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# Travel Scapes

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VOL. 02, ISSUE. 11

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# PUBLISHER'S NOTE



**Varun Malhotra**  
Publisher & CEO

## Dear Readers,

**"Take the flight, you may start now!"**

As we gear up for the much-anticipated VETA 2024 (Versatile Excellence Travel Awards), excitement fills the air as we welcome esteemed partners on board. We are thrilled to announce that Saudi, the captivating marvel of the Middle East, and VFS Global, the global visa facilitator, are joining us for VETA 2024. Saudi's innovative campaign, featuring the legendary Lionel Messi, has redefined the destination, captivating travellers with its fresh perspective and breaking conventional barriers. In this issue, we invite you to bask in the Saudi Sun as we present a must-experience list of this remarkable destination. But wait, there's more! We have an exciting surprise in store for you, promising to elevate your travel experience to new heights. Stay tuned for the big reveal!

At TravelScapes, fostering connections and collaboration within the travel industry is paramount. Our recent networking cocktail dinner in Mumbai, attended by industry luminaries, reaffirms our commitment to bringing together the best minds in travel. Speaking of networking, the outbound travel market is witnessing a resurgence, with travellers eagerly exploring new horizons. OTM 2024 in Mumbai served as a dynamic platform for networking, with Qatar shining as the official destination partner, showcasing its immense potential. Destinations worldwide are actively targeting the Indian market, recognising its significance and seizing the opportunity to connect with Indian travellers. Meanwhile, India itself is gearing up to showcase its rich cultural tapestry and diverse offerings. From the historic inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya to Punjab's culinary delights, the country is bustling with experiences waiting to be discovered. In this issue, we highlight the must-do experiences in Punjab, offering a glimpse into the vibrant tapestry of India's heritage.

As we embark on this journey together, we invite you to immerse yourself in the world of travel and exploration. Let's uncover new destinations, forge meaningful connections, and create unforgettable memories.

We value your feedback and suggestions, so please share them with us at [varun@versatilemedia.in](mailto:varun@versatilemedia.in).

Happy reading!  
Varun Malhotra

# TravelScapes

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of the Middle East





## Kerala Literature Festival partners with Raviz Resorts

The 7th edition of the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) featured Raviz Hotels and Resorts as the official Hospitality Partner. Held from January 11 to 14, 2024, on the beaches of Kozhikode, KLF 2024 marked the first edition since UNESCO designated Kozhikode as the inaugural 'City of Literature.' Following the resounding success of KLF 2023, which drew a half-million attendees, the festival solidified its position as Asia's Largest Literature Festival. Against the backdrop of Türkiye's centennial celebration, KLF 2024 delivered an immersive experience of literature, culture, and art, with Raviz Hotels and Resorts enhancing the festival's hospitality. Chief Facilitator of Kerala Literature Festival, Ravi Deecee expressed



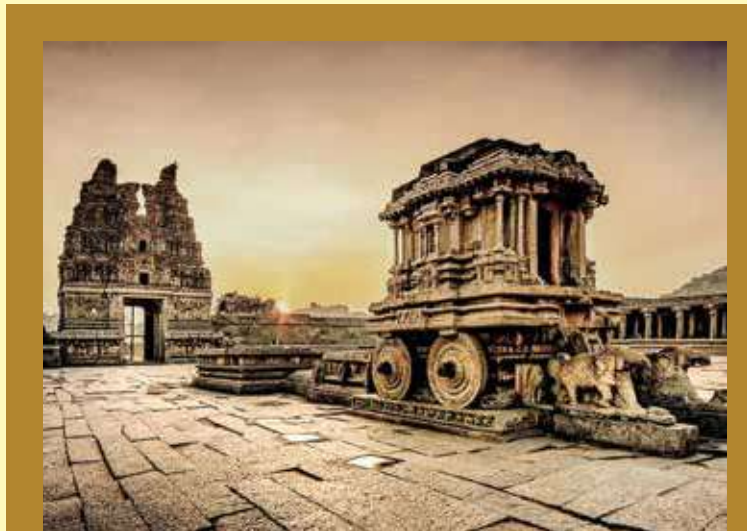
excitement about the seventh consecutive year, highlighting the collaborative effort to blend literature and culture seamlessly. The festival showcased Türkiye's rich cultural tapestry, celebrating a century of republicanism, featuring music, dance, food, and various art forms, with a special focus on Sufi dancers from Konya, the Home of Rumi.



## Jaipur BookMark 2024 marks 11th anniversary celebration

Jaipur BookMark (JBM) gearing up for its 11th edition, stands tall as South Asia's premier B2B platform in the publishing industry. Part of the renowned Jaipur Literature Festival, JBM seamlessly intertwines books and business, running from February 1 to 5, 2024. Over a decade, JBM united publishers, agents, editors, writers, translators, and booksellers, fostering collaborations. As

the festival celebrates its influence, it remains a driving force, exploring new frontiers in the world of publishing. The diverse program includes sessions on feminist publishing, AI in publishing, podcasts, educational publishing, Indie publishing, and international collaborations. JBM continues to champion the business of books with a rich tapestry of literary discussions



## Karnataka Tourism Roadshow, targets Goa travel industry

In collaboration with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd, Jungle Lodges and Resorts, and various stakeholders, Karnataka Tourism is gearing up for an immersive Roadshow at The Fern Kadamba Hotel & Spa in Goa. This event aims to unveil Karnataka's cultural richness and natural beauty to Goa's travel agents and tour operators. The showcase will delve into UNESCO World Heritage Sites like Hampi and the Hoysala temples, as well as the picturesque landscapes of Coorg. Karnataka Tourism seeks to engage with key players in the travel industry, fostering collaborations and partnerships. Through interactive presentations, the Roadshow endeavours to ignite enthusiasm among Goa's travel professionals, emphasising Karnataka's hospitality and inviting them to explore the state's diverse tapestry of experiences.

## UP introduces subsidised meals for Sangam pilgrims

With a commitment to boost religious tourism, the Uttar Pradesh government led by Yogi Adityanath is set to provide highly subsidized hygienically cooked meals for pilgrims and saints visiting Sangam in Prayagraj. The Prayagraj Mela Authority will establish and manage a year-round community kitchen along with two food distribution centers, capable of serving 5,000 devotees daily. The proposal received approval from the Prayagraj Mela Authority

Board. Pilgrims can avail breakfast for Rs 5 and lunch for Rs 10 through this initiative. Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant highlighted that the Prayagraj municipal commissioner would oversee the project's micro-management to ensure proper cleanliness. Additionally, the board aims to extend benefits to approximately 3,000 registered boatmen and laborers through various welfare schemes, including Swachh Kumbh Fund and social security initiatives.





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## Ayodhya Resort deal secured by US firm

The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department entered into an agreement with the American firm M/s Anjali Investment LLC for the development of a 100-room resort in Ayodhya. State Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh highlighted the surge in devotees and tourists in Ayodhya following the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla. To accommodate the growing numbers, the state government is actively working on enhancing tourist facilities and providing lodging in the temple town. Ramesh

Nanguranuri, owner of the American real estate company and a native of Hyderabad, signed the agreement with the UP Tourism department. The government is promoting investment in hotels and resorts post the Ram Temple inauguration to enhance the experience for both domestic and foreign tourists. Tourism Director Prakhar Mishra emphasised that this development will significantly enhance the overall experience for visitors to Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

## Chilika Birds Festival soars, engages locals

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 4th National Chilika Birds Festival, hailing Chilika Lake as a sacred destination for over a million diverse avian species. As Asia's largest brackish water lake, Chilika plays host to countless winged visitors. Patnaik commended the collaborative efforts of the Department of Tourism, Department of Forest,

Environment and Climate Change, and Chilika Development Authority for orchestrating the event. He expressed optimism that the festival would enhance Odisha's reputation as a burgeoning birding hub. The Chief Minister lauded the organizers for adding another noteworthy accomplishment to Odisha's accolades through this avian celebration.



## Rajasthan focuses on sustainability for tourism

Kuldeep Singh Chandela, newly elected President of the Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR), emphasised the imperative for sustainable tourism amid the state's record-breaking tourist influx. While celebrating the surge in arrivals, Chandela acknowledged the pressing need to reassess monument management, destination practices, and overall infrastructure. Stressing the importance of responsible tourism, he called for a comprehensive

approach. Senior Vice President Surendra Singh Shahpura echoed these sentiments, highlighting the challenges exposed by the growing tourist numbers. As Rajasthan anticipates hosting larger events, both the industry and the state government bear the responsibility of devising a new strategy. With the Prime Minister's endorsement of India as a wedding destination, FHTR looks to enhance infrastructure and logistical capabilities for upscale weddings.

## Peerless Hotel, Kolkata unveils Club Eminence

Situated in the heart of Kolkata's historic district, Peerless Hotel is thrilled to introduce Club Eminence Floors, a tribute to the city's rich heritage. With 168 rooms and top-notch amenities, the hotel is an ideal choice for tourists seeking proximity to popular attractions like Eden Gardens, Victoria Memorial, Indian Museum, and the New Market. The revamped luxe collection features 32 rooms and suites, showcasing a seamless blend of old-world charm

and modern simplicity. Drawing inspiration from Kolkata's colonial past, the interior design pays homage to the city's vibrant history. General Manager Biswa Ranjan Mohapatra expressed pride in the hotel's growth and commitment to customer service, emphasising the introduction of Club Eminence as a testament to their flourishing success. The redesign includes personalised services and a one-touch dial contact for a hassle-free experience.



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## Andaman holds tourism edge over other islands, say Chief Secretary

**Andaman and** Nicobar Islands Chief Secretary, Keshav Chandra, highlighted the archipelago's stunning beaches and competitive edge in the Indian Ocean Region. In response to Maldivian Ministers' social media comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chandra emphasised Andaman's distinct attractions. The administration initiated tourism promotion, allowing late-night beach access, exploring uninhabited islands, and engaging more airline operators. Development projects, including a five-star property and land leasing, aim to boost tourism. Chandra mentions the opening of Cinque Island for day tourism and upcoming seaplane services. Policies for bird watching, caravan, houseboat, and luxury tent accommodations are in progress. Nightlife experiences, including night-cruise dinner, houseboat, and night kayaking, are enhanced. The move positions Andaman as an alternative tourist destination amid geopolitical tensions with the Maldives.



## Lakshadweep expands tourism with first Water Villa

**Lakshadweep, with** 36 islands, witnessed proposed tourism projects, including the iconic Paradise Island huts managed by SPORTS. A new Smart City initiative suggests a 90-room hotel. India's first water villa project, initiated by a private group, adds a significant endeavour. The archipelago gains attention for its natural beauty, highlighted by Prime Minister Modi's recent visit. PM

Modi shared pictures of white beaches and pristine skies, encouraging adventure seekers to consider Lakshadweep. Amidst this, former Member of Parliament Bishnu Pada Ray criticised Maldivian ministers' remarks, echoing support for the destination's growth. The developments showcase a blend of government and private efforts to boost tourism in Lakshadweep.



## Himachal mandates online payments for tourism stays

**Chief Minister** Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, at the Administrative Secretaries meeting, emphasised the government's commitment to bolster tourism infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh. Sukhu instructed the implementation of QR Code Payments at all Tourism Hotels, Himachal Bhawan, Himachal Sadan, and various government Rest Houses. The tourism department received directives to enhance

customer services for tourists. Sukhu highlighted the introduction of the first phase of the Rajiv Gandhi Swarojgar Start-Up Yojna, providing e-taxi permits to state youth for employment opportunities. He also reviewed the progress of e-charging stations for e-vehicles, emphasising their role in achieving a clean environment and making Himachal Pradesh a Green Energy State by March 31, 2026.

## Shimla sees upsurge in Winter Tourism

**Following snowfall** in parts of Himachal Pradesh, tourists from northern India flocked to Shimla. The local hoteliers also rejoiced, hopeful for a tourism industry boost. Officials, welcomed the influx, citing predictions for more snowfall. The hoteliers, facing a dry spell, are optimistic as reservations pick up post-snowfall. Naresh Kumar, a hotelier, anticipated increased footfall with more snowfall. The weather forecast predicted additional snowfall in the Western Himalayan Region and select areas of Uttar Pradesh. Notably, the tourism sector contributes significantly to Himachal Pradesh's economy, generating over INR 11,000 crore and constituting 7.3 percent of the state GDP. In 2019, around 17,20,000 tourists, including 4,00,000 foreigners, visited the state, reflecting a 5 percent increase from 2018.





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# TRAVELSCAPES' UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF COLLABORATION AND HOSPITALITY

In a fruitful collaboration, TravelScapes, together with TravelBullz, orchestrated a networking cocktail dinner on February 8, 2023, in Mumbai. With Centara Hotels & Resorts as the hospitality partner, the event brought together industry stalwarts alongside Norwegian Cruise Line, TripJack, and One Above as supporting partners for an evening of networking, and camaraderie.










# TITANS OF THE INDUSTRY

MASTERMINDS WHO LEAD TODAY'S CORPORATE FRONTIERS



*In the bustling landscape of global travel events, February 2024 promises an array of opportunities akin to a flourishing garden, each petal unfurling to reveal new avenues for growth and collaboration. Among these, OTM and SATTE stand as pillars, beckoning travel professionals to immerse themselves in a world of possibilities. At OTM, a symphony of outbound travel resonates, offering businesses the chance to harmonise and thrive amidst its bustling B2B exchanges and enlightening seminars. Meanwhile, SATTE emerges as a vibrant mosaic, celebrating the richness of South Asian travel. Its grand stage unites diverse exhibitors, while corridors buzz with networking potential. In this blend of innovation and tradition, businesses are encouraged to embrace new technologies, forge partnerships, and explore the endless prospects of the evolving travel landscape. In the spirit of this dynamic landscape, TravelScapes brings a distinctive focus and flavour to the trade scene, collaborating with titans in CEO/Founder special.*

By Ananya Trivedi

**TARUN THAKRAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LE MERIDIEN**

*“In essence, the global travel landscape isn't just influencing our strategy; it's fueling our growth.”*

**Travel Landscape Impact**

The global travel landscape paints an exciting picture for India and, within it, our own hospitality industry. It's truly our moment. We're witnessing rapid adaptation, unwavering optimism, and a sector poised for significant growth and an even larger contribution to the national GDP in the post-pandemic world.

**This optimism stems from multiple factors, including:**

- **India's Rising Star:** India's economic trajectory is bullish. Steady growth fuels large-scale investments in infrastructure, with new airports, road networks, ports, and modernised railway stations dotting the map. This infrastructural renaissance directly translates to an increase in travel demand, propelling the hospitality sector forward.
- **Global Brands Flock Eastward:** Recognising India's potential, international hotel chains are bringing their best brands to the table. Introducing new names from their global portfolios strengthens their distribution and presence, amplifying the overall vibrancy of

the industry.

- **Local Heroes Rise to the occasion:** Indian hospitality chains are not sitting idle. They're responding nimbly to the burgeoning demand by adding niche properties in smaller cities. This expands the tourism landscape, offering travellers diverse experiences and unlocking the potential of lesser-known destinations.

These factors inform our unwavering dedication to innovation and expansion. We constantly evolve, adapting our offerings to cater to the changing travel landscape. We're also looking beyond traditional locations, venturing into smaller cities and unexplored territories to tap into the burgeoning domestic tourism market.

In essence, the global travel landscape isn't just influencing our strategy; it's fueling our growth. We're riding the wave of India's rise, driven by the optimism of international giants and the agility of local heroes. We're committed to not only navigating these exciting times but also actively contributing to India's tourism story, one guest, one experience, and one vibrant city at a time.

**Growth Trajectory Overview**

The past year has been a symphony of success for the global and Indian travel

industries, and Le Meridien New Delhi has proudly echoed its vibrant melody. India, amidst its golden age, held the iconic G-20 events, not only welcoming international delegates but also showcasing its rich tapestry to the world. This watershed moment, coupled with the tireless efforts of the Ministry of Tourism's "Dekho Mera Desh" initiative during and after the pandemic, has propelled Brand India to unprecedented heights in the tourism and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) realms.

Le Meridien New Delhi has seized this momentum with unwavering optimism and strategic innovation. Here's how we've soared alongside India's rising tourism tide:

- **Embracing G-20's Global Spotlight:** We proudly hosted esteemed delegates and dignitaries during the G-20 events, showcasing Le Meridien's signature blend of French elegance and Indian warmth. This not only bolstered our reputation as a premier hospitality destination but also opened doors to new international networks and partnerships.
- **Championing Domestic Tourism:** Recognising the surge in domestic travel, we curated bespoke experiences tailored to Indian travelers. From culinary journeys celebrating regional delicacies to immersive cultural evenings showcasing local performances, we've bridged the gap between international standards and a distinctly Indian touch.
- **Leveraging MICE Opportunities:** India's flourishing MICE sector presented a golden opportunity. We expanded our conference facilities, upgraded our technology offerings, and crafted flexible packages to cater to diverse event needs.

**KOMAL SETH, DIRECTOR, LINKIN REPS PVT LTD.**

*“Our growth comes from always looking for new ways to help our clients succeed. We pay attention to what's happening in the travel industry and adjust our strategy accordingly.”*

**Travel Landscape Impact**

The way people travel globally affects our business strategy at Linkin Reps. We keep a close eye on changes in traveler preferences, like where they want to go and how they plan their trips. These changes can be due to things

like economic conditions, political events, or new technology. For example, if more people are interested in eco-friendly travel, we might start working with more hotels and destinations that focus on sustainability.

When we see these changes happening, we adapt our strategy. We might start offering new services or change the way we market destinations. We also work closely with other companies in the travel industry to stay ahead.

By being flexible and proactive, we can find new opportunities for growth and success.

**Growth Trajectory Overview**

At Linkin Reps, we have been growing steadily over the years. When we first started, we focused on building strong relationships with our clients. We wanted them to know they could trust us to get the job done. As we gained more experience, we started offering a wider range of services. For example, we might help a hotel with marketing one day and work with a tour company on customer service the next.

Our growth comes from always looking for new ways to help our clients succeed. We pay attention to what's happening in the travel industry and adjust our strategy accordingly. We also make sure our clients are happy by providing excellent service. By staying true to our values and being open to change, we've been able to grow and thrive in a competitive market.



**SARVESH KUMAR GOEL – DESIGNATED PARTNER, THE CENTRUM LUCKNOW**



*“As The Centrum continues its journey amidst the intricate tapestry of global opportunities, Sarvesh Goel's leadership remains the guiding light. The hotel isn't just adapting to trends; it's setting them*

**Travel Landscape Impact**

For The Centrum, a hospitality gem crafted under the visionary guidance of Sarvesh Goel, the global travel landscape is not just a backdrop but a dynamic force shaping the very fabric of business strategy. Sarvesh Goel's journey as a promoter reflects a keen awareness of the nuances in this landscape, especially in the face of recent challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. In the wake of geopolitical events, Sarvesh Goel has been the driving force behind a strategic shift towards resilience and adaptability. Recognising the need for a nimble approach, The Centrum's business model now echoes Sarvesh Goel's vision of a harmonious blend of risk management and diversified offerings. This ensures that The Centrum stands robust, even in the face of unforeseen challenges. Technological advancements are

not just embraced at The Centrum; they are woven into its DNA under Sarvesh Goel's watchful eye. The hotel's commitment to cutting-edge technologies, from advanced booking platforms to immersive virtual experiences, is a testament to a leader who understands that modern travelers seek not just accommodation but an experience. This tech-savvy approach sets The Centrum apart, positioning it as a trendsetter in the ever-evolving hospitality landscape.

Sarvesh Goel's commitment extends beyond profit margins; it includes a deep understanding of the global call for sustainability. The Centrum's strategy now integrates eco-friendly practices, reflecting not just market trends but a genuine commitment to environmental responsibility. It's a reflection of Sarvesh Goel's belief

that hospitality can be both luxurious and responsible.

**Growth Trajectory Overview**

Under Sarvesh Goel's astute leadership, The Centrum's growth trajectory is not just a graph; it's a narrative of strategic brilliance and unwavering commitment. Active participation in events like OTM and SATTE is not merely a business move; it's a manifestation of Sarvesh Goel's belief in the power of connections and collaborations. Partnerships forged under Sarvesh Goel's guidance go beyond the transactional; they embody a philosophy of mutual growth and shared success. The Centrum's market share isn't just a statistic; it's a testament to a team led by a promoter who understands that true growth lies in collective efforts. Digital transformation isn't a buzzword at The Centrum; it's a lived reality. Sarvesh Goel's vision has seamlessly integrated technology into the hotel's DNA, ensuring not just a presence but a meaningful connection in the digital space. This foresight has expanded The Centrum's reach, making it a preferred choice for the tech-savvy traveler. As The Centrum continues its journey amidst the intricate tapestry of global opportunities, Sarvesh Goel's leadership remains the guiding light. The hotel isn't just adapting to trends; it's setting them. The growth trajectory isn't just upward; it's a testament to a commitment to excellence, innovation, and an unwavering belief that hospitality, under Sarvesh Goel's stewardship, can be transformative.

**LUBAINA SHEERAZI, CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, BRANDIT**



*“Understanding the evolving needs of travellers has become critical to framing tailored strategies across our client portfolio.*

**Travel Landscape Impact**

Over the years, we have witnessed a significant shift in the global travel landscape. The rise of digital platforms, changing consumer

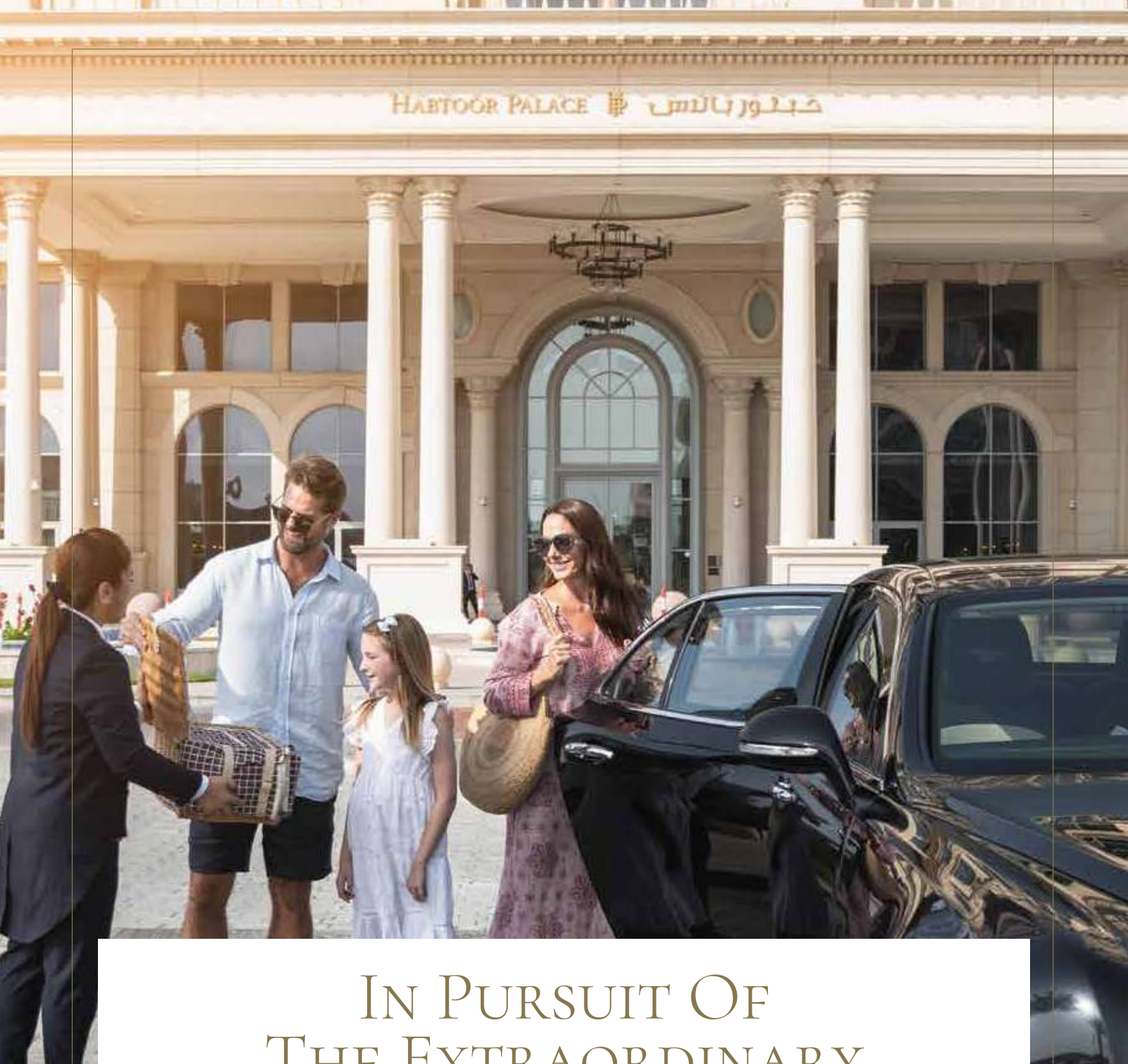
preferences and the impact of unforeseen events like the pandemic have all had a role in shaping our business strategy. At BRANDit, we pride ourselves on adaptability. Understanding the evolving needs of travellers has become critical to framing tailored strategies across our client portfolio. In essence, our approach is based on staying agile in the face of ever-

changing global travel dynamics.

**Growth Trajectory Overview**

BRANDit's growth trajectory has been nothing short of exciting. Since our inception, we have focused on building strong ties with both destinations and travel brands. Our commitment to delivering innovative and result-driven marketing representation services has allowed us to expand our footprint across the industry. From forging strategic alliances with key players to consistently enhancing our service offerings, we have seen exponential growth. The trust our clients place in us has been a driving force. Looking ahead, we aim to continue this trajectory by staying at the forefront of industry trends, investing in talent, and fostering long-long-term partnerships within the industry.

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**BHAGWATI PANT, GENERAL MANAGER, THE CENTRUM LUCKNOW**



*“Venturing into new regions enables Centrum Hotel Lucknow to tap into diverse markets with unique preferences and demands.”*

**Guest Satisfaction Initiatives**

Centrum Hotel Lucknow has implemented several initiatives to enhance guest satisfaction and elevate the overall experience of its patrons. These initiatives include:

- Personalised service: The hotel ensures personalised attention to each guest, catering to their individual needs and preferences.
- Quality dining options: Centrum Hotel

Lucknow offers a diverse range of culinary experiences, featuring local flavours as well as international cuisines, curated by seasoned chefs.

- Enhanced amenities: The hotel continually upgrades its amenities, ensuring that guests enjoy modern comforts and conveniences during their stay.
- Prompt resolution of issues: The hotel places a strong emphasis on addressing guest concerns promptly and effectively, ensuring a hassle-free and enjoyable stay for all visitors.
- Regular feedback mechanisms: Centrum Hotel Lucknow actively seeks feedback from guests to continually improve its services and exceed guest expectations.

**Hotel Expansion Plans**

Certainly, the consideration of global expansion by Centrum Hotel Lucknow reflects its acknowledgment of its brand value and its aspiration to reach new audiences worldwide. Expanding beyond its current location can offer the hotel several advantages:

- Brand Recognition: Global expansion allows Centrum Hotel Lucknow to increase its brand visibility and recognition on an international scale. Establishing a presence in new markets helps enhance the hotel's reputation and brand awareness among diverse clientele.
- Market Diversity: Venturing into new regions enables Centrum Hotel Lucknow to tap into diverse markets with unique preferences and demands. It allows the hotel to adapt its services and offerings to cater to the specific needs of customers in different cultural contexts.

Overall, global expansion presents Centrum Hotel Lucknow with significant opportunities for growth, innovation, and market leadership in the dynamic and competitive landscape of the global hospitality industry.

**ANIL PARASHAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ITQ**



*“In response to these trends, ITQ together with Travelport, is committed to adaptation and innovation.”*

**Travel Landscape Impact**

In navigating the ever-evolving global travel landscape, our business strategy has undergone significant adjustments to address emerging trends and challenges. The dynamic nature of the industry, coupled with factors like technological advancements, changing consumer preferences, and the impact of global events, has prompted us to adopt a flexible and adaptive approach. With advancements in technology and easier accessibility to travel, more and more countries are vying for tourists' attention. This means that travel businesses need to constantly innovate and offer unique experiences to stay ahead of the competition.

In response to these trends, ITQ together with Travelport, is committed to adaptation and innovation. Our strategy encompasses leveraging emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, data analytics, and machine learning to enhance the travel experience. Furthermore, the focus on sustainability and responsible travel has become integral to our strategy, aligning with the growing awareness and preferences of modern travellers. We are integrating eco-friendly practices into our operations such as publicly accessible Travel Impact Model (TIM). This feature calculates transparent flight emission estimates, empowering agents, travel managers and travelers to make more eco-conscious choices when planning and booking their trips.

As we look ahead, our commitment to evolution remains strong. We aim to set new standards in travel technology with initiatives

such as cloud adoption, AI/ML-powered search, a price change predictor, and new order management tools. We are not just focusing on our business and shareholders; we are dedicated to making a positive impact on the travel community.

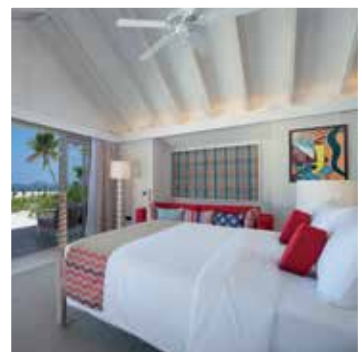
**Growth Trajectory Overview**

Our growth trajectory has been marked by strategic initiatives aimed at expanding our market presence and holding the largest share in the market, enhancing service offerings, and fostering collaborations with a #LocalFirstGlobalMust approach. By participating in key industry events such as OTM and SATTE, we actively engage with industry stakeholders, explore new business opportunities, and stay attuned to the pulse of the travel market. The exposure gained from such platforms has played a pivotal role in expanding our network and forging meaningful partnerships. Additionally, our commitment to innovation and adaptability has allowed us to capitalize on emerging trends, ensuring sustained growth and relevance in a competitive landscape. Our longevity in consistently delivering excellence in travel technology, our significant impact on the travel ecosystem, our track record of empowering clients and partners speaks lengths about our growth trajectory.



# CORA CORA<sup>®</sup> Maldives

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**1** Comprising of **100 villas and suites**, each one has been expertly designed to reflect the spirit of the Maldives and is prevalent in all of the nine accommodation categories.

**2** It's freedom time and at Cora Cora Maldives the Premium All Inclusive - **Gourmet Meal Plan<sup>®</sup>** is present in every detail of the resort, giving guests the unmissable opportunity to experience an array of dining possibilities.

**3** **MOKSHA<sup>®</sup> Spa & Wellbeing Center** believe that everyone deserves a special place to just BE themselves. A place to energise and replenish, to chill out and have fun, to explore and discover for kindness and selfcare.

**4** Cora Cora Maldives is the first resort in the Maldives to showcase a licensed art gallery and museum **Dutch Onion<sup>®</sup>**. With over 400 incredible local artefacts in the collection, guests can explore the rich history of the Maldives.



**PAWAN KACHROO, MANAGING DIRECTOR, KHAMAS HOSPITALITY**



*“ I am reminded of the journey that began with a strong foundation in education and a passion for the hospitality industry.”*

**Travel Landscape Impact**

As the Managing Director of Khamas Hospitality, overseeing our expansion and operations for over two decades, I have witnessed firsthand the profound influence of the global travel landscape on our business strategy.

The hospitality sector, inherently global in scope, demands agility and foresight. The evolving trends in travel behaviours, especially the shift towards sustainable and experiential travel, have prompted us to innovate continually. We've tailored our services to meet these changing preferences, ensuring that each property under Khamas Hospitality not only offers luxury and comfort but also delivers unique, culturally enriching experiences that resonate with today's global traveller. Recent global health challenges have been pivotal in reshaping our strategies. We swiftly adapted to these unprecedented times, prioritising the health and safety of our guests and staff above all. Our response to economic

fluctuations has also showcased our robust financial management and strategic planning, ensuring stability and growth even in uncertain times. Our response to the international market dynamics has been multi-faceted. We've expanded our portfolio, carefully selecting locations that not only promise growth but also align with our brand ethos. Catering to diverse cultural preferences while maintaining our signature service standard has been a stimulating challenge, one that we've met by investing in our team's training and development. Technology plays a crucial role in our strategy. From AI-driven personalisation to efficient booking systems, we've embraced technological advancements to enhance customer experience and streamline operations. This integration has not only improved efficiency but also enriched the guest experience, making it more personalised and seamless. Sustainability is at the core of our operations. We are committed to eco-friendly practices, understanding that responsible tourism is not a choice but a necessity in today's world. This commitment extends from operational practices to community

engagement, ensuring that our growth is sustainable and beneficial to all stakeholders. My leadership philosophy, which emphasises vision-sharing and team empowerment, guides our approach. I believe in inspiring my team not just to see but to live our vision, fostering a culture of excellence and dedication that translates into unparalleled guest experiences. In conclusion, the global travel landscape has been a catalyst for innovation and growth at Khamas Hospitality. It has challenged us to be more adaptive, innovative, and customer-centric.

**Growth Trajectory Overview**

Reflecting on the growth trajectory of Khamas Hospitality under my leadership, I am reminded of the journey that began with a strong foundation in education and a passion for the hospitality industry. These academic pursuits laid the groundwork for a career that has been as diverse as it has been rewarding.

The growth trajectory of our organisation is not just measured in numbers but also in the depth of experiences we provide and the innovations we bring to the industry. From the onset, our vision was clear – to excel in the hospitality sector by offering unparalleled service and creating memorable experiences for our guests. Our growth trajectory is a narrative of relentless pursuit of excellence, strategic expansion, and an unwavering commitment to our guests and team. It's a journey marked by milestones that signify not just our growth but also the enduring relationships we've built and the benchmarks we've set in the hospitality industry.

**DEV KARVAT, FOUNDER & CEO, ASEGO**



*“ Today's travellers are largely young millennials with high disposable income, looking for offbeat experiences and smart travel solutions.”*

**Travel Landscape Impact**

The spurt of digital revolution over the years has completely turned the tables for India's tourism industry. Today's travellers are largely young millennials with high disposable income, looking for offbeat experiences and smart travel solutions. Even the elderly are choosing travel over materialistic pleasures.

Coming to travel Insurance, we are

witnessing steady growth in conversions owing to the improved insurance awareness amongst the travellers. It is certainly evident that travel insurance as a concept has reformed itself from an added expense or a prerequisite for availing visa to a necessity. As experts in the Indian travel assistance & insurance domain, our focus was to continue analysing the changing travel landscape and proactively build relevant products with client centrality at the core of our business operations. We also curated and offered new age covers such gadget protection, cyber

security cover, credit/debit card protection, cruise cover etc. during this period.

**Growth Trajectory Overview**

As we all know travel assistance and insurance industry in India is currently riding on a tremendous wave of opportunity. Furthermore, the ticket size in India has gone up considerably, and so has the demand of travel assistance and insurance services.

Travellers are now looking for products with higher sum insured and value-added services relevant to their needs. For instance, we witnessed higher growth in our business as compared to the pre-covid times, not because the sales volume increased, but the value and coverage chosen by the customer became more accretive. Customers today are willing to pay more for their products, provided the price of the product justifies the value they offer. And thus, travel insurance is now being considered and offered as a very lucrative travel ancillary service option by many of our prominent travel partners.



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# VFS GLOBAL

## ACHIEVES OUTSTANDING GLASSDOOR RATING OF 4.01 FOR 2023

VFS GLOBAL SOLIDIFIES ITS STANDING AS A PREFERRED EMPLOYER, ATTAINING REMARKABLE GLASSDOOR SCORES THAT SURPASS THE COVETED FOUROUT-OF-FIVE MARK IN 2023



VFS Global announces its remarkable achievement, securing a notable rating of 4.01 out of 5 on Glassdoor for the year 2023. As the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions, this accolade underscores VFS Global's unwavering commitment to excellence in people management and human capital development. With a core philosophy of fostering a 'fellowship of winners,' VFS Global places a profound emphasis on best-in-class HR practices and the holistic development of each team member. The company's investment in continuous training and development, coupled with a dedication to prioritizing people, has resulted in a workplace that champions diversity, inclusivity, and meaningful career opportunities. Glassdoor evaluates companies on six parameters: Culture & Values, Work/Life Balance, Senior Management, Compensation & Benefits, Career Opportunities, and Diversity & Inclusion. VFS Global has excelled in each category, setting a benchmark for an exemplary work culture that resonates with employee satisfaction and empowerment.

This achievement not only celebrates the company's success but also cements its status as an employer of choice in the global marketplace. The recognition is particularly gratifying as it reaffirms VFS Global's employee-centric policies and its focus on nurturing talent through robust Learning and Development programs. The impressive Glassdoor rating in 2023, alongside a headcount of 10,976 employees, underscores VFS Global's commitment to its people. Having won the Golden Peacock National Training Award four times since 2017, the company's dedication to exemplary learning and development practices is further acknowledged. According to Nirbhik Goel, Chief Human Resources Officer, VFS Global, "I am thrilled to acknowledge the high Glassdoor rating VFS Global has received, a reflection of our

commitment to an inclusive and empowering workplace culture. Central to our success is our vibrant workforce, comprising over 131 nationalities, which not only enriches our work environment but is also a cornerstone of our global success. This rating is particularly meaningful as it stems directly from our employees, offering a genuine and voluntary endorsement of our practices." As VFS Global continues to innovate, its unwavering focus on fostering a dynamic and inclusive work environment remains integral to its success. This achievement reinforces VFS Global's position as an industry leader and a preferred global employer.





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## Booking.com reveals 2024 travel forecast

**Booking.com** unveiled its 'Travel Predictions' for the upcoming year, shedding light on evolving trends based on insights from over 27,000 travellers across 33 countries, including India. In a departure from viewing travel as a mere escape, the study reveals that travel is now seen as a catalyst for experiencing one's best life. The year 2024 is poised to witness a surge in 'Ego Enthusiasts,' with 82% of Indian travellers expressing a desire for anonymity and reinvention. Climate-conscious 'Cool Cationers' are seeking cooler destinations, with 74% globally and 76% in India considering climate change pivotal in vacation



planning. 'Surrender Seekers' embrace spontaneity, with 74% ready for surprise trips. 'Culinary Excavators' delve into indigenous cuisines, while 'Reboot Retreaters' focus on self-improvement journeys. Country Manager for India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Indonesia at Booking.com, Santosh Kumar, emphasised the shift towards travel as a catalyst for living best lives in 2024 and beyond.

## IITM Kochi unveils hub, uniting travel businesses successfully

**The celebrated** India International Travel Mart (IITM) unveiled its inaugural showcase, inaugurating the year's travel festivities in Kochi, South India. The eagerly anticipated event became a bustling hub, drawing travel enthusiasts and featuring active participation from states like Delhi, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand. IITM Kochi 2024, a not-to-be-missed spectacle highlighting the nation's trade and tourism wealth, took place at Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium. The festivities commenced on Friday, urging attendees not to miss the chance to explore diverse offerings until the final day on Sunday. The event united industry leaders, seasoned travel agents, and eager wanderers, embarking on new and thrilling journeys. Inaugurated by notable figures, including Mariyamma Jose and Paulose K Mathre, the event envisioned by Rohit Hangal and celebrated by Sanjay Hakhu, stood as a nexus for exploration and innovation.



## Neil Brodie appointed Head of NCL's 'Experiences at Sea'

**Norwegian Cruise Line** appointed Neil Brodie as Vice President of 'Experiences at Sea,' Charters, Meetings, and Incentives (CM&I), and Events. Brodie takes over from Anthony Diaz, Senior Vice President since August 2021, who will serve as a special advisor until June 2024. In his new role, Brodie will spearhead sales, growth, and business operations for charter, meetings, and incentives, creating dynamic experiences at sea for corporate, themed, and affinity-based events across NCL, Oceania Cruises,

and Regent Seven Seas Cruises. Under 'Experiences at Sea,' 2023 marked 13 back-to-back cruises from January to March, culminating in a record 21 charters by the CM&I team, including the longest charter in company history at 109 nights. Neil Brodie expressed enthusiasm for leading the team after a highly successful 2023, while Anthony Diaz commended Brodie's commitment and results, confident in his ability to guide the team to a prosperous future.

## FAITH appoints Puneet Chhatwal as the Chairman

**Puneet Chhatwal**, President of the Hotel Association of India (HAI), assumed the role of Chairman at the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH), as announced by HAI, the apex body of the Indian hospitality industry. FAITH, established in 2013, serves as the umbrella organisation for National Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality, encompassing various industry verticals. Chhatwal, also the Managing Director and CEO of the Indian Hotels Company Limited, expressed honour and humility in succeeding Nakul



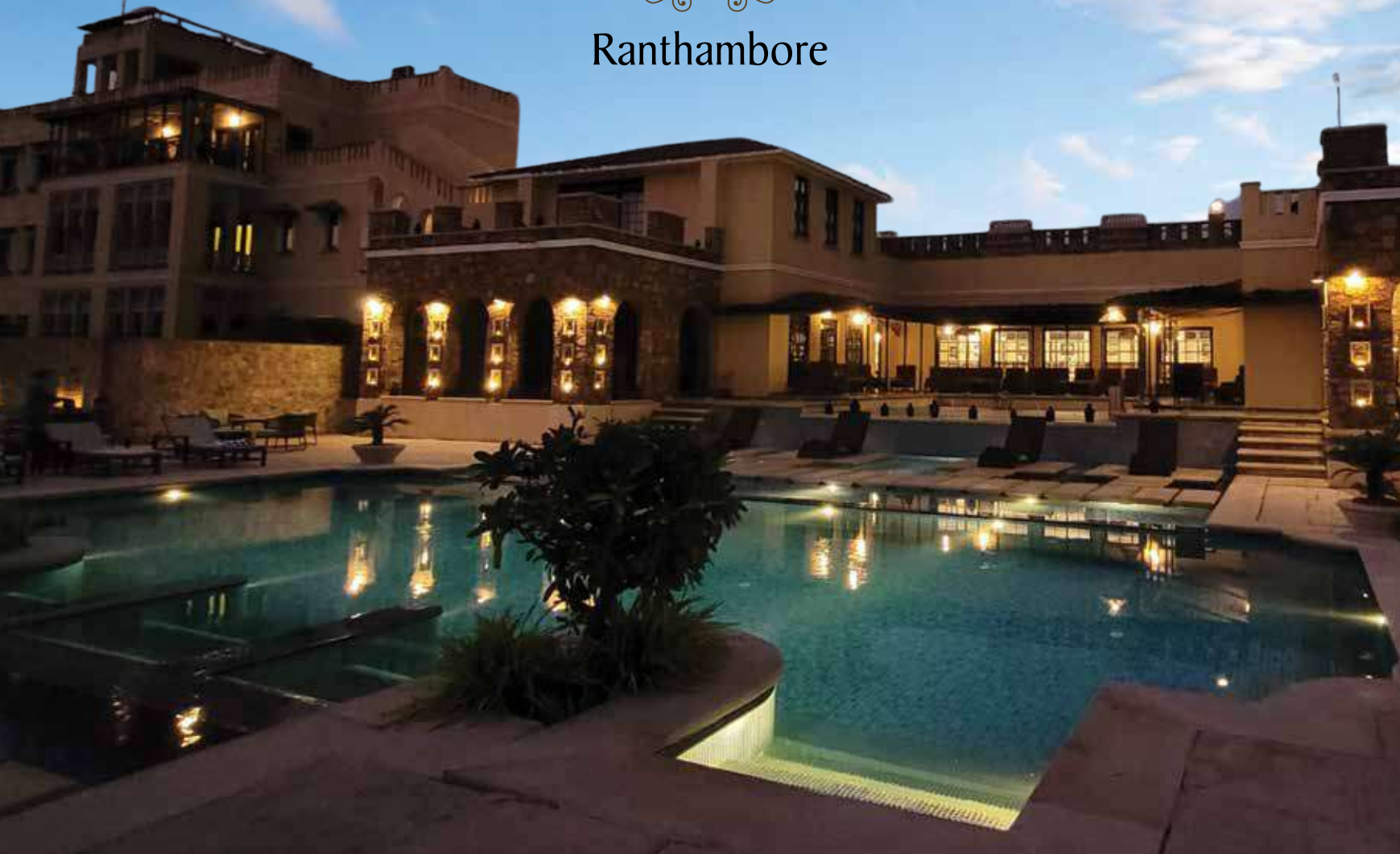
Anand. He pledged to work on unlocking India's tourism and hospitality industry's full potential for sustainable economic growth.





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B/H Titanium city centre,  
Vejalpur, Ahmedabad - 380015

## Thailand Travel Mart Plus 2024 gathers buyers

The prominent B2B travel industry showcase in Thailand, Thailand Travel Mart Plus (TTM+) 2024, is set to occur from June 5-7, 2024, in Phang-Nga Province. Anticipating over 920 participants, the event will host 420 buyers representing 50 countries, alongside 500 sellers from various regions in Thailand and 100 local and international media representatives. Key

source markets, including Europe, ASEAN, East Asia, America, and Australia, will be represented, along with emerging markets such as Eastern Europe, the Middle East, South America, and South Africa. TTM+ 2024 provides a dynamic platform for networking and collaboration, fostering engagement between buyers and sellers in the travel industry.



## EaseMyTrip board approves fundraising of INR 1000 crore

Online travel service provider Easy Trip Planners raise up to INR 1,000 crore through a preferential issue. The company's board of directors, at its meeting gave in-principle approval for the fundraising proposal, as per a regulatory filing by Easy Trip Planners, known for operating under the brand EaseMyTrip. The company had stated that the board's in-principle approval pertained to identifying

the optimum combination of equity shares and/or warrants convertible into an equivalent number of equity shares for issuance on a preferential basis to raise funds up to INR 1,000 crore. The intricacies would have been determined by the board in accordance with SEBI regulations and other applicable laws, including identifying the proposed allottees for the aforementioned purpose.



## EbixCash Travel thrives with strong business growth

**EbixCash Limited**, a subsidiary of Ebix, Inc. released a comprehensive overview of its travel business performance. Noteworthy achievements were reported across all travel business verticals. In 2023, EbixCash witnessed a substantial 60% year-over-year growth in its Corporate Travel business and added 57 new clients in the large and mid-cap segment. The MICE & Event based travel businesses maintained a leading position in India with a 25% year-over-year revenue

growth. Additionally, EbixCash reported remarkable growth in its inbound business, with a 287% year-over-year increase in incoming passenger growth and a 264% year-over-year rise in overall revenue growth. The company's Managing Director, Naveen Kundu, expressed excitement over the exceptional performance, aiming for a record year in 2024. EbixCash Travel also retained its leadership position in ASEAN countries, achieving a 28% year-over-year growth.

## TAAI and Türkiye Tourism announce exclusive partnership

The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) announced an exclusive partnership with Türkiye Tourism for an extensive 6-city roadshow across India, on January 30, 2024. The roadshow will span New Delhi on January 30, 2024, followed by Kolkata on January 31, 2024, Chennai on February 1, 2024, Hyderabad on February 2, 2024, Bengaluru on February 5, 2024, and Ahmedabad on February 6, 2024. This unprecedented collaboration will bring together over 30 distinguished Turkish suppliers, including Tour operators, Hoteliers, and MCs, engaging in impactful B2B sessions with the travel trade. The roadshows are strategically designed to unveil the latest travel trends, offering TAAI



members a unique networking opportunity to foster valuable connections within the travel fraternity, enhancing the overall industry experience. TAAI and Türkiye Tourism are dedicated to creating a platform that not only promotes Turkish tourism but also enriches the collaborative spirit within the travel community.



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## One Rep Global expands to Alpine Luxury hub

**One Rep Global**, announced its strategic collaboration with Courchevel Tourisme, a renowned French ski destination nestled in the heart of the Alps. This partnership signifies a pivotal moment in delivering an exceptional experience for discerning Indian travellers, with Courchevel offering an extended ski season and a picturesque winter wonderland. The destination features three valleys, six villages, 47 hotels, over 100 restaurants, 102 ski slopes, a snow park, and various

attractions. Founder & CEO of One Rep Global, Hemant Mediratta, expressed excitement about catering to evolving preferences, while Sanjay Arya from K.F.T. Holidays highlighted the allure of Courchevel's alpine charm. Courchevel, aiming to be a year-round haven, offers diverse accommodations and is easily accessible from international airports. The partnership aims to showcase the captivating blend of adventure, luxury, and Alpine excellence to the Indian audience.

## BARIG welcomes Berlin Brandenburg airport as partner

**Berlin Brandenburg Airport** joined BARIG (Board of Airline Representatives in Germany), expanding the association's network of airport partners. BARIG, representing airlines in Germany, aims to enhance collaboration with key stakeholders across the aviation sector to address industry challenges collectively. BARIG Chairman, Michael Hoppe underscores the importance of well-coordinated airport processes for reliable air transport operations. Welcoming Berlin Brandenburg Airport, which served about 23 million passengers last year, facilitates constructive dialogue to drive initiatives for the benefit of airlines, passengers, and cargo customers. The airport has taken over passenger and baggage security controls, aiming to reduce waiting times, and is investing in advanced CT scanners for enhanced efficiency. CEO of Flughafen Berlin Brandenburg GmbH, Aletta von Massenbach, emphasised innovation and looks forward to collaborating for the advancement of air traffic in the capital region and eastern Germany.



## Cordelia Cruises commits to enhancing Lakshadweep Tourism infrastructure

**Cordelia Cruises** expressed enthusiasm for the Union Budget 2024's emphasis on bolstering tourism infrastructure in Lakshadweep. Acknowledging the crucial role of tourism in the region's economic progress, the company anticipated that



improved infrastructure will not only unlock the potential of this idyllic destination but also elevate its standing in the Indian Ocean. With a commitment to delivering unparalleled sea experiences, Cordelia Cruises is ready to enrich Lakshadweep's tourism, offering travellers convenient and luxurious access to these pristine islands. The company plans strategic collaborations with local authorities and community engagement initiatives to boost tourism sustainably, ensuring positive impacts on the environment and local communities. President and CEO of Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd, Cordelia Cruises Jurgen Bailom, underscored the dedication to fostering Lakshadweep's tourism growth.

## Black Turtle represents Hilton Seychelles Resort in 2024

**Embarking on** a thrilling start to 2024, Black Turtle introduced an enchanting island retreat in Seychelles, adorned with pristine waters and captivating flora and fauna. Hilton takes immense pride in revealing Black Turtle's official appointment as the India Representative for Hilton Seychelles properties, including the luxurious Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa, Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa, and the inviting DoubleTree by Hilton Allamanda Resort and Spa. These prestigious partnerships promise an exquisite blend of hospitality against the backdrop of Seychelles' natural beauty.

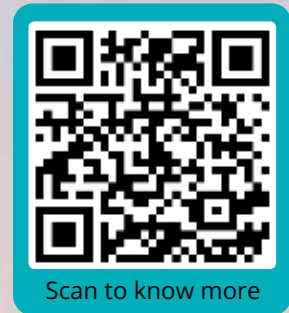




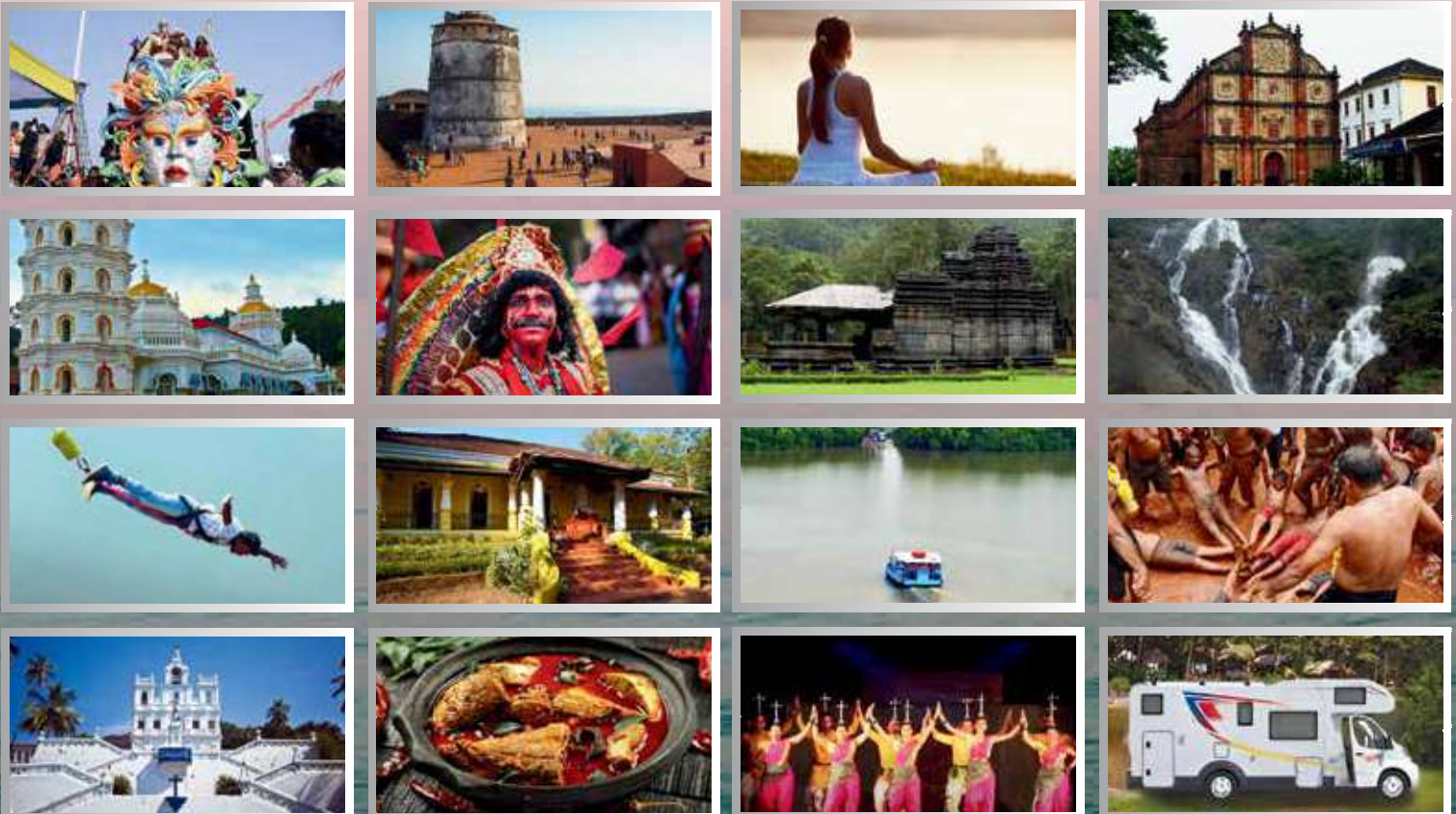


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# CHARTING TOMORROW'S LUXURY WITH CORA CORA MALDIVES

## IN CONVERSATION WITH VISHEN MOOTOO COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR, CORA CORA MALDIVES

By Ananya Trivedi

### Green luxe haven: Sustainability at Cora Cora Maldives

Some of our main environmental objectives are monitoring and ensuring the efficient use of energy and water as well as continuing to focus on waste reduction. We use energy-efficient lights throughout the resort and 99% of the light bulbs are LED, we produce our own water which eliminates the use of over 100,000 plastic bottles a year, and all treated wastewater is used for irrigation purposes thus allowing us to save a considerable volume of water. In an effort to cut down on air miles, all local varieties of fish are caught by local fishermen and only speciality items are imported. Our goals are to reduce the amount of waste we produce and try to recycle as much as we can and one of the ways we are hoping to achieve this is by partnering with Parley for Oceans and Secure Bag, two prominent recycling companies in the Maldives.

### Future forward hospitality

At Cora Cora Maldives, since COVID-19 we have noticed an increase in the number of guests looking to stay at more eco-friendly resorts and we are committed to keeping up with this trend. Cora Cora Maldives has recently been awarded the Green Globe Certification for the second year running and we even received our first certification within nine months of opening, a truly impressive feat. We are constantly adapting to meet our guests' demands and ensure that we provide an extensive array of experiences, many of which are focussed on the environment and culture. We are proud to have a heritage site on the island in the form of The Dutch Onion®, the only registered museum in the Maldives in a resort setting, where we provide in-depth information to all our guests regarding the region's rich history. The museum takes guests on a 500-year-old journey, introducing them to the unique background of the destination – only guests of Cora Cora Maldives can indulge in such an immersive cultural programme.

### Opulent appeal, inclusive charm

One of the most important elements that we focus on is the high standard of our culinary

offerings, information of which we regularly share through various media channels in Europe and Asia. We highlight our Premium International beverage brands that are included in the Gourmet Meal Plan® in place at each of our four à la carte restaurants and two bars. Our all-day dine-around concept is designed to cater to all dietary requirements, appeal to all nationalities, and we are always looking at ways that we can enhance our menus by adding seasonal dishes and a plethora of culinary experiences. We feel this is a key message to communicate as food and beverage options are vital when guests are choosing a hotel.

### Elevating stay experiences

At Cora Cora Maldives, we are always looking for innovative ideas to enhance our guests' experiences. One example of a successful introduction was creating our own mobile application, available for all guests to download from the Apple Store and Google Play. Every guest who has booked to visit our resort can use the app to do their online check-in, book exciting excursions, arrange spa treatments, check out diving and water sports activities, and make dinner reservations at least six months before arrival. We understand how digitalisation is a key factor in modern life and our app is also an excellent way for guests to access information ahead of their arrival and get excited for their stay.

### Pioneering future narratives

In 2023, we undertook the Re-Connecting Raa Atoll project where Justin Swart (Cora Cora Maldives' General Manager) and Muiz Mohamed (HR Director) paddle-boarded through the Raa Atoll for 186 km navigating past 21 islands. The #ReconnectinRAA campaign aims to expand awareness of and commitment to conservation through beach clean-ups, marine conservation talks, and cultural performances (to name a few). Looking to the future, we are in the process of starting a large-scale coral replanting scheme and will have more details to follow soon. Stay tuned to hear more about our exciting campaigns in the pipeline for 2024, all of which will have a focus on guest experience and sustainability!

*As the visionary Vishen Mootoo, Commercial Director at Cora Cora Maldives, leads the resort's strategic initiatives with an unwavering commitment to sustainable luxury and unparalleled guest experiences. With a focus on environmental stewardship, Vishen oversees the implementation of cutting-edge sustainability practices, including energy-efficient lighting, water conservation, and waste reduction efforts. Before joining Cora Cora Maldives, Vishen held key roles at Sun Siyam Resorts, VARU by Atmosphere, Tour East Holdings by JTB, The Small Maldives Island Co (Amilla Fushi & Finolhu), and Centara Hotels and Resorts. Renowned for pre-opening expertise, Vishen's vast global and regional network positions him to attract top talent and ensure project success.*





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# LUXURY ESCAPES LAUNCHED BY THAILAND TOURISM AND TRAVELBULLZ

## TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND AND TRAVELBULLZ LAUNCH LUXURY ESCAPES



**Siriges-a-nong Trirattanasongpol**  
Director, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)  
New Delhi Office

In a significant move to redefine luxury travel in Thailand, TravelBullz along with the Tourism Authority of Thailand joined forces to proudly unveil an exclusive campaign. The objective is to position Thailand as the quintessential luxury destination for Indian travellers. This collaborative initiative marks a new epoch in luxury travel, demonstrating a commitment to meeting the sophisticated needs of high-net-worth clients from India. The focus of the campaign is on presenting unique experiences, wellness options, and world-class shopping that highlight Thailand's diverse and opulent offerings, resonating with the discerning tastes of the luxury market. The campaign's core strategy involves curating exceptional experiences tailored to the evolving preferences of Indian travellers. From serene wellness retreats to exclusive culinary journeys and luxury shopping extravaganzas, the aim is to showcase Thailand's rich cultural tapestry alongside its modern luxury amenities.

This combination positions Thailand uniquely to provide an unparalleled travel experience, capturing the attention of luxury-seeking travellers. Beyond mere showcasing, the campaign brings together the Thailand Luxury Supply Chain and Stakeholders. The goal is to exhibit their products and offer exclusive deals to the B2B travel agent fraternity in India. This collaborative effort stands to benefit agents who can, in turn, promote luxury products and packages to their elite clientele. "Elevating Thailand's Position in the Luxury Market" is the guiding principle behind this collaboration, aligning with the vision of the Tourism Authority of Thailand



and TravelBullz. The joint endeavour seeks to solidify Thailand's standing as the

ultimate destination for luxury escapes, a sentiment echoed by Siriges-A-Nong Trirattanasongpol, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, New Delhi.

Founder & President of TravelBullz India Private Limited, K.D Singh, emphasised that the Luxury Escapes project is more than a mere showcase. It symbolises TravelBullz's commitment to enhancing Thailand's positioning as a destination with a vast array of luxury experiences. The close collaboration with the Tourism Authority of Thailand and industry partners underscores the dedication to creating a thriving ecosystem for luxury travel in Thailand. The joint venture between TravelBullz and the Tourism Authority of Thailand signifies a strategic move to reshape Thailand's narrative in the luxury travel sector. By focusing on tailored experiences and collaborative efforts, the campaign aspires to make Thailand the top choice for those seeking elevated and exclusive travel experiences.



**K.D.SINGH**  
Founder & President TravelBullz





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**Number of Rooms: 01**

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## Welcomhotel Chennai welcomes guests in New Year

**ITC Hotels** announced the reopening of Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, Cathedral Road, Chennai, a renowned property since 1975. Committed to "Responsible Luxury," the hotel is LEED® Platinum & LEED Zero Carbon certified, emphasising sustainability and environmental stewardship. Located at No. 2, Cathedral Road, the hotel holds historical significance as ITC's first property, contributing to Chennai's rich heritage. With

90 well-appointed rooms, the hotel showcases Southern Indian magnificence in its design. Reflecting local flavour, it draws inspiration from Chennai's art and architecture. Offering diverse culinary experiences and banquet facilities, Welcomhotel Chennai combines heritage, aesthetics, and modern comforts. The K by Kaya Kalp spa, fitness center, and outdoor pool further enhance the guest experience, marking the revival of this iconic property.



## Sarovar signs multiple hotels with Grand Continent

**Sarovar Hotels & Resorts** unveiled its innovative business model, "A Sarovar Affiliate," aiming for rapid expansion over the next five years. The affiliate model targets a substantial addition of midmarket and premium category hotels across India. The initial agreement with Grand Continent Hotels in Bengaluru marks the beginning of this initiative, with over 10

hotels planned for Sarovar's portfolio in the next five years. Sarovar will provide extensive sales and marketing support to Grand Continent Hotels, leveraging its robust network and Louvre's global distribution platform. The partnership reflects a strategic move in response to the evolving global business landscape, fostering alliances for accelerated growth and scalability.



## Stotrak Hotels adds 9<sup>th</sup> property with Mussoorie collaboration

**Stotrak Hotels** announced a partnership with Hotel SN Residency, located at Library Chowk near Mall Road in Mussoorie, becoming Stotrak's 9<sup>th</sup> property. Nestled amidst the scenic Queen of Hills, Hotel SN Residency offers 32 thoughtfully designed rooms with breathtaking views, a delightful terrace garden, and a multi-cuisine restaurant. The collaboration adds value to Stotrak's vision of providing

unique experiences, making it the largest hotel network in Mussoorie. Paras Bhatt, Owner of Hotel SN Residency, expressed delight in the association, anticipating Stotrak's leadership to elevate the hotel's legacy. Hotel SN Residency features meticulously designed rooms, banquet halls, spacious terrace, and a commitment to traditional Indian hospitality, offering a serene and memorable stay in Mussoorie.

## Park Inn Ayodhya joins Radisson Hotel

**Radisson Hotel** Group introduced Park Inn by Radisson Ayodhya, its latest addition in the historic city. Located in the heart of Ayodhya, the hotel combines contemporary design with modern amenities. Easily accessible from Maharishi Valmiki International Airport and Ayodhya Cantt Railway Station, it provides ample parking for guests arriving by car. The strategic location offers proximity to renowned landmarks like Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, The Hanuman Garhi Temple, and Sita ki Rasoi. Chairman Emeritus and



Principal Advisor, South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group, KB Kachru, expressed pleasure in having an early presence in Ayodhya, emphasising the commitment to deliver exceptional hospitality experiences in top Tier II & Tier III cities across India.





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## Leisure Group expands in Himachal Pradesh

**Leisure Hotels** Group, revealed its latest expansion in Himachal Pradesh with the signing of Baikunth Resort in Kasauli. This picturesque mountainous retreat is strategically located on a pristine hillside, featuring 37 well-appointed rooms and cottages with sweeping valley views. Guests can savour international and national cuisine at the multi-cuisine restaurant, unwind at the elegant Glass House Bar, and explore abundant spaces for intimate events. Children have their dedicated space with a playroom, jungle gym, and nature trails. Director of Leisure Hotels Group, Vibhas Prasad, expressed excitement about this strategic partnership and highlighted their long-



term goal of enhancing the group's presence across Himachal. The resort's proximity to Chandigarh airport, coupled with its Victorian architecture and serene surroundings, makes Kasauli an ideal destination for tranquil getaways. The addition of Baikunth Resort signifies another significant phase of growth for Leisure Hotels Group in Himachal Pradesh, offering travellers a top-notch hospitality experience amidst nature's beauty.

## Bloom Hotels witnesses 60% revenue surge with AxisRooms

AxisRooms, a leading provider of hotel distribution technology, reports a substantial 60% revenue surge for India's Bloom Hotels in 2023 compared to 2022. This impressive growth is attributed to a 50% increase in online sales through AxisRooms Channel Manager, leveraging real-time distribution and the intelligent pricing capabilities of the Revenue Management system. Bloom Hotels, with 47 properties across India, prioritised delivering exceptional service with a philosophy centered on providing great rooms in prime locations at affordable rates for both leisure and business travellers. Before adopting AxisRooms in 2017, Bloom Hotels faced challenges in updating rates and availability on OTAs,



resulting in inconsistency. The absence of a Revenue Management System hindered their ability to optimize occupancy and revenue. Group Revenue Manager at Bloom Hotels, Hemant Verma, emphasised the pivotal role of AxisRooms in driving online sales and praised the efficiency of their tools.



## Accor expands presence in India, signs Grand Mercure Jaipur Kukas

**Accor** joined forces with Shree Kamalam Elite Resorts Pvt. Ltd. to unveil Grand Mercure Jaipur Kukas. This marked the 8th Grand Mercure property in India, enriching Accor's distinguished portfolio. Scheduled to open its doors in 2028, the upscale hotel promises an unparalleled guest experience in India's primary tourist hub. Situated strategically, the six-story hotel spans 16,522 sqm, featuring 160 beautifully-appointed rooms and three distinct dining venues.

Grand Mercure Jaipur Kukas caters to Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) with a spacious 2000 sqm area, including a conference room and two banquet halls. Guests can indulge in wellness offerings like a spa, salon, gym, and swimming pool. Aniruddh Kumar, Accor's Vice President of Development for India & South Asia, expressed enthusiasm for the addition, highlighting the hotel's contemporary style and culturally immersive ambiance.

## Sofitel Mumbai BKC achieves green key certification

**Sofitel Mumbai** BKC proudly announced its achievement of the Green Key Certification, presented by the National Jury Green Key India and the Center for Environment Education (CEE). The hotel stands as India's pioneer recipient of this prestigious environmental recognition, symbolising its commitment to sustainable practices. Introduced in India in 2023, Green Key is

the foremost standard for environmental responsibility and sustainability in the tourism industry. Administered by CEE Ahmedabad, a member of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Green Key India aligns with global sustainability goals. General Manager Manish Daya expressed excitement, recognising the certification as a testament to the team's collective dedication to sustainability.







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# GLOBAL HOTELS & RESORTS





## Fortune Hotels expands presence in Tamil Nadu

**Fortune Hotels** introduced its upscale property, Fortune Hosur, in Tamil Nadu. Situated in Krishnagiri's industrial hub, the hotel promises a blend of class and comfort. Positioned off the Bangalore-Chennai highway, it provides convenient access to Salem, Vellore, Madurai, and Chennai, catering to transient guests. The hotel features 107 contemporary rooms, stylish interiors, and diverse dining options like Zodiac, Neptune, and a unique thali restaurant. Wellness facilities include a modern

gym, spa, and an outdoor pool. With green lawns and versatile banquet venues, it becomes an ideal setting for corporate events and social functions. Managing Director, Samir MC, expressed excitement about expanding the portfolio in Tamil Nadu and acknowledges the support of owning partners and the Fortune team. Hosur, a thriving industrial town, symbolises the synergy of industry and tranquility, and Fortune Hotels plans further expansion in Chennai, marking its sixth property in the state.

## Novotel Mumbai Airport marks its first anniversary

**Novotel Mumbai** International Airport joyfully marked its first year in operation, encapsulating a journey filled with treasured memories and an unwavering commitment to crafting exceptional experiences in Mumbai's bustling core. Emerging as a symbol of unmatched hospitality and innovation, the hotel, in its inaugural year, surpasses expectations in hosting weddings, delivering exclusive dining, and providing worldclass accommodations. General Manager, Vishrut Gupta expressed excitement,

viewing this anniversary as a starting point for even more enriching experiences. Garnering five awards in its first year, the hotel redefines hospitality with its unique approach, blending traditional warmth with contemporary flair.



## Hilton launches Conrad Orchard in Singapore

**Hilton introduced** the second property under its Conrad Hotels and Resorts brand, unveiling Conrad Singapore Orchard after a period of extensive reinvention and refurbishment. Nestled in the Orchard Road district, the hotel positions itself as a refined urban oasis within the city's entertainment and retail hub. Boasting 445 newly designed guest rooms with botanical-inspired themes, including 46 suites with spacious lounges and terraces, the establishment offers an outdoor pool, fitness center, executive lounge, and 14 event venues. Designed by architect John Portman and revamped by local

creatives, the hotel features a distinctive design reflecting Singapore's environment. With 10 authentic restaurants and bars, the hotel aims to provide crafted experiences, while its membership in Hilton Honours offers exclusive benefits. Alan Watts, President, Asia Pacific, Hilton, anticipates enhancing luxury hospitality in the international city with the debut of Conrad Singapore Orchard. CEO of Pontiac Land Group, David Tsang, expressed confidence in the hotel's success, highlighting its potential for unprecedented excellence following the success of the first Conrad in Singapore.



## Della Adventure hosts Ayodhya Mandir Mahotsav

**Chairman & Founder** of Della Resorts, Jimmy Mistry, joyfully concluded the Ayodhya Mandir Mahotsav at Della Adventure & Resorts, Lonavala, on January 22, 2024. The historic event marked the return of Ram Lalla to Ayodhya after 500 years. He expressed deep gratitude for the overwhelming response, emphasising the collective spirit and cultural unity of the nation. The day featured the grand Ram Rath Yatra, Pratah Samaroh,

and Maha Yagna, followed by an evening session with the Sahastra Deep Prajwalan. Dignitaries like Dr. Mickey Mehta and Anand Neelakantan lauded the event's grandeur. Mistry, a patriotic Indian, described the occasion as a spiritual odyssey, resonating with pride and devotion for every Indian. Art Connoisseur Parvez Damania expressed gratitude for being part of the sacred celebration.







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# SAILING SINGAPORE'S TOURISM SEAS

## UNLOCKING SINGAPORE'S TOURISM POTENTIAL WITH MARKUS TAN, REGIONAL DIRECTOR INDIA, MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH ASIA & AFRICA

*With 18 years of experience, in Singapore Tourism Board, Markus Tan has been appointed the Regional Director for India, Middle East, South Asia & Africa, Singapore Tourism Board. With extensive experience in tourism management and a proven track record of driving growth in diverse markets, Markus is dedicated to promoting Singapore as a premier destination in these regions. His strategic vision, coupled with a deep understanding of cultural nuances and market dynamics, positions him as a pivotal figure in fostering tourism partnerships and enhancing Singapore's global appeal*

By Ananya Trivedi & Aanchal Sachdeva



### New role and goals: A journey ahead

Firstly, I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to live and work in India. The country has steadily grown into a true global powerhouse, with an outbound tourism market that is brimming with opportunities. Taking on this new responsibility, my aim, together with my team at the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), is to foster deeper partnerships with the local community and our travel trade partners while also introducing innovative initiatives to enhance and elevate Singapore's position as a "mustvisit" destination for all Indian visitors. Whether it's pioneering new initiatives or fostering collaborations, I am dedicated to contributing to the long-term success of the Singapore Tourism Board in India while deepening the destination's connections with the Indian travellers.

### Exciting Contributions: Singapore Tourism

In my nearly two-decade career with the Singapore Tourism Board, I am always energised by the vibrant prospects within Singapore's tourism industry, particularly the seamless blend of tradition and innovation that sets the stage for unparalleled visitor experiences. The dynamism of Singapore's tourism landscape presents a myriad range of exciting opportunities from its rich cultural heritage, unique shopping precincts, worldclass attractions, and authentic cuisine to the burgeoning trends in sustainable and experiential travel. My vision for contributing to the growth and development of Singapore's tourism industry revolves around highlighting how the island city offers a tapestry of refreshed and renewed experiences, inspiring travellers to visit Singapore where they can create lasting memories and experience the extraordinary offerings that can only be 'Made In Singapore'. By combining the essence of passion,

determination, and growth mindset, my aim is to not only foster strategic collaborations with stakeholders, encourage travellers to visit Singapore, and champion initiatives that showcase the authentic essence of our destination.

### Future Proofing Singapore Tourism

The ever-changing landscape of travel today necessitates destinations to adapt and reimagine themselves in order to cater to the evolving needs of travellers. India remains a key source market for Singapore. Singapore also appeals to Indian travellers due to its diverse lifestyle experiences and world-class offerings, making it a preferred choice for those seeking an extraordinary holiday. To stay attuned to emerging trends, my aim is to cultivate tailored experiences that resonate with the preferences and aspirations of Indian travellers and work with partners to present itineraries that showcase the best of our destination. Through various consumer and travel trade engagement efforts, we continue to invite our Indian audiences to Singapore and enjoy an exciting array of extraordinary offerings. Further, in line with our 'Made In Singapore' campaign, we partnered with prominent Bollywood celebrity Ananya Panday to produce a four-episode travelogue series, announced in December 2023. The upcoming series, to be unveiled in the coming weeks, will highlight a new, exciting, and fun side of Singapore, offering audiences a glimpse into the less-explored facets of the city and encouraging them to consider Singapore as their travel destination.

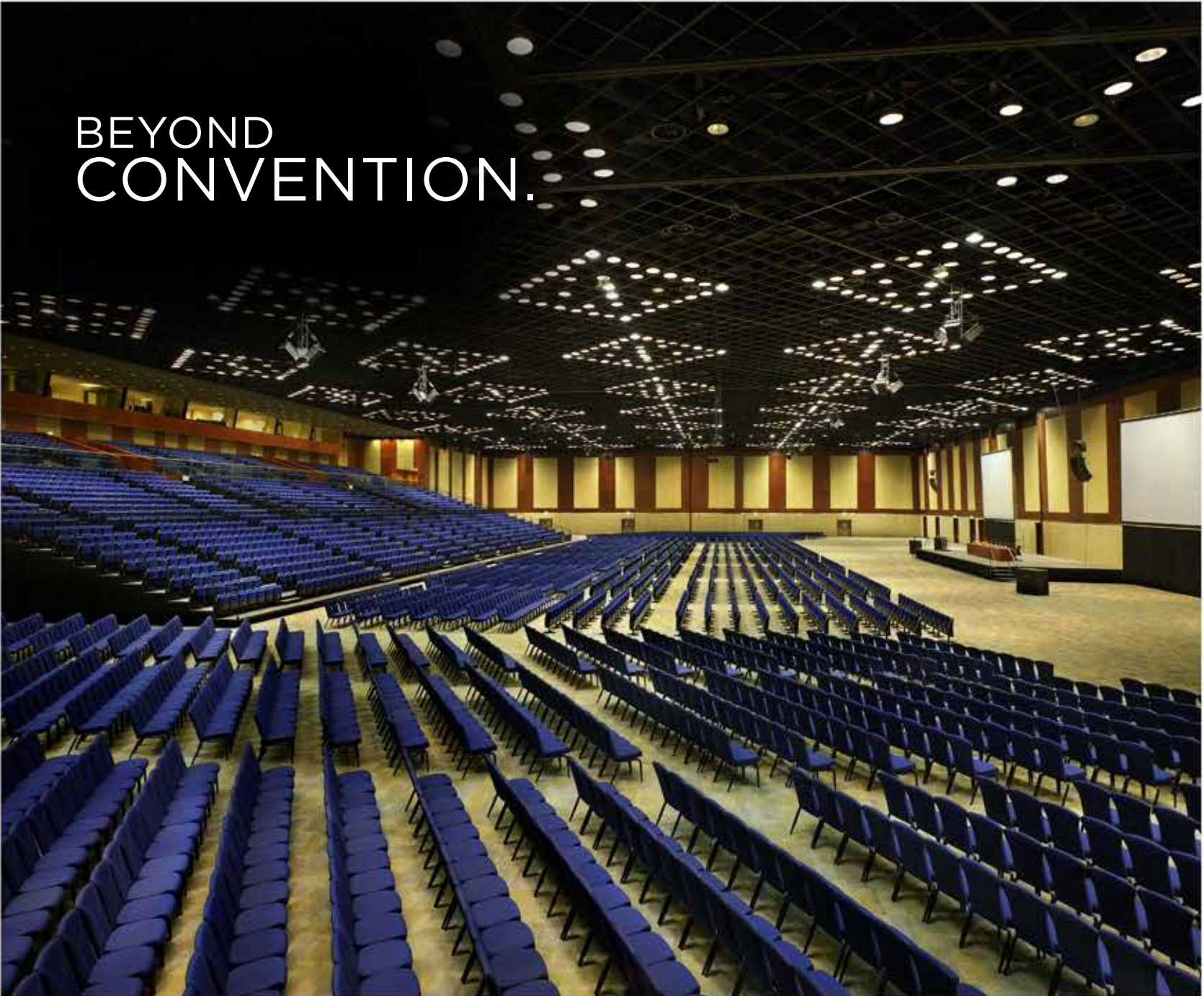
### Enhancing Travel Partnerships

Forming strategic partnerships with airlines is critical to improving connectivity and facilitating smooth travel experiences. By working closely with our airline partners, we will explore avenues for joint marketing efforts, route development, and the introduction of specialised travel products tailored to the preferences of Indian travellers. We have enhanced our multiple MICE support schemes to help Indian corporates and MICE travel intermediaries develop higher-value Meeting & Incentive (M&I) travel itineraries in Singapore and facilitate the decision to select Singapore for an enriching experience. Additionally, we have also undertaken a trade initiative, where we launched a WhatsApp channel to establish regular communication with the trade fraternity. For the travel community, I plan to implement a multifaceted approach that prioritises engagement, innovation, and value creation. To achieve this, I will seek to foster even more open dialogues and collaborations with travel agencies and tour operators in India, seeking to co-create compelling travel packages and experiences that showcase the action-packed destination's extraordinary offerings for our visitors from India.

“India remains a key source market for Singapore. Singapore also appeals to Indian travellers due to its diverse lifestyle experiences and world-class offerings, making it a preferred choice for those seeking an extraordinary holiday



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# HABTOOR PALACE, LXR HOTELS & RESORTS, DUBAI'S LUXURY OASIS

## UNVEILING ELEGANCE IN THE HEART OF DUBAI







Located in the vibrant heart of Al Habtoor City, Dubai's ground-breaking integrated urban resort, is an extraordinary destination where luxury meets innovation. This unique enclave encompasses three distinct hotels and three high-rise residential towers, all seamlessly integrated with the Dragone Theatre, home to the mesmerising La Perle water show. Positioned along the banks of the Dubai Water Canal, this urban haven is strategically located, a mere 20 minutes from Dubai International Airport and 40 minutes from Al Maktoum International Airport. Its proximity to key city attractions further enhances the allure of this exclusive retreat.

Dubai, renowned as a leading hub for business and tourism in the Middle East, sets the stage for Al Habtoor City. With 234 meticulously designed guestrooms, 182 exquisite restaurants and lounges, the offering is nothing short of spectacular. The Silk Spa, featuring 6 treatment rooms, and a 24-hour Fitness Centre ensure an indulgent escape. Bask in the luxury of 2 rooftop swimming pools, or host grand events in the 800-square meter Habtoor Ballroom, complemented by outdoor space featuring the enchanting Versailles Garden. With 7 meeting rooms, complimentary shuttle bus services, and beach access, Al Habtoor City emerges as an unrivalled destination, seamlessly blending opulence, convenience, and sophistication.

BQ - French Kitchen & Bar captures the essence of a classic French Brasserie with a modern twist, offering a culinary journey that blends tradition with contemporary flair. The ambiance exudes sophistication, providing a vibrant social center within Dubai's culinary scene. This chic establishment stands as an inviting poolside lounge at The Roof Gardens, setting the stage for a culinary experience where every detail is meticulously crafted.

Adjacent to the lively BQ is the renowned World Cut Steakhouse, an award-winning American Steakhouse. This venue elevates the dining experience with a sophisticated collection of steakhouse classics, featuring premium meats, seafood, wines, and expertly handcrafted cocktails. The elegant space, adorned with natural dark wood and leather upholstered furniture, creates an ambiance that resonates with refinement and indulgence.

For those seeking a more relaxed setting, Sidra, the 24-hour lobby lounge, offers a haven of tranquillity. Le Patio beckons with contemporary Arabic Cuisine, while The Polo Bar stands as a classic New York-style gentleman's bar, inviting guests to savour an array of curated libations. Completing this culinary journey is the Champagne Lounge, where guests can savour the finest Champagnes and delectable snacks in an ambiance that mirrors luxury and opulence. At Al Habtoor City, these dining establishments come together to redefine gastronomic experiences, promising a fusion of flavours within a contemporary and relaxed setting.

In the luxury confines of Al Habtoor City, an enticing poolside lounge awaits, promising an oasis of relaxation for our esteemed guests. This haven is adorned with fully equipped cabanas, where indulgence knows no bounds. As a gesture of hospitality, complimentary offerings abound, from Pom Puit skewers to refreshing cold towels and sunscreen spritzing, ensuring that every moment is a delightful retreat.

Exclusive to the in-house guests, this poolside sanctuary unfolds close to 1,500 square meters of event space, providing a perfect blend of leisure and functionality. The crown jewel is the 800-square meter Habtoor Ballroom, complemented by 7 meeting rooms, catering to a spectrum of event needs. Al Pesco event options add a touch of sophistication, creating an ambiance that seamlessly transitions between business and pleasure.

Beyond the allure of events, Al Habtoor City beckons with The Office, a Business Centre designed for seamless productivity. For those seeking relaxation and rejuvenation, six treatment rooms at Silk Spa await, each a sanctuary of tranquillity. The spa boasts separate male and female wet areas, featuring steam rooms, saunas, two Hammams, and a Whirlpool, ensuring a holistic escape from the bustling city life. At Al Habtoor City, every element is meticulously curated to elevate the guest experience to new heights of luxury and convenience.





## Saudi Arabia aims for 150mn visitors at Arabian Travel Market 2024

**Saudi Arabia** poised to welcome approximately 30 million overnight tourists this year. With a revised 2030 visitor target of 150 million, the Kingdom attracts global interest, and Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2024, scheduled from May 6 to May 9 at Dubai World Trade Centre, is set to capitalise on this momentum. ATM 2024 will host a 50% increase in KSA exhibitors, featuring industry leaders like SAUDIA, flynas, NEOM, and more. A dedicated Saudi Village will showcase products and host panel discussions to identify opportunities. The first

half of 2023 saw a 142% YoY increase in inbound tourists, reflecting Saudi Arabia's robust tourism growth and economic diversification efforts. The Kingdom's economy is anticipated to grow by 4.1%, contributing to a 3.6% rise in the combined GDP of GCC countries in 2024. ATM 2024, themed 'Empowering Innovation: Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship,' will focus on fostering relationships, sharing knowledge, and exploring innovations to shape the future of global travel and tourism. outcomes.

## SeaWorld® Yas Island invites Yas American Academy

**SeaWorld® Yas** Island, Abu Dhabi, unveiled an interactive and educational activation at Yas American Academy. The innovative initiative brought SeaWorld Abu Dhabi's miniature submersible to the school, creating an immersive experience for students. The submersible, accommodating up to six children, offered a simulated underwater adventure within the school's courtyard, complete with a sound and light show. Educators guided students through interactive touch screens, providing insights into marine ecosystems and species found at the theme park. General Manager, Thomas Kaferle at SeaWorld Abu Dhabi, emphasised the importance of fostering curiosity and passion



for marine life from a young age. The initiative aligns with Aldar Education's commitment to holistic and high-quality education. SeaWorld Abu Dhabi also distributed educational puzzles to participating students as part of its broader mission to inspire love and care for marine life across all age groups.



## Bahrain attracts 100,000 visitors

**The Bahrain** Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) announced the resounding success of Celebrate Bahrain Season, attracting over 100,000 visitors and highlighting the kingdom as a premier global tourism destination. The diverse celebrations, including family, musical, cultural, and sporting events across various governorates, showcased collaborative efforts with numerous partners. The season concluded with a triumphant New Year's celebration at

iconic locations, drawing an overwhelming turnout that transformed Festival City into a vibrant cultural melting pot. Celebrate Bahrain Season's ability to attract global tourists through exclusive promotions and diverse events underscores Bahrain's appeal as a leading tourist destination. The success establishes a new standard for cultural celebrations, contributing to Bahrain's evolving identity as a prominent tourism hub in the region.

## Ras Al Khaimah Art Festival launches 12<sup>th</sup> edition

**Ras Al** Khaimah Art, a year-long cultural initiative fostering established and emerging talent, has unveiled details for the 2024 Festival, commencing on February 2, 2024, at 9 pm in Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village. Curated by the acclaimed Alfio Tommasini, the festival explores the theme 'In Motion,' blending heritage and modernity through a curated showcase featuring over 100 artists, masterclasses, public talks, and live performances. A new addition, The Souq, introduces a contemporary art exhibition and market with global artists, while Ephemeral Whispers, a



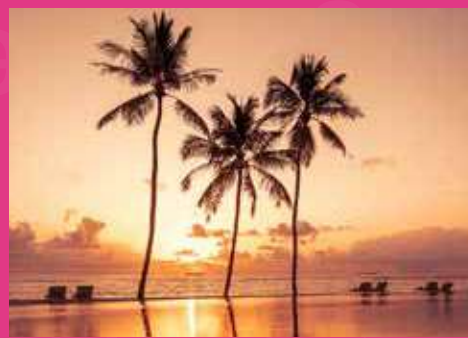
kinetic art installation, symbolises unity and human interactions on the Fort tower. The festival offers interactive experiences, live performances, workshops, a speaker series, and film nights, accompanied by the return of Antica Australis, an award-winning cultural dining experience.





# IFURU ISLAND

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## Abu Dhabi Park hosts first Olympic event

Umm Al Emarat Park hosted the city's inaugural Community Athletics Festival for People of Determination in collaboration with Special Olympics UAE and Abu Dhabi Athletics Club. Scheduled for January 5th from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at the Park's Great Lawn, the event aimed to celebrate the strength and resilience of people of determination, promoting inclusivity. The park's commitment to creating a space for everyone is evident in the diverse activities, including Olympic Games with shadow teachers' support. A unique Arabic puppet show on the Great Lawn explores emotional expression for children of all abilities. The weekend also features encounters with birds of prey and reptiles,



a Clown Show, Twisted Balloons performance, and Cardio sessions for kids, fostering an active and inclusive community atmosphere. "Your Dental Medical Centre" offered free dental consultations on January 5th and 6th, ensuring a well-rounded and inclusive experience. Cinema at the Park presents familyfriendly screenings of "Smurfs: The Lost Village" and "The Boss Baby 2" on January 5th and 6th, enhanced the weekend with entertainment for all.

## Dubai Tourism and JioTV launch a travel series

Dubai's Department of Economy & Tourism (DET) partnered with JioTV to unveil the 4-episode travel series "Once Upon A Trip! To Dubai." Starring global superstar Anil Kapoor and actor Maniesh Paul, the show offers a captivating exploration of Dubai's landscapes and culture. DET emphasised that the series, a blend of comedy, adventure, and heartfelt moments, presents Dubai in

a unique light, celebrating its rich cultural mosaic and dynamic spirit. The collaboration with JioTV aligns with the goal of showcasing lesser-known aspects of Dubai to resonate with the audience. Kapoor and Paul expressed their genuine connection to the journey, offering viewers an authentic portrayal of Dubai's enchanting allure and celebrating the magic of real-life adventures.



## Thailand grants tax reductions for alcohol, nightclubs

Thailand's cabinet endorsed tax reductions on alcoholic beverages and entertainment venues as part of an initiative to boost tourism, according to government spokesperson Chai Wacharonke. The tax adjustments involve reducing taxes on wine from 10% to 5% and eliminating taxes on spirits from 10%. Additionally, excise tax on entertainment venues will be halved from 10% to 5%. These tax measures are set to expire at the end of the current year. The decision follows a

November extension of opening hours for entertainment venues to 4 am. Permanent Secretary of the Finance Ministry, Lavaron Sangsnit, noted that any tax revenue losses would be compensated by increased tourist spending, emphasising tourism's significance as a key economic driver for Thailand. Last year, the country achieved its target of 28 million tourists, contributing 1.2 trillion baht to the economy. For 2024, Thailand aims to surpass 34 million tourist arrivals.



## Kenya welcomes first tourists with 'Visa-Free' entry

Kenya received the first group of foreign tourists under a simplified entry system aimed at boosting tourism. The government's immigration services department announced the arrival of the initial batch, which landed in Nairobi from Ethiopia's Addis Ababa, with more expected in the coming days. Principal Secretary Julius Bitok stated that visa requirements are now waived for all travellers, and under

the new system, visitors apply online for an electronic travel authorization (ETA) and pay a USD 30 processing fee. President William Ruto had earlier announced Kenya's transition to a "visa-free country," effective January. In 2022, tourist arrivals reached 1.54 million, still below pre-pandemic levels. Kenya Tourism Board Chair Francis Gichaba expressed optimism in November about the tourism sector's recovery.







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# VIETNAM



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## Visit Utah wraps up successful India sales mission

The Utah Office of Tourism successfully concluded a three-city sales mission in India, engaging over 250 travel trade partners and media in Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai. The mission aimed to promote Utah as an appealing tourism destination for Indian travellers, emphasising its natural landscapes, national parks, skiing resorts, and dark sky parks. Global Markets Specialist at Utah Office of Tourism Zach Fyne, highlighted India's stable tourism market and Utah's potential to attract Indian visitors. In 2022, Indian visitors contributed USD 8.7 million to Utah's economy, with a 5% growth in visits compared to 2019. Utah anticipates a 42.6% increase in Indian visitation and a 203.9% surge in projected visitor spending from 2019 to 2027. The state offers diverse options, from luxury to budget travel, catering to varied preferences. Utah also presented new attractions, including a centennial celebration of film and television, the redevelopment of Salt Lake City International Airport, and the hosting of the 2034 Winter Olympics.



## Maldives aims for 2 million tourists in 2024

### Maldivian President

Mohamed Muizzu expressed optimism that the country could achieve a historic milestone by attracting two million tourist arrivals in 2024, marking a significant development in the nation's tourism industry. President Muizzu emphasised that the ongoing expansion of Velana International Airport (VIA) is expected to contribute to a 10.3% increase in tourist arrivals on average in the medium term. He also outlined

plans to open 20 new resorts in the year, adding 2,827 beds to accommodate visitors. The government is actively addressing obstacles hindering the development of islands, land plots, and lagoons designated for tourism projects, seeking viable solutions. In 2023, the Maldives welcomed over 1.8 million tourists, and in January 2024 alone, recorded more than 192,000 arrivals, indicating an 11.5% YoY increase, according to Tourism Ministry statistics.

## India-South Africa Tourism rebounds to 82 per cent

South African Tourism's focus on India proves fruitful, achieving an 82% recovery in arrivals compared to prepandemic levels. Neliswa Nkani, Hub Head - Middle East, India, and South East Asia, highlight the success of meticulously curated campaigns. The 2023 influx from the Indian market reflects strategic initiatives, aiming to surpass prepandemic figures. In line with the strategic roadmap, South

African Tourism announces its 2024 annual India roadshow, including Jaipur for the first time. Scheduled from February 12 to 16, the roadshow will continue to Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, and Mumbai. This milestone event features a panel discussion, gala, and engagement with over 40 exhibitors, fostering mutually beneficial partnerships with Indian trade buyers and showcasing South Africa's diverse offerings.



## Singapore welcomed 1.1 million Indian tourists in 2023

Singapore welcomed 1.1 million Indian tourists in 2023, marking a substantial 115% surge from the pandemic-hit 2022 and contributing to the city-state's total of 13.6 million visitors. This figure met the Singapore Tourism Board's forecast and represents 71% of the 2019 prepandemic levels. The increase was propelled by strong demand from key markets, including Indonesia, China, and Malaysia. Singapore anticipates tourism receipts

of SGD 24.5 billion to SGD 26 billion for 2023, surpassing the forecast. The average length of stay rose to 3.8 days in 2023, reflecting the sector's resilience. The recovery is expected to continue in 2024, with increased flight connectivity and visitor arrivals reaching 15 to 16 million, contributing SGD 26.0 billion to SGD 27.5 billion in tourism receipts. Ongoing factors such as geopolitical uncertainty and global economic conditions may impact the recovery pace.



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# MESMERIC SAUDI, MESSI BECKONS BEYOND BOUNDARIES

In a bold move to redefine global perceptions and amplify its tourism appeal, Saudi Arabia unleashed its latest campaign under the banner of 'Saudi Welcome to Arabia.' Spearheaded by football legend Lionel Messi, who serves as the Saudi Tourism Ambassador, the campaign, titled "Go Beyond What You Think," is making waves across key markets in Europe, India, and China. Designed to shatter common misconceptions, the initiative invites a global audience to witness the remarkable cultural transformation unfolding within the heart of Saudi Arabia. The campaign extends an open invitation to both seasoned visitors and those yet to discover the kingdom's rich tapestry. Embracing the power of social media, the hashtags #ShareYourSaudi and beckon individuals to share their positive experiences and stories on platforms like TikTok and other social channels.

This multifaceted campaign, encompassing TV, social media, digital platforms, and online travel agencies, unfolds over a three-month period. It reflects Saudi Tourism's commitment to fostering a broadening of perspectives and the bridging of cultures through the transformative power of travel. A significant highlight is its alignment with the UN Tourism's "Tourism Opens Minds" Initiative, launched on World Tourism Day in Riyadh in September 2023. The initiative advocates for the exploration of new and under-appreciated destinations, both by governments and consumers.

Lionel Messi, an international icon and frequent visitor to Saudi Arabia, plays a pivotal role in the campaign. Having visited the country with his family, Messi's positive experiences echo the campaign's objective to dispel outdated stereotypes. The

hero video of the campaign sees Messi metaphorically breaking down walls of misconceptions, revealing Saudi Arabia's diverse landscapes, from the Red Sea's pristine waters to the lush green mountains of Aseer, snow-covered Tabuk, the coastal city of Jeddah, and the bustling capital, Riyadh. The video unfolds a visual spectacle, showcasing Saudi Arabia's vibrant activities and attractions. From the thrilling Diriyah E-Prix to the enchanting Riyadh Season's theme park rides, the captivating hot air balloon flights in AIUla, and the electrifying MDL Beast music events, the campaign paints a vivid picture of Saudi Arabia's multifaceted allure.

A significant aspect of the campaign is its focus on Saudi's open and welcoming culture. Messi spotlights trailblazing Saudi women who are at the forefront of the kingdom's cultural transformation. The campaign celebrates individuals such as the Saudi Women's National football team, motorsport athlete Dania Akeel, DJ Cosmicat, and Rayyanah Barnawi, the first Saudi woman in space. By emphasizing the achievements of these women, the campaign aligns with the broader goal of inspiring young Saudi women to reach their full potential.

Saudi Arabia emerges as a pioneer in tourism development, emphasising sustainability and cultivating world-class culture, entertainment, and sports scenes.



## EMBRACE THE UNEXPECTED AS LIONEL MESSI REDEFINES SAUDI TOURISM





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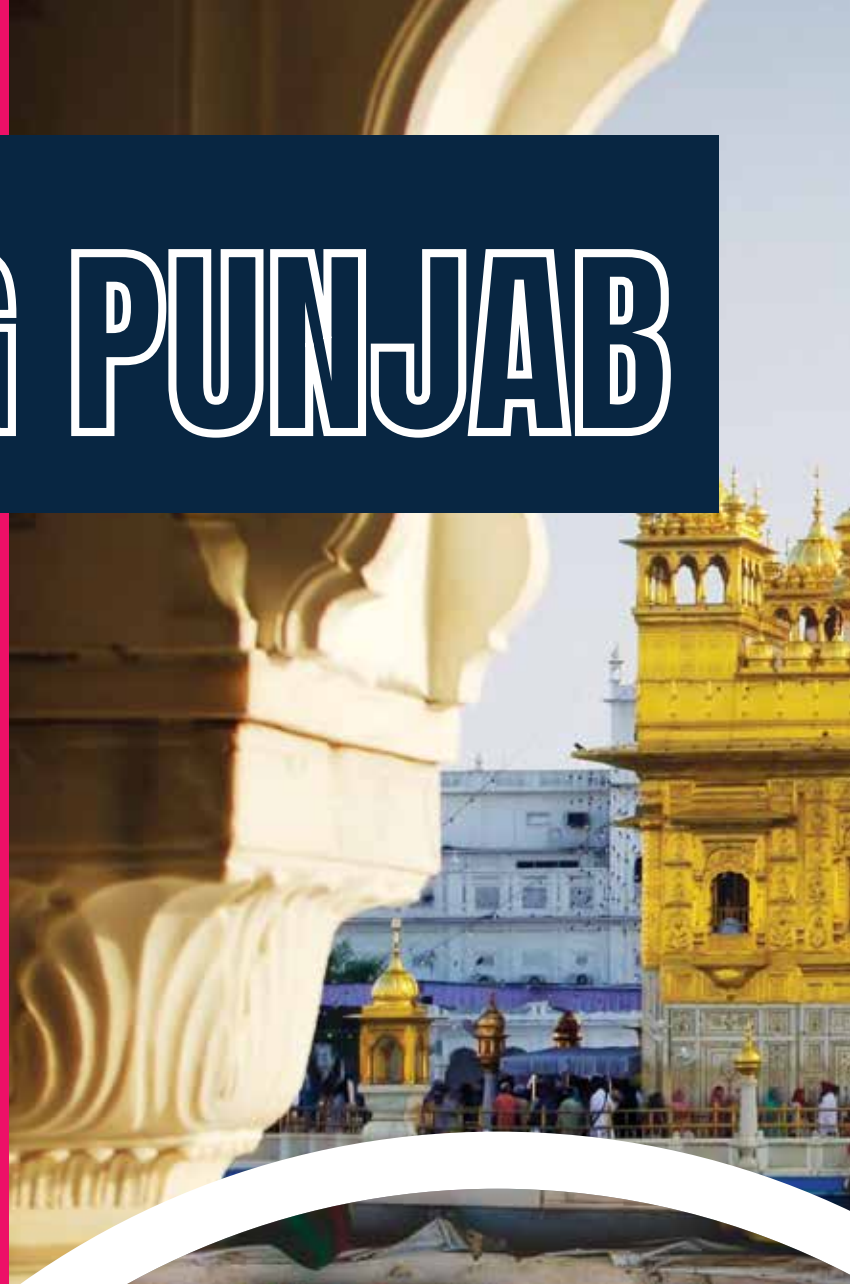


# PULSATING PUNJAB

## Spiritual Beats, Vibrant Hues and Cultural Embrace

*In the heart of India lies Punjab, a tapestry of vitality and exuberance. This region, cradled by five rivers, breathes life into the very essence of Indian culture. With fields ablaze in the golden glow of wheat, Punjab stands as a testament to the abundance of its agricultural landscape. Here, the rhythmic beats of Bhangra resonate through the air, encapsulating the lively spirit of the people. From the grandeur of spiritual edifices to the aromatic dance of flavours in Punjabi cuisine, Punjab unfolds as a vibrant saga of tradition and resilience. It's not just a place; it's an immersive journey into a world of vivacity and heritage*

By Ananya Trivedi







## SPIRITUAL SOJOURN

Discover serenity at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, an iconic Sikh pilgrimage destination. Engage in spiritual rituals, immersing in the sacred customs that permeate the air. One can embrace the tranquil ambiance that envelops the temple, offering a serene sanctuary for contemplation and reflection, where spirituality and peace seamlessly intertwine in this hallowed place of worship.



## VIBRANT BAZAAR SHOPPING

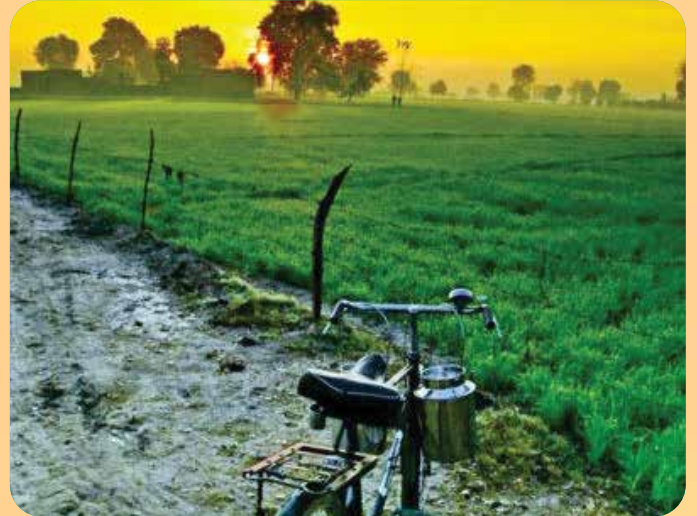
Step into a kaleidoscope of colors as one explores the lively bazaars of Punjab. From intricate phulkari embroidery to vibrant Punjabi suits, each stall is a treasure trove of traditional craftsmanship. Navigate through bustling markets in cities like Amritsar, where the vibrancy of culture and the richness of heritage unfold in every handcrafted piece.



# EXOTIC INDIA

## ≡≡≡ PUNJABI GASTRONOMIC EXTRAVAGANZA

Embark on a culinary odyssey through the heart of Punjab, where every bite is a symphony of flavours. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Punjabi cuisine, from the creamy indulgence of butter chicken to the earthy delight of sarson da saag and makki di roti. Savour the essence of tradition and hospitality in every delectable dish, a true gastronomic delight.

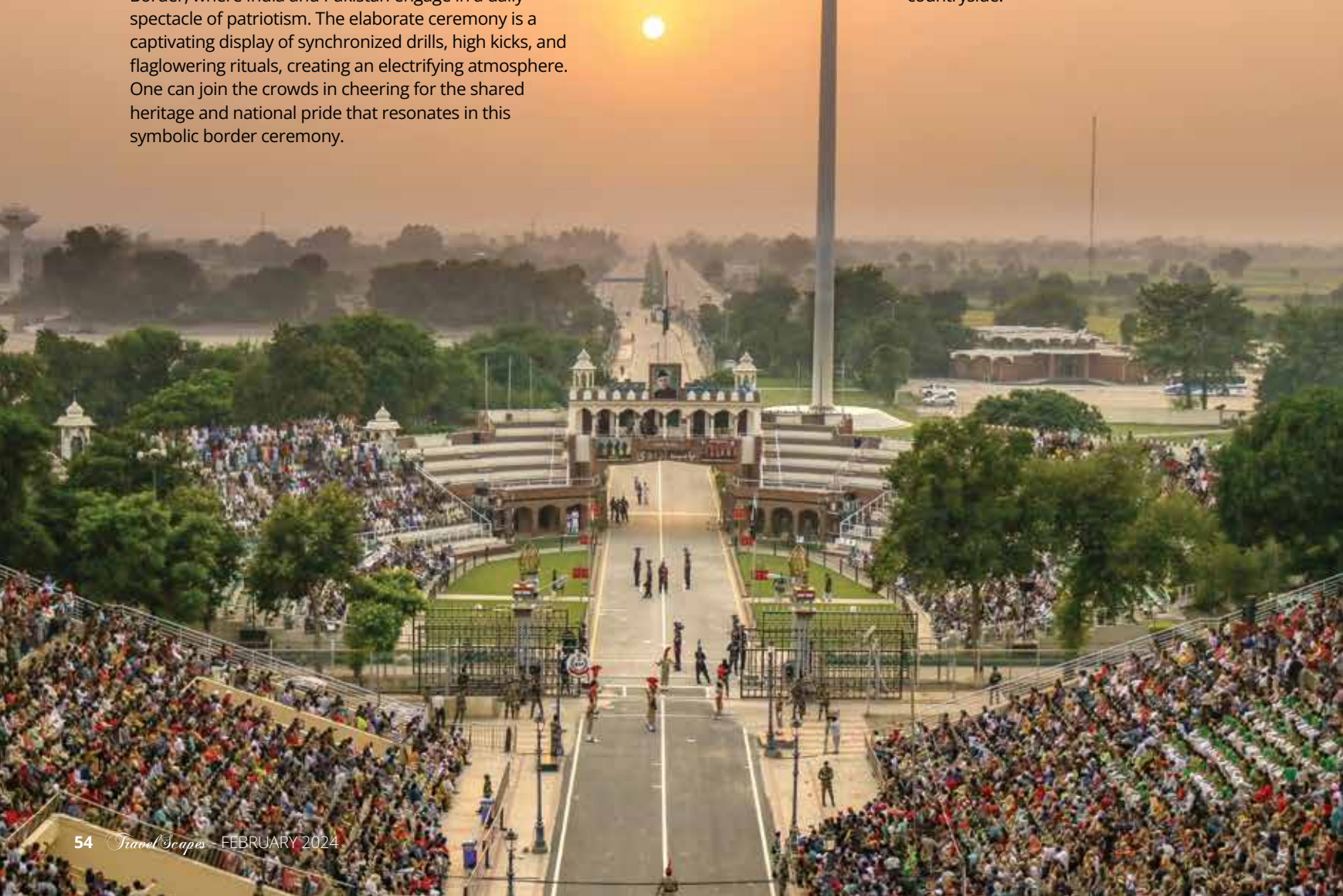


## ≡≡≡ RURAL FLAVOURFUL EXPERIENCE

Immerse yourself in the rustic charm of rural Punjab, where simplicity dances with authenticity. Wander through golden fields, witness traditional farming practices, and savor the hearty flavours of homemade Punjabi cuisine. In this serene escape, every moment becomes a savory slice of rural life, offers a genuine connection to the soul of the countryside.

## ≡≡≡ PATRIOTIC BORDER SPECTACLE

Experience the pulsating energy at the Wagah Border, where India and Pakistan engage in a daily spectacle of patriotism. The elaborate ceremony is a captivating display of synchronized drills, high kicks, and flaglowering rituals, creating an electrifying atmosphere. One can join the crowds in cheering for the shared heritage and national pride that resonates in this symbolic border ceremony.







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# SAUDI



*Situated at the crossroads of ancient trade routes, where the Arabian Desert meets the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, Saudi Arabia is a land rich in history and contrast. Beyond its role as custodian of Islamic holy sites, the country invites travellers on a captivating journey. As the largest Middle Eastern nation, Saudi Arabia boasts superlatives, from the vast Rub' al Khali desert with its golden dunes to the fertile Aseer valleys and the modern-historic blend of coastal cities like Jeddah. The Hijaz region holds spiritual significance, housing Mecca and Medina, drawing millions on pilgrimage annually. Embracing diverse cultures, from Bedouin traditions to bustling urban life, Saudi Arabia's tapestry is woven with hospitality and aromatic Arabic coffee.*

By Ananya Trivedi





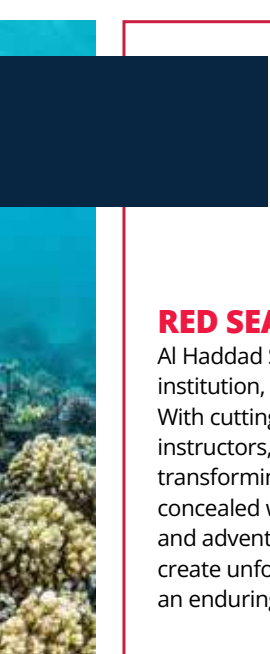
# ARABIA

## A TAPESTRY UNFOLDING MYSTERIES



### UPHILL THRILLS: MOUNT UHUD

Discover exhilaration on the Mount Uhud Bike Trail, an adventure for cycling enthusiasts in Medina's heart. Pedal through rugged terrain for panoramic views of mountains and historical sites. Crisp air carries echoes of ancient tales in the landscape. Suited for all skill levels, this journey seamlessly blends nature, history, and cycling joy, offering an immersive experience for beginners.



### RED SEA EXPLORATION ODYSSEY

Al Haddad Scuba, Saudi Arabia's premier diving institution, redefines underwater exploration. With cutting-edge gear and experienced instructors, it unveils the Red Sea's mysteries, transforming each dive into a journey through concealed wonders. Seamlessly blending safety and adventure, it welcomes divers of all levels to create unforgettable aquatic experiences, leaving an enduring legacy in Saudi Arabia.



### VERDANT MAGIC: AL MADINAH'S RICE FIELDS

In Al-Madinah, emerald rice fields ripple like nature's abundance. Under the gentle sun, paddies narrate a tale of growth, tended by skilled farmers deeply rooted in tradition. The air carries the sweet promise of maturing rice grains. Al-Madinah's fields, a cultivation symphony, echo a timeless dance between the earth and its stewards, sustaining a legacy of prosperity.



# GLOBETROTTER



## RIYADH'S SKYLINE JEWEL

Discover Riyadh's Kingdom Centre, a modern icon of elegance. Dominating the skyline, this marvel seamlessly blends luxury and commerce with a gleaming glass exterior. Hosting upscale shopping, dining, and panoramic Sky Bridge views, it symbolises Riyadh's dynamic spirit. A symbol of sophistication, Kingdom Centre offers an unparalleled experience at the heart of the Saudi capital—whether indulging in top brands or savouring the cityscape from above.



## FROSTY KASHTA EXPEDITION

Embark on a magical "kashta" adventure in Saudi Arabia's snowy landscapes. Amid pristine white snow, discover the joy of winter exploration with snowball fights and snowmen. Relish the enchanting beauty of the Saudi winter, warming up fireside with hot cocoa. Snowy kashta is a delightful journey, crafting memories filled with winter's warmth and the Kingdom's snow-covered landscapes' beauty.



## SAVOURING SAUDI'S CULINARY DELIGHTS

Saudi Arabian cuisine is a flavourful journey reflecting rich traditions. Rice, lamb, and chicken are staples, often seasoned with aromatic spices like saffron and cinnamon. Traditional dishes like Kabsa, a spiced rice with meat, showcase the country's culinary heritage. Dates and Arabic coffee are enjoyed for sweetness, encapsulating the warm hospitality integral to Saudi dining.



## MAJESTIC WAHBA WONDER

Wahba Crater, or Al Wahbah, a 2-mile-wide geological marvel, lies amidst expansive salt flats. Its distinct landscape, featuring white salt against volcanic rocks, offers a stunning spectacle. Visitors can trek to the crater floor, exploring its intriguing terrain. The salt pan, formed over millennia, is a captivating sight. Wahba Crater stands as a testament to Earth's wonders, harmonising natural beauty and scientific curiosity.



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# AIR INDIA SOARS INTO ELEGANCE

## UNVEIL THE AIRBUS A350-900, A SYMPHONY OF TRANSFORMATION, INNOVATION, AND STYLE

In a momentous stride towards aviation supremacy, Air India, the vanguard of Indian global travel, embraced the inaugural airbus A350-900 from its fleet of 20, adorned with a resplendent new brand. This landmark event marks a pivotal juncture in the ongoing narrative of Air India's evolution symbolising a resolute commitment to redefining its trajectory.

Touching down in New Delhi, the airbus A350-900 completed its delivery voyage from the renowned Airbus facility in Toulouse, France. In charting the course for the renaissance of Indian aviation, Air India stands at the forefront by introducing the first new widebody fleet type in over a decade. Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Air India, Campbell Wilson, articulated the profound significance of this red-letter day, emphasising that the A350 transcends being a mere amalgamation of metal and engines. Instead, it embodies the collective spirit and unwavering dedication of all Air India employees toward the ongoing transformation of the airline. Furthermore, it stands as a resounding declaration of Indian aviation's resurgence on the global stage.

"As a symbol of the new age of flying," remarked Wilson, "the A350 promises a world-class, long-haul travel experience on our non-stop routes, providing an unparalleled level of comfort." The aircraft's stellar flight economics and state-of-the-art technology



before embarking on extended journeys to destinations across continents. The detailed itinerary of commercial operations will be unveiled in the coming weeks, promising a seamless blend of efficiency and luxury in air travel. The A350-900 aircraft from Air India boasts a lavish three-class cabin configuration meticulously crafted by Collins Aerospace. Housing a total of 316 seats, the aircraft offers 28 opulent private Business Class suites with full-flat beds, 24 Premium Economy seats exuding opulence and comfort, and 264 spacious Economy Class seats. Every seat on board is equipped with the latest-generation Panasonic eX3 in-flight entertainment system, accompanied by HD screens to deliver a superlative flying experience.

This inaugural A350 marks the genesis of Air India's extensive order of 20 Airbus A350-900s, with an additional five scheduled for delivery by March 2024. Notably, Air India's firm commitment to Airbus spans 250 new aircraft, encompassing 20 A350-1000s. Adding a touch of glamour to the narrative, Air India unveiled a much-anticipated collection of uniforms for cabin and cockpit crew designed by the esteemed Indian celebrity couturier, Manish Malhotra. The entry into service of the A350 will witness the debut of these stylish ensembles, elevating the visual narrative of Air India's renewed elegance in the realm of aviation.

underscore Air India's commitment to commercially successful operations and the pursuit of sustainability goals, adding a layer of sophistication to its aviation prowess.

Anticipated to commence commercial service in January 2024, Air India's A350 will initially ply domestic routes for crew familiarization







## WHERE THE BEST *Embrace Brilliance*

Swosti Chilika Resort is one of the best landmarks from the Swosti Group of Hotels & Resorts, providing the same amenities and extravagance that the SWOSTI brand represents. The resort delivers unforgettable experiences near the beautiful Chilika Lake. Surrounded by lush green plantations and incomparable peacefulness, Swosti Chilika Resort offers over 78 well-made rooms and many luxurious amenities to allow guests to soak in and experience the magical vistas in all their splendor. The property also boasts of three multi-cuisine restaurants, a bar, a spa and a coffee shop. Guests can enjoy adventure activities like boating and jet-skiing etc, that add to their overall experience.







## Malaysia Airlines globally launches MHplus program

**Malaysia Airlines** announced the global launch of its New Distribution Capability (NDC) platform, MHplus, fostering improved communication and collaboration between the airline and its trade partners in crucial markets. MHplus will be accessible in six countries: Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Australia, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. The global rollout ensures that a significant portion of existing content becomes exclusively available to travel retailers and Travel Management Corporations (TMCs) using MHplus, streamlining distribution across the travel industry. Agents opting for MHplus will enjoy benefits such as access to all distribution content, enhanced offerings like a 10kg free baggage allowance with the airline's 'Lite Fare,' competitive fares, eligible commissions for ancillary products, and more. CEO of Airlines from Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), Ahmad Luqman Mohd Azmi, expressed excitement about expanding MHplus's reach and capabilities, offering equal opportunities to valued partners in key markets.

## Turkish Airlines sees 10.1% passenger growth

**Turkish Airlines** reported a 19.4% increase in passenger capacity, measured in available seat kilometers, for December 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. In December, the airline carried 6.1 million passengers with a total load factor of 79.8%. International-to-international passengers increased by 19%, reaching 2.6 million. The available seat kilometers rose to 19.8 billion from 16.6

billion in December 2022. Cargo/mail transport during December 2023 increased by 15.8% to 159.7 thousand tons. For the January-December 2023 period, total passengers reached 83.4 million, marking a 16.1% increase. The total load factor improved to 82.6%, with international and domestic load factors at 82.4% and 84.3%, respectively. The fleet comprised 440 aircraft by December 2023.



## ITA Airways to resume Tel Aviv-Rome flights

**ITA Airways** is to resume flights between Tel Aviv Ben Gurion and Rome Fiumicino starting March 1, gradually increasing frequencies throughout the 2024 summer season. In March, flights will operate three times a week, with schedules accommodating travel between the two destinations. Starting March 31 and continuing throughout the summer, the frequencies will further increase, providing

travellers with more options. The schedule allows for convenient transfer connections from Israel to ITA Airways' intercontinental destinations, particularly to North America, leveraging the Rome Fiumicino hub. The resumption of flights results from collaboration between Italian and Israeli authorities, marking a strategic move for ITA Airways to enhance relations between the two markets.



## AirAsia launches Jaipur-Kuala Lumpur effective New Year

**AirAsia** has commenced its 2024 expansion by introducing a new route from Jaipur, Rajasthan, to Kuala Lumpur, starting April 21, 2024. This initiative marks AirAsia Malaysia's (AK) inaugural venture connecting Jaipur to Kuala Lumpur, a sought-after destination for Indian travellers, offering a blend of business, leisure, and cultural experiences. Kuala Lumpur,

Malaysia's capital, is renowned for its diverse culinary delights, cultural heritage, and shopping attractions. The route aims to enhance connectivity for Malaysian travellers exploring Jaipur's historical landmarks, forts, and distinctive charm. Bo Lingam, Group CEO of AirAsia Aviation, expressed excitement over expanding connectivity and strengthening ties with India, a crucial market for AirAsia.







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## Vietjet named 2024's safest airline worldwide

**Vietjet, secured** its position among the world's safest airlines for 2024, as recognised by AirlineRatings, a prominent airline safety and product rating website. Maintaining a seven-star rating since 2018, the highest global standard for aviation safety, Vietjet stands out among 385 global airlines evaluated annually by AirlineRatings. The assessment considered incident records, fleet age, ICAO audits, and other aviation authority evaluations. Vietjet consistently ranks in the top 10 alongside renowned low-cost carriers like Ryanair and easyJet. Editor-in-Chief of AirlineRatings.com, Geoffrey Thomas, commended Vietjet's safety culture, robust safety management system, and compliance with international regulations. Vietjet's commitment to safety is evident through its expanding network, modern fleet, and investment in training and maintenance services, including its partnership with IATA through the Vietjet Aviation Academy.



## Air Arabia expands network with new direct flights to Athens

**Air Arabia**, revealed plans to launch a new route connecting Sharjah with Athens, Greece's capital. Beginning operations on June 28th, 2024, the four-weekly flights aim to enhance affordable travel globally. This strategic move aligns with Air Arabia's dedication to fostering economic and cultural ties between the UAE and Greece, catering

to both business and leisure travellers. Adel Al Ali, Group CEO, emphasises the significance of seamless connectivity and accessible travel options. Operating a modern Airbus A320 and A321 neo-LR fleet, Air Arabia prioritises passenger comfort with generous seat-pitch and offers in-flight streaming through 'SkyTime' along with an affordable 'SkyCafe' menu.



## IndiGo launches direct Dubai-Surat flights

**IndiGo revealed** plans for triweekly direct flights connecting Dubai and Surat, starting from February 23, 2024. This strategic addition to the 6E network aims to facilitate seamless travel for both tourists and business travellers, fostering bilateral economic growth and strengthening relations between India and the UAE. The introduction of this flight establishes Surat as the second city in Gujarat with direct connectivity to Dubai within the IndiGo network. Additionally, from February 22, 2024, increased frequencies will be introduced on the Hyderabad-Dubai route.

Head of Global Sales Vinay Malhotra at IndiGo, expressed delight in introducing direct connectivity between Dubai and Surat, emphasising the significance of enhancing trade opportunities for business travelers and contributing to economic development in both regions. Surat, Gujarat's second-largest city, renowned for its flourishing textile and diamond industries, offers a diverse cultural experience and delectable street food. The new route is expected to boost tourism, create trade opportunities, and foster economic growth between these significant hubs.



## SpiceJet boosts connectivity with Ayodhya

**SpiceJet enhanced** its network connectivity by introducing flights linking Ayodhya with eight key cities in India, starting from February 1, 2024. Beyond the initially announced non-stop services from Chennai, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, SpiceJet will extend its reach to Delhi, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Patna, and Darbhanga. This strategic

expansion aligns with SpiceJet's dedication to providing passengers with seamless travel options and contributing to the development of regional connectivity. As part of this initiative, a special flight from Delhi to Ayodhya on January 21, 2024, was announced to accommodate attendees of the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at the Shri Ram

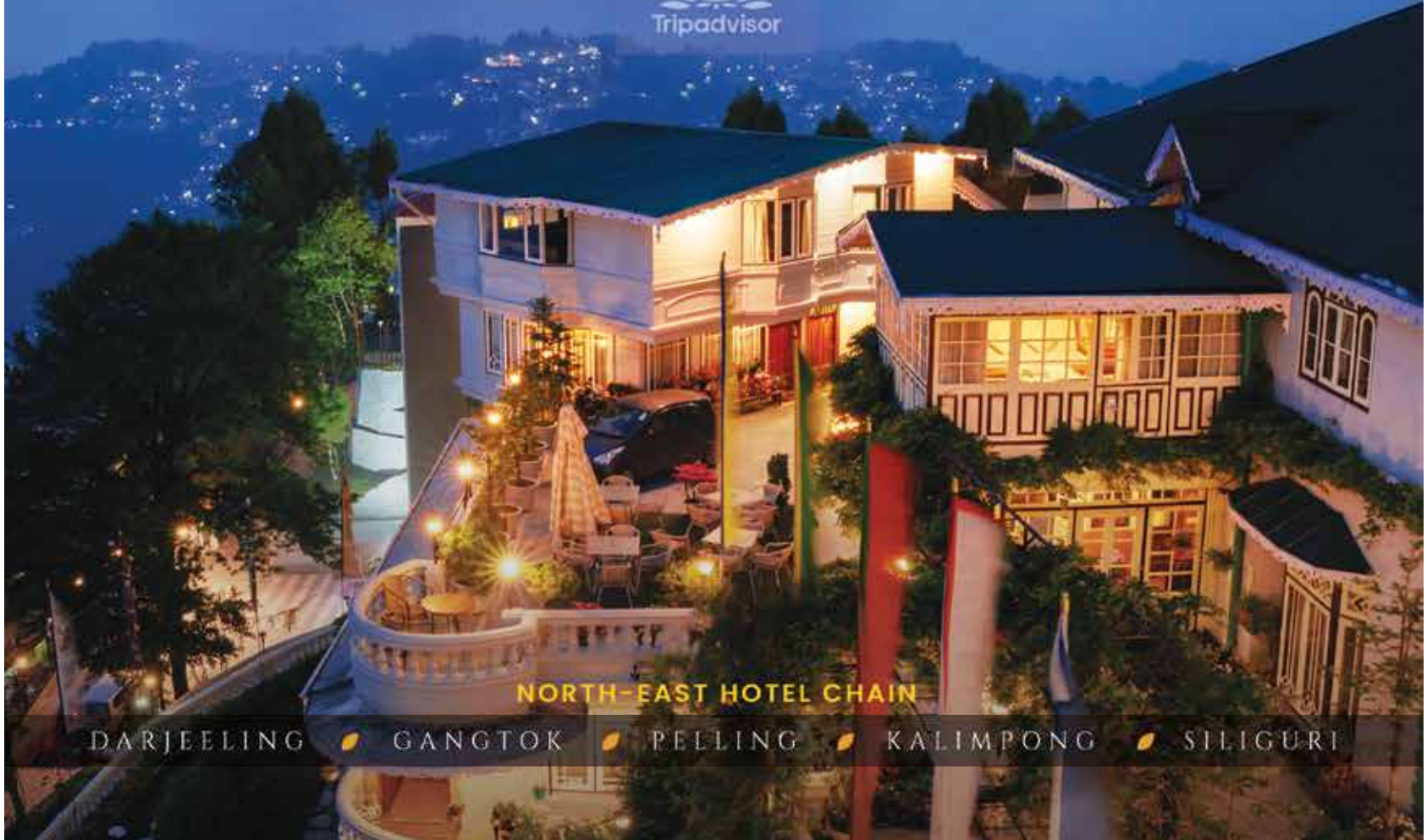






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# ON THE MOVE



**CHETAN SURWADE**

**APPOINTED AT:** Novotel Pune

**PROMOTED TO:** Director of Sales

Chetan Surwade has been appointed as the Associate Director of Sales, bringing extensive sales experience from Crowne Plaza Pune City Centre. With a robust educational background in Business Administration Finance and Hospitality Science, Chetan's role encompasses managing MICE and Sales Centre. His strategic acumen aligns with Novotel's commitment to excellence.



**ASHISH TIWARI**

**APPOINTED AT:** Double Tree by Hilton

**PROMOTED TO:** Food & Beverage (F&B) Manager

DoubleTree by Hilton Baani Square Gurugram announced Ashish Tiwari's promotion to Food & Beverage (F&B) Manager. With extensive experience since January 2020, his tenure includes roles as Events Sales Manager and Assistant F&B Manager, showcasing dedication and leadership. His goal is to enhance guest experiences and innovate culinary offerings.



**VISHAL JAMUAR**

**APPOINTED AT:** The LaLiT Ashok, Bangalore

**PROMOTED TO:** General Manager

Vishal Jamuar, appointed General Manager at The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore, boasts 32 years of hospitality expertise, including roles at ITC, Taj, and Radisson Group. Renowned for leadership and strategic acumen, he's garnered accolades such as Best Luxury Leisure Hotel in West India. Vishal is eager to leverage his experience for outstanding results at The Lalit.



**GAURAV SENSOWA**

**APPOINTED AT:** The Fern Residency, Gandhinagar

**PROMOTED TO:** General Manager

Gaurav Sensowa, has been appointed General Manager at The Fern Residency, Gandhinagar. He is a veteran in hotel management with 17 years' experience across Royal Orchid Hotels and Lords Hotels & Resorts. A graduate of SBIHM, Kolkata, his outstanding organisational prowess, creative flair, and adept public relations have earned him acclaim.



**SWAPNIL GAJBHIYE**

**APPOINTED AT:** Arova Woods Zinc Journey by The Fern, Lonavala

**PROMOTED TO :** General Manager

Bringing 12 years of hospitality expertise, Swapnil Gajbhiye appointed as the General Manager position at Arova Woods Zinc Journey by The Fern, Lonavala. With roles at Intellistay Hotels, Sarovar Hotels & Resorts, and Lemon Tree Hotels, he prioritises guest satisfaction, operational excellence, and strategic leadership.



**PRANAY SINGH GAUR**

**APPOINTED AT :** The Fern Ranthambhore Forest Resort, Sawai Madhopur:

**PROMOTED TO:** General Manager

Bringing 24 years of diverse expertise in strategic planning, management, sales, marketing, and business development, Pranay Singh Gaur assumed General Manager role at The Fern Ranthambhore Forest Resort, Sawai Madhopur. Renowned for pre-opening proficiency and collaborations with utilities commissioning firms, he prioritises operational excellence.



**NAVEEN VAISHNAV**

**APPOINTED AT:** MYSA Zinc Journey by The Fern

**PROMOTED TO :** General Manager

Naveen Vaishnav has been appointed as General Manager at MYSA Zinc Journey by The Fern in Nani Devati, Gujarat. A Hotel Management graduate from the Institute of Advanced Management, Kolkata, brings over two decades of experience. With a career spanning renowned establishments like Taj Lake Palace, Oberoi Udaivilas, and The Leela Palace, Udaipur.



**DIMPY WASON**

**APPOINTED AT:** Marriott International, Chandigarh

**PROMOTED TO:** Market Director of Revenue Strategy

Dimpy Wason has been appointed Market Director of Revenue Strategy for Marriott International-managed properties in Punjab and Chandigarh. With 18 years of experience spanning Starwood Hotels, Fairmont Hotel, and Hyatt, he has held significant positions in international brands, including overseeing Goa and the Belagavi market for Marriott International.



**ALESSIO MINETTO**

**APPOINTED AT:** The Woodward, Geneva

**PROMOTED TO:** General Manager

Alessio Minetto is appointed General Manager of The Woodward, Oetker Collection's latest Masterpiece Hotel in Geneva. The 26-suite-only hotel boasts post-Haussmann-style architecture and stunning Lake Geneva views. Minetto, with international hospitality experience from esteemed hotels, including Four Seasons George V, Paris, brings his expertise to this lakeside haven.



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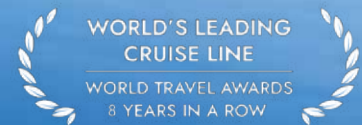
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