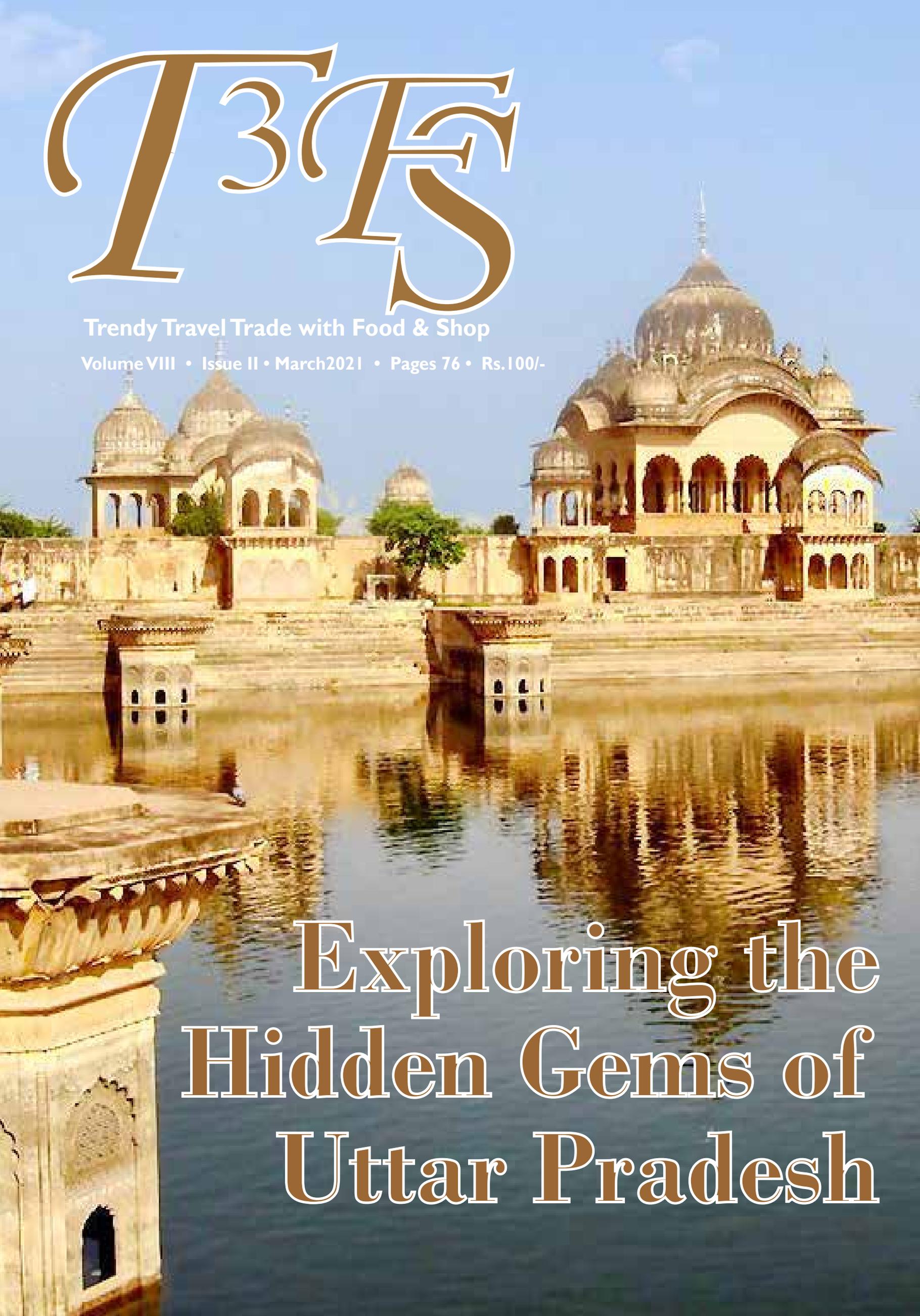


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Trendy Travel Trade with Food & Shop

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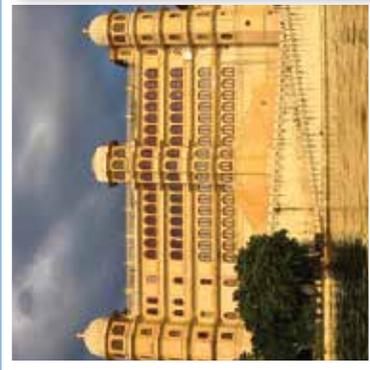


Exploring the
Hidden Gems of
Uttar Pradesh



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
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- Pelling (Pemayangtse) - Gangtok -
Kalimpong - Bagdogra - Delhi

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE



Dear Reader,

On my recent road trip, I had the pleasure to experience nature's bounty first hand and get a glimpse of diversity that the state of Uttar Pradesh houses within itself. It a rich land of culture, history, pilgrimage and idyllic natural beauty. Setting out on my journey, little did I realize that this memorable trip was going to leave me filled with memories that I would have for a long time. A close proximity to the national capital also allows the state to be explored either by road or train. Ideally, both will be good options if you are a traveler at heart and someone who loves adventure. The state has some hidden treasures which can be explored and experienced first-hand only if you set out your journey all by yourself and plan the trip accordingly.

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So this time we focused on hidden gems of Uttar Pradesh. Whereas in hospitality we covered various hotel updates.

In Lifestyle, we focused on the automobile. When Aston Martin makes its return to the FIA Formula One World Championship® at the end of this month, it will be with more than two grand prix contenders on the Formula 1® Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2021 grid: For the first time in the history of the sport the Official Safety and Medical cars of Formula 1® will also bear the famous wings of the British luxury brand.

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On my recent road trip, I had the pleasure to experience nature's bounty first hand and get a glimpse of diversity that the state of Uttar Pradesh houses within itself.

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Domestic Tourism – Hope for the Revival

ADTOI with the support of Gujarat Tourism as Host State organized its three-days 10th Annual Convention-cum-Exhibition from 12th to 14th February 2021 at Statue of Unity (SOU), Tent City 2 Kevadia, Gujarat with the theme: Domestic Tourism – Hope for the revival “Dekho Apna Desh”.

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Statue of Unity

The statue has been built as an ode to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of independent India. He was responsible for uniting all 562 princely states of the country to build the Republic of India.

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Plan a Dreamy Honeymoon

Big fat weddings may have taken a backseat in 2020 with low-key, intimate festivities. But with the market slowly opening up, couples can relook at planning their honeymoon in a big way, making up for the lost time with a celebration to remember.

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India aircraft leasing summit 2021

Shri Hardeep S Puri, MoS, I/C, Civil Aviation has stated that India must leverage its growing air traffic to establish a robust aircraft leasing industry, which would finance new aircraft deliveries through its own policies and products.

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Oetker Collection partners with Reuben Brothers

Oetker Collection announces the addition of Hotel La Palma in Capri, Italy, to the group's portfolio of Masterpiece Hotels, debuting in April 2022.

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Aston Martin: Safety Car of Formula 1

When Aston Martin makes its return to the FIA Formula One World Championship® at the end of this month, it will be with more than two grand prix contenders on the Formula 1® Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2021 grid: For the first time in the history of the sport the Official Safety and Medical cars of Formula 1® will also bear the famous wings of the British luxury brand.

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Amazon Fashion launches Alexander Jeans by Rohit Bal

Denim is a wardrobe staple which can be dressed up or down with relative ease. But what if there's a modern and unique twist to this staple? AmazonFashion has launched a fabulous new collection called 'Alexander Jeans' for men by Rohit Bal.

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Climate Clever Travel

At the peak of the global shutdown in early 2020, carbon emissions fell by 17 percent compared to a similar period in 2019, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

That decrease was a silver lining to the convergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis and, at the same time, a call to arms to intensify current removal of carbon from our atmosphere.

As travelers look toward post-vaccination flights and trips, Impact Travel Alliance (ITA), a nonprofit focused on sustainable tourism, is teaming with Tomorrow's Air, the world's first carbon removal collective for travel incubated by the Adventure Travel Trade Association, to offer travelers a chance to minimize their environmental footprint and clean carbon dioxide from the atmosphere via a monthly subscription-based carbon storage program starting as low as \$10.

The partnership will officially launch on Thursday, Feb. 25, with "Tomorrow's Air Convene: Climate Clever Travel," an online event bringing together climate-conscious travelers and sustainable brands for learning, connection and action.

ITA will host a subsequent online event aimed at media, "Framing Climate Crisis Stories & Solutions in Travel" on Tuesday, March 16, as well as a traveler-facing event "The Truth Behind Carbon Offsets," on Thursday, April 1, presenting the first official opportunity to sign up for Tomorrow's Air carbon removal program. Tomorrow's Air subscribers support carbon removal via direct air capture. The captured carbon dioxide is then stored permanently underground.

This event will also serve as a launch point for ITA's second community challenge of the year - removing carbon from the earth's atmosphere by purchasing a Tomorrow's Air subscription throughout April. The organizations will track how much carbon is removed from the Earth's atmosphere based on how many travelers participate in ITA's challenge, and ITA will share the amount with its community.

AVIS CARE

Building on its point-to-point mobility service as well as mobility solutions for customers, leading car rental and leasing brand, Avis India has launched 'AVIS CARE'.

AVIS CARE is a tailor-made solution for car owners. Avis takes care of all car ownership needs, including the upkeep and maintenance of the car as well as resolving any expected or unexpected problems that come up during its use. The benefit to car owners is seamless mobility, customized to their needs. AVIS CARE offers a full suite of services, from providing guidance on what repair or maintenance jobs are necessary, finding you the most qualified resources to carry out the work at the right time, the right price, and with the least downtime. All vehicle maintenance and repairs are compliant with the appropriate regulatory requirements.

In addition, AVIS CARE provides 24X7 emergency roadside assistance with towing, crane and hydra services, legal assistance, hospital assistance, onward travel assistance, emergency stay at a hotel, fuel run out help, emergency messaging to family, providing a replacement vehicle, pick up and drop services, specialized car cleaning salons powered by 3M, tyre and battery purchase facilities at preferred prices, appropriate insurance cover and its subsequent claim settlement, through the specialized network of mobility experts at Avis covering all corners of the country.

These services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week anywhere in India with customers selecting a package that best suits their needs. This gives car owners complete confidence and peace of mind, freeing them from the hassles of car ownership and leaving them free to chase their own aspirations and priorities.

Furthermore, customers also have the benefit of speaking to an expert who can offer complete guidance on car-related or situation-related concerns. Avis also offers customers services that are not part of the package under Avis' expert supervision at discounted rates.

Largest Waterparks in The World

It's the announcement that thrill-seekers the world over have been waiting for: brand new, world exclusive waterslides and two brand-new towers are being launched at Atlantis Aquaventure from 1st March 2021.

Increasing the size of Atlantis Aquaventure by a third, and featuring a total of 28 new record-breaking waterslides and attractions (12 in Trident Tower and 16 in Splashers), hero experiences include the world's tallest waterslide of its kind, the longest family water coaster in the world of its kind, the tallest vertical drop body slide in the Middle East and the region's first cliff jumping experience. Embarking on its year-long journey of innovation, every time adventure lovers visit Atlantis Aquaventure in 2021 there will be something new and exciting to experience. At 48-metres tall, Trident Tower – the biggest in Aquaventure – boasts 12 record-breaking waterslides and attractions. Splashers Lagoon and Splashers Cove, meanwhile, feature 16 sensational waterslides and attractions. Designed for endless hours of water-based fun, together they form the biggest kid's only waterpark experience in the Middle East.

Tim Kelly, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, Atlantis Dubai said "As the biggest waterpark expansion in history, we are delighted that Atlantis, Dubai is now home to one of the world's largest waterparks, as well as record-breaking waterslides some of which cannot be found anywhere else globally. Now with 105 slides, attractions and experiences for all ages and thrill levels, the expansion has increased Atlantis Aquaventure by a third in size to feature 79 rides across three towers, 26 marine and watersport experiences and 26 food and beverage outlets and kiosks across the park. We've also doubled the length of Aquaventure beach to 1km. This brand-new destination further enhances our positioning as the leading entertainment destination in the region, while simultaneously elevating the UAE's status as both a regional and global tourism hub for families."

BBT Car App: Crosses Half Million Downloads in First 6 Months

Big Boy Toyz, luxury pre-owned cars dealership in India, crossed half a million application downloads since its launch in September 2020.

BBT App is now one of the very few market leaders offering contactless purchasing and virtual experiences to its customers in the time of a global pandemic.

The premium pre-owned car dealer has embraced the technology in every aspect of its operations, offering test-drive at doorstep, booking to payment and delivery, all of it via a mobile application. Available on Google Play Store and iOS App Store, the BBT App has more than 3 lakh and 1.5 lakh active users on each platform, respectively. This comes as a response to the changing trends in the automobile industry where customers are now moving to e-commerce for their purchases. BBT App has a plethora of services to help its customers make a smart purchase. Some of the key highlights of the application are - a large collection of interior and exterior images of every model, detailed specifications, 360-degree view of the vehicles, walkaround videos of the showroom along with a comparison module. Customers can also check the service history while making a potential purchase, which makes a lot of difference in the pre-loved segment. BBT has more than 90% users who are active on their mobile application, spread across Tier -1, -2, and -3 cities of India. BBT as a brand is renowned for challenging the paradigm of the industry by introducing digital experiences for its customers time and again. It was the first to introduce VR technology in the automobile sector and has been evolving the customer experience ever since.



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Indian Automotive Consumer Canvas 2021

CarWale, India's largest auto media vehicle has released the country's largest, most widespread and deep-rooted survey of potential four-wheeler and two-wheeler customers across the country.

The Indian Automotive Consumer Canvass (IACC), supported by CEAT Tyres, IndusInd Bank and Frost & Sullivan, garnered a total of 202,334 responses over the survey period.

With the objective of understanding vehicle purchase behaviour and changing perceptions in the wake of COVID-19 in India, the survey was released through a virtual panel discussion led by stalwarts of the industry. The survey found an upswing in interest in Electric Vehicles (EV) with a willingness to explore new models in ownership and a sharp uptick in interest in online purchases.

Banwari Lal Sharma, CEO of CarWale and BikeWale said "The survey indicates a positive sentiment and reiterates the findings of CarWale's first survey in April last year, where we predicted that the last quarter of the last financial year will be the demand-driving period. While the impact on the supply chain and OEMs was unexpectedly severe, fortunately, we are now seeing a changing pattern. We have demand on our side and the rest can be taken care of. One of the most heartening aspects of the survey is the revelation of 60% of the respondents willing to go for online purchases. Today Indians are predominantly online savvy, utilising the internet for more than email or web browsing. So, it's not surprising when 60% of them show a willingness to buy online. For most first-time car or bike buyers, the process can be quite cumbersome. Hence, companies across the board are putting the effort into making the process digital and hence, more convenient."

Growth in air travel accelerates: ICRA HATS Kerala Homestay & Tourism Society

The Indian aviation industry has witnessed a continued recovery in domestic passenger traffic in January 2021.

However, the pace of growth slowed down in January 2021, with a sequential growth (over December 2020) of ~3.5% to ~76 lakh passengers. The capacity deployment in January 2021 at ~71% (vis-a-vis January 2020) is a significant increase over the ~59% capacity deployed in November 2020 and ~67% in December 2020. On a YoY basis, however, domestic passenger traffic declined by ~41%.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) permitted increasing the capacity to 45%, with effect from June 27, 2020; post the initial commencement of operations of the scheduled domestic flights, with effect from May 25, 2020 to a limited extent i.e. a maximum 1/3rd of their respective approved capacity of the Summer Schedule 2020. It further permitted increasing the capacity to 60%, with effect from September 02, 2020 to 70%, with effect from November 11, 2020 and further to 80% with effect from December 03, 2020.

While the scheduled international operations are yet to start, the MoCA has permitted international operations under the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) and Air Transport Bubbles (ATB). Under the VBM for evacuation of Indian citizens from foreign countries, which started from May 07, 2020, the international passenger traffic (inbound and outbound) for Indian carriers has been ~22 lakh for the period May 07, 2020 to January 31, 2021. For January 2021, international passenger traffic for Indian carriers under VBM was recorded at ~4.3 lakh, a sequential improvement of ~39.1%.

Signature Experiences: Kenya

The Indian travel trade has endorsed Kenya's preparedness to handle visitors in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic, a shot in the arm for the tourism sector that is slowly picking up from the impact of coronavirus. Last month, five representatives of top travel agents from India toured key attractions in the country and were impressed with the level of covid-19 pandemic preparedness put in place by the hospitality sector in Kenya.



"This is an eye-opener to the latest travel situation in Kenya and its recently launched products and experiences in the 'Signature Experiences' portfolio, a perfect combination of beach and wildlife safari," said Ms. Manjula Godia from Varun Worldwide Vacation. Kenya's Tourism Marketing agency; Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) had organized a one-week long luxury-themed familiarization trip designed to focus on Magical Kenya Signature Experiences and equip the fam participants with a first-hand experience of the country's magical offerings. The trip that was conducted between the 21st-26th of February, brought travel agents from Mumbai to Nairobi and were put on a tours of Masai Mara, Watamu and Nairobi National Park. According to KTB, the objective of the fam was to showcase wildlife, city and the coastal experiences that Kenya has to offer. KTB also organized a B2B session with the Kenyan travel trade to boost trade relations and get a perspective on the current traveler sentiments from India. Kenya is presently one of the few long-haul destinations open for Indians and KTB is eager to strengthen its reach in the key Indian markets through more FAM trips as well as other marketing integrations to entice travelers to consider Kenya as a safe and preferred international tourist destination.

Fitur Know-How & Export

IFEMA and SEGITTUR have renewed their partnership agreement for organising the FITUR KNOW-HOW & EXPORT special interest section at the next edition of FITUR, the International Tourism Trade Fair, which will be held from 19th to 23rd May 2021, at Feria de Madrid. This section is being promoted jointly by FITUR and SEGITTUR in partnership with ICEX Trade and Investment. It has become a benchmark event for Spanish companies that want to export their know-how through services and products linked to the five themes of the smart destinations model, from innovation and technology, to accessibility and sustainability. They signed the agreement today at a ceremony attended by IFEMA Managing Director, Eduardo López-Puertas, SEGITTUR chairman, Enrique Martínez Marín, and FITUR chairwoman, María Valcarce. The agreement includes actions such as organising an exhibition space for Spanish companies to promote their businesses and export their know-how. There will also be a networking area, a full three-day programme of talks in the auditorium, and the SEGITTURLab area, a practical workshop space with learning opportunities to prepare tourism professionals to respond to the sector's new needs. Eduardo López-Puertas highlighted that "IFEMA, and the tourism industry's different actors and businesses are living through a crucial moment and looking to a future full of opportunities, one in which innovation and digital transformation are going to be essential for success. A future in which an innovative and increasingly smart tourism industry can play a leading role, with accessible and sustainable destinations, by leveraging the solutions that technologies bring to tourism development. This is even more so in the present context, one in which this edition of FITUR will be strategic for the sector's long-awaited recovery. SEGITTUR's partnership and its experience will ensure that the Fair is a successful opportunity for Spanish tourism companies to promote innovation and internationalisation."

Domestic Travel will Continue to Aid Recovery for Hotels: JLL

India's hospitality industry witnessed a decline of 54.9% in Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) during January to December (CY 2020) as compared to CY 2019, according to JLL's Hotel Momentum India (HMI) Q4 2020, a quarterly hospitality sector monitor. With the revival of domestic travel, emergence of recovery indicators has come to the rescue of the sector. The recovery of the sector has been primarily driven by leisure 'revenge travel' during weekends, festival season, weddings and demand of food & beverage.

Total number of signings in Q4 2020 stood at 45 hotels comprising of 4,326 keys, recording a decline of 43.6%, compared to the same period last year. International operators dominated signings over domestic operators with the ratio of 57:43 in terms of inventory volume.

Goa grew to be the RevPAR leader in absolute terms, despite a decline of RevPAR by 33.3% in Q4 2020. Demand for domestic leisure travel amidst international travel restrictions has made Goa the fastest recovering market in absolute terms. Bengaluru saw the sharpest decline of 77% in RevPAR in Q4 2020 compared to the same period in the previous year. However the city has witnessed a month on month growth in performance during the last quarter of 2020.

To help revive the sector by way of various benefits such as rebates in electricity charges as well as property taxes, Government of Maharashtra recognised hospitality sector as an industry. Further, the government decreased number of permissions required to start a new hotel or a restaurant to 10 from 70. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 measures announced by the government included the launch of ECLGS 2.0-Guaranteed Credit for supporting the 26 stressed sectors identified by the Kamath Committee. Jaideep Dang, Managing Director, Hotels and Hospitality Group, South Asia, JLL

Challenges for Tourism

One in three destinations worldwide are now completely closed to international tourism. According to the latest data from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the emergence of new variants of the COVID-19 virus has prompted many governments to reverse efforts to ease restrictions on travel, with total closures to tourists most prevalent in Asia and the Pacific and Europe.

The UNWTO Travel Restrictions Report provides a comprehensive overview of the regulations in place in 217 destinations worldwide. While previous editions had shown a movement towards easing or lifting restrictions on travel, the latest report shows that the persistent seriousness of the epidemiological situation has caused governments to adopt a more cautious approach. As of the beginning of February, 32% of all destinations worldwide (69 in total) are completely closed for international tourism. Of these, around just over half (38 destinations) have been closed for at least 40 weeks. At the same time, 34% of worldwide destinations are now partially closed to international tourists. Regional variations clear

The ninth edition of the UNWTO Travel Restrictions Report shows that regional differences with regards to travel restrictions remain. Of the 69 destinations where borders are completely closed to tourists, 30 are in Asia and the Pacific, 15 are in Europe, 11 are in Africa, 10 are in the Americas and three are in the Middle East.

At the same time, the UNWTO research also indicates a trend towards adopting a more nuanced, evidence and risk-based approach to implementing travel restrictions. Growing numbers of destinations worldwide now require international tourists to present a negative PCR or antigen test upon arrival and also provide contact details for tracing purposes. Indeed, 32% of all worldwide destinations now have the presentation of such tests as their main requirement for international arrivals often combined with quarantine, while the same amount have made tests a secondary or tertiary measure.

Skill India

India's ranking improved from 40th to 34th (out of 140 economies), the greatest improvement over 2017 among the top 25 percent of all countries ranked in the biennial Travel & Tourism competitiveness index. Travel & Tourism is expected to create 52 million jobs by 2028; however, the biggest challenge lies ahead of us – the lack of a trained and efficient workforce. Though many institutions provide knowledge, lack of practical and industry-led training has hit the sector hard. With this challenge in mind WICCI'S National Hospitality & Tourism Council is proud to launch a meaningful Skill Development Initiative that endeavours to support the Government's 'Skill India' drive to promote practical exposure under industry supervision.

WICCI National Hospitality & Tourism Council joins hands with SAATHIYA, a Shibulal Family Philanthropic Initiative, to provide Short Term Training to women (and youth) from marginalised backgrounds for Entry Level Profession in Food and Beverage (F&B) Service and Housekeeping Operations leading to Guest Service Associate roles in leading Hotels, Resorts, Restaurants and QSRs; creating opportunities and ways where the industry can add value and support the employment. The WICCI National Hospitality & Tourism Council – SAATHIYA Skill Development Initiative draws extensively from the experiences of the industry, training partners, NGOs and government agencies and institutions.

Meena Bhatia, National Advisory Board Member, WICCI Hospitality & Tourism Council – explains, "The programme aims to guide and prepare the youth, transforming them into confident, career-focused individuals in the organized sector and endeavours to positively transform the lives of these vulnerable and less privileged members of the society. Our goal is aligned with the country's skill development vision, as also with the industry's future need for a well-groomed and well-trained workforce."

Meet in India at Khajuraho

A flourishing tourism industry is imperative for India's journey towards USD 5 Trillion Indian economy.

Through the mantra of 'vocal for local', India seeks to attain "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" by realizing its full potential as tourism destination with its varied niche products with focus on MICE. The Ministry of Tourism accordingly plans to launch its campaign "Meet in India" from Khajuraho, which is one of the iconic tourist destinations of the country. Recognizing India's huge potential as a MICE destination, 'Meet in India' will be the distinct sub-brand under 'Incredible India' to promote the country as a MICE destination. This event will be an effort under Aatmanirbhar Bharat, realizing India's MICE potential. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in association with Madhya Pradesh Tourism and India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB) will be organising a MICE Roadshow – 'Meet in India' at the heart of Incredible India from 25-27 March 2021 at Chhatrasal Convention Centre, Khajuraho. The Ministry of Tourism will partner with India Convention Promotion Bureau in hosting 100 qualified buyers from Delhi and other cities at Khajuraho. These buyers/industry stakeholders will be provided transport, accommodation, F&B and would experience the attractions of Khajuraho and nearby places etc. A state of the art convention centre has recently been constructed at Khajuraho, which will be inaugurated on the occasion. The convention centre would give added boost to Khajuraho as a MICE destination. The event will also deliberate the draft Master Plan being prepared by the Ministry of Tourism to develop Khajuraho as Iconic Destination. A number of hard and soft interventions are proposed to develop Khajuraho. The event will provide tremendous boost to Khajuraho as an iconic tourist destination particularly the MICE potential of Khajuraho. The Ministry will seek participation of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Culture, ASI and other relevant Central Government Ministries and Organizations. The Ministry is also inviting various State Tourism Departments and some of the select City Governments.



Exploring the Hidden Gems of Uttar Pradesh

On my recent road trip, I had the pleasure to experience nature's bounty first hand and get a glimpse of diversity that the state of Uttar Pradesh houses within itself.

• **Vedika Sharma**

It's a rich land of culture, history, pilgrimage and idyllic natural beauty. Setting out on my journey, little did I realize that this memorable trip was going to leave me filled with memories that I would have for a long time. A close proximity to the national capital also allows the state to be explored either by road or train. Ideally, both will be good options if you are a traveler at heart and someone who loves adventure. The state has some hidden treasures which can be explored and experienced first-hand only if you set out your journey all by yourself and plan the trip accordingly.

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Since I wanted to give wee hours of Delhi traffic a miss, therefore, I decided to leave early and make a pit stop on the Delhi-Mathura highway for a sumptuous breakfast. The early morning hours are pleasant and as you leave Delhi, you begin to experience what fresh air actually felt like to breathe in. Like a child, I rolled down my window and craned out my neck to get a gush of fresh air into my nostrils and let the feeling of good old road trips sink into me. Early mornings are a gift of nature to mankind and I truly mean it. The dawn breaking, chirping of birds, nippy air can get anything to life and renew it, its magical!

While being lost in my daydreaming, here

I was on midway stop for my breakfast at Asli Pappudhaba in Kosi Kalan which is known for its scrumptious parathas topped with homemade white butter and chaanch. A place I can certainly vouch for both in terms of food and its delivery. The place is clean and hygienic and the ambience is decent too. The paranthas tasted just like home and were super quick besides being fresh. In my opinion, this is a must go to place if it is on your itinerary. After my quick breakfast, I started out again on my journey towards the holy city of Mathura. Upon entering the city of Mathura by early hours before noon, I decided to check into a hotel which I had already mapped out and booked in advance. I stayed at Centrum Hotel, Brijwasi. The place was spacious and comfortable, I decided after a quick check in, will freshen up and explore the city which will be



followed by lunch.

After a quick stop at the hotel I decided to leave and explore the city of Mathura, known for also for its food especially chaat. Oh chaat, how can I give that a miss- so chaat it was for me. As exploratory as I could get, I chose chaat for my lunch menu. Upon asking at the hotel, I learnt that the famous was hing kachori and jalebi which I decided to get at the roadside sweet shop at Shankar sweets. After that I went to Brijwasi sweet shop where I got packed the famous Mathura peda and had golgappe and bhallepaddichaat. I ate till my heart's delight... isn't this what trips are meant for exploring hidden places and their hidden treasured food. Ok after my food quota was done I decided to go for holy excursion. My first stop was the Shri Krishna Janambhoomi Temple, which is one of the holy Hindu pilgrimage as it is believed to be the birthplace

of Lord Krishna. The temple was a beauty to see. My next stop was the KesavaDeo temple which is another holy place for the Hindus and is located near the main Krishna Janambhoomi complex. This is a unique Krishna temple as it has its own festival calendar which are all carried out within the temple's premises. Though I wanted to see many other shrines too but I choose to make my final stop at Banke Bihari temple which is again dedicated to Lord Krishna and his life. The temple's premises are majestic and I am sure in their heydays the temple's grandeur would have attracted a lot of people. The other temples one could certainly try and explore, which I missed out due to the timings to visit them that clashed, are Prem Mandir which is known for its architectural grandeur, Nidhivan Temple which chronicles the childhood of Lord Krishna and it's a beauty to capture, ISKON or Shri Krishna Balaram Mandir, Radha

Vallabh Temple which was established some 450 years ago, Priyakant temple which I was told was something of an architectural marvel to see in Mathura, Radha Raman temple, Govind Devji Temple which is a replicate of Jaipur's Govind Devji temple, Jugal Kishore temple which is situated on the banks of river Yamuna. I was also told to see the Baba Jaigurudev Temple which is not amongst the famous temple but is known for its beauty which was inspired by the Taj Mahal, another one was the Dwarkadhish Temple which was a reminiscence of Lord Krishna moving to Dwarika for the latter part of his life. Truly the city has its charm and old world grandeur when it comes to splendid architecture and preserving its rich cultural heritage.

After a tired day of temple trotting, I decided to retire back to the hotel, sit back and relax before I took my final plunge to



Excursion

see first-hand the Mathura Kumbh which is said to attract a huge gathering of devotees who come at this time of the year to take the holy dip in river Yamuna and set onto their pilgrimage. This was going to be my first-hand experience of smaller Kumbh compared to one that takes place in Allahabad and I was truly excited to witness it.

The next day, I was brimming with excitement, but as I was told by the hotel staff to be safe and unless I wanted to go and take the holy dip, I was warned to watch it all from a distance. Though, with the recent situation of corona in place, I wanted to observe caution and decided to maintain distance even while in the public places. From a distance, in the early morning hours, I could see the devotees come out and gather for the Kumbh marking the beginning of holy days. The arrangements made by the authorities for the devotees who had come for the pilgrimage were very well organized and taken care of, right from helplines to food, water and first aid arrangements. It made me feel how much our culture and values held us together as one despite the global pandemic. The spirit we Indians have is second to none and it can never be shadowed no matter what the situation, we only come



out stronger as people, as community.

After a different and surreal experience of the Mathura Kumbh, I decided to head further for my journey the same day to Firozabad, ahead of Mathura approximately little over an hour on the Taj Expressway. Firozabad is a town not many would have as a destination on their itinerary but surprisingly, little did I know the town is famous for glassworks right from your bangles to glass décor pieces and even your lamps, chandeliers are an artistic marvel from Firozabad. Since I reached the place well in time, I decided to explore the market to buy some colorful bangles for myself and guess what I was in for a delight, all I saw was only bangles and bangles and more bangles around me all kinds of designs in glass you could possibly wish for. I brought few glass bangles for myself and friends and family as they would be a perfect give to give your loved ones but I could not resist buying some colorful glass bottles and decoration pieces which I had mentally mapped their location in my house. Ah! What an experience.

My next quick stop had to be now for food where I chose the most vouched options by the locals called Vatika Vegetarian restaurant which served home like pure vegetarian meal and since I was hungry I decided to go with my



all-time favourites dal tadka, veg jalfrezi and butter roti. The food was good quality, hygienically prepared and yummy. The last I decided to complete my meal with gulab jamun and the word I have for it was yum, a complete meal and worth every penny. After this, it was time for excursion, I headed straight to Shri Hanuman Temple as it is said to be built like a monastery by Bajirao Peshwa 2 during the Maratha rein. It was truly unbelievable how a temple was carved in the shape of a monastery. Since I had been to enough temples in Mathura I decided to give Vaishnodevi Temple, Jain Mandir and Mata Leela Temple a miss, which are other temple sites in Firozabad, instead after the Hanuman temple which I visited purely for its splendor and built, I decided to make my next stop at Kotla Fort which is currently in ruins but is a reflection of the bygone era and its imposing structure which is a witness to the great times it was built in. The area around the fort is covered in lush greenery and is huge. I could only stand there and imagine what great times it must have been living in that era and witnessing all of it first-hand. Another piece of history that I decided to give a miss but deserves a mention is Chandravar Gate which was earlier Raja Chandravar Fort but what remains of it is only a gate now which plays a witness to its rich heritage and times it was built in. It is said that here a war between Mohammad Ghori and Jayachand was fought. Leaving this out, I decided to head to Sofi Sahab Manzar, which is on the banks of river Yamuna and is the Makvara of Sufi Shahe, one of the main attractions in town. It was quiet and peaceful, I spent some time sitting here and then decided to head back to the hotel. I had made my reservation at Hotel Parador, which is believed to be one of the best hotels in town and comfortable too. After a long day of witnessing the kind of splendor both the cities housed was so different yet unique from each other it was time to retire to my hotel room, snuggle in my cozy bed, give my feet some rest for another exciting journey the next day, I was looking forward to. Therefore, I ordered some hot vegetable soup and small bite size titbits for meal and just



rest.

My next stop on the itinerary was unheard of – the place was- Bithoor which has only found its mention in the history textbooks and is steeped in history. The city is in Kanpur district and approximately 4 hours from Firozabad. We decided to take the Lucknow expressway to reach Bithoor. Bithoor is not a place many would like to make a stop at and explore but if culture and history is something that interests you, you should plan a trip to Bithoor. About 22 kms from Kanpur, Bithoor a scenic town sits on the banks of river Ganga. The town dates back to ancient times and finds its mention in legends and fables. By the time I reached, it was almost time for lunch therefore, I settled for a vegetarian thali at a small dhaba in town which was worth every penny, clean and prepared meals hygienically and then set out to explore the town. Bithoor was chosen as his abode by Lord Brahma who upon destruction of the galaxy by Lord Vishnu, decided to come and settle at Bithoor, it was here that he created mankind and also finished his Ashwamedh yajna. Because of these events the place came to be known as Brahmavarta from which the name Bithoor was derived. Later the town flourished under Emperor Uttanpad whose son Dhruv performed penance to appease Lord Brahma. The place also finds its roots in Ramayana, as it is said that it was here Rishi Valmiki sat and wrote the epic Ramayana and also this was the place where Lord Rama left Sita after her tragic capture by Ravana. This is also the holy place where Sita gave birth to her twins Lav and Kush and it is here they spent their childhood under the guidance of saint Valmiki and this was also the place where they were united with their father Lord Rama therefore, this place is also called Ramale. Steeped in history and mythology, the modern Bithoor also played

a significant role as it was the birth place of Manikarnika who later became Rani Laxmi Bai and fought for India's freedom, playing a key role in revolt of 1857. The place with its rich history of the bygone era has amalgamated well with modern times and has also preserved its rich culture and history.

Some notable places to see in Bithoor are Valmiki Ashram, where sage Valmiki sat and wrote Ramayana, Brahmghat, the holiest ghat in Bithoor which witnesses pilgrims throughout the year, Patthar Ghat and Dhruva Teela where Dhruv had meditated on one leg during his childhood. Visiting these places, filled me with mixed emotion and also a great sense of pride towards my country. These experiences can deeply touch you when you visit such places which are still unheard of and have so much to



teach you of our rich vibrant country. The other places worth mentioning are Ram-Janki Temple, Lav-Kush Temple, Haridham Ashram, Nana Saheb Samarak, Jahangir Mosque, Massacre Ghat, JK Temple and if you like wildlife you must pay a visit to Bithoor's own Motijheel and Allen Forest Zoo to name a few. The town is quaint and laid back in narrow thin old alleys of the past and people of Bithoor would like to

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have it that way only. It was now time to retire back to my hotel room in Hotel The Down Town which offered lip smacking food and comfortable stay. I decided to head back and have a heart meal at the hotel as it offered me more choices since Bithoor was more on the rich legacy side than food.

The experience was something that deeply touched me and before this trip made me realize what all I had missed in all these years of not even knowing what all my country possessed. The serene beauty and charm of Bithoor had completely overwhelmed me and taken me by very pleasant surprise as this was one place which I had under-rated but it really left me overwhelmed with its narrative on history and all that it had to offer. So far it has been a memorable experience which I am going to carry back me with as beautiful memories for years to come.

Next day next adventure, I set out for another destination of Chitrakoot, another holy and religious place which is approximately little over 4 hours from Bithoor. Chitrakoot is a district in itself which has two major towns of Chitrakoot Dham and Karwi. The town is situated in North Vindhya ranges and has an important place in Hindu mythology and the Ramayana. As legends have it, it is believed that Chitrakoot was the place where Lord Rama with his wife Sita and brother Laxmana spend 11 years in exile out of their 14 years, making it a revered pilgrim site for devotees and travellers. If mythology and legends are to be believed, according to Ramayana, Chitrakoot was the place where Bharata, brother of Ram came to visit Ram and ask him to come back to Ayodhya and rule the kingdom. It is also believed that the principal gods of Hindus, (Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva) took incarnations here. This divine city is also known as the 'Hill of many wonders' and it totally justifies the name. Chitrakoot mountain range has numerous places of great religious importance like Bharat Milap Temple, Hanuman Dhara, JankiKund and much more. It is indeed the gift of nature and the gods.

Ramghat is a significant ghat where Lord Ram appeared in front of Tulsidas and gave him his blessings. Not very far is the Sita's kitchen where Lady Sita extended hospitality to various sages and saints. Chitrakoot is also believed to be the place where the Holy Trinity - Lords Vishnu, Brahma and Shiva, took their incarnations on earth. Lord Brahma also chose this site to light 108 fires before creating the universe. Now only a pit remains to mark the once-grand fire, known as YagyaVedi.

Chitrakoot is also the place where Goswami Tulsidas, author of 'The Ramcharitmanas', spent many years of his life. There are many lively fairs which are organized on different occasions and festivals. Not many know that Chitrakoot is also home to the

only university in the world specially made for the differently-abled, Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Handicapped University. The other noteworthy places to visit, if you have time are, Gupt Godavari- this is a pair of caves, in which there is a tiny entrance, through which one can barely pass. Water trickles down in streams through the other cave, which can rise up to the length of our knees. It is said that Lord Rama and Lakshman once held their secret meetings, which is validated apparently by the throne like structures present in the cave. Sati Anusuya Temple which houses beautiful tableaus displaying scenes from the Ramayana, Kamadgiri is an ancient temple where people perform circumambulation around the whole hill, which is considered very sacred, SphatikShilais a place with two massive rocks which are believed to have the footprints of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita. SphatikShila literally means crystal rock and is located amidst dense forests, close to JankiKund on the banks of river Mandakini. It is said that Sita and Rama were relaxing here and a crow pecked the feet of goddess Sita which agitated lord Rama and he took off the eyes of the crow, however the crow was actually a form of Jayant, son of Lord Indra.

Now it was time for me to retire for the day and head straight back to the hotel. I headed straight to Bindiram by ShriGo Hotel where my prior booking for stay was made and realizing there was not something extraordinary to explore in terms of food, I decided to go for an ala-carte meal at the hotel. My stay at the hotel was safe, hygienic and comfortable.

Next day exploring new adventure I had to head to Vindhyachal, which was next on my list and is approx. 4 hours from Chitrakoot



in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. It is a small laid back town tucked away between lush greenery and history. Vindhyachal is about Maa Vindhyavasini Temple from where it also derives its name. The temple holds great spiritual significance and faith for its devotees. Situated on the bank of the holy river Ganga, people take a dip into the river, with the belief that this will let them wash away their sins and they can start a new life thereafter.

Next stop was the Ashtabhuj temple- this temple is dedicated to goddess Saraswati who is mostly associated with literature or Vidya. Ashtabhuj, Lord Krishna's sister, had been running from Kansa's trap who tried to kill her and finally found a shelter here. (3km from Vindhyavasini temple) and Kali khoh temple which is dedicated to Maa Kaali and is in the form of a cave. Goddess



Kali is believed to be incarnated to kill the demon Raktabeej who had a boon that every droplet of his blood will give birth to another Raktabeej right away. This made killing the demon extremely difficult. It is believed that Ma Kali stretched her tongue all over the ground and licked all the blood and swallowed all his duplicates. (2km from Vindhyavasini temple) are the three main temples and visiting these temples forms a trikona parikrama which is a common ritual here. Vindhyachal looks amazingly beautiful during navratras and other festivals. Also, there are Kajali competitions that are held here in the month of June.

Then there is Sita Kund- according to the story of Sita Kund, while returning home from the exile goddess Sita felt thirsty and thus, Lord Lakshman pierced an arrow into the ground from where the water came out of it in the form of a fountain. Another one is Ramgaya Ghat is at a distance of about 2km from Vindhyachal and is believed to be the place where Lord Ram offered prayers for the attainment of peace for his demised fathers soul. Another noteworthy place is Kankali temple which got its name from Kankal which means skeleton and Maa Kali. It is said that when asuri sena attacked Maa Durga who is known for her calm and smiling face, turned into Ma Kali due to the fury and agitation and held their heads. Her anger was so extreme that the whole body got dried up and only skeleton remained.

Since the town was small and a pilgrim place I could cover most of the places in

the same day and understand the life of the people who lived in perfect harmony and led their life in harmony with religious beliefs which they followed even in their day to day life. Simple with an old world charm, I don't think this town would have been on my radar unless I was curious to read more about it when I first saw it on the map and it instantly made me feel I should cover it and here I am discovering something extraordinary.

My stop for the day was at Hotel Galaxy which ensured all safety measure and comfort and served not very contemporary dishes but mainly Indian which was palatable for me after a long day of exploration.

My last place and final destination of this trip was Lucknow, the capital and heritage city of Uttar Pradesh which is also the states' pride. I was so looking forward to it as not only was I in for a great surprise in terms of cultural heritage but also food for which Lucknow has carved out its own niche in the country, what more could I have asked for, I am super excited and looking forward to it. I had decided to dedicate two full days to



Lucknow so that I do not miss out on either food or places to see.

My first place to visit was none other than Bara Imambara. Counted among the top historical places in Lucknow, Bara Imambara aka Asafi Imambara is a historical monument that dates back to 1784. Built by Asaf-ud-Daula, one of the renowned Nawabs of Awadh, the complex comprises a large mosque (Asfi Mosque), a labyrinth (the BhulBhulaiya), and a stepwell with running water (Shahi Baoli). The structure boasts of two large gateways that will lead you to the central hall, which is touted to be the largest vaulted chamber in the world.

The next was Chotalmambara purely for its majestic beauty and grandeur. The imposing historical structure of Chotalmambara was built in 1838 by Muhammad Ali Shah, the third Nawab of Awadh. Also called





Imambara Hussainabad Mubarak, it was initially built as a congregation hall for the devotees of the Shia community. However, the place later served as the mausoleum for the Nawab as well as his mother. The interiors of the structure are beautifully ornamented with chandeliers and crystal lamps brought from Belgium which earned it the moniker ‘the Palace of Lights’. The exteriors feature elements of intricate Islamic calligraphy, adding to its visual appeal.

Another place worth visiting is the British residency, also called the Residency and the Residency Complex, the British Residency is a complex of buildings that once served as the residence of the British Resident General. Constructed in the last quarter of the 18th century, the place served home to over 3000 British residents during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Currently, the Residency is in ruins and is a protected monument under the Archeological survey of India.

Next was Rumi Darwaza for those who want to witness the grandeur of the Awadhi

style of architecture, make your way to the Rumi Darwaza, an imposing gateway located between Bara Imambara and ChotaImambara. This gateway built in 1784 by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula is about 60-feet tall and is generally used as the logo for Lucknow city. Since the gate is modeled after the Sublime Porte in Istanbul, it is sometimes referred to as the Turkish Gate. Located adjacent to the Rumi Darwaza, Husainabad Clock Tower is another heritage monument dotting the cityscape of Lucknow. Built in 1881 by the Hussainabad Trust at a cost of 1.75 lakhs, this 221-foot structure is modeled after the Big Ben Clock Tower of London. The clock is designed like a flower with 12 petals and its pendulum is 14 feet long. Popular as the tallest clock tower in the country, it displays the Gothic and Victorian styles of architecture.

The other is the Chattar Manzil or Umbrella Palace, which once served as the residence for the Awadhi rulers and their wives, is another must-visit tourist places in Lucknow. Just as the name suggests, the

building features an umbrella-shaped dome. The structure displays elements from various styles of architecture, the most important of them being the European style. Currently, the building serves as a government office yet it is visited by travelers on account of its architectural beauty.

Yet another beautiful site nestled in the green bounty and located on the banks of the River Gomti, is Dilkusha Kothi. This Kothi is the remains of a house that was built in the early 19th century. Built in the English baroque style of architecture, the building once served as the hunting lodge and summer resort of the Nawabs. Nothing much is left of the building today, except for the external walls, a few towers, and a beautiful garden. However, due to its historical significance and architectural grandeur, Dilkusha Kothi has earned a place in the list of Lucknow tourist places but people come here to enjoy the scenic beauty.

Another place of pilgrim dedicated to the Hindu Goddess Chandi, a form of Durga, is the Chandrika Devi Temple is among the



must-visit temples in Lucknow. The shrine, which is located on the banks of River Gomti, is believed to be about 300 years old. Goddess Chandi, the presiding deity of the temple, is worshipped here in the form of a stone with three heads. Known for its spiritual vibes, the temple is visited by devotees all through the year and especially during the festival of Navaratri.

Another gem in the list of Lucknow tourist places in the Jama Masjid. Like all other masjids in the country, it is a spiritual center for Muslim devotees. But that's not all. This 19th-century edifice is a visual treat and one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture in the city. A key highlight here is the giant pillars that feature Hindu and Jain carvings. Next was the Constantia House, when you want to witness the architectural grandeur of the British era, you must make a visit to the Constantia House. It is part of the renowned La Martiniere College, one of the premier educational institutions in the city. The building houses the tomb of Major Claude Martin, the French general who started its construction way back in 1785. Considered to be the largest European funerary monument in the country, the Constantia House exhibits an unusual mix of architectural styles.

Last but not the least is an iconic watchtower called, Satkhanda which is an incomplete, four-storied structure that dates back to the 1800s. King Mohammed Ali Shah who started the construction of the building planned it to be a watchtower with seven stories but could complete only four due to his untimely demise. The design of this red-brick tower shows influences of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which makes it one of the interesting monuments to visit in Lucknow.

Besides this if you love visiting the museums Lucknow has the State Museum to offer to you, which echoes the rich history and also some beautiful parks like the Ambedkar Park which is beautifully built, Ram Manohar Lohiya Park, Gomti Riverfront Park, Janeshwar Mishra park which are some noteworthy parks in the city.

For shopping one can certainly explore Aminabad market which has a range of variety in Lucknowi Chicken design and a host of other things.

As we all know Lucknow is famous



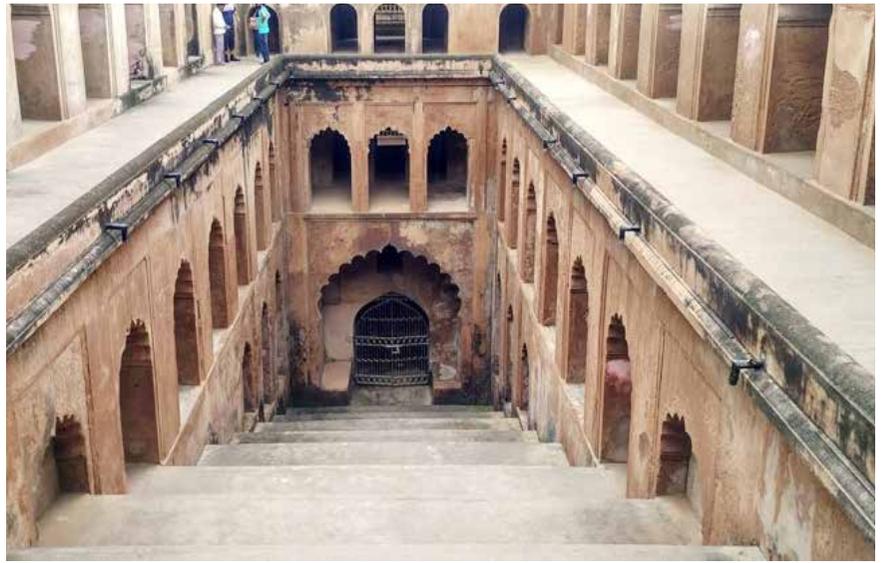
for Tunday Kebabs which have a non-vegetarian and also vegetarian version. Other famous delicacies of Lucknow that should be on your top priority when you visit the city are Nihari and Kulcha, Idris ki Biryani in Chowk area will be something in biryani you have never tried before. All kinds of chaat which are available in the city but one you should not miss out are Basket chaat which is made with deep fried basket which as mashed potatoes, peas, tikki, chutney and lots of garnish. Another noteworthy item is Nimish also known as Daulat Ki Chaat, MakkhanMalai or Lab-e-Mashook. An extremely light cream with saffron and rose flavours, it is the dessert of Lucknow that you must try in winters. The flavours of the dish are so rich that every bite melts smoothly in your mouth. If you want to grab the best Nimish, head to Chowk area.

The Awadhi biryani was a discovery made by the tenth rule of the Awadh or Oudh dynasty. Wahid's Biryani is a small restaurant that sells what is known as 'the best biryani in Lucknow'. Although the restaurant is a bit small, it does not matter since the mouth-watering biryani is all the reason you need to go here.

The Awadhi biryani is made of meat and rice. They are cooked separately and then mixed over dum. The flavours are very light but together they pack quite a punch. The biryani is absolutely sinful and often the cheat meal of all Lucknowis.

KhastaKachori which is a deep-fried crispy kachoris with hot aloo chole ki sabzi, then you must try Ratti Lal's Khasta Kachori in Maqbool Ganj. You will find the best Khasta Kachori here with chole ki sabzi and spicy aloo that will give you a mouth-watering experience. One bite of this Khasta Kachori and you will feel like a king because of its taste. Another popular dish is Sheermal, a sweetbread of Nawabi cuisine, Sheermal is like any other naan that's baked to perfection in tandoor. Infused with saffron flavours, sheermal is best served with spicy dishes to balance the flavours. However, you can enjoy the dish as it is too. You can get the best Sheermal in Chowk area.

Raja Thandai for those who are obsessed with milk-made foods will swear by Thandai, a drink that's popularly enjoyed during Holi as it cools the stomach. Whenever you are in Lucknow, you must try Raja



Thandai that has been serving this herbal concoction for over 100 years. Another favorite sweet combination for the city residents is imarti Rabdi, this combination is a sweet bomb that you must try in Lucknow when talking about the legendary Nawabi food. You can get this sweet delight anywhere in Lucknow; however, Moti Mahal serves the best imarti-jalebi combination and the taste will make your mouth.

Next on your list should be ChappanBhog Sweets if you are one with a sweet tooth. This Lucknow food place has been an undisputed king of the sweetmeat world. With a wide range of attractively decorated mithai available in front of your eyes, anyone can get tempted. Made from unadulterated milk and milk products, you can vouch on their quality and taste, even with your eyes blindfolded.

The place is a heaven for quintessential foodie in you, one needs to make a trip to Lucknow for just its food atleast once in a lifetime.

As my trip was coming to a close, I suddenly felt I did not want to go back and keep exploring more and more as there are very rare chances you get when you get to explore so many facets outside of your daily life around you that tough you deeply. My trip has been memorable and worth chronicling as it was a mix of diversity, steeped in history, mythology, legends and also pilgrimage which left me both overwhelmed and spellbound. Some places touch you deeply this trip brought out the same in me.

My overall experience across the different places in the state has been more than satisfactory as almost all places right from small towns to big cities all followed the hygiene and safety standards. The places were safe to travel and offered ample opportunities for me as a tourist to explore, eat and stay. Overall for me it was an enriching experience and I am taking back lot and lots back as memories with me through this trip.

My final journey will be back to Delhi from Lucknow which will have different pit stops and mainly routing through the same Taj expressway which is fast and safe.



Domestic Tourism – Hope for the Revival

ADTOI with the support of Gujarat Tourism as Host State organized its three-days 10th Annual Convention-cum-Exhibition from 12th to 14th February 2021 at Statue of Unity (SOU), Tent City 2 Kevadia, Gujarat with the theme: Domestic Tourism – Hope for the revival “Dekho Apna Desh”.

• **Vedika Sharma**



Convention was supported by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and some other State Tourism Bodies, and Stakeholders of the Industry. There were approximately 300 plus delegates comprising of Government dignitaries, invitees, ADTOI members/ non-members from PAN India, Press/ Media. Convention took place by keeping all the safety measures in mind due to COVID 19.

The convention was inaugurated by Arvind Singh, Tourism Secretary, Government of India; Rupinder Brar, ADG – Tourism, Government of India; Nanu Bhasin, ADG, PIB; Mamta Verma, Principal Secretary, Tourism, Government of Gujarat, Jenu Devan, Commissioner of Tourism, Government of Gujarat; P.P. Khanna, President, ADTOI; Chetan Gupta, Chairman, ADTOI Convention Committee and Ashok Dhoot, Co-chairman, ADTOI Convention Committee.



Statue of Unity



The statue has been built as an ode to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of independent India. He was responsible for uniting all 562 princely states of the country to build the Republic of India.

• Vedika Sharma

October 31st, 2018, marked the inauguration of the world's tallest statue – the Statue of Unity, against the backdrop of the dramatic Satpura and Vindhya hills in Kevadia, Gujarat. The 182-metre (600 feet approx.) statue is dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of independent India. The colossal monument towers over River Narmada, a tribute to India 'from the people of Gujarat' to the leader who placed people's welfare first. The Statue of Unity overlooks the vast surrounds and the river basin of the Narmada River and the sprawling Sardar Sarovar dam. It stands on the Sadhu Bet hillock, connected by a 300-metre bridge, which offers access from the mainland to the statue.

As a part of an outreach programme for the project, the state government had asked Indian farmers to donate their used farming equipment to collect iron needed for the statue of Sardar Patel. Eventually, about 5000 tonnes of iron is believed to be collected. Details of the construction and history of the leader can be seen in an in-house museum, inside the statue.

Laser Light and Sound Show: A Light and Sound show using laser technology projected on the Statue of Unity takes place every evening except Monday. The colourful laser lighting system is accompanied by

an excellent narration of the history and life of Sardar Patel, his contribution to the Independence Movement and the unification of India as one nation.

Tour of Valley of Flowers: The Valley of Flowers (also known as Bharat Van), is spread across 24 acres of land and is a haven for colorful flowering plants along the bank of river Narmada. The Valley of Flower began with 48,000 plants in 2016 and has now reached up to 22,00,000 plants. Besides the parks, several photo booths and selfie points have been developed to take back fond memories of the visit. The spot resembles a rainbow of flowers setup on earth.

More than 300 types of flowers are grown in this garden. A right blend of ornamental flowers, trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and creepers are planted along with various shades of foliage, which forms the green cover in this area.

Tour of Sardar Sarovar Dam: The Sardar Sarovar Dam is the third highest concrete dam (163 metres) in India after Bhakra (226 metres) in Himachal Pradesh and Lakhwar (192 metres) in Uttar Pradesh. In terms of volume of concrete involved for gravity dams, this dam is ranked as the second largest in the world with an aggregate volume of 6.82 million cubic metre; only after Grand Coulee Dam in the USA with a

total volume of 8.0 million cubic metre being the largest.

Nauka Vihar: Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (GSFDC) has initiated Boat ride in Dyke-3 known as Panchmuli Lake in Kevadia as a part of eco-tourism activity. Boating facility has been developed with the help of an external professional entity. Tourists coming to Kevadia are also enjoying the pristine nature with this boat ride. Total duration of each ride is for 45 minutes and in a day eight rides are operationalized by the operator. This ride takes you to the waters of dyke-4 as well as the entire water body is surrounded by lush green forests. Ecosystem around the lake is very rich in flora and fauna. This Boating facility has become a popular spot for the tourists. Panchmuli Lake is definitely a worthwhile visit with your family or friends. What sets this apart is its location -set in middle of a forest grove. So have fun and enjoy your time on the water at beautiful Panchmuli Lake.

Cactus Garden: The Cactus Garden is a unique botanical garden at the Statue of Unity site, created to exhibit a huge variety of Cacti and succulents, the true miracles of adaptation. The thought behind the development of the cactus garden is to provide an experience of the desert

ecosystem in the midst of a landmass well entrenched in an aquatic surrounding. There are 6 lakh plants of 450 species spread across 25 acres of open land and inside the dome having an area of 836 square metres.

Ekta Nursery: Ekta Nursery is being developed in the vicinity of the Statue of Unity, in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision that visitors, when they return, should take back with them seedlings as a plant of unity. Out of the one million plants targeted, 0.3 million plants are in 'ready to sell' stage and the other 0.7 million are likely to be ready soon.

Children Nutrition Park: Children Nutrition Park is a Unique Theme Park envisioned and inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, which has been developed, as a part of Kevadia Integrated Development. It provides a high quality entertainment and vital knowledge to the children on healthy eating habits and nutritional values based on the theme of "SAHI POSHAN DESH ROSHAN." Entire park is designed and implemented for the benefits of the children and extensive use of state of the art technology is being made, which gives a fascinating experience to the children visiting the park.

Dino Trail: Recent excavations in the Narmada valley, have revealed that *Rajasaurus Narmadensis*, an endemic species of dinosaur, was existing in the Narmada valley during Cretaceous period [also known as the 'K-period']. The K-period spanned between Jurassic period (145 million years ago) and Paleogene Period (66 million years ago).

A replica of the endemic dinosaur with the distinctive horn is created and exhibited for the visitors. The replica is about three times the estimated-original size; it measures 75 feet in length and 25 feet in height. This offers the visitors a glimpse into the evolution of the planet and mankind and is an attempt to create public awareness regarding the wealth of ancient flora and fauna of this area.

Jungle Safari: A state-of-art zoological



park with unique collection of indigenous and exotic animals and birds from the various biogeographic regions of the world, is located at the picturesque hills near the tallest statue of the world "The Statue of Unity" and "The Sardar Sarovar Dam" at Kevadia. This zoo will take you through an adventurous and exciting trip of watching wildlife, enjoying scenic beauty of the hills and entertaining experiences of a lifetime.

Viswa Van: Viswa Van is a Global Forest and offers a natural aesthetic beauty. Vishwa Van (a Global Forest) is home to herbs, shrubs and trees native to all 7 continents signifying the underlying theme of 'Unity in Bio-diversity' in global context as well. Vishwa Van symbolizes the life sustaining potion of forests in the context of all life forms in the planet. Vishwa Van has a diverse assemblage of flora representing every continent of the world. The vegetation is arranged in a way to resemble the natural forest of a particular zone.

Best time to visit: The best time to visit the Statue of Unity is in the cooler months of October to February, though the site is open all through the year. The Statue of Unity opens at 8:00 AM and closes at 6:00 PM from Tuesday to Sunday. The Laser Light and Sound Show can be viewed from 7:30 PM onwards daily, except on Mondays. The Statue of Unity is closed on Mondays for maintenance work.

Shopping:

Ekta Mall: The very name Ekta Mall, symbolises unity in diversity, a hallmark of Indian culture. Here at Ekta Mall, handlooms, handicrafts and traditional textile showrooms as been opened from various states of India have come together to promote Indian Handicrafts, at a location that stands for unity and national integration. The Mall is spread over 35,000 square feet area.

It is a one-stop-shop for a relaxing shopping experience rooted in the vitality and diversity of India's traditional textiles and artisanal handicrafts. Built in a 2-storey building, 20 emporias have been commissioned and each emporium represents a specific state of India.

It is the right platform for retailing handicrafts and handlooms, integral to rural employment and social development of artisanal clusters in our country.

SOU Souvenir

Shop: Visitors can carry back with them several memories of their visit by buying mementos in the form of caps, t-shirts, Statue of Unity replica, pens, key chains, and note books, which are



available at the Souvenir Shop located near the Statue of Unity and also at several other places at Kevadia.

Eating Points:

Ekta Food Court: Ekta food court covering an area of 1617 square metre, has been developed near Statue of Unity. This Food Court is built as per international standards, with seating capacity for 650 people. The Food Court offers the best of both international and Indian cuisines.

SOU Food Court: A new food court covering an area of 8,000 square feet is coming up at Statue of Unity. This food court is being built at par with international standards, with 7 kitchens and seating capacity for 650 people. Food Court will offer the best of both international and Indian cuisines.

Amul Cafe: Amul Parlour is situated near Bus Shuttle parking of the Statue of Unity buses in Shrestha Bharat Bhavan Campus.

Tourists can book your Statue of Unity tickets on its official website by selecting your preferred time and day, or buy it directly at the site. The SOU online ticket booking is maintained by the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Rashtriya Ekta Trust.

How to Reach?



By Air: Vadodara airport is nearest (90KMs) airport which is well connected.



By Train: Vadodara lies on the busy Mumbai-Delhi Western Railway Mainline and is well connected by premium trains like Shatabdi and Rajdhani.

By Road: : NH8 passes through Vadodara, making it well connected by road as well. The statue lies about 90km from the city off a small town called Kevadia (3.5 km from the actual site).

2021-2022 Magical Kenya Signature Experiences

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala has urged tourism providers to expand their products offering to deliver unique, authentic Kenyan travel experiences to travellers. He said this during the award ceremony of the second phase of the Magical Kenya Signature Experiences (MKSE) held to recognise outstanding tourism offerings among Kenyan travel industry players.

• T3FS Desk

Through the MKSE Program, which commenced in 2019, facilities and organizations are required to provide value addition to their offerings through exceptional travel experiences to the traveller.

In 2019, fifteen inaugural MKSE facilities that met the required criteria of a Kenya signature experience were recognised. The awards marked the beginning of a journey to deliver diverse tourism experiences in Kenya.

The second phase recognised 29 experiences with CS Balala noting that the program is aimed at meeting the expectation of the current discerning traveller who is keener on immersive travel experiences than ever before. “We are glad to award twenty nine (29) new experiences to add to the Signature Collection. When we began this journey in 2018, our goal was to grow and diversify our

products to ensure that we are a cut above other destinations and to also have products that offer an outstanding experience to suit today's demanding traveller. I congratulate all the winners for participating in the Program and adding an extra layer of Magic to what Kenya has to offer Kenyans and the world.” said CS Balala.

CS Balala added that the MKSE program is one of key milestones of Kenya's tourism transformation noting that despite the challenges of Covid-19, the industry was ready for kick-off once travel resumes fully. “Last year was difficult for tourism due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which has had a devastating effect to the industry. That said, a lot has been ongoing behind the scenes to ensure that Kenya comes back stronger. MKSE is part of our strategy to revive tourism in Kenya through partnership with the private sector which is a key component of tourism,” he added.

“Kenya has carved her niche as a competitive destination with rich and diverse experiences across the country, available throughout the year and fit for different travel segments. Through this Collection we are able to show the world that Kenya has a lot more to offer beyond the iconic wildlife safari and the pristine sandy beaches for both the repeat and first times visitors.” she said.

She added that operators within the sector will need to be aware of the emerging trends and incorporate them in their business strategies. “Some of these trends include search for authentic & immersive local travel experiences, slow travel, outdoor experiences to connect with nature, and the need to leave a positive impact in the destinations where they visit. I encourage businesses and individuals who are in the tourism space to participate in the subsequent Magical Kenya Signature Experience recruitment drive,” she added.



Mexican Film Series

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hong Kong Super Fans

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) announced its first global fan-engagement programme, “Hong Kong Super Fans”, to accelerate its promotional efforts as part of the post-Covid-19 tourism-recovery plan it has been developing over the past year.

At a time of unprecedented restrictions on international travel, and as the world races to roll out vaccines in the hope of resuming normality, the HKTB is harnessing the power of community to remind people why they love Hong Kong and to drum up excitement about visiting the city once borders reopen.

In its latest programme, the HKTB has invited Super Fans – people with social influence and a heartfelt connection to Hong Kong – to take part in exclusive online and offline activities that have been designed to showcase the best the city has to offer. Once international travel is allowed again, these Super Fans will be invited to explore Hong Kong in all its glory, from heritage attractions to hidden local gems and exciting new happenings, and share their experiences with their audience (Fans & Friends). To show its appreciation, the HKTB has also

organised a series of attractive offers and incentives that can be enjoyed by all Fans & Friends of Hong Kong.

The HKTB has been recruiting Super Fans by invitation in Hong Kong and 20 key markets through the HKTB’s worldwide offices in Asia, Australasia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas. This week saw the launch of the programme’s debut activity – a virtual tour celebrating everything unique about ringing in Chinese New Year in Hong Kong – organised especially for the very first Super Fans. The “online + offline” journey takes the Super Fans through the charismatic neighbourhood of Old Town Central to experience cherished traditions and shop for auspicious essentials, while enjoying a pre-delivered “Good Fortune Bag”, filled with lucky ornaments, festive snacks and more, from the comfort of their own homes.

Dr YK Pang, Chairman, HKTB



The HKTB has been planning ahead to prepare for the much-anticipated grand invitation to welcome visitors back to Hong Kong. The ‘Hong Kong Super Fans’ programme is both an important, integral element of the HKTB’s recovery plan, and a way for us to show our appreciation to the people whose continued passion for Hong Kong has maintained top-of-mind awareness of the city as a world-class travel destination.

As the HKTB continues to leverage the ‘Holiday at Home’ campaign to encourage the people of Hong Kong to rediscover our hometown, the ‘Hong Kong Super Fans’ programme is the first major step to re-engage with passionate travellers across the globe. As borders begin to reopen, we will roll out our ‘Open House Hong Kong’ campaign to tell the world that Hong Kong is ready to embrace visitors again with a collection of competitive travel offers and exciting in-town experiences.

Seychelles is all set to open up

The Indian Ocean island destination has announced that it will be welcoming visitors from across the globe, irrespective of their vaccination status, as from March 25, 2021. Visitors from South Africa will still not be permitted to enter Seychelles for the time being until further review.

The announcement was made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Sylvestre Radegonde in a press briefing on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at the Seychelles Tourism Board (STB) conference room at Botanical House following the Tourism Task Force Committee meeting.

Visitors will now only be required to present a negative PCR test taken 72 hours prior to departure. There will be no quarantine requirement nor restriction on movement upon entry into Seychelles. Additionally, the minimum stay in establishments upon arrival will no longer be applicable.

However, visitors will still be required to adhere to other public health measures put in place in view of the pandemic these will include wearing of face masks, social distancing, regular sanitisation or washing of hands. The new measures also give visitors access to all communal area within the hotel premises inclusive of bars, swimming pools, spas and Kid’s club. Minister Radegonde stated that

the decision to review and relax the entry procedures in the country has been made possible in view of the success registered in the aggressive vaccination campaign that the country embarked on earlier in the year.

“The vaccination campaign has been quite successful. The government has done everything in its power to make sure that the population is protected. We have now arrived at the point where opening our borders further is the next step to allow for our economic recovery. The measures being announced reflect broadly the recommendation of our tourism partners and have been done in full consultation with and the endorsement of our health authorities.”

Commenting on the reopening of the destination, Lubaina Sheerazi, CEO, BRANDit, the Marketing and PR office for Seychelles Tourism Board in India said, “As Indians are looking for more destination choices to travel internationally, Seychelles opening up to India without any restrictions comes at a great time when people are ready to emerge out of their COVID cocoons and plan trips abroad.



Being a dynamic country with a lot to offer to tourists, we are excited to motivate the trade and consumers to plan their next getaway in Seychelles”.

The small island nation off the east coast of Africa whose economy is based primarily on tourism was the first African country to launch a bold, comprehensive and effective Covid-19 immunisation campaign, in January 2021. The destination will continuously review the new entry measures to ensure that at all times the health and safety of the visitors and the local population are not compromised.

Singapore's Tourism Sector Emerges from 2020

Despite enduring its toughest year on record, Singapore's tourism sector has taken strides to reimagine its offerings and experiences, while supporting nationwide efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tourism-related companies have benefited from various government support measures to transform their products and offerings, while building new capabilities to position themselves for future growth opportunities.

To ensure that Singapore remains top of mind even while travel is curtailed, STB's regional offices launched new initiatives to engage its fans and strengthen Singapore's brand image around the world. STB partnered with technology, media and tourism industry players in key source markets to jointly promote Singapore as an attractive destination for future travellers. India is an important visitor source market for Singapore. The Singapore Tourism Board and its tourism partners have been leveraging technology and the digital medium for consumer outreach in the India market since the beginning of the lockdown as

they have realised that it is important to continue engaging with and entertaining the audience in such extraordinary times and keep Singapore close to their hearts and minds. Interesting virtual consumer activations with brands such as Zomato, BookMyShow, NH7 Weekender, Windmill Festival, St+art India Foundation, Tripoto have been executed where Indian artistes and influencers have collaborated with Singaporean artistes where they were also to showcase their passions and talents and connect with the Indian audiences virtually. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, STB India has undertaken the #UnitedWeStand trade engagement theme to ramp up trade engagement efforts. Video messages showcasing solidarity and unity with the travel fraternity, launch of a whatsapp business channel, update sessions and webinars on Destination Singapore to upskill their

partners' leisure and MICE product knowledge, etc. were some of the initiatives undertaken by STB in the market. Recently, STB concluded its first virtual travel trade engagement roadshows for 2021 in India. Based on this year's theme, "Charting Our Pathways to Tourism Recovery", the roadshows aimed at strengthening partnerships and planning on how to grow the tourism business and prepare for travel restart once the situation normalises. During the roadshow, the STB shared updates on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore and how the country is preparing for tourism re-start and recovery in 2021 and beyond. The roadshows included close to 48 key stakeholders from Singapore representing hotels, airlines, integrated resorts, attractions, Destination Management Companies (DMC) and cruise operators and were attended by over 3000 buyers from India.



Keith Tan, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board (STB)

Singapore's tourism sector has had to fight for survival in 2020. Our tourism businesses have displayed immense resilience and adaptability throughout this difficult period, reinventing their business models and leveraging technology to find solutions in a COVID-19 world. I am also grateful for their commitment to keep Singaporeans and residents safe and well. STB remains confident in Singapore's position as one of the world's safest and most attractive leisure and business destination, and the long-term prospects of Singapore's tourism sector. While mass international travel is unlikely to resume in a major way in 2021, STB will continue standing together with our industry partners to prepare for recovery and to start building a better and more sustainable future for tourism.

GB Srithar, Regional Director (India, Middle East and South Asia), Singapore Tourism Board

Singapore has made progress in its gradual and calibrated return to some normalcy. We had entered the third phase of a three-phased 'A Safe Singapore' transition since 28 December 2020 and are adopting a deliberate and cautious re-opening of our borders for international travel, with necessary safeguards in place. We are prepared for recovery to be a slow and deliberate process but we are confident that we can overcome this pandemic. STB is confident that along with our valued partner-friends and tourism partners, we will come together to share and exchange ideas and jointly configure the pathways to recovery for travel and tourism.



Thailand Expert Program

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), New Delhi successfully concluded a three-month program with the TBO Academy.

In a bid to encourage the tourism traffic to Thailand, the program consisted of a 5-module training program, an e-flyer contest and a series of webinars that aimed at promoting the various natural and cultural marvels that Thailand has to offer to its visitors.

To fulfill the pent-up travel demand and to assist travel agents, TAT India and TBO Academy conducted the series of webinars with Mr. Vachirachai Sirisumpan, Director, TAT New Delhi and Mr. Ankush Nijhawan, Co-Founder, Travel Boutique Online along with panelists including stakeholders like

Angsana Laguna, Minor Hotels, Siam Siam Hotels, Berkeley Hotel, Ocean World, Madame Tussauds Bangkok. The Tourism Authority of Thailand has consciously taken efforts to curd the spread of the on-going pandemic.

At the first glance, the COVID-19 pandemic seemed to be a shared global experience, with the entire world on lockdown. It made a setback in the travel and tourism industry as a whole. The purpose of these virtual interactions was to communicate the latest information about the established safety guidelines, the most recent updates straight

from Thailand and promotion of new attractions and destinations in the country.

The program aimed at aggressively promoting Thailand as a destination in North and East India through TBO Academy's strong network of OTAs and Travel Agents. TAT India along with TBO Academy together created a platform to support the ease of confidence build up to promote the destination. The module helped in increasing the reach and exposure to new travel agents in the market and increase visitor arrivals in the upcoming season.

#DiscoverGermanyFromHome

Even with the warm weather and travel restrictions we are currently experiencing cannot (and should not) stop you from dreaming. Whilst you are at it: why not dream of a sunny summer holiday in Germany?

The recently updated micro website “DiscoverGermanyFromHome” allows you to travel virtually to some of Germany’s most impressive and unique natural sights and destinations. Are you ready to discover natural highlights you might want to add to your bucket list for your next trip (so you are all prepared for when we can travel again)? Then have a look at our suggestions below!

Berchtesgadener Land: A hiking paradise

The region Berchtesgadener Land in Southern Germany, close to the Austrian border, is ideal for your next trip if you seek to align your spirits with nature. One highlight is the Lake Königssee, which is surrounded by the steep rock walls of for example the famous Mount Watzmann (2,713m) amongst others. If you have the time, enjoy a boat trip to St. Bartholomew where a small pilgrimage church awaits your visit. The region offers many challenges for hiking enthusiasts, as there are remote mountain peaks to climb and other waterfalls and lakes to admire along the way. The video introduces some breath-taking and spectacular views from a bird’s eye perspective, if you need even more convincing that the national park is worth a trip.

The Saar Loop Treetop Path: A multi-generational experience

In the South West of Germany, the Saar Loop Treetop Path is an almost barrier free trail towards a viewing platform of one of Germany’s most known river loops. The 800m long trail leads visitors at a height of 23m through the treetops. Educational panels along the way invite the visitors to learn more about the countryside. Hopefully you are not afraid of heights as the

platform at 42m offers a refreshing view over the surrounding hills and trees, and of course the Saar loop.

The Moselle River: Cycling along vineyards

The 248km long cycle path next to the Moselle connects many towns along the way from the Roman cities Trier to Koblenz. The journey along the path, which originally starts in France, is ideal for a family weekend, because it combines various outdoor activities, such as exploring old castles, green valleys and even hiking trails along the cycling route. One noteworthy hiking track is the Moselsteig trail, which has been certified as “Leading Quality Trail – Best of Europe”, offering a great view over the valleys and the Moselle from another perspective.

Langeoog: An island in the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site of the Wadden Sea

Langeoog is one of the seven inhabited East



Frisian Islands in the North Sea. As the small island is car-free, guests are able to reconnect with nature by exploring the 14km long beach or cycling along signposted paths through the dunes. The Wadden Sea is a unique ecosystem and shelters about 10,000 species of flora and fauna. Mudflat hiking tours are a great way for the whole family to find out more about the biodiversity of the island. The landmark of the island is the water tower; you have a stunning view over the island from its platform. To discover more highlights of the charming island and its town centre, click yourself through the 360° photos on the map.

Garden Dreams in Saxony-Anhalt: Exploring the diverse cultural heritage of gardening

Saxony-Anhalt is an Eastern federal state of Germany and has more than 1,000 gardens. The 50 most remarkable gardens are part of the project “Garden Dreams 360°” and represent the variety of garden types and designs from different eras. Visitors can find out more about the history of the parks and nearby architecture and contribute to the gardens’ The green areas are not only destinations for garden lovers, but they are great places to relax and de-stress in the cool shadows of the trees on a hot summer day.



A large tortoise, likely a Galapagos tortoise, is walking on a sandy beach. The tortoise is the central focus, moving towards the right. The background shows a tropical beach with white sand, clear blue water, and some large, weathered rock formations. The sky is bright with some light clouds.

Plan a Dreamy Honeymoon

Big fat weddings may have taken a backseat in 2020 with low-key, intimate festivities. But with the market slowly opening up, couples can relook at planning their honeymoon in a big way, making up for the lost time with a celebration to remember.

• T3FS Desk



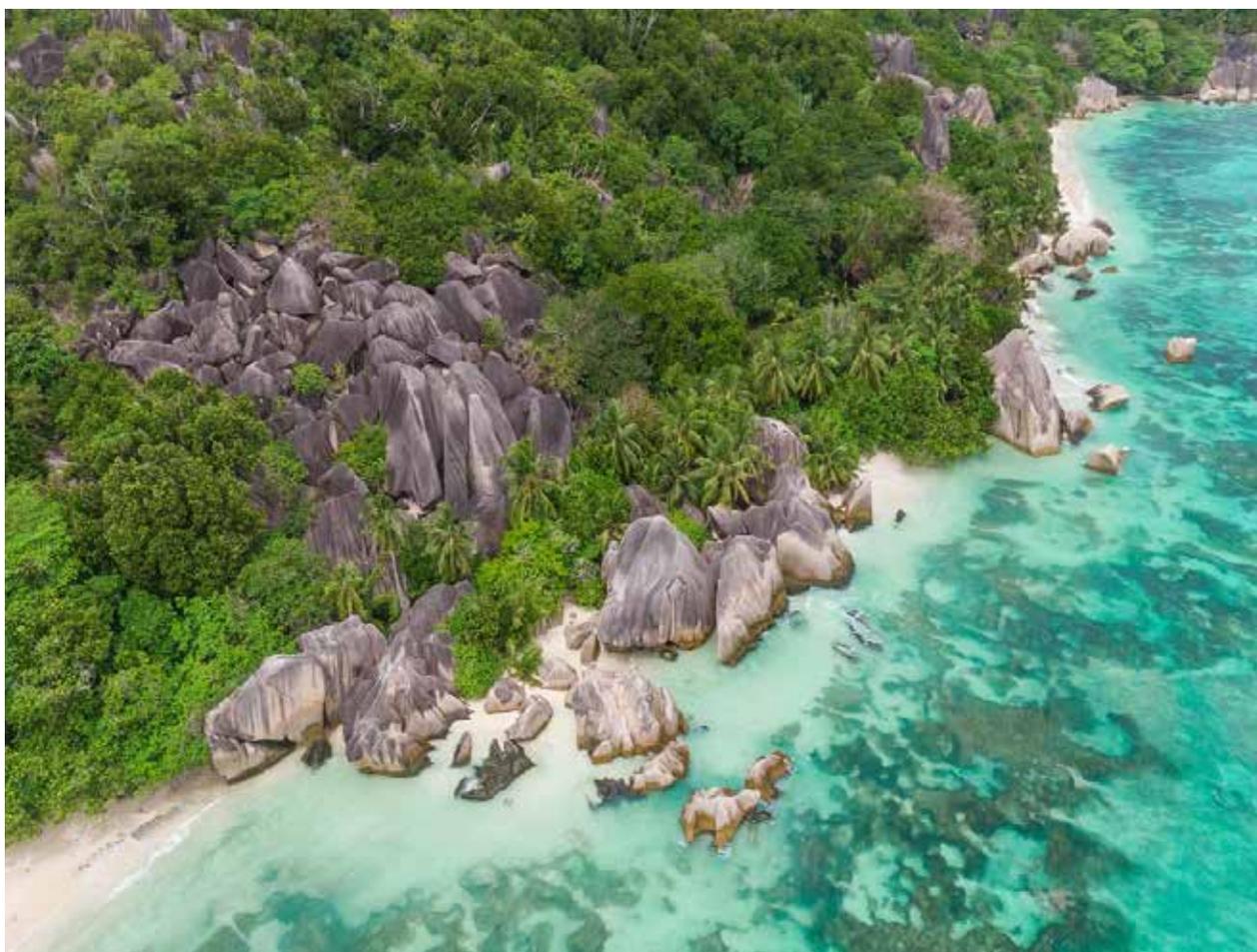


Seychelles has everything one may visualize on their dream honeymoon, be it untouched beaches set amidst azure blue waters, exquisite beauty, delish delicacies, heart-warming people and

carnival-like spirit of the place. It is perfect for an indulgent beach holiday dotted with cultural experiences and island-hopping opportunities.

A 6 nights 7 days holiday is ideal for a

relaxed honeymoon with list of jaw-dropping romantic experiences including diving with sea turtles and manta rays, hiking through verdant jungles and cruising along the coastline at sunset with a glass of bubbly to celebrate the 'I dos.'



- **Stay at a private island resort:** Get whisked away on an aircraft to a remote paradise for a private island stay on Desroches Island, Fregate Island or Felicite Island. Detach from the world and unwind in a private pool, indulge in an array of spa treatments or add a bit of water adventure with ocean kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and snorkeling. Get a chance to meet and feed the island's oldest residents, Aldabra giant tortoises, a native species that's vulnerable to extinction and tick off an unforgettable bucket list experience

- **Watch a film under the stars:** Félicité island's tropical vegetation and granite boulders is pure honeymoon bliss. Explore the stunning scenery through the day and enjoy 'cinema under the stars', a private



stargazing setup available for exclusive hire at a luxurious private island resort for couples to cozy up under the stars with no one else around

- **Spend a day with a dozen tortoises at Curieuse Island:** Imagine being on an island with several giant tortoises roaming freely; people from around the world visit the marine park for a nature trail that has plenty of birds, indigenous creatures, mangrove forests, takamaka trees, green sea turtle breeding, hawksbill, turtles and the famous Seychelles Black Parrot. Curieuse Island also has a hidden beach, a breathtaking walk on the other side of the island

- **Hike up the highest mountain in Seychelles:** Lush green and untouched, the Morne Seychelloise National Park on Mahe island has the highest mountain in all of Seychelles surrounded by rainforests and granite peaks. Take a guided hike through the stunning park filled with unusual birds and plants and up the Morne Seychellois mountain to reach the Morne Blanc peak for a view worth the effort

- **Sail into the sunset:** Book a private luxury yacht for the day and leave it to the experts to divulge the island secrets and take you to the extraordinary inner islands' seascape. Sail to some stunning coral reefs to snorkel and revel in an idyllic sunset with champagne around the Cote D'Or Beach, Praslin

- **Biking along the coast:** Romance is in the little things like renting out bikes to explore tiny islands of La Digue and Silhouette. There are tons of hidden beaches and caves to explore, many tiny eateries to stop over and many opportunities to plunge into the ocean for a quick snorkel while leisurely biking around the islands

- **Champagne with the dolphins:** The raw beauty of Seychelles allows you to witness experiences that may come as an unplanned pleasant surprise. For a relaxed afternoon leading up to sunset, couples can hire a speed boat or a yacht and pop a bottle of bubbly while spotting dolphins play in the turquoise waters of Seychelles

- **Go Parasailing and Scuba Diving:** What's a honeymoon without

some adventure? Pick an activity of your choice; whether it is parasailing on Beau Vallon Beach, Mahe or scuba diving to the shipwrecks and coral reefs in the underwater world, Seychelles has a lot to offer to the adventure junkies

- **Check out Coco de Mer, the world's largest fruit:** Indigenous to Seychelles, Valle De Mai is the UNESCO World Heritage Site and the natural habitat of the infamous and rare Coco de Mer fruit or sea coconut. Couples can take a guided tour of the heritage site to make memories with the endangered fruit and spot the elusive 'black parrot' or the world's smallest frog endemic to the Seychelles Islands while on a short hike to witness panoramic views of Praslin and nearby islands

- **Island hopping:** It is easy to go island hopping in Seychelles with every island offering a unique history, culture and landscape. Swim, snorkel, lay out a picnic by the beach and live the true island life to feel that Cast Away vibe. From Mahe, go on day trips or island hopping to Praslin, Cerf, Silhouette, Round Islands etc. If staying in Praslin one can visit La Digue, Curieuse,



Bird, Cousin Islands and many more.

- **Marine Park yacht tours:** Take a half or full day yacht tour from Mahe to the St. Anne Marine National Park that offers

couples a luxurious getaway replete with memorable activities. Hike at an uninhabited island, enjoy delicious barbeque on the yacht and snorkel or swim in the middle of the magical ocean

A cluster of 115 islands in the Indian ocean, Seychelles is mysterious and beckoning all at once. A year-round destination to indulge in sun, sand and surf for a splendid honeymoon.



India Aircraft Leasing Summit 2021

Shri Hardeep S Puri, MoS, I/C, Civil Aviation has stated that India must leverage its growing air traffic to establish a robust aircraft leasing industry, which would finance new aircraft deliveries through its own policies and products.



Addressing the India Aircraft Leasing Summit 2021- Rupee Raftaar, Shri Puri said that it is vital to develop this new line of business in India for financial services and add India on the map of global financial centers for international financial services. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister was the Chief Guest and graced the event with virtual presence. Shri Hardeep S Puri, was the Guest of Honour at the summit. Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Shri Injeti Srinivas, Chairperson, International Financial Services Centre Authority, Ms. Vandana Aggarwal, Senior Economic Advisor, M/o Civil Aviation, Shri Uday Shankar, President, FICCI, Shri Remi Maillard, Head of Airbus India, and stakeholders from the Indian civil aviation sector and industry members attended the event.

41 per cent in 2018, and is estimated to have reached 50% in 2020.

Civil Aviation Minister highlighted that aircraft financing is the most profitable segment of the aviation value chain and currently, foreign financiers and lessors are the biggest beneficiaries of India's growing opportunity. He informed that several initiatives have been taken by the Government to develop Aviation leasing and Financing Hub in India which included Financing, MRO, manufacturing etc. to rapidly expand this business in India.

Shri Puri said that as dynamic nature of business in IFSCs requires high inter-regulatory coordination, IFSCA (International Financial Services Centre Authority) has been established as unified regulator to promote ease of doing business in IFSC and to provide world class regulatory environment.

Shri Puri shared that the Rupee Raftaar working group on aircraft leasing and financing therefore has holistically taken the 360 degree review of existing and foreseeable barriers to Aircraft Financing by local Indian financiers in India after extensive consultations with RBI, Banks, NBFCs – Asset financing / leasing companies, Airlines, Airports public and Private corporations and other stakeholders. He added that in anticipation of the long-term requirements of the country's aviation industry, the government envisages to create an eco-system through Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) city which is an IFSC in India, wherein the flexibility of regulations needed in the industry will not affect the mainland regulations.

India has created a highly effective system

for aircraft leasing and financing which is comparable to that of Ireland, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and elsewhere. The purpose is to grow India's financing market which is critical to the development of aviation industry, creating high aspirational jobs in the sector and in turn propelling India's growth. The initiative has the potential to deliver following key benefits: -

- Develop new line of business in India for International Financial Services
- Create additional high-end jobs opportunity in India
- Retain International Financial Services business in India and general additional business for Banks, NBFCs, Credit Guarantors, Insurance companies, other ancillary business etc.
- Add India on the map of global financial centres for International financial services
- Generate additional revenues through collection of taxes from ancillary industries and eventually through aircraft financing
- Bring various Foreign lessors in India
- Reduce foreign exchange outgo
- Foster an aviation financing system that supports financing of airport development as well as the Make-in India initiative for manufacturing of aircraft, helicopters, drones, air taxis etc, beside component and parts suppliers for manufacturing of carriers as also global OEMs.

Shri Hardeep S Puri said that the COVID-19 pandemic has stagnated the economic activities globally, but Indian aviation sector, has shown resilience, recalibration and resurgence despite the cascading impact of various aspects of world trade. He added that the Indian Aviation sector is on a path to recovery and has exhibited significant recovery to pre-Covid levels in terms of passenger movement and cargo operation. Concerted efforts are being made to attract new business into India, such as through aircraft leasing, financing, and MRO operations.

Shri Puri informed that to commensurate with the growth potential of Indian aviation sector, in the next 20 years, India will need 1,750-2,100 aircraft valued at over Rs. 20,40,000 crore (~USD 290 billion), with an estimated 100 deliveries each year, i.e. about Rs.35,000 crore or USD 5 billion of financing each year as per predictions of Airbus and Boeing. He added that the share of aircraft on lease globally has increased dramatically over the last few decades. It has escalated from 2 per cent in 1980 to over



First Flight to Bareilly Flagged off

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, MoS, I/C, Civil Aviation flagged off the first flight from Delhi to the newly upgraded Trishul Military Airbase, Bareilly Airport, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Santosh Gangwar, MoS, I/C, Labour & Employment and Member of Parliament, Bareilly graced the event at the Delhi Airport by flagging off the All Women Crew operated Delhi – Bareilly Inaugural Flight on the International Women's Day. Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, MoCA and Shri Rajiv Bansal, CMD, Air India joined virtually. Smt. Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) was present at the event. Other senior officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) & Airport Authority of India (AAI) also attended the event virtually.

The Bareilly airport has been upgraded for commercial flight operations under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – UdeDesh Ka AamNagrik (RCS-UDAN) of the Government of India. The flagging off marks the commencement of the 56th airport under the UDAN scheme and marks the successful operationalization of the 8th airport of Uttar Pradesh after Lucknow, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Hindon, Agra and Prayagraj. Now people can fly at ease by opting for a flight of 60 mins from Delhi to Bareilly while earlier they were forced to opt for

a road travel of more than 6 hours or a train journey of more than 4 hours.

Trishul Military Airbase, Bareilly belongs to the Indian Air Force and the land was handed over to the Airport Authority of India for construction of the interim civil aviation operations. The Government of India sanctioned Rs. 88 crores under the UDAN scheme for the development of the interim civil aviation operations. The upgradation was undertaken by the AAI with a cost of Rs. 65 crores.

Alliance Air was awarded the Delhi - Bareilly route under the UDAN-4 bidding process last year. The airline will be deploying its ATR 72 600 aircraft having a seating capacity of 70 seats on this route. To date, 325 routes and 56 airports including 5 heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have been operationalized under the UDAN scheme. To keep the fares accessible for the common man, financial incentives in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is being provided under the UDAN scheme from the Centre, State governments and airport operators



to selected airlines to encourage operations from unserved and underserved airports under the scheme.

This aerial connectivity will fulfill the aspirations of the lakhs of people who visit Bareilly for the NathNagri (known for the four Shiva temples located in four corners of the region - DhopeswarNath, MadniNath, AlakhaNath and TrivatiNath), Ala Hazrat, Shah SharafatMiyani and KhankaheNiyazia, Zari nagari and historically important sites like as Sanjashya (where the Buddha descended from Tushita to earth). The city is also a center for furniture manufacturing and cotton, cereal and sugar trading.

flydubai Expands its Operations to Romania

flydubai, the Dubai-based airline, announced the launch of flights to Cluj-Napoca in Romania. The airline will operate twice-weekly flights between Dubai International (DXB) and Avram Iancu International Airport Cluj (CLJ) starting from 20 March 2021.

flydubai operates a double daily service between Dubai International (DXB) and Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport (OTP). With the start of flights to Cluj-Napoca in March, the carrier will serve the Romanian market with a total of 16 weekly flights.

Cluj-Napoca is the second largest city in Romania with one of the most dynamic economies in the country and is the largest centre for innovation and business

opportunities in Transylvania. Avram Iancu International Airport Cluj (CLJ) is considered an important gateway to the north-western region of Romania. Located 10 kilometres east from Cluj-Napoca's city centre, the airport is close to the most important attractions of the city; also known as "The heart of Transylvania."

Cluj-Napoca is strategically located and borders Hungary, Moldova and Ukraine allowing passengers from these markets to

take advantage of flydubai's direct airlinks to Dubai and its aviation hub.

Cluj-Napoca, considered to be the unofficial capital of the historic region of Transylvania, is a vibrant cultural and educational city. Home to a large number of castles, fortresses, botanical gardens, museums and parks, Cluj-Napoca offers passengers from the UAE and the region a perfect holiday destination with a pleasant climate and an array of attractions to enjoy.



Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer, flydubai

We first started operating to Bucharest with four flights a week in 2012. Since then, flydubai has more than tripled its operations to the market as demand has grown for commercial and cargo traffic between Romania and the UAE. We are excited to offer more options for convenient direct airlinks to the market

with the start of our flights to Cluj-Napoca and we look forward to further stimulating travel and trade flows in both directions.

Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce, flydubai

flydubai's new service will offer more than 3.5 million people, living within few hours drive from the airport, the convenience of direct airlinks to Dubai. There is also the opportunity for passengers to connect travel beyond on our network to popular destinations like Colombo, Malé and Zanzibar. The twice-weekly service will also benefit the Romanian expatriate population in the UAE to travel home more easily.



BOC Aviation signs an agreement with IndiGo



Riyaz Peermohamed, Chief Aircraft Acquisition & Financing Officer, IndiGo

We are pleased to further strengthen our existing relationship with BOC Aviation. The addition of these eight A320 neo aircraft demonstrates our confidence

in the future growth of the aviation market in India.

BOC Aviation Limited (“BOC Aviation” or the “Company”) is pleased to announce that it has signed purchase-and-leaseback agreements with InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (“IndiGo”) for eight new Airbus A320NEO aircraft.

The aircraft will be powered by CFM Leap engines and are scheduled to be delivered in the second half of 2021.

Robert Martin, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, BOC Aviation



We are delighted to partner once again with IndiGo, India’s largest passenger airline, as we continue to support our airline customers to finance their aircraft deliveries. This incremental capital expenditure also reflects our disciplined investment strategy throughout the cycle, focused on building a portfolio of latest technology aircraft.

Etihad Airways Extends Global COVID-19 Insurance

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has extended its COVID-19 global wellness insurance cover until 1 October 2021.

Martin Drew, Senior Vice President Sales & Cargo, Etihad Airways, said: “Extending Etihad’s COVID-19 global wellness insurance reinforces the effectiveness of Etihad Wellness, the airline’s health and hygiene programme. It’s an added benefit

automatically provided to all guests - no exceptions.

“As Etihad continues to gradually expand its services to up to 60 destinations this spring, the airline wants to instil confidence to travel and hopes this additional cover will

reassure guests Etihad is doing everything it can to keep them safe and protected.”

Guests who are diagnosed with COVID-19 during their trip won’t have to worry about medical expenses or quarantine costs when they fly with Etihad.



IndiGo announces Bareilly as its 67th destination

In-line with its vision to strengthen regional connectivity, IndiGo, India’s leading carrier, announced Bareilly as the 67th domestic destination in its network.

Bareilly will also be the 6th station for the airline in the state of Uttar Pradesh, after Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi and Agra. The airline will connect Bareilly to Mumbai and Bengaluru through direct flights, effective April 29,

2021. Being the 8th largest metropolis in Uttar Pradesh, Bareilly is also one of the fastest growing cities of India owing to the increasing opportunities in manufacturing and trade.

Post securing all regulatory approvals and specific flight schedules for Bareilly, IndiGo will soon take the overall number of domestic destinations in the 6E network to 68 by opening its last destination, Rajkot, in the coming months.

Sanjay Kumar, Chief Strategy and Revenue Officer, IndiGo



We are pleased to have agrarian-based city, Bareilly as our 67th domestic destination and 91st overall destination in 6E network. Identified in the Prime Minister’s ambitious 100 smart city plan, Bareilly has a huge potential for setting up industries in the city. This vision will be amply supported by enhanced connectivity, thereby promoting tourism, trade, and commerce in the region. Bareilly, also known as the ‘Nath Nagri’, is one of the sacred cities of Uttar Pradesh, due to its seven shiva temples attracting domestic as well as international tourists. In addition, holiday travellers will be able to get to the foothills of Nainital, Ranikhet and Kumaon region from Mumbai and Bangalore.

IndiGo is committed to providing an affordable, on-time, safe and hassle-free travel experience onboard our lean clean flying machine.

Agreement between NIA the Government of Uttar Pradesh

A state support agreement was signed between Noida International Airport (NIA) and the Government of UP in Lucknow.



The agreement was signed in the presence of Honorable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, Sri Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Shri S.P. Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Arunvir Singh, CEO, NIAL, Mr. Christoph Schnellmann, CEO, NIA and Ms Kiran Jain, COO, NIA. The agreement lays down the State Government's support to establish and continuously improve surface access to the airport, establish and expand utilities required to run the airport (water, electricity, waste water), maintain law and order, including monitoring at the airport and grant the necessary clearances to build and operate the airport. The agreement marks another important milestone towards the implementation of Noida International Airport and the much-needed aviation infrastructure in the NCR region and in Uttar Pradesh. UP government's continued support towards the project has been integral in enabling YIAPL in building a world-class airport. This partnership will bring progress to the State of Uttar Pradesh and will bolster the Indian aviation's growth story.

NIA is envisaged to become India's first net zero emission airport and is very pleased with the proactive stance taken by the UP government in its UP solar energy policy 2017. NIA is also planning to produce and consume renewable

energy for the airport and is engaging in active discussions with the UP

state government on supporting measures such as VAT/ GST exemptions on procurement of equipment related renewable energy, on cross subsidy charges and wheeling/transmission charges as well as on exemptions on open access charges to make our sustainability investments financially viable.

The upcoming greenfield airport for Delhi NCR, NOIDA and Western UP catchment area will provide a seamless travel experience while merging Swiss efficiency and Indian hospitality. NIA will provide a modern and seamless passenger experience as well as a broad range of commercial offerings for families with children, elderly travellers as well as the travelling business community. The design of the airport will encompass parameters such as short and efficient passenger flows, digital and tech-enabled customer services, and commitment to minimal environmental impact. A state-of-the-art flexible and modular logistics infrastructure will support the growing logistics demand and our logistics partners.

In early October the Government of Uttar Pradesh signed the concession agreement

with Zurich Airport International (ZAIA) to commence the development of the Noida International Airport at Jewar for a period of 40 years. ZAIA received the security clearance from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to develop the Noida International Airport at Jewar in May 2020, after winning the contract to build and operate Noida International Airport (NIA) in Greater Noida in November 2019. In early December, Zurich Airport International had selected a consortium consisting of Nordic, Grimshaw, Haptic and STUP as the architects to design the passenger terminal of the Noida International Airport (NIA) at Jewar through a three-phase, design competition between June and August 2020.

Recently, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) rated Yamuna International Airport Private Limited's (YIAPL) proposed term loan as A- and stable. The rating reflects the moderate construction risk, significant traffic growth potential in the Delhi-National Capital Region, the stable regulatory regime of the sector, the strong financial profile and long-standing experience of the sponsor ZAIA in the airport sector as well as a suitable debt structure of the project.



Arunvir Singh, Chief Executive Officer, NIAL

The state support agreement with Noida International Airport is a step further towards the development of a truly world-class airport in Uttar Pradesh. We are eagerly looking forward to the construction of the airport as it will bring more job opportunities in the state, while heralding economic growth. We are confident that NIA will be the benchmark for a digital, sustainable and state-of-the-art airport not only for the state but for the whole country.

Christoph Schnellmann, Chief Executive Officer, Noida International Airport

Noida International Airport is pleased to sign the support agreement with the Government of Uttar Pradesh today. This is a significant milestone for the project and a testament of the strong and growing partnership between NIA and the state government of Uttar Pradesh. Surface access to the airport will be critical and we are delighted to see the government's strong commitment to this aspect with the early development of the Metro extension from Greater Noida to NIA airport terminal, the integration of an airport terminal station for the upcoming Delhi Varanasi High Speed Rail Link, as well as the link highway to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. We are committed to build this world-class airport in Uttar Pradesh and look forward to actively invest and participate in India's aviation growth story.





Union Budget 2021: Major Highlights for The Aviation Industry

The Union Budget announced for the Financial Year 2021-22 comes with several positive measures for the aviation industry in India.

These measures range from tax incentives and custom duty reduction for promoting *aatmanirbharta*, to asset monetisation and disinvestment to mobilise resources for new infrastructure development. Overall, the budget proposals are aimed at creating opportunities for strengthening the aviation eco-system in the country and developing India as an aviation sector manufacturing hub.

Major highlights of the Union Budget 2021 for the aviation industry include:

Tax incentives for aircraft leasing and financing

The Government is committed to make the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City a global financial hub. In addition to the tax incentives already provided, the current budget proposed more tax incentives which includes (i) tax holiday for capital gains incomes of aircraft leasing and financing company, (ii) tax exemptions for aircraft lease rentals or royalty paid to foreign lessor, (iii) tax incentive for re-location of foreign funds in IFSC and (iv) tax exemptions to investment division of the foreign banks located in IFSC.

These tax exemptions are a major boon to lessors operating from IFSC. These would help in establishing a vibrant aircraft leasing and financing environment in India, besides offering better terms to Indian and foreign carriers. These measures comes on the back of a series of initiatives undertaken by Ministry of Civil Aviation since 2019

to create an aircraft leasing and financing ecosystem in GIFT (Gujarat International Financial Tech) city of India.

Custom duty benefit

In the budget proposal, Customs duty has been reduced from 2.5% to 0% on aviation sector components or parts, including engines, for manufacturing of aircraft by Public Sector Units of Ministry of Defence. This measure will help grow the aviation industry in the country by reducing cost of inputs for domestic manufacturing and thus promote *aatmanirbharta*.

Asset Monetisation through PPP model

The budget proposed monetisation of the next lot of airports for operations and management concession. Other core infrastructure assets that will be rolled out under the Asset Monetization Programme are AAI Airports in Tier II and III cities. The Airport Authority of India is working on the next round of privatization in which 06-10 airports will be included. Six airports have already been awarded to the successful bidder and the concession agreements have been signed. Proceeds from this step will help the Ministry of Civil Aviation to complete the goal of building 100 new airport by 2024.

Development of health system capacities at airports under the AtmaNirbharSwasth Bharat Yojana

Under a new centrally sponsored scheme, PM AtmaNirbharSwasth Bharat Yojana,

Union budget 2021-22 proposes development of health systems capacities in the country which also includes the aviation entry points. Under this program Public Health Units will be strengthened at 32 airports. This program will facilitate smooth movement of pharmaceuticals through air across India as well in other parts of the world.

Disinvestment and Strategic Sale

Through budget 2021, the government has reiterated its commitment of disinvestment of Air India and PawanHans in 2021-22. The process of strategic sale of Air India is underway. The "Expression of Interest" EOI have been received. The Transaction Adviser is scrutinizing the EOIs. The PIM for the sale of Pawan Hans has also been issued. Besides, the PIM for Air India Airports Services (Ground handling) is under preparation.

Expansion of scope for Krishi Udaan in convergence with Operation Greens:

To boost value addition in agriculture and allied products and their exports, the scope of 'Operation Greens Scheme' that is presently applicable to tomatoes, onions, and potatoes, will be enlarged to include 22 perishable products. Krishi Udaan Scheme stands converged with Operation Greens through air freight subsidy of 50% for the agri-perishables of NER States and 4 Himalayan States/UTs. The expansion of product-coverage will boost the Krishi Udaan Scheme and improve air cargo transportation from these States.

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Recovery in the Domestic Aircraft Traffic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Provisional IND A- and Stable

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

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

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

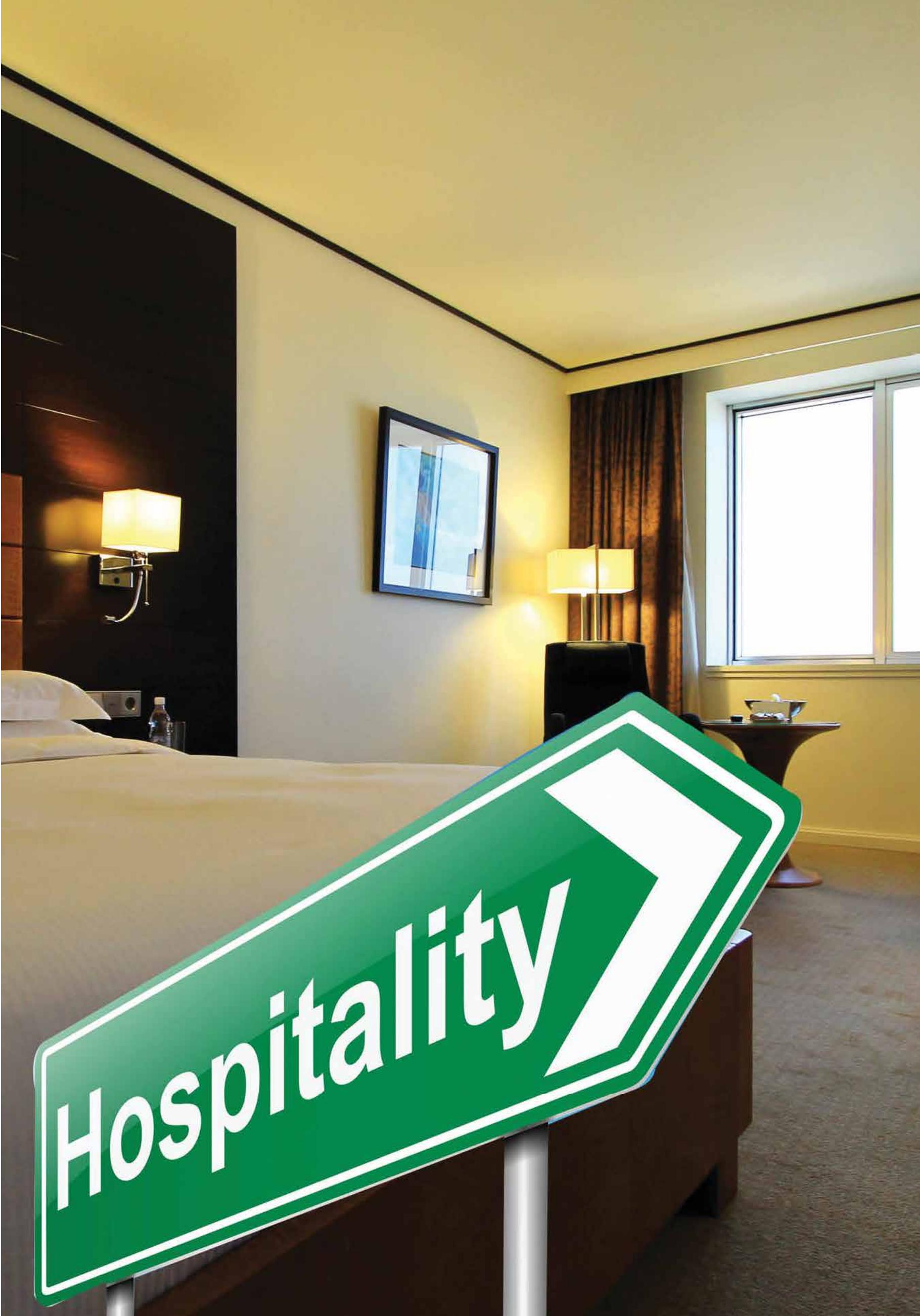
YIAPL is committed to building a world-class airport in India which will play the role of a catalyst for the economic growth of India & Uttar Pradesh. The investment in Noida International Airport (NIA) will fuel the economy in NCR, Greater Noida, and the state of Uttar Pradesh, thereby also generating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

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

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



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



Hospitality

Solutions Leisure Join Forces with DUKES The Palm

The UAE's most awarded F&B group and pioneers of the approachable dining, nightlife and entertainment scene, Solutions Leisure Group, has announced its management takeover of the much-loved West 14th Steakhouse this week, located at Dukes The Palm, A Royal Hideaway Hotel, part of the Barcelo Hotel Group and luxury hospitality and real estate developer, Seven Tides.



An all-day dining favourite, West 14th has become much more than its original steakhouse positioning. Boasting, arguably, the best views on the Palm Jumeirah, the New York loft-inspired waterfront restaurant-bar is nestled between the hotel and residences, making a name for itself over the past decade with its glittering Arabian Gulf views and mouthwatering menu. Offering a selection of prime cuts, including Australian

and Japanese beef and Kobe Wagyu, light bites, breakfast, aperitifs and shisha on the outdoor terrace deck, this versatile venue has been a staple of the Dubai culinary scene.

Working closely with the Dukes The Palm and Seven Tides teams, Solutions Leisure will take control of the operations and marketing for the next six weeks, before the venue undergoes an exciting revamp during Ramadan to introduce an all-new beach bar concept. The

Solutions Leisure portfolio, which comprises of eight brands and 10 venues across the Dubai emirate, is the most heavily awarded group in the Middle East to date. With a decade of experience in Dubai, the group has evolved from humble beginnings to pioneer the lifestyle entertainment sector, recognized for its success in creating approachable luxury dining and nightlife experiences that focus on the customer journey alone.

Hilton Chennai: 10 years of Hospitality

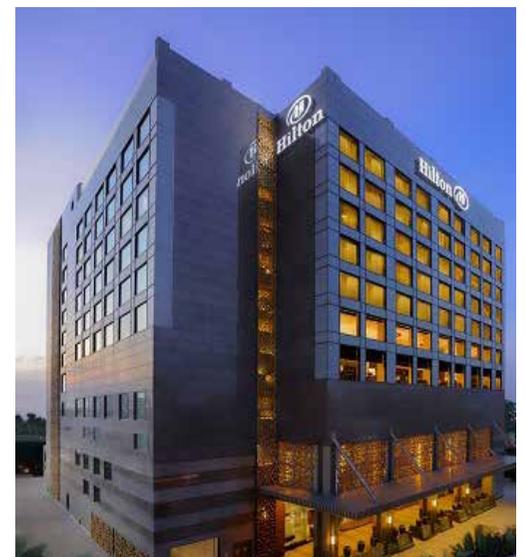
Redefining hospitality standards and bringing state-of-the-art authentic experiences to guests, Hilton Chennai completes ten glorious years of operations this year.

Celebrating its decade-long journey in Chennai, the property has announced a series of month-long promotions and events that offer great deals and unique experiences for its guests. With a total inventory of 204 keys, Hilton Chennai today is amongst the city's most vibrant and busy hotels, commanding the highest occupancy levels registered especially during the challenging times of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020.

Transforming the city's hospitality landscape and contributing to its cultural identity, Hilton Chennai, over the years, has grown into a symbol of trust. Setting standards of safety and hygiene, Hilton Chennai has brought industry-first innovations such as contactless check-ins with its globally acclaimed Digital Key, contactless food delivery, and Hilton's signature experiences in a safe and elegant setting, powered by the Hilton CleanStay program. The hotel has made a mark as a dining destination through its five award winning restaurants and bars, especially well known for its Global Sunday Brunch at Vasco's and as a favourite after party destination at QBAR- the rooftop night club.

Commenting on the 10-year milestone occasion, Mr. Ruban Das, General Manager, Hilton Chennai, said, "It's a momentous day for everyone at Hilton and it gives me immense joy to be part of a company that is rooted in shaping the hospitality landscape of the city. We owe this success to the contribution of all our partners and members, including team members at Hilton Chennai; my predecessors; the India leadership team for Hilton; and our esteemed owning company- Empee Hotels Ltd. Without their vision, their outlook towards innovation, and consistent encouragement, we could not have arrived this far. As we stand at the threshold of contributing to the next decade, we will continue to spread the light and warmth of hospitality and serve our guests with utmost delight."

Demonstrating its commitment to the city, Hilton Chennai was the first hotel chain in the city to open its facilities to support the Government's Vande Bharat Mission. As part of this program, Hilton Chennai has contributed to over 14000 room nights and served as a safe quarantine facility for all; brought to life by Hilton's CleanStay program. The program expands on the sanitation standards addressing



every touchpoint of the stay experience. This includes room seals for guest and meeting rooms to assure that the room has not been accessed after deep cleaning/sanitizing, adequate sanitizing stations in public areas and meeting spaces, modified service standards at all dining areas to support minimum contact dining and mindful social distancing and an Event Ready Room Checklist which allows for secure event occasions.

Hoteliers must Embrace Digital Technology

Contactless technology, upgraded hotel software systems, integrated guest applications, and smart guest rooms are just some of the top technology trends Middle East hoteliers must adopt to attract new and existing customers, according to Joseph Fayad, IT Corporate Director of UAE-based TIME Hotels.

With research by eMarketer revealing travel consumers spend more time on digital media – 6.41 hours a day compared to 5.30 hours a day for all other media, including TV, radio, newspapers, and magazines, hoteliers now have to implement more defined digital corporate and marketing strategies, as well as more technologically advanced amenities within the hotel room, to stay ahead of the curve.

TIME Hotels has undertaken a range of new technology upgrades to appeal to tech guests. These include everything from digital menus and digital in-room collateralsto a mobile app, launched in partnership with hospitality solutions provider Neorcha, that provides the user with room access, room controls, and restaurant and spa bookings.

The hotel management company has also implemented an easy-to-navigate mobile app to capture more direct bookings through a seamless system and capitalise on the increase in guests booking direct via mobile devices.

Guest satisfaction is also addressed through a software tool that allows the guest services team to instantly manage all guest requests and problems by assigning the appropriate department to effectively and efficiently carry out any actions required.

Addressing COVID-19, TIME Hotels has not only launched their Sanitised& Ready protocol in partnership with hygiene solutions provider Diversey, they have also introduced a range of contactless initiatives, which amongst others, includes contactless check-in and check-out.

The company has also revealed plans to implement digital training to ensure team members can steer strategies relating to the digital technology environment.

Joseph Fayad, IT Corporate Director, TIME Hotels said "COVID-19 has undoubtedly accelerated the need to invest in technology to appeal to today'sdigitally-savvy online travel consumer. The implementation of immersive



technologies that provide guests with virtual 3D tours, apps that allow them to enter their hotel room, change the temperature, call the elevator, book excursions and order room services will be vital in helping hotels recover

and stand out from their competitors.

Staff training and advancing the careers of those within TIME Hotels has been one of the fundamentals of our success over the years. With a new wave of technology entering the industry, it is imperative we have the people in place to recognise and implement the changes to stay ahead of the competition."

Weekends Escape at JW Marriott

JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru, delightfully introduces “Weekend Escape at JW Marriott”, an exclusive staycation package which offers endless experiences for their dear travellers.

The flagship property of Marriott International in the city is the ultimate luxury destination to unwind and rejuvenate. With the on-going pandemic, everyone’s plans of traveling and holidaying have been ruined and now travellers are searching for safer ways to return to the normal life. Staycations have become one of the trendiest holidays currently and the true meaning of staycation or holistay is when a family/couple spends leisure time together in one’s home country instead of travelling abroad. Experience tranquillity at the hotel’s luxurious rooms that overlook the lush greenery of Cubbon Park with an option of early check in before 10:00 AM and a late check out after 5:00 PM for a truly relaxed weekend. Staycations include taking day trips to local attractions and explore the local area and this is exactly what JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru has in store for you with their diverse package so you can avail the best deals.

Wake up to the breath-taking view of Cubbon Park that reminds you of old Bengaluru followed by a complimentary breakfast at the all-day dining JW Kitchen. The exciting specialty restaurants add a bit of excitement to your dining experience. Indulge at the Dinner Buffets at JW Kitchen, Vibrant Weekend



Events at the open air rooftop-poolside lounge, Merak; Sushi and Scotch at UNO and a romantic dinner at their Nouvelle European cuisine at ALBA.

Release the stress with an indulgent treatment at Spa by JW and get refreshed at the pool which is now open to the in house guests.

Setting New Growth and Recovery Milestones

Cementing its position as a major global player in hospitality sector, leading hospitality brand Hotel Jewels Classic has announced that it will expand its brand portfolio by opening new hotels and Restaurants in London and later in Europe.

Beginning its journey in 1994 under the august leadership of Col. Manbeer Singh Choudhary (Veteran) as Chairman and Mrs. Binny Choudhary as Managing Director, the brand remained a benchmark of hospitality and quality service in India. Hotel Jewel's sister brand, Noor Mahal Palace Hotel, positioned as a luxurious palatial heritage hotel is pacing up and is a new iconic brand in the hospitality industry especially in Delhi NCR. To promote India's royal legacy and culinary heritage and set new milestone for India's growing independent hotel chains, the company will invest USD 20 Million in London's promising hospitality business.

The move forms part of an aggressive expansion plan that will see one of India's fastest growing independent hotel brands greatly increase its operational footprint in UK and other countries by 2023. The company aims to set new growth and recovery milestones for the hard hit travel

and hospitality sector by expanding its footprints to London initially and later in Europe.

Noor Mahal's new premium restaurant chain by the name of "Colonel Saab" is all set to welcome guests in London around July 2021, in the heart of the most dynamic part of town and prime real estate location the High Holborn. This will become the torchbearer of India's rich and royal cultural legacy, architect and culinary delight. This aesthetically beautiful dining space in central London on the New Oxford Street will combine traditional with the progressive. This iconic hospitality landmark will be a contemporary viewpoint sharing a nostalgic palate of the royal bygone era, aromas and Indian flavors.

Roop Partap Choudhary, Executive Director, Jewel Classic Hotels, Delhi-NCR

We look forward to bringing the legendary Indian hospitality to "Colonel Saab" in the iconic

high Holborn Building, one of the busiest and prime real estate locations in Central London. The group has aggressive expansion plans, and it aims to expand its footprints in other parts of London and Europe. The year 2021 will be a turning point for the company's expansion plans. We have roped in internationally famed F&B consultants, Culinary Experts, Vibrant team of Interior designers and Radiant chefs to chart out our global growth journey. Increasingly, we are seeing demand and growth opportunities for new hotels and restaurants in fast-growing international markets. The company plans to invest USD 20 Million in London, hoping to tap in to increasing numbers of Guests with a taste for Indian Cuisine in United Kingdom and other parts of the globe. When travelers and diners from India and other emerging markets increase their travel internationally, they will also stay and dine with hotel brands they know from home.

Radisson Individuals: First Hotel Opening in Imphal

Radisson Hotel Group is proud to announce the debut of Radisson Individuals in India with the opening of Classic Grande Imphal, a member of Radisson Individuals.

Celebrating its decade-long journey in Chennai, the property has announced a series of month-long promotions and events that offer great deals and unique experiences for its guests. With a total inventory of 204 keys, Hilton Chennai today is amongst the city's most vibrant and busy hotels, commanding the highest occupancy levels registered especially during the challenging times of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020. Transforming the city's hospitality landscape and contributing to its cultural identity, Hilton Chennai, over the years, has grown into a symbol of trust. Setting standards of safety and hygiene, Hilton Chennai has brought industry-first innovations such as contactless check-ins with its globally acclaimed Digital Key, contactless food delivery, and Hilton's signature experiences in a safe and elegant setting, powered by the Hilton CleanStay program. The hotel has made a mark as a dining destination

through its five award winning restaurants and bars, especially well known for its Global Sunday Brunch at Vasco's and as a favourite after party destination at QBAR- the rooftop night club.

Commenting on the 10-year milestone occasion, Mr. Ruban Das, General Manager, Hilton Chennai, said, "It's a momentous day for everyone at Hilton and it gives me immense joy to be part of a company that is rooted in shaping the hospitality landscape of the city. We owe this success to the contribution of all our partners and members, including team members at Hilton Chennai; my predecessors; the India leadership team for Hilton; and our esteemed owning company- Empee Hotels Ltd. Without their vision, their outlook towards innovation, and consistent encouragement, we could not have arrived this far. As we stand at the threshold of contributing to the next decade, we will continue to

spread the light and warmth of hospitality and serve our guests with utmost delight." Demonstrating its commitment to the city, Hilton Chennai was the first hotel chain in the city to open its facilities to support the Government's Vande Bharat Mission. As part of this program, Hilton Chennai has contributed to over 14000 room nights and served as a safe quarantine facility for all; brought to life by Hilton's CleanStay program. The program expands on the sanitation standards addressing every touchpoint of the stay experience. This includes room seals for guest and meeting rooms to assure that the room has not been accessed after deep cleaning/sanitizing, adequate sanitizing stations in public areas and meeting spaces, modified service standards at all dining areas to support minimum contact dining and mindful social distancing and an Event Ready Room Checklist which allows for secure event occasions.

The Launch of The Re-Imagined New Chambers

The iconic Taj Mahal, New Delhi unveiled the re-imagined and re-designed avatar of The Chambers, India's first and most revered business club.

The Chambers enjoys an illustrious patronage since its inception over four decades ago. The new Chambers at Taj Mahal, New Delhi offers classic elegance in a contemporary setting in the capital's landmark location with stunning views of the city's skyline. With the recent launch of The Chambers Global Membership, members can enjoy enhanced privileges and benefits.

The Chambers provides members a haven to conduct business or simply unwind. New features include Rayasina, a 60-seater restaurant; seven meeting rooms, of which one is designed by the renowned Italian luxury brand, Stefano Ricci; The Chambers Lounge, a sophisticated bar; and a cigar lounge. Rayasina and The Chambers Lounge offer Indian and international cuisine, rich in flavours and exquisite in its

presentation. The menu features several world classics with a modern twist and specially-crafted set menus for power breakfasts or a light, relaxed meal. Cheese and wine pairings, dark chocolate and almond boards, and a wide range of beverages are some of the added touches to the unparalleled experience at The Chambers. The service as always is warm, discreet yet highly personalized.

The Chambers, today, has presence across seven marquee Taj hotels in six cities including Dubai, and will soon have its presence in London and Bengaluru.

Satyajeet Krishnan, Area Director – New Delhi and General Manager, Taj Mahal, New Delhi said "The Chambers is for a community of members, who are accomplished acclaimed achievers. The renovated Chambers with elegant

and stylish spaces, and a world class restaurant offering modern gourmet cuisine will give members access to an uber-luxury private and exclusive club at the city's most distinguished address. Taj Mahal, New Delhi has been on a transformational journey for the past 18 months and with the new Machan, Emperor's Lounge, tastefully done rooms and now The Chambers, we look forward to welcoming guests to the next chapter of the hotel's illustrious history."



Indian Wedding Sector Looks at Revival in 2021

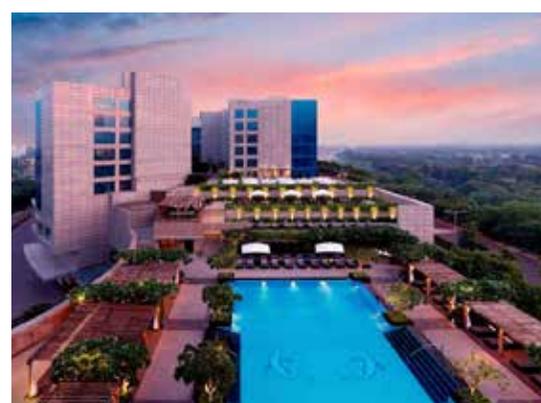
With the existing travel restrictions and pent-up demand for weddings, wedding professionals are starting to witness growing demand for celebrations and events.

Diverted destination weddings are now flowing through metro cities, disrupting the supply and demand of venues. In the past couple of months, weddings and other related services have remained the constant business stream and continue to create a positive scenario for hotels.

Adding to the brand-new dimension to weddings, It's Possible at Ambience Island was unveiled by The Leela Ambience Gurugram Hotel & Residences, ADot by GNH Hotels, Ferns N Petals and Touchwood Group. A collaborative concept where multiple synergies convene to make celebrations splendid. Strategically connected with the national highway and at a close distance of 15 mins from the International airport, The Ambience Island perfects the extravaganza of Indian weddings in many ways than one. A wedding destination in itself spread over 135 acres of space, the island is an amalgamation of services offering a luxury hotel, bespoke catering by masterchefs of The Leela

Gurugram, expansive wedding venues, a golf course and Gurgaon's best lifestyle mall!

ADot by GNH Hotels is one of the city's most exquisite venues divided for conventions, weddings along with a lounge ideal for pre-wedding celebrations. Ritz and Riviera, our premium venues by FNP Gardens which cater to signature weddings with elegant décor and stunning elements. Welcoming one and all to the Ambience Island, The Leela Ambience Gurugram offers bespoke services along with its exemplar hospitality. Its award-winning restaurants and culinary strength cater to weddings with well-crafted experiences not only at the hotel but also extended to the multiple venues on the island. With added banqueting space of 35,000 sq.ft of on the same level, celebrations are elevated with signature restaurants, expat chefs, service design under the concept of "Once in a Lifetime". Be it the outdoor venues overlooking the Rajokri Greens or Orbis, an exclusive lounge ideal



for bachelorettes and cocktails, The Leela Ambience Gurugram ensures every celebration is a fond memory.

Varun Chhibber, General Manager, The Leela Ambience Gurugram Hotel & Residences said "The extravagance of Indian weddings often falls short with space limitations of banqueting venues. Wedding celebrations of any count are possible at The Ambience Island where the cumulative area of banqueting space exceeds over 3,00,000 sq.ft. Luxury hotels come together for the comfort of stays with over 1000 rooms. Unlike any destination, The Ambience Island fulfils every aspect of your imagination of any scale. The true Indian hospitality of The Leela Ambience Gurugram completes every event with signature dining and spacious rooms and residences. In a nutshell, the island is a complete 360-degree solution for weddings, conventions and events."



A Tranquil Retreat for The Senses

The Maldives has become the top choice with Indian travellers for leisure holidays or milestone celebrations.

• **Vedika Sharma**

Travel patterns in the new normal have also shown an increasing preference towards responsible luxury and sustainable practices, and this trend is expected to continue for future travel in 2021 and beyond. The Residence Maldives has carved a niche for itself by consistently offering immersive experiences with genuine, heartfelt hospitality while being in tune with nature. With complete safety measures in place, all on-site experiential activities are specially curated to inspire and indulge guests with the brand’s promise of “Moments Enriched”.

The Residence Maldives is a private luxury hideaway located in southern Maldives in the GaafuAlifu Atoll, one of the largest atolls in the world. It is a perfect getaway with sun-kissed beaches, turquoise lagoons and calming ocean blues. Connected by a scenic one-kilometer-long bridge, the two resort islands – The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi and Dhigurah together make up one of the largest offerings in the Maldives.

Whether seeking an idyllic couple’s escape or a memorable family holiday, The Residence Maldives has a myriad of distinctive activities to explore. These include snorkeling safaris and access to some of the best diving sites in the world, curated private dining in and around the islands,

holistic wellness at The Spa by Clarins and much more.

The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi Reopens

While The Residence Maldives at Dhigurah reopened in mid-2020 and continues to offer enchanting journeys to guests from around the world, The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi is now welcoming travellers once again to experience this secluded island retreat with unparalleled beauty.

The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi consists of 94 private beachfront and overwater villas that draw their design inspiration from the island’s lavish beauty. With thatched roofs, natural materials and lush interiors, the impeccable resort design is in harmony with the natural environment and blends traditional Maldivian aesthetics with contemporary elegance as well as modern amenities.

Luxe Getaway Offers for Long Weekends in March 2021

With two long weekends coming up in India during March, you can spend your days sipping cocktails by the infinity pool, savour delectable cuisines from around the world, discover the magical underwater marine life or pamper yourself to calming spa treatments. Your island bliss awaits.

The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi has the Book Now, Stay Later offer that promises a dream vacation in paradise. Book a minimum 4-night stay, and get up to 55% off the Best Available Rates, and complimentary domestic flights with speedboat return transfers. Additional perks include complimentary activities such as sunrise or sunset Yoga sessions at the Spa by Clarins, daily 1-hour non-motorised water sports (kayak and stand-up paddle) and 30-minute guided house reef snorkelling.

The Residence Maldives at Dhigurah has the All-Inclusive Island Holiday offer to break away from the monotony of a daily routine and rejuvenate the senses. Book a minimum 4-night stay, and get up to 40% off the Best Available Rates, complimentary domestic flights with speedboat return transfers; and a Standard All Inclusive meal plan with enhanced inclusions such as extensive food and beverage menus across dining outlets.

Introducing: Bespoke Private Dining Experiences

Create memorable moments with your loved ones in intimate settings with immersive dining. Vibes by The Residence Maldives offers bespoke private dining experiences in hidden locations and indulgent preparations by our chefs, from Mediterranean to authentic Cantonese cuisines that offer a celebration of.

Stars: Spend the evening on a castaway



island, where your personal chef creates a gourmet extravaganza in a spectacular beach setting, as millions of stars light up the night sky. Garden: Enjoy a four-course romantic dinner, amid lush greenery and spectacular views of clear turquoise waters that surround an isolated lawn in the northern tip of the island. Waves: An idyllic dinner for two along the sandy coastline of Falhumaafushi as the ocean waves gently lap on your feet. Savour a tantalising three-course set dinner with sensual flavours to entice your palate. Fire: Enjoy the bonfire by the beach while sipping on your bubbly, as the sound of waves softly serenade. A dedicated waiter and personal chef will serve the gourmet cuisine of your choice.

New Launch: Photography Service

to Create Lifelong Memories

The Maldives is a tropical paradise that promises azure blue waters and pristine sandy beaches all year round. To make your holiday extra special, The Residence Maldives has now introduced a photography service and album packages. On prior reservation, all in-house guests can avail of a complimentary 30-minute photoshoot. This is a great option as you can explore the stunning locations across the resort islands to capture perfect memories. Guests are invited back to review their photos and also receive a complimentary souvenir photo. Additionally, customised print or digital albums can also be purchased as per preference.

Holistic Wellness Retreats at The

Spa by Clarins

Wellness therapies at The Residence Maldives are designed to soothe and revitalise your mind, body and soul. As an internationally renowned pioneer of natural beauty, The Spa by Clarins' products are made of active ingredients with plant origins amalgamated with unique formulas developed by our beauty therapists. The treatment rooms offer a cocoon of privacy with uninterrupted views of the Indian Ocean where guests can select from a variety of signature treatments. Holistic Wellness Retreats consist of 2 to 5 days packages that can be tailor-made according to your requirements, such as - Ultimate Beauty & Sleep, Detox & Contouring, and Holistic Healing & Awakening Retreats.





Oetker Collection partners with Reuben Brothers

Oetker Collection announces the addition of Hotel La Palma in Capri, Italy, to the group's portfolio of Masterpiece Hotels, debuting in April 2022.

• **Vedika Sharma**

Reimagining a Capri icon, the 50-key hotel in vibrant Capri Village will be a complete transformation of the original Hotel La Palma that dates back to 1822 – the first and oldest hotel on the island. In line with Oetker Collection's mission to create meaningful connections in endearing places, the brand's first Italian property is set bring to life the island's iconic dolce vita lifestyle. The hotel is owned by Reuben Brothers, marking the latest landmark procurement in their pipeline of investments and developments in Europe. The Reubens Brothers' acquisition also includes the legendary La Taverna Anema e Core nightclub, a famous nightspot frequented by celebrities, located in the same premises.

SET THE SCENE

Hotel La Palma will celebrate the timeless and warm hospitality for which Oetker Collection is loved. The property has been conceived as a unique, elegant Mediterranean retreat on the fabled Italian island for the modern traveller. The original hotel on Capri will once more become the chicest address on the island for people who want to see and be seen. During its renovation, the room count of the hotel is being drastically decreased, from 80 to 50 rooms – including 18 suites – each complete with its own private balcony or terrace. The property's interiors are currently being transformed by two

acclaimed architects: led by Rome-based Francesco Delogu of Delogu Architects for the rooms and lobby, and New York-based Tihany Design, one of the world's preeminent hospitality design firms, led by Adam Tihany and Alessia Genova, for the restaurant, pool, spa, and beach club."

Located in the beating heart of Capri, just around the corner from the famous Piazza Umberto I – well-known as the 'Piazzetta' – Hotel La Palma is perfectly positioned for guests to visit some of the most notable sites of Capri: I Giardini di Augusto, Via Krupp, La Certosa and the iconic Faraglioni. Another of the island's best-known, must-visit natural sites in easy reach from the hotel is the 'GrottaAzzurra' – the Blue Grotto – a





Timo Gruenert,
CEO, Oetker
Collection

I simply cannot think of anything more exciting than the outlook of opening a true masterpiece hotel in one of the most beautiful and

glamorous destinations in the world, the island of Capri. It will be an homage to La Dolce Vita and the legacy of this legendary location – the first hotel in Capri – while reinventing Hotel La Palma to once again be at the epicentre of the island’s vibrant social scene. And as with all our masterpiece hotels, we are truly committed to creating a sense of timeless hospitality, deeply rooted in family spirit and genuine kindness.

dark cavern where the sea glows electric blue, the result of sunlight passing through an underwater cave.

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

In true Italian fashion, Hotel La Palma will be a gourmand’s delight, with Gennaro’s restaurant, bar and terrace, under the culinary direction of Chef Gennaro Esposito. Esposito is a true name in the region, having run his own two-Michelin Star restaurant, Torre del Saracino, for the last 23 years. A simple, stylish step back in time to the Capri of the 1950s, Gennaro’s will embrace the timeless romance of the island, serving unpretentious, authentic Italian cuisine. A contemporary, vibrant place that shuns formality and celebrates the

Jamie Reuben of
Reuben Brothers



We are thrilled that Hotel La Palma will be joining the prestigious Oetker Collection portfolio of hotels; a group that has, for so long, upheld the very highest standards in refined hospitality. When we acquired the property we saw its potential to become a truly world-class hotel, a vision shared by Oetker Collection. We have no doubt that Hotel La Palma will be right at home next to some of the world’s most legendary hotels and part of this glittering hotel brand, and similarly that Oetker Collection will breathe new life into this history-steeped Italian icon.

spirit and cuisine of Capri, Gennaro’s will also benefit from being right next door to the great Taverna Anema e Core. Another highlight will be Bianca, a glamorous, newly created rooftop restaurant and bar open ’til late with spectacular views over the sea and Capri Village. Bianca, also under the culinary direction of Chef Gennaro Esposito, will become the island’s chicest hangout, transporting guests to another time and place. In addition, Hotel La Palma will offer a brand-new pool deck, complete with an elegant pool bar which pays homage to the ‘classic Capri’ of the golden age.

hotel guests, visitors will come from yachts and neighbouring hotels as La Palma Beach Club becomes the meeting place of choice on the island for long, lazy lunches created by Gennaro Esposito and sunset cocktails. By day, it will be a playground for the great and the good and by night, home to carefree indulgence and the place to rendezvous and soak in Capri’s animated social scene. Back at the hotel meanwhile, there will be an indulgent spa which will offer three treatment rooms, including one double treatment suite, a sauna, steam bath and ice shower, relaxation space and fitness centre. The hotel will also offer three boutiques.

Accessed exclusively via boat, yacht or helicopter from the mainland, Capri has remained a popular tourist destination since the 1950s; a sun-soaked playground for the contemporary jet set that captures the quintessential spirit of the Mediterranean in Italy’s Campania region.

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Since 1822, Hotel La Palma – formerly known as Locanda Pagano – is the oldest hotel on Capri. The original owner, notary Giuseppe Pagano, hosted travellers in his villa for the pleasure of long conversations and often, his guests were artists, poets, writers, architects, painters and musicians, all who showed their gratitude by painting the walls, writing poems, singing and playing in what was dubbed the ‘Artists’ Hotel.’ A collective of creatives began to gather from all over the world who were inspired by the genius loci, charmed by the smooth, familiar atmosphere of this eccentric hotel. When Hotel La Palma reopens in April 2022, guests will once again receive the same warm Italian welcome.

TO THE BEACH

A short drive to Capri’s southern coast, guests will discover Hotel La Palma’s elegant, yet buzzing La Palma Beach Club in the Marina Piccola, home to the island’s most famous beaches and restaurants. This will be the place where fabulous people come and go, to watch sun-drenched days flow into glittering twilight evenings. Open to non-

THE ICONIC ITALIAN ISLAND

Effortlessly laidback and a synonym for enduring elegance, Capri is an island in Italy’s Bay of Naples off the Sorrento Peninsula, famed for its rugged landscape, iconic restaurants, excellent shopping and glamorous visitors from the literati, dignitaries, royalty and A-list celebrities.





Herit(age) Indian Cuisine

As old as Indian history the journey of Indian food Heritage and cuisine over the past years also passed on from one generation to another.

• Vedika Sharma

Proper use and blend of the aromatic spices is behind the secrets of good cooking in India. Many of these spices are noted for their medicinal values and are also used as appetisers and digestive.

Just like the culture, the food of the Indian subcontinent is also varied. Here given below are the distinct flavours of heritage cuisine of India with respect to the regions and is largely divided into South Indian & North Indian cuisine.

North India

The cuisine of north Indian is very popular. Among the north Indian states Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Kashmir the cuisine of Kashmir is very famous as it reflects Central Asian flavour in its dishes.

Punjab has its own unique Punjabi style of Tandoori food, whereas in Uttar Pradesh its Nawabi cuisine is as famous as its history of Nawab's. From time immemorial, Haryana has a tradition of preparing and distributing 'goond ladoos', prepared in desi ghee, on the arrival of a new born. Likewise, there is a range of 'choormas' that are served on specific occasions.

Some other traditional delicacies include paranthas with bathua raita, steamed rice with kadhi, khichri, kadai hara cholia and some different varieties of rotis like besan masala roti and bajra aloo roti.



South India

Rice is the staple food of the South. Puttu is a favorite dish of the Keralites. Puttu is prepared by steaming rice powder in bamboo shoot. Sweetened coconut milk is another popularly used food ingredient in Kerala. According to traditional cuisine of Kerala, meal is served on large banana leaf.

Some authentic and popular South Indian dishes that are sure to delight taste buds include Chakra Pongal, Sambar and Vadai from Tamil Nadu; Rava Idli from Karnataka; Kadala Curry and Appam from Kerala; and Kebabs and Biryani from Telangana.



East India

Seafood is an important part of the East Indian diet. The wide variety of fish is prepared in many ways. Naturally, the area is well known for delectable fish curries, but seafood is also fried with spices that serve to enhance rather than to mask flavors, served steamed and delicately spiced, and is used to create snacks and appetizers like pakora, offered with chutneys and other dipping sauces.

East Indian cuisine is known throughout the world for the quality of its sweets, with many of its confections deeply rooted in Hindu culture. East Indian cuisine has a distinct flavor that sets it apart from the cuisines of other parts of India.

West India

Rajasthani food is spicy and largely vegetarian but includes many delicious meat dishes like Laal Maas while Gujarat's cuisine is known for its slight sweet touch and is traditionally entirely vegetarian. In Maharashtra, coastal areas are famous for Malvani cuisine. Portuguese influence is seen in the cooking style of Goa. Sweet and sour tastes are typical of the culinary style of the state.



#Czechspecials

Whether you choose traditional or modern, you'll find Czech cuisine does not disappoint.

Are you familiar with Czech cuisine? If not, then you might want to get acquainted with it because the Czech Republic offers some of the most delicious food to stuff your belly!

You name it and the Czech Republic has it; be it fresh in-season berries, wild local fish, various meats, gorgeous organic produce and more. The Czech Republic has a wide range of traditional foods with a diverse palette of flavors. Eating like a local and getting to know your destination's traditional food and cuisine is another way of better understanding the culture of the place.

Czech food is tasty, comforting, filling and addictive, so make sure you reserve enough time to walk off those calories. Here are a few dishes:



mashed potatoes; syrove - made with cheese, and the plain yeast dumplings.

While the sweet variations are filled with fruit and served as a dessert, the savory dumplings are usually formed in a roll, boiled or steamed, and served sliced. They can also be enriched with smoked meat, different herbs, or diced onions. Regardless of the type, these Czech dumplings are so fragrant and succulent and they will leave

Potato soup with mushrooms ranges among the most popular Czech soups. It is prepared with vegetables and potatoes cut in small pieces, together with mushrooms. Other soups prepared in different versions all over the country include kyselo (sourdough and mushroom soup) or kulajda, garlic soup, chicken noodle soup, Dill soup etc.



Tradition Czech Wedding Pastries

June is the peak wedding season. Weddings are usually associated with a number of traditions – the most common being the wedding pastry preparation. Filled with at least three types of fillings, the pastry can vary significantly in dough (butter-based, yeast or rolled) and they can be filled with a quark filling, nut filling, poppy seed filling or plum-jam filling.

Czech Dumplings

One of the most popular side dish in Czech cuisine are dumplings. Czech dumplings are traditional savory and sweet dumplings created with various ingredients. The main savory varieties include houskový - made with soaked bread; bramborové - made with



you wanting more!

Soups of the Czech Republic

A meal in the Czech Republic usually always begins with a soup. Czech cooks are masters in cooking the most amazing and flavorsome soups. Soup is undoubtedly an important chapter in the traditional Czech cuisine. Czech Soup is not only a dish but also a cure!

Soup with fresh vegetables and good-quality meat is a delicacy that is offered even in luxurious restaurants.

Traditional Easter Stuffing.

Every year, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon of spring. Among the traditional Easter dishes that still appear upon the table for this day is the “lamb cake”, the “Judas rope”, sweet Easter bread (mazanec) or Easter stuffing. The traditional Easter stuffing (nádivka) has a variety of names in differing dialects – and equally as many compositions. Its base is white

bread – cubes of sliced buns or baguettes, eggs, milk, and above all fresh green herbs. Additional ingredients could include bacon, sliced ham, or wild mushrooms.



To Play with Food

Mamagoto heralds a new interpretation of Asian Cuisine, when literally translated means; “To Play with Food”.

It has been inspired by a Japanese experiment of sorts, with the same name, involving infants to use their senses to understand the shapes and textures of food. Mamagoto brings to you a new concept of affordable Pan Asian food while retaining a global flavour and cosmopolitan appeal. The food at Mamagoto is not authentic, instead it is a blend of inspiration from Asian street hawkers.

The funky, interactive, fresh, colourful and beaming energy and exciting environment at Mamagoto hits the ceiling when people say, “You are too noisy.”

With outlets spread across the country, arriving at it’s next pitstop in the grand old city of Joy is another feather in the cap as the



introduce its own brand of fusion Asian cuisine with a twist. The quintessential delicacies on offer are the Crispy Tofu, Street Style Spicy Chicken Dimsum, Old School Chicken Gyoza and Spiced Asian BBQ Chicken.

With Mamagoto, there’s not just the classics on order, but a whole lot of wildly experimental food, like the Fiery Thai Shrimp Fried Rice or the Spicy Ramen Bowl, or even the street version of the classic Penang Curry, that must become the go-to choice when one crave for something fun and different!

Dive into the delectable desserts that include Mama’s Homemade Chocolate Cake and Homemade “American Style” Chunky Caramel Sponge Cake.

brand bring the madness and of-course the food, such as the famous meals in a bowl, like the Chiang Mai Train Station Noodles or the Spicy Bangkok bowl or even the take on Nasi Goreng, to Lake Market. “We hope that this joyous little town that is now a-buzz with all the latest trends, will welcome Mamagoto’s quirkiness with open arms and help it to become synonymous with Pan Asian food delivery in the City” said Kabir Suri and Rahul Khanna, (Co-founders / Directors) of the brand.

While Kolkata is a melting pot of culture for travellers, holiday goers and tourists alike, Mamagoto hopes to capture the hearts and minds, of not only this motley crew, but also of the locals as well, as the brand hopes to



The Tummy Section is on its way to Expand Pan - India

Every good story starts with three good friends sitting down to do something together. And that is exactly the story of The Tummy Section. Three foodie friends sat down on a fine day and their common passion for creating and serving great food led to the birth of Tummy Section.

A casual and chic outlet in West Delhi known for its quirky shawarmas, Tummy Section screams fusion in all ways possible. They like to call their exclusive shawarmas 'Shawario', which is their unique re-invented avatar for Delhiites to eat and fall in love with.

Started in 2009, The Tummy Section had a vision of fusing desi and videsi cooking styles to create something unique and finger-licking good. And that is how Shawarios came into being and became Delhiites first love. People have showered immense love on their Crunchwich, Ramly Range, and Cheeky Buns.

Their first store was on Jail Road and considering its huge success, Malviya Nagar

was chosen as the next location because it caters to a similar crowd.

The brainchild of Yash Suri, Pankaj Arora, and Nikhil Arora, The Tummy Section is basically every gang's dream come true kinda venture. This trio is basically the heart, mind, and soul of TTS, with Yash taking care of the finances, Nikhil in-charge of everything creative, and Pankaj holding the reins of operations.

TTS has been up and running for 11 years and the trio says, "We never realized how all this time passed by so quickly. Because we love what we do, it never seemed like work to us. We have loved doing things together and seeing our baby grow into such a big brand."

Their journey has been very smooth since all the three founders have very diligently divided the responsibilities based on their skill sets. They have perfectly synchronized their ideas and style of working over the years and that's quintessentially the secret of their success.

Just like any business, TTS has its own share of highs and lows but the right team of people and good training help the owners



achieve what they desire. Their products are highly standardized at all their outlets and that is what makes TTS what it is today.

A few of the most famous dishes at The Tummy Section are Chicken Shawario, Ramly Burgers, and their Creamy Chicken Lollipops. The idea behind menu curation at TTS was largely focused on delivering what Delhiites love but in a unique manner. They were the first ones to bring Shawarios to Delhi and are known as its creators.

Currently operating with five outlets, the trio is looking forward to expanding through a franchise model. They're planning to go, Pan-India by 2025, starting from North India, followed by West, Central & Eastern parts of India. They are aiming at adding 20 additional outlets every year for the next five years to achieve their milestone.

Lifestyle





Aston Martin Safety Car of Formula 1

When Aston Martin makes its return to the FIA Formula One World Championship® at the end of this month, it will be with more than two grand prix contenders on the Formula 1® Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2021 grid: For the first time in the history of the sport the Official Safety and Medical cars of Formula 1® will also bear the famous wings of the British luxury brand.

• T3FS Desk

A specially equipped version of the Aston Martin Vantage has been developed for the critical role of intervening and controlling the pace of an event involving the fastest racing cars in the world. Engineered by an experienced team at Aston Martin's Headquarters in Gaydon, the car benefits from significant chassis and aerodynamic improvements. With only a few additional modifications to make it FIA compliant, the new safety car is the pinnacle of Vantage performance.

Aston Martin DBX, the brand's critically acclaimed first SUV, will also take on the role of an Official Medical Car of Formula 1®, showcasing its own power and handling prowess as it launches into action to support in the event of an emergency.

Aston Martin Vantage – An Official Safety Car of Formula 1®

Piloted by FIA's appointed driver, Bernd Mayländer (DE) who has been at the helm of the F1® safety car for over twenty years, the Aston Martin will remain on standby in the pit lane throughout the race.

When deployed by Race Control in the event of bad weather or an accident, the former

race driver and co-driver, Richard Daker (UK) will take to the track at the head of the field to safely control the pace of the pack, neutralizing the event and allowing any incident to be managed safely by the circuit's officials.

F1® tyre temperatures can drop when the cars are running at sub-optimal speeds, therefore fast lap times are essential for the Official Safety Car of Formula 1®. This responsibility led the Aston Martin Lagonda CEO, Tobias Moers to task the engineering team with enhancing the already sporting Vantage, focusing on improved track performance and lap times.

The results? Power has increased by 25PS to 535PS, delivered by a 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 delivering significant performance capability going from 0-60mph in just 3.5 seconds. 685Nm of peak torque remains the same but is now sustained for longer, and with additional work on the transmission means the driver has a better sense of directness, precision, and control through upshifts and downshifts. The Vaned grille coupled with a new front splitter creates 155.6kg of downforce at 200km/h; more than 60kg than the production Vantage produces at the same speed. Modifications

to the suspension, steering and dampers have also been undertaken, with further detailed underbody bracing modifications to increase front structural stiffness. All this, together with a comprehensive aero kit and a switch to lower profile tyres, the Aston Martin Vantage Official F1® Safety Car has all the credentials to handle a Formula 1® circuit. Aston Martin is known worldwide for its high-profile successes in sports car racing, most recently last year's multi-class victory at the 24 Hours of Le Mans that contributed to becoming FIA GT World Endurance Manufacturers' Champions. Engineering developments derived from these successes have aided the systems that feature in the F1® safety car. The unique requirements of the safety car mean the vehicle must be capable of going from top speeds, back to idling in the pit lane without so much as a cool-down lap, so a reliable and robust thermal management system is a key element to its performance. Having already developed a cooling system that proved effective in extreme conditions and temperatures on the multiple championship-winning Vantage GT4 race car, Aston Martin transferred this technology into the safety car, along with the addition of extra vents in

the bonnet to support further cooling. As it performs on standard Pirelli road tyres, the safety car is also equipped with the same carbon-ceramic brakes found on the production Vantage, with additional brake ducts hidden within the front grille to aid cooling.

The safety car mimics the Aston Martin Cognizant Formula One® Team car with an all-new paint colour, 2021 Aston Martin Racing Green, which was developed specifically to celebrate the marques return to Formula 1® racing after more than 60 years. A Lime Essence pinstripe highlights the front splitter; a colour synonymous with Aston Martin's successful racing pedigree, and most recently used on the ultra-successful Vantage that competed in the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). The F1® safety car is otherwise distinguished by its prominent FIA safety car livery, bodyside mounted radio antennas, an LED rear number plate and a bespoke, roof-mounted LED light-bar, developed by Aston Martin.

The light-bar sits on a carbon fibre plinth, raised above the roof line. The aerodynamic profile is designed to offer the least possible resistance while providing an optimised flow of air towards the exaggerated rear wing. Bright orange lights on the outer edges of the light-bar illuminate when the Official Safety Car of Formula 1® joins the track.

A centrally positioned amber flashing light then illuminates once the safety car is in position ahead of the race leader - indicating that no one should overtake; two centrally positioned green lights are illuminated once it is safe for the F1® cars to pass. The headlamps and taillamps also flash to aid the safe deployment of the car. The rear number plate displays 'Safety Car' illuminated by LED's, making it clear to see from vehicles behind in all weather conditions. A rear facing camera is also fixed to the light-bar that feeds a live image into a second rear-view mirror located inside the cabin, allowing the co-driver to monitor any activity at the rear.

Further, inside the cabin the production seats have been replaced by FIA-approved

racing seats equipped with a 6-point safety harness, the same as those found in the F1® team cars. Two screens are mounted on the dashboard, providing the driver and co-driver with a live television feed and a variety of customizable information displays, including live lap timing and the track positioning of all active race cars.

The centre console has been modified significantly. The rotary dial has been moved back to where the cup holder was positioned, and in its place sits a switch control system used to execute a number of actions, including activating the siren, radio communications and controlling the light-bar LED's. The 'Marshalling System' is integrated into the instrument cluster and the dashboard, allowing both the driver and co-driver to see which colour flag is being shown on the track, by the illumination of the same coloured LED light; mirroring the system that also features by regulation in all F1® team cars. TV cameras are also mounted on top of and inside the car, to provide live TV footage.

Safety Car driver, Bernd Mayländer said "Formula 1® fans around the world are delighted to see the return of Aston Martin to the track, as am I. The Official Safety Car of F1® is a beautiful, capable car that signifies an exciting new era for Aston Martin."

Aston Martin DBX - An Official Medical Car of Formula 1®

Aston Martin DBX will also share the Official Medical Car of Formula 1® responsibilities this season, driven by Alan van der Merwe (41, South Africa). Like the safety car, the medical car is distinguishable by its 2021 Aston Martin Racing Green paint with Lime Green accents - as well as the prominent FIA medical car livery, LED rear number plate and roof-mounted LED light-bar which sits upon the roof rails.

Powered by the 4-litre, twin-turbo V8 engine, also found in DB11 and Vantage, DBX provides an impressive output of 550PS and 700NM of torque which launches DBX from 0 to 62mph in just 4.5 seconds,

reaching a top speed of 181mph. All this ensures the FIA medical team can respond effectively to an emergency. With a sound that is unquestionably Aston Martin, the active exhaust system means DBX will not only be seen, but heard, as it does.

The Official Medical Car of Formula 1® is required to carry a substantial amount of equipment including a large medical bag, a defibrillator, two fire extinguishers and a burn kit - and the DBX is more than equipped with 632 litres of boot space.

Whilst the interior trim is fully representative of a customer vehicle, the central rear seat has been removed, and the remaining four have been replaced with sport bucket seats, each equipped with a 6-point safety harness. These provide seating for the driver, Alan van der Merwe and Dr Ian Roberts - the FIA Formula 1® Medical Response Coordinator, as well as a Local Doctor, leaving one spare, in case an incident requires a racing driver to be driven back to the pit lane. Much like the safety car, two screens have been mounted onto the dashboard to provide live race footage.

An additional screen is used to read live biometric data delivered via technology in the drivers' gloves, which in the event of an accident, provides critical information on their condition. The 'Marshalling System' and the rear-view mirror camera display have also been installed into the medical car.

The development of both these Official Safety Car of Formula 1® and Official Medical Car of Formula 1® was carried out by the engineering team at Aston Martin. Both vehicles have endured significant testing, which included high-speed durability assessments and aggressive circuit driving at the Aston Martin facility at Silverstone, totting up almost 15,000km collectively. The vehicles have also been tested in a dyno climate chamber to ensure they will perform in all race conditions.

Tobias Moers, Chief Executive Officer of Aston Martin Lagonda said "Together with the whole company, I am extremely proud of the Aston Martin brands return to Formula 1®, the pinnacle of motorsport for the first time in more than 60 years and represents the start of a significant new era for Aston Martin. To see our acclaimed Vantage, our most dynamic sports car, performing the role of the Official Safety Car of Formula 1 and our first SUV, DBX, operate as the Medical Car on Formula 1® circuits around the world is a proud moment for us all".

Aston Martin fans will be able to see the Aston Martin Vantage Official Safety Car of Formula 1® in action for the first time during the three-day pre-season test at Bahrain on 12-14 March, and then again during the opening round of the FIA Formula One® World Championship, at the same venue two weeks later.

The Formula 1® Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2021 will be broadcast live on Sunday 28 March 2021 from 16:00 GMT.





Brill Mplified

BMW India has launched the powerful BMW M340i xDrive in the country. Locally produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai, it is the first high-performance BMW with an M engine to be made in India.

• T3FS Desk

For over 40 years, no other BMW has embodied the concept of the 'Ultimate Driving Machine' better than the BMW 3 Series. Engineered by BMW M, the first-ever BMW M340i xDrive delivers a concentrated distillation of the 3's sporting essence and unleashes its full dynamic potential. It flawlessly embodies BMW M's pure passion for motorsport and delivers maximum performance to provide the ultimate adrenaline rush for the drivers. The first-ever BMW M340i xDrive sets new standards of performance attributes that will satisfy and impress auto enthusiasts. The car is powered by a straight six-cylinder petrol engine with 387 hp. Together, the high engine performance, M Performance chassis tuning, M-specific suspension technology, BMW xDrive intelligent all-wheel drive and the M Sport rear differential provide for an outstanding driving experience. The exceptional sporty character is underscored by the model-specific design and multiple equipment features. The first-ever BMW M340i xDrive is available in following metallic paintworks

- Dravit Grey, Sunset Orange and Tanzanite Blue. It features the exclusive Alcantara/Sensatec combination upholstery in Black with contrast stitching Blue. BMW M Performance Accessories offer customers the ability to bring their personality to the vehicles. To enhance the sporty appearance and character of the car, customers have the option to choose from a wide range of individual accessories including wheel size upgrades or curated accessory packages - Enthusiast Pack, Racer's Pack and Motorsport Pack. Thanks to BMW India Financial Services, customized and flexible financial solutions can be designed as per individual requirements. BMW 360° offers exclusive financial packages with great value and absolute peace of mind. Service Inclusive and Service Inclusive Plus further reduce cost of ownership. Customers can choose from a variety of service plans according to duration and mileage. The packages cover Condition Based Service (CBS) and maintenance work with plans ranging from 3 yrs / 40,000 kms to 10 yrs / 2,00,000 kms.



Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India

We are excited to launch the first-ever BMW M340i xDrive, the quickest car to be locally produced in India - a completely novel high-performance product that the Indian auto enthusiasts have been waiting for eagerly. It is a unique car because it has the thrilling soul of the BMW 3 Series, the amplified power of M and the driving dynamics of BMW xDrive. With the addition of the BMW M340i xDrive, the BMW 3 Series offers the most powerful and diverse range giving our customers the valuable 'Power of Choice'. This car also marks an important milestone of local production of high-performance BMW cars from the house of 'M'.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BMW M340i xDrive

The first-ever BMW M340i xDrive

The exterior design of the first-ever BMW M340i xDrive inspires with its sporting theme. The front end cuts a wide, low-slung and aggressive figure. The large BMW kidney grille mesh inserts are framed by a single surround and split up by wide bars that link to the headlight units. The car features the Adaptive LED headlights with BMW Laserlight which offers variable illumination of the road ahead. They stand apart with their hexagonal daytime driving light rings and blue, L-shaped elements in the inner and outer light sources. The car's hood, long wheelbase, short overhangs and elegantly flowing roofline accentuate its sporting profile when viewed from the side. Horizontal lines and the slim, stylishly darkened light units housing L-shaped LED taillights give the rear a wide and athletic stance. Complementing the M aerodynamics package with aerodynamically optimized body elements, the car features a body coloured M rear spoiler on the boot lid. The vehicle's exclusive look is also enhanced by exterior mirror caps, air intake struts, trapezoidal tailpipe trims and the model lettering all finished in Cerium Grey metallic. Adding to the sporty look are the standard 18-inch M light alloy wheels style 790 M Bicolor with mixed tyres. The option to upgrade to 19-inch M light alloy wheels in 792 M or 796 M styling is also available.

The interior is designed to accentuate cabin spaciousness and the driver-focused cockpit. The sport seats with M-specific upholstery in a Sensatec/Alcantara trim provide excellent lateral support and have a great range of adjustment. The Anthracite BMW Individual roof liner, BMW Individual High-Gloss Shadow Line elements, M leather steering wheel with shift paddles, M seat belt and interior trim strips in Aluminum Tetragon provide a performance-oriented ambience. As exclusive design features, the digital instrument cluster and front door sills bear the model lettering 'M340i'. Adding to the sense of space is the large panorama glass sunroof. Ambient Lighting with six dimmable light designs creates an atmosphere for every mood while Automatic 3 zone A/C further enhances the in-cabin experience. Welcome Light Carpet, which is projected from the side sill, welcomes passengers in glamorous style. The boot has a capacity of 480 litres and can be expanded further by folding down the 40/20/40 split rear seat backrest.

The first-ever BMW M340i xDrive is powered by 2,998 cc straight-six petrol engine which produces an output of 387 hp and 500 Nm maximum torque. It is accompanied by a characteristic sound thanks to the M Sport exhaust unit. The car completes the sprint from 0 to 100 km/h in 4.4 seconds, making it the quickest car to be produced in the country.



The eight-speed Steptronic Sport automatic transmission performs smooth, almost imperceptible gearshifts. At any time, in any gear, the transmission collaborates perfectly with the engine, enabling it to develop its full power and efficiency. For even greater driving pleasure, it is available with steering wheel paddle shifters and cruise control with braking function as standard. The Driver Experience Control modes SPORT and SPORT+ help support more dynamic driving even further by transferring power to the rear wheels.

As a category first, the car features BMW xDrive, the intelligent all-wheel drive technology which monitors the driving situations and is quick to respond to ensure maximum traction, agility and vehicle stability. The standard M Sport rear differential enhances traction and cornering by electronically controlling the distribution of power to each individual wheel. It helps to avoid understeer and oversteer in situations involving multiple changes of direction and load.

With kinematics and elastokinematics tuned for dynamic driving, the M Sport suspension features more rigid bearings and body struts, firm springs and anti-roll bars. It helps lower the ride height by 10 mm and offers a more engaging driving experience. The Variable Sport Steering is precise and responsive even when only a slight steering input is applied. With the variable ratio, it adjusts to the steering angle changes making it as adept at keeping the car in a straight line as at maximizing cornering agility and maneuvering comfort. M Sport brakes provide excellent braking performance and intuitive feel, whether negotiating city streets or driving around a circuit on a track day. The brake calipers are painted blue and display the M logo. The BMW Performance Control system increases the stability of the car by targeted braking of the wheels.

A host of BMW ConnectedDrive technologies continue to break the innovation barrier in automotive industry. Modern cockpit concept

BMW Live Cockpit Professional includes 3D Navigation, a 12.3-inch digital instrument display behind the steering wheel and a 10.25-inch Control Display. Occupants can operate a number of car functions simply by speaking to their BMW Virtual Assistant. Hands do the talking with BMW Gesture Control that recognizes six pre-defined hand movements for control of a number of functions. The smartphone holder integrated into the centre console allows inductive, Wireless Charging for mobile phones. Wireless Apple CarPlay® / Android Auto ensures seamless smartphone connection with the car to access several functions. The car features a Harman Kardon Surround Sound system with 16 loudspeakers.

BMW Head-Up Display projects driving-related information onto the windscreen and directly into the driver's field of view without having to divert their eyes from the road. Parking Assistant with Rear View Camera makes parking in tight spots easier. The Reversing Assistant provides unmatched support in reversing out of a parking spot or through narrow driveways. It keeps a record of the last 50 metres driven and assists by taking over the steering.

BMW EfficientDynamics includes features such as Auto Start-Stop, Brake-Energy Regeneration, Electronic Power Steering, 50:50 Weight Distribution and ECO PRO mode in Driving Experience Control.

BMW Safety technologies include six airbags, Attention Assistance, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Brake Assist, Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) including Dynamic Traction Control (DTC), Cornering Brake Control (CBC), electric parking brake with auto hold, side-impact protection, electronic vehicle immobilizer and crash sensors, Runflat Tyres with Tyre Pressure Indicator, ISOFIX child seat mounting and integrated emergency spare wheel under the load floor.



Lamborghini Huracán STO - Focu5on

Focu5on – The five things you did not know about Lamborghini Huracán STO.

• T3FS Desk

The latest Lamborghini to be announced, with deliveries starting later in 2021, is the Huracán STO (Super Trofeo Omologata), a road-homologated super sports car inspired by Lamborghini race cars: the Huracán EVO Super Trofeo developed by Lamborghini Squadra Corsa for Lamborghini's own race series, as well as the Huracán EVO GT3, three-time winner of the 24 Hours of Daytona and two-time winner of the 12 Hours of Sebring. With its 640 HP (470 kW) naturally-aspirated V10 engine generating 565 Nm at 6,500 rpm, the rear-wheel drive Huracán STO delivers exhilarating acceleration from 0 to 100 km/h in 3.0 seconds, from 0 to 200 km/h in 9.0 seconds, and a top speed of 310 km/h. Its heart beats with the emotion of a racing car. Superior aerodynamic efficiency, extensive use of lightweight materials, unfettered steering and first-class braking performance enable the Huracán STO to bring the emotion of a track experience to every road drive. Underlying the innovative technical

solutions that make this extraordinary performance possible are five facts not widely known:

COFANGO, a “Made in Lamborghini” design solution

The term Cofango derives from the fusion of two Italian words: cofano (hood) and parafango (fender), coined by Automobili Lamborghini to describe the design solution in which the hood, fenders and front bumper are integrated into a single component. This innovative system created by Lamborghini engineers is inspired by the Lamborghini Miura and the more recent Sesto Elemento, and on the STO

is made entirely of very light carbon fiber. The key for opening the fastenings on the STO's Cofango is unique: it was developed in-house by the R&D team and made using an innovative 3D printing technique.





Dynamic pit stop in just three seconds

There is not much that can be changed in three seconds, but the set-up of the Huracán STO is one. Three new driving modes – STO (normal driving), Trofeo (race mode) and Pioggia (raining or wet) – adapt the set-up of the car to match high-performance driving environments. The Huracán STO allows the driver to experience a dynamic pit stop, as if a team of mechanics were right there!

Three times around the world in simulator tests

Lamborghini’s R&D team drove a distance equivalent to three times around the world in simulator tests before starting the Huracán STO’s road tests. State-of-the-art simulator technology allowed Lamborghini engineers to save time on quality control, lead times, and emissions by verifying that every part of the car fully complied with standards during different stages of the STO’s development, certifying and testing.

2,750 components to make an STO

“Do you want to build a Huracán STO 1:1?”. It will take a lot of patience, because there are over 2,750 components needed to build the latest car from Sant’Agata.



Connected telemetry thanks to 25,000 lines of code

The Huracán STO introduces an advanced connected telemetry system where the link between car - on-board cameras Connected Cloud Lamborghini and the

App Lamborghini UNICA allows, thanks to an intuitive data analysis system and videos enriched with dedicated widgets, to transform the exclusive App dedicated to Lamborghini customers into a real track engineer. The development of this technology on the Lamborghini UNICA App required more than 25,000 lines of code.

Secret of Real Elegance

5 self-care brands that will not burn a hole in your pocket.

• T3FS Desk

As once said by Christian Dior - Grooming is the secret of real elegance. The best clothes, the most wonderful jewels, the most glamorous beauty don't count without good grooming.

Grooming has become an integral part of our personalities and the impression we make on others as we started modernising, especially in an age of fashion, style and glamour. Personality development highlighted the importance even more as it became a key factor for overall success and development. It is often said that the first impression is the last impression because that is how you will be perceived by a person for the rest of the time. What initially started as a trend has now become a routine, from buying products to keeping our hair neat to selecting products for clean and acne-free skin, people go the extra mile and spend bonkers for their everyday appearance. Grooming is not only important to look presentable but also to follow a hygienic lifestyle. Fancy products that are available in the market can actually burn a hole in your pockets when added to your routine. Therefore, here is a list of affordable and effective products to add to your grooming guide for 2021 that are not only inexpensive but will get you similar visible results.

Health Horizons: Busting the taboo around hemp in India, Heath Horizons is one of the only Indian brands to use hemp benefits in their products and is a GMP certified and USFDA registered company. It has a wide range of



affordable personal care products apart from its health care and superfoods. Adding hemp

benefits and other necessary ingredients, they have successfully curated personal care products like face creams, soaps and oil. Hemp oil has unmatched benefits that most people do not know about. The texture of the oil allows your skin to breathe without clogging the pores and moisturizing it thoroughly. It not only works wonders for the skin but if added in your everyday grooming guide can stimulate your overall grooming from the skin to hair and if consumed rightfully, has equal health benefits. Health Horizons was founded by Rohit Shah, Kartikeya Dadoo and Kanishak Yadav in April 2017. It is environment friendly as a zero waste producer and carbon negative company.

Mama Earth: Founded in 2016 by husband-wife duo Varun and Ghazal Alagh has witnessed

extensive popularity across the country. The company claims to be a plastic positive brand and offers products from personal care to baby



care. As the name suggests, it is a toxin-free brand and India's first to get the made safe certification. It has

approximately 80Skus for men and women and has quite successfully received positive reviews from skin experts. The company uses natural ingredients in their products, making it safe and sustainable. It has products from tea tree to argan and so on. All their products are Clinically tested in Europe, are Hypoallergenic and Fragrance-free (Only Natural flower extracts for fragrance). There is hardly any range of products in baby and beauty they haven't launched in the past 4 years and hence definitely deserves a place in your 2021 grooming guide if you haven't tried the products already.

Inveda: is a Delhi based company that has an ayurvedic range of products from skincare to wellness. The inveda is an amalgamation of "Infusion and Ayurveda", as the brand



suggests its products are based on the benefits of Ayurveda. Founded by Harshvadhan Modi, with the idea of blending the revolutionary modern research and rejuvenating essence of nature with ancient beauty secrets for that perfect and timeless glow of healthy beauty. The company claims to use extracts from Vedas for their product development which have therapeutic and regenerative qualities. Inveda uses gold, white, orange, blue and copper colours with the ideology that has come as a result of in-depth research on the effect these colours have on skin and the values they are associated with as per the Ayurveda. It uses a high range of ayurvedic ingredients in their products, which are cruelty, alcohol and paraben-free with 100% organic and veg ingredients with natural activates for a healthy and natural glow.



Khadi Naturals: is one of the most popular homegrown brands when it comes to grooming and beauty products. Khadi Naturals has successfully made its presence overseas for its 100% natural and herbal ingredients. Its products are handmade and paraben-free. They use elements extracted from organically grown pure plants. The products are WHO, GMP and ISO standards for everyday use and have over the years attracted customers for their highland promising quality of products. They also have a wide assortment of choices and go deep in the grooming products from shampoo, oil to moisturizers. The company's product range is verified against harmful reactants and is meant for all skin types. The products are light on the skin to use at economical prices. The products are developed with the ancient science of Ayurveda and herbal energy. Authenticity is one of the major concerns with growing competition amongst herbal and ayurvedic markets, but over and over again Khadi Naturals have topped the charts with undisputed quality. It has been in the market since 1963 and had not once disappointed its customers.

Juicy Chemistry: founded in 2014 by another husband and wife duo Megha and Pritesh Asher, Juicy Chemistry is an organic beauty brand. The direct-to-consumer brand is popularly known for its Ecocert certified organic waterless products. Other than India, its products are largely sold in countries like Australia, South Africa and France. Oils from Juicy Chemistry have received attention for its light and non-sticky texture and wonderful results. The brand



has successfully received optimistic reviews from experts in the industry. Other than the Juicy Chemistry soap which came in a thin cardboard box, every other product from them came in glass containers. Most of its products are popular for their rejuvenating and repairing damaged hair and skin formula. Supporting the idea of sustainability, joining hands with other brands, all the products from Juicy Chemistry are cruelty/paraben-free.



Ell Bee



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A Sophisticated Take on Cottagecore Décor!

Do you miss the hearth, the bond and the relaxing feeling you get when you visit your grandparents' farmhouse? This respite and solace from the hustle bustle of country living is the best gift we can give ourselves while staying safe amidst the comfort of home. And what better than the coziest décor trend – 'Cottagecore'?

• T3FS Desk

Here is a sophisticated take on the most trending Cottagecore décor to bring in its aesthetic without a major home makeover!

Avocado Green



While opting for a floral theme it might sound like a conventional idea, but modern spaces look charming with a little touch of fresh block prints or flower patterns. So, how about doodling your walls on chalk grade laminates? We suggest opting for this Avocado Green laminate décor by NewMika from the house of Greenlam Industries Ltd. that ensures durability, elegance and perfect continuity in chalk marks for hassle free and readable writing. Throw some pastels shades and place some succulents over your wooden rack inspired from mother nature. Lastly, remember to keep the space uncluttered and every element soft yet enveloping for a perfect cottagecore décor!

Sheer Concrete

Highly finished laminate walls, with a tinch of pattern, contrasting against an old stone wall adds a character and urban flavor to your living area. To give your space a sprinkle of timeless charm, try out hot neutral shades of gray to complement your brick wall. For instance, this Sheer Concrete laminate décor by NewMika from the house of Greenlam Industries Ltd. makes vibrant colours stand out while providing resistance to scratch, steam, crack, heat and surface wear. With embroidered cushions and rug, give an edge to your otherwise plain sofa set. Finish this look with macramé wall hangings as it will add an oomph to your walls.



Atlantis



Your bedroom is an important place where you start and unwind your days. Here, adding cottagecore vibes to your room can help soothe stress, inspire your creativity that will allow you to feel calmer. Start with placing vintage quilts and bright geometric patterned cushions to your bedding. For a contrasting theme, here go for Atlantis laminate décor by NewMika from the house of Greenlam Industries Ltd. whose gray shade will effortlessly balance the other colors in your room. Moreover, this laminate comes with dimensional stability, you can use it in any climatic condition without worrying about replacing it seasonally. Further, having a ceramic flower vase and a rocking armchair gives your bedroom a chic and close to nature feel.

Decoding the fusion of durability and design for 2021

Do you often find yourself juggling to achieve a fine balance between the lifespan and design of our interiors? Trust us, it's not a herculean task! Undoubtedly, home décor must be planned very thoughtfully whether you are re-purposing the space or thinking of some minor tweaks.

• T3FS Desk

There are various elements and aspects to keep in mind, such as the climate in your city and the design aesthetics. Today, the evolving technology and innovations have ensured the integration of all these elements under one roof.

Read on to know simple décor themes that offers you the best of both worlds – Durability and Design!

A soothing facelift!

The entry of your house is usually through the



living room which sets the tone for the entire home and leaves the first impression. Therefore, a minimal and clean look is pure blessing in disguise for such spaces. We are saying this because calming shades give your mind, body and soul a certain level of relaxation. Throw muted shades of yellow and grey to your cushions placed on a sofa set in muted blue. These colours will instantly infuse a comforting vibe around your space. The best way to distinguish your colour scheme is by keeping your walls, door and floor crisp white.

While visual impact of doors must not be compromised as they are some of the most visible design elements in the house, its resistance and lifespan should top your checklist. This is where Mikasa's Dura doorsets are designed to stand the test of time. Its design is a function of 5 layers of tubular core and a 6-side protection that shields the doors from the hostile weather and makes them apt for both, residential and commercial spaces. Also, they are eco-friendly and are manufactured from 100% renewable and sustainable wood sourced from Agro-forestry plantation. Now you can relax in your tranquil living room without worrying about the durability and material of your wooden doors. Lastly, without overshadowing

your colour scheme, complete the look with a white wall clock or a frame!

Wonders of natural wood!

The majestic grandeur and simplicity of a natural



element like wood is just limitless. Wood holds the power to make an unmatched statement and looks absolutely charming when used for home interiors. For an area like your kitchen, opt from a range of Mikasa Doors and Frames' multiple surface and colour options. Moreover, when it comes to both – longer lifespan and the aesthetic appeal, you can't go wrong with engineered wood doors with a surface finish of wood veneers or decorative laminates. The non-fire rated doors from Mikasa Doors and Frames are made of 5 layers with a solid core which are sturdy and can bear a heavy load. Their design is durable, strong, and practical, which makes them ideal for everyday use in residential spaces. Mikasa also produces fire-rated doorsets which provide a safe exit, in case of emergency, by preventing the spread of fire and smoke and limiting it to a certain level. Therefore, fire rated doorsets are used most suitable across commercial spaces. If you have cream or off-white interiors, opting for a darker shade of wooden doorset will complement the entire ambiance. Keep your area spick and span by placing minimal kitchen essentials out in the open. Make it look more modern by showcasing your silver crockery and glassware in open cabinets. Since this area needs more attention to hygiene, opt for Greenlam laminates that are – antibacterial and antifungal, for your kitchen shutters so that you and your family can stay stress-free and healthy. Top your slab with fruit bowls and a succulent to make the entire look feel re-freshening. Lastly, you can also

experiment with a small seating arrangement for a comfortable cooking shenanigan.

Optimistically yours!

We all have stepped into a new year with positivity and hopefulness. How about we paint this outlook all over the house to ensure every touch point encourages you? Spill the pantone colour 'Ultimate Gray' on your walls to add an instant warmth and comfort. Since, we are talking about all the earthy tones, we suggest going for a crisp yet classic white shade for doors. It will not only exude sheer panache but also a strong sense of calmness. Make your space functional and minimal; this can be done by placing a statement sofa and a mini-breakfast table in opposite directions.

Today, everyone is looking for personalized experiences and what better than opting for Mikasa Doors and Frames that gives you the power of customizing your doorset, be it in terms of size, thickness, or colour palette. Mikasa's factory finished complete doorset solution is highly durable, fire and impact resistant that keeps safety and maintenance blues at bay. The premium aesthetics of the wooden doors will seamlessly uplift your wooden floors and the neutral colour scheme. Complete this décor with a pop of colour, like a matte pink floor plant and transparent net curtains to let in the goodness of nature and sunlight together!



Every element of your house speaks to you and brings along a purpose to fulfil. The three distinct décor looks therefore are an inspiration for designing a space that brings élan as well as ensures durability. So, think no further and get on with curating your own dream-like haven!

Amazon Fashion launches Alexander Jeans by Rohit Bal

Denim is a wardrobe staple which can be dressed up or down with relative ease. But what if there's a modern and unique twist to this staple? Amazon Fashion has launched a fabulous new collection called 'Alexander Jeans' for men by Rohit Bal.

• T3FS Desk

Plain denim may sound basic, but not when it is reloaded with patchwork and applique with embroidery, making it a perfect apparel choice for our fashion forward customers!

The Alexander Jeans for men by Rohit Bal collection is young, affordably priced and embellished with intricate details, a collection straight from his heart. It is made keeping in mind the younger generation and is a culmination of



various influences brought together by only the finest tailoring. Commenting on this collaboration, Rohit Bal said, "I'm extremely thrilled to be associated with Amazon Fashion to showcase my collection which is trendy, chic, stylish and adventurous. I thank Amazon Fashion for making me a part of their wonderful family and look forward to many more exciting and fashionable projects!"

While suggesting personal style tips on how to make the jeans stand out, Rohit Bal suggests pairing them with a biker jacket, floral shirt, or plain T-shirts. You can even glam it up with statement earrings and a pair of sleek boots and be good to go.

Rohit Bal is intensely concerned with design as an art form and draws on history, fantasy, and folklore to create masterpieces that are desired by discerning aficionados around the globe. The Alexander Jeans collection reflect influences from the village crafts and traditional methods of Indian design, to the transient phenomenon of the subcontinent's urban landscape brought to life in spectacular yet original language.



It's all about LIFE

In an exclusive conversation with T3FS, Mrrridula Bali a past life regression therapist, trained spiritual life coach and a guide to a soul's journeys through lifetimes, shares insight about her profession.

Mrridula is an ingenious acoustic healer, pastlife therapist, numerologist, tarot reader and trainer, hypnotherapist, and a proficient akashic reader.

Her dynamic, multi-genre presentation style and her ease to connect with you on a soul level has engaged audiences across the globe towards personal discovery, insights and collective healings. Harmonising healing with acoustics and sound energy vibrations and reaching into states of deep meditations is her forte.

She's here to give you magical solutions to life in her deep, beautiful, vibrant voice that will resonate

and speak to your heart and soul. In her spiritual journey she has discerned most problems in life are caused by conflicts in the conscious mind. And yet we are unaware of the subconscious mind which drives 90% of our decisions and thoughts. We live in an innate unawareness of our shadows and our inner conflicts.

She claims "Together, for you, we will create an aura of a visionary." To share what She has so abundantly received, She has a daily Affirmations group that brings vibrant energy and joy besides healing people who have gone through trauma."

You can reach out to her at footprint with mrrridula her own healing company !



"I believe each one of us is born with infinite possibilities, beauty, potential and I aim to create a personality that goes beyond adoration and admiration."

Ayurvedic Beauty & Wellness

Vedix, World's first customized Ayurvedic beauty regime offers personalized solutions to fix all the hair and skin related problems by designing the product that is just meant for you.

With the use of AI and analytics the company designs a hyper customised beauty regime, basis the information shared by you in a detailed questionnaire. The ayurvedic doctors at Vedix analyse the doshas basis your prakruti and create a beauty regime which is meant only for you

For the past few years, Vedix has been exploring the potential of Ayurveda and has introduced a range of hyper-personal hair and skin care offerings to create a more holistic experience for its consumers. Vedix offers 100 percent Ayurvedic products made using no harmful chemicals. Its use of ayurvedic

herbs such as bhringaraja, brahmi, amlaki, yashtimadhu, datura, and many others play an important role in arresting hair fall and dandruff and promoting healthy hair growth. Vedix's skincare range has three different cleansers, serums and moisturisers, carefully crafted according to individual prakruti, with multiple, rare herbs and actives compatible with each skin-type

Vedix offers a subscription based service to its customers, who are looking to address their hair and skin problems. Vedix Skincare range is priced between Rs 999 and Rs1,699 depending on the subscription plan. Each pack will contain a cleanser, moisturiser and a serum.



*Rating: 08/10
Comment: Solution for all your problems.*

Bot-Valley

Addverb Technologies - one of India's biggest Automation and Robotics companies in India, mentored by Shri. Jalaj Dani inaugurated its world class manufacturing facility "Bot-Valley" in Noida with a vision to 'Pioneer Human-Robot Collaboration to touch human lives'. "Bot-Valley" is a creative workplace that inspires innovation and boosts collaboration among the best technopreneurs of the country. With the establishment of this facility, Addverb intends to create a self-sustaining ecosystem for the Robotics industry in India that can also export innovative products & disruptive technology solutions to the world. Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog facilitated the event as a chief guest and inaugurated 'Bot-Valley'.

Spread over 2.5 acres of land, this new manufacturing unit is equipped with the best-in-class electronics and mechanical machines and has a capacity to manufacture more than

50,000 Robots of varied types in a year. This one-in-a-kind manufacturing hub will employ 450 workforce and provide equality and empowerment to both men and women. Established in 2016, Addverb Technologies have streamlined the process for many retail giants of the country through its innovative products & solutions. Not only this, just in a span of 4.5 years, Addverb Technologies established a global footprint by acquiring customers in Europe, South-East Asia & Australia and established 100% subsidiary companies in Singapore, Australia & Netherlands.

Present at the occasion, Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog said, "The past decade witnessed precipitous changes spanning from the way of life to the technologies that emerged. We have entered a nascent paradigm shift (industry 4.0) where technology will help Addverb meet the growing needs and demand of the present business



ecosystem. Robotics holds huge potential in streamlining the processes across industries right from retail to healthcare and from warehousing to supply chain."

He further added "I want to congratulate Addverb technologies for the establishment of the state-of-the-art facility and unleashing the power of India on global fronts. This facility is a benchmark to global standards and the epitome of Atmanirbhar Bharat. It will give a major push to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission of Make-In-India and position our country as the capital of the Global Robotics Industry."

Everyone is different and beautiful in their own way

E'clat superior is one of the fastest-growing skincare brands in India, driven to bring in a revolution in the skincare industry. They are focused on bringing in solutions that are specifically curated to target the skin concern faced by people commonly.

• T3FS Desk

Sandeep Gupta, CEO Founder, e'clat

The special hamper contains all the flagship products of the company, including our facial tonic, sunscreen, face wash, Vitamin C serum, and a couple of wonderful beauty tools. Our products are made of absolutely high-quality ingredients, which makes them effective and safe to use by women with different skin tones.



Under the expertise of their CEO, Mr. Sandeep Gupta, the brand aims to instill a sense of confidence in their customers and focus on creating products suitable to all skin types. They promote the message, "Everyone is different and beautiful in their own way". e'clat envisions becoming the pioneer in skin-care innovation and is striving to do so by breaking barriers and stereotypes attached to the skin-care industry. Their unique and thoroughly formulated products have made them the premiere preference for many celebrities as well.

e'clat GLOW: TONIC EXFOLIATING FACIAL TONE

You should definitely consider adding this special acid toner to your skincare routine if your skin feels flaky or dry, uneven in tone, or is dull-looking. Also, if your skin looks dehydrated and patchy, you will see that the foundation doesn't set properly, leading to a cracked makeup look. The toner works wonders in healing your skin and reduces signs of aging like fine lines and open, large pores. Some women's skin is prone to hyper-pigmentation, especially when out in the sun.

e'clat UV HYDRALITE (PHYSICAL SUNSCREEN)

e'clat sunscreen gel broad-spectrum is designed to protect the skin from UVA and UVB rays. The presence of Zinc Oxide, Hyaluronic Acid, Antioxidants, and Essential Oils makes this sunscreen the perfect partner for your skin on sunny days!

e'clat FACE WASH

Everyone wants a fresh face every time of the day but no one knows how to get it. With this premium face wash, you can easily remove the dead skin cells,

promote cell turnover, nourish your skin tone and remove dark spots, clogged pores, etc. What you get at the end of each wash is a sparkling face.

e'clat VITAMIN C SERUM

This remarkable serum works at multiple levels for different skin types but that is not all! It helps you correct signs of aging, prevent sunburn, help you heal your skin, and brighten your skin tone. And research points out that it may also help you prevent skin cancer too.

e'clat NIACINAMIDE

The most versatile Niacinamide serum for Oily and Acne-Prone Skin, it is perfectly gentle on your skin yet strong when it comes to combating pollutants and irritants. This serum improves your skin barrier function while preventing your skin from losing unnecessary water content. Along with reducing skin blemishes, this product also improves your skin texture and smoothens it by encouraging collagen production. Say bye-bye to fine lines and wrinkles.

e'clat HYALURONIC ACID SERUM

e'clat is well-known for its multi-dimensional

approach to topical Hyaluronic as it combines low molecular and high molecular Hyaluronic acids into an effective serum. So, while the Low molecular HA keeps skin hydrated deep inside, the High Molecular HA helps the skin surface look plump, elastic, comfortable, and uniform. Regular use of this serum will improve the strength, elasticity, and plumpness of your skin. This serum works especially great for mature skin, which suffers from reduced levels of collagen as is common with advanced age. Luminosity, hydration, density, and wrinkle-reduction around eye contours and neck are some other benefits of this wonderful product.

e'clat JADE FACE ROLLER STONE

One of the most wonderful additions to the e'clat Superior Valentine's Day Kit, this tool is a great assistant in your skincare regime. It helps your skin absorb your creams and serums better and deeper into the skin. Especially effective in case of minor headaches, strained eyes, and puffy eyelids, this tool improves blood circulation and lymphatic drainage in your facial skin. The skin looks more glowing, tighter, and younger with the regular use of the e'clat Jade Face Roller Stone.

e'clat SUPERIOR GREEN AVENTURINE GUA SHA FACIAL TOOL

The e'clat Gua Sha Facial Massage Stone is another remarkable tool that will help you massage your aches away and help you absorb your creams and serums deeper than the epidermal layer. Break down the tension in your facial muscles, drain the stubborn lymph fluid to decrease puffiness, and boost the health of your skin with this gentle facial tool.

*Rating: 07/10
Comment: Be a diva
with e'clat*

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— THE 2021 —
G L O B A L
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Virtual
EDITION

Xel Research culminated its fourth edition of Virtual 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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Chairman - Mantras Advanced
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Mrridula
(Past Life Regression Therapist &
Numerologist)



Hrishikesh Wadekar
(Model)



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Sukham Bagga
(Blogger & Influencer)



JK Upadhyay
(Executive Director)

Prediction for March 2021 by Poonam Sethi

“The more you give, the more you receive” is the motto of renowned Tarot card reader and holistic healer, Poonam Sethi, lives by. She has studied Feng Shui and Tarot card reading at several institutions across the globe and has, through extensive self-study, practice and perseverance, mastered the art of guiding people from the present into the future to precision.



ARIES

You will juggle your work, appointments, and social affairs successfully this month. However love will play a more important role for you in the coming few days and you may plan a trip with a sweetheart. Financial obstacles will be surmounted, and a check, subsidy, commission or settlement is in the offing. Health reads

fine but do be careful that you do not ingest food you're not certain of.

Lucky color: Teal
Lucky number: 8
Lucky Gemstone : Turquoise



TAURUS

You will be successful in getting something you've wanted for a long time and rather than your having to go after it, it will come to you. A surprise call from a lover or admirer should be expected this month. You will be irritated in your travels this month or will have problems with cars or transportation. Health does not read too well so stock up on the vitamins.

Lucky color: Magenta
Lucky number: 5
Lucky Gemstone : Jade



GEMINI

This month money will come in through commissions, trade or skills and or through mortgage; if a need arises money will come to cover it. Your emphasis will be on your work, studies and reaching your goals rather than on social activities due to which you'll tend to be

a loner but be prepared for the unexpected because that is going to change considerably. Health reads fine.

Lucky color: Cobalt blue
Lucky number: 5
Lucky Gemstone : Opal



CANCER

You will be disappointed in a delayed payment, loss of income or cancellation of funding. But, good fortune or tidings will come through the entry of an admirer or benefactor. You will also take an unexpected trip or your transportation will be out of the ordinary, this could also indicate a boat trip. Increase you vitamin and protein intake as they will help you fight minor illnesses.

Lucky color: Maroon
Lucky number: 7
Lucky Gemstone : Onyx

**LEO**

Problems with papers, paperwork, or paper-related projects will be reconciled, amended, or restored to their original condition. Work wise you will gain unlooked-for assistance from influential people or corporate heads in the form of a proposition or proposal that could mean

financial gain if you accept. Expect a reunion with old friends and loved ones. Your health reads fine for this month.

Lucky color: Yellow

Lucky number: 9

Lucky Gemstone : Topaz

**VIRGO**

You will be concerned about an investment or business partnership and will wonder if you should force the issue, or if the problem will get resolved on its own. A new romance or potential love affair with one who is extremely charming, comforting, or well-to-do. This month your emotions will be a

mixture of confusion, excitement, worry and hope. You will have great surges of energy however, watch your health during the low-energy periods or you will contract a flu virus.

Lucky color: Orange

Lucky number: 8

Lucky Gemstone : Carnelian

**LIBRA**

Financial problems will soon be relieved or resolved, and a flurry of business or an adjusted financial statement will give you an unexpected bonus. As far as romance is concerned, the worst is over, but anguish will continue because you won't be able to bury the past or start anew. You will have unexpected good luck in your journeys as well. Exercise to improve

circulation or recovery from an accident/ injury.

Lucky color: Black

Lucky number: 2

Lucky Gemstone : Sapphire

**SCORPIO**

There will be correspondence connected with your work that will involve mail, phone calls, or special application. This month you will enjoy spending money on others or doing for others. You will enjoy socializing with your friends or family, and/or a sudden departure from home to a new environment. Expect to

receive a long-distance call from a relative. If you have been ill, you will soon recover.

Lucky color: White

Lucky number: 3

Lucky Gemstone : Pearl

**SAGITTARIUS**

You will want to make it on your own, be financially independent, own your own business, or work out of your home, and a new direction or course of action is going to be proposed that will encourage that wish. You will have many emotional swings, and will be daydreaming about love and romance. Be

careful as you will indulge yourself by eating and drinking too much.

Lucky color: Pink

Lucky number: 4

Lucky Gemstone : Moonstone

**CAPRICORN**

You'll soon begin a new enterprise (or retrieve a past one) that will bring in more money or supplement your income. Memories of the past will begin to fade away, freeing you to accept new opportunities. An awaited message will arrive with positive results... could be from an admirer. You will overindulge in food or drink

for emotional gratification or compensation which will result in poor health.

Lucky color: Green

Lucky number: 1

Lucky Gemstone : Emerald

**AQUARIUS**

Your financial situation will look very precarious, with very few options available, but good news will arrive concerning a financial gain that will shed new light on the way you view your future security. Expect a pleasant surprise, and/or someone from a doctor's office will call. You will suffer from extreme anxiety or nervous exhaustion and will

be unable to take on anything that would be mentally, emotionally or physically taxing.

Lucky color: Cream

Lucky number: 6

Lucky Gemstone : Aquamarine

**PISCES**

There will be small gains in your finances and a bank statement, account, or error to attend to, but it will get corrected. Don't let conditions, appearances, or what others have to say sway you or cause you to veer from your ideal. What you want is right under your nose, just waiting to be discovered. You will have problems with your

legs; tests or surgery will be suggested, but a rest will do wonders.

Lucky color: Red

Lucky number: 8

Lucky Gemstone : Jasper



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Bali

4D3N Bali Safari

| USD 278

based on 4 hotel
(1Night at Mara River Safari Lodge +
2Night at South Bali)

BALI SAFARI & MARINE PARK



Includes :

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

3D2N + 3rd Night Free

Relaxing Me

| USD 158

based on 4 hotel

Inclusion :

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

3D2N

Villa Indugence

| USD 278

based on 4 hotel

Inclusion :

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

5D4N Bali Safari

| USD 258

based on 4 hotel

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

Inclusion :

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



Borobudur Temple, Jogja

Bali - Jogja

5D4N Discovery

USD 308

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



Gedung Sate, Bandung

Bali - Bandung

5D4N Discovery

USD 338

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



Sand Island, Lombok

Bali - Lombok

5D4N Discovery

USD 328

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

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