels in France and the UAE, leading teams across housekeeping and rooms division.

"Once regional and international travel restrictions are relaxed, more women will be



travelling on business than ever before. Many women may well be travelling alone and I believe it will be comforting for them to have the option of staying in a hotel where 80% of the staff are women, with dedicated floors and in-room amenities," said Alexandra Kelner, Hotel Manager, TIME Asma Hotel.

The hotel is also located just five minutes from Mall of the Emirates and as such is expecting healthy demand from local and regional visitors for short leisure breaks, particularly women and families.

"With the summer heat approaching, TIME Asma is ideally located for a weekend of retail therapy," said Kelner.

The Westin Goa: New Stay Smart Offer!

The recently launched The Westin Goa is all set to welcome you to Goa, the Land of 'Susegad'. Promising an experience to elevate your mind, body, and soul, the hotel's current offerings give the guest a chance to experience most of the facilities at the hotel.

Building on the brand's foundational pillars of Sleep Well, Feel Well, and Eat Well, the new hotel features signature brand programs that enable guests to maintain and enhance their wellbeing while traveling. Available for all bookings until August 31, 2021 guests can benefit from a super saver discount that you certainly shouldn't miss and grab it soon.

You can now opt to stay for either three or five nights and the Westin Goa will add one or two complimentary nights based on the same. Offering further flexibility, guests will not be required to incur any cancellation



charges, in the event of a cancelled trip at any point in time. Also, the amount will be refundable if the booking is cancelled within a day after booking.

Return to Sterling, Return to Goodness

Sterling Holiday Resorts, one of the leading names in the hospitality industry in India, is welcoming guests across the country. In line with the revised travel norms, Sterling has opened its resorts in a phased manner to cater to the demand for drive-to holidays.



Sterling resorts across the country including: Ooty, Kodaikanal, Thekkady, Munnar, Wayanad, Palavelli (Godavari) in the South; Mussoorie, Manali, Rishikesh, Nainital, Jaipur, Corbett in the North; Mount Abu, Goa, Lonavala in the West and Darjeeling, Puri in the East, are open to guests.

Sterling has revised its hygiene protocols including vaccination of all staff at the resorts, to provide an enhanced level of protection to its guests. "Sterling CARES" is their hygiene and safety protocol in association with Apollo Clinics. The program covers the guests from pre-arrival, through their holiday until check-out.

Commenting on the re-opening **Mr Ramesh Ramanathan, Chairman and Managing Director, Sterling Holiday Resorts Ltd.** said, "We are delighted to announce the opening

of our resorts. We are eager to welcome our guests and are committed to provide uncompromised safety while they enjoy a wonderful holiday!"

Sterling resorts are at easily accessible locations that can be reached within 4 to 8 hours' drive from most cities. The resorts are well spread-out offering open vistas for guests to enjoy the outdoors and the greenery within the safety of the resorts.

With the introduction of minimal-contact



check-in, QR codes for menus and contact-less ordering of food, and having curated a range of cherry-picked discoveries and experiences for entertainment, ayurvedic and panchakarma treatments for wellness and healing, Sterling Resorts offer everyone the opportunity to 'Return to the Goodness of Holidays'.

Sterling offers an exclusive 'Holiday insurance' that covers guests for upto Rs. 3,00,000/- per person in case of cancellations, medical emergencies, etc.

Despite the pandemic, Sterling Holiday Resorts reported a revenue of Rs. 97 cr in Q4 2021, an increase of 58% as compared to Rs. 61 cr in Q4 2020. The Membership volume also witnessed a growth of 20% with the introduction of Sterling Vantage, a 10-year Membership program, in Q3 2021.

Taj Named Strongest Hotel Brand in The World

Indian Hotels Company (IHCL), South Asia's largest hospitality company, announced that its iconic brand, Taj, has been rated the Strongest Hotel Brand in the World by Brand Finance, the world's leading brand valuation consultancy in its annual 'Hotels 50 2021' report.



This report recognizes the most valuable and strongest hotel brands across the globe.

Mr. Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Indian Hotels Company, said, "This is a proud moment for the Indian hospitality industry on the global stage. Taj being rated as the World's Strongest Hotel Brand is a testament to the unwavering trust our guests have consistently placed in us and the warmth and sincere care our employees have embodied day-after-day. We will

continue our endeavor to elevate the world class experiences of luxury hospitality and deliver the magic of Tajness to all our stakeholders."

Taj received an overall Brand Strength Index of 89.3 out of 100, with a corresponding AAA rating for customer familiarity, employee satisfaction and corporate reputation as well as its world-class customer service.

David Haigh, CEO, Brand Finance, said, "We are excited to announce Taj as the Strongest Hotel Brand in the World. A brand with a century old

legacy and a custodian of the revered Indian hospitality has stood resilient inspite of the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic. Global travelers have relied upon and tested brands in different ways and Taj has emerged on top."

The Hotel 50 2021 report also highlighted the company's successful implementation of its R.E.S.E.T 2020 strategy, which provided a transformative framework, helping the Taj brand surmount pandemic related challenges.



Noor Mahal WhatsApp Chatbot

From keyless check-in to digital holiday planning, Covid-19 has accelerated the adoption of contactless technologies. Travellers' desire for less face to face contact and social distancing is leading towards a new era of tech enabled hospitality experiences.

In its endeavor to incorporate a combination of cutting-edge technologies to improve customer confidence and ensure contactless hospitality for its guests, Noor Mahal, Karnal, one of the finest and leading palatial hotels in the country, has today announced the launch of 'Noor Mahal WhatsApp Chatbot'.

Be it Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning or Internet of Things, Noor Mahal is riding on futuristic technologies for contactless hospitality experiences. Right from smart rooms to smart controls and mobile check-in, the hotel is getting hi-tech to ensure utmost comfort and safety.

Mr. Manbeer Choudhary, Chairman and Managing Director, Jewels Group of Hotels said, "Ever since COVID hit the country, Noor Mahal's main priority has been the health & safety of its guests and team members who are the most crucial part of India's preferred palatial hotel. During this pandemic, Noor Mahal has gone the extra mile to offer safety and

comfort, stay connected and resolve guest queries through its virtual WhatsApp Chatbot in real-time. The new 'WhatsApp Chatbot' will act as a quick and convenient one-stop digital platform for all the hospitality and advisory services to the guests of the new informed world."

Noor Mahal's 'WhatsApp Chatbot' service allows guests to reach out to Noor Mahal using WhatsApp and get their queries answered. Guests can start the chat by ping on WhatsApp. Customisation has gone to a new level as digital menus have become the new norm in the covid era. To make dine-in as safe as possible for the staff and guests, Noor Mahal menu is now available on WhatsappChatbot.

Today's visitors expect transparency and are keen to know exactly what to expect when they check-in. In its efforts to meet up the guest expectations and showcase a real tour of the hotel, Noor Mahal's WhatsappChatbot also has a unique virtual hotel gallery. The chatbot also helps guests in keeping

an eye on the exclusive packages and offers at the hotel. Those who are aiming for their D-Day can also avail the facility of planning a wedding or getting all the information related to pre wedding shoot. Guests can also know the room tariffs; take a glimpse of the room and book room in a single click.

The hotel has been a massive supporter of country's nationwide initiatives to aid India's fight against Covid-19 and ensuring the highest standards of cleanliness and sanitization at the hotel. In its endeavour to help combat the effects of COVID-19 and make guests feel confident and reassured,

Noor Mahal has also set new safety benchmarks for the industry by getting its entire staff vaccinated in a short span of time. Noor Mahal Staff is well prepared to welcome guests with utmost safety, contactless servicing and highest level of hygiene standards.

Sarovar Hotels and Resorts continue to expand portfolio in Srinagar

Sarovar Hotels and Resorts, one of the fastest growing hotel management company in India announces the signing of another hotel in Srinagar. This will be Sarovar's second hotel in Srinagar.

Srinagar also known as "Switzerland of India" is famous for its natural beauty, gardens, waterfronts and houseboats. It has seen fascinating tourists from centuries with its beautiful picturesque Himalayan backdrop, pristine lakes dotted with houseboats, shikaras and the majesty of Mughal architecture.

Sarovar Portico is scheduled to open in early 2022 and will offer well-appointed rooms, modern facilities, restaurant and banquet spaces. The beauty of Srinagar will be well imbibed

in the interiors of the hotel while providing all modern facilities. Ensuring that your stay is most comfortable.

Sarovar Portico, Srinagar is located at the airport Road, Humhama area and just 4 kms away from airport and 9 kms from bus station and railway station,

Needless to say, the incredibly famous Dal Lake is one of the most favored vacation destinations in Srinagar. Along with this, other must visit places



are Shalimar Bagh, Mughal Garden, Nishat Bagh, and Tulip Garden.

Commenting on the development, Anil Madhok, Executive Chairman, Sarovar Hotels and Resorts said "We are delighted to be consolidating our presence further in the 'land of lakes and Garden'. It's a significant addition to our rapidly growing footprint in the leisure portfolio and reflects the strong traction the brand is gaining in the region."

IHG strengthens its footprint in Punjab

IHG® Hotels & Resorts, one of the world's leading hotel companies, has signed a management agreement with Samplast Resorts to develop Holiday Inn Express & Suites Jalandhar GT Road. The new-build hotel featuring 110 keys is expected to be operational by the first quarter of 2024. With an existing portfolio of hotels from the Holiday Inn brand family across key cities in Punjab, the new development will further strengthen the brand's presence in the country and the state, in line with market demand.

Strategically located on the Grand Trunk Road, also known as NH1 which connects the country's capital city of Delhi to Amritsar, the hotel will benefit from the excellent visibility and convenient access. Holiday Inn Express & Suites Jalandhar GT Road will be a short drive from the city's central business district as well as shopping destinations. Additionally, the hotel will have an adjoining strip mall that will offer multiple dining options for hotel guests.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Jalandhar GT Road will feature well-equipped modern guest rooms and state-of-the-art facilities. For recreation, the hotel will offer 'Great Room', a bar and a lounge.

Other facilities will include a fitness room, meeting rooms, 15,000 sq. ft. of banqueting space, as well as signature amenities in line with brand's promise of offering a comfortable stay to guests.

In a joint statement, **Mr. Rajinder Kumar and Mr. Rajan Kumar, Directors at Samplast Resorts** added, "It is our first venture in the hospitality sector and partnering with a global, well-respected brand like IHG gives us trust and confidence in the hotel's success. With IHG's credibility, global and local experience, and powerful delivery systems, we are certain that the hotel will emerge as a popular choice amongst the travellers visiting Jalandhar."

Sudeep Jain, Managing Director, South West Asia, IHG

We are delighted to announce the signing of a new Holiday Inn & Suites hotel and solidifying our presence in the state of Punjab. Punjab is a popular destination with both domestic and international travelers, and Jalandhar, specifically is known to be a hub for the manufacturing industry and is also an important destination for medical tourism. Therefore, in the long-term, there is growing demand for quality branded accommodation in the city and Holiday Inn Express & Suites from our essentials collection fits perfectly well with market needs.

Courtyard by Marriott Brand Now in Sri Lanka

Marriott International, Inc. signed an agreement with Colombo City Centre Partners (Private) Limited, part of the Abans Group, one of Sri Lanka's largest conglomerates with diversified interests in retail, real-estate development, environmental management and logistics to debut the Courtyard by Marriott brand in Sri Lanka.

The hotel is expected to feature 164 rooms and is anticipated to open in late 2021.

"We are delighted to strengthen our Marriott Bonvoy portfolio of hotels in Sri Lanka with today's signing," said Mr. Rajeev Menon, President, Asia Pacific (excluding China), Marriott International. "This signing underscores our long-term commitment to Sri Lanka as a strategically important market, offering the potential to grow our brands and provide customers with more choices."

Set in the heart of Colombo city adjacent to the Beira Lake, the Courtyard by Marriott Colombo will provide convenient business connectivity and excellent views of the city skyline. Slated to feature 164 modern-styled guest rooms and suites, the hotel will offer an inviting hospitality experience through its intuitive service and uplifting spaces, allowing business and leisure guests to shift gears smoothly

from work to relaxation. Design plans call for thoughtfully designed rooms, featuring a functional work area, smart amenities, and high-speed internet access, empowering guests to stay both connected and productive while on the road, no matter the purpose of their trip.

"We are very pleased to collaborate with Abans Group, who share our vision to offer smart, intuitive service and high-quality accommodation in Sri Lanka," commented Mr. Kiran Andicot, Regional Vice President- Development, South Asia, Marriott International. "We are happy to have forged this strategic business alliance with Marriott International and are keen to see our relationship grow from strength to strength. We eagerly look forward to the opening of the first Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Sri Lanka. We are excited to have Marriott International with us at Colombo City Centre," stated Mrs. Aban Pestonjee, Chairperson of

Abans Group.

Mr. Behman Pestonjee, Managing Director of Abans Group, shared his thoughts. "We are delighted to partner with Marriott International - the world's largest hospitality group. This is a testimony to our confidence in the market and our commitment to contribute to the growth of the city. We gladly welcome the entry of Marriott into our prestigious mixed-use development, Colombo City Centre." "Abans PLC and Marriott International have jointly recognized the growth potential in the nation. We are confident that tourism will bounce back to its old glory in the country. Colombo is one of the most sought-after cities in South Asia, as it is highly cosmopolitan and is a melting pot of several cultures. Marriott and ourselves are perfectly poised for a long innings together," affirmed Mr. Praveen Methil, CEO of Colombo City Centre.



FREEDOM

CapitaLand's wholly owned lodging business unit, The Ascott Limited (Ascott), has introduced the 'Freedom Offer' as a unique incentive specifically for guests who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Through this offer, fully-vaccinated guests can enjoy special rates with all meals inclusive and earn double Ascott Star Rewards points when they stay at Ascott's properties in Chennai.

Supriya Malhotra, Ascott's Area General Manager for Chennai said, "Throughout the 2020 lockdown and up until today, our properties have remained operational, offering our guests a safe haven they can call 'home'. Our staff have worked tirelessly on the frontlines, to continue caring for our guests. To ensure their safety, we had organised vaccinations for our staff across our properties in Chennai. We now want to do our bit to help with the vaccination effort across the city. The aim of this special offer is not only to boost the vaccination drive among residents of Chennai but also an opportunity for Ascott to show its appreciation to those who have already received their shots."

At Citadines OMR Chennai, located in Sholinganallur at the heart of the IT hub, the Freedom Offer starts at INR3,999 plus taxes for two people in a Studio Deluxe apartment. This offer is also extended to the Studio Executive, One-Bedroom and Two-Bedroom categories.

Exciting Offers from Atlantis The Palm

Turn your boring lockdown life into a fun adventure with these exciting offers from Atlantis The Palm, Dubai ! Enjoy amazing benefits on a booking for 5 nights.



Extraordinary marine experiences

Atlantis The Palm is known for its unique marine experiences. And here's your chance to experience them all!

Take a behind the scenes tour of the Lost Chambers Aquarium or befriend a sea lion with the complimentary sea lion experience, with your whole family. Moreover, you get a AED 100 credit to spend in any Marine Animal activity. Dive in and swim with the 65,000 animals at Atlantis.

Access to Aquaventure

Atlantis The Palm is the home for the world's largest waterpark, Aquaventure. All Room and Suite guests receive a complimentary one day pass to the world's largest waterpark for each night's stay. So, jump on and enjoy the thrilling rides that Aquaventure has to offer.

Daily Dining

Treat yourself to a gourmet getaway when you book our Half-Board Offer. When you book the Half-Board Offer at Atlantis Dubai, you'll get daily breakfasts at Kaleidoscope or Saffron buffet restaurants, and your choice of dinner at our award-winning eateries, including our celebrity chef restaurants. Grab your fork and bite in!

Kids stay and dine FREE

Here's another irresistible treat for you - Kids get free breakfast when booking Bed & Breakfast, or book Half Board and they'll get free dinner too! Get your little foodies on this thrilling ride!

The Benefits of a Luxury Staycation at Cheval Residences

At Cheval Collection, their variety of Residences provides you with plenty of options for your next staycation. Choose Edinburgh and discover the overwhelming history that bursts from the city, or choose London and roam around some of the world's most iconic attractions, sampling a selection of top tier restaurants as you go!



Affordable Luxury

Cheval Collection has a portfolio of luxury boutique residences coupled with the warm and relaxing ambience, allowing guests to truly feel at home.

Your pet can come too!

At Cheval Residences, we know how important it is to enjoy a staycation as a family so we are delighted to welcome all guests, including the furry ones! You can rest easy and comfortable knowing that whatever experience you embark on, your pet can come along too.

Charming Locations

Cheval Residences are cleverly located in the heart of the most culture-enriched cities, leaving with you plenty to do and see within easy reach.

Feel rested and recharged

Staycation-ing at Cheval Residences totally eliminates that. First, you won't feel the overwhelming tiredness that jet lag brings, or suffer from any accumulated pre-travel stress. Cheval Collection offers you a home away from home.

Sustainable Life Transformations

Chiva-Som, one of the world's leading wellness brands pioneering sustainable life transformations for over 26 years, debuts in Qatar with Zual Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som.



Set to open within 2021, the largest wellness destination in the state will also be the first to introduce a contemporary Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine offering.

Chiva-Som is known the world over for its highly personalised approach to wellness. Its first destination, in Hua Hin, Thailand, offers award-winning retreat programmes that incorporate movement, relaxation and nutrition in a tranquil beachfront setting. Wellness treatments draw inspiration from the region, fusing Thai, Ayurvedic and Traditional Chinese Medicine therapies with modern Western approaches.

Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine, or TAIM, is derived from the Canon of Medicine written by physician-philosopher Ibn Sina, or Avicenna, in 1025. Greatly influencing Western medicine, the Canon emphasises restoration and life balance through fitness, diet, mental and spiritual health. Herbs indigenous to the Arabian peninsula are also noted for their healing properties.

Zual Wellness Resort's TAIM treatments will include traditional Qatari hamiz, a deeply relaxing massage using circular strokes, Zual's signature tadleek oil infused with medicinal herbs, and hot stones to re-energise the body and stimulate circulation and energy flow. The slimming body mask of camel milk, neem and sidr leaves and essential oils delivers heat and enhances metabolism while detoxifying and hydrating the skin. The resort's extensive hammam facilities will feature a range of Arabic spa rituals that positively impact both physical and spiritual wellbeing.

Masterchef Australia S13

As the competition for MasterChef Australia Season 13 inches close to the finale, it won't be an easy call for the judges to decide who takes the coveted trophy home this year.

• T3FS Desk

Five of the finest chefs from Australia have made it to the end. Each one of these contestants have been successful in bringing their A-game and bowling the judges with phenomenal dishes all throughout the season in MasterChef Australia Season 13, now streaming on Disney+ Hotstar. Here's all you need to know about the journey of the finalists and their most loved dishes they present through the competition this season:



Kishwar Chowdhury - The Bangla Tigress
There's nothing closer to Kishwar's heart than the Bangladeshi heritage she hails from and her two children. Her parents, Laila and Kamrul Chowdhury, are the pillars of Bangladeshi community in the Australian state of Victoria. In her home kitchen, she found the flavours from different communities and countries melting in the pot that gave her all the inspiration she wanted to try her hand at cooking. Kishwar's Hariyali chicken with Australian twist, Bengali Khichuri and Begun Bharta won the judges' hearts and her position so far.



Justin Narayan - The cooking genius
Justin started to cook at the age of 13 and why not? Justin Narayan from Western Australia had a line up of amazing cooks at home. His mother, he says, is the best cook he knows and his connection with his grandparents was built from watching cookery shows since childhood. From a young age, Justin found joy in plating dishes and creating a memory through food. Justin managed to surprise the judges of the season with a number of dishes but his Indian Chicken Tacos, Charcoal Chicken with Toux, Flatbread and Pickle Salad and Indian Chicken Curry, Crispy Chicken Skin and an Apple and Cucumber Pickle have been his best work in the competition.



Pete Campbell - Lover of all things fine
Pete Campbell, from New South Wales in Australia, is a self taught cook who only took up cooking about six years ago. In the past two years, Pete has made an effort to understand techniques and flavour pairings. Pete believes that the food and dining experience has the potential to change the perception of any city in the world. He and his wife travelled across Europe, USA and Asia; making a point to eat at fine-dining restaurants in each city. This season, Pete added heat in the competition with his Carrot Steak with Béarnaise Emulsion, and Lamb and Turnip with Saltbush, and Roasted Lamb Sauce - two of his dishes which the judges loved.



Linda Dalrymple - The born innovator
It won't be wrong to say that Dalrymple started out young. She was five when she started to take interest in cooking while sitting and assisting her grandmother. Her inspiration for food comes from her rich heritage. She's Laotian on her mother's side and Chinese-Cambodian on her father's and her unique heritage reflects in the simplicity and honesty of the dishes she plates. Linda Dalrymple's Seared Seafood in a Tom Yum Broth, and the Kohlrabi Salad with Beef Eye Fillet surprised the judges and won her ample praise.

Elise Pullbrook
Inspired by home cooking since she was a toddler, Elise finds peace in travelling and admits that she'll die happily if she gets Nigella Lawson, who she draws inspiration from. She cites her strengths in making delicious curries, roasts and braises. She dreams of owning a farm to table restaurant in Gippsland. She loves Japan and her affinity for the country reflects in the dishes she chooses to innovate with. Elise Pullbrook's Barley, Shiitake and Yuzu, Pappardelle with Sardines, Native Aqua Pazza, and Pumpkin Agnolotti with Kombu Brown Butter are some of the dishes that impressed the judges throughout the season.



#DeliByTheSea

Tipsy wine glasses, talking seagulls, friendly affirmations, and one sneaky cat. Welcome to the delightfully peculiar world of Smoke House Deli 2.0, which has found a new home in the heart of Colaba's heritage district.

• T3FS Desk

Whimsical visual tales and an endearingly delicious menu combine to make your favourite neighbourhood deli a sensory treat. Smoke House Deli 2.0 is a product of over 12 years of love and dedication, and the team at Impresario knew that it was only fitting for our newest outpost to be in Colaba. The cafe blends seamlessly with the heritage of the area, offering patrons a carefully curated menu of beautifully crafted European comfort food served up in a quirky and artistic space.

Riyaz Amlani, CEO & MD, Impresario Handmade Restaurants, says, "Smoke House Deli has evolved with its patrons. It features wholesome comfort food made with organic ingredients, handmade from scratch. In fact, the Colaba outpost has been in the making for a few years and is the brainchild of our business head Jaydeep Mukherjee, who began his culinary career in the neighbourhood over two decades ago. From the minute JD joined Impresario, he has wanted to bring Smoke House Deli to the area. His vision has been bigger, better, and more nuanced than anything we've done before. This new outpost truly represents the best of this beloved brand."

For Mukherjee, his calling as a chef began in the neighbourhood, and the new SHD outpost is a nostalgic homecoming of sorts. "Colaba has

an old-world charm that's unique to the area, and holds a special place in my heart. With the reimagined Smoke House Deli, the entire process is a return to my roots in a new and improved avatar. As the country's best-loved European cafe, our new Colaba outpost boasts of a menu that maintains our signature flavours and ethos towards clean, fresh, and wholesome food. Smoke House Deli is, and always has been, a conscious champion of sustainable and seasonal produce, and we're sure that our patrons will resonate with it," Says Jaydeep Mukherjee, Business Head, Smoke House Deli.

The menu is replete with wholesome offerings, signature flavours, and exciting new fare that takes things to the next level. A unique new inclusion is the Smoke House Charcuterie - a selection of house-cured meats and sausages made using our in-house smoker. Sausage Chilli, Smoke House Charcuterie Meat Lover's Pizza, and the Pastrami Cheese Steak Calzone give you a glimpse into the extensive range of meaty additions to the indulgent menu.

The menu also honours vegan, gluten-free, and keto-friendly diets. From free-range organic eggs for breakfast and signature thin-crust pizzas, to freshly rolled, handmade pastas, single-estate cold-brew coffees, and fresh fruits salads, Smoke House Deli offers a wide range of healthy and indulgent options to satisfy all

your cravings. Also making an appearance is our Goodness to Go station, where patrons can grab fresh and quick meals across healthy shakes, smoothies, salads, sandwiches, cold-pressed juices, and more.

The warm and abundant space also weaves intricate tales of its own. Borrowing from the culturally-rich neighbourhood, the walls are filled with hand-drawn art developed by illustrator Priya Dali. The quirky illustrations line the walls and capture your attention immediately. Juxtaposing nature and nostalgic technology, they add a whimsical touch that is now a signature visual language of the brand.

Says Sanya Desai, Experience Designer, Impresario Handmade Restaurants, "The interiors for Smoke House Deli, Colaba build on the SHD 2.0 design language developed by Restore Design while adapting it to the context of this iconic corner location. The previously boarded up arched windows have been restored to bring in a lot more natural light. The artwork is influenced by all things Colaba - boats in the harbour metamorphosing into soft lotus leaves, potted tetrapods, our resident feline Salem's polaroids of the district, and of course, Salem's art gallery on the second floor. All the illustrations tie our new outpost to South Mumbai's rich history."



Hilton Honors: Dining 'Like a Member'



Hilton Honors, the award-winning guest loyalty program for Hilton's 18 world-class brands, announced its Asia Pacific new dining offer, 'Like a Member', giving guests an opportunity to join Hilton Honors and enjoy its privileges in their locales, even without staying on property.

• T3FS Desk

Inviting guests to dine like a member, the offer includes discounts of up to 25%, as well as opportunities to earn Bonus Points across an extensive range of dining outlets managed by Hilton in the region.

With more than 900 dining outlets across Asia Pacific, including India, all of which adhere to the highest standards of hygiene and safety, Hilton Honors aims to give members access to enjoy the best value while they dine, toast and celebrate in their home cities or within the region where it is safe to travel again.

Hilton Honors members can enjoy the following benefits* when they dine at eligible Hilton-managed dining outlets across India, including takeaways, deliveries and alcoholic beverages, where permissible by law:

- 25% discount off net prices for all Hilton Honors Gold and Diamond Members
- 10% discount off net prices for all Hilton Honors members
- 500 Bonus Points awarded for any transaction over INR 1900 for all walk-in Hilton Honors members

The 'Like a Member' offer will launch today across all participating dining outlets in India and will be valid until December 31, 2021. The program is also currently available in Greater China, South East Asia, Japan and Korea, Australian and New Zealand.

"Our Hilton Honors members are at the centre of what we do, so we are constantly looking for ways to give them seamless access to the experiences they desire and the recognition they deserve – an inside connection that elevates their every day," said Ben George, senior vice president and commercial director, Asia Pacific, Hilton. "By engaging with the culinary passions and interests shared across the diverse region, this dining offer unlocks great choice and value through member-only benefits across Asia Pacific. As we continue to bring the light and warmth of hospitality to our members wherever they may be, we also look forward to welcoming them back to our hotels when they are ready."

Manish Tolani, commercial director and vice president, Hilton, India said, "Dining out has undergone a massive shift, but what we know is that food remains an integral part of any experience. As markets start to reopen, we at



Hilton remain committed to offering the best experiences to our guests in a safe environment. The 'Like a Member' dining offer aims to bring the finest cuisines to our members at the best value, along with other benefits so that our valued members can savour their favourite meals at our restaurants or their homes and get rewarded at the same time."

LADLES



The Mirador, a Designer Hotel located near T2, Mumbai Airport has added another feather to its cap with the addition of their takeaway brand- Ladles.

• T3FS Desk

Started 15th June 2021, Ladles will offer a melting pot of world cuisine ranging from authentic Indian, Lebanese, Mexican, European, and Oriental at competitive prices available through the brand hotline and Zomato.

Craving for scrumptious food without needing to step out amidst these travel restrictions and hygiene worries?? Well, fret not! Ladles, has got you covered. Enjoy an assortment of cuisines created using the freshest of ingredients while maintaining strict safety guidelines delivered before you know it.

Begin your Indian meal with the warm Tamatar aur TulsiPatte ka Shorba, MeenHaldiMoilee with starters such as Do Phulon ki Galauti with ulta tawa paratha or the soft Hara Dhaniya aur Kaju Cheese Kebab. For the main course, choose between Tamatar aur aitoonkedolme, ChaparanMatka Meat along with assorted Indian breads or enjoy a mouth-watering MurgLucknowi Dum Biryani.

For a flavourful Middle Eastern meal, begin with a Mezze platter featuring, Hummus, Tzatziki, Batata Hara, Samvoosek and

Mtaffa Prawns. Choose from your favourite Shawarma, Spinach and TurkisKasarPide or the Manakeesh.

Perk up dull rainy evenings with fiery and flavoursome Mexican Delights such as Nachos with Dips, Hard Shelled Tacos, Quesadillas and more. You can also whip up your own burritos with the D-I-Y Burrito Bar loaded with leafy vegetables, sour cream, salsa, chipotle sauce, sharp cheddar and refried beans complete with your choice of veggies and meats.

Plan a lavish date night for your special someone this weekend and order in your favourite European Delicacies while you sit back and relax your favourite movie. Choose from the rich and creamy Bisque di Frutti Di Mare or the Classic Minestrone to begin your meal along with a freshly baked BrotKorb featuring Ciabatta Calda or the Carta da Musica. There's also a wide selection of salads such as Panzanella or the Carpaccio De Saumon Fume and Pasta. Classic Starters such as Spanakopita and GamberoVinelloamong others. Once that fires up your appetite, select from an assortment of freshly crafted Pastas and

Neapolitan Pizzas.

Celebrate the weekend by ordering your favourite Oriental Meal curated using authentically sourced ingredients. Begin your meal with the classic favourite Wonton Noodle Soup and appetizers such as Wasabi Prawns, Kua Kai Fish and Stuffed Tofu in Chilli Garlic Sauce. For the mains, select from Wok based Basa Green in Green Scallion Sauce or the black truffle crispy roast chicken along with mains such as Spicy Edamame Fried Rice

Craving your favourite Thai Meal, Indulge in favourites such as Tom Yum Soup along with Larb Kai or some flavourful Satay and fish cakes. Also on offer are staples such as Pad Thai Noodles, GaengMassaman and Fried Rice.

Still missing something!! Dimsums and Sushi you say? Ladles also offers a wide selection of assorted Dim Sums and Sushi Rolls for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. Truffle Edamame Dumplings, Mushroom and Hoisin Prawns Bao, Nigiri Sushi, Maki Sushi, Uramaki Roll, you name it and we serve it all.

10 dishes by the top 10 MasterChef

The competition that began with 24 of the best home cooks bringing their cultural and extraordinary cooking talent to MasterChef Australia Season 13, now Streaming on Disney+ Hotstar Premium, bowled over viewers and culinary enthusiasts across the nation.



It has been an amazing journey with many exciting challenges and dishes from the different cultures spiced up with culinary expertise that is now drawing to its final stages. After battling it out through pressure tests, eliminations and many mystery boxes, MasterChef Australia Season 13 has got their top 10 contestants who will be fighting for the coveted title. This season has seen the most simple and unheard dishes making highlights. Right from Kishwar's Khichdi to Tommy's Zucchini BánhCuón, we bring you a list of top 10 recipes from the top 10 contestants that have stood out.

Depinder Chhibber - Tiffin Box with Chole, Paratha and Kadhai Paneer

This basic Indian 'Dabba' made the judges and the viewers go crazy about its flavour and presentation. Cooking for the first time on the MasterChef Australia stage, this simple tiffin with Chole, Paratha, Kadhai Paneer and aachar made Depinder an overnight star.

Justin Narayan - Noodle Taco

One of the most experimental and quirky take on noodles landed Justin the first spot in the top 10. Being one of the most applauded dishes in the competition, the judges were amused by Justin's line of thought for the dish and its perfect flavours.

Kishwar Chowdhury - Barramundi Tomato

Fish Curry aka Macher jhol

We don't think Macher jhol had ever made headlines until Kishwar presented it to the MasterChef judges! This staple fish curry cooked in typical bengali spices left the judges in awe of the flavour. Kishwar's small yet significant efforts to bring Bangladeshi cuisine to the international stage made a huge impact.

Tommy Pham - Flanilla

While Tommy is better known for his expertise in Vietnamese cuisine, his take on vanilla and flan gave the judges an absolute child-like bliss. This fancy-looking sweet dish was put together from scratch by Tommy and turned out to be one of the best dishes from the season.

Linda Dalrymple - Lotus Flower Pond

This absolutely gorgeous and delicious sweet dish wowed the judges. Presented with absolute perfection, Linda brought this wholesome lotus cookie with caramelized banana puree, vanilla ice cream and granita giving a well balanced South East Asian flavour to it.

Minoli De Silva - Kiwi Fruit Curry

Bringing the authentic Sri Lankan flavours, Minolibowled the judges over with her Kiwi Fruit Curry. Opting for this dish in the auditions round, Minoli secured her place in the competition.

Scott Bagnell - Pavlova Roulade with BBQ Pineapple and Molasses Lime

Scott's modern spin to the retro classic Pavlova Roulade with exotic BBQ Pineapple and Molasses Lime landed him a spot in the top 10. This delicious looking dish gave him the much-deserved spot.

Sabina Newton- Fisherman's Stew

Known for her love and expertise in seafood, Sabina's recent recipe – a typical Fisherman's stew, got her a pat on her back from the judges. This one's a wholesome food to enjoy with your family if you love seafood.

Pett Campbell - Octopus Roasted Salsa

Although already in the top 10, Pete's recent dish from team challenge Pett surprised the judges with his perfect Octopus Roasted Salsa. Cooking the Octopus coated in salsa in a furnace for the first time, Pete's dish was thoroughly enjoyed by the judges.

Elisa Pulbrook - Sri Lankan King Prawn Curry and Tamarind Eggplant

Using her heritage from Sri Lanka, Elisa's Sri Lankan Prawn Curry with Tamarind Eggplant was an absolute wholesome cultural spread at MasterChef Australia. Filled with accurate spice and cooked to absolute perfection the dish really was one of her best and one to remember.



Lifestyle



CapitaLand Private Fund in India

CapitaLand has launched its second logistics private fund of S\$400 million (INR22.5 billion) to expand in India's logistics sector, one of the largest globally.

CapitaLand India Logistics Fund II will invest in the development of logistics assets in key warehousing and manufacturing hubs in six major cities - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, National Capital Region (NCR), and Pune, as well as in emerging markets such as Coimbatore, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata and Lucknow. CapitaLand India Logistics Fund II will grow CapitaLand's current total Funds Under Management (FUM) of S\$79.2 billion across over 20 private funds and six listed trusts, further reinforcing CapitaLand's position as one of the leading real estate fund managers in the world.

CapitaLand India Logistics Fund II follows the successful deployment of CapitaLand's first logistics private fund, the S\$400 million Ascend as India Logistics Programme launched in 2018, to develop six logistics and industrial projects in Bangalore, Chennai, NCR, and Pune. The six projects have a total development potential of over 12 million sq ft of space. Two of the projects are operational with 2.8 million sq ft of space that has been leased. Ascendas-Firstspace manages the assets of Ascendas India Logistics Programme and CapitaLand India Logistics Fund II. Please see Annex for more information on the six logistics assets under Ascendas India Logistics Programme.

Mr Jonathan Yap, President, CapitaLand Financial, CapitaLand Group, who oversees CapitaLand's business in India, said: "The launch of CapitaLand's second logistics fund in India is in line with the Group's strategy to expand our fund management business to generate recurring Fee Related Earnings (FRE) and grow the Group's assets under management (AUM) in a capital efficient way. In 1Q 2021, CapitaLand's FRE increased by more than 30% year-on-year. Our target is to grow CapitaLand's FUM to at least S\$100 billion by 2024. We will

do so by raising new funds across geographies and asset classes, as well as supporting the growth of our existing REITs, business trusts and private funds. We will continue to leverage CapitaLand's real estate investment and fund management capabilities to grow our funds in our core markets of Singapore, China, India and Vietnam as well as our focus markets such as Australia, USA and Europe where there is strong investor demand."

Mr Yap added: "Expanding in new economy asset classes such as logistics will further diversify and strengthen the resilience of CapitaLand's portfolio. We see significant opportunities in India's logistics sector. The sector has continued to thrive especially during the pandemic driven by the growing e-commerce and consumerism, generating strong demand for our quality warehouse and distribution facilities. We will continue to invest in India's logistics sector through our private funds and our business trust, Ascendas India Trust which currently has seven warehouses located at the Arshiya Free Trade Warehousing Zone in Navi Mumbai. In total, CapitaLand targets to develop a logistics portfolio of 20 to 25 million sq ft of space in India by 2025. With our second logistics fund, we will further extend our logistics presence in India and deliver more quality logistics facilities, while generating attractive returns for our investors."

Mr Alope Bhuniya, Chief Executive Officer of Ascendas-Firstspace, said: "Ascendas-Firstspace has gone from strength to strength since its launch in 2017. Currently we have six development assets across India and fully committed our first fund. The steady growth demonstrates our investment and asset management capabilities as well as our customer centric focus. The second fund will significantly increase our geographical footprint. With the growing penetration of e-commerce,



modernisation of supply chain management and increased focus on manufacturing, we are well positioned to tap on the rising demand for high-quality logistics and industrial space in India." CapitaLand Group's total logistics AUM is about S\$3.9 billion. The logistics market in India is forecasted to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 10.5% between 2019 and 2025. CapitaLand's presence in India

In October 2019, CapitaLand announced that it aims to more than double its AUM in India to S\$7 billion by 2024. CapitaLand has deep expertise in India across the full real estate value chain - from owning, developing and managing properties to fund management through Ascendas India Trust (a-iTrust) and private funds.

The Group has a strong presence in India with a portfolio of over 20 business and IT parks, industrial, lodging, and logistics properties, as well as a data centre campus across seven cities - Bangalore, Chennai, Goa, Gurgaon, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune. 80% of the portfolio is under a-iTrust and two private funds - Ascendas India Growth Programme and Ascendas India Logistics Programme, and 20% is under its balance sheet.

CapitaLand is a key contributor to India's IT industry development, having pioneered the renowned International Tech Park Bangalore in 1994. As a sustainable company, CapitaLand has adopted various measures to reduce its carbon footprint and currently has 29 green buildings within its properties in India.

Making Life Beautiful

A four-month mega international cultural and artistic event 'Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2021' will be inaugurated on Thurs, 15 July 2021 at Macao Museum Art, presenting a movable feast to the city.

On the occasion, the Main Exhibition themed "Advance and Retreat of Globalization" will also be inaugurated, with three exhibitions, distributed through various areas of the Macao Museum of Art, reflecting on the advances and retreats of globalization through the arts.

"Art Macao" will present 30 art exhibitions in 25 locations from July to October, bringing an immersive cultural atmosphere to the entire city as a gallery and an art garden, allowing the public to enjoy the beauty and vividness of art. This edition is curated by Professor QiuZhijie, one of the most influential contemporary artists in China and Dean of the School of Experimental Art of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, focusing on contemporary visual arts. "Art Macao" is divided into several sections: Main Exhibition, Special Exhibition of Resorts and Hotels, Creative City Pavilion, Public Art Exhibition, Selected Works by Local Artists and Collateral Exhibition, aiming to reshape the humanistic spirit in the post-epidemic era. Curated by QiuZhijie, the Main Exhibition at

the Macao Museum of Art is divided into three parts: "The Dream of Mazu", "Matteo Ricci's Labyrinth of Memory" and "Advance and Retreat of Globalization", providing a space for reflection and discussion on globalization and individuality, life and dreams, remoteness and proximity, security and happiness, among others. The three thematic exhibitions feature over 40 artists from

and regions, presenting more than 100 pieces/sets of artworks.

The first part of the Main Exhibition "The Dream of Mazu" brings together Ming's and Qing's export porcelain transhipped through Macao, the combination of traditional and contemporary creations of azulejo tiles by artists from Portugal, the brand-new blue-and-white porcelain works by artists from China and the Middle East; the second part of the Main Exhibition "Matteo Ricci's Labyrinth of Memory" describes the Western world's view of China over 500 years. Both parts of the exhibition are held until 15 August. The third part of the Main Exhibition "Advance and Retreat of Globalization" shows that artists around the world have been continuously working on creation, striving to open a new spiritual path that leads the world from despair, and organizing the ideas about tradition and memory mentioned in the first two chapters. This part of the exhibition is



held until 17 October.

Under the patronage of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture and the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2021" is organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Macao Government Tourism Office, and co-organized by the Education and Youth Development Bureau, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited, MGM, Sands China Ltd., SJM RESORTS, LIMITED, Wynn Macau, Limited, and Nam Kwong (Group) Company Limited, with the participation of various creative cities and local higher education institutions, as well as the support of the Municipal Affairs Bureau and Air Macau. The Cultural Affairs Bureau will strictly follow the relevant guidelines of the Health Bureau and implement appropriate measures for the event. All participants must wear face masks, undergo temperature checks, present a valid "Macao Health Code" of the day, and follow crowd control measures on-site. Admission to all activities is free.



JLL: The most active second quarter in five years for real estate

Institutional investors deployed USD1.357 billion into the Indian commercial real estate market in the second quarter (April- June) of 2021, representing a ninefold increase year-on-year, according to JLL's 'Capital Markets Update Q2 2021' report released. Capital deployments in the April-June period represented the most active second quarter in five years.



• T3FS Desk

According to JLL, the pace and volume of investments over the past decade have been supported by the introduction of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) in 2014, the Real estate Regulation and Development Act in 2016 (RERA), Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act and progressive relaxation in foreign direct investment norms over the years.

“Despite the second wave of COVID hitting India in April this year, the first six months of 2021 saw investments of USD 2.7 billion which is 53% of the total investments seen in 2020. Investors are showing resilience and are adapting to the uncertain environment. Relaxing lockdowns during the first three months of 2021 also gave investors a first-hand experience of the post-pandemic world. This led to risk re-rating and asset allocations witnessed a subsequent change in Q2 2021.” said Radha Dhir, CEO and Country Head, India, JLL.

“The first half of 2021 saw broader investor participation and although the economic dent created by the second wave will lead to slower growth in 2021, investments in real estate are expected to maintain momentum. From where we stand, institutional investors have passed the litmus test of resilience during pandemic resurgence and are expected to commit more capital in 2021,” she added.

“The warehousing and logistics sector has been the biggest beneficiary during the pandemic and attracted total investments of over USD1 billion during Q2 2021. Warehousing accounted for 55% share while retail formed 20% of total investments during the quarter. In addition, the data center industry has been drawing strong operator and investor interest with various funds exploring entry strategies.” said Dr. Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head of Research

& REIS, India, JLL.

A mix of defensive and opportunistic investments dominate Q2 2021 deals

Investments in the warehousing and logistics sectors were attractive due to the increasing shift to online shopping from discretionary to essentials. Major global funds have invested with warehousing developers and operators as scale and regional footprint are the key differentiators in the sector. Some funds are following opportunistic strategies by investing in marquee retail assets and have been selectively investing in well-established malls.

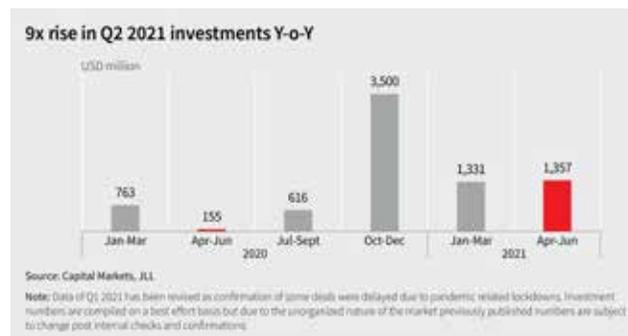
Investment focus shifting from region to asset portfolio

The shift in investment strategy from specific assets to platform type investments with marquee developers has led to a shift from asset and region to the portfolio approach. Since most warehousing, as well as retail assets, are also located in tier2 and 3 cities apart from major metros, the share of 'Pan-India' has been gaining prominence.

Outlook

The investment trends for the last three months underline one key trend- Strong investor confidence in the Indian real estate sector. The experience gained over the past year has helped investors to deal with the more severe resurgence of Covid and will guide future course. Though the economic dent created by the second wave will lead to slower growth in 2021, investments in real estate are expected to stay strong through the year. Defensive sectors like warehousing and data centers are likely to gain center stage, while office assets will gain interest with more visibility on work from office trends. The REITs market is expected to get a further boost as the reduction in lot size of REIT units is expected to drive more retail

participation. The growth prospects of the data centers are expected to attract capital at the development stage with ambitious expansion plans by the data center players. Institutional investors have passed the litmus test of resilience during pandemic resurgence and are expected to commit more capital in 2021.



Tel Aviv: Gay Pride Parade



Over 100,000 people gathered along Tel Aviv's seafront promenade on June 25, 2021 to march in one of the largest pride parades held worldwide since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Tel Aviv Pride Parade marked the climax of the annual Pride Month celebrations in the city, taking place every June since 1998 and attracting hundreds of thousands of Israelis and foreign visitors who join the citywide festivities every June.

The Tel Aviv Pride Parade, widely recognized as one of the world's leading LGBTQ+ events and the largest event of its kind in the Middle East, returned in its mass-participant format courtesy of Israel's high vaccination rates and lifting of all restrictions on public and private gatherings. Thousands of participants joined the parade at midday, which commenced at Tel Aviv's Gordon Beach, before continuing southwards along the seafront promenade and culminating at Charles Clore Park – where a huge party overlooking Jaffa and the Mediterranean Sea hosted performances by leading Israeli artists on two main stages.

Ron Huldai, Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo: "I am delighted to be here and celebrate with you



again! LGBTQ+ rights are not simply a matter for the gay community. They are a matter of democracy and humanity. I wish everyone a wonderful Pride Month. Let's always meet on such happy occasions!"

Sharon Landes-Fischer, CEO of Tel Aviv Global & Tourism: "Tel Aviv Pride came roaring back today, reminding the world that our city is the leading LGBTQ+ destination in the Middle East. This year's parade had added significance, with tens of thousands reunited as we return to normal following the COVID-19 pandemic. We are already looking forward to June 2022 when all our

friends from overseas will join us along the parade route again. See you soon in Tel Aviv-Yafo."

Pride festivities continued through the weekend, with tens of thousands of partygoers joining major after-parties, including one featuring internationally celebrated DJ and gay icon Offer Nissim. This year, the slogan "A Community That Creates Change" has been at the center of the Pride Month events, born of the desire to strengthen social involvement and shared activities within LGBTQ+ community groups and wider society.

goSTOPS: USD 1 million in Pre-Series

Backpacker hostel brand goSTOPS has raised USD 1 million in its Pre-Series A round led by Indian Angel Network (IAN) and Yuj Ventures, the private investing arm of the family office of Xander Group founder Sid Yog.

The round also saw participation from The Chennai Angels, Chandigarh Angels, Lead Angels, Mumbai Angels Network, Lets Venture as well as goSTOPS' existing lead investor 1Crowd. KRS Jamwal, Uday Chatterjee and Mitesh Shah led this round at IAN.

The freshly infused funds will be utilized to aggressively grow the company's supply over the next 12 months and invest in marketing and technology. The company had earlier raised funding in a round led by 1Crowd Fund, and from angel investors including Nitish Mittersain, the founder of Nazara Games.

goSTOPS caters primarily to the GenZ population. With community and design-led hotel transformation, the brand harnesses the efficiencies of the shared economy to make a high-quality youth-focused stay accessible within a GenZ friendly budget of INR 500 per night. Operating across 20 destinations in India, goSTOPS has hosted over 500K guests in its properties since its inception.

Speaking on the capital infusion, Pallavi Agarwal, CEO, and Co-Founder of goSTOPS said, "We are thrilled to have great investors backing us in our quest to make youth travel accessible, safe and fun. This pandemic has challenged lives in an unprecedented manner. Despite that, we saw a robust demand recovery from our young travelers post the first wave, and the same is happening today. This has helped us validate strong market-need fundamentals and business model resilience. This is also an opportune time for us to aggressively expand supply across the country to cater to the needs of the ever-increasing number of GenZ travelers."

Padmaja Ruparel, Co-Founder of Indian Angel Network said, "We are living in unique times. While Work-From-Home has evolved into Work-From-Anywhere for Gen Z, leisure travel also takes on a whole new meaning in the age of restricted travel. We believe goSTOPS has identified an extremely large and promising segment of youth travelers who deserve better value for their money. With goSTOPS' strong standing

and innovativemodel, we are certain that it has the potential to be at the forefront of the Indian hospitality sector."

A spokesperson for Yuj Ventures said, "Pallavi and Pankaj are passionate entrepreneurs who have shepherded their hostel brand through the worst pandemic the world has seen in recent times. We believe that they can rapidly scale goSTOPS to meet the needs and expectations of the aspiring Indian youth, and we look forward to them achieving their entrepreneurial goals."

"GenZ travelers love to explore destinations beyond the ordinary and prefer social settings that enrich their experiences. goSTOPS, through its unique product and full-stack business model, has developed a proposition that can be scaled to every nook and corner of the country. We have seen the founders show immense grit and hustle to adapt to the pandemic and pursue growth. We are happy to continue our partnership with them as they strengthen their leadership position in this market." said Sheshank Verma, Partner, 1Crowd.

Atmanirbhar Bharat: Indrajaal

Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first 100% indigenous Unified, Distributed and wide-area Autonomous Drone Defence Dome called Indrajaal.

Indrajaal will protect a large area of 1000-2000 sq. km per system against threats such as UAV's, Incoming Weapons, Loitering Munitions, Low-RCS targets autonomously.

Grene Robotics has developed extensive AC6ISRT capabilities in the form of Defence OS over an 8 year R&D journey backed by decades of system development experience for the armed forces.

Grene Robotics advisory board consists of Retired Defence Scientific Advisor, Deputy Chief of Army Staff, BEL Director and Air Force veteran who was instrumental in designing India's most comprehensive command and control system for the Indian Air Force called IACCS.

Why is this critical

India must stop adopting reactive measures and embark on responsive and autonomous systems to be prepared for modern warfare. Manual weapons and point-based defence systems cannot fight modern warfare driven by AI and Robotics. For the first time in India and many times, globally rogue forces have adopted cutting-edge technologies such as UAV's, Smart Swarms etc. Jammu Air Base on June 27th was attacked by such technologies to drop explosives next to the Mi-17 hangar.

PLA is already toying with advanced weaponry in Western Theatre Command (WTC) tasked with military operations against India along the Line of

Actual Control (LAC). Drones are being used to train the infantry to conduct Beyond Visual Line of Sight Targeting. The PLA also developed a high-altitude and high-speed armed drone, the WJ-700, in 2021. In 2020, it introduced armed robots, and in 2021, reconnaissance robots, in its military exercises.

Limitation of current deployments

Point defence Anti-UAV systems will not be able to counter and protect large defence bases, NCR and linear infrastructures like international borders and such sensitive areas against the aforementioned threats. A minimum of 300 systems are required to be deployed to protect the entire western border and this is financially not a viable option. On the contrary, 6-7 sectorally deployed Indrajaal systems with their seamless connectivity can protect the entire western border.

How does Indrajaal work

Autonomous defence/Weapon Systems is the 3rd revolution of warfare and Indrajaal's design principles are based on delivering such autonomy to the defence Forces leveraging a combination of 9-10 modern technologies powered by Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Robotics that is capable of identifying, assessing, deciding, acting and evolving autonomously in real-time. Whether the threat is single or multiple or a combination of

UAVs, Low-RCS, Loitering munitions and such, Indrajaal is capable of countering all such threats.

- Real-time situational awareness
- Distributed, Decentralised and Mobile
- Integrated and Intelligent meshed network
- Ability to integrate with all current weapons suite and infrastructure
- Honeycombed cell structure seamlessly built over a combination of 9-10 technologies
- 24x7x365 persistent and autonomous monitoring, tracking and action

Wg Cdr MVN Sai (Retd), CEO Defence, Grene Robotics said, "I urge the defence leadership to take an integrated and comprehensive approach against all the UAVs, loiter ammunition swarm drones and low RCS threats with indigenously developed Autonomous Defence Systems. Conventional defences will be overwhelmed in a swarm attack scenario and an AI-Enabled Autonomous Dome with its own ecosystem of sensors and processing is the way forward. The process of establishing a fully functional system is an evolutionary process and needs technology vision and user involvement." Earlier this year Grene Robotics announced their partnership with (BEL) to jointly develop first-of-its-kind Autonomous air defence technology, bringing India on par with the best autonomous defence systems of the world.

Ultima Collection: ultra-luxury eco estate in Cannes



Ultima Collection has announced the newest addition to its expanding portfolio, Ultima Cannes Le Grand Jardin, opening in 2022.

The only private property on the island of Sainte-Marguerite, Ultima Cannes Le Grand Jardin is a historic, walled private estate that was previously home to royals such as Louis XIV and the world's elite. Like Ultima Collection's existing properties across Europe, Le Grand Jardin will feature state-of-the-art décor, facilities and the highest levels of service whilst offering a completely exclusive, secluded and once-in-a-lifetime experience for a group on the Côte d'Azur.

Famed for its unspoilt beauty and at just under two miles long, Sainte-Marguerite is the largest of four islands in the Lérins archipelago, situated about half a mile off the French Mediterranean coast. The island has attracted artists and photographers such as Picasso and Lee Miller, who often sought refuge from the mainland for their 'very own' unspoilt island retreat. The French avant-garde painter, Francis Picabia, was mesmerised by the island's extraordinary flora, fauna and light, and captured its rugged coastline in his painting L'île Sainte-Marguerite.

Exclusively accessible by boat (just 10 minutes from Cannes) or helicopter, with no cars on Sainte-Marguerite, Ultima's guests will feel as they are staying on their very own, secluded private island.

Ultima is working with local experts to restore the historic aspects of the property to their former glory. Le Grand Jardin comprises the main Governor's House; a

turreted watchtower with a roof terrace and glorious views and a third 'guest house' building - collectively dating back as far as the 13th century. The property will have 11 bedrooms, with expansive suites in the Governor's House and The Tower; multiple relaxation and dining areas both indoor and out; an

organically filtered heated outdoor pool, an open-air cinema and a spa.

This unique 13th-Century property is surrounded by a 14,000 square meter botanical park and is protected by an impressive stone fort built by Richelieu. Cypresses, palm trees, olive trees, fruit trees and local flowers complete this idyllic scene and landscaped walkways lead guests down to the estate's botanic gardens that are fragrant with roses, geraniums and irises. Ultima's chefs will be on hand to offer guests tailor-made, farm-to-table dining, which will ensure a connection with nature and create a home-away-from-home experience, for which Ultima is renowned. Byron Baciocchi, Co-Founder of Ultima Collection, has added: "Ultima Cannes signals the start of a new chapter for Ultima



Collection. Sainte Marguerite's historic offering is undeniably rare, which is why we did not hesitate in adding the property to our portfolio. Before embarking on this monumental project, we knew we had a responsibility to preserve its historical elements while also bringing the property forward with our signature design and interiors. It's turned into an eco-sanctuary that is even more special and can be enjoyed in complete privacy on the Côte d'Azur." Whilst being the only place to stay on the island, the clear-blue waters off Le Grand Jardin are also home to British artist Jason deCaires Taylor's underwater sculpture garden (launched 2020), which features Easter Island-like heads of local characters. La Guérite, one of the island's two restaurants, is among the most talked-about dining spots on the Côte d'Azur.



— THE 2021 —
G L O B A L
C H O I C E
A W A R D S

6th
EDITION

Xel Research culminated its 6th Global Choice Awards 2021 held from New Delhi virtually to felicitate prominent best Education professionals (Schools, Colleges & preschool etc) / Healthcare Professionals (Doctors/ Clinics/ Hospitals etc.) Manufacturers / Astrologers/ Dieticians & other service providers!!!

Congratulations to all the winners for their achievements , their hard work & determination in their prospective fields which is appreciable.....!!!

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