

T3F

Trendy Travel Trade with Food & Shop

Volume VIII • Issue VIII • September 2021 • Pages 68 • Rs.100/-

Experience the unique concept of wedding



Book Your Romantic Destination Date with Travok

Travok

Your Journey is safe with us.



BALI
5 N / 6 D



THAILAND
4 N / 5 D



EUROPE
10 N / 11 D



DUBAI
&
ABU DHABI
6 N / 7 D

& Many More Destinations

Editor & Publisher : **Vedika Sharma**

Director: **Babita Sharma**

Reporter : **Parul Malhotra**

Consulting Editor (West) : **S K Mishra**

IT Head : **Tarsh Sharma**

Consultant Art Director : **Anita**

Graphic Designer : **Chandrajeet Kumar**

Consulting Photographer : **Ganesh Kapri**

Manager Administration : **Gaurav Kumar**

Manager Circulation : **Himanshu Mudgal**

E-mail : vedika@fabianmedia.net,

babita@fabianmedia.net

Website : www.fabianmedia.net

Editorial & Marketing :

babita@fabianmedia.net

Published, owned, Printed & Edited by Vedika Sharma

888, Pocket – D, Dilshad Garden, Delhi – 110095,
Contact @ 011-41058470, 9560264449

Printed at: G.S. Basava Graphics Art Press, 35 DSIDC,
Okhla Indl. Area, Phase - I, New Delhi - 110020

All information used in Trendy Travel Trade with Food & Shop (T3FS) is reliable and derived from the sources. With due respect to the sentiments of the readers, none of the information published is aimed at pinching the emotions of the readers. Opinions/ views expressed by third party in abstract or in interviews are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the magazine cannot be reproduced in whole or in part(s) without prior permission. The publisher assumes no responsibility for material lost or damaged in transit. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw or otherwise deal with all advertisement without explanation. All advertisement must comply with the Indian advertisement code. The publisher will not be liable for any loss caused by any delay in publication, error or failure of advertisement to appear.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

When you will bring September 2021 edition of T3FS you will get to know a lot about under water wedding. If you want to do a wedding in something extremely unusual and definitely unique manner from traditional wedding so this is one of the latest wedding ideas that many people have taken to are underwater weddings. When everything is considered, that really got us excited; an underwater wedding seems like a great thing to do.

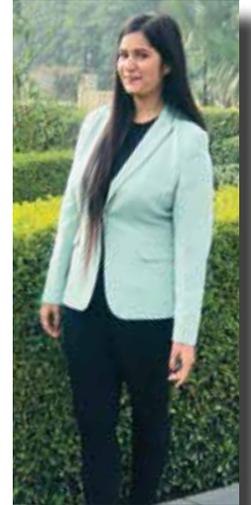
You get surprised when you will realize that there were actually a lot of couples who got married this way. Of course this kind of marriage is a best option for all who likes adventure and doing things in an unusual way can certainly consider doing an underwater wedding because it is exciting and there is nothing likes it.

The experience of such a unique concept of underwater wedding will make you amazed. Moreover, few of the underwater wedding planners gives the underwater wedding certificate.

There is no doubt that underwater weddings are unique and if someone is looking for a unique way to get married, this is one of the best way it can be, especially if you and your partner have always been quite adventurous and admirers of the ocean and everything about it.

Not only this, we focused on Uttar Pradesh Tourism developments. The new government has understood the importance of tourism and its contribution to the state's economic growth. It will also help in employment generation both direct and indirect and the government understanding the criticality of the segment has identified tourism as a priority sector. In its efforts to help tourism grow and thrive in the state, strategic and organized initiatives have been taken up by the Yogi Adityanath government to make the state a major tourist attraction. The state government envisions a new tourism policy for the state, with a focus on establishing Uttar Pradesh as a Brand.

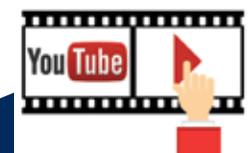
In Hospitality, we focused on the new trends of wedding 2021. Whereas, in lifestyle, we cover few fashion designers and jewellery designers for a perfect bride 2021.



Vedika Sharma
vedika@fabianmedia.net

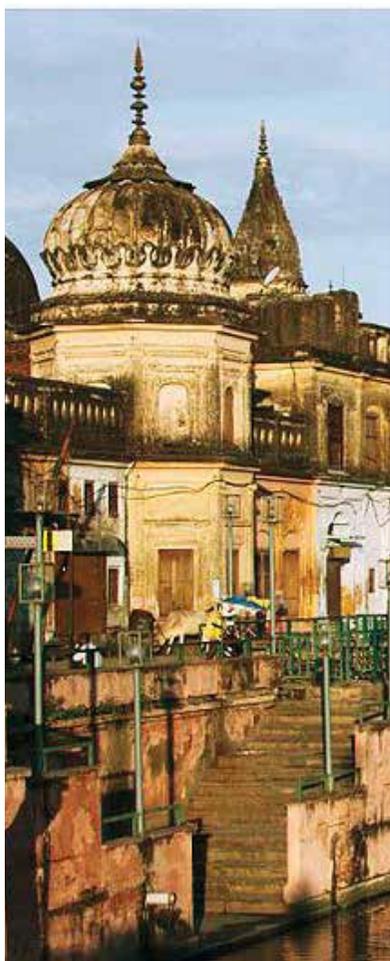


Runway to get the trends of current .scenario



Get live updates of all travel & lifestyle trends .at your fingertips

Contents



Burgeoning Travel & Tourism Scope in Uttar Pradesh

India is a land of marvels where each and every state has a distinct identity of its own owing to its culture, art and regional diversity...

Pg.12



Experience the unique concept of wedding

If you want to do a wedding in something extremely unusual and definitely unique manner from traditional wedding so this is one of the latest wedding ideas that many people have taken to are underwater weddings...

Pg.20



Abu Dhabi Welcomes All Vaccinated Travellers from Around the World

Following the updated international entry guidelines recently announced by the Abu Dhabi Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Committee, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu...

Pg.28



Live your Dream

From elegant ballroom events to intimate outdoor settings, a fairytale wedding venue awaits at Atlantis Dubai. Add a touch of magic by hosting your reception in The Lost Chambers Aquarium surrounded by 65,000 marine animals, or...

Pg.38



Say "I DO" in exotic Karma

A Karma wedding is a promise made in paradise. The extraordinary resorts offer a choice of sublime settings in which to say, 'I do'...

Pg.40



Open the door to find yourself in a happy chaos!

In the words of Maya Angelou "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." Entrepreneur Vandita Purohit's Indo Bohemian Cafe in Pune is a haven that breathes creativity with a natural affinity...

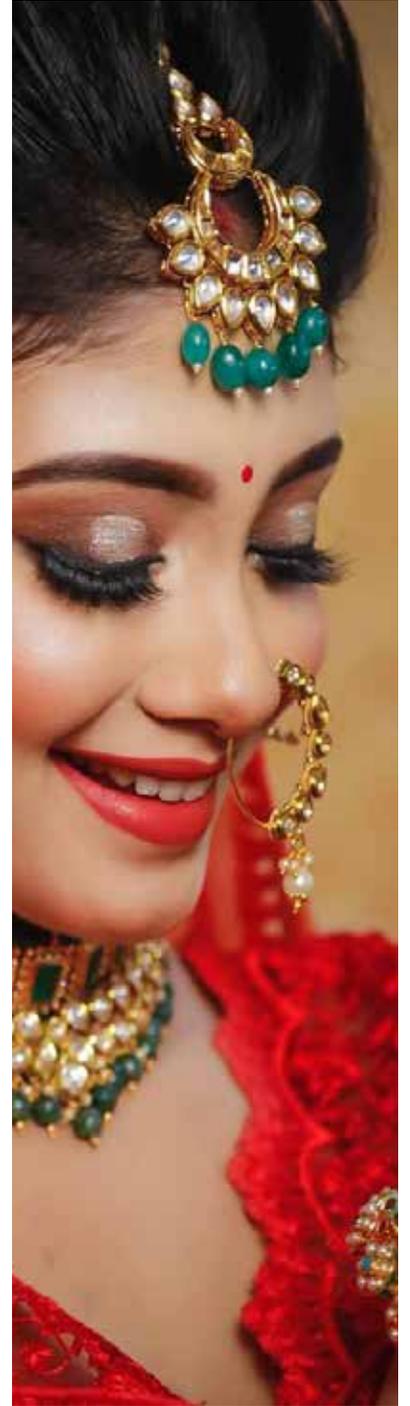
Pg.55



Nazm-e-Mahal

'Nazm-e-Mahal' by Leena Singh is the story of a classic royal maharani who values the old world charm and depicts a day of her life in the palace!

Pg.65



Trends for Modern Indian Bride

The bridal season is here and jewellery is the most important way to uplift any bride's look for her special day...

Pg.66

Airbnb and SEWA Extend Their Partnership to Ladakh

Airbnb and the Self Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA), an organization representing 1.5 million self-employed women living mostly in India's rural areas, have announced the extension of their partnership to onboard SEWA members from Ladakh as hosts on the Airbnb platform. This partnership will expand livelihood opportunities for women in rural Ladakh and form part of broader efforts to rebuild tourism in a way that delivers positive outcomes for communities.

Through this extended partnership, Airbnb will train SEWA members on home sharing, hospitality, quality standards and responsible hosting practices under the 'Hum Sab Ek' (We are One) initiative, while fostering digital inclusion and enabling these women Hosts to connect with a global community of travelers.

Women make up a significant portion of Airbnb's Host community in India. As of August 11 this year, new women Hosts in India with one listing have earned almost INR 30 million since the start of the pandemic and women make up almost 30 percent of our entire Indian Host community. Through home sharing, women hosts are able to significantly augment their earnings and some women entrepreneurs have embraced being home hosts full-time.

Ladakh is well-known as a pristine and unique hub for culture and ecotourism. SEWA hosts in Ladakh will offer a unique and immersive experience in the ancient village of Phayang in Leh Ladakh. These hosts will also be leading the way on energy efficiency and responsible resource use through accommodations with amenities such as newly installed solar lights.



Keeping the Spirit of Travel Alive

With border restrictions easing and vaccination programmes slowly gaining momentum, Booking.com launches the Booking Explorers campaign to celebrate the spirit of travel through the lens of renowned adventures, leaders and trailblazers across Asia Pacific. As part of this campaign, Booking.com announced Grand Slam Champion Sania Mirza as its India Explorer. Sania along with other leading personalities from Asia Pacific will be sharing their most treasured travel memories to re-ignite travel inspiration and remind us of the transformational impact travel has on our lives, as we dream of our own return to travel.

This campaign is built on the sentiment where travel remains fundamental to people's lives, and to explore and experience our world is an innate human need. This campaign is a celebration of the explorers and trailblazers amongst us, showcasing how they have remained explorers at heart and continue to responsibly experience the best our world (or their backyards) has to offer, despite challenges brought about by the pandemic.

DRIL's engineers undergo up skilling & trainings during lockdown

Damodar Ropeway and Infra Limited, one of Asia's oldest pioneers and experienced ropeway and Cable Car Construction Company utilized the year gone by as a skill development and knowledge sharing period. The practice was for their employee strength of around 500 people comprising engineers and on-ground maintenance team. The organization has led the upkeep of 17 passenger ropeway projects & material handling ropeways independently present across India. Chitrakoot, Maihar, Guwahati, Gangtok, Deogarh, Pushkar, Dewas are some of the prominent locations for DRIL's passenger ropeway projects.

Trikut hill is one of the most exciting tourist destinations in Deogarh. In dense forest on the uphill lie the famous Trikutachal Mahadeva Temple and the hermitage of Sage Dayananda. Trikut Hills contain three peaks and the Highest Peak goes to the height of 2470ft from the Sea



Level and around 1500 ft from the ground. Damodar's ropeway takes the tourists to the top of the main peak, with a length of 756m, and level difference of 400m. The inclined area makes it one of the steepest ropeways in India. In consonance with the Made in India vision, DRIL will continue to create such construction landmarks for the nation. In fact, during the pandemic year DRIL completed construction and started operations at three projects located in Jammu, Hanuman Dhara and Guwahati respectively. The online skill training and experience sharing workshops happening every fortnight during the lockdown period was a step forward in this direction.

ÇELEBI enhances its cargo operations

Making use of technological advancements to bring in higher efficiency, and as a testimony of the Company's commitment to the India market, Çelebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management, the joint venture between DIAL and Çelebi Ground Handling today announced that it has been accredited with IATA CEIV Pharma certification for its cargo and warehouse operations. Given the current scenario, the air cargo industry is calling for higher

standards when transporting temperature sensitive pharmaceuticals. To cope with the growing expectation for standardization, the certification ensures international and national compliance to safeguard product integrity to its destination.

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Çelebi has been working dedicatedly on preparing proficient handling scenarios for the import and export of various types of vaccines, pharma, medical aid, and

oxygen containers in a safe and efficient way. Vaccines, in general, must be handled in line with international regulatory requirements at a controlled temperature and without delay to ensure the quality of the product. For this, Çelebi has been investing in restructuring and redesigning new material handling systems that are intelligent and advanced technology driven. With this CEIV certification Çelebi will be capable of building additional certified temperature control rooms as required.



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

(1Night 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

***The rates is based on land arrangement only excluding Internation & Domestic airfare**

Travok
Your Journey is safe with us...

Sh. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India via virtual platform dedicated to the nation the Promenade created at Shree Somnathji temple under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism Hon'ble Prime Minister also inaugurated the "Exhibition Gallery" created by the State Government of Gujarat in the Tourism Facilitation Centre constructed under the completed project "Development of Pilgrimage Amenities" under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister also inaugurated the recently reconstructed temple precinct of Juna Somnath recently completed by Shree Somnath Trust with a total outlay of INR 3.5 Crore. Key interventions created include Ramp for Universal Accessibility, Sitting Arrangement and Courtyard, 15 Shops, 2 Halls and Lift Shaft.

On this occasion the Hon'ble Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of Shree Parvatimata Temple with a total proposed outlay of INR 30 Crore.

This auspicious event was joined by Sh. L.K. Advani, Veteran Leader and Trustee Shree Somnath Trust, Sh. Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation), Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik (Minister of State of Tourism and Ports, Shipping & Waterways), Sh. Vijay Rupani (Chief Minister, Gujarat), Shri Nitinbhai Patel (Dy. Chief Minister Gujarat), Sh. Jawahar Chawda (Minister of Tourism, State



Infrastructure Development Projects

Government of Gujarat) and Sh. Vasan Ahir (Minister of State of Tourism, State Government of Gujarat), Shri Rajeshbhai Chudasama, Member of Parliament, Junagadh and Shri P.K. Laheri, Trustee - Secretary, Shree Somnath

Trust. The event was conducted by Shri Arvind Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism. During the event, a film was presented showcasing the various developmental infrastructure projects that are undertaken in Somnath.



Padayani - Of Culture, Mythology and Grandeur

Believed to be the oldest Padayani in Kerala, Neelamperoor Padayani transforms a sleepy hamlet of Alappuzha to one that is rich in grandeur and spectacle. Held at the precincts of Palli Bhagavathi Temple, the Padayani at Neelamperoor is a celebration of culture and mythology.

Padayani is one of the most colourful and spectacular folk arts associated with certain temples in central Kerala. It is a symbolic victory march of goddess Kali after vanquishing the demon Darika.

The Neelamperoor Padayani is usually conducted in the Malayalam month

of Chingam (August/September) at Palli Bhagavathi Temple, which is believed to be around 1,700 years old. The Padayani celebrations begin right after the Thiruvonam asterism, which is on the Avittam day, and continues till the Pooram asterism which marks the birthday of the Bhagavathi.

Kettukazhcha or parading of decorated huge effigies is one of the major highlights of the festival. All the effigies are decorated with organic materials such as Ixora flowers, lotus flowers, lotus leaves and the stem of plantain. The faces of the effigies are decorated with a high degree of artistic skills.

When dusk sets in, the temple grounds come to life and the festivities begin. The effigies of mythological characters such as Bhima, Ravana and Yakshi are paraded before the deity. Devotees carry these effigies to the accompaniment of soul-stirring music and dance in sync with the beats, in an attempt to propitiate the deity.

The arrival of the effigies, punctuated by the breath-taking display of fireworks and reverberating beats, raise the tempo of the festival. The arrival of huge effigies of swans is what the devotees wait for. These swans can be as big as 20 feet, and their arrival is greeted with much fanfare.

Travellers from far and wide converge at Neelamperoor to witness the grand spectacle. It is also a much-awaited moment for villagers as well, and we can see them in full attendance and high spirits during the festival.



Narayan Temple site at Rudraprayag Uttarakhand to get Major Facelift

Narayankoti temple located in Guptkashi of Rudraprayag district in Uttarakhand is all set to get a major facelift. For this the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today in Delhi between the Ministry of Tourism, Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, Director General, Culture, Uttarakhand and Social Legal Research & Education Foundation (SLRE). The site has been identified under the Heritage Adoption Project of the Union Ministry of Tourism, Government of India earlier this year. Monument Mitra from (SLREF) Mr. VikalKulshrestha, Director Travel Trade Mr. BB Das, Director Culture Mrs. Beena Bhatt, Additional Director Tourism Mrs. Poonam Chand signed the MoU during the event.

According to the MoU, the SLRE Foundation will develop various

amenities for tourists/visitors around this ancient heritage site. This includes construction of road, installation of street lightings, garbage disposal system, availability of clean drinking water, development of parking area and facelifting the entrance and boundary wall around the temple site.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Satpal Maharaj, Minister of Tourism, Uttarakhand said "Adopt a Heritage project by Ministry of Tourism is helping, the ancient monuments, archaeological sites, temples to regain their lost glory. The development of facilities will have a direct impact towards increasing the number of visitors and will benefit the local youths by generating various employment/ self-employment opportunities in the region."

Discerning travellers choose health, safety & convenience for visa applications

With international travel opening in a phased manner amidst pandemic-induced restrictions being lifted, data analysis of visas processed over the past six months indicate the emergence of a discerning set of travellers opting for premium services for a safe and convenient travel experience.

This trend comes to light as a result of a significant increase in customers requesting for the Visa At Your Doorstep (VAYD), service offered by VFS Global. This optional service empowers customers to complete their entire visa application submission process from the comfort of their homes or any other location of their choice. Through this premium service, customers can submit their application, enroll for biometrics, and get the passport couriered back to their location of choice.

According to data analysis by VFS Global, foreign-bound travellers from India that opted for VAYD services grew by more than six times between January and July this year. Given international borders began to reopen only in June following the set back caused by the second wave until May, the number has more than doubled in just over a month.

"Touchless travel with an enhanced focus on safety and well-being are key to customers today. The uptick in VAYD services is another great indication of changing customer preferences. With the digital consumer experience evolving rapidly, we foresee a higher demand for such premium services that enable our customers to prioritise safe travel," said Vinay Malhotra, Regional Group COO - South Asia, Middle East & North Africa and Americas, VFS Global.



Member of SEPC Central Governing Council

Mr. Pronab Sarkar, Immediate Past President of IATO has been elected as member of the SEPC Central Governing Council for 2021-23 to represent Travel & Tourism Sector.

SEPC Elections were held from 2nd to 7th September for 9 services sectors and results were announced today where Mr. Sarkar has won the elections with a big margin and will be representing the Travel & Tourism Sector for next two years 2021-

2023.

Mr. Sarkar has been handling all matters related to SEPC for last five years while he was President IATO from 2016-2021. He is knowledgeable and very well versed with the subject. Hence, with this development, travel and tourism sector will have strong representation in SEPC and will pave the way in taking up issues with the Ministry of Commerce and other Ministries through SEPC and raise our concerns.

TAAI Appeals to MoCA & IATA to Check on Alitalia's Bankruptcy

The announcement made by the Alitalia (IATA code: 055) states that flights departing 15th October, 2021 shall not be sold and has been placed under Extraordinary Administration from 25th August, 2021 by the Ministry of Economic Development in Italy.

The airline is undergoing formal bankruptcy, reorganisation and liquidation.

TAAI, India's Premier & Largest Travel Association, has urged MoCA to direct IATA to ensure all refunds are processed by the Airline and not place it under suspension as per the

IATA-BSP rules.

Jyoti Mayal, President - TAAI, in its communication to MoCA, stated that, No Credit Shells shall be acceptable and all refunds should be refunded back in cash into the bank accounts of Accredited Member Agents immediately. Taking prompt cognizance of the issue, TAAI is in touch with the highest echelons in the Government of India, especially the ones dealing on the subject, sensitising them about the need of taking immediate measures and stern steps to protect the interest of the

Indian travel agent's fraternity, stakeholders dealing directly and indirectly with the airlines, and above all the people of India, states Mayal.

Jay Bhatia, Vice President of the nodal Association, informed that IATA and the Government have been urged to obtain Financial Security Deposit and/or alternative security in the interim, thereby safe guarding the funds of the Indian travellers/ agents. The same should be applicable to all Airlines, their GSA's/ representative cos, who are responsible for all airline operations/ liaison and handling in India.



Burgeoning Travel & Tourism Scope in Uttar Pradesh

India is a land of marvels where each and every state has a distinct identity of its own owing to its culture, art and regional diversity. This is what makes India rank 7th in the world for tourism which contributes to country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) approximately Rs. 14 trillion which would be equivalent to 9.8% of India's GDP. Uttar Pradesh which ranks 2nd in terms of tourists influx in the state both domestic and international.

The new government has understood the importance of tourism and its contribution to the state's economic growth. It will also

help in employment generation both direct and indirect and the government understanding the criticality of the segment has identified tourism as a priority

sector. In its efforts to help tourism grow and thrive in the state, strategic and organized initiatives have been taken up by the Yogi Adityanath government



to make the state a major tourist attraction. The state government envisions a new tourism policy for the state, with a focus on establishing Uttar Pradesh as a Brand.

The objective of the policy is to create a long-term, pro-growth and pro-poor ecosystem. The policy is geared toward bold initiatives, attractive incentives and regulatory reforms that will ensure large-scale investment support through private participation, this will also enable valuable partnership between public and private sector and among various sectors for achieving viable and tangible growth in the tourism sector.

The state government's tourism policy is based on inclusive tourism development of the local communities and make optimum use of tourism experiences across vibrant cities, attraction, nature, wildlife, adventure, food, handicrafts (including the promotion of One District, one Product Scheme), heritage, region and culture of Uttar Pradesh.

In this regards, the UP government has set some benchmarks, through which it aims to achieve targets like-

- Become the most preferred tourist destination in the country by 2023
- Achieve an annual increase of domestic tourist by 15% and international tourist by 10%
- Attract investment with a target of about Rs. 5,000 crore per year
- Provide employment to 5,00,000 people of the state per year
- Impart training to 10,000 tourism service providers over the next few years.
- Convert 10 heritage buildings to heritage hotels per year
- Attract 1,00,000 tourists to National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary per year
- Improve regional connectivity to religious places and cultural centers through road, rail and air.
- Promote the state as leading MICE destination in the country.
- Elevate standards of public service facilities across the state and provide high quality visitor experience.
- Promote local entrepreneurship avenues

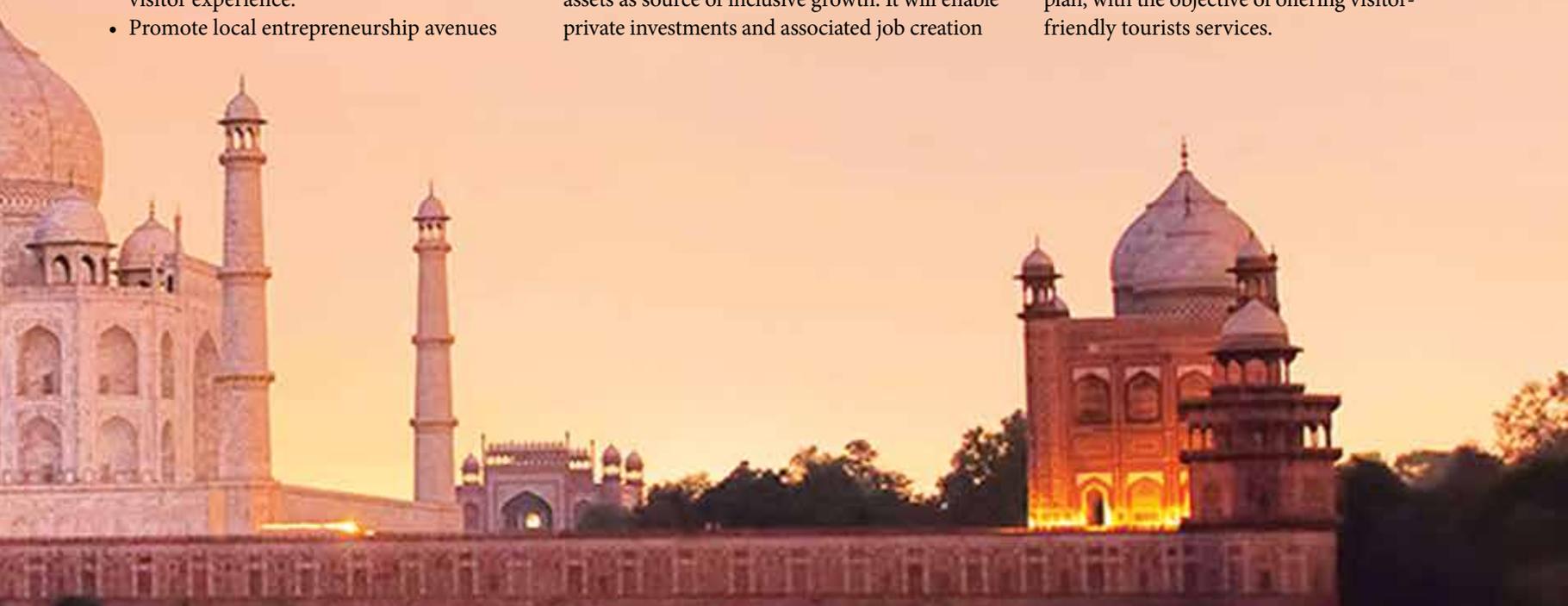


through execution of tourism events and festivals

The state government taking cognizance has launched certain schemes like World Bank Pro- Poor Project, which is funded by the World Bank and aims to unlock the potential of unique heritage of Uttar Pradesh through pro-poor tourism development for inclusive growth and poverty reduction in asset rich but particularly low-income areas of the state. This scheme will benefit the state's residents and its poor through provision of jobs. It will enhance the management of states unique natural and cultural assets as source of inclusive growth. It will enable private investments and associated job creation

opportunities especially for youth and women. The other initiative is Braj Teerath Vikas Parishad, earlier known as Braj Planning and Development Board. The objective of this is to coordinate and monitor the implementation of plans for evolving policies for integrated tourism development, heritage conservation and management in the region. It also gives advice and guidance to any local body/ authority/ department in the district of Mathura with respect to any plan, project or development proposal, which affects the heritage resource of the Braj region.

There is a systematic sector-wise infrastructure plan, with the objective of offering visitor-friendly tourists services.



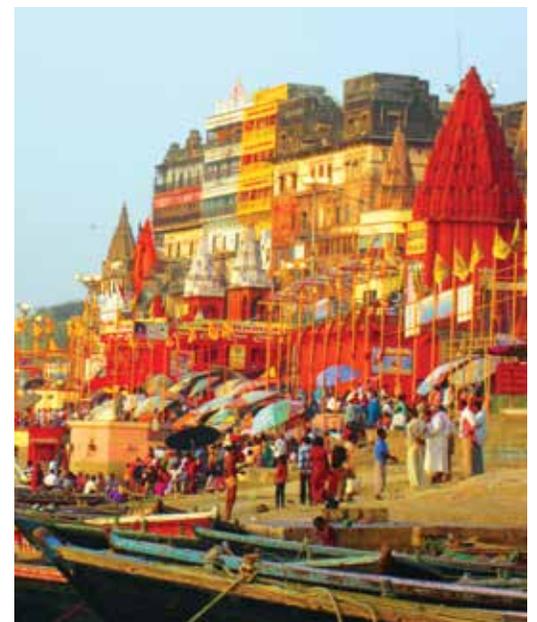
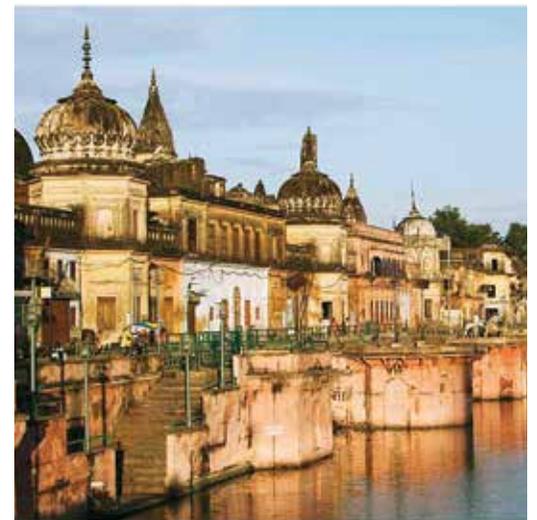


Spiritual & Religious Tourism

For spiritual engagement and a better understanding of Buddha's life & philosophy, the 'Sound and Light Show' has been launched at Dhamek Stupa, Sarnath with a cost of INR 7.88 crore under the Prasad Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Under the spiritual circuit of Swadesh Darshan scheme, the 'Sound and Light Show' is already running at the Gorakhnath temple which is based on the spiritual journey of Saint Gorakhnath.

Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, public convenience facilities, development of pathways, tourist facilitation centre are being developed in Gorakhnath temple. Development works at

Kabir Dhuni/Gorakh Taliya, Shaheed Smarak Chauri Chaura, Ramleela Ground, Munjeshwar Nath Temple are underway. An integrated tourism development plan at Kushinagar is under planning stages on a land parcel of 195 acres of the Department of Culture, which will enable a variety of experiences to the visitors at one place resulting in enhanced stay by the visitor. Under the PRASAD scheme, development of ghats, tourist facilitation centre, temple lighting works is underway in Varanasi. Improvement of the pedestrian walkways is being developed for the convenience of pedestrians.



Tourism development works under the Swadesh Darshan scheme include the development of ghats, tourist facilitation centre, last-mile connectivity, solar lighting, signages, etc for providing better experiences to the tourists visiting Shringverpur. Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme in Ayodhya, street rejuvenation work, improvement of pedestrian streets, multilevel car parking, development of Guptar ghat, tourist shelters at Panchkoshi parikrama and improvement of basic tourism infrastructure facilities is in progress. Special focus is on providing the public amenities to the tourist visiting these places.

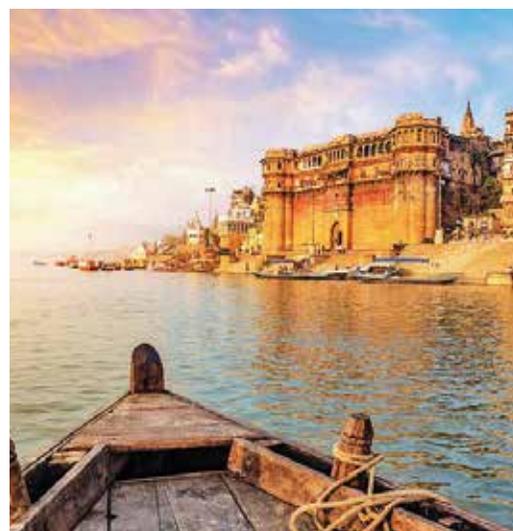


Heritage Tourism

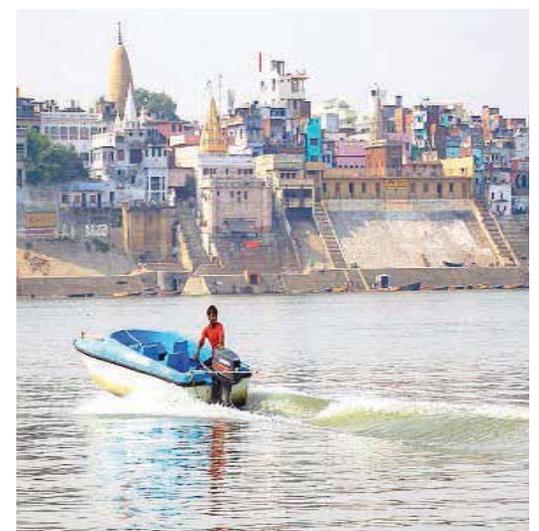
Kumbh which is recognized by UNESCO as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, will be promoted extensively in the national and international markets. All UNESCO world heritage sites will be promoted through dedicated marketing channels, including participation in summits, fairs and roadshows in select countries. The Department will work with architects and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to undertake restoration projects of sites at Kushinagar, Kapilvastu, Sarnath, Shravasti, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Barsana, Gokul, Nandgaon, Vrindavan, Goverdhan, Ayodhya, Kashi, Chitrakoot, Vindiyachal, Devipatthan, Tulsipur and other under developed potential tourist sites in state.

Adventure Tourism

The Department will leverage multiple opportunities arising from the varied



topography that Bundelkhand, Sonbhadra, Chitrakoot, Ramgarh Tal etc offer to tourist and create a unique proposition for various adventure sports like hiking, camping, zip-lining, paragliding etc. The Department is providing assistance in administering



all adventure sports and related activities such as registration, planning, promoting, training, regulation, monitoring and providing infrastructure. The Department to facilitate these activities has created training institutes and adventure sports academy.

Experiential Tourism

Newer experiences to attract tourists are being conceptualized and implemented, like the 'Digital Ramayana Gallery' at International Ram Katha Museum and 'Art Gallery' is being developed in Ayodhya that will depict the story of Ramayana through holographic projections and newer digital interventions. The 'Sound and Light Show' at Gorakhnath temple and Dhamek Stupa (Sarnath) prove to be a major crowd puller.



Modern cruise facilities have been started at the ghats of Varanasi, which offers 30-minute ride covering different ghats with Audio/ Video narration of the related stories of the ghats. Under the Prasad scheme, a 20 meters long cruise vessel with a seating capacity of 100 pax is being introduced from Raj Ghat to Assi Ghat that will have Audio-Visual narrations of temples and ghats. Recently, an MoU was signed with 'Inland Waterways Authority of India' (IWAI) for the operation of RO-Pax that will also be run by the ghats of Varanasi. This would be operated on a revenue-sharing basis between IWAI and Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Eco-Tourism

The Department is planning to set up tented accommodation at various sites in Uttar Pradesh, which will include setting up of deluxe cottages near prominent eco-tourism spots, along with offering local cuisines and showcasing the culture. This will be an opportunity for the visitors to experience the culture, cuisine, and at the same time visit the special eco-tourism spots/wildlife sanctuaries. An MoU has been signed between 'Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation' and 'Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation', to promote eco-tourism in the state. Nature interpretation centres, nature camps, boating



and nature tour programmes will be organised and managed at the centralized level. To create the visibility of the prominent eco-tourism sites/wildlife sanctuary, the Department is planning photoshoot & video-shoot, to

disseminate destination information in both the domestic and international market. The Department is also formulating a strategy for engagement of the local community for the socio-economic upliftment of locals. Bird sanctuaries at Nawabganj, Hastinapur, Sur Sarovar, Ranipur Sanctuary (Banda), Kaimoor Sanctuary (Mirzapur), Samaspur Sanctuary (Rae Bareli), Surha Taal Sanctuary (Ballia) and Patna Sanctuary (Etah) to be promoted. Nature Interpretation Centres, Nature Camps, Boating and Nature Tour Programs, will be organized and managed at centralized level in Lucknow.

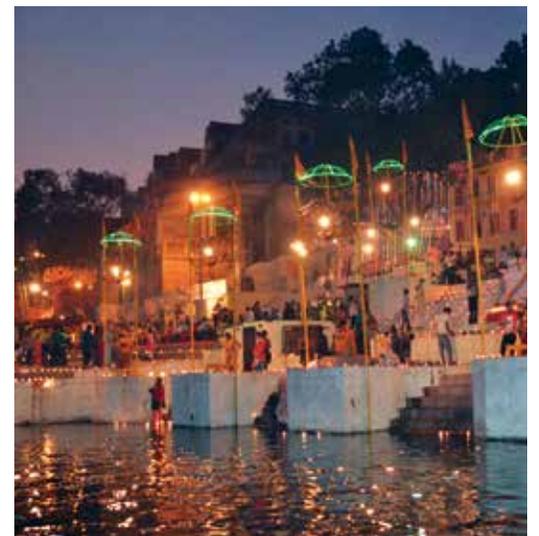


Cultural Tourism

To promote cultural exchanges, the department will release annual calendar for all religious/ cultural events and organize events with the objective to promote tourism and promote Uttar Pradesh as a brand. The Department will form a special task force with experts/consultants to organize cultural events, food festivals and other art based festivals.

Agri Tourism

The Department has set up an interface to cater to the need of agri-tour operators. This interface will coordinate and provide linkages with regional/local/concerned government bodies. The Department with the help of local players of agri-markets and tour operators will develop special tour packages for promoting agri-tourism.



Rural Tourism

The Government's focus is on developing villages known for special form of handicrafts, music, dance and art will be identified and introduced to the urban and foreign tourists to encourage their stay in the state. This will enable tourists to experience village cuisine, art, culture and lifestyle.

Development of local infrastructure, market linkages (both backward and forward integration) and academic centres will be developed with the help of local communities. The government has established the facilitation office to ease the single window clearances for rural tourism growth.





Craft, Handloom and Textile Tourism

To promote regional crafts industry of various districts like Moradabad's craft, Bhadohi's carpet, Agra's inlay work and Zardoji, Varanasi's silk, Gorakhpur's Terracotta, Nizamabad and Khurja's pottery and Lucknow's Chikan.

Shilpgram and Shilp Bazaar will be established across the state to promote Uttar Pradesh's rich handicrafts legacy. The Department will develop textile tourism circuits including khadi to promote the indigenous art by linking it to major tourist destinations. The Department will organize thematic fairs and exhibitions to publicize the broad variety of handicrafts. Special visits to handicrafts units has been integrated in the itineraries created by travel agents/tour operators.



MICE Tourism

The Government has decided to make special mention of MICE hotels (more than 5,000 sq ft area) in social media and websites to promote these hotels. Initiatives are jointly being undertaken by Department and Industry players to promote UP's business events offerings, conducting of market feasibility studies and bidding activities. The Department will engage and build corporate tie-ups with the companies which organize such meetings and further increase the earnings for the state.



and will collaborate with them for setting up units in Uttar Pradesh.

Wellness Tourism

The Department will identify specialized centres for AYUSH- Ayurvedic, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy

The Department is focusing on setting up International Yoga Conclave to promote wellness centres and resorts to draw more traffic in order position Uttar Pradesh as a wellness tourist destination.





Sports Tourism

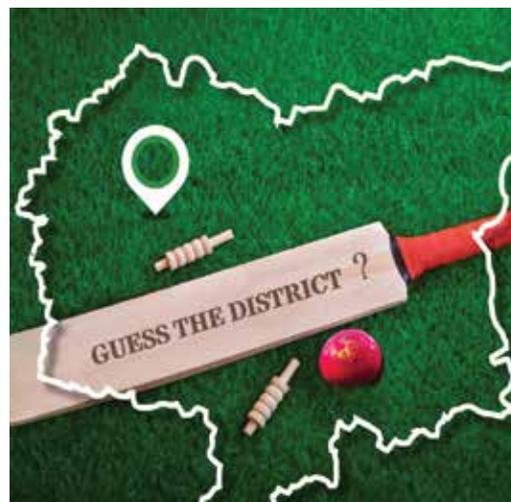
To promote important sports facilities in the state such as Golf Course in Noida and Lucknow, international Cricket Stadium in Kanpur and Lucknow, Badminton Academy in Lucknow have been planned. To promote tourism further ravine Motor Sports will be established in different regions to further attract sports tourism. The Department is also looking to promote different traditional sports like Kushti, Kabbadi etc. The probable sites for developing sports tourism will be Bundelkhand and Vindhya region.

In order to overcome shortage of tourism infrastructure like hotel, resorts, public utilities at tourist places, connectivity, parking etc, the Department has encouraged private sector participation through PPP mode to develop infrastructure and facilities at tourist places.

The Department has also undertaken feasibility study of mythologically significant sites like Hastinapur, Barnava and others in UP to construct permanent structures/ installations as mark of identity to the era the city is known for. The Department has planned integrated tourism development of cities by inviting planning and architecture colleges of the country such as National Institute of Design-Ahmedabad, CEPT University, School of Planning and Architecture.

The Department has decided to coordinate with other departments to ensure effective maintenance of water supply, sewage system, approach road and parking facilities in tourist destinations. Apart from this connecting highways to airports with street lighting and public convenience facilities.

The Government has established 10 helipads each worth of Rs. 2 crores in the state to promote regional connectivity. In consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, new air sectors will be identified to and from Agra,



Lucknow and Varanasi to destinations within the country and also overseas to facilitate the movement of inbound tourists. All major tourists destinations will be connected to quality four lane highways and where needed the existing four lanes will be upgraded to six laned highways. The Government has decided to actively pursue this with Public Works Department (PWD), Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) and Uttar Pradesh State Highways Authority (UPSHA)

Brand Uttar Pradesh Tourism will be promoted through strategic tie-ups with the Indian Railways and Airports to instill positioning of Uttar Pradesh as a progressive tourism destination through dissemination of tourism communication.

To attract investment, Uttar Pradesh Tourism Policy was launched in February 2018. The state has attracted various proposals for Hotels, Resort, Convention Centre, Adventure Tourism across different regions of the state with investment intent of around INR 18,500 crore. The policy has categorized the destinations in 12 tourism circuits like Ramayana, Mahabharat, Jain, Buddhist, Wildlife and Eco-Tourism,

Swatantrata Sangram, Bundelkhand, Craft, etc. Under these circuits, more than 245 tourism investment proposals have been received.

Under the tourism policy, one of the major incentives/subsidies being offered is capital investment subsidy, which is being provided in the range of 10%-20% of the investment, depending upon the type of tourism units. In addition, the Department is also providing fiscal incentives to the investors for setting up of tented accommodation within 20 kms of all the notified wildlife sanctuary, and such units will be eligible for 20% of capital subsidy on the fixed capital investment up to a maximum of 50 lakh. This gives huge spur to the private investment in the state as well as assists the state government in creating quality accommodation for the visitors.

In addition, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has already approved 18 new air routes in Uttar Pradesh under the UDAN Scheme. The Kushinagar International Airport will enhance connectivity in the entire eastern region of the state which has major Buddhist sites like Kushinagar, Sravasti and Kapilvastu, which will in-turn boost inflow of foreign tourists and subsequent increase in tourism and hospitality in the region. This airport will also facilitate NRIs in reaching their destinations. Similarly, the Jewar Airport will boost the tourism and hotel industry in Mathura, Agra and other cities in the western part of Uttar Pradesh.

With the view to improve the basic tourism infrastructure at all tourism destinations, development projects to the tune of INR 630.45 crore are being implemented under the Swadesh Darshan & PRASAD Scheme, in addition to the projects of INR 857.20 crore from the state government funding. The projects sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme sector include the development of Sravasti, Kapilvastu and Kushinagar under the Buddhist Circuit; development of Kalinjar Fort (Banda), Maghar Dham & Chauri Chaura under the Heritage Circuit; development of Ayodhya, Chitrakoot & Shringverpur under the Ramayana Circuit; development of Gorakhpur, Devipatan, Dumariyagunj, Banda & other tourist sites across the state under the Spiritual Circuit.

Experience the *unique* Concept of Wedding

If you want to do a wedding in something extremely unusual and definitely unique manner from traditional wedding so this is one of the latest wedding ideas that many people have taken to are underwater weddings. When everything is considered, that really got us excited; an underwater wedding seems like a great thing to do.

• **Vedika Sharma**





Why underwater wedding

You get surprised when you will realize that there were actually a lot of couples who got married this way. Of course this kind of marriage is a best option for all who likes adventure and doing things in an unusual way can certainly consider doing an underwater wedding because it is exciting and there is nothing likes it.

The experience of such a unique concept of underwater wedding will make you amazed. Moreover, few of the underwater wedding planners gives the underwater wedding certificate.

There is no doubt that underwater weddings are unique and if someone is looking for a unique way to get married, this is one of the best way it can be, especially if you and your partner have always been quite adventurous and admirers of the ocean and everything about it.

How to do a underwater wedding

Of course, there are a lot of things which are specific about underwater weddings. For instance, this is by no means an ordinary wedding, which means that the preparations for the wedding are probably more complex.

Both the bride and the groom will have to wear scuba diving masks, which imply that they will have to take up scuba diving lessons that will teach them how to behave underwater. The masks are cleverly designed and although kisses can't be exchanged underwater because the masks have to be kept on, vows can be exchanged quite easily.

Both the bride and the groom can wear traditional clothes, but there are some steps involved in all this which would have to be followed.

Underwater wedding ceremonies

They are definitely among the most adventurous wedding ceremonies out there.

Some ceremonies have the couples standing



up, especially if they are walking on the sandy floor in a sheltered environment. Most couples, however, find it easiest to kneel whilst underwater.

One hold hands with the love of one life and can recite the vows in an exciting environment there is. In most cases it's done using diving slates for a written version. But if you go all in and want to be able to hear each other there're several methods, such as underwater helmets with audio systems, or full face mask with com units.

And then it's time for the bling: rings are exchanged.

Even if you do nothing to make the underwater wedding place more festive, the environment is already exciting enough. There are colorful plants and fish that you can always count on.

For guest

The important thing about an underwater wedding is that you don't have to give up on

anything. You can still get photos and you can still have the whole ceremony taped so that you can have everything documented. Even the guests, if they are up to it, can attend your underwater ceremony.

For guest, have to rent a boat to get to the place and all guests will be on the boat and they watch the ceremony live on video. It is an evident that you will not the only ones who had fun, but your guests really enjoyed it, too.

The guests at the wedding can be underwater as well; however, not many guests decide to do it. Instead, they can all follow the ceremony at a boat on the surface, which is definitely more convenient, both for the guests and your budget. When it comes to the party afterwards, you can easily have it on the boat, a hotel nearby or even at the beach.

In fact, it is not rare that people have two ceremonies – one underwater and the other at the beach immediately after they get back. If one decide that all or some of the guests should accompany to the place where the underwater ceremony will take place or if one decide to have the party on the

boat, it can be done also.

Who organise underwater wedding

Although an underwater wedding might seem complicated because it might seem at first sight that there are a lot of additional things that we have to worry about, it is actually quite simply and well orchestrated.

The companies who perform underwater weddings have really figured everything out and they will easily guide through the whole process allowing to focus on what is important, making it possible to relax and really enjoy the special day. And just in case you have decided to make the most of what you can, keep in mind that there are also hotels which offer underwater suites for honeymooners who want to go all out and make the whole experience even more special.

Special locations for underwater wedding

Thailand

Trang, one of Thailand's southernmost provinces, facing the





Andaman Sea, invites visitors to experience an underwater wedding and exchange their vows witnessed by the fish and beauty of the sea.

Florida

The Florida Keys & Key West offer warm

weather, breathtaking sunsets and one-of-a-kind wedding opportunities. In Key Largo, certified divers can pledge their vows beside a coral reef or at the bronze Christ of the Deep statue.

Turkey

For under water wedding in turkey Poseidon mysterious island is the best location with 5 star resort as well undersea.

Dubai

Atlantis Resort Hotel in Dubai has two underwater suites; the Poseidon and the Neptune. Who are well known for the underwater weddings in Dubai.

Poland

The Guinness World Record for the largest underwater wedding was set in Poland in 2011 when 303 divers attended an underwater wedding ceremony.

Like this top most list there are many more destinations for underwater wedding such as Maldives, Miami, Fiji, Bali, Mauritius etc.

"At the end I strongly recommend an underwater wedding to everyone looking for something different. As I myself went there in the underwater wedding locations and feel the true experience and way to be with someone not on earth but in water with beautiful ambience which is totally unforgettable. An underwater wedding is definitely unconventional and it might sound complicated, but it can be a great experience that one and the friends will talk about for a long time", Vedika Sharma editor and publisher(T³FS). ■



fantasies... of an exotic desert

COMES ALIVE AT



Desert Springs

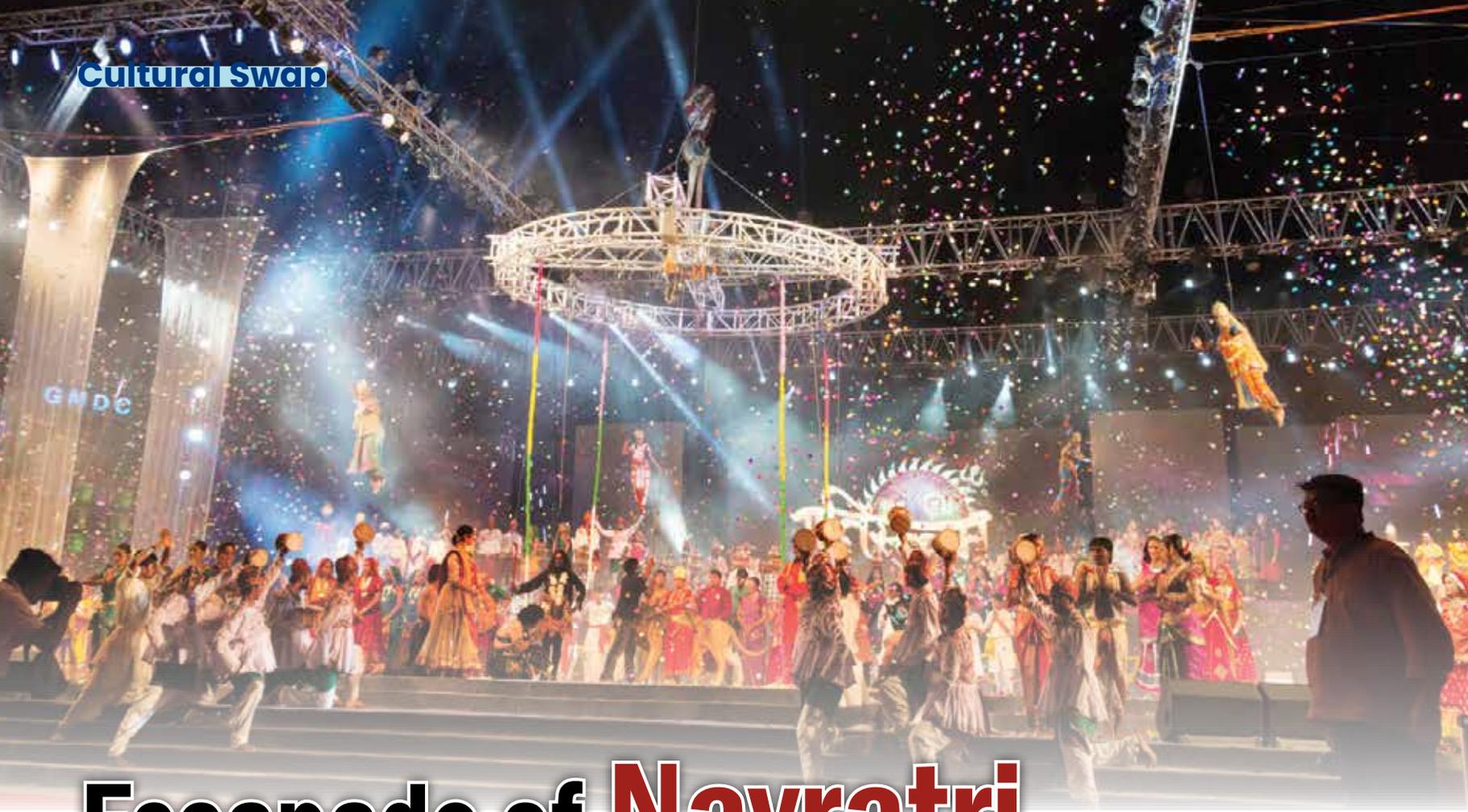
RESORT

A SPRING IN MIDST OF DESERT

Book a luxurious stay with exotic cuisines, desert adventures and amazing cultural performances.



Sam Dunes, Jaisalmer | +91 9001 890 577 | www.desertsprings.in



Escapade of Navratri festival in Gujarat

It's a nine days festival which is dedicated to the worship of hindu deity Durga. During this nine days nine Devi are worshipped. The extravaganza of this festival is spread all over India and Nepal.

• T³FS Desk





Gujarat, however, is the only state that erupts into a nine-night dance festival, perhaps the longest in the world. Each night, all over the state, villages and cities alike, people gather in open spaces to celebrate feminine divinity, referred to as Shakti.

The dance form known as ras garba (also joined sometimes by dandiya, which uses small wooden sticks), comes from Lord Krishna's worship rather than Goddess worship, from the Gop culture of Saurashtra and Kutch. Stories of relationships between Krishna and the Gopis, and their emotions, also often make their way into the ras garba music.

Each night the village or urban

neighborhood gathers to perform a puja to one of the nine forms of Goddess. The nine nights are also broken up into sections of three; the first is for Durga, the goddess who destroyed an evil force represented by the demon Mahishasura, and who destroys human impurities; the second is for Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity; the third is for Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom and art. It is a time to celebrate fertility and the monsoon harvest, represented by a mound of fresh soil in which grains are sown.

After the puja begins the music; it is unmistakable to those who are familiar with the style and irresistible to many. People begin to

dance in a circle, whirling away till late into the night. It is not uncommon to find dancers with swords or lit flames and other spectacles.

The traditional dance steps are simple, though over the years people have been inventing more complex steps. Similarly, the music was traditionally acoustic, principally composed of drums and singing, but most people now use amplified sound systems or a blend in the form of a live band with modern instruments. Vadodara is a good place to find the full range of these styles, traditional to modern, acoustic to amplified, simple to complicated, each one represented in its extreme somewhere in the city.



Abu Dhabi Welcomes All Vaccinated Travellers from Around the World

Following the updated international entry guidelines recently announced by the Abu Dhabi Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Committee, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) announces Abu Dhabi is set to welcome all fully vaccinated tourists and residents travelling from all countries around the world, as well as unvaccinated visitors from ‘Green List’ countries, with no quarantine measures.

Vaccines must be approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This will take effect starting 5 September 2021.

Registering International vaccinations or exemption documents

In order to support seamless entry for

app displays users’ vaccination status and PCR test results, which are required to activate the Abu Dhabi Green Pass.

Upon arrival, travellers will receive a Unified ID number, from airport immigration, or via the ICA Smart app or website; this will complete the registration on the Alhosn app. Following a

PCR test taken a maximum of 48 hours before departure and take a PCR test at the airport on arrival. They will not need to quarantine but will be required to take one more PCR test on day 6 (Counting the day of arrival as day 1). Their hotel will arranged testing on the premises, for their convenience.



international travellers and enable visitors to safely enjoy the the UAE capital’s diverse experiences through the Abu Dhabi Green Pass, DCT Abu Dhabi has outlined a simple process to enable tourists to register their international vaccination certificate or vaccination exemption document for verification 5 days before their travel date, via the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) Smart app or via ica.gov.ae website.

Applicants will receive an SMS confirmation that will include a link to the Alhosn app, which must be downloaded prior to travel. The Alhosn

app displays users’ vaccination status and PCR test results, which are required to activate the Green Pass, allowing them entry to all public spaces in the emirate.

Children under 12 and People of Determination (POD) with moderate and severe disabilities are exempt from COVID-19 PCR testing.

Entry for vaccinated travellers from Green List countries

Under the new guidelines, vaccinated travellers from all over the world, arriving from green list will be required to show a negative

Entry for vaccinated travellers from all countries (outside green list)

Under the new guidelines, vaccinated travellers from all over the world, arriving from countries not on the green list, will be required to show a negative PCR test taken a maximum of 48 hours before departure and take a PCR test at the airport on arrival. They will not need to quarantine but will be required to take one more PCR test on day 4 and day 8 (Counting the day of arrival as day 1). Their hotel will arranged testing on the premises, for their convenience. ■



Magical Kenya Tembo Naming Festival

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife is targeting to raise Ksh100 Million during the upcoming inaugural Magical Kenya Tembo Naming Festival.

This was said by Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala when he received contributions towards the initiative from 4 organizations: East Africa Safari Rally, Chandaria Foundation, Oltukai Lodges and African Wildlife Foundation at the KWS Headquarters Nairobi National Park

The Inaugural Magical Kenya Tembo Naming Festival is set to be held on 9th October 2021 at the Amboseli National Park where President Uhuru Kenya is expected to grace the event. During the event, individuals will be allowed to give names to selected elephants after donating funds towards the program which is aimed at boosting conservation efforts of the endangered species.

Speaking during reception of the contributions, CS Balala expressed his delight towards the donors for embracing the initiative, noting that it will go a long way in boosting conservation efforts while sending out a strong message on the role conservation plays in tourism and by extension many livelihoods

“I wish thank the sponsors for embracing and being part of this noble course. Conservation of our wildlife resources remains key for us to ensure that future generations enjoy our country’s heritage, natural resources and the incredible species that live within it. Therefore, it is ideal that we are here as we commence the first step towards the event which aims to ensure we have funds to support conservation

of our Elephants,” said Balala.

The CS further noted that the initiative is meant to bring all stakeholders on board in embracing conservation, noting that everyone has a role to play in ensuring the preservation of Kenya’s heritage.

“Our aim is to ensure that we encourage more people and organizations to engage in conservation efforts in the country. The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us many things and one of them is that we must ensure that conservation efforts are sustainable and that wildlife protection should never be vulnerable to the shocks that affect tourism activities in the country,” added Balala.



public to adopt, name and nurture the elephant because supporting their conservation is a collective responsibility for the endless benefits they present to our livelihoods. This is strategic in terms of supporting tourism which is largely anchored by wildlife. Conservation is something that should be a concern for each and every one of us, and as such it is important that everyone plays a part. I would like to request like-minded individuals and organizations to join us in this noble course for this year’s inaugural event and for the years to come,” said Radier.

The Kenya Tourism Board CEO, Dr. Betty Radier urged more organizations and individuals to join this year’s and subsequent programs. “The Magical Kenya Tembo Naming Festival offers a platform for the

Frankfurt’s Staedel Museum to exhibit Rembrandt paintings

Frankfurt is known for its over 60 museums, 13 of which are located on the Main river embankment, including the Städel Museum and the Museum of World cultures.



The Staedel Museum’s collection of seven hundred years of European art from the early fourteenth century to the present focuses on the Renaissance, the Baroque, early Modern art and much more. The museum, in association with the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa will address Rembrandt’s rise to international fame during his formative years in Amsterdam.

The presentation combines the Städel’s Rembrandt collection, including The Blinding of Samson (1636), with contributions from international collections, such as the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin, the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden, the National Gallery in London, the Museo del Prado in Madrid, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Rembrandt’s “Tronie of a man with a feathered Beret”, “Judith at the Banquet of Holofernes”, “Landscape with a Stone Bridge” and “The Abduction of Ganymede” are to be a part of the exhibit.

The exhibition will feature Rembrandt’s works alongside the works of his contemporaries like Nicolaes Eliasz. Pickenoy and Bartholomeus van der Helst. His works impacted the artistic network with its versatility; his paintings encompassed landscapes, genre scenes and still lifes as well as history paintings and portraits.

The exhibition is organised by the Städel Museum and the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. It will be open to the public from October 2021 to January 2022.

Qatar Geneva International Motor Show

The Geneva International Motor Show (GIMS) and Qatar Tourism announced a partnership during a press conference held at Doha Exhibition & Convention Center (DECC), to develop and host the newly designed Qatar Geneva International Motor Show in Doha during 2023.

The partners have hinted that the platform is positioned as a new world-renowned motor show for the Middle East. With much anticipation, exhibitors and fans can now look forward to the upcoming Geneva International Motor Show being held from 19 to 27 February, 2022, as well as the new format which will be taking place in Doha in 2023.

This collaboration is considered a natural fit for a new progressive show, given that GIMS has been pioneering the automotive space since 1905 and has built a strong brand reputation in the sector and that Qatar stands out globally for its outstanding experience offer and infrastructural capabilities. Furthermore, with the forward-looking, glamorous Qatari capital as the backdrop, this show will stand out as an essential calendar event for exhibitors and car lovers from around the globe.

The first edition of the Qatar Geneva



International Motor Show 2023 is planned for the autumn, and the organisers intend the event to take place every two years. While the event has already captured the curiosity of the public, the full concept reveal will only be made during GIMS 2022, which will take place from 19 to 27 February, 2022. Until then, exhibitors and fans will need to exercise patience while GIMS accelerates to Doha 2023 behind the scenes.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive and Chairman of Qatar Tourism, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "In line with the national strategy, Qatar National Vision 2030, we are expanding our tourism proposition to position Qatar as a world-leading destination and ensure guests enjoy the very best that the Gulf State has to offer.

"In addition to extensive hotel and resort development, the refurbishment and creation

of tourism assets and an expanding culinary scene, hosting internationally renowned events is an important pillar of our strategy. We are pleased to partner with the highly distinguished Geneva International Motor Show and look forward to a collaborative relationship to bring this eminent event to our shores."

Maurice Turrettini, President of the Permanent Committee of the Geneva International Motor Show, stated: "We are very proud and honoured, that Qatar Tourism has put its trust in us for the conception of the new motor show in Doha. Our partnership is the result of very trusting and constructive talks from day one. The joint forces with Qatar Tourism empower us to focus on the upcoming 91st edition of GIMS in February 2022, where we will be able to gather ideas and learnings for the new motor show in Doha."

Saudi Tourism Authority Invests in India Commercial Office

The Saudi Tourism Authority (STA) has opened a commercial office in India as part of its strategy to engage the tourism trade in key source markets and raise awareness of Saudi, the authentic home of Arabia, as travelers around the world dream of exploring exotic destinations once more.

The destination reopened to vaccinated international visitors at the beginning of August.

STA now has representative offices in eleven markets serving 21 countries, with an eventual goal of having 15 offices around the world to expand the reach of the Authority's activities.

"STA is focused on enhancing its ability to deliver a truly global scale offering by investing resources today in the network that will drive our business for the future," said Fahd Hamidaddin, CEO of the Saudi Tourism Authority. "We are building an integrated global team of professionals to showcase Saudi's diverse

offering of cultural adventures, world class heritage sites and authentic Arabian hospitality."

The India office will be responsible for trade and consumer marketing activities, expanding the reach and relevance of Saudi's tourism offer and working with tour operators, travel agents and other industry stakeholders to build awareness and drive conversion in line with STA's strategy and mission.

The India representative office is being set up with the support of Think Strawberries, a leading destination consulting and representation company that provides strategic direction to global tourism brands and destinations through meticulous market research and intelligence, a dedicated salesforce, innovative tools and best practices, to nurture and develop them from a long-term perspective.

"We have already begun outreach into the India tourism trade ecosystem and the

response has been very positive," said Augustus Simon, Director- Indian Subcontinent, Saudi Tourism Authority. "We are actively seeking opportunities to co-invest with partners who are keen to add Saudi as an exciting new destination in their portfolio."

Since opening its borders to international tourism in September 2019, Saudi rapidly established itself as the fastest growing tourism destination in the world, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council.

Despite the global shutdown of leisure tourism in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, STA continued to invest to prepare the destination for a return to normalcy.

In 2020 STA delivered a domestic tourism campaign that saw visitor spend across target destinations between July and September increase by more than 30% compared to the equivalent period the year before.

RISE Conference Returns to Hong Kong

Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) and Web Summit announced that RISE, “one of the world’s most influential tech events”, will return to Hong Kong in March 2022, as an in-person event.



This highlights Hong Kong’s thriving startup economy, leading position in innovation and technology, as well as its status as The World’s Meeting Place for business events to tap tremendous opportunities in the region.

RISE was launched in Hong Kong in 2015 and has already hosted five successful events. Over the years, the event has attracted thousands of global tech founders, startups and investors to the city, such as Joseph Tsai, Co-founder & Executive Vice Chairman of Alibaba, John Collison, Co-founder & President of Stripe, Peggy Johnson, CEO of Magic Leap, and Neil Shen, Founding Managing Partner of Sequoia Capital China. The event has become an important window for companies from both East and West to make connections in new markets. With the HKTB teaming up with InvestHK and Asia World-Expo, Hong Kong has once again won as the host city of RISE for the coming 5 years.

Hong Kong boasts a growing and diverse startup economy. Between 2018 and 2020, the number of local startups rose 28 per cent to 3,360, with non-locals accounting for 26 per cent of founders. Additionally, in 2020, foreign direct investment (FDI) in the city surged by 62 per cent year-on-year, to US\$119 billion, making Hong Kong the third largest FDI recipient in the world, behind the United States (US\$156.3 billion) and mainland China (US\$149.3 billion). According to the World Bank, Hong Kong ranks third in the world for ease of doing business.

RISE will take place as an in-person conference in AsiaWorld-Expo from 14 to 17 March 2022.

Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the Hong Kong SAR Government

I'm very excited to see RISE, a world-renowned tech event, returning to Hong Kong. This is a testimony of Hong Kong's success to containing the pandemic and keeping infection rate among the lowest in the world, thereby giving international event organisers confidence that they can stage their events here safely. I am sure the staging of RISE will showcase Hong Kong's capacity to deliver amid the challenges posed by the epidemic, and connect our tech start-up ecosystem with that of the globe. I look forward to welcoming more world class business events to Hong Kong, injecting new vigour into our economy.



Paddy Cosgrave, Co-founder and CEO of the RISE Conference and Web Summit

We are extremely grateful for the support the city of Hong Kong has given RISE over the last five years, and we couldn't be more excited to return in person in 2022. We've seen the region's tech and startup economy grow from strength to strength since we launched RISE in 2015.

We always intended to come back to Hong Kong at some stage. RISE has grown to what it is today after five successful years in the city. The event has now become an important nexus that connects the East and the rest of the world. CEOs and investors from around the world want a window into the region, and vice versa.

Dr YK Pang, Chairman, HKTB

We welcome the return of RISE to Hong Kong for another five years in 2022–2026. The city's state-of-the-art infrastructure and venues, complemented with a favourable business environment and unique travel experiences, are all part of the equation reflecting Hong Kong's appeal for international business events. With Hong Kong's strategic location in the Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, event participants can also capitalise on the multitude of opportunities in the region. With the strong commitment to hygiene and safety across all community sectors, the city is gearing up for a new milestone, and the HKTB will continue to make its best efforts to maintain Hong Kong's status as The World's Meeting Place.



Ng Chi-kee, Chairman of the AsiaWorld-Expo

Hosting RISE in the coming 5 years bears an impactful significance to the recovery of Hong Kong's MICE sector, as it marks the return of top-class international events to Hong Kong. With stringent anti-epidemic measures in place and our quality service, we will continue to work closely with organisers to deliver world-class events to maintain Hong Kong as the Asia's premier meeting hub and attract more international events to the city.

First Direct Flight on Bhavnagar-Delhi route



Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, MoS, Civil Aviation, General Dr. V K Singh (Retd.) along with Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Shri Pradeep Kharola virtually flagged off the Spicejet's first direct flight for Bhavnagar (Gujarat) - Delhi sector. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri. Vijay Rupani virtually embellished the event as the Chief Guest.

Several other dignitaries including Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, Minister, (Cabinet) Civil Aviation, Gujarat, Dr. Bharatiben DhirubhaiShiyal Member of Parliament, Bhavnagar & National Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Smt. Vibhavariben Vijaybhai Dave, Member of Legislative Assembly (East) Bhavnagar & Minister Women and Child Welfare Education and Pilgrimage, Shri Parsottambhai Odhavjibhai Solanki, Member of Legislative Assembly (Rural) Bhavnagar & Minister-Fisheries, and Shri. JitendrabhaiSavjibhaiVaghani

Member of Legislative Assembly (West) Bhavnagar joined the inauguration virtually from Bhavnagar. Smt. Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation along with other senior officials of MoCA & AAI were also present during the ceremony held at Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Shri. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation said, "I feel honoured to flag off the first direct flight operations on the heritage city of Bhavnagar to Delhi route. The city has played a vital role in the economic activities of entire Gujarat since ancient times. The city is an important center for the diamond cutting, polishing, and ship breaking industry not only for India but for the entire world. Bhavnagar is the prominent city of India where a blend of the symbolic initiatives of 'Vocal for Local' & 'Local to Global' started by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is found. Furthermore,

the Vehicle Scrappage Policy will also benefit the people of Bhavnagar. Apart from economic activities, the city has its own rich cultural and historical significance. These new flights will act as a catalyst for the tourism sector of the region while aiding the trade and commerce sector of Bhavnagar."

Bhavnagar will now get six new flight routes. Due to the non-connectivity of direct flights from Bhavnagar to Delhi & Bhavnagar to Surat, people had to travel to Ahmedabad to board a flight, now, they can travel at ease by opting for the newly inaugurated direct flight services on these sectors. Flights from Bhavnagar to Delhi and Mumbai will be operational on all days except on Tuesdays and Saturdays, flights from Bhavnagar to Surat will operate on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays starting from 21st August 2021.

Emirates appoints new VP for India and Nepal



Emirates has announced the appointment of Mohammad Sarhan as Vice President for India and Nepal, effective 1st September. Sarhan will be responsible for leading the airline's operations and strengthening Emirates' presence in the market. Jabr Al-Azeeby, currently Vice President India and Nepal, will take on the role as Vice President for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mohammad Sarhan, Emirates Vice President for India and Nepal, said: "I'm very excited and privileged to be taking on this new opportunity. Emirates has shared strong ties with India since 1985 and I look forward to working with our talented staff on-ground to continue growing the airline's operations in the market."

Sarhan holds more than 15 years of experience in the aviation industry. His

first post with Emirates came in 2009 in Cote d'Ivoire, and since then he's held several commercial leadership roles in Vietnam, Greece, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia. In his new role, Sarhan will manage the airline's commercial operations, drive business growth and lead the airline's strategic initiatives across the region.

The new appointment comes as the airline announces several commercial leadership movements across West Asia, Africa, the GCC, and Central Asia. All of the movements include Emirati talent into key leadership positions, either being promoted from within the organisation or through portfolio rotations, underpinning the airline's commitment to career development and progression of its UAE Nationals.

IndiGo- Prestigious Brand of India 2020-21

India's leading carrier, IndiGo, has been recognized as one of the top 50 Prestigious Brands of India 2020-21 by Herald Global and BARC Asia. IndiGo has been awarded the recognition for having demonstrated a vision to create the future, adopting a combination of state-of-the-art products & services, and helping to transform the Indian economy.

Mr. William Boulter, Chief Commercial Officer, IndiGo said, "We are honoured to be recognised as one of the top Prestigious Brands of India 2020-21 by Herald Global and BARC Asia. This award is a testimony of the progress on our mission to augment economic growth by providing air connectivity and affordable air fares, thereby promoting trade, tourism, and mobility. While consistently delivering on our values of on-time performance and safe & hassle-free travel experience, we are committed to building the best air transportation system in the world."

The brands were judged in a 3 phased manner where phase one comprised of secondary research by evaluating the industry reports, market surveys, brand reports and any other relevant available source of industry information listing 500 brands. In the second phase, the brands got shortlisted after an in-depth primary survey conducted among the target audience. While the third and final phase included research by a research agency to come up with top 50 brands with highest ratings.



Ethiopian Establishes B767 Passenger to Freighter Conversion Site

Ethiopian Airlines Group, the leading aviation group in Africa, establishes a global standard cargo Conversion program to convert the B-767-300 ER to dedicated freighter services in partnership agreement with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

Ethiopian Airlines Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Tewelde Gebre Mariam, said, "In line with our Diversified Aviation Business Model of Vision 2025, we have been increasing our cargo capacity in fleet, ground service infrastructure and cargo connectivity network. Accordingly, we are partnering with IAI, one of the global technology leaders in the Aerospace industry, in building a cargo conversion center in our MRO facilities in Addis Ababa Airport. The Cargo conversion center will commence its first business with three Ethiopian Airlines owned B-767-300 aircraft. The Cargo Conversion Center in Addis Ababa airport will expand its services to all airlines in Africa and the wider region. We are very happy that we are able to collaborate with IAI to enable us to expand our cargo and logistics services which is already the largest and leading cargo network in Africa. The capacity building will also help us expand our MRO services with cutting edge technology and knowledge transfer."

Yossi Melamed, IAI's Executive VP and General Manager of Aviation Group on his part said: "We are witnessing a sharp rise in the demand for cargo aircraft as a

result of the rise in e-commerce, which has peaked to record levels during the COVID-19 pandemic. IAI has an excellent reputation as a conversion center of passenger-to-freighters aircraft, and we are constantly receiving requests to open such conversion centers in more and more locations around the world. I am excited by the opening of the current center in Ethiopia and thank my colleagues in Ethiopian Airlines for the trust they have put in IAI's Aviation Group, as the world's leader in conversions."

The new passenger-to-freighter conversion centre, which will operate from the Ethiopian MRO centre in Addis Ababa, will provide solutions for the rising demand for cargo aircraft of B767 models. The conversion line in Ethiopia will join existing conversion sites IAI operates at its campus in Ben Gurion International Airport and in Mexico.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopian MRO, with its internal capacity, temporarily converted 25 of its passenger aircraft to freighter to boost its cargo capacity as demand to transport emergency medical supplies soared.

Verteil Technologies Partnered with Finnair

Finnair, a leading airline connecting Europe and Asia, has partnered with Verteil Technologies, a leading New Distribution Capability (NDC) aggregator partner, as it continues its NDC strategy to offer a modern and efficient direct channel to Travel Companies worldwide.

The new partnership will enable Finnair to expand its global NDC distribution with a particular focus on key Asian markets such as Japan and India, the home market of Verteil, apart from its reach across other markets of Middle East, Africa and Europe. Verteil Direct Connect platform will enhance the digital distribution for Finnair and provide travel agents with more effective merchandising, access to rich content, and product personalisation.

Rogier van Enk, SVP, Customer Engagement at Finnair said: "Finnair remains committed to promoting NDC as one of the key initiatives in modernizing airline product distribution for the benefit of our customers. We are adding more choice and personalisation opportunities to our offering and with this partnership Finnair NDC content will be accessible also to Verteil's worldwide Travel Agency Partner network."

Jerrin Jos, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Verteil Technologies, said: "Verteil Technologies has been at the forefront of NDC distribution and is delighted to partner with Finnair, making available our unique products and services on our NDC based direct connect distribution platform, Verteil Direct Connect. This partnership is a testament to the critical role Verteil is playing when it comes to the development and promotion of NDC content distribution worldwide. We continue to invest in enhancing the Verteil platform to deliver greater innovation, more diverse content and enhanced booking experience for our customers. With Finnair being the largest European airline flying to Japan, we believe that Finnair will be able to benefit from our wide reach especially due to Verteil's Tokyo based operations to focus specifically in the Japanese market."

Finnair is IATA NDC@scale Certified in IATA NDC Program and an active member of IATA NDC Leaderboard of 23 airlines, who have committed to industry wide NDC development.

NDC is the next technology wave that is modernizing the distribution landscape, with airlines not being constrained by the current legacy distribution systems in introducing innovative products and personalized services. Verteil has been actively working in this domain right from 2016 onwards with a growing customer base. Built by a core team having 100+ man years of deep domain knowledge in the airline technology domain, VDC is designed to address all the necessary functional and technical scalability considerations required for an NDC distribution platform.



flydubai Complimentary 1-Day Ticket to Expo 2020 Dubai

The initiative is offered to every passenger travelling on a flydubai inbound booking itinerary, a one-way ticket to Dubai or any connecting flydubai flight via Dubai. The complimentary 1-Day Ticket is offered to all passengers who are eligible for the promotion whether they are travelling in Business Class or Economy Class.

Commenting on the launch of the initiative, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, said: "we are excited to welcome the world to Dubai as Expo 2020 opens its doors to visitors. flydubai will play an important role in supporting the UAE's efforts to make this a truly remarkable event by connecting underserved markets to Dubai. We share everyone's excitement as we come together to witness Expo 2020 connecting minds and creating the future."

Sumathi Ramanathan, Vice President – Market Strategy & Sales, Expo 2020 Dubai, said: "Hosting the first World Expo in the region is a moment of immense pride for the UAE, particularly as we prepare to open our doors to the world in the year of the UAE's Golden Jubilee. The support from organisations across the country has been instrumental in helping us deliver a safe and spectacular event. Adding flydubai to our network of more than 2,500 Authorised Ticket Resellers from around the world

flydubai, the Dubai-based airline, announced that passengers booking a flydubai flight to Dubai will enjoy a complimentary 1-Day Ticket to visit Expo2020 Dubai, taking place from 01 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. The initiative is valid for all bookings made from 01 September for travel during the event dates.

will help make the Expo easily accessible to millions of people and we can't wait to welcome them to the event in less than one month."

Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai, said: "we are pleased to be able to offer our passengers the opportunity to visit the much-anticipated Expo 2020 Dubai. The gradual easing of restrictions on international travel and the UAE's efforts and stringent COVID-19 protocols, along with flydubai's readiness to safeguard travel, will see more people visiting Dubai over the next six months to explore everything that Expo2020 and the city has to offer."

"We have grown our network to more than 95 destinations in 50 countries over the summer and we will continue to add more destinations in the coming few months. The recent launch of operations to underserved markets like Minsk in Belarus, Salzburg in Austria and Tirana in Albania confirms of our commitment to strengthening direct airlinks to Dubai. flydubai will enable more people to visit the UAE as we start flights to Ankara, Budapest, Ljubljana and Warsaw from September onwards. We will also restart our operations to Helsinki and Zagreb in the next few weeks supported by our growing fleet of 54 Boeing 737 aircraft," added Efendi.

Continued Recovery in Domestic Passenger Traffic

The airlines' capacity deployment for August 2021 was around 99% higher at 57,500 departures, as against 28,834 departures in August 2020. On a sequential basis, the number of departures in August 2021 were higher by 22%, as Covid-19 infections demonstrated a downward trajectory.

Commenting further, Ms. Kinjal Shah, Vice President & Co-Group Head – Corporate Ratings, ICRA said, "For August 2021, the average daily departures were at 1,900, significantly higher than the average daily departures of 900 in August 2020, and higher than 1,500 in July 2021, though it remains lower than 2,000 in April 2021. The average number of passengers per flight during August 2021 was 114, against an average of 106 passengers per flight in July 2021. Though the recovery continued in August 2021, there is continued stress on demand, driven largely by the second wave of the pandemic, limiting travel to only necessary travel, while both leisure and business travel have been curtailed due to various state-wide restrictions, despite the decline in infections."

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) permitted increasing the capacity deployment on domestic routes, gradually from 33%, with effect from May 25, 2020, to 80%, with effect from December 03, 2020. However, it reduced the permissible capacity deployment to 50% of pre-Covid levels, with effect from June 01, 2021 due to the resurgence of the second wave of the pandemic. It had again increased the permitted capacity to 65% with effect from July 5, 2021. It has now permitted increasing the capacity to 72.5% with effect from August 12, 2021 until further orders. In addition, the MoCA also increased the minimum and maximum fare band by 10-13% for domestic flights with effect from August 12, 2021 until August 31, 2021. In ICRA's view, the price increase may not materially impact the passenger traffic demand as in the current scenario, travel is limited to only necessary travel while both leisure and business travel have been curtailed due to various state-wide restrictions and the spread of the infections. However, it will allow airlines to recoup some part of the increase in ATF prices, thereby cushioning some impact on the airlines' losses.

While the scheduled international operations have been suspended further till September 30, 2021, under the Vande Bharat Mission (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 42 lakh for the period May 07, 2020 to August 31, 2021. For August 2021, the international passenger traffic for Indian carriers under the VBM was estimated at 3.1 lakh, a sequential growth of 47%.

YIAPL Secures Final Nod on Masterplan

Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL) has secured the final approval for the masterplan for Noida International Airport (NIA). The masterplan was prepared in close collaboration with aviation consultants Landrum & Brown and experts from Zurich Airport International. The approval was secured from NIAL, DGCA, AAI, BCAS and necessary environmental authorities. The Master Plan is compliant with the requirements of the Concession Agreement as well as with the applicable regulations from ICAO, DGCA, AAI and BCAS.

The master plan describes the strategic direction for development of NIA from the opening day, anticipated in FY 2024-25, to the end of the 40-year concession period.

The first NIA masterplan sets the foundation for developing different avenues at various strategic locations across the airport site and thereby launching Noida International Airport as a destination in itself. It will be a confluence of air travel, high speed rail, metro, and road transport. Though the masterplan is prepared to accommodate the demand throughout the 40-year concession period with 2 runways, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has larger aspirations over the broader time horizon to ultimately have 5 runways. The airport masterplan provides the platform for this aspirational growth.

Two Terminal Complex:

Once completed, the airport will house two passenger terminals. Terminal 1 will have a capacity of 30 million passengers per year and Terminal 2 a capacity of 40 million passengers per year. The terminals will be interconnected to facilitate the transfer for passengers, minimize walking distances and reduce environmental impact. Additionally, the modular development plan will minimize impact on operations during construction. The Inter-terminal connector is important to ensure flexibility for airlines and their operations.

The first Terminal (T1) will be built in two stages- the first for 12 million passengers per year, the second with an additional capacity for 18 million passengers per year. Terminal 2 will also be built in two stages - with a first stage capacity of 12 million passengers per year and second stage capacity of 18 million passengers per year. The forecourts for both terminals will have direct access to a single Ground Transportation Center.

Delivering the best connecting time:

The design of the airport is focussing on low operating costs and seamless and fast transfer processes for domestic-to-domestic passengers



Christoph Schnellmann

Chief Executive Officer, Yamuna International Airport Private Limited

The approval of the master plan is a pivotal milestone, as it paves the way for the development of Noida International Airport for the next 40 years. The masterplan reflects the goals and objectives set, by providing solutions that are financially prudent, cost-effective, and commercially sound; at the heart of it remains passenger convenience. We are delighted that we have been able to complete the master planning activity within the agreed timelines, despite limitations due to Covid-19. We are looking forward to developing a world-class airport for the people of India that truly combines Indian hospitality with Swiss efficiency.

as well as for domestic to international transfers and viz versa. NIA will provide sufficient night parking to support the strategic growth of Indian Air Carriers.

NIA is introducing a swing aircraft stand concept, providing flexibility for airlines to operate an aircraft for both domestic and international flights from the same contact stand, without having to re-position the aircraft. This will ensure quick and efficient aircraft turnarounds at the airport, while ensuring a smooth and seamless passenger transfer process - delivering the best connecting time.

Cargo & Logistics Development:

NIA has the potential to become a key air cargo gateway for North India. The airport will develop an ecosystem that consists of the state-of-the-art infrastructure and product offerings supported by best-in-class procedures that incorporate Swiss efficiency, simplicity, and

quality. The integrated multi-modal cargo hub at NIA will play a crucial role in establishing the state of Uttar Pradesh on the global logistics map.

Multi-modal Connectivity:

The NIA masterplan includes provisions for an integrated and seamless road, rail, bus, and metro connectivity. Some of the key strategic connectivity points comprise the metro extension from Noida to NIA as well as an airport station for the planned High Speed Rail Link from Delhi to Varanasi. Yamuna Expressway will also connect NIA to the NCR region and city of Agra that hosts one of the seven wonders of the world - the Taj Mahal.

Ground Transportation Center (GTC):

NIA will develop a multi-modal transit hub at the Ground Transportation Center to provide seamless connectivity between various public and private modes of transport. The GTC will house metro and high-speed rail stations, taxi, bus services and private parking along with large concourse area housing commercial spaces, restaurants, and lounges. The Ground Transportation Centre (GTC) will be a one of its kind, multi-level building structure, located centrally and will be developed in subsequent stages. The GTC will offer a hassle-free experience and seamless transfers between the terminals and different modes of transport for passengers, visitors, and employees.

Real Estate Development:

The land use planning reserves 167 acres of land along the main access to airport for real estate development. Development studies are on-going. The real estate land is positioned to benefit from the footfall of the airport and is located close to the transportation centres.

Sustainable Planning:

The NIA masterplan has earmarked 8 ha of land to develop a forest park using trees from the project site. It will serve as a space for passengers and visitors to spend their leisure time and become an attractive destination for health/fitness activities as well as for nature-focussed recreational activities. This will be a sustainable green grove for the airport. NIA plans to preserve all native species and be nature positive throughout the development of the airport. In line with its aspirations to be a green airport, NIA is committed to provide infrastructure and facilities for 100% electrically powered vehicles at the airport in a phased manner.

General Corporate Aviation:

The NIA masterplan also has provision for General Corporate Aviation facilities, including a VVIP terminal, a General Aviation Terminal and Heli taxi pads. These facilities will cater to the needs of state dignitaries, handle private jet movements and helicopters.

Virgin Atlantic pledges to support STEM initiatives through customer donations

Virgin Atlantic has pledged £2.5 million over five years to support STEM initiatives with grants, sponsorships, and investments through its Passport to Change programme.

Working with new charity partners, Speakers for Schools, The Smallpeice Trust and UK for UNHCR, the airline's community programme aims to inspire and empower young people from all corners of society to engage with STEM education and build career skills for the future in science, technology, engineering, and maths.

Designed to empower the next generation to fulfil their potential through education, the relaunched Passport to Change programme will provide access to STEM learning for young people through a combined model of direct school engagement, grants and scholarships.

The ambition of the Passport to Change programme is to grow its presence across destinations and, through charity partnerships, encourage social mobility and close the difference between the majority and minority groups, creating opportunities to address inequity in educational learning.

Estelle Hollingsworth, Chief People Officer, Virgin Atlantic, commented:

"At Virgin Atlantic, our purpose is to empower everyone to take on the world and our vision is to be the world's most loved travel company. To achieve both, we must invest in the hearts and minds of young people who will define our future.

"Our Passport to Change programme is how we at Virgin Atlantic use our business as a force for good, through our communities, our people, and our partners.

"We know there is a huge gender gap in STEM, and that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are disproportionately impacted. By working with our incredible new charity partners Speakers for Schools, The Smallpeice Trust and UK for UNHCR, we can reach, educate, and empower young people from all parts of society to engage with STEM education, driving real change in the communities where we work and where we fly."

Virgin Atlantic has teamed up with Speakers for Schools, a charity aiming to end educational inequality and level the playing field for all young people. As part of the collaboration, this pioneering year-long programme has been created to ensure young people from its three partner schools - Thomas Bennett Community College in Crawley, Pentrehafod School in Swansea, and Luther J



Jason Elsom, Chief Executive Officer, Speakers for Schools

We are proud to partner with Virgin Atlantic for this first-of-its-kind immersive programme, allowing young people to experience every aspect of the aviation industry with such an iconic brand. "Passport to Change" will open the door for young people to an exciting industry and meet the experts leading the way at Virgin Atlantic.

Price Middle School in Atlanta - see the entire breadth of the aviation industry. Across the ten months of the full programme, students will be engaged through a mixture of in-person and online events with modules showcasing what happens behind the scenes of an airline, how planes fly, as well as exploring sustainable aviation and decarbonisation. It is estimated that the economic benefit to communities served is over £29 million over the lifetime of the young people who have utilised the programme. Over time, the ambition is to increase the network of partner schools across the UK and international communities, bringing the programme to a wider audience of young people.

Virgin Atlantic is also working with STEM-based educational expert partner, The Smallpeice Trust, using its educational resources to focus on increasing student engagement in STEM subjects, in particular engineering. In turn, Virgin Atlantic will sponsor scholars in The Smallpeice Trust's Arkwright Scholarship programme and sponsor a short residential programme in 2022, which explores the world of STEM.

Further to its partnership with The Smallpeice Trust and Speakers for Schools,



Caroline Broadway, Director of Engagement, The Smallpeice Trust

Virgin Atlantic's Passport to Change activities will inspire more young people to find a passion for STEM, while helping all those involved gain life and leadership skills. Working in partnership we can increase the diversity and number of young people entering engineering careers.



Emma Cherniavsky, Chief Executive of UK for UNHCR

We are delighted to be one of Virgin Atlantic's Passport to Change charity partners. Refugees face many barriers to accessing education, with just five per cent of refugees enrolled in higher education. Investing in a refugee's education supports not only their personal learning and job prospects, but also their wider community. Funds raised through the programme will have a lasting impact.

Virgin Atlantic has teamed up with UK for UNHCR to protect and empower refugees through the humanitarian work of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. UNHCR protects people fleeing conflict and persecution around the world and helps them to access education and livelihoods so they can rebuild their lives. Throughout 2021 and 2022, Virgin Atlantic will support 2,000 young refugees in Delhi, including young, displaced Afghans, with an accelerated learning programme before expanding the partnership to support university STEM scholarships for refugees around the world.



Hospitality



Live your Dream

From elegant ballroom events to intimate outdoor settings, a fairytale wedding venue awaits at Atlantis Dubai. Add a touch of magic by hosting your reception in The Lost Chambers Aquarium surrounded by 65,000 marine animals, or say 'I do' under the glow of the Arabian sunset in one of our outdoor wedding venues, including the Palm Grove, Royal Beach or Zero Entry Pool. With celebrity chef menus, impeccable service and a stellar events team, Atlantis Dubai will make your dreams come true.

Surrounded by azure seas and decorated in opulent luxury, Atlantis, The Palm offers one of the most spectacular and romantic wedding venues in the Middle East.

With its mesmerizing seascape and luxurious offerings, it is the perfect blend to make a dream wedding come to life, not to mention being one of the most romantic resorts in Dubai.

Atlantis features a collection of beautiful indoor and outdoor wedding venues for you to choose from, each totally unique and hard to beat in the region.

Indoor Spaces

Atlantis elevates each and every wedding to the extraordinary. For those looking for an unforgettable, elegant occasion the Atlantis Ballroom or glittering Asateer marquee, which both take up to 2,500 guests, are unrivalled as the largest, most extravagant wedding venues in Dubai. Intimate gatherings with the couple's nearest and dearest can take place in the lavish Silk and Spice Ballrooms – bright, airy havens with a private terrace overlooking the city skyline.

Atlantis, The Palm has 13 dedicated indoor event spaces, which includes a combination of three ballrooms, one boardroom and one Majlis as well as an expansive wedding tent. This equates to 4,326 sqm of event space (excluding the outdoor areas), with the Asateer tent adding an additional 2,100 sqm of event space.



Outdoor Spaces:

Celebrate under the twinkling Dubai sky with the majestic Atlantis as the backdrop. Catering from 100 to up to 800 guests, Atlantis' outdoor venues provide the perfect stage for a romantic beachside wedding with stunning views of the sea. Whatever couples desire, Atlantis will create memories to last a lifetime.

Weddings can be hosted anywhere around the resort including the resort's Zero Entry Pool, on the beach, at WHITE Beach club, in Aquaventure Waterpark the opportunities are endless.

The Lost Chambers Aquarium

Host a show-stopping event surrounded by 65,000 marine animals, with a tailor-made function for up to 150 guests.

Beachside Royalty

The ultimate outdoor wedding venue in Dubai, the Royal Beach offers barefoot elegance and Dubai skyline views.

The Royal Bridge Suite

The Royal Bridge Suite is ideal for the ultimate exclusivity, privacy and luxury with 180 degree view of The Palm island and Arabian Sea.

Celebrate your love as the sun sets over the Arabian Sea with our stunning outdoor venues. Host an intimate affair for 100 in the Palm Grove, hold a beach wedding for 800 people on Atlantis Beach, or celebrate with 1,500 standing or 1,200 seated guests on the terrace of the Zero Entry Pool.



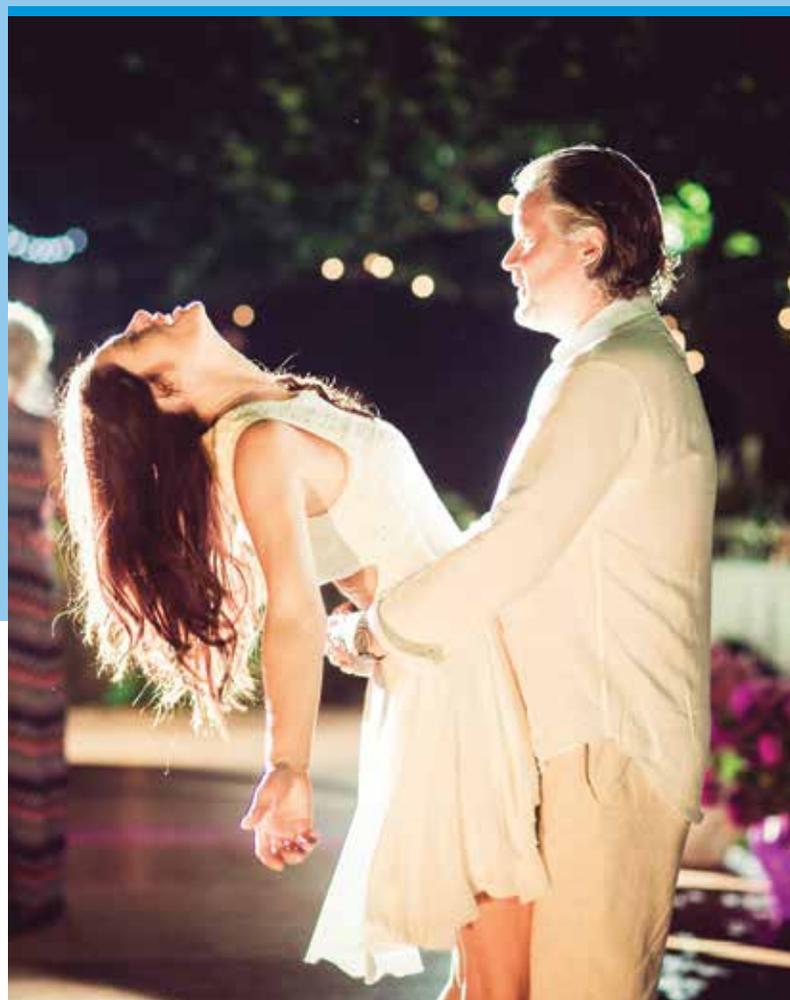
Say "I DO" in **exotic** Karma

A Karma wedding is a promise made in paradise. The extraordinary resorts offer a choice of sublime settings in which to say, 'I do'. Whether it's the exotic beauty of Bali, the European luxury of the Scilly Isles or the South of France, or the tropical shores of Thailand, Karma properties will ensure your special day is an extraordinary experience.

The team of friendly and knowledgeable wedding coordinators can organise every detail of your dream day, from the ceremony and venue to accommodation and entertainment for you and your guests. Karma properties understand that a wedding is the start of one of life's greatest journeys. Begin your adventure at Karma.

Karma Kandara, Bali - Weddings

Karma Kandara's incredible location, perched on a cliff above a beautiful private beach, was selected by a Feng Shui expert for its powers of good fortune. There couldn't be a more auspicious place to celebrate the start of



your life together.

Karma Royal Haathi Mahal, Goa, India

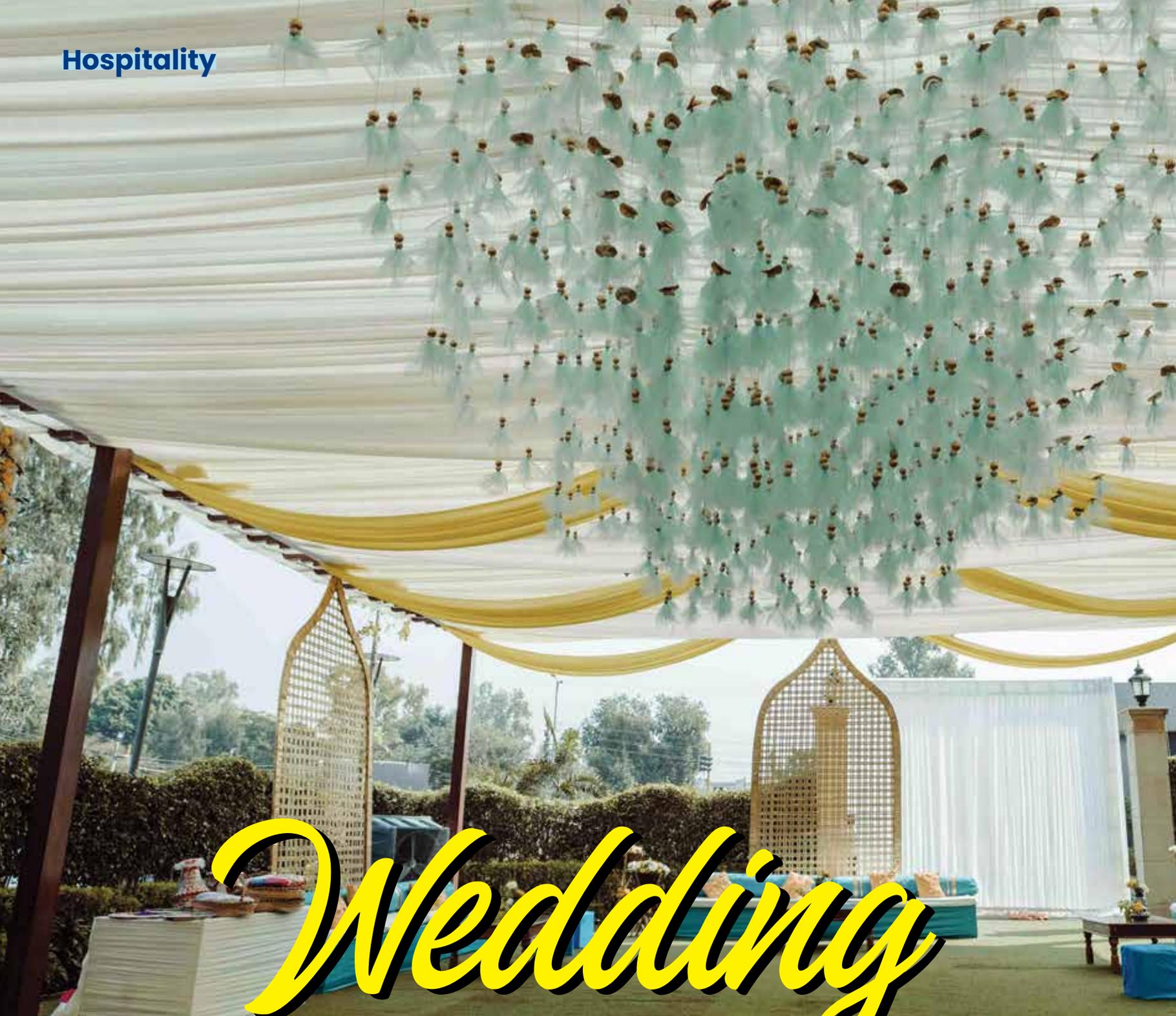
Nestled between the sparkling Arabian Sea and the tropical river Sal, Karma Royal Haathi Mahal boasts a lush, landscaped setting and all the luxuries you could wish for on your

wedding day. Choose between a traditional European or Indian ceremony in either our flower-filled Terrace Garden Wedding or Magical Goan Poolside Wedding.

Pelikanos, Mykonos

With its stunning white architecture and deep blue seas, the Greek island of Mykonos

is a magical setting for your wedding. Invite your guests to share your special day in our eight-bedroom private Karma Estate with three individual villas, where you can exchange vows on the bamboo-shaded terrace next to the infinity pool, with sweeping views across the island's most glorious stretch of sand and the azure Aegean Sea.



Wedding

Trends 2021

Ashish Boobna, Director, FNP Weddings & Events share about the new normal of the wedding industry and lifestyle Eco-Friendly wedding trends.

Wedding industry

This pandemic has taken a toll on almost every industry in the world and the Indian Wedding Industry, estimated around \$50 billion, has now come to a halt.

Changes in the era of pandemic

Indian wedding market is ever-growing and has multiplied multifold in the past few years. However, due to this ongoing pandemic, things may change but wedding functions will never stop in India and we will come back stronger.

Role of sustainability in the wedding season

This year has made us realize, that it's high

time that we give more priority to sustainability. Being, the biggest floral chain in India, we have always been closer to the elements of nature and now we will also implement them in our weddings.

Coping up with the changing trends

We would make all the required arrangements as per the need of the hour. Be it the setup of our venues, installing sanitizing tunnels, tweaking the buffet style and so on.. everything will be done in accordance with the need of the hour.

When in doubt just bifurcate your guest list

It's always advisable to minimize the guest list in order to adhere to the safety protocols. Therefore we have suggested breaking down the guest list to 2 different celebrations so that more people can be a part of their celebration.

Keep the grandeur of the celebrations intact

There are couples who want to continue with the celebrations despite of the restrictions. Therefore, to make it possible we are ensuring that all the precautions will be followed by us and our staff for the safety of our guests.

Discussing Current Scenario

People who planned their wedding during



April'21, we suggested to most of the couples and their families to shift their weddings to October-November-December dates. Hopefully by then the Covid situation should be under control, and the Govt. may be kind enough to give us better guidelines, having better no of people in a wedding. Over a span of 3 years, FNP Gardens has successfully organized 1300+ Weddings until March 2020 & completed 80+ Weddings during pandemic.

Lifestyle Eco-friendly Wedding Trends

A wedding is a one-time event and everyone from the couple to the relatives eagerly wait for this day. From the food menu to the decorations – there are many ways that a big fat wedding is environmentally hazardous. From eco-friendly bridal outfits, floral kaleere, plant-based menus people are becoming more aware of their carbon footprint in general, so having a sustainable wedding appeals to everyone. To do our part towards the planet, we at FNP Weddings recommend to follow the following

tips to Plan an Eco-friendly Wedding.

Opt for Ecofriendly Wedding Invites

You can choose either a recycled paper for your wedding invitation card use. Or use seed papers as an invitation card so that the friends and relatives can grow plants easily at their house

Go Digital by simply sending a creative and innovative e-mail wedding invite. Many of your cousins or family members may follow this step of e-invitation after you start the trend

Decor

Wedding is the most special day of our lives and no wonder we all want that day to be perfect! What sets the right mood for the celebrations is the décor of your functions!

Go Thematic - The themes you choose for all the functions should be on point starting from the drapes, napkins, your outfits, stage area and so on, everything should add the right vibe to your celebrations. If you have chosen colour schemes for your functions, you must add all the decorative elements together and create a cohesive setting for a stunning looking setup. So, you have to make a list of your preferences, colour meanings of red, pink, yellow, green or blue and also select the suitable palette to turn your wedding into the most memorable affair.

Green Venue- Choose a wedding venue that is a farmhouse or lavish garden where the beautiful plants and trees are the prime attractions. The giant trees can be used to hang eco-friendly lamps too.

There are various beautiful succulents that you can use as table centre pieces instead of plastic flowers. Instead of chandeliers use air plants, hanging plants, or hanging terrariums to deck up your wedding space

Amazing Photo backdrops People dress up beautifully for a wedding and wait to take pictures to flood their social media handles. Thus, keeping a photo booth will be essential. Create a vertical garden using shelves or shoe racks and that will work as an amazing backdrop for photographs.

Natural Lighting

If there is no such ritual of “auspicious time” at your wedding, then, arrange the wedding occasion in a garden or farmhouse or somewhere outside so that you can use only natural lighting. This will save a lot of money and energy and save the environment.

Floral jewellery

Kaleeras are fast becoming a bridal accessory worth flaunting. Many millennial brides are refraining from authentic golden ones to new-age and pretty floral ones. With the change in the fashion cycle, the concept of kaleere designs too has changed, we have seen brides welcome an edgy and contemporary spin! Taking a cue from this raging trend and the style of each bride we curate them according to their need. Some brides choose kaleeras simply made of white and a little baby pink roses while some loves dry flowers. Some brides prefer the mogra kaleeras. Kaleeras either made completely with mogras or along with other flowers like roses look extremely gorgeous. A lot of them try strings of white or red flowers. At Ferns & Petals, we have also made aromatic kaleeres and kaleeres equipped with red, pink, yellow or white blossoms that make up for one of the most scintillating and gorgeous accessories of a bride's look.

Plant based menus

Plan out a healthy plant based rich menu for your wedding guests. Use locally grown organic vegetables to promote a healthier lifestyle. Also, the local farmers will get a push if you use them in your wedding menu. Also, here will be hardly any motor vehicle hazard used in the transportation of imported vegetables from other locations.

Go for eco-friendly Wedding Cutlery

People wait to enjoy lavish food at the wedding. You all will agree that food is one of the prime attractions of any wedding. Therefore, if you are planning an eco-friendly wedding, then, give special attention to cutlery items. You can use banana leaves plates, bamboo leaves plates, or Sal leaves plates. They will reduce environmental degradation.

Experience a Dream Minimony

Recent times have shown and taught us more deeply that change is the only constant. That even with every little detail planned, nothing is ever completely certain. The COVID-19 pandemic has definitely changed how we used to live, celebrate and enjoy a big fat Indian wedding.

With the lingering pandemic, uncertainty and a move towards embracing change, couples and their families are switching from a traditional wedding ceremony to a 'minimony' or 'micro-wedding'.

Through multiple lockdowns and realizing the new circumstantial realities, couples are now aspirational about hosting an experiential & instagram mable minimony or micro-wedding at a beautiful location. Adapting to the new trend and scenario, MRS Hotels is all ready to give you the wedding of your dreams with each of their hotels in Rajasthan – Narendra Bhawan Bikaner & Suryagarh Jaisalmer providing a dreamy and luxurious setting, while being committed to the highest standards of safety and assuring best in class services.



The various experiences offered at Narendra Bhawan Bikaner and Suryagarh Jaisalmer take guests on a journey and is a representation of a unique way of life carefully preserving the traditions of both cities and framing them in a modern idiom. MRS Hotels gives you an opportunity to select any of these experiences and curate an exclusive itinerary for your minimony or micro-wedding. Couples can choose to host a surreal





cocktail night either on the secluded dunes in Jaisalmer against the backdrop of a mesmerizing folk singer or celebrate under a canopy stars on a full-moon night by choosing the Darbari experience in Bikaner. For the day functions, both hotels offer a host of off-beat epicurean experiences with pristine settings such as stunning picnic brunches at Desert Oases & Pastures or enjoying traditional Marwari cuisine within the comfort of the hotels. Post the late night pheras, drive deep into the desert at the hour before dawn with family & friends and host a nourishing breakfast of traditional Indian delicacies in the company of peacocks.

Narendra Bhawan Bikaner is an art-deco haveli, a robustly urban space designed as a grand residence where the last Maharaja of Bikaner once lived. At Narendra Bhawan Bikaner, the Gaushala at the entrance is best suited for an elegant cocktail evening with guests enjoying an enticing menu of petite collations and beguiling cocktails, while the rooftop set with an azure infinity pool is

the perfect place to host a fun bachelor's or bachelorette bash. The central courtyard, Diwali Chowk, is the perfect setting for an intimate but regal wedding ceremony. Host a minimony by booking 25 rooms, and the hotel will be exclusively booked for you.

Suryagarh Jaisalmer sits on the threshold looking east towards the ancient city of Jaisalmer that offers an unsurpassable antiquity, and looking west to the undulating landscape of the Thar Desert with its raw, natural beauty. Landscape artists have conjured up a series of sculptural gardens and courtyards reminiscent of times past. Each a sanctuary on its own, these venues allow for quiet seclusion as well as entertainment in harmony with the garden ambience that brings the outside in. The intuitively inspired location, contemporary hotel, remarkable architectural purity of its venues and unexplored experiences together makes Suryagarh Jaisalmer a perfect location for an unforgettable wedding. With a minimum booking of 50 rooms, the hotel will be exclusively reserved for your wedding celebrations & guests.

Both Narendra Bhawan Bikaner & Suryagarh Jaisalmer come together to offer you numerous combinations and possibilities of space and activity seating arrangements, accessibility to high-quality visual equipment, creative menu options and of course themes and experiences which is certain to make your event in the city of Bikaner or Jaisalmer not only unusual but extraordinary.

Luxury Destination Weddings - The Tamara Kodai

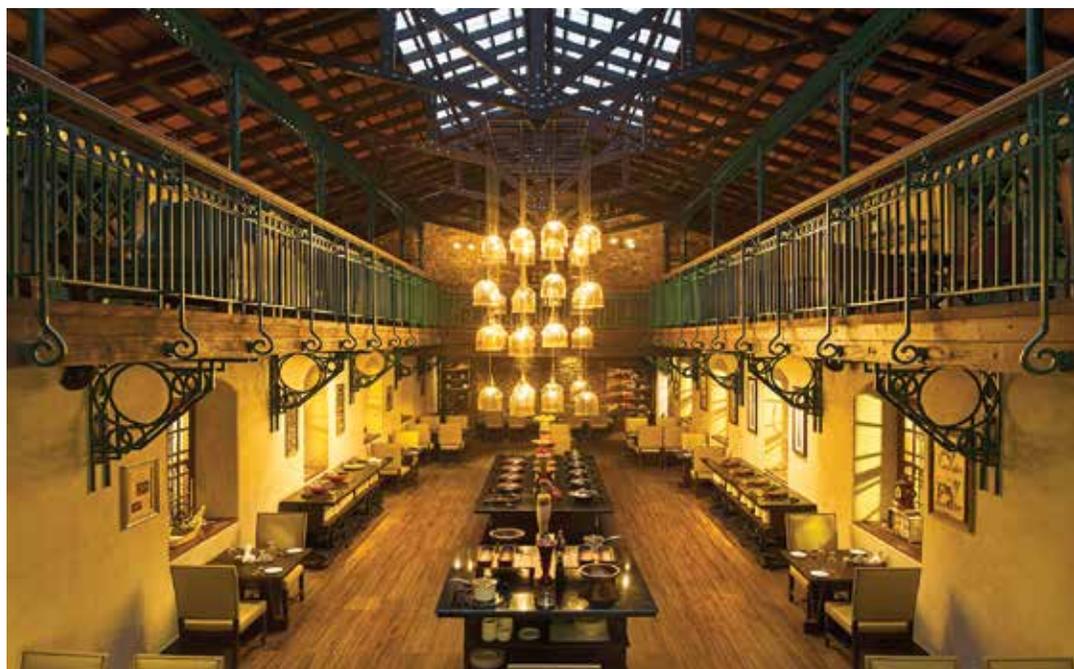


A wedding is an unforgettable experience and what could be more romantic than a destination wedding in the hills, where the lovely couple can reach out and touch the clouds, and the undulating hills serve as a serene backdrop for the solemn ceremony? The Tamara Kodai - the two-time award-winning, stunning heritage resort is home to a sprawling lawn overlooking verdant hills and is the perfect venue for your special day providing for both an outdoor wedding and an indoor reception party.

With an outdoor wedding, the lush green lawns offer the perfect carpet as the couple becomes man and wife – with the sun playing hide and seek with the clouds during the day or under a blanket of stars for a night wedding. Who knows, a shooting star may just make a sudden appearance for you and your guests on this most memorable event of your lives. To ensure a free-flowing space, the lawns open up from the restaurants, and can also be set up with seating, a DJ console, and a dance floor.

Should you prefer an indoor event, the 1700 square foot Puliyan Hall with customizable seating arrangements (theatre or reception style), and state-of-the-art light and sound equipment is available for your celebrations. Additionally, a large pre-function area is a perfect point to set up a canape and cocktail evening.

For those weekend weddings where you will have guests from across the globe joining in the celebrations - The Tamara Kodai's luxury accommodation promises a unique experience – colonial-style design, luxury amenities, and private balconies with picture-postcard views of the hills.



And for the newlyweds, we offer a private Presidential Suite with a jacuzzi and garden for that much-needed together-time once wedding festivities end.

Your wedding venue will always be special. It is at that stage that you exchanged promises

of love and togetherness, before friends and family. It is that point where you embarked on a beautiful journey as husband and wife. It marks the start of a new milestone in your life. The Tamara Kodai understands how important this is and offers you memories for a lifetime.

The wedding venue therefore becomes special as it is where you capture all those special moments and all the memories will forever connect you back to that special place that was in the backdrop, where you exchanged vows and embarked on that beautiful journey of togetherness with your partner. The services and the location therefore becomes equally important. The Angsana Oasis Spa & Resorts-Bangalore, part of the world renowned Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts, is a one-stop destination to make your wedding memorable and provide that perfect ambience for a fairy-tale wedding amidst a picturesque venue.

Angsana Oasis Spa & Resort have both outdoor and indoor facilities for the wedding ceremonies- you could opt for the lush outdoor lawns or the elegant indoor venues depending on the choice of the bride and the groom. The venue is an ideal choice for a lavish wedding as well as a simple and small wedding celebration.

The Resort is equipped with 2 large banquet halls and has 124 rooms including suites and private villas for the accomodation of the wedding guests. Whether you want the entire wedding to be planned and arranged by the team of experts at Angsana or are looking at just conducting a specific event, Angsana will provide personalized and innovative



A Journey Towards Forever

A wedding is an unforgettable and memorable experience and the wedding celebrations plays a pivotal role as it aims at providing a blissful commencement to the new couple.



services that will make your special moment an unforgettable one.

We at Angsana strive to do that for you, by offering the choicest of professionals who will cater to the tiniest needs and preferences tastefully, to lend that touch of designer elegance. Our hospitable staff will ensure that the celebrations are cherished by you and your loved ones for a lifetime.

The newlyweds also have the option to stay in our exquisite suites with private balcony and wake up to magical views every morning during their honeymoon stay.

Services offered to make your dream wedding truly memorable include:

- Gourmet Menu with personal customization by our experienced Star Chefs including Jain food specials
- Accommodation for you and family and guests in luxury suites and villas
- Access to Allied Services including Wedding Planners, Wedding Photographers, Decorators, Logistics so that you can enjoy your date with destiny without any hassles
- Spa/Beauty Treatments at the Renowned Angsana Spa
- Reserved Car Parking Space

Michelin Guide to Best Small Restaurants in Macao



Great food doesn't have to come with a hefty price tag. Known as UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, Macao is home to some truly lip-smacking and value-for-money food joints, as well as fine-dine Michelin Star restaurants by celebrity chefs.

The hugely popular Michelin Guide has identified delicious small and mid-sized restaurants in Macao for your next gastronomy holiday. Bookmark this guide, it will leave you with a sense of satisfaction, at having eaten so well at a reasonable price.

Wong KunSio Kung (Broadway): Known for noodles and congee

If you're looking for a quick bite after watching all the street entertainment on Broadway, then try this simple noodle and congee shop. The menu is slightly smaller than the original branch but it still has the

same focus on handmade noodles using the traditional bamboo method and served with dried shrimp roe. The congee is smooth and satisfying and has a delicate aftertaste and there are also a few other hot dishes available.

Lok Kei Noodles: Known for noodles and congee

This busy shop next to the pier still kneads the noodles with a bamboo pole just like old times and the flavourful broth is simmered with an array of seasonal fish. The owner's wife insists on making wonton wrappers and cooking noodles by herself and she's very specific about both the cooking time and the consistency of the noodles. Other popular dishes include crab congee, tossed noodles with dried prawn roe, and deep-fried wontons with crispy dace balls.

O Castiço: Known for Portuguese food

Ownership of this simple, unassuming little place with just five tables has now passed down to the late owner's son – though his spirit is still honoured in the atmosphere of the

restaurant, which is as friendly and as intimate as it ever was. The food is also just as good – the home-style dishes are authentic and carefully prepared, with recommendations being the stewed pork with clams and the oven-roasted bacalhau with potatoes.

Sei Kee Café: Known for pork chop buns

Serves pork chop buns, deep-fried à la minute. Pork Chop Bun is a popular Macao-style burger in a crispy baked baguette with thickly sliced grilled pork meat in between. It is different from a regular hamburger as it doesn't have vegetables or sauce. The bun is crispy while the meat is tender and juicy.

Lord Stow: Known for egg tarts

Prides itself on its Portuguese egg tarts that have a crisp shell and silky smooth filling. Though this dessert originated in a monastery in Portugal 200 years ago, it became popular after it arrived in Macao. The egg tarts captivates everybody's souls and makes for a perfect souvenir.

Singapore Food Festival 2021

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB), together with lifestyle food destination Foodhall India, is bringing the Singapore Food Festival (SFF), the highly anticipated annual celebration of Singaporean cuisine, to India this year.

Now in its 28th year, the SFF has become an established fixture on the global tourist calendar. But, with COVID-19 restricting travel, the STB has decided to take the SFF to key local markets like India, with the aim of cementing Singapore's reputation as a leading culinary destination offering up a diversity of mouth-watering delicacies.

Held concurrently with the SFF in Singapore from August 27 to September 12, 2021, the Indian edition of the SFF will invite food lovers to dive into Singapore's rich culinary landscape through a hybrid line up of virtual and live events and activities at Foodhall stores across the country.

Gourmands can expect a wide range of live activations with a special menu featuring

Hainanese Chicken Rice, Satay (skewered and grilled meat, served with a sauce), Baos and a very unique 'Toast Bar' at the Café by Foodhall, as well as a unique bakery experience featuring Pandan Cakes (light, fluffy, green-coloured sponge cake flavoured with the juices of Pandan leaves), Egg Tarts, Curry buns and more, baked fresh, daily. Patrons can also indulge in a weekly-rotating Noodle Cart paying homage to the numerous hawker centres in Singapore and get hands on with the Foodhall Cookery Studio that will carry forward the celebrations with a number of master classes celebrating Singapore's cuisine.

Indian Chef Anahita Dhondy has specially



curated Singaporean recipe ingredient boxes that will delight customers. The festival brings special virtual masterclasses with Haikal Johari, Executive Chef at Singapore's iconic Michelin-starred establishment Alma by Juan Amador.

GB Srithar, Regional Director, India, Middle East & South Asia (IMESA), Singapore Tourism Board, said, "The Indian consumer today

Bet on the good times with Zobet's all new exquisite menu!

Zobet, the Victorian Era inspired gastropub located in Camac Street is all set to swoon patrons with the launch of their exquisite new menu. The masterfully curated menu by the culinary team of Zobet is sure to enhance one's gastronomical journey.



parotta chicken taco, 'Mock meat dimsum', 'Sali chicken with steam rice', 'Crespelle pasta', 'Penang style grill chicken with Kimchi rice', 'Lemon pie' and 'Pull me up chocolate cake cake', amongst many others.

Zobet goes ahead and also offers a Live Sushi Bar with a range of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options to devour into. The vegetarian selection includes, 'Futo vegan maki, Asparagus tempura roll', 'Truffle and cheese rolls', 'Avocado cheese Maki' while the non vegetarian selection includes, 'Oh my god sushi', 'Prawn tempura roll' and 'Ying yang salmon roll' to just name a few.

The heady concoctions like,

To bestow the best experience to one's taste-buds, Zobet has introduced an extensive and delectable range of new offerings. From appetisers to mains or the desserts, everything will win your heart and make it a satisfying dining affair. Some of the flavoursome signatures on the menu include, 'Malabar

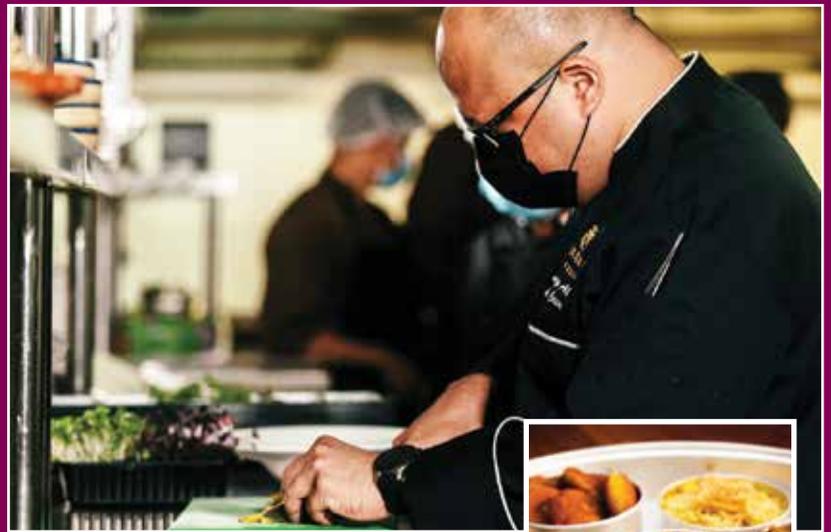
is increasingly experimenting with new cuisines. Exploring destinations and their cultures by sampling local culinary delights is as much a part of the Indian tourist itinerary as seeing the sights. Over the past few years, we have showcased Singapore's culinary landscape in engaging and exciting ways to the Indian audiences. The current situation unfortunately does not allow experience of the SFF first hand. So, we are bringing the SFF to them with the help of Foodhall India. Our collaboration takes our audiences on a culinary journey through Singapore in a fun, unique, innovative and safe way."

He added, "As part of a vision to engage our Indian audiences creatively in the COVID-19 environment, the STB has been harnessing technology to reimagine its content, products and offerings. Singapore has long been among the top tourist destinations for the Indian traveller. We want to keep that engagement going by inviting them to reimagine and experience Singapore virtually and in a hybrid way."



'Scottish Affairs', 'Malted House' and 'Caribbean Islands' are one of the many beautiful blends the gastropub has on offer.

So come with your loved ones and bet on the good times, just at Zobet!



Abu Dhabi Expands Emirati Cuisine Programme



Following the overwhelming positive response from consumers and stakeholders to the Emirati Cuisine Programme, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) is launching its second phase.

The programme was launched in 2020 with the aim of making Emirati food more accessible to visitors and residents by training hotel chefs to prepare and serve authentic dishes.

In the initial phase of the cultural campaign, 30 hotels in Abu Dhabi gained certification in Emirati cuisine. Now, more than 20 other hotels will participate in the second phase, with their chefs being virtually trained by Emirati culinary talent Chef Khulood Atiq. Saadiyat Rotana Resort & Villas will host the filming of the classes, in which Chef Khulood will teach authentic Emirati recipes including favourites such as the luqaimat dessert and machboos.

"The success of the Emirati Cuisine Programme demonstrates the appetite for more authentic Emirati experiences across the capital," said HE Ali Hassan Al Shaiba, Executive Director of Tourism and Marketing at DCT Abu Dhabi. "We are delighted to see such immense interest from the public to explore this exceptional culinary journey, as well as the industry's support in making this the success that it is. We hope that more and more people taste delicious Emirati dishes for the first time to learn about the ingredients and experience the flavours and beauty of the country, where they are always warmly welcomed."

Inspired by the UAE's diverse population, the second phase of the programme will feature new fusion recipes that intertwine Emirati cuisine with classic dishes from other cultures. The culinary experiences will be created by chefs from some of the emirate's favourite restaurants, such as Fouquet's Abu Dhabi at Louvre Abu Dhabi, Punjab Grill at the Ritz-Carlton Grand Canal, and OSMO Lounge & Bar at Hilton Yas Island.

In one example, OSMO is launching a hybrid creation that combines a classic brownie recipe with Emirati dates, complemented with a crumble made from traditional batheetha.

"Emirati cuisine is very dear to my heart as its rich flavours bring back nostalgic memories of growing up in the UAE," said Chef Khulood. "Each dish has a story, and every bite brings with it a feeling of comfort and excitement that I wish to share with many people around me. I'm honoured to be part of this campaign, and to familiarise residents and visitors with my culture through their taste buds. I hope to see more of the Emirati cuisine around the world, and for it to receive the recognition it deserves."

The second phase of the Emirati Cuisine Programme will run until the end of December, while the fusion dishes at participating restaurants will be offered for a limited period of three months until 30 November 2021.



Hakkasan Dubai Returns with a Brand New Lounge

After temporarily closing its doors this summer, the award-winning global Cantonese restaurant Hakkasan Dubai has reopened with a refreshed interior and a reimagined seasonal food and cocktail menu.

Following Hakkasan's relocation to Atlantis, The Palm in October 2018 as a pop-up, its wildly successful tenure over the past two years has ensured the restaurant a permanent home at the resort. With this in mind, over the summer of 2021, Hakkasan appointed Design Worldwide Partnership to spearhead an enhancement programme to elevate the guest experience and deliver a renewed look and feel to the popular restaurant.

The recent Hakkasan remodel features a stylish new lounge area, inviting guests to enjoy pre or post-dinner cocktails and signature bites in a more relaxed space. The intimate and elegant dining area has also been refreshed with a colour palette of dark blue and turquoise tones complemented by intricately carved wood screens and latticing to create a more ambient dining space.

Hakkasan's lounge will also come to life each evening with the launch of the brands' celebrated Hakkatini Nights. Taking place every evening from 10:30 pm in the lounge and bar, guests can enjoy after-dinner or late-night cocktails for just AED 98 per person including two beverages or AED 138 per person including two beverages and a small eat. Beverages include signature cocktails such as the Apple Ginger Martini and the Hibitini, as well as an extensive selection of wines, beers and spirits. The Small Eat menu features signature favourites, including the Wagyu Beef Puff, Salt and Pepper Squid and the Chilli Crab Taro Croquette.

In celebration of fresh and seasonal ingredients, Hakkasan's menu continues to offer restaurant signatures as well as a selection of



brand-new dishes featuring sustainably sourced produce. This includes the Spicy Organic Yellowtail, Assam Seafood Toban, Curry Sweet Potato, and a locally handpicked King Oyster Mushroom Salad – capturing the very best of the UAE's organic, fresh and local ingredients. Additional new signature dishes include the Mala Wagyu Short Rib with pumpkin crisp and the Lychee Lobster with yuzu pearl – dishes which have been crafted exclusively for Hakkasan Dubai.

Hakkasan Dubai is also one of the first in the world to feature *Love Stories*, a new cocktail collection inspired, in part, by the cult Wong Kar-Wai film *In the Mood for Love*. The iconic film, set against the seductively glamorous backdrop of 1960s Hong Kong, is a story of love, intimacy, escapism, passion and longing. The new *Love Stories* collection at Hakkasan Dubai tells a similar story of love and desire through cocktails which capture and invigorate the senses, taking guests on a sensorial journey through taste, smell, touch and sight. Guests

can savour the captivation of *'The Far East'* with bold flavours of kaffir lime, pear, and plum sake, or experience the passion of *'Mistress of Deception'* with a theatrical element at the start followed by sweet and tangy flavours of Aperol, passionfruit and Rose champagne.

The reimagined menu and refreshed space for Hakkasan Dubai is the first project for global hospitality company Tao Group Hospitality since taking over the global culinary brand in April 2021. Tao Group Hospitality now operates 61 entertainment dining and nightlife venues in 22 markets across five continents and features a collection of widely recognized hospitality brands. These include Tao, Marquee, Lavo, Beauty & Essex, Avenue, Cathédrale and Koma brands, as well as Hakkasan, Yauatcha, Omnia, Ling Ling, Jewel and Casa Calavera brands, among many others.

In the next couple of months Hakkasan Dubai will continue its transformative journey with a new Friday brunch concept due to launch in mid-September.



Open the door to find yourself in a happy chaos!

In the words of Maya Angelou “You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.” Entrepreneur Vandita Purohit’s Indo Bohemian Cafe in Pune is a haven that breathes creativity with a natural affinity.

Tucked away in the quaint bylanes of Bhonsale Nagar, and surrounded by lush greenery, Mauji sits beautifully nestled in a two-storey sprawling bungalow. As you step inside, it’s always the aroma of freshly-brewed coffee that will fill you up with a sudden boost of energy. Every little element here peeps you up to start a conversation. Born out of passion during the pandemic, Mauji is an evolved Russian concept of a time café.

Step inside, and you will be welcomed by a

myriad of quirks. An old Bajaj Chetak scooter that Vandita picked up from a scrap dealer, now stands happily as a reception counter - the first thing to catch your eye as you let yourself in through a big green door. Vandita envisioned Mauji as a space that spells warmth and embraces everyone with open arms. And that’s exactly how it makes everyone feel. One has to remove shoes before entering so that if you ever like to snuggle up on the sofa, you do that with the same ease and comfort as you would in your

own living room.

Vandita’s love for restoring almost anything to everything, recycling, and upcycling reflects all around this space. As you keep exploring more, you will see a plethora of art objects which are both intrinsic and eccentric. Like the cozy yellow couches where once you sit, you will literally find yourself buried for hours. These sofas came along with the property and were essentially torn and ripped. Instead of throwing them away and replacing them with new ones, Vandita decided to give them a complete makeover. Similarly, the pretty little stools sitting around the tables elsewhere were actually the drawers of an old cupboard.

The interesting pictures in the frames hanging on the walls are nothing but the cutouts from several journals Vandita picked up during her travels across the world. For her, ‘use and throw’ doesn’t exist, everything is ‘use and



reuse’. And that’s what makes this whole space all the more amiable. The colorful drapes falling from the ceiling are her mother’s old sarees. Whenever she would feel inspired, she would spend a whole night turning an empty wall into a piece of art.

Besides its unique concept of being a time café - which literally means you pay for the time that you spend here while your beverages are on the house -, Mauji offers multiple experiences for multiple moods - specially curated for its patrons. The property hosts a studio space, a coworking space, an event space, a maker’s space, a screening lounge, and a library. Even the food here is prepared from scratch every day and customized to perfection for each customer according to their taste bud and preference.

The pure vibe and good chaos are how this place can be described in a few words. And it is true when Vandita says to everyone who pays a visit, that “at Mauji, you can be a manmauji!”



One8 Commune- Opened its Doors to the City of Joy!

The iconic One8 Commune, a resto bar owned by none other than Virat Kohli, opened its doors in the city of Kolkata.

Located in the heart of the city at Golden Park, Kolkata the place upholds a thoughtful blend of the old-world charm with the contemporary. The décor complements the guise of togetherness, while incorporating the ambience of the city's nostalgic heritage. After its inaugural outlet in DelhiAerocity, One8 Commune is now ready to steal the show of the resto-bar community of Kolkata.

Designed by renowned interior stylist SumeshMenon, the signature resto-bar spreads over an area of 4,500 sq ft plus and has a seating capacity of 100 covers that includes capsule style pods and a distinct raised VIP seating space, with a backdrop of an LED lit signature of Virat Kohli. The colour palette includes shades of rust, olive green and blue in varying tones and textures to add drama to the whole space. The

amalgamation of all elements also reflects the brand's belief in harmony and compassion to create a space that is synonymous with comfort, based on a singular aura of togetherness and uniqueness.

Virat Kohli says, "My connection with Kolkata has always been very joyous and remains integral to me from my under-19 days till today. Calcuttans know how to do justice to the food and Kolkata's food culture has always been fascinating to me hence we thought One8 Commune could be a fantastic addition to the city's gastronomic preferences with a bit of our distinctive twists.

The unique blend of Kolkata's colonial characteristics, architecture and history combined with its modern discoveries and contemporary vibes creates a quality contrast



and that is what we aspire to bring to the table. The idea is to epitomise Kolkata through the Commune's food and spirit."

The finely curated menu by well-renowned Chef Pawan Bisht is a diverse and vibrant multi-cuisine menu that caters to a global palate; right from staple Pizza-Burger re-inventions, to heavy-duty community platters, the menu balances it all with élan. From Midnight Rock Jammers to Sunday Brunch brigades, Low-key Vibe Chillers to Shot-downing party freaks, from the Misunderstood Artists to Corporate Go-Getters, One8 taps into a unique thread that binds them all — A love for good people, scrumptious food and a glorious time.

Smoke House Deli 2.0

Bandra is the microcosm of the world, an eclectic mix of art, culture, sights, and people from across the globe. And Pali Village - its quaint and charming neighbourhood - rises tall among a cacophony of sights, sounds, and scenes.



Standing at the very border of Pali Village is the all-new Smoke House Deli 2.0 - a seamless mix of the old and new, borrowing the best from the past and effortlessly amalgamating it with the hustle and bustle of the present.

Riyaz Amlani, CEO & MD, Impresario Handmade Restaurants, said “Smoke House Deli - Pali is an iconic spot in Bandra, a landmark in its own right. Our patrons have created several memories here with family and friends over great food and wine, for the better part of 7 years. Now, its 2.0 evolution is bringing a fresh and wholesome new experience that continues to channel the same warmth, comfort, and love that we’re known for. It is the most wholesome spot for all things that spell comfort in Bandra.”

In an area replete with Portuguese influences, Smoke House Deli’s iconic outpost has been refreshed in a brand new avatar, weaving whimsical stories via its walls and decor. Drawing inspiration from its surroundings, the outpost brings to life a playful world of food, fauna, and felines as you make your way through the ‘home’ of a Portuguese era grandmother who is also an ardent birdwatcher. Big bay windows let in abundant natural light and greenery throughout the outpost, while the second floor exudes familiar comfort with a fresh twist. It’s a charming space to recreate old memories or forge new ones, in the company of good food, friends, and family.

Jaydeep Mukherjee, Brand Head - Smoke House Deli, said, “For as long as I can remember, Smoke House Deli - Pali has been everyone’s favourite spot for celebration. From big milestones to smaller get-togethers, our



patrons have added so much joy to this home-away-from-home. Be it cook-outs or bar nights, intimate wedding receptions to baby showers, first dates to proposals, Smoke House Deli - Pali has always been a place of warmth and comfort. Smoke House Deli 2.0 is a labour of love, with each element of the menu and decor carefully crafted to be shared and celebrated with the residents of Bandra and beyond.”

Federico Fraternal, Head of Design, Restore, the company behind the Deli’s refreshed new design language, said, “We wanted to carefully craft a restaurant experience unique to Pali Village, and so the concept is a Portuguese inspired home of an ardent bird watcher. The bistro furniture, tiles, whimsical hand-drawn illustrations, and overall light materials

create a welcoming environment bringing the food to the forefront of the experience, while maintaining the beloved Smoke House charm.”

In line with the abundance of the space and its inviting new look, Smoke House Deli 2.0 recreates its menu under chef extraordinaire and brand head, Jaydeep Mukherjee. Following the ethos of SHD 2.0, the menu serves up a wholesome offering of European cuisine, power-packed with signature flavours and a freshness to match. A delectable new addition is the Smoke House Deli Charcuterie, offering a wide selection of house-cured meats and sausages, smoked to perfection in the in-house smoker.

Staying true to its ‘something for everyone’ identity, Smoke House Deli’s menu also honours vegan, keto-friendly, and gluten-free diets. From the iconic breakfast spread with free-range organic egg dishes to signature dining delicacies of freshly rolled thin-crust pizzas, handmade pastas, single-estate cold-brew coffees, and fresh fruits salads, SHD 2.0 curates a menu that not only tastes good but also feels good.

Expressing its ethos for good food anywhere and anytime, the Goodness To Go station gives patrons a chance to grab wholesome, healthy, and fresh meals on-the-go in the form of healthy shakes, smoothies, salads, sandwiches, cold-pressed juices, and more.

SHD 2.0 also offers a delectable range of artisanal ice-creams to beat the heat and satisfy your soul. Crafted from the freshest ingredients and seasonal specials, the Mahabaleshwar Strawberry Sorbet, Donnie Darko, and Butter Pecan are bound to become your newest guilty indulgences.



Make Taste Buds Sizzle

Yas Island, one of the world's leading entertainment and leisure hubs, has launched its latest Half-Board Flex dining experience.



The upgrade, which is the first-of-its-kind elevated half-board experience, allows guests to dine with freedom at over 30 outlets across the destination. Visitors staying at any of the destination's leading hotels will be able to purchase the experience as an upgrade in their package. Guests will be able to enjoy incredible dining experiences across a variety of popular Yas Island outlets.

Individuals booking a stay at any of Yas Island's leading hotels through the destination's website, including the Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island and the W Abu Dhabi – Yas Island, will be able to purchase the package option and enjoy menus specifically crafted for them. Over 30 restaurants can be chosen from, including all restaurants at Yas Island's award-winning theme parks – Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi, and Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi – as well as select restaurants across Yas Island hotels and leading restaurants in Abu Dhabi's idyllic Yas Marina.

Guests booking Half Board Flex upgrade will enjoy one exclusively crafted three-course meal with the choice of one starter, one main course,



and one dessert. Half-Board Flex is available for purchase when booking a stay on any of Yas Island's hotels via YasIsland.ae. Guests can choose from Half Board Flex Standard or Half-Board Flex Premium. Children between four and eleven will receive 50% off, based on the adult package booked.**

Yas Island is home to some of Abu Dhabi's and the UAE's leading culinary destinations. With a wide range of dining outlets available across the Island, including The Starlight in Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi, Aquarium in Yas Marina, Garage at W Abu Dhabi – Yas Island, and Graphos in the newly opened Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island, the destination is a firm dining favorite for UAE residents and tourists.

Lifestyle



GRAND *Wedding* decor trends to look forward to in this season

2021 brings new joy and hope for in-person weddings and large gatherings. However, with the tensions of the third wave looming over us, the future of intimate spring weddings is here to stay.

When it comes to trends, they tend to be transient in nature. Especially since the technological revolution, there has been a sudden emergence of micro trends that only last for a couple of months. All hope is not lost, says Prerana Agarwal Saxena, Founder & CEO of Theme Weavers Designs who specializes in regal and palatial weddings. Capitalizing on several evergreen wedding trends, Theme Weavers Designs has compiled a comprehensive list of wedding trends that one can look forward to in the season.

- While COVID restrictions are in full force across the nation, families have been forced to drastically cut down their guest lists. So, intimate gatherings consisting of close family and friends are a trend that is here to stay. The emergence of intimate weddings does not mean weddings cannot be extravagant. Prerana recommends showcasing creativity found in the details of the wedding. People are looking for a personalized experience, so try adding name cards, and special centerpieces catering to the personality of each guest on a table as well.

- With the growing interest in sustainability, it is more than a trend. Young couples are more aware of the carbon effects a wedding has on the environment. Prerana has observed that many millennial couples are choosing digital invites rather than going for traditional invites. Reusable cutlery made of steel or recyclable wedding favors like tote bags and designer soy candles is being used. Having a zero-waste wedding does not mean that it cannot be luxurious - couples opt for composting leftover food or donating it to NGOs in order to be as carbon neutral as possible.



● A related area of sustainable weddings is advocating for local crafts and artisans. Theme Weavers Designs have always been promoting small artists and dying traditional crafts in their weddings, which adds the perfect touch of uniqueness. Pandemic wedding couples are cognizant of the fact that these are troubling times, and they wish to do their part in letting traditions live on. Boosted by the couple's openness to the inclusion of various art forms, Theme Weavers Designs handpicks quirky decor elements that are whimsical and eco-friendly, while catering to a specific aesthetic.

● A subset of the ombre craze is the rainbow ombre that has taken the wedding industry by the storm. Cascading and flowing elements in rainbow colors supported by soft pastels or neutrals have been gaining traction and for good reason! Prerana warns that if not properly decorated, it can backfire and look



gaudy, but with the assistance of an experienced wedding decorator and planner, this rainbow ombre theme is beautifully brought to life.

● Apart from the ombre trend, Pantone's colors of the year - a bright canary yellow and a brooding grey have also influenced wedding trends this year. These colors perfectly complement each other, making for some striking visuals. If used in the right proportions and backed by the right supporting hues, these colors can make for really great photograph opportunities. Using them as accent colors in upholstery, place cards, or even flowers may balance out the entire wedding in a very subtle, sophisticated manner.

● Going back to our Indian roots is something that brides are doing. But there are twists that each bride adds to their wedding. This ties into the point about having a highly tailored wedding, says Prerana. Theme Weavers Designs specialize in curating palatial weddings with breathtaking backdrops. These weddings are fit for royalty and embody the spirit of opulence. Revamped Indian weddings use traditional motifs like that of peacocks, earthy tones highlighted by reds, and the extensive use of the paisley pattern. There is a lot of room for improvisation, making this trend open for interpretation.

● Dutch still-life paintings have always been stunning works of artistic talent. A similar principle has been adapted to fit the wedding industry. Couples are opting for farm-fresh produce, and decor inspired by the quaint dutch life has been used. Elements like fruits, woven baskets, and light linens characterize these weddings. Prerana personally enjoys curating such weddings as they are on the rise, so there is a lot of space to be creative as it also has a touch of bohemian lifestyle sprinkled into it.

Trends are something that are constantly evolving. Though Theme Weavers Designs has always been advocating classic decor elements that never go out of style. By ingeniously combining major seasonal trends, the vision of the client and their panache for creating awe-inspiring weddings make for some great experiences and visuals that are bound to look great even twenty years down the line!

Authenticity is the **Best** **Luxury**

The exuberant zeal, creativity and passion of Pradhyuman Maloo is the driving force behind Nornament. Founded in 1998 by his mother Sushma Maloo, a first generation entrepreneur – Nornament was born out of the love for traditional jewellery craftsmanship and modern functionality.

With the intent of taking her legacy forward, Pradhyuman Maloo made headway into the jewellery business as the Creative Director of NORNAMENT. With over a decade of experience in jewellery design and manufacturing, Pradhyuman's philosophy is to empower customers with affordable luxury that is aesthetically and culturally Indian but at par with international standards of both quality and presentation.





Bold & Beautiful



Weddings are the most celebrated occasion in one's life and women have a strong desire to adorn themselves with beautiful statement pieces on this day. This Wedding season, Mirana by Megha presents a mesmerizing assortment of Opulent Bridal sets adorned in vibrant shades of Enamelling- A hot trend today!

Mirana by Megha deals with high end bespoke fashion jewellery. Each piece of the crafted jewellery is a perfect match for all the occasions. Mirana has a range of elegant bridal jewelry that enhances the beauty of a bride. Future brides are always looking up to the brand for their



D-day look. It is succeeding in crafting jewelry irrespective of the age of women. All the designs are an inspiration of Indian tradition.

The bridal assortment is a splendid collection that comprises a unique blend of Meenakari,

Gorgeous Chokers and Uncut Polki necklace, Kundan work, embedded with rubies and bangles twinkling with ingenuity. The grandeur of each piece complemented with flawless craftsmanship is sure to cast a spell and embrace

the Bridal Glow.

Every bride wishes to elevate her personal elegance and stand out on the day of her wedding. These jewels will assist her fulfill those desires.

Exquisite Jewellery Collection

Today's bride loves to be minimalist and prefers unique and precious jewelry to celebrate and mark the important milestones in their lives. Leader in designing aesthetics, Dishis is synonymous with the inimitable bond that is weaved not only between two individuals but their families too. As a symbol of a heartfelt blessing, this lightweight jewelry also captures the fashion sense of the modern bride, creating an element that is both unique and timeless.

Inspired by global trends and keeping in mind the fashion-forward choices of the millennial bride and groom, the new collection by Dishis celebrates the global design trend of "MODERN FEMININE" for the bride's jewelry.

The designs of the collection are influenced by modern feminine trends, exploring fluidity through interlinks - specifically, the interlinking



of several classical motifs to create an elegant collection that complements the pre and post-wedding lifestyle of today's bride. This wide range comprises necklaces, earrings, and rings for women. The collection is lightweight and is a perfect choice for those who do not want to overdo it. The collection can be worn in any close function or ceremony. It can be worn in the workplace and will enhance the beauty of your persona. The collection is thoughtfully designed, keeping in mind the need for today's working woman and hence can be worn either or ethnic or western wear.



The Contemporary Indian Bride



ORRR, India's leading and trusted brand of diamond jewellery have collaborated with celebrated fashion couturier Falguni & Shane Peacock to introduce its first ever designer bridal jewellery line. The collection has been designed featuring ORRRA's signature Crown Star diamonds with Falguni & Shane Peacock's distinct style of modern tradition. A special reveal was hosted at ORRRA's flagship Begumpet store in Hyderabad, graced by Falguni & Shane Peacock, Mr. Dipu Mehta - Managing Director, ORRRA and Cecil de Santa Maria - COO, ORRRA.

Disha Patani, the face of ORRRA, looks stunning sporting the collection dressed in Falguni Shane Peacock, embodying the essence of the modern-day bride, oozing elegance and confidence. Commenting on the collection, Disha said, "I am elated to be a part of this beautiful collection launched by ORRRA.

ORRRA is a brand that embodies femininity and beauty, and the collection captures what we, as modern women, want."

The unveiling of the collection was showcased with a special fashion presentation at the in-store preview, with social distancing measures in place. Brand patrons joined in to celebrate ORRRA's mastered legacy of Belgium craftsmanship in the new ORRRA Crown Star collection by Falguni & Shane Peacock.

Falguni & Shane Peacock's spectacular and unique design aesthetics combined with ORRRA's lineage of diamond jewellery have transformed into a special collection of Six necklaces with paired earrings. The collection has been created with the finest Crown Star diamonds adding an alluring mystique to the most exquisite bridal jewellery one can possibly own!

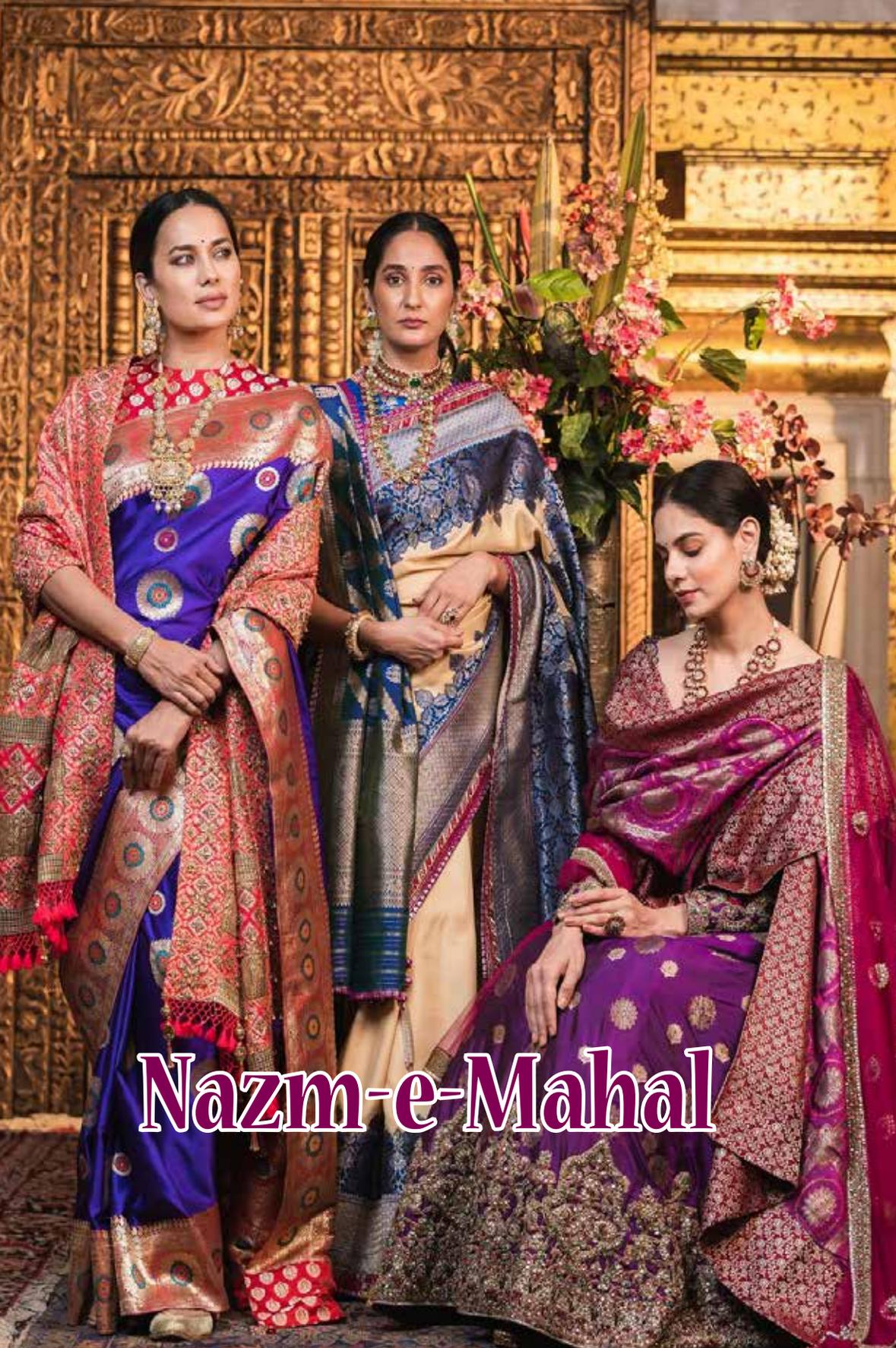
A wedding calls for pre-and post-wedding celebrations, and searching for the perfect wedding attire can be tiresome and costly. But fret not as the latest wedding collection from Gargee Designer is what will best suit your need. Thinking of the efforts involved in searching for the perfect D-Day attire, Gargee Designers has launched a new Spring/Summer collection 'Rang De Basanti'- an ode to unconditional love, which has everything for a modern-day man. The collection includes a wide array of kurta pajamas, jackets, band galas that is best for all your celebrations. Every ensemble is perfectly crafted, keeping in mind the occasion and the fashion. Floral prints and matching pajamas from the 'Rang De Basant' collection are made to flatter and make every festive occasion fashionably memorable. The Gargee collection, inspired by Amir Khusro's poem 'Aaj Rang Hai', reinterprets classic silhouettes and clean finishes to create contemporary aesthetics. It features intricately placed accents that showcase Indian couture. This collection of fabrics is infused with the authentic beauty of thread-work embroidery along with floral prints and foliage atop silks, cotton, and organzas in pastel colors like blues and reds.

Ravi Gupta concludes, "The collection represents the modern-day groom who is fashion conscious and likes to be a minimalist. We have all the elements of a significant day built into a very simple but effective design. In this season's collection, I focused on comfort combined with luxury fabrics and royal motifs. We have crafted every piece of our wedding ensembles with meticulous attention so that every groom can create the look he envisions for his special day.



Rang De Basanti





Nazm-e-Mahal

'Nazm-e-Mahal' by Leena Singh is the story of a classic royal maharani who values the old world charm and depicts a day of her life in the palace!

She is sophisticated, elegant, royal, and is empowered in her own demeanor. The poise in her gait portrays the epitome of her purity with timeless radiance and majestic epiphany.

AL couture - 2021 collection is adorned with the magic of royalty yet drenched with simplicity reflecting the pure soul of a princess of the Mughal era.

The collection combines delicate hand embroidery with meticulously curated woven textiles with classic AL royal authentic silhouettes worn by maharanis in palaces in the Mughal era. Through our interpretation, the brand aspires to reflect a poetic flow in volume,

layers, and impeccable garment construction which characterizes the unique beauty of 'Nazm-e-Mahal'.

The art of textile crafting is the signature style of AL. It's a unique mix of different kinds of weaves that are put together to create breathtaking patterns.

The high point of this collection is its antique brocade saris which have been sourced from the original wardrobes of the maharanis from their palaces of Rajasthan, and have been restored by our own weavers from Banaras. The warp and the weft of the weaves are infused with pure gold and pure silver strains the technique, which has become extinct over the



years. The subdued beautiful colors of light turquoise, light pink, light peach, and vibrant purple coupled with rich heavy weaves of the beautiful antique saris. These saris speak of the classic and subdued taste and style of maharanis of that era, who adorned the beauty of their royal life in their palaces.

The collection comprises classic blouses, circular lehengas, antique delicate saris with jeweled tassels, brocade-woven odhnis with antique gold fabrics, and re-interpreted lengthened jackets that can be worn with various classic silhouettes.

The purity and the simplicity of the maharanis of bygone era is reflected and authentically portrayed in these most exclusive pieces of art, with special techniques of restoration.

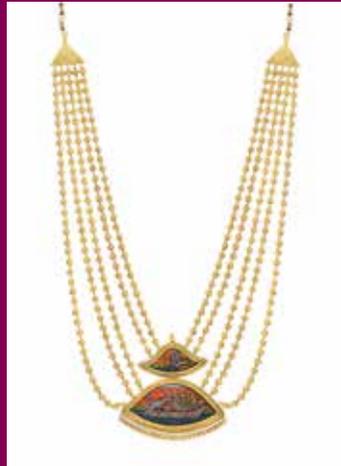
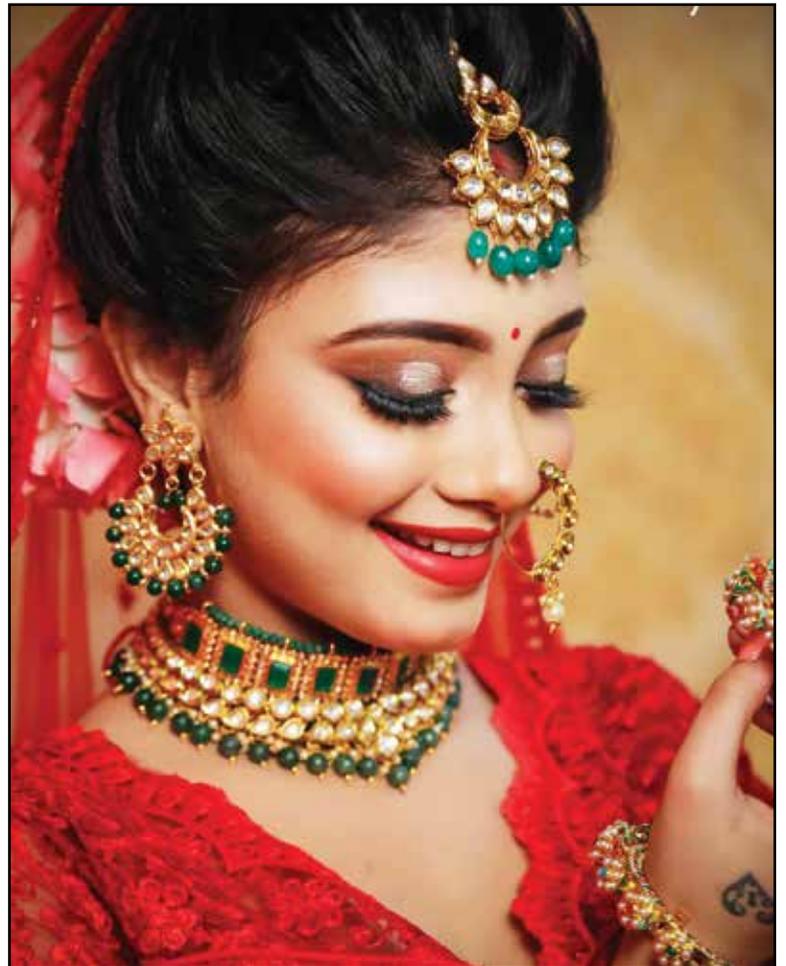
Their brilliant selection of hues transforms textures into a chromatic scale of charming colors exuding an old-world charm. Soft dusky pink, ivory, magenta, aqua, pomegranate red, beaten gold, bold pinks, deep emerald, sand-like beige are some of the shades which come together to create the magical color palette of this diverse collection.

'Nazm-e Mahal' is the story..... woven beautifully with rich textiles and magical restoration a confluence of the exquisite traditional wardrobes of the maharanis with timeless royal silhouettes all this woven into the story of her real life.

Trends for Modern Indian Bride

The bridal season is here and jewellery is the most important way to uplift any bride's look for her special day.

As a bride looks forward to this day with sheer excitement and nervousness, she desires to look her best as well. With so many design options available, choosing the best suited option can be confusing. The right kind of jewellery can brighten up the look and add style to saris, suits or lehengas. We went ahead and found some trendy bridal jewellery pieces from Reliance Jewels that a bride can pair up with their outfit.



Architecture Inspired Jewellery

It is a well-known fact that art inspires art. Indian heritage, architecture, sculptures instilled in jewellery designs are very much in vogue and can provide a unique ethnic look. This necklace is inspired by the ancient architecture of our country with an array of cityscape rings. The sublime design of this neckpiece is trendy yet traditional and is sure to steal the heart of the groom.

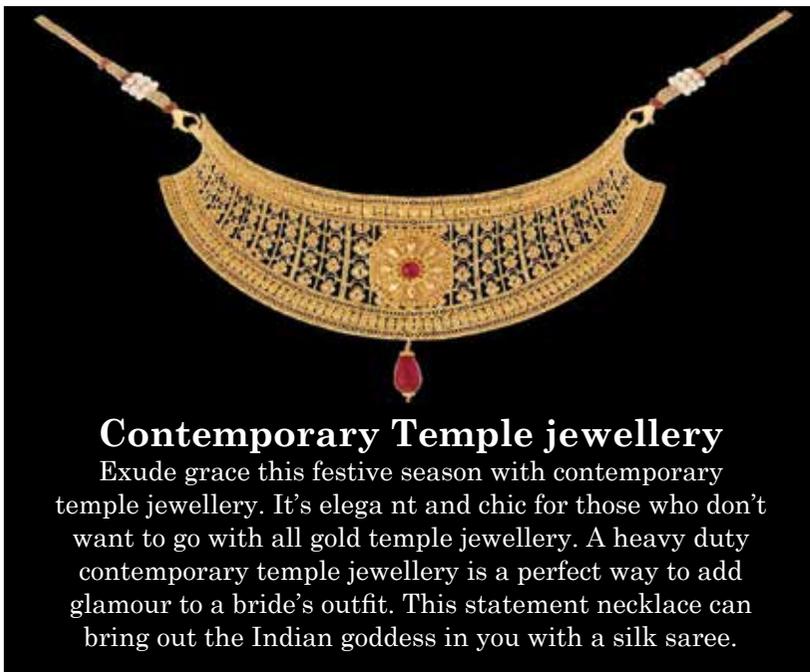


Light weight Queens

From last few years, the trend of lightweight jewellery has glorified and this season is the time to embrace it more than ever. The trend of low weight jewellery has made it easy to buy lightweight gold jewellery online. Beautiful traditional gold light weight earrings are a perfect wear for Haldi or Mehendi functions.

Coloured stone Jewellery

Coloured gem-set jewels can add a royal touch making the bride looking like a goddess. Go the route with bright, sparkly precious stones or semi-precious stones. If you prefer a more subtle hint of color, consider getting yourself a piece in gold or rose-gold.



Contemporary Temple jewellery

Exude grace this festive season with contemporary temple jewellery. It's elegant and chic for those who don't want to go with all gold temple jewellery. A heavy duty contemporary temple jewellery is a perfect way to add glamour to a bride's outfit. This statement necklace can bring out the Indian goddess in you with a silk saree.



Floral jewellery

Bright, colourful and light in weight, floral jewellery resonates a chic look for Indian brides. Brides can opt for a 'haar' with flowers of your choice along with strings of golden beads or pearls. Floral jewellery is creating its mark for its playfulness, feminine grace and a break from traditional jewellery for various wedding events.

Nova: All You Need

Rectangular frame with a designed metal brow bar and bridge like Arlo is all you need if you want to be a trend setter. It is perfectly suited for those suave men who prefer to keep it classy yet trendy. This range from the house of Nova Eyewear not only provides UV-protection but also takes care of clear vision, as it is available with powered lenses for a wide range of prescriptions. Availability: at all leading optical stores across India.

Brand Name- **Nova Eyewear**
Model Name- **Arlo**
Model Number- **NV1901F02**;
Price- Starting at **Rs. 7990** onwards

Rating: 9/10

Comment: Care for your eyes



A Power Packed Smartwatch

Minix – one of the fastest-growing players in the smartwatch and smartphone accessories segment has announced the launch of its new smartwatch with a stunning design and borderless display. The stylish smartwatch is power-packed with advanced technology and long battery life of upto two weeks for everyday users. With enhanced capabilities, Minix's newly launched smartwatch is sleek to behold. It is lightweight with 8mm width and deliberately designed for health-conscious users. The smartwatch boasts a myriad of health tracking features including women health tracker, personal vitality index, pressure monitoring, breath training and sleep pattern.

Being a mainstream watch for tracking and fitness activities, it also monitors heart rate, blood oxygen, blood pressure which have been in the spotlight amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The newly launched smartwatch features eight professional sports modes that make fitness activities easier. The fully-featured sports and exercise tracker of the watch monitors metrics for running, walking, cycling, swimming, rope skipping, basketball, badminton and football. It is a perfect fit made for users' modern and active lifestyles that helps them in achieving their fitness goals.

Rating: 9/10

Comment: Fit for your fitness goals.



Journey of Legend

“Beauty is not merely my career; it is the sole purpose of my existence.” - Shahnaz Husain.

Shahnaz Husain, Founder, Chairperson & Managing Director of the Shahnaz Husain Group shares about her journey and said “When I look back at my journey so far, I realize that much more than I ever dreamed of has come true. It is important to believe in your dreams and do everything within your power to make those dreams come true. Hurdles do come up in life, but I have always tried to meet them as challenges and opportunities, with my desire to excel, my relentless determination to succeed, an iron will, steel grit, and sheer hard work. If you want to achieve something and you're willing to persevere, trust me, you'll get there.”

“I have always fought for the recognition of Brand India

and Ayurvedic Beauty Care in the international market with a crusader's zeal. The most rewarding part of this journey is representing India at World Entrepreneurship Summits, Congresses, and Seminars and achieving international recognition and prestigious international awards for my Ayurvedic Innovations. I was invited to speak at Harvard Business School on how I created an international brand without commercial advertising, becoming a Case Study there for brand creation. Now I am a Subject at Harvard for “Emerging Markets” in recognition of the international market created by me for Ayurvedic beauty care.” She added.

Addressing the industry at the 8th PHD GLOBAL RAIL CONVENTION-2021-themed “Future Railway Infrastructure Growth Blueprint” under aegis of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hon’ble Minister shared that High-Speed Railway System & Dedicated Freight Corridors are the key focus projects, which are being given major importance for the future growth and development of Indian Railways. While sharing his pleasure to be a part of the Convention, he also acknowledged immense contribution of Indian Railways during the Pandemic lockdown to ensure constant transportation of essential goods, food grains & oxygen across India.

Prioritizing of the Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) projects –both Eastern & Western sectors is the current focus, which will lead to faster transportation of goods and reduce logistic cost, while improving faster supply chain efficiency, emphasized the minister. He also shared that adoption of Modern Technologies, like Interlocking & TCAS systems are also being given major importance & opined that expansion & modernization of the Indian Rail Infrastructure will be instrumental to achieve the envisaged future growth of Indian Railways.

Shri Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve also shared that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister of India, a policy to monetize specific railway assets is also in the pipeline. Railway stations & Railway stadiums re-development, DFCCIL & passenger train operations are some sectors being included in this policy. Hon’ble Minister shared that these initiatives would increase the revenue of railways & DFCC would further bring down the logistics cost for the rail freight industry, boost the freight traffic, develop infrastructure, and open private investments & would further enhance the “Aatmanirbhar Bharat-Make In India” initiatives of the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

Hon’ble Minister Of State - Railway, Coal & Mines, Government of India, concluded by complimenting PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry in bringing together the industry on one platform to address their issues.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. R. N Singh, Secretary & Principal Executive Director, Infrastructure, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, shared details of the National Rail Plan of Indian Railways, with a primary objective of increasing capacity ahead of demand and increase the rail freight



High-Speed Railway System & Dedicated Freight Corridors are the key focus for the future growth

share, while also sharing specific details of the rail infrastructure projects focussed on rail network & capacity enhancement; modernization & digitalization of core assets like tracks, signalling, electrification, railway stations, rolling stock & locomotives & other technological upgrades like the TCAS (Train Collision Avoidance System) and much more.

IR has formulated very ambitious investment policies like the National Infrastructure pipeline, assets monetization policies, which are game changer, said Mr Singh. He also shared that policy of 100% FDI being allowed in rail infra will attract investment & latest technologies. He further emphasised that projects like the DFCCIL projects are on their advanced stage of completion, with RORO services & double stack container also being started. Survey & DPR for new DFC will further enhance faster & overall connectivity.

Mr R N Singh concluded by inviting PHD Chamber to collaborate in its growth initiatives and shared that Indian Railways is open to Private investment & partnerships & is in the process of revamping its PPP models.

Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI while sharing the contribution of PHD Chamber during the pandemic, opined that completion of the critical mega rail infrastructure projects like the Dedicated Freight Corridors, Indian Railway Station re-development, National High Speed Rail project, Modernization, Electrification & Digitalization projects & other Passenger Amenities up-gradation projects with opportunities for private investment are of par importance in these challenging times. He also shared that the recently announce “Gati Shakti” project will be a game changer and the industry looks forward to being a part of the Rail Growth story.

CMA Biswarup Basu, President, ICAI

shared the main pointers from the Knowledge Report prepared by ICAI & PHD jointly.

Mr. S.K Lohia, MD, Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation – IRSDC; Mr. V. G. Suresh Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director (Addl. Charge) & Director Projects, RITES Ltd & Mr. Ved Prakash Dudedja, Vice Chairman, Rail Land Development Authority-RLDA shared their organisations projects & perspectives and were of the opinion that a collaborative approach with private investment will be a major driving force in the development of Indian Railways.

Presentations by Mr. Nanduri Srinivas , Dir OP & BD, DFCCIL on Business Opportunities in DFCCIL & Mr Anshul Gupta, General Manager, North East Frontier Railway on NFR projects were also shared , while the ensuing panel discussions saw presentations & recommendations from various Industry experts.

Dr. S.K. Chaudhary, Chair- PHD Railways Committee, shared the industry perspective to set the theme for the further discussions for the convention, while Mr Saurabh Sanyal, Secretary General, PHDCCI gave the formal Vote of Thanks for the Inaugural Session, moderated by Dr Jatinder Singh, Director, PHDCCI.

PHDCCI’s Rail Convention was supported by the Jindal Steel & Power Ltd., Railtel Corporation Ltd, Funkwerk, Germany, Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd & Laraon Engineers and received participation from senior government officials, key professionals from the ministry of railways, industry experts, diplomats & all relevant stakeholders.

It was also supported by Annual Sponsors DLF India; Multani Pharmaceuticals; UFLEX; JK Tyre & Industries; Marble City; Paramount Cables; SMC Investments and Advisors; Blossom Kochhar Aroma Magic; Comtech Interio; DCM Shriram Industries; Radico Khaitan; R.E. Rogers India; Ajit Industries; Synergy Environics; Continental Carriers PVT LTD; Timberworkz; Easy Trip Planners Limited; Jindal Stainless; Modern Automobiles; P S Bedi & Co; IFFCO and Hindware.

Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve , Hon'ble Minister Of State - Railway, Coal & Mines, Government of India, on Tuesday shared the current mega initiatives being focused upon by Indian Railways to increase its revenue & provide a thrust to its future growth plan.



Amazing audio streaming- Gaana and HomePod mini

India's largest music streaming app, Gaana will now support hands-free music streaming on HomePod mini allowing users to stream over 45 million songs across 25 languages.

HomePod mini is packed with innovative technologies and advanced software that together enable computational audio to deliver breakthrough audio quality wherever it is

placed. Indian music lovers are in for a treat. Available at all leading retailers, HomePod mini, with the intelligence of Siri, is the perfect companion to enjoy Gaana's massive music library as people go about their daily lives.

Sandeep Lodha, CEO - Gaana said, "Music streaming is revolutionising how we spend our leisure, by opening up new avenues for indoor

entertainment. At Gaana, we believe in being the constant companion of our users no matter where they go, or on which device they may be on. With Gaana now available on HomePod mini, our users will have a more cohesive experience as they'll now have seamless access to their personalised playlists and favorite songs no matter where they are in their homes."

Solar Guru

On this renewable energy day also known as Akshay Urja Diwas, Luminous Power Technologies, a leader in power backup & home electricals in India launches an innovative, industry-first mobile application that aims to engage, train, and empower electricians & the dealers across India to become a Luminous Solar Guru. This training module is focused to educate electricians with the latest knowledge on solar solutions directly from a pioneer in the industry. Furthermore, it will also make the electricians equipped with tools to recommend the right solar products to the end-consumer.

Aimed to train 2000 electricians per month, the Luminous Solar Guru App includes 3 levels of training, 21 downloadable videos followed by a challenging quiz. The training app is released with two language options, English, and Hindi,

and will be releasing many more regional languages in the coming weeks to penetrate the vernacular-speaking audience. On successful completion of training, electricians shall be recognized and certified as "Luminous Solar Guru".

Luminous is a pioneer in residential solar solutions in India and offers innovative products from grid-connected to solar PCUs, as well as, solar batteries, solar inverters, solar controllers, solar UPS, and solar panels for homes of all sizes. Aimed to cater to the growing sustainable alternative energy demand, Luminous also has a platform Solar by Luminous' which is an end-to-end solution for consumers' homes or businesses that analyses elevation, structure, and shadow factors to optimize each rooftop solar installation for maximum output.

Responsibility is good for business and for the creator economy



Millions of creators across the globe use YouTube to find a community reach a global audience and build a business. In order to protect this vibrant community, YouTube developed a responsibility framework that includes: removing violative content, raising authoritative voices and reducing borderline content, and rewarding trusted creators. As YouTube cross the milestone of two million creators in their monetization program, they are bringing you behind the scenes of their efforts to help an entirely new creative economy thrive.

"Now, more than two million creators participate in YPP globally, including many who might not otherwise have had a platform, from tech reviewers to entertainers."

Over fourteen years ago, YouTube launched the YouTube Partner Program (YPP), a first-of-its-kind open monetization program, where anyone who qualified could join and start making money. In fact, YouTube share over half of the revenue generated with creators. And today, YPP continues to be one of the largest drivers of the creator economy in the world. Creators who are part of YPP can make money and earn a living from their content on YouTube with ten different monetization features (and we keep adding more), from advertiser revenue to selling merchandise. Over the last three years, we've paid more than \$30 billion to creators, artists, and media companies.

VASTRANAND- India's First and Only F2C Fashion App



Vastranand, is one of India's leading b2b fashion brands, the core functioning of the business is to manufacture premium quality Indian attire and distributing it via their value chain across the country with the help of reliable re-sellers, distribution units and trusted partners.

Recently the company pivoted its model slightly with the launch of its digital platform. The Vastranand application has redefined the supply chain for the company making them India's first and only F2C (Factory to Consumer) based model. This set up requires users to download the app and make a purchase directly via the digital platform. Vastranand's online customers are not just limited to their distributors and re-sellers; in fact a lot of these

online users happen to also be direct consumers. Since the launch of the application, the company has managed to acquire a market space not only in India but also in countries like Australia, America and the UAE among many others via their first of its kind digitally run F2C model.

At present, the company is on average generating sales of over INR 11 million month on month. Over-all the company has witnessed a healthy profit of about 25% just within two months of having introduced the online application. Via the app, the brand today has more than 1 lakh downloads with about 350-400 active users per minute with an average of about more than 25,000+ new downloads each month. All this has been acquired organically at zero marketing spends.

Arrive & Revive with

Travok

Your Journey is safe with us...

Dubai

Contact @ : +91- 9899359708, 9999683737, info@ travokholidays.com, travokholidays@gmail.com, www.travok.net