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THE INFLIGHT MAGAZINE | AIRVISTARA | VOL 05 | ISSUE 01

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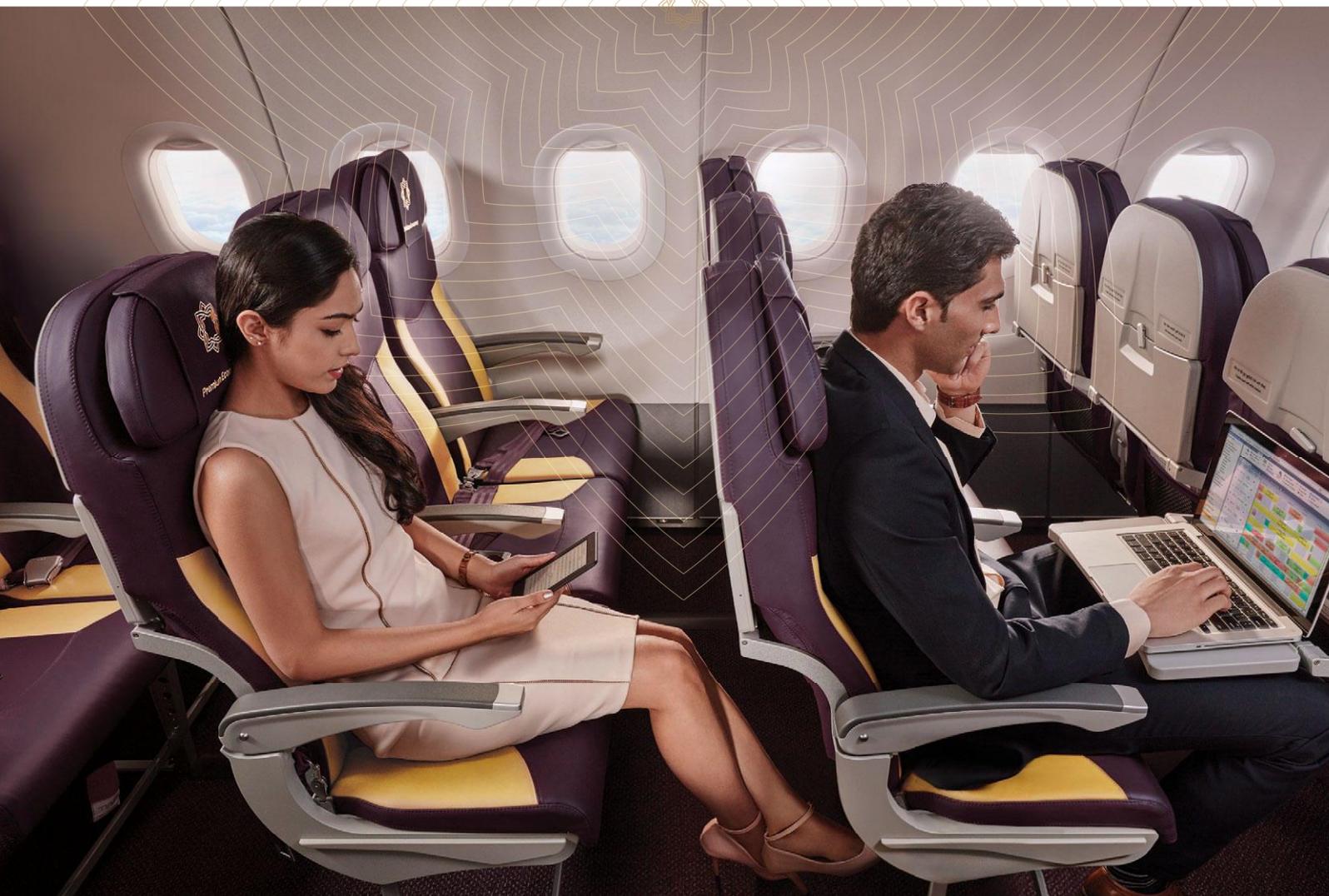


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Ushering in the New Year

We have begun our ascent into the new year and with that, also into the fifth year of our operations. What an eventful journey it has been so far! From expanding our fleet, network and finalising our largest-ever aircraft order to being awarded superlative titles by multiple national and international industry associations and consumer platforms, the year gone by has been full of celebrations and happy moments at Vistara. For all of this, we only have our customers to thank, who give back so much #VistaraLove to us in so many ways.

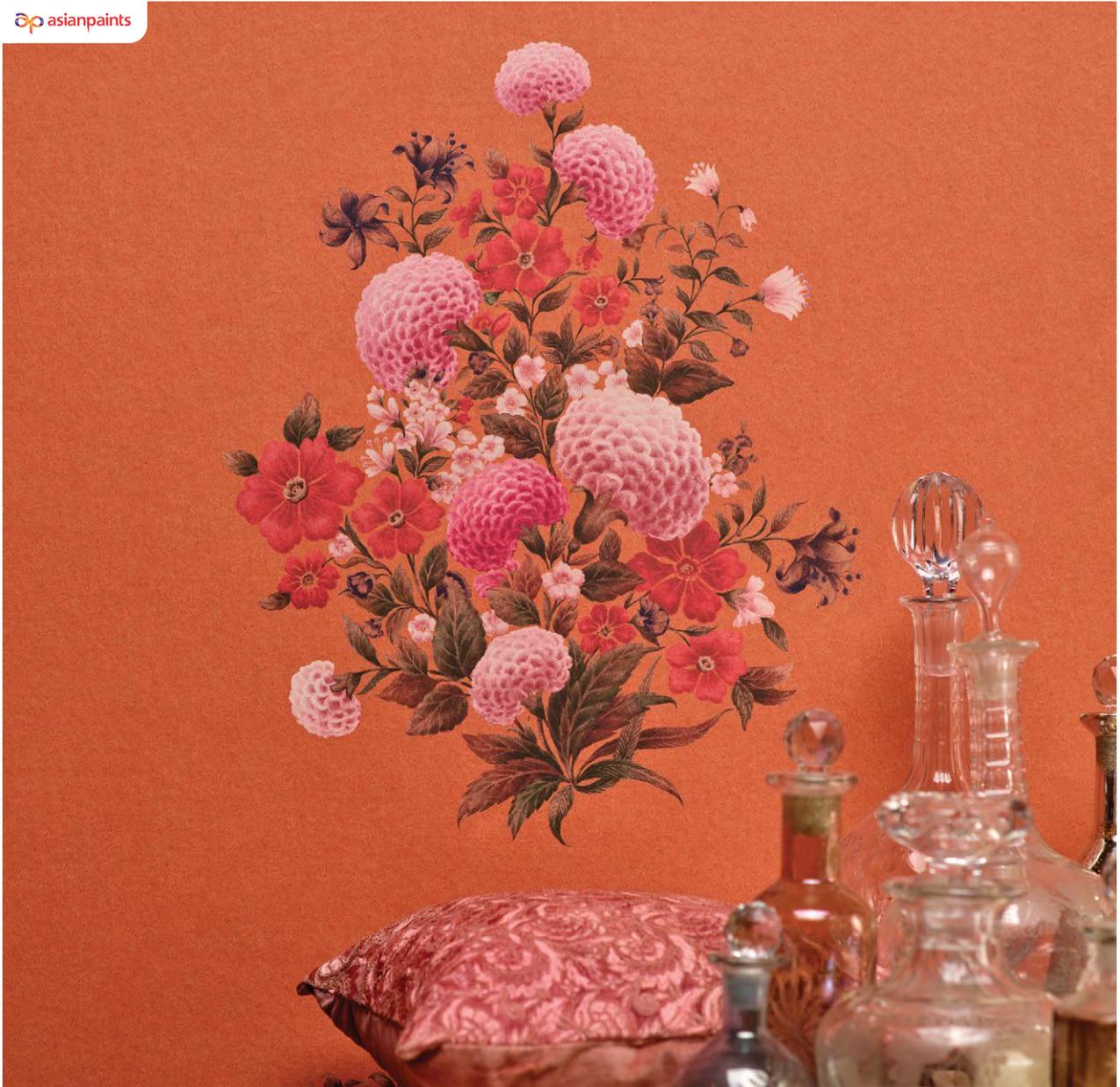
Throughout our journey of four years thus far, what has remained constant is our will and effort to stay relevant and customise our product and service to enhance the flying experience for customers. In this short span of time, we have been able to create a niche for ourselves in an extremely competitive sector. The ever-changing global scenario continues to challenge us to push our boundaries further. With our focus on innovation and in keeping pace with the changing times, Vistara, today, is a name instantly associated with world-class hospitality and impeccable service delivery.

Talking of keeping pace, we recently launched our new brand campaign, 'Fly Higher', which reflects an in-depth research into understanding the new-age traveller better. It inspires today's discerning travellers to fly smarter, choose the airline that truly complements their evolved lifestyles and to settle for nothing but the best—qualities they only find in Vistara. This is especially important in an age where travelling is not just perceived as an expenditure, but an investment.

Through our award-winning magazine, we want to bring to our customers a closer look at the culture of travel. The current edition of our magazine finds us in pursuit of some of the most exotic destinations and finest experiences around the world. It's the start of the year, and what better way to plan your year than to glide through these pages that feature a range of destinations including Meghalaya, Varanasi, Cusco and Copenhagen among others. One could argue that tourism and sustainability do not go hand in hand. But Copenhagen debunks that claim with an increasing focus on responsible and ethical food practices on pages 74-80. And, if you thought Varanasi was only known for religious tourism, take a trip to the beautiful city and witness the marvel of toy-making crafts in the lanes of Khajwa on pages 36-42. If you're split between the idea of picking an exotic destination in Europe this year, the Croatian city of Split should be on your radar. Think pristine waters along the dazzling Dalmatian Coast and a glass of fine wine overlooking the view, a quick read on pages 66-72 will convince you to agree with the locals who describe the city as the most beautiful city in the world. The article on David Scott Trail in Meghalaya on pages 60-64 is a perfect guide to plan a trek around the beautiful Khasi Hills.

Thank you for letting us serve you and we hope this year brings immense joy in your lives. Until then, replenish yourself with some of the finest pieces of writing in our magazine.

Happy New Year!



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Chapter II: India Revival Project





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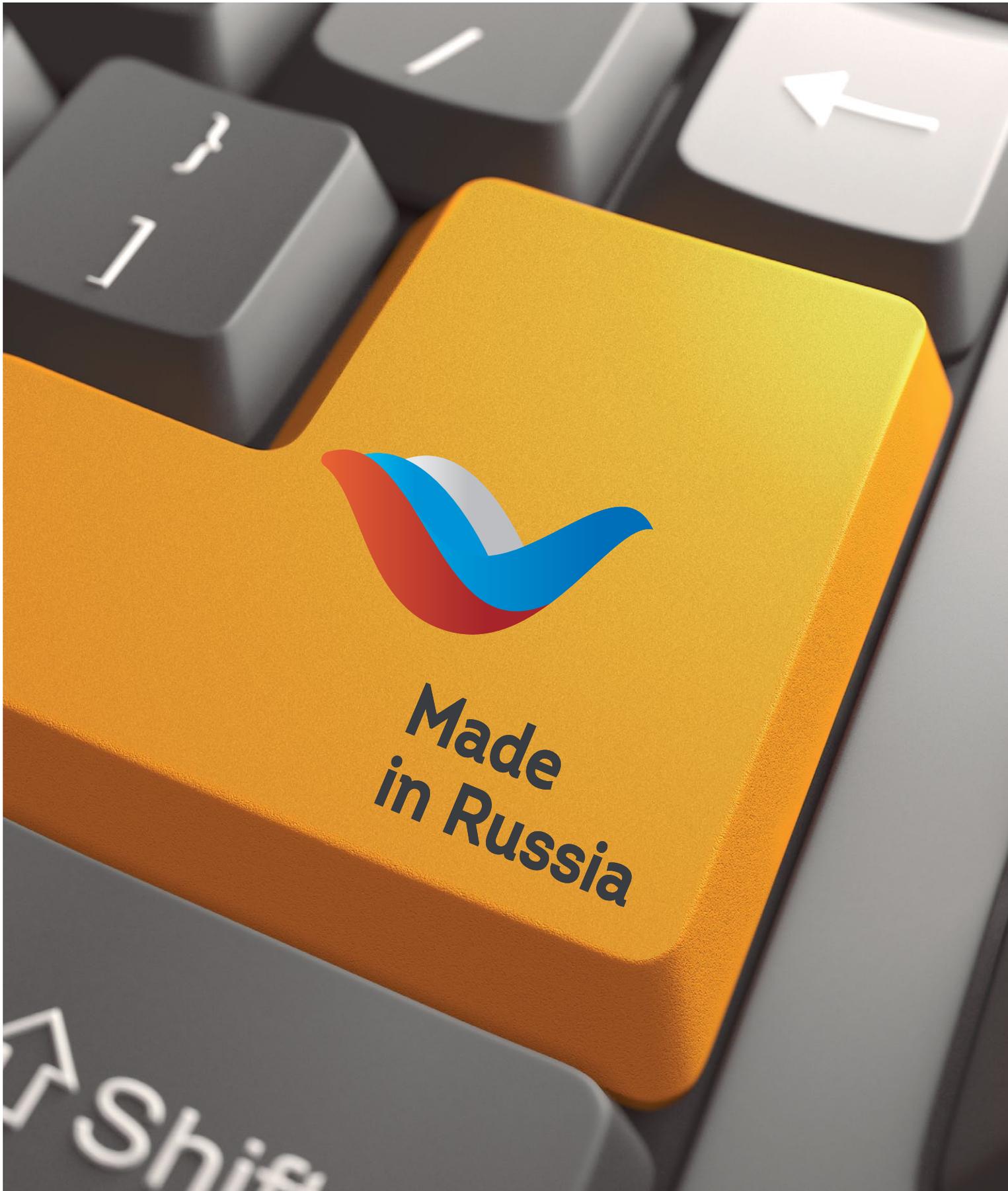
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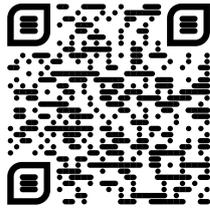
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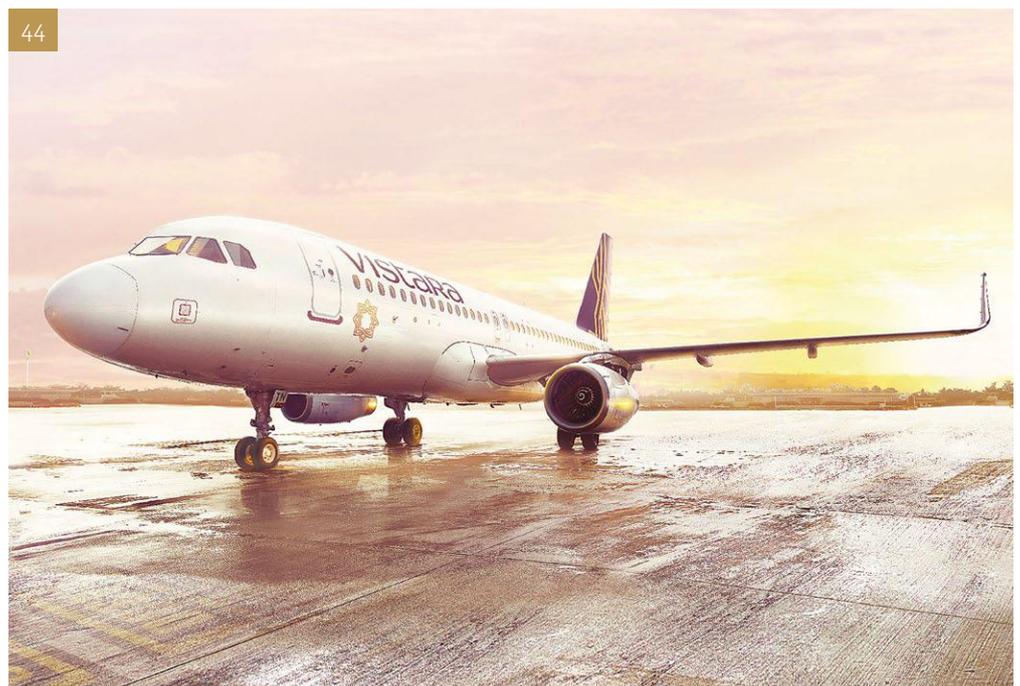
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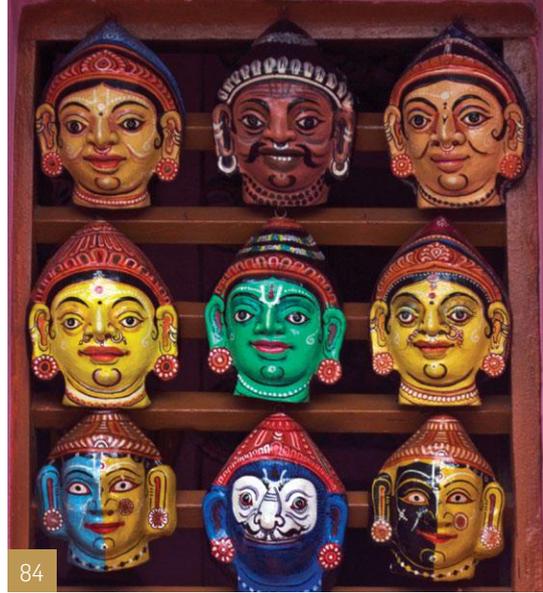
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Lesser-known fact for Kolkata shared by our reader (December 2018)

Name: Partha Banerjee

Answer: The biryani in Kolkata is different because it is cooked with potato along with the rice and meat. This was due to an innovation done by the chefs of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah.

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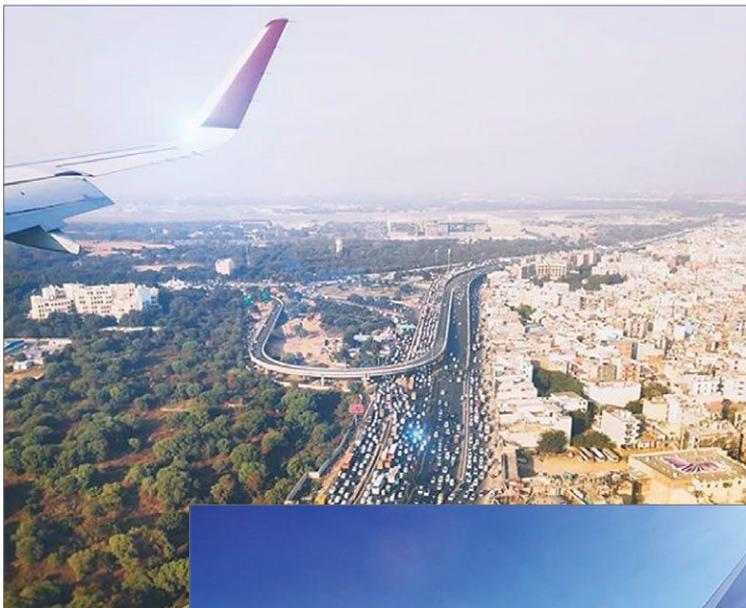
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A New Home for Statue of Liberty's Torch

The Statue of Liberty in New York was given a new torch in the mid-1980s after the ravages of time caused wear and tear in the original one. Earlier, the original torch was put inside the statue's pedestal where guests could buy a ticket to see it but now the torch has found a new home. It sits in the Statue of Liberty Museum, which is currently being built on Liberty Island and is scheduled to open in May 2019. All visitors travelling to the island will be able to access the museum and admire the beauty of the iconic fiery torch. The statue's official name is 'Liberty Enlightening the World' and the flames from the torch are said to light up the path of enlightenment for the world to follow.



This Month That Year

Accomplished author and poet JRR Tolkien was born in January, 1892. He would go on to write classics in the fantasy genre like *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, which enjoy a cult following among bibliophiles even today.



Art Appreciation through Augmented Reality

The Google Arts & Culture app recently launched a 'Meet Vermeer' experience through an augmented reality feature called Pocket Gallery to generate a digital exhibition space for renowned Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer. The virtual 'in-painting tour' presents the entire range of Vermeer's works under one (digital) roof and details stories behind the various creations. Art lovers can now immerse themselves in Vermeer's quotidian world with just the click of a cursor.



VISTARA QUIZ

Question 1: How many jetliners are there in the Neo family?

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MOVIE OF THE MONTH



Serenity

Directed by: **Steven Knight**

Cast: **Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jason Clarke, Diane Lane**

Release Date: **January 25, 2019**

A thriller about a fishing boat captain who is pulled into a web of deceit when his ex-wife shows up and begs him to save her from her abusive new husband.

BOLLYWOOD / HOLLYWOOD



Super 30

Directed by: **Vikas Bahl**

Cast: **Hrithik Roshan, Meraj Alam, Jeetendra Awasthi**

Release Date: **January 25, 2019**



The Upside

Directed by: **Neil Burger**

Cast: **Bryan Cranston, Kevin Hart, Nicole Kidman, Julianna Margulies**

Release Date: **January 11, 2019**



Uri: The Surgical Strike

Directed by: **Aditya Dhar**

Cast: **Vicky Kaushal, Kirti Kulhari, Paresh Rawal**

Release Date: **January 11, 2019**

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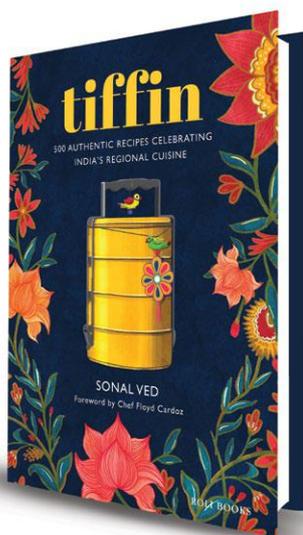
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ON MY KINDLE

Tiffin: 500 Authentic Recipes Celebrating India's Regional Cuisine, published by Roli Books, unlocks the diverse flavours of India for readers. Its curator Sonal Ved introduces different strokes of Indian regional cuisine in the book.



What inspired you to come up with this book?

The idea came from my publishers. They wanted to put together one of India's finest recipe cookbooks and that brief got me thinking. If you scroll through a lot of Indian cookbooks, you will notice how the dialogue usually tilts towards representation of popular Indian cuisines compartmentalised as North or South. That too fewer

regions within these, like Punjab, Lucknow within UP, a little bit of Kerala, something of Tamil Nadu and that's it. But what about hyper regional recipes? Like food from Bhatinda, or curries from the Saraswat Goan community, what about cuisine from the deserts of Kutch, or those cooked by the Memon community in Mumbai or Gujarat. That's what got me started.

Any recipe or ingredient you came across that has been forgotten in India's recent past but you would like to see revived?

Kalakand, atte ki biscuit, atte ka halwa, Kutchi osaman - if these things are not penned down they might be forgotten.

You say that Indian cuisine has overlapping flavours from multiple regions. Please elaborate.

For example, cuisine from Malwa (a plateau, encompassing central Madhya Pradesh and southeastern Rajasthan) has

strong Rajasthani influences, especially in dishes such as *mawa baati, bhutte ke kees* (known as *makai ki khichdi* in Rajasthan), and *amli ki kadhi*, although this one is not blended with yogurt, which is the case with many Marwari gravies—instead the sourness comes from tamarind pulp.

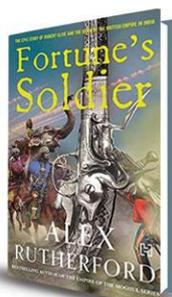
The cuisine profiles of the four states in East India—West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand—can be clubbed into pairs, owing to their symbiotic relationships, shared history, cultural similarities, and geographical proximity. Being coastal states, Odisha and West Bengal have cuisines that are dominated by seafood, especially freshwater river fish, prawns and crabs, cooked in a number of ways.

The curries and gravies are flavoured with many spices, including the *Panch Phoran* spice mix—a blend of cumin, mustard, fennel, fenugreek and nigella seeds, giving a unique flavour. Between Jharkhand and Bihar

there are a lot of similarities in the two states, since Jharkhand was carved out of southern Bihar eighteen years ago. So you will find commonalities in the usage of *litti*, whole-wheat dough balls that are a meal staple, *sattu*, roasted lentil flour, *malpuas* for dessert, and *thekua*, indigenous Indian cookies eaten on celebratory occasions.

Did you travel to various regions in India for this book? What was the experience like?

I have been fortunate enough to travel quite a lot across the country. Since I've always been a food writer, my travel is always planned around food whether its from trekking in Kashmir in search of the gucchi mushroom, road tripping in Tamil Nadu to explore the various breakfast options, frequent visits around the Konkan coast or the wine region of Nashik in search of flavourful curries, eating in Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh. This book is more or less a coming together of all these experiences.

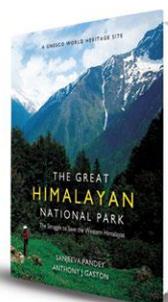


Fortune's Soldier

By: Alex Rutherford

Published by:
Hachette India

Price: ₹599



The Great Himalayan National Park: The Struggle to save the Western Himalayas

By: Anthony J Gaston & Sanjeeva Pandey

Published by: Niyogi Books

Price: ₹1500



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EVENTS OF THE MONTH



The Kochi-Muzhiris Biennale

Where: Kochi, Kerala

When: Until March 29, 2019



Bhramara: Festival of Dance

Where: Royal Opera House, Mumbai

When: January 19 – 20, 2019



International Kite Festival

Where: Sabarmati River Front, Gujarat

When: January 6 – 14, 2019



Design Show by Vikram Goyal

Where: Bikaner House

When: January 12 – February 03, 2019



Jaipur Literature Festival

Where: Hotel Diggi Palace, Jaipur

When: January 24 – 28, 2019



Sundance Film Festival

Where: Utah, USA

When: January 24 – February 03, 2019

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The streets of Khojwa

Where wooden toys come alive

One of the oldest crafts to have survived changing times, the wooden toy world of Varanasi has many stories to tell.

words // Supriya Sehgal



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Varanasi is a lively city. Its magical sunrises foregrounded by the broad sinuous Ganga, devoted footprint of spiritual visitors and an abiding love for handicraft and heritage, cast an uplifting mood on the entire city. Each street is alive with a joyous riot of colours, most of it contributed by the reams of silk cloth, toys, clay crafts, brassware, zari work and other handicrafts.



HOW TO GET THERE

Vistara has daily non-stop flights to Varanasi from Delhi, along with convenient connections from other cities.

Most travellers toe the line of blogs and brochures, visiting every ghat, sampling kachauris and thandai, strolling past centuries-old havelis and transfixed by the shimmering

river. Few expand the horizon of their explorations to a degree further than the labyrinth of slim streets that criss-cross behind the stepped ghats along the River Ganga. But when they do, the awards are exemplary. The maze of narrow streets in one of the oldest living cities on Earth holds fascinating stories and traditions, many of them unsung and unrecorded by guidebooks.

A SPLASH OF COLOURS

The famous Khojwa market is where unparalleled treasures await. Shops bathed in bright colours flank the road. Eyes can trace the colourful trajectory from the

display outside to relatively dim interiors, where toy workshops are thrumming with action.

Hunched over blocks of wood, skillful craftsmen gently scoop out bits with their chisels. It is fascinating to see a distinguishable shape emerge magically after a few hours. While the head artisan shapes the toy, others keep themselves busy with embellishments, sticking pieces together, colouring and lacquering them.

Going through a toy workshop is a veritable history lesson that takes you back in time when the Mughals held sway in northern

For toy makers, inspiration comes in the form of daily activities, nature and wildlife, mythological stalwarts, and the pantheon of Gods that exist in the city.



Image credit: Ahmed Kamal



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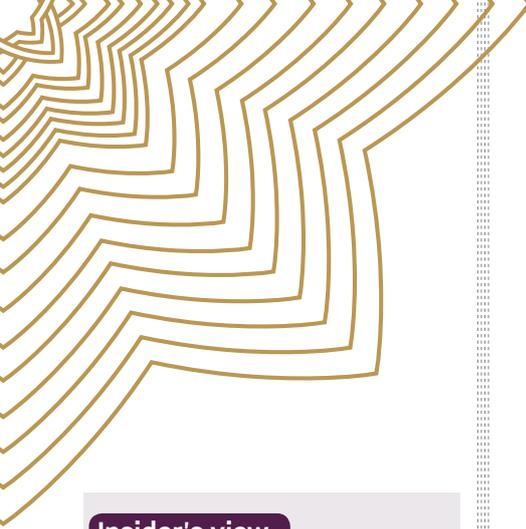
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Insider's view



Niharika Singh,
Airport Manager,
Varanasi

“In Varanasi, one must try the Banarasi Paan at Lanka Chowk’s popular Keshav Paan. Mallaiyo (a dessert) is another must-have from Dina Chat Bhandar at Luxa. One can also find great, locally made wooden toys in Varanasi that are perfect souvenirs to take back home; these toys depict Hindu mythology in colourful forms.”

New creative themes are slowly making way into the designs to match the updated trends and tastes.

India. Centuries ago, the work entailed intricate designs of ivory. In fact, the skill was passed down through generations and ivory remained the main raw material even during the colonial rule in India. When ivory was banned, timely ingenuity made the craftsmen switch to soft wood that could be easily sourced from nearby places. Earlier they used keria from Chitrakoot, but now eucalyptus has become the new canvas. The soft wood is easy to break, chisel and shape into different designs. It takes on colour well and is durable in a child’s hand.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF MAGIC

The toys have always been a reflection of daily life and learning tools for children – a true depiction of the Banarasi culture. For toy makers, inspiration comes in the form of daily activities, nature and wildlife, mythological stalwarts, and the pantheon of Gods that exist in the city. Fish, musicians, elephants, women drawing water from a well, parrots, Hanuman, Saraswati and many others share a common platform in the workshop of a toy maker. New creative themes are slowly

making way into the designs to match the updated trends and tastes, but most artisans still prefer traditional topics.

Seven birds eating from a feeder is one such traditional toy, that showcases bird figurines circling around a plate as if pecking from the same bowl. Most artisans grew up watching scenes like these and nature has always been an inspiration to many of them. It is evident that the old designs have a nostalgic value and an everlasting appeal. In comparison to the toys of new generations, their bright colours, intricate handiwork and relatable themes outshine others.

The world of handicrafts is a tough one. “These colourful toys may not offer margins, but the smile on people’s faces when they have a look at our work, is incomparable,” deliberates a senior artisan in Khojwa market. For centuries, the toy artisans have contributed to the creativity and intellect of the city of Varanasi. Even if the sales are down, their spirit is forever high. ✨

— VISTARA QUIZ —

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EXPLORE THE CITY

The bustling cultural hub has many facets for travellers to explore



Visit the Dashashwamedh Ghat at dusk to participate in the soulful *aarti* with panoramic views of the river against the setting sun as backdrop. A spiritual experience, the *aarti* is followed by classical music performances by different artists each day. There are also exclusive private cruises with musicians, trained at the Benaras music *gharana*, holding private concerts. So sail along with the soothing music, and soak in the magical Ganga *aarti* for a soul rejuvenating experience.

VISIT

Bharat Kala Bhavan, an art museum in the Benaras Hindu University was established in 1920 with Rabindranath Tagore as honorary chairman. Today, its diverse art collection includes rare manuscripts and paintings that date back to the 1500s.

One of the oldest cities in the world, Varanasi has many stories to tell. Go for a Spiritual Walking Tour in Varanasi with an experienced guide and learn the history of Varanasi's *ghats*, musical *gharanas* and temples where *Ramayana* frescoes adorn marble tiles.

Head to Bread of Life, one of the oldest bakeries in Varanasi for some piping hot coffee, freshly made sandwiches and fluffy pancakes. To try some Korean delicacies, Bona Cafe comes highly recommended.

EAT

The street food in Varanasi is a lip-smacking celebration of north India's tastiest crunchiest goodies. The iconic Benarasi *paan*, milk-heavy *thandai* and *lassi*, savouries like *samosas* and *kachauris* and a *kulhad* topped with rose-flavoured *rabri* are must-have items here.



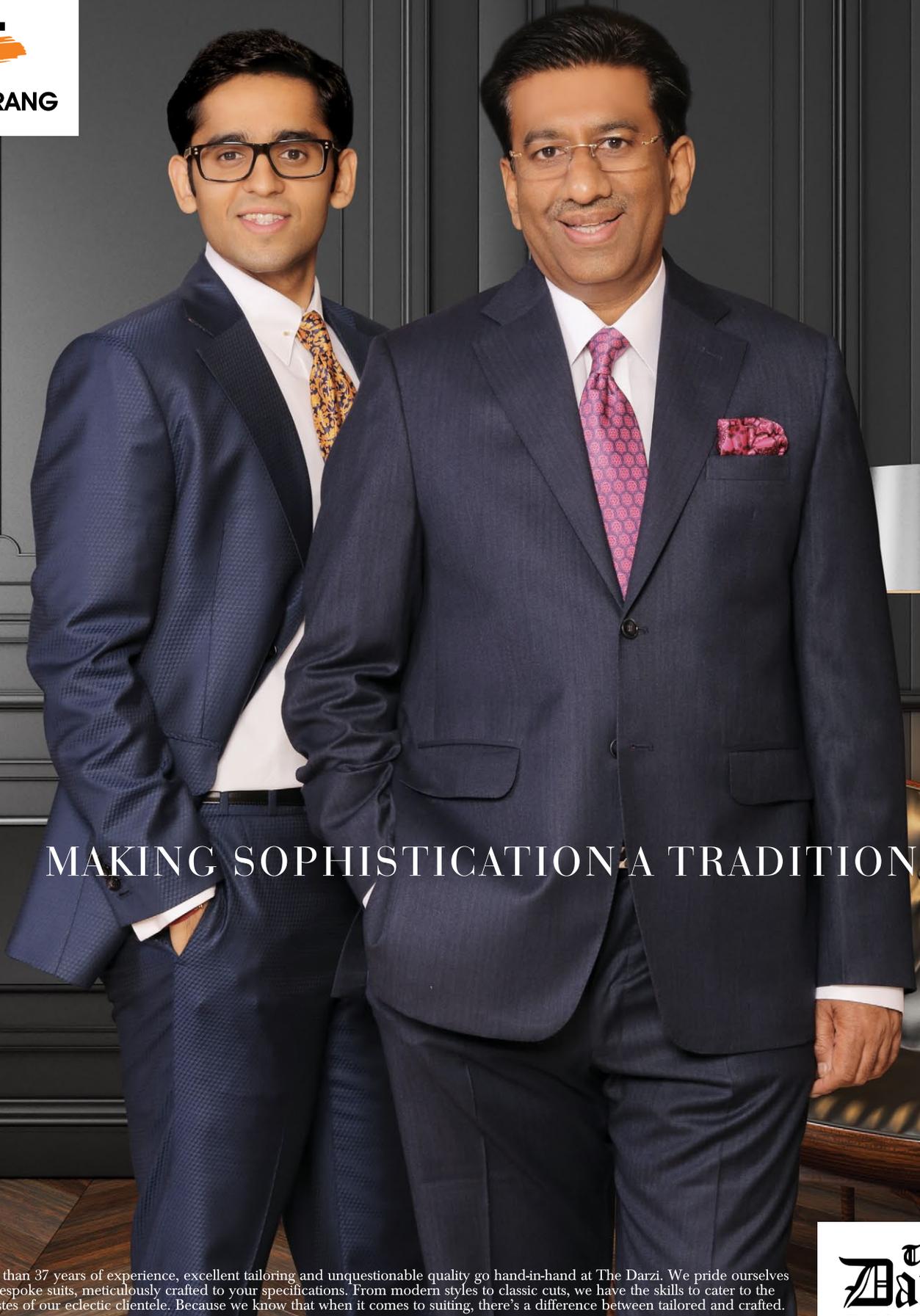
The eponymous Benarasi silk is a renowned souvenir coveted by people across the world from spiritual leaders like Dalai Lama to Hollywood actresses like Goldie Hawn and Liz Hurley. Get for yourself a memento like a *saree*, *dupatta* or robe weaved lovingly out of this lavish silk from any of the factories in the city.

SHOP

Gulabi Meenakari is a lesser-known craft of Varanasi where *meena* work (covering metal with transparent coloured enamel) is done using pink enamel, derived from a rose. You can buy intricately carved jewellery and small decorative boxes from any of the shops near the *ghats*.



Image credit: Weaver's Story



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SANJIV KAPOOR, Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer, Vistara

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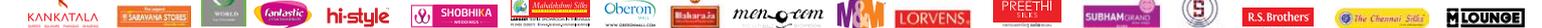
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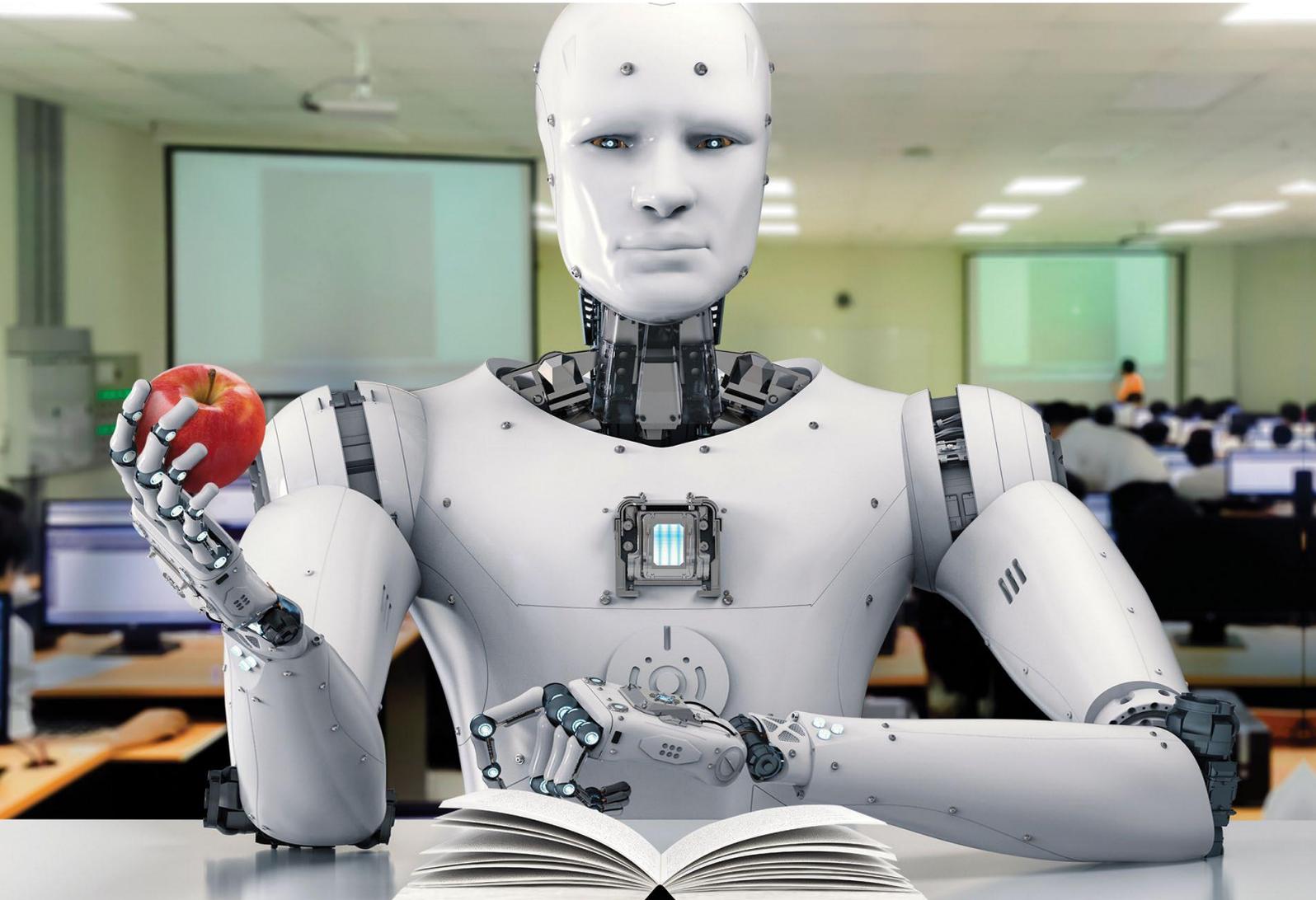
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CUSCO

A Culture Frozen in Time

Mostly seen as a gateway to the fabled lost city of Machu Picchu, Cusco holds many more secrets. In poetic terms, the city can be likened to an impressionist painting in sepia tones offset by the bright colours of the clothes that local Quechua women wear.

words // Kalpana Sunder



Cusco, situated at an altitude of 11,000 ft above sea level, was once capital of the great Incan empire and South America's oldest continuously inhabited city, referred to as the Rome of South America. Cusco was also called the navel of the earth as the Incas thought it to be the centre of the

universe - the city, they say, was built in the shape of a puma. A city with great history, where locals worshipped Mother Earth and the Sun, its modern outlook can be felt through the throbbing energy of millennia here.

The crooked cobblestone streets, alleyways and stone entrances where the original stone walls

5th
year

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There is a legend that there were 365 temples around the city—one for each day of the year. The most lavish among these, was the Sun Temple of Incas.

of the Incans still stand tall, reveal stories of a city with a history as old as time. At the base of every house in the town you can still see the ancient stone foundations dating back to the Incan era. The city was built at a place where three rivers formed a triangle and even today, the underground river flows below the town. In 1983, Cusco was

declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This Historical Capital of Peru hosts more than two million visitors a year.

A WINDOW TO THE PAST

All around town the name that crops up is Pachacutec, the Incan emperor who transformed Cusco into a great urban centre. When

the Spanish conquered the country under Francisco Pizarro, they destroyed much of the old buildings, and used precisely cut stones to build their palaces, churches and monasteries. This symbiosis forms part of the unique character of the city exhibited through its architecture.



A street in San Blas, Cusco with traditional Incan architecture

There is a legend that there were 365 temples around the city – one for each day of the year. A monument where the design influences of contrasting cultures is clearly visible is the Korikancha or the Sun temple of the Incas on which the Spanish built the Santo Domingo Church. This was once a lavish temple encased in sheets of gold, where Incan rulers were embalmed with wild mint, till it was all plundered by the Spanish conquistadors, and shipped back as gold ingots to Spain. A golden disc used to catch the rays of the morning sun illuminate the inner parts of the temple. The temple also doubled up as a celestial observatory. There used to be the fabled Sacred Garden in front of the temple, where plants made of solid gold and silver and life sized llamas and herders stood. One can see the well-aligned niches through which the sun's rays would enter the temple.

ESSENTIALS	COUNTRY	LANGUAGE	CURRENCY	TEMPERATURE	SOUVENIRS
	Peru	Spanish (official), Quechua (indigenous)	Sol	(Jan-Feb) 20°C (max), 8°C (min)	An ethnic alpaca scarf, cap, sweater, etc.


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Quechua women in their traditional clothes sitting with a llama and an alpaca



A colourful Inca street art

A CULTURAL REFLECTION

The town sprawls over a hilly terrain with a cluster of red tile roofs. Large mansions called the casonas of wealthy Peruvians with wooden balconies line the streets. Quechua women in their voluminous patterned skirts and bowler hats with babies on their backs along with llamas adorned with tassels, can be seen walking the cobbled streets throughout the city. The narrow streets and corridors are one of the defining characteristics of Inca city planning.

The magnificent sun dappled Plaza de Armas is the focal point of the city with huge stone arcades and buildings with wooden balconies, flanked by two churches and dotted with lawns and fountains. It used to be the scene of important

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A statue of Inca king Pachacutec above the fountain at the iconic Plaza de Armas

events like the proclamation by Francisco Pizarro and where the local Incan leader died. The hybrid artwork and style of the Cathedral is an amalgam of Incan and colonial culture showcasing glitzy chapels and carved choirs, stones foraged from Inca buildings, covered with colonial art from the Cusco school where Andean themes and colour palettes meet European style of painting.

Local Inca craftsmen have incorporated subtle motifs and symbols of their culture into the church architecture. For instance: snakes (representing wisdom and knowledge in Incan tradition) can be seen in many places; The Last Supper painted by local artist Marcos Zapata has Christ and his disciples sitting around a table with plates full of local delicacies. The dark coloured Christ statue called the Lord of the Earthquake was built around 1570 by native artists using mixed materials such as sticks, agave fiber and plaster. Over time, the statue turned black because of the soot released from candles and pollen from red flowers that are showered on the statue.

Cusco is what you want it to be - for most tourists a stopover city enroute to Machu Picchu, but for others, it is a window to the fascinating Inca history and culture. ✨

Local INSIGHTS



LOCAL MARKET

Head to the gargantuan San Pedro market where lines of stalls overflow with exotic fruits like lucuma, deep purple corn, packets of quinoa, and varieties of potatoes and other traditional Peruvian delicacies.



COCA TO THE RESCUE

It is common for travellers to experience altitude sickness in Cusco. Sipping Coca tea or nibbling on Coca candies and cookies can offer a temporary respite from the nausea.

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— A trail through —
**Meghalaya's
colonial past**

Once lovingly called Scotland of the East by homesick British officers during the East India Company rule, Meghalaya still retains the crown.

words // **Edwina D'Souza**



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With picturesque misty hills, wild untouched rainforests, refreshing spring baths, and rolling meadows, Meghalaya is full of pristine natural beauty. You will never cease to be amazed by its breathtaking nature trails, jaw-dropping waterfalls, countless living root bridges and sacred forests waiting to be discovered. One such hidden gem is the David Scott Trail in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya - a charming hike through India's colonial past.

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY David Scott was a British admiral in the East India Company between 1802 and 1832. His services as the Commissioner of Revenue Circuits on the north east frontier covered areas that are modern day Bangladesh, Assam and Meghalaya. A remnant of David Scott's legacy is the 100 kilometre horse-cart trail that he created for trading goods like silk, cotton, wax, honey and minerals like iron and limestone between Assam and Bangladesh. Meghalaya's indigenous Khasi tribe, led by U Tirot Singh, revolted against the British to stop this trade route. They fought a guerrilla style warfare with bows and arrows for four years until the British emerged victorious and

U Tirot Singh was captured and deported to Dhaka, where he breathed his last in 1835.

Today, the David Scott Trail is recognised by the United Nations as an Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA), which should come as no surprise since the people of Meghalaya have always been very protective of their forests and believe that God resides there.

FROZEN IN TIME

While the original 100 kilometre trail through the East Khasi Hills takes about five days to complete, a shorter 16 kilometre route is more popular with day-hikers and is considered one of the prettiest nature trails in India.

The David Scott Trail, a charming hike through Khasi Hills in Meghalaya, is one of India's prettiest nature trails.



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Dr Prabhakar Kore, Chairman KLE Society, at the Karnataka Special Assembly Session (2006)



Karnataka Special Assembly Session (Legislative Council), 2006 held at KLE J N Medical College, Belagavi



Winter Session of Karnataka Legislature 2009 on the campus of KLE J N Medical College, Belagavi



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HOW TO GET THERE

The David Scott Trail is 25km from Shillong, Meghalaya. The nearest airport is in Guwahati, Assam, from where Shillong is a 3 hour drive. Vistara has daily non-stop flights to Guwahati from Delhi and Bagdogra, along with convenient connections from other cities.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN MEGHALAYA

- The picturesque secret pool and Rainbow Falls are at an added two hour trek from Nongriat in East Khasi Hills.
- The Arwah caves and Mawmai caves are popular for their limestone formations.
- The Mawphlang sacred forest is a forest conservation initiative by the Khasis and is a great way to spend some time in the lap of nature.
- The Nohkalikai Falls in Cherrapunji is the highest plunge fall in India.



Above: Flowers in full bloom hanging like garlands in the rainforest;
Below: One of the many tea stalls for refreshments along the picturesque trail

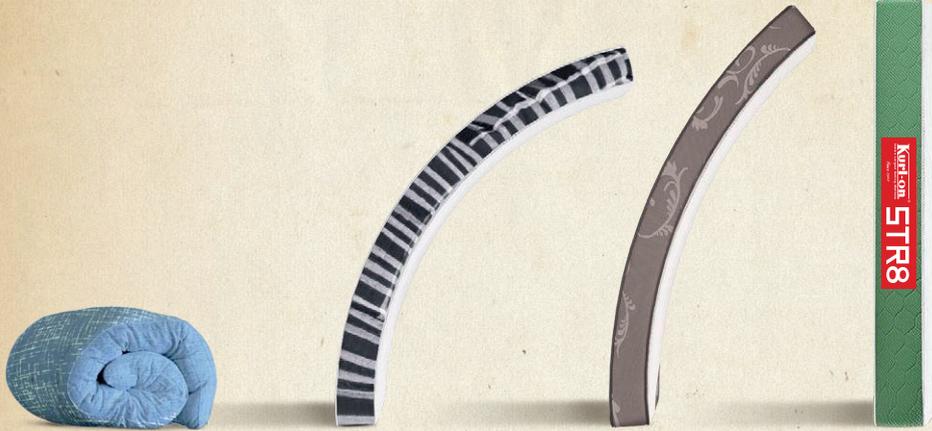
The hike begins from Mawphlang heritage village, which has played an important role in shaping Khasi culture and is popular for its sacred forest grove with stone monoliths. A grassy trail leads you from the front and a water stream runs parallel through the entire trail that takes 5 to 6 hours to complete. Expect to cross rickety bridges, ice cold waters and misty meadows while occasionally getting a glimpse of Khasi villages frozen in time.

The air in the hills is intoxicatingly pure and the streams are clean enough for you to replenish your water anywhere along the trail. Bright green fern shrubberies adorn walls along the winding trails looking like wallpapers. The weather is nippy all year round with erratic rains, creating natural pools for the Khasi villagers to take a dip. It would be a good idea to carry some salt to protect you from leeches that thrive in wet conditions like these. The rivers which are brown from the moving silt during monsoon turn crystal blue during winter, making for a picturesque landscape. Mobile network is non-existent, but the mountain dogs do a pretty good job of being a companion or guide on the route.

For lunch, you can stop at any of the Khasi villages and enjoy a plate of hot noodles and *lal cha* (red tea) native to Meghalaya, while soaking in the amazing vistas and contemplating if you should even go back to the city. As the forest cover begins to reduce, stone quarrying comes in sight. This signals that you are approaching the Lad Mawphlang village which is the end of your 16 kilometre long expedition on foot through the abode of clouds. ✿



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Split

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In Croatia's second largest city, where the dazzling Dalmatian Coast gently kisses the sparkling sapphire waters of the Adriatic Sea, lives a love story of the 'happily ever after' kind.

words // Punita Malhotra

There's just one city in the world that is built inside a palace. Correction. This whole city is one gigantic palace. Spread over an area of 7-acres. Vintage value going back to 1700 years ago and remarkably well-preserved. Cherry on top? Accommodations are up for grabs in this all-white retirement palace of Roman Emperor, Diocletian! Calling die-hard reality-haters, fantasy-chasers and romance seekers to Split.

If Venice tops the list of dramatic entries by sea, Split comes a close second. The first glimpse of Europe's most striking waterfront promenade is hypnotic. An ivory-coloured, horseshoe-shaped bay, adorned with a row of immaculately arranged palm trees; seafront cafes under chic white sunshades, lounge benches and docked sail boats against ultra-glam backdrop of the time-ravaged Roman palace walls, oodles of warm sun, crystal-clear blue waters and open terraces for lungfuls of fresh air. Full marks to Diocletian for grabbing prime real estate for



The classic harmony of the white limestone buildings stands undisturbed and ageless.



FOR THE FOOD LOVERS

Split is known for its scenic dining spots and also offers lip-smacking seafood and wine authentic to the region. Zrno Soli specialises in Mediterranean cuisine and is popular for its fabulous view of the waterfront dotted with luxury yachts. You'll be spoilt for choice at the Kadena restaurant which boasts of over 400 varieties of wine. Besides wine tasting events, the restaurant is frequented for its truffles, asparagus and wild rice. Classic decor of Croatian cherry wood, black granite and marble invites you to Nostromo Restaurant famous for its carpaccio, seafood risotto and lobsters.

his post-work life retreat. Reality meets fantasy in his idyllic abode till today.

TO DEEPER LOVE

Four solid walls and four grand gates to cross the threshold of the world where Diocletian once had his lavish home. No crumbling ruin this but a living, breathing city with a pulsating spirit, even after centuries. The classic harmony of the white limestone buildings stands undisturbed, ageless. Despite the buzzing squares, lively cafes, quirky boutiques and sleek hotels serving thousands of travellers who are drawn here every year, blending in with yesterday is effortless.

The People's Square (Narodni Trg) sets the mood for time travel, with the former City Hall, a fascinating gothic bell-tower

and a Romanesque-styled Palace of Cipriano de Ciprianis from the 14th century. Mere appetisers to the buffet of architectural wonders that lies ahead especially the countless Renaissance, Baroque and Gothic-styled mansions. Nobles and aristocrats of Split asserted their social status through their coat of arms. Deliberate symbolism using animals, birds and mythological creatures can still be seen on their mansion entryways. The Papalic Palace, belonging to an influential Venetian family, is the best example. Good news is that many such palaces within the palace have been converted into museums, hotels, restaurants and boutique stores. Open for business and accessible to one and all.

Beneath one's feet is the original

floor of limestone tiles where Diocletian once walked, when he built the Roman palace complex in 235 AD. The slippery, stone paved streets, polished smooth by millions of footsteps, are a wondrous maze. Surprises hide in every dark alley and every sunny square screams to be explored. Luscious curtains of fuschia bougainvillea drape walls, cafes with outdoor tables beckon, and even the black grime on the walls lays out its charm. The flamboyant Venetian influence is apparent everywhere. But unlike Venice, all streets in Split do not lead to a San Marco or a Rialto. Large enough to loiter, small enough to not get lost.

At the Golden Gate, not far from Narodni Trg is the world's smallest church, the 6th-century St. Martin's. At 5-mts wide, this

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hole-in-the-wall has to be ticked off every Split-list. Bang opposite, Ivan Mestrovic's oversized statue of 10th-century Croatian bishop Gregory Nin makes a contrasting statement with its towering size. Tourists engage in big-toe polishing for luck or just for plain fun.

TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

The epicentre of the entire Palace complex is the Peristil, the royal square. It is framed by two colonnades lined with six huge red granite Corinthian columns. Part of Diocletian's Egyptian loot. Even thronging crowds can do nothing to pale the imperial atmosphere of this spot. Standing here, one realises that the entire palace complex has been built with huge limestone slabs placed one over another, an amazing cement-less feat. Jaw-drops and eyebrow-raises are guaranteed.

Hogging the limelight is the magnificent St. Domnius Cathedral, dedicated to Saint Domnius, a Christian Bishop from nearby Salona, who was prosecuted under the rule of Diocletian. The 3500-year old black Egyptian sphinx standing guard at the gateway is one of the three that remain from the set of 13 that Diocletian brought back from the Pharaoh

Local **INSIGHTS**



POLJUD STADIUM

Popularly known as 'The Beauty of Poljud', the stadium is the soccer field of the oldest Croatian soccer team, Hajduk. The stadium has been the venue of many events including the 1979 Mediterranean Games.



CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATRE

It is one of the oldest surviving theatres in Dalmatia. It was built in 1893 and is known for plays, opera, ballet and concerts. The theatre is also the venue for annual Split Summer Festival.

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Thutmose III's tomb. The pièce de résistance—gorgeous views from the 57-mt bell tower of the Cathedral. Red-tiled roofs of crumbly houses to the horseshoe bay are displayed like a painter's favourite canvas.

Back on floor level, more exploration is in order at the Peristil. Diocletian's octagonal-shaped mausoleum, for instance. The emperor wanted to create an impression that he was immortal—hence the eight sides that symbolise eternity. A wish partially granted, the mausoleum has been almost completely preserved, except for the domed ceiling, which has lost its glittering mosaics. He lives on

through its beautiful carvings and friezes.

People squat on red cushions scattered on the steps of the historic Luxor café opposite the cathedral. Inside the café, remnants of the imperial palace peek through the exposed walls and ceiling murals. At the head of Peristil, a small flight of steps leads to a large circular stone-tiled space, the Vestibule. Here, the Roman emperor, a self-proclaimed Sun God would enter the Vestibule daily around 12 noon to greet cheering crowds. One can rewind to those days by witnessing the same ritual being enacted here by actors, during summer months.

Since much of the palace lies in ruins, the only way to reimagine the layout is by touring the underground cellars that replicate the layout above. Entering the basement from the Vestibule, one can potter around the Central Bazaar, filled with little shops selling lavender and limestone souvenirs. The labyrinthine halls below were used to store food, make wine and press olives. In those days, the sea used to touch the palace walls directly and boats berthed at the gate to drop off supplies or receive noble guests. Fascinating fact: the basements were constructed to raise the level of the entire palace complex, so that Diocletian could enjoy a better sea view.

TO ETERNAL ROMANCE

Ancient Roman leftovers are strewn all over Diocletian's Palace. Ornate balconies, carved doorways, graceful Venetian windows, ancient exposed brickwork, and centuries-old graffiti: there is *exotica* everywhere. Yet for the 3,000 residents of the narrow, shiny-smooth stone streets of this unusual UNESCO-protected World Heritage Site, it's just another regular day at home.

The magic of Riva peaks at dusk. The Adriatic does its daily transforming trick—turquoise blue to silvery grey to inky navy. Waves ripple, lights twinkle, seagulls glide and people stroll. Gulls croak, children squeal and canopies flap. Wafts of salty sea breeze and sweet crepes fill the air. Secretive shadows lurk under the Palace walls. Is that a bunch of solemn-faced toga-clad Romans stationed at the columns? After all, the Emperor would be resting. ✨



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Flavour of Sustainability

Copenhagen's dining landscape is constantly changing and evolving with increasing focus on responsible and ethical food practices.

words // Shirin Mehrotra

images // www.visitcopenhagen.com

One of the world's greenest cities, Copenhagen symbolises bike culture and organic food. Its people are determined to leave a better world for future generations by making products with minimal pollution, high resource efficiency and a small carbon footprint. The city aims to become the world's first carbon-neutral capital by 2025. Now picture this – a restaurant set at a farm in the middle of one of the most modern cities in the world, the evening sky lit up in orange hues as you dine inside a 'green room'. Add to that the knowledge that most of the ingredients for your dinner come from just a few feet away.

ØsterGro, the roof top urban farm is one of the many examples of Denmark's capital city Copenhagen's love for



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Image credit: Shirin Mehrotra

Above: A cozy greenhouse at Gro Spiseri; **Left:** Fennel greens, toasted seaweed paste, almond oil and white currant sorbet with marigold flowers

sustainability. Set five floors above a showroom that auctions old cars in Østerbro, the farm is spread over a 600 sqm area with patches of vegetables, edible flowers and herbs, a bee farm and chicken coop. ØsterGro is one of the first urban gardens in Copenhagen, which was started to inculcate the idea of sustainability into daily food practices. The produce of the farm is shared by its 40 members who are now part of this initiative.

the menu is decided based on seasonality and availability of produce. A meal of soft pita bread with steak, fresh cherries, cherry sauce, Cuban oregano leaves; salted grilled monk fish with black currant sauce; house made ricotta with grilled house salad, kohlrabi served three ways - raw with salt, pickled, tempura; whipped fresh goat cheese cream with reduced honey and honey comb, is served with organic, locally-made wine.

As a traveller, you can be a part of the experience by signing up for one of their social dinners at the restaurant Gro Spiseri where

From being heavily influenced by French cooking to now being one of the world's most sought after food destinations,



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Experience more of the farm at Denmark's first rooftop farm at Gro Spiseri

BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU EAT

Too Good To Go – An app that ties up with restaurants that do not want to throw away their surplus food. You can pick up the food from these restaurants at discounted prices using this app. Add to that, food is packed in biodegradable boxes.

Rub & Stub – A non-profit restaurant that creates food using donated ingredients that are either 'surplus' in other restaurants or considered 'too ugly' to be sold at supermarkets.

Løs Market – Zero waste supermarket where the food is sold without packaging to reduce unnecessary waste.

Absalon – A church turned into a community centre in Vesterbro that hosts community dinners at affordable prices cooked by volunteers.

Copenhagen's dining scene has undergone a major change. Much of its credit goes to Chef Rene Redzepi who transformed the way the city looked at its food. The focus shifted to seasonality and availability of produce as well as cooking techniques to retain their flavour. With his newly re-opened Noma in Christianshavn, which also houses an urban farm, the love for inner city agriculture and community gardens is growing further.

Sustainability is the keyword right from the Michelin star restaurants to small coffee shops and food markets. At 108, known as Noma's little sibling, the fennel greens sourced from the Krogerup farm form a salad with toasted seaweed paste, almond oil

and white currants sorbet, and marigold flowers. A lot of the ingredients here are foraged and preserved using various techniques. You'll find last year's strawberries, mushrooms and even pumpkin on your plate.

At Andersen & Maillard, coffee roasters in Nørrebrogade, use surplus coffee beans and make ice-cream to be sold the next day, till stocks run out. WeFood, a supermarket in Copenhagen sells products that can't be sold at regular supermarkets because of incorrect labels or damaged packaging. The products are usually available at 30-40 per cent discount.

One of the most impressive examples of 'reduce and reuse' is Reffen, the newly

opened street food hub in Refshaleøen. With 54 stalls spread over 400-sqft outdoor space, it's a seemingly difficult proposition but Reffen does it with open stalls where you can see your food being prepared, and biodegradable packing to ensure minimum waste. From an Indian kebab joint to Peruvian ceviche, the range is wide and inclusive in its setting. "We want to promote mom and pop business and also make it inclusive for our guests and so you will find enough vegetarian and vegan options too," says Dan Husted, creative director of Reffen.

The idea of sustainability in Copenhagen is slowly transcending the concept of farm-to-table and what's being served on the plate. At the soon to open Alchemist 2.0,

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Gemyse Restaurant in Copenhagen promotes an eco-friendly 'farm-to-table' culture

The idea is to ensure an innovative, multi-layered and sensory dining experience that extends beyond the plate.

Chef and Co-Owner Rasmus Munk plans to create dishes that will take your focus to the larger issues of the world. His whole vision is to ensure an innovative, multi-layered and sensory dining experience that extends beyond the plate to the immediate surroundings through theme-based art installations and artist performances. At his previous restaurant, Munk served a lamb tartare presented inside a sliced open lamb heart smeared with red sauce, symbolising blood. The dish came with a donor card for the guests to consider organ donation. "I believe we have a responsibility to do more than serve food. We should serve the world and use our platforms to create awareness about important topics like taking good care of our planet and to treat the food we kill and consume with the utmost respect," says Munk. For Munk the term 'sustainable dining' includes all aspects of a restaurant including the treatment meted out to the staff of the suppliers. At Alchemist's T(A)easte Lab, the idea is to work with small and large scale producers to improve their product and production. A simple process of making instant broth using the shells from langoustines (Norway lobster) has created four jobs in the small Danish island of Læsø. The lab's aim is to research on how to store and prepare food in the best possible way to save energy and optimise food and eating quality. 🌱



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Raghurajpur

Nurturing the Legacy

There is a village in Odisha where outer walls of houses are covered with the most intricate frescoes and murals, where every house is a studio, which doubles up as a museum, and every villager, including the women, is an artist. Welcome to Raghurajpur artist village.

words // Rangan Datta



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Debasana Purnima (Full Moon) marks the onset of one of the biggest festivals in Odisha, the Ratha Yatra. The celebration starts with the ritual bathing of the triad deities of Puri – Jagannath, Balaram and Subhadra. According to a legend, the holy trinity falls sick after the ritualistic bath. They are unavailable for darshan for the next 15 days and this period is known as Anasara. During the bathing process, the colours of the three wooden statues are washed away. On the 16th day, the idols are intricately repainted and are put in the Ratna Singhasan for public darshan and finally they are carried away for the Ratha Yatra.

During the 15 days of absence, the original wooden idols are replaced with a canvas painting of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra. The painting is known as Anasar Patti and is made by the traditional chitrakars of Odisha, who hail from the village of Raghurajpur, located at a stone throw distance from Puri. The village is better known as the keeper of Odisha's ancient art pattachitra and its multi-talented artists.

Situated amid coconut groves, the village of Raghurajpur has two streets lined with more than 100 identical houses. Here, art is everywhere — on the walls, windows, flooring, ceilings and steps. In 2000, Raghurajpur was declared a Heritage Village after a two year long extensive study by Indian National Trust for Art



Image credit: Rangan Datta

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Wall painting in the Raghurajpur art and heritage village

and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). It became Odisha's first heritage village turning it into a major rural tourist destination drawing visitors, both domestic and foreign.

The word Pattachitra is said to have evolved from Sanskrit words patta (canvas) and chitra (picture)—a painting done on canvas—portraying mythological themes. There are no legitimate records of when this art began but according to locals the art is as old as the Jagannath Temple, which was constructed in the 10th century AD.

Over the years, distinctive styles evolved and today each family has its own signature style, which they have maintained over generations. Apart from the introduction of occasional synthetic paints, the art has remained same for over the centuries.

THEMES AND COLOURS

The triad deities of Puri – Jagannath, Balaram and Subhadra – have always been the prime inspiration behind the Raghurajpur Pattachitra. They are painted in every possible size and colour and are also

frequent in other art forms like the bamboo mat painting and in stone and wood carving. The triad deities of Puri are closely followed by Lord Krishna. Events from his birth to lilas with Radha and other gopikas form an integral topic of pattachitra paintings. Topics like Das Avatar and Das Mahavidya are also common on pattachitras. The colourful background with a variety of flowers and flocks of flying birds provide an extra dimension to the age old art of Raghurajpur Pattachitra. It captures the mood with minute details.



The pat is made in a traditional way, which has been practiced for generations. The cloth is first soaked in tamarind seed water followed by the addition of chalk and gum. Seven sheets of similar cloth are pasted together to create the pat. Last of all, the pat is rubbed with special stones to give it a smooth surface and glossy finish. The artists use only organic colours, generated out of minerals and vegetable dyes. White is obtained from conch shell, blue from indigo and green from an assortment of leaves. The red and yellow dyes are respectively sourced from geru and harital stones. Black is obtained from lamp shoot. The colours are mixed with a resin obtained from wood apple tree and are stored in coconut shells. The brushes used by the chitrakars are made of natural animal hair. The most intricate parts of a pattachitra are painted by a single hair brush. After the painting is complete, a coating of lacquer is applied for a glossy finish. The special canvas or pat and the organic dyes are the key elements for the long life of the pattachitra, which according to the chitrakars can last over a century.

The colourful background with a variety of flowers and flocks of flying birds provide an extra dimension to the age old art of Ragurajpur Pattachitra. It captures the mood with minute details.



An artisan working on a beautiful Pattachitra painting

Know MORE

- ◆ Raghurajpur is known for its performing artists. The leading proponent of Odissi dance, late Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, belonged to the village and was trained in the Gotipua dance (an acrobatic dance form of Raghurajpur). His father was a painter and mridangam player.
- ◆ Creating a pattachitra piece requires years of relentless practice, dedication and skill. It takes about 5 to 20 days, sometimes even months, to complete a single artwork.
- ◆ Many foreigners come to the village to learn and witness the intricate artwork practiced here.
- ◆ In 2015, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a pattachitra painting titled Tree of Life, made by Bhaskar Mahapatra an artisan of Raghurajpur, to the French President.

Brightly multi-coloured glass bottles and lampshades painted with acrylic paint are the latest addition to the art form of Raghurajpur.

AN ARTISTIC TRANSITION

According to the artists of the village, since most of the present day visitors have limited knowledge about mythology, they have started making pattachitras on contemporary tales and add a tribal touch to it. Paintings of various God and Goddesses, including Lord Buddha and the Jain Tirthankars are in demand nowadays. Apart from large traditional pattachitras, now the artists prefer smaller versions, which can be framed and hung on the walls and come at a pocket-friendly price.

Apart from the traditional canvas

or pat, artists have started painting on dried palm (tal) leaves, known as tala pattachitra. Long strips of dried tal leaves are stitched together to form a rectangular canvas and the painting is executed on it. The artists of Raghurajpur are also experimenting with other art forms like bamboo mat painting, stone and wood carving and paper mache toys and masks. Brightly multi-coloured glass bottles and lampshades painted with acrylic paint are the latest addition to the art form of Raghurajpur. Painted customised gift boxes are another new version of their art. ✨



MINI TIBET in

DELHI

Like most big cities around the world, Delhi is a potpourri of people and cultures. Millions find their way into the city to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. Among them is a Tibetan refugee community with a different kind of dream...to go back to their homeland. Until that day, they have made their home in a tiny neighbourhood in north Delhi called Majnu ka Tilla.

words // **Edwina D'Souza**



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When a 15th century Sufi saint attained enlightenment after meeting Guru Nanak, the 'Gurudwara Majnu ka Tilla' was built to honour the Sufi's passionate devotion. Centuries later, the region is now popular as mini Tibet. How did that happen?

After the Tibet uprising in 1959, Dalai Lama went into exile and about 8,000 residents from Tibet left with him. While some settled in Mcleodganj in Himachal Pradesh, few others found their way to Delhi. After the Indo-Chinese war in 1962, many more residents had to leave Tibet and a large number of them settled in the Tibetan refugee colony in Majnu ka Tilla, a piece of land which the Indian Government officially allotted to them to call their home. More recently, Majnu ka Tilla was rechristened as New Aruna Nagar, although people still refer to the colony by its former name or Samyeling.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME
Majnu ka Tilla is home to many second and third generation Tibetan refugees. They have grown up in Delhi listening to tales of Tibet from their families who had to go through the painful ordeal of leaving their country. Today, the people of the community live a closely knit life trying to preserve their cultural lineage.

With about 400 Tibetan families permanently living in Majnu ka

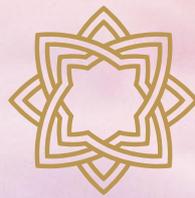
Tilla, it's a country packed into a neighbourhood. Children are taught to read and write the Tibetan script at home schools. Tibetan prayer flags flutter across balconies and terraces. Monks stroll through the narrow alleys in their deep red robes; and residents gather over a cup of butter tea to chat in their local language.

The monastery square in the heart of Majnu ka Tilla has a Buddhist temple with prayer wheels and a picture of his holiness Dalai Lama. Incense smoke fills the air during the evenings along with soft prayer chants which can be heard from a distance. One can only imagine the vibe of this place during Losar, the Tibetan New Year.

TURNING THE TABLES
What intended to be a refugee colony for Tibetans, has today turned into a thriving multicultural society, expanding to include the Nepalese diaspora as well as people from the North Eastern states of India. The residents are not only preserving their cultures but making it accessible to outsiders and in doing so, creating tourism and generating revenue.

Majnu ka Tilla sees a floating population of thousands of backpackers in search of budget accommodation. The region is also popular with the students of North campus in Delhi University due to its proximity.





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Today, the people of Tibetan community live a closely knit life trying to preserve their cultural lineage

Markets sell everything from junk jewellery to bags, caps and t-shirts with 'I love Tibet' written on them. Grocery stores have imports like Tibetan spices, pickles, yak butter, cheese and biscuits. Souvenir shops sell handmade carpets and masks. There are pharmacies, foreign exchange and even travel agents selling package tours to Dharamshala, Sarnath and Bodh Gaya. By all means, Majnu ka Tilla may not be a place for steal deals, but it will still surprise you with its diverse collection of trendy clothes and shoes. You can also visit the place to get the coolest and quirkiest haircut for a rockstar appearance!

FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD

Delhi is notable for its food scene. From regional thalis to the best fine dine restaurants and fusion eats, there's something here for everyone. Majnu ka Tilla adds a whole new dimension to the capital with its authentic Tibetan, Nepalese and Korean cuisine.

Laphing (a cold spicy roll with chicken or soya) is an absolute must-try from the stalls inside the place. You'll also find women selling street food like chicken momos, Tsampa (Tibetan porridge), Khapse (deep fried biscuits) and cured

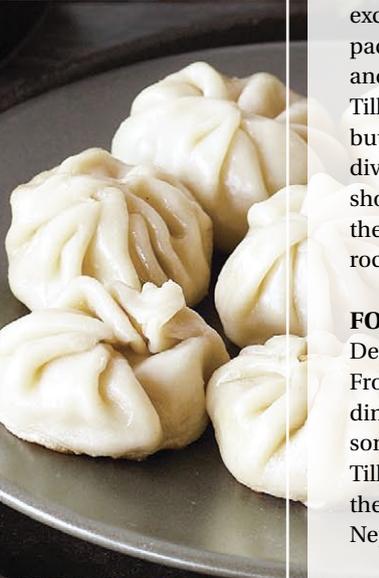
meats being grilled on skewers. For a proper Tibetan meal, head to the Himalayan Restaurant. Non-experimentalists can stick to Thukpa (noodle soup with chicken) and momos. The adventurer can dive into some authentic Tibetan meat ribs. For mains, try Tingmo (Tibetan soft bun) along with shapta (meat and vegetables in semi gravy). Flush it all down with a cold mug of beer. Old haunts like the Dolma House and Wongdhen House are other favourites for local specialities like Gyuma (Tibetan sausage), Shabalay (a fried meat filled pie) and Chaylay (an exotic Tibetan speciality). To complete the meal, head to Ama's cafe for some Tibetan desserts such as Mud cake, Yak Tibetan Cheesecake or a hot mug of Butter tea.

It is easy to lose yourself in the small alleys of this place where every road is decorated with prayer flags and where every corner offers something unique to the visitor. ✨



HOW TO GET THERE

Delhi is the hub airport for Vistara, and offers convenient connections to other cities.



Duke Fashions Wins 'Excellency in Fashion'



Duke Fashions (India) Limited, a lifestyle brand with a successful track record in manufacturing quality ready made garments with contemporary styling, has bagged the coveted 'Excellency in Fashion Award, 2018' for its extraordinary contribution of MSMEs in the development of Punjab.

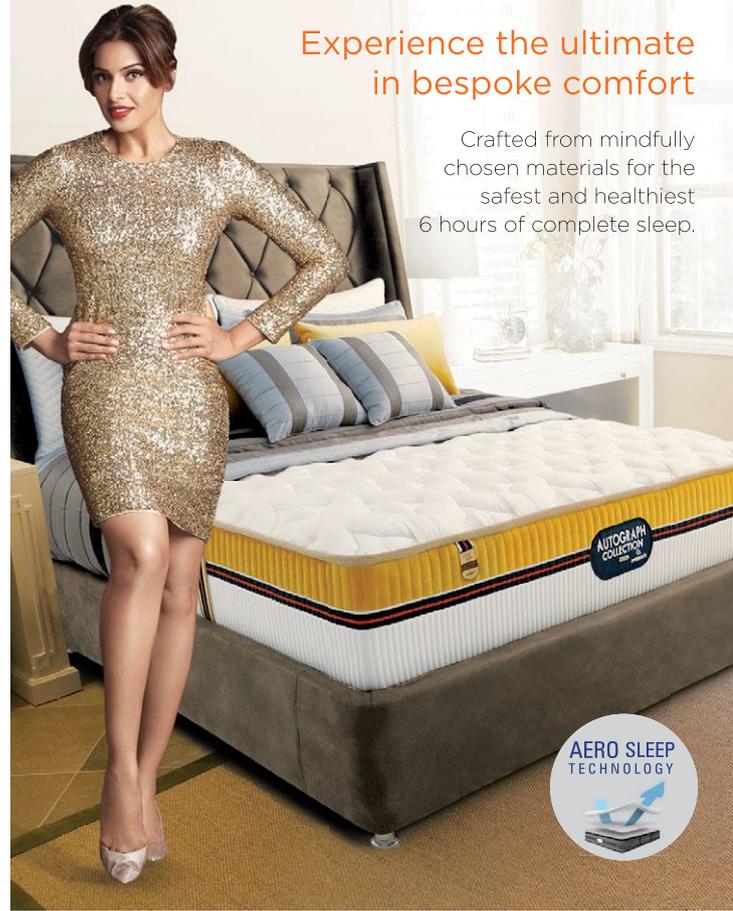
Mr Kuntal Raj Jain, Director Duke Fashions (India) Limited, received the prestigious award as the most prominent personality of Punjab in Fashion Industry by S. Manpreet Singh Badal, Minister of Finance & Planning, Punjab along with Sh. Deepak Chaurasia, Editor-in-Chief of India News, at a glittering ceremony of Uddyami Samman Awards recently held at Hotel JW Marriot, Chandigarh.

Speaking on the achievement, Mr Kuntal Raj Jain, Director Duke Fashions (India) Ltd, said, "This is yet another pivotal milestone in Duke Fashions' history. This is a testimony to the hard work of our dedicated and committed workforce, who have been the biggest contributor for us being recognised as the most trusted company in India. At Duke, it is our constant endeavour to create benchmarks and constantly reinvent. I understand that real business success cannot be measured on market share or business volume alone. I know that long-term, sustainable growth can only be achieved by real customer satisfaction, by ensuring employee welfare and by adopting a responsible attitude to the environments and societies in which we operate."

The event was organized by India News and was attended by policy makers, entrepreneurs, corporates and esteemed members of the civil society.

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5th
year

OUR ACHIEVEMENT

Vistara created India's first robot (RADA) that is designed to assist travellers at airports.



personality
ACTOR



A penchant for Style

Impossibly slick and impeccably tailored, Gabriel Macht stars as Harvey Specter, in the hit US show *Suits*. Meet the man behind TV's favourite legendary lawyer.

words // Claire Bloomfield

A

fter the departure of Patrick J Adams and his onscreen wife Meghan Markle, now HRH

Duchess of Sussex following her wedding to Prince Harry, US legal drama *Suits* is embarking on an explosive new chapter.

The finale to *Suits*' seventh season saw Markle's character, Rachel Zane, finally tie the knot with brilliant legal mind and fellow Pearson Specter Litt attorney Mike Ross in an intimate ceremony before leaving for new jobs in Seattle. Returning to the set without two of the show's most-loved characters proved to be more challenging for the remaining cast than they'd envisaged – and nobody more so than Mike's partner in crime. "It was really overwhelming for me in the first couple of weeks," says Gabriel Macht. He plays hotshot lawyer and managing partner Harvey Specter. "Patrick and I had a real connection. Losing Patrick

“It’s great to have Katherine on the show. She’s a terrific actress, so spontaneous and grounded.”

left a void and it’s almost like my right arm isn’t with us,” he jokes. In a move to fill that void, the show’s creators brought Emmy-winning actress Katherine Heigl to join the cast as Samantha Wheeler. But, as we’ve seen in the opening episodes of Season 8, Pearson Specter Litt’s newest partner has been eager to challenge the status quo, much to Harvey’s annoyance. “It’s great to have Katherine on the show. She’s a terrific actress, so spontaneous and grounded,” says New York-born Macht, who splits his time between homes in Miami, Australia and Toronto. “But when it comes to Harvey and Samantha, that’s a different story. They’re like the male and female versions of each other in many ways, so right off the bat they do not see eye to eye,” he chuckles.

MAN BEHIND HARVEY

Macht, 46, who has two children (Satine and Luca) with wife and Australian actress Jacinda Barrett,

admits that fans do sometimes stop him on the streets assuming he’s actually Harvey Specter.

“When you have the kind of presence that we do, that definitely happens,” he explains. “Hey Harvey! Can I get a photo?” Macht says putting on a macho voice. “I wish they would say, ‘hey Gabriel, great work’ but you just let it go. Those are dynamic moments,” laughs Macht.

But the handsome actor, who revealed he has no trouble watching himself on TV if it means he can further develop his craft, admits playing the quick-witted self-assured Harvey Specter can be exhausting at times.

“There are times when I think the things he does are super-honourable and there are often times I find his behaviour to be crass and ineffective. I’m more in

touch with the vulnerable guy and the guy who is more honest. This guy is finding every which way to get out of things,” he shares.

Acting talents are very much a Macht family trait. Even Gabriel’s father Stephen has appeared in at least five episodes of *Suits* since the show launched back in 2014. “My father has been working as an actor for so long, to have him on the show has been a joy. He has really taken the character of Professor Henry Gerard to a new level,” explains Macht, who began his movie career back in 1980.

“In real life, he has a PhD in dramatic literature. While he was a struggling actor he was also teaching at university. So, what’s great is he’s playing this ethics professor on the show. It’s really fun to work with him because he’s so inspired by the material.”

Again, following in his father’s footsteps, Macht also directs and co-produces some of the episodes in the series and given the enthusiasm he exudes for his role behind the scenes, it sounds like it’s likely to continue long beyond *Suits*.

“I found it to be collaborative,” he says. “I had a vision of how it would look and I approached all the designers, the camera guys and the actors with sensitivity and really tried to allow people to do their best. The episode I directed was excellent. I am super-proud of that episode and I am really looking forward to do it again.” 🌟

Suits will be returning from its mid-season break with six brand new episodes in January 2019.





Bridging the Gap

Unique pedestrian bridges across the world



“Bridges are perhaps the most invisible form of public architecture.”

Bruce Jackson, American Scholar

Golden Bridge, Vietnam

Giant sculpted hands rise up from the ground to cradle the Golden Bridge in Vietnam. A walk on this pathway, 1400m above ground, feels like you're floating on clouds looking down at the panoramic view.

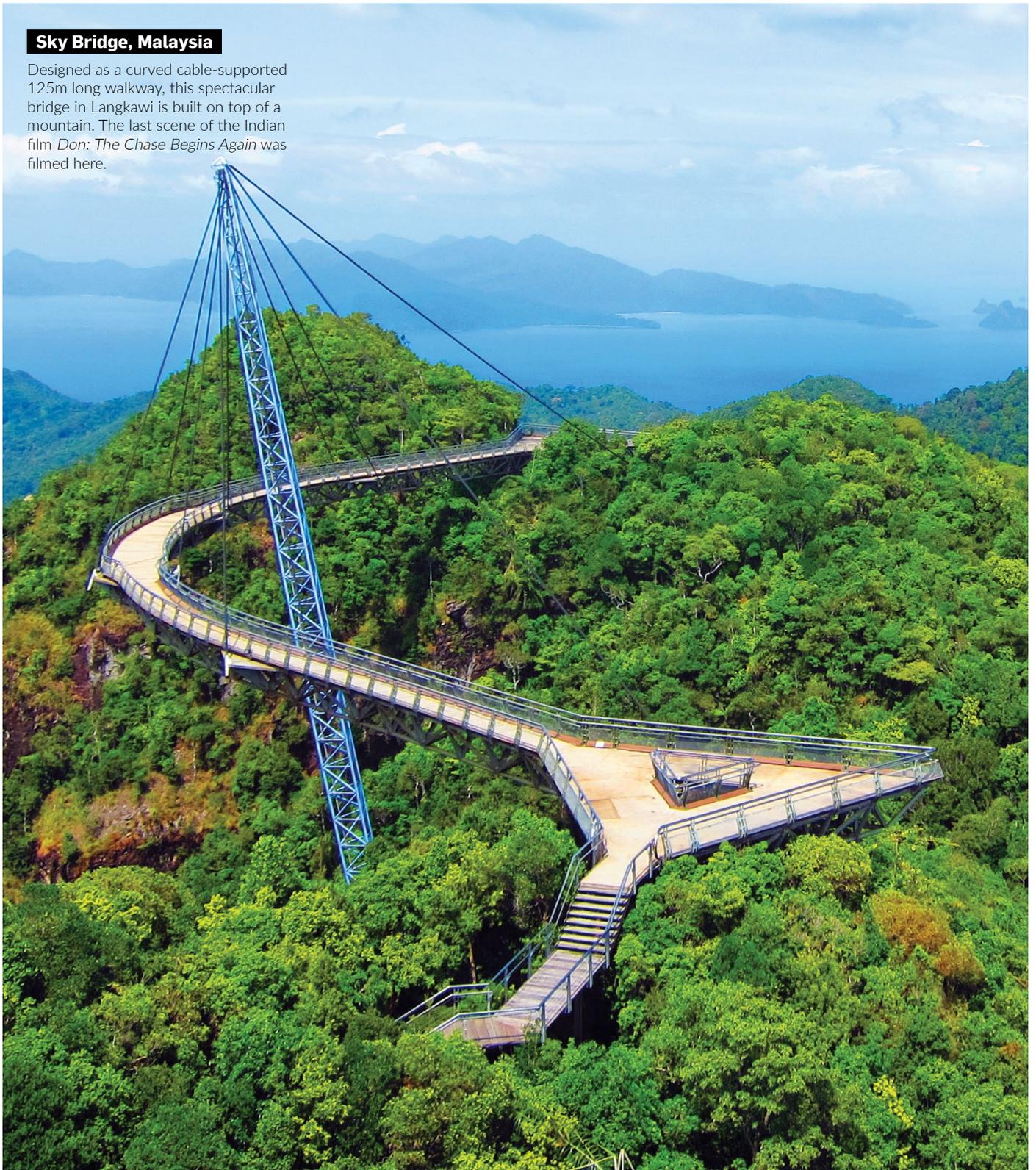


Since the advent of modern civilisation, we have constantly built bridges to unite those divided by obstacles and to satiate our travel lust. From natural wonders to engineering marvels, we bring to you the most incredible pedestrian bridges across the globe.

words & images // **Daniel Lewis**

Sky Bridge, Malaysia

Designed as a curved cable-supported 125m long walkway, this spectacular bridge in Langkawi is built on top of a mountain. The last scene of the Indian film *Don: The Chase Begins Again* was filmed here.



Charles Bridge, Czech Republic

This stone Gothic bridge in Prague, adorned with baroque statues, is 502m long. The bridge has towers on either end offering a breathtaking view of the fully lit Prague Castle at sunset. To protect the architecture of this heritage bridge, all vehicular traffic was stopped in the 1960s and now it is a haven for pedestrians.





Rakotzbrücke, Germany

This perfectly half-arched bridge, known as the Devil's Bridge, creates the illusion of a complete stone circle when the water of Lake Rakotzee is clear and still.





Living Roots Bridges, India

The living root bridge of Mawlynnong in Meghalaya is a bio-engineering feat over 1,100 years old. The local tribes have used ingenious techniques to intricately weave the tangled roots of a unique rubber tree found in the forests here to create a natural bridge that helps them cross rivers.





PRAYAGRAJ KUMBH 2019

AN AGE-OLD TRADITION

The legendary confluence of River Ganga, Yamuna and Sarasvati awaits millions of devotees from different parts of the country.

Uttar Pradesh is often considered a mirror of India's overall development. This vast and densely-populated state has been witnessing steady transformation over the past one year after a new and dynamic government initiated several projects. Now, the state is poised to emerge as an example of change that can be brought about by a committed and forward-looking government.

In keeping with the thought of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the focus now is on creating long-term and sustainable foundation for socio-economic development, that would come from a combination of better and stronger infrastructure, creation of facilities for the people and industry, conserving natural resources and ushering in an era of growth for all.

It is in this context that the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Uttar Pradesh provided a direction for the future. The Prime Minister visited two important places in eastern UP, namely, Rae Bareilly and Prayagraj. Incidentally, it was the first visit of Shri Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister to Rae Bareilly.

It is noteworthy that Rae Bareilly has undergone a rapid transformation with the establishment of the Modern Rail Coach Factory (MRCF) of Indian Railways. MRCF produces state-of-the-art LHB Anubhuti coaches, which have ergonomically designed cushioned seats, LCD screens, modular toilets and stylish interiors. The factory has come up on a total area of 541 hectares and at present produces over 1,400 rail coaches per year and it is expected to roll out 5,000 coaches in the next few years.



The Prime Minister flagged off the 900th coach and a Humsafar rake built at the factory, located in Lalganj in Rae Bareilly. The MRCF has emerged as a large employer for the local youths who now do not have to move from the district to bigger cities.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for development projects worth ₹1100 crore. These projects are related to improvement in infrastructure and urban amenities. He also inaugurated the Rae Bareilly-Banda highway, constructed at a cost of ₹558 crore. It will provide quick and easy connectivity to Banda, an important town in Bundelkhand region of the state. A branch of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is also coming up in Rae Bareilly, and work on this project is continuing at a fast pace.

A NEW CHAPTER IN PRAYAGRAJ

Prayagraj is host to the Kumbh beginning from next month which will see the

convergence of millions of devotees from all over the world. The city is getting transformed to accommodate pilgrims, tourists and other interested visitors. Several projects related to road widening, road designing, laying down new roads, construction of fly overs, culverts, new structures, etc., are going on at a rapid pace and are expected to be completed well in time before the rush of pilgrims begins. The Sangam area, where the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Sarasvati merge, will see the turnout of millions of people every day during the Kumbh. The Kumbh Mela starts from January 15, 2019 on Makar Sankranti with the first Shahi Snan, and it will come to an end on March 5, 2019.

To prepare the city to deal with the situation, several new projects were inaugurated by the Prime Minister during his visit to Prayagraj. Among the significant schemes are two sewerage infrastructure projects worth ₹199.65 crore under Namami Gange Programme in Prayagraj.



Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister

He also laid the foundation for two projects worth ₹1671.59 crore at another event. The first of these is an Interception & Diversion (I&D) project with STP for Naini, Phaphamau

and Jhusi area with a sanctioned cost of ₹767.59 crore and sewerage network length of 16.41 km.

Under Namami Gange Programme, 10 STP projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹2915.78 crore for creation of 779 km sewerage network and construction of 8 STPs having total capacity of 191 MLD. Till now, four projects have been completed leading to the creation of sewage treatment capacity of 119 MLD.

Other works in Prayagraj under the 'National Mission for Clean Ganga: Kumbh 2019' includes setting up 27,500 toilets and 20,000 urinals, for which financial assistance of ₹113 crore is given. For Solid Waste Management, financial assistance of ₹3.6 crore has been given for 16,000 dustbins and lining bags. A trash skimmer has been deployed for collection of floating trash from the river surface and is already in operation. In

addition, for the regular cleaning of 21 ghats a project has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹3.3 crore. A project for construction of six ghats and three crematoria of ₹88.03 crores has also been sanctioned.

BAMRAULI AIRPORT TERMINAL UNVEILED

Another long-standing requirement of Prayagraj has been met with the commissioning of the new airport terminal building at Bamrauli. The new building, having an area of 6,700 square metre, can handle 300 passengers during peak hour. The Prime Minister unveiled the new airport complex which has been completed at a cost of ₹164 crore in record 11 months.

INTEGRATED CONTROL COMMAND CENTRE

For the first time, an Integrated Control Command Centre has been established in the Kumbh region so that any incident can be monitored directly. Films based on administrative schemes, messages from the Prime Minister and Chief Minister as well as different information and messages based on the needs of the fair administration will be broadcast. These messages and information will be centrally controlled by the Integrated Control Command Center.

SIGNIFICANT BATHING DATES

Taking a bath on each of the days of Kumbh beginning from Makar Sankranti (first day of month of Magha; when the Sun enters Capricorn) is considered a holy bath. On the main bathing dates; there are magnificent processions of various saints and sadhus of different akharas (religious orders).

Name of Festival	Date/Day
Makar Sankranti	15-01-2019 Tuesday
Paush Purnima	21-01-2019 Monday
Mauni Amavasya (Somvati)	04-02-2019 Monday
Basant Panchami	10-02-2019 Sunday
Maghi Purnima	19-02-2019 Tuesday
Mahashivratri	04-03-2019 Monday

HOW TO REACH

BY AIR:
 The nearest airport is Bamrauli Air Force Base at a distance of 11 km from the Kumbh mela area.

BY ROAD:
 Regular buses are available from major cities like Delhi, Varanasi, Lucknow, Patna and others.

BY TRAIN:
 Indian Railways has trains to Prayagraj (Allahabad) from all the major cities of the country. The railway station is not too far from the mela area.





DEVOTEES CAN NOW VISIT AKSHAY VAT

Another important gift to devotees is that they can now visit the historic Akshaya Vat in Prayagraj. The Prime Minister visited the Akshaya Vat and said that devotees will be able to offer prayers at the place, which has been under closure for years, during Kumbh.

Akshay Vat has been held in high reverence by devotees, but it had been confined to the fort for a long time, and therefore, entry to the site was restricted. Now, during the Kumbh, devotees will be allowed to visit the sacred tree and offer prayers. They will also be able to visit the famed Sarasvati Koop, another highly revered site.

FOOLPROOF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

To ensure foolproof security during the Kumbh, a team of National Security Guards (NSG) will camp permanently in the Kumbh Mela area to assist the Anti-terrorist Squad (ATS) of the Uttar Pradesh Police in case of any need. The ATS personnel have already been deployed all over the Kumbh Mela area, spread over 3,200 hectares on the banks of rivers Ganga and Yamuna. The Mela area has been divided into 20 sectors. All the 40 police stations in the city and Mela area are connected with

Quick Response Teams (QRT) while the ATS field units have been made active.

UP MOVES AHEAD

Uttar Pradesh is undergoing a massive transformation with the successful implementation of several schemes for overall development. In less than two years, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has initiated projects on the fronts of

infrastructure, industrial growth, health, power, agriculture, tourism and social harmony. The state has attracted huge investment in various sectors of industries.

Measures taken by the State Government for the welfare of farmers and for the agriculture sector in general are showing a far-reaching impact. Facilities for farmers have been enhanced and expanded and the State Government has achieved a record in the current year in procurement of wheat by government agencies. The State Government has ensured that farmers got the enhanced minimum support price (MSP).

On the front of infrastructure, a milestone is coming up in eastern Uttar Pradesh in the form of the Purvanchal Expressway. Work on this mega project was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in July.

Several schemes have been put in implementation for Ayodhya, Mathura and Varanasi as well. These include an airport and a new medical college in Ayodhya, besides Ramayana and Krishna circuits in the pilgrim cities of Varanasi and Mathura.

On the front of industrial development,



the success of Uttar Pradesh has been noteworthy. The huge success of Uttar Pradesh Investors' Summit in February 2018 in Lucknow saw the coming together of top industrialists of India, besides heads of states and governments, ministers, leaders from the corporate world, senior policy-makers, heads of international institutions from around the world to discuss ways to accelerate

economic development in the state. The State has taken a great leap forward in ensuring ease of doing business. It has put in place a system to ensure speed, transparency and efficiency at every step of setting up business.

The state also has the proud distinction of launching a unique initiative known as 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme, under which exclusive



products ranging from machinery to handicraft, food items, hardware, IT services, agriculture implements, automobile accessories and much more are being promoted all over the State.

A new medical college is coming up in Ayodhya, besides Ramayana and Krishna circuits in Varanasi and Mathura

ATTRACTIONS OF KUMBH 2019

CULTURAL EVENTS

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has mobilised the State cultural departments for exhibiting the rich and diverse cultural heritage that India possesses. The Kumbh Mela 2019 shall feature five cultural pandals for displaying a series of cultural events ranging from musical performances to traditional and folk dances on a daily basis from January 2019 onwards. Ganga Pandal will be the mega structure among all pandals for hosting all the major events. Pravachan Pandal and four convention centres, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, are being created to host various spiritual events.

THEMATIC GATES

The 2019 Kumbh Mela shall also witness over 25 temporary thematic gates which will mark the approach roads to the Mela Area and entrance to various sectors in the Mela Area. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has adopted an innovative solution to increase the aesthetic value of the Kumbh Mela by designing and producing over 25 temporary thematic gates that shall be strategically placed. Each gate will have its own identity which will be strongly rooted in the local context and deeply inspired by the culture, tradition and socio-religious factors. Vernacular construction methods shall be used and above all, practicality and reusability are being taken into consideration.

PESHWAI (PRAVESHAI)

Out of all the major festivities during Kumbh,



'Peshwai' holds a significant place. Peshwai is the local dialect for the word 'Praveshai' which denotes the grand procession carried out to mark the beginning of the Kumbh Mela by welcoming people from all around the world. In this procession, saints arrive in Kumbh along with their groups on elephants, horses and lavish carriages with bands. In addition, to welcome the procession of Akharas and to further enhance its grandeur, large numbers of people provide their services as attendants and shower petals of flowers on the passing procession. The atmosphere during Peshwai is that of festivity and enthusiasm. Special routes are demarcated for these processions that are led by saints from various Akharas.

TOURIST WALKS

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has

unveiled Tourist Walks and introduced new routes for the tourists visiting Prayagraj.

The Sangam Walk

Starting Point of Trail:

Shankar Viman Mandapam

Stop 1: Bade Hanumanji Temple

Stop 2: Patalpuri Mandir

Stop 3: Akshya Vat

Stop 4: Allahabad Fort

Stop 5: Ram Ghat

LASER LIGHT SHOW

To enhance the experience of the large influx of pilgrims, patrons, domestic and international tourists expected to visit the Kumbh Mela 2019, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has planned for a Laser Light and Sound Show that has been operational from December 2018 onwards at the Prayagraj Fort Wall.

WATERWAYS

Waterways are of major importance and have been serving the human civilisation since ancient times through rivers, lakes and oceans. Water tourism has always been an important part of overall tourism industry. For the holy event of Kumbh Mela, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is organising ferry services on the River Yamuna near Sangam Ghat. The route for this service will start from Sujawan Ghat to Rail Bridge (Naini Side) to Boat Club Ghat to Sarasvati Ghat and ends at Kila Ghat. Multiple terminals are being constructed on this stretch of 20kms and boats and vessels will be provided by Mela Authority to create better pilgrim experience.

YEARLY FORECAST



ARIES

The first quarter will be concentrated on bettering your financial condition. You will soon experience better financial conditions and a pleasant surprise. Your sense of connectedness is going to end. Make sure you take short breaks as you need to release the negativity of the past year. Good year coming up.



TAURUS

This year, your financial position will improve considerably and success will come through improved business. New opportunities and recognition for your talents from the second quarter of the year. You'll need to rest before commencing any new ventures. A surprising news is going to bring a new opportunity.



GEMINI

This is an important year for you so concentrate on yourself and clear your past karma. A new venture will take off by March. Financially good after June and you will be able to clear some major debts thereafter. Change will bring a new perspective and a new you. Time to fix your health.



CANCER

Your work will start late and after a slight reversal you'll achieve a good outcome. Withhold judgement for now, and don't make premature evaluations. Money that was promised or anticipated will be delayed, but should arrive shortly. Invest in property by May. A fruitful year for you.



LEO

This year, take a break from your work and do something more pleasurable. You will succeed in overcoming difficult situations. You will finally take a much-needed rest, and will be nursing yourself or a loved one back to good health. A peaceful period ahead finally.



VIRGO

You will handle your affairs skillfully and complete all projects or financial matters successfully. You will be successful in all of your negotiations, agreements or financial transactions by the second quarter of the year. In the end, you will triumph, and all matters will conclude successfully.



LIBRA

You'll have some financial gains by April. Money related problems will arise over someone who will try to take more than his share, but you will have enough to get by. This year you will need to get more rest, and to get rid of those who 'zap' your energy or take all and give nothing in return.



SCORPIO

The year starts off well especially from Feb. You will prosper in all financial transactions, complete every task you set out to do, and accomplish much more than you thought you would. You can expect an increase in your finances. You will be worried for health, but things will be fine.



SAGITTARIUS

Someone will make you feel inferior. But this will make you stronger and results will be seen. Your finances are about to improve especially from the third quarter of the year. You will review your relationship(s) and realise that you want quality not quantity. New placements indicated.



CAPRICORN

You will suddenly become more goal-oriented. You will receive a considerable increase in income. Expect a new beginning and a fresh start. A new partnership could also be in the making. You could have stress in the first quarter but for positive reasons. A balanced year for you.



AQUARIUS

This year there will be discussions concerning travel, new unions, and philanthropic endeavours. Money will be alternating from good to bad, and will be spent on living expenses. Some very pleasant changes will happen this year. Overall it is going to be a year of gain.



PISCES

Professionally, you will make many important contacts, but will have to wait for things to unfold. Your greatest success will come through new or repeat business contacts. You will be easily irritated but will change because a new vision or romantic opportunity will inspire more optimism. Good year financially.



POONAM SETHI is an internationally-acclaimed Tarot card reader, Reiki healer, colour therapist, Feng Shui practitioner, crystal healer, a specialist in removal and balancing the negative energies and a rudraksha consultant. She can be contacted at poonamsethi27@hotmail.com

ITC Hotels celebrates the Spirit of Goa

The 30-minute drive from Goa International Airport, replete with rolling fields and coconut tree-lined village roads, sets the tone for a unique Goan sojourn. It leads to ITC Grand Goa, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa in South Goa, the 13th luxury hotel of ITC Hotels in India. This village-styled resort's architecture draws inspiration from the Indo-Portuguese style and blends classical elegance with a distinctive regional allure. A sense of warmth and space pervades the entire resort with long-winding verandas and alcoves. Wooden floorings, terracotta roofs, subtle textures, verdant landscapes and the cool sea breeze bring alive the spirit of the destination. Set amidst 45-acres



of lush landscape, with direct access to the pristine Arossim beach, the resort exemplifies all the essentials for an invigorating or intimate relaxed getaway. Its six signature dining options, bespoke experiences curated

in indoor and outdoor meeting and banquet spaces and time-honoured Indian wellness principles showcased at Kaya Kalp—The Royal spa, reflect the customary warmth of the brand. ITC Hotels' tradition of

culinary excellence is reflected through exclusive dining concepts aimed at presenting indigenous and international tastes. These include Kebabs & Kurries—showcasing traditional Indian styles of cooking, Tempero (Portuguese: Seasoning) featuring distinct influences in Goan cooking, Ottimo—pan-Italian cuisine and Pavilion at the Market Place—all day dining featuring Indian and inventive international cuisines. Taking advantage of the panoramic views of the Arabian Sea, is The Royal Afghan—a seaside barbecue and grill outlet. Complementing the cuisine showcase is Farol, (Portuguese: Lighthouse) the poolside bar presenting the finest range of domestic and international spirits.

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Conserving Nature Protecting Future

Conservation Action Trust, an environmental group, works towards conserving India's natural wealth and increases India's sensitivity towards forests, wildlife and rivers through research, education and public participation.

words // Debi Goenka

5th year **OUR ACHIEVEMENT**
Vistara recently introduced a retro-themed livery for one of its aircraft, calling it #VistaraRetrojet.

The Conservation Action Trust (CAT) is an advocacy non-profit group that is working to protect wildlife habitats and biodiversity. CAT was born in March 2005 with the help of Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG) to focus on the protection of natural habitats and biodiversity while BEAG continued to work on urban issues and hill stations.

CAT's vision is to make India a country where there is widespread understanding and appreciation of nature and its values, and where the quality of life is better due to our respect for nature as reflected in our institutions and our law. CAT is dedicated to provide assistance in the form of technical information, legal advice, aid and equipment to all those who are confronting environmental problems. It works closely with the Forest Departments and other NGOs that are fighting to protect nature and natural resources. Current campaigns include actively protecting the mangroves and biodiversity in India, working towards a low carbon future, renewable energy in India and ensuring that forests are not distributed to appease industrialists and voters.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES
Mangroves are evergreen forests found extensively in estuarine regions where mud-flats are wide and gently sloping. They are a complete ecosystem that is a conglomeration of several species



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Happy New Year 2019

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পর্যটন দপ্তর, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

of flora, fauna and biotic features in an area and their interactions with each other. They are flood buffers and also help in stabilising the climate by moderating temperature, humidity, wind and even waves. They actually protect the land from the impact of the sea.

Mangroves in and around Mumbai have undergone massive destruction. As a result the density of mangroves in and around Mumbai has been on a decline. The main reasons for this depletion are reclamation of land for paddy cultivation, salt

with mangroves would be notified as forests, and handed over to the Forest Department. A buffer zone of 50m around the mangroves was also to be protected. And in case of privately-owned lands with mangroves, the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act would apply to them as well. CAT is now focused on ensuring that this judgement is implemented in letter and spirit.

OUR SUCCESS STORIES

Some of our notable success stories include the protection of mangroves, the Sanjay Gandhi

The Maharashtra Government has been consistently trying to get these huge area of forests in Vidarbha denotified and brought out of the purview of the Forest Conservation Act. So whilst Nagpur has been declared as the Tiger Capital of the World, and the government is planning to plant crores of trees, negative elements are simultaneously trying to get the area of forest land reduced through all impossible means. This is even more shocking considering the fact that instances of increased encroachments on forest lands is leading to more and more incidents

Some of our notable success stories include the protection of mangroves, the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Mumbai, and also Eco Sensitive Areas and wildlife corridors.

pan scheme, reclamation of land for building activities, dumping, industrial pollution of the creeks, cuttings of trees for fuel wood, etc. We have been successful in getting a landmark order for the protection of Mangroves in Maharashtra. On September 17, 2018, the Bombay High Court passed an order declaring that all Government owned land covered

National Park in Mumbai, and also Eco Sensitive Areas and wildlife corridors. CAT has also been campaigning for clean air and clean energy.

CAT has recently filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court at Nagpur that relates to the protection of more than 3,00,000 hectares of forest lands called Zudpi Jungles.

of man animal conflicts, where the animal is more often than not labelled as the culprit and shot.

In this PIL, we have also pointed out that in the process of allowing non-forestry activities on forest land, the area of land under actual forests is constantly shrinking. Even if we can assume that compensatory plantations are the





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IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Even a tiny drop of water causes ripples expanding across the water. Similarly, even as an individual, we can better the society we live in and create an everlasting

Impact on Society....

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same as natural forests (which they are obviously not), the fact that these plantations are being carried out on existing forest land means that the total area under actual forest keeps steadily declining.

Another PIL relates to the Navi Mumbai International Airport. In this PIL, we have pointed out that there are many violations of the Environmental Clearance Conditions, and also that there are many changes in the project parameters. All of this would require the cancellation of the existing clearances and require the project to get fresh clearances. What is particularly worrying is



ACHIEVEMENTS

CAT's pioneering report 'Coal Kills - An Assessment of Death and Disease caused by India's Dirtiest Energy Source' published in 2013 focused national attention on this problem and led to tighter emission standards for coal fired thermal power plants that were being brought into force in December 2015.

the fact that the proposed airport is being located in a habitat that is a bird-rich environment – one that poses considerable threat to aircraft operations, and to the birds themselves.

SUPPORT IS STRENGTH

CAT has been privileged to have some of the best lawyers in India appearing pro bono in the broad range of PILs that we have filed in the National Green Tribunal, in the High Court of Bombay and the Supreme Court of India. It is with their unstinting help and support that CAT has been able to achieve its many successes. Some of the legal stalwarts who have appeared in these cases include Mr Navroz Seervai, Mr Aspi Chinoy, Mr Janak Dwarkadass, Mr Shiraz Rustomjee, Mr Dushyant Dave, Mr Shyam Divan, Mr Mihir Desai and Ms Gayatri Singh.

LET'S PLEDGE

It is obvious that despite the climate change crisis staring us in our face, and the air pollution apocalypse that confronts every Indian today, our policy and decision makers do not see these as priority issues. It is, therefore, imperative that we, as citizens of the largest democracy in the world, make this a priority issue. It is only when this happens that things will start to improve. The world will not change for the better if we continue to remain silent. The only way the world can be saved is if all of us voluntarily agree to cut down on the demands we make on the environment. This obsession with consuming more as a way to convince ourselves that we are happy is fraught with personal and societal disaster. ✿

The author is Executive Trustee of the Conservation Action Trust. For more information, please go to www.cat.org.in or contact debi@cat.org.in





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A recap of the many milestones 2018 has brought

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The Growth Story Continues

Four years ago, on January 9, 2015, Vistara took its first flight. It was an extraordinary day – not just because of the inaugural flight, but it was a day when the dream of two of the world’s most respected organisations came true. A shared dream of making India’s finest airline that Tata and Singapore Airlines had seen many moons ago. It wasn’t just another new airline in the skies, but a shining beacon of hope for India’s new-age travellers; for those who, at the time, had started viewing air travel as just another mode of transportation as against a fulfilling experience they had grown up rejoicing. As an airline that carries the legacies of Tata and Singapore Airlines, Vistara’s maiden flight signified hopes of millions of Indians. With a distinctive product, impeccable service delivery and a slew of innovations, our journey since has raised the bar several notches

higher in Indian aviation, while also raising many eyebrows in surprise, as we continue to reimagine flying. What started with just two aircraft operating between three cities four years ago now flies twenty-two aircraft across twenty-two cities of the country, and is today recognised and awarded globally as the finest airline in India. We flew about 3 million customers in the first two years, and in the next two years, that number has quadrupled, crossing 12 million in October 2018. That clearly demonstrates the growth trajectory we are on, and how travellers are increasingly choosing to fly with us – even though sometimes they might have to pay a small premium.

Looking back at just the year gone by, 2018 was another year with many successes for Vistara, despite the growing challenges for the aviation industry on the whole. As we step into the fifth year of

our operations, we feel that it is the love of our customers and the immense trust they place in us that has brought us this far. Stepping into our next phase of growth, we finalised our aircraft order of a combination of purchased and leased aircraft totalling 56 from the Airbus A320neo family and wide-body Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft, to expand on a global scale. We strengthened our portfolio of international partnerships with interline and codeshare agreements to offer an extended worldwide network to our customers, while also securing membership of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). We stayed ahead of the curve by pioneering several customer-focused initiatives. Creating India’s first robot designed to assist travellers at airports is one such initiative. Speaking of staying relevant, we disrupted the industry once again with a menu-based pricing model that our customers know as ‘Vistara Freedom Fares’,



As Vistara enters its fifth year of operations, here is a collage of the various awards and accolades received, and new pathbreaking services introduced by Vistara

empowering our customers to choose the fare that suits them best, reflecting our new-age approach to business. Alongside, we introduced 'Vistara World', our complimentary wireless streaming service of inflight entertainment content. The Vistara Retrojet is another initiative this year that caught the imagination of our customers. Our 22nd aircraft that came in a special retro-themed livery (paint scheme), reminded our customers of the glorious past of aviation in India and around the world.

In our aim of inspiring air travellers to not settle for the second best, we recently launched a high-decibel multimedia brand campaign—'Fly Higher'. Built on the central idea of making flying feel like a 'new feeling', the campaign reminds its audience that they can expect the same level of quality in their air travel just as they expect in their lifestyle, career or travel choices and not settle for anything less than the best.

The year 2018 also brought to Vistara many recognitions from

organisations and bodies ranging from those in government and trade to consumer platforms and international associations. The final clincher in the list of awards and recognitions bestowed upon Vistara was the prestigious Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards 2018 as the 'Favourite Domestic Airline in India'.

And as we continue to grow, we also firmly believe that our growth must be socially and environmentally sustainable. Ever since Vistara's inception, we have continued to operate in a prudent manner to minimise the effect of our operations on the environment and mobilise communities through various initiatives. Owing to this unique CSR philosophy, Vistara was also recently recognised for its contribution to the community with the Responsible Business Award at the Annual SABERA Summit and Social & Business Enterprise Responsible Awards. The award recognises socially responsible work undertaken in the public sector, private sector,

NGOs, academics, social cause initiatives and enterprises.

These achievements and awards reflect our philosophy of focusing on the fundamentals of customer service, continuous improvement, and investment in our business and facilities. They are a result of the efforts and the endless hours devoted by our teams to enhance customer experience and provide the finest flying experience, both in-flight and on ground. A great sign has been our track record of consistently registering the lowest cancellation and passenger complaint rates among all the carriers in the industry last year.

As we move forward, we want to assure you today that we have since broken the mould and charted a new course of progress, keeping in mind the challenges and prospects ahead. We will lead the way to bring only the better for our customers and all other stakeholders alike. We hope to continue to 'Fly Higher' with you all!

Happy 2019! 🌟

THE PERFECT PLAYLIST

From soft rock to bluesy jazz tunes, explore the January playlist played during boarding and landing on our A320 Neos.

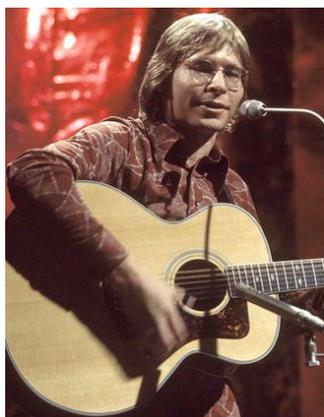


Nothing's Gonna Stop us Now
Starship

Written by Diane Warren and Albert Hammond, this song is a duet featuring *Starship* vocalists Grace Slick and Mickey Thomas. The song has been considered a 'feel good' number, driven by a strong synthesiser beat.

Too Much Heaven
Bee Gees

'Too Much Heaven' was originally the band's contribution to the 'Music for UNICEF' fund. Inspired by the sad state of starvation, the line 'I can see a new tomorrow' urges one to move forward, even when times are bad.



Annie's Song
John Denver

Denver wrote this for his then-wife Ann Martell after their first separation in 1974. He said that it was one of the fastest songs he ever wrote, composing it in about 10 minutes while he was riding on a ski lift in Aspen, Colorado.

Albatross
Fleetwood Mac

The albatross reference appears in the poem *The Rhyme Of The Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Coleridge. *Fleetwood Mac* guitarist Peter Green read the poem as a child, which gave him an idea for the song. This song was the biggest-selling rock instrumental of all time in the UK.



Shine On You Crazy Diamond
Pink Floyd

One of the most iconic songs of the band, this ballad is a tribute to Syd Barrett, which can also be seen from the name of the song 'Shine On You Crazy Diamond'. An original member of *Pink Floyd*, the lyrics of the song are a tribute to the big influence that Barrett had on the music they played. His legacy as a great innovator in music lives on through this song.

Truly Madly Deeply
Savage Garden

Written by Darren Hayes and Daniel Jones, the song was originally released in Australia as the third single from their self-titled debut album. This love song became a worldwide hit with the album selling 11 million copies globally.



I Loved Another Woman
Fleetwood Mac

Peter Green's ability to balance humour and vulnerability is clearly on display with the original, 'I Loved Another Woman.' This song reveals a glimpse of the Latin-blues blend that Green later perfected with the song 'Black Magic Woman'.



Human Nature
Michael Jackson

One of Jackson's best ballads, 'Human Nature' was written by Steve Porcaro. This song captures the wide-eyed, childlike wonder that is a much loved part of Jackson's personality.

Grease
Frankie Valli

This song was written and produced by Barry Gibb of *Bee Gees* as the title track of the 1978 blockbuster movie *Grease*. This song with an instantly recognisable intro, perfectly encapsulates the theme of the movie: individuality.





Don't Fall In Love With A Dreamer

Kenny Rogers

It is a song written by David Ellingson and Kim Carnes and recorded by Kenny Rogers and Carnes as a duet. A lone single released from the album *Gideonm* in March 1980, the song topped country charts all around the world.

Up Where We Belong

Joe Cocker & Jennifer Warnes

The theme song for the movie *An Officer And A Gentleman*, the song won the Oscar for Best Original Song in 1983. The entire process of creating and releasing this song took only 30 days and was recognised by the Recording Industry Association of America as one of the 'Songs of the Century'.

Maneater

Hall & Oates

The duo of *Hall and Oates* wrote the smash hit 'Maneater' about New York City in 1982. It is about greed, avarice, and spoiled riches existing in the city at the time. According to Daryl Hall, the song deliberately uses a female reference so that it can be more relatable to listeners.

Still In Love With You

Thin Lizzy

The band's most romantic ballad, 'Still in Love with You' was first released in their 1974 album *Nightlife*. There have been many artists and bands that have covered this song since then, but *Thin Lizzy's* version is considered to be the greatest.



What A Wonderful World

Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong was able to nail the sentiment of this popular song perfectly when he recorded it in August 1967. Written by George Weiss, the song was inspired by Armstrong's ability to bring people of different races together.



Something So Strong

Crowded House

It is a rock song written by Neil Finn and Mitchell Froom and performed by the band for their debut album. This was the first song written by Finn specifically for *Crowded House*.



Stuck On You

Lionel Ritchie

An original song, written and recorded by Lionel Ritchie, 'Stuck on You' was the fourth single from his second studio album *Can't Slow Down* released on May 1, 1984. The song differs from Richie's other compositions as it displays a country pop influence rather than R&B.



I Can't Go For That (No Can Do)

Hall & Oates

'I Can't Go For That (No Can Do)' was a phrase band member Daryl Hall used when he was pressured to go along with the crowd against his wishes. Even Michael Jackson confessed that this song greatly influenced his hit 'Billie Jean'.

Take My Breath Away

Berlin

This song sung by the American band *Berlin* was featured in the movie *Top Gun*, helping its soundtrack become a best seller. This love ballad won the Academy Award for Best Original

Song, as well as the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song in 1986.



Easy

Commodores

Released in March 1977, 'Easy' reached Number One on the Billboard R&B chart, and Number four on the Billboard Hot 100. Lead singer Lionel Richie wrote this song about liberation after a toxic relationship, bringing the band into pop and adult contemporary territory.

Night Moves

Bob Seger

A popular coming of age song by the American singer-songwriter Bob Seger, 'Night Moves' represents the freedom and possibility of the high school years, inspired by Seger's own teenage love in the early 1960s.



Homely Girl

UB40

'Homely Girl' is a 1989 single by the band UB40. It was the first single from their 1989 album *Labour of Love II*, and was a great success in UK and France. 🌟



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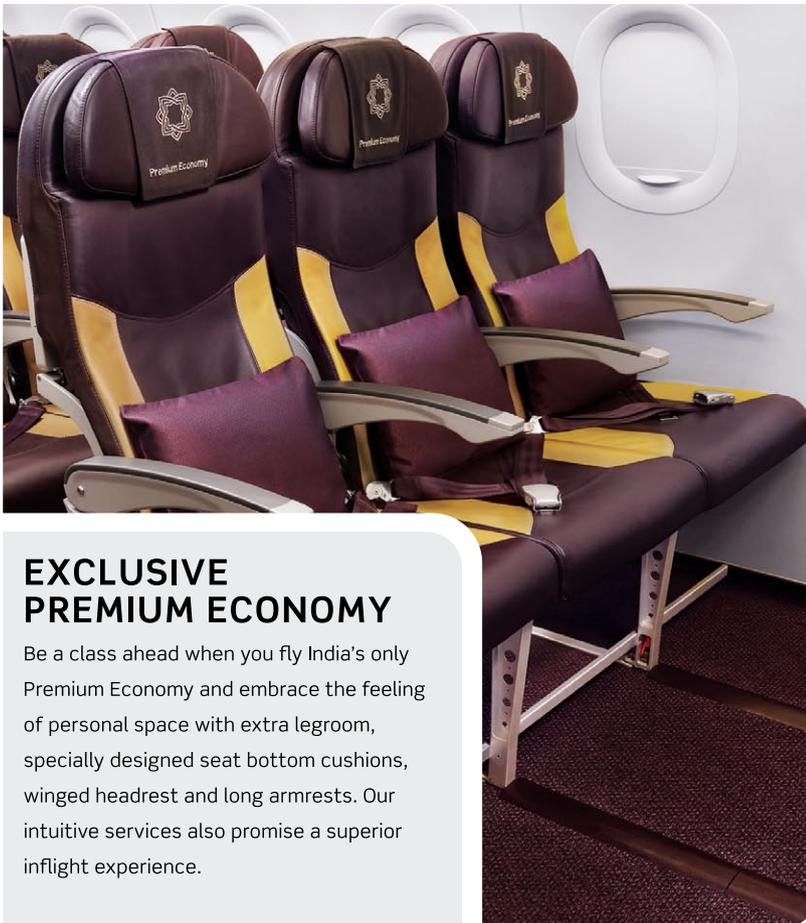
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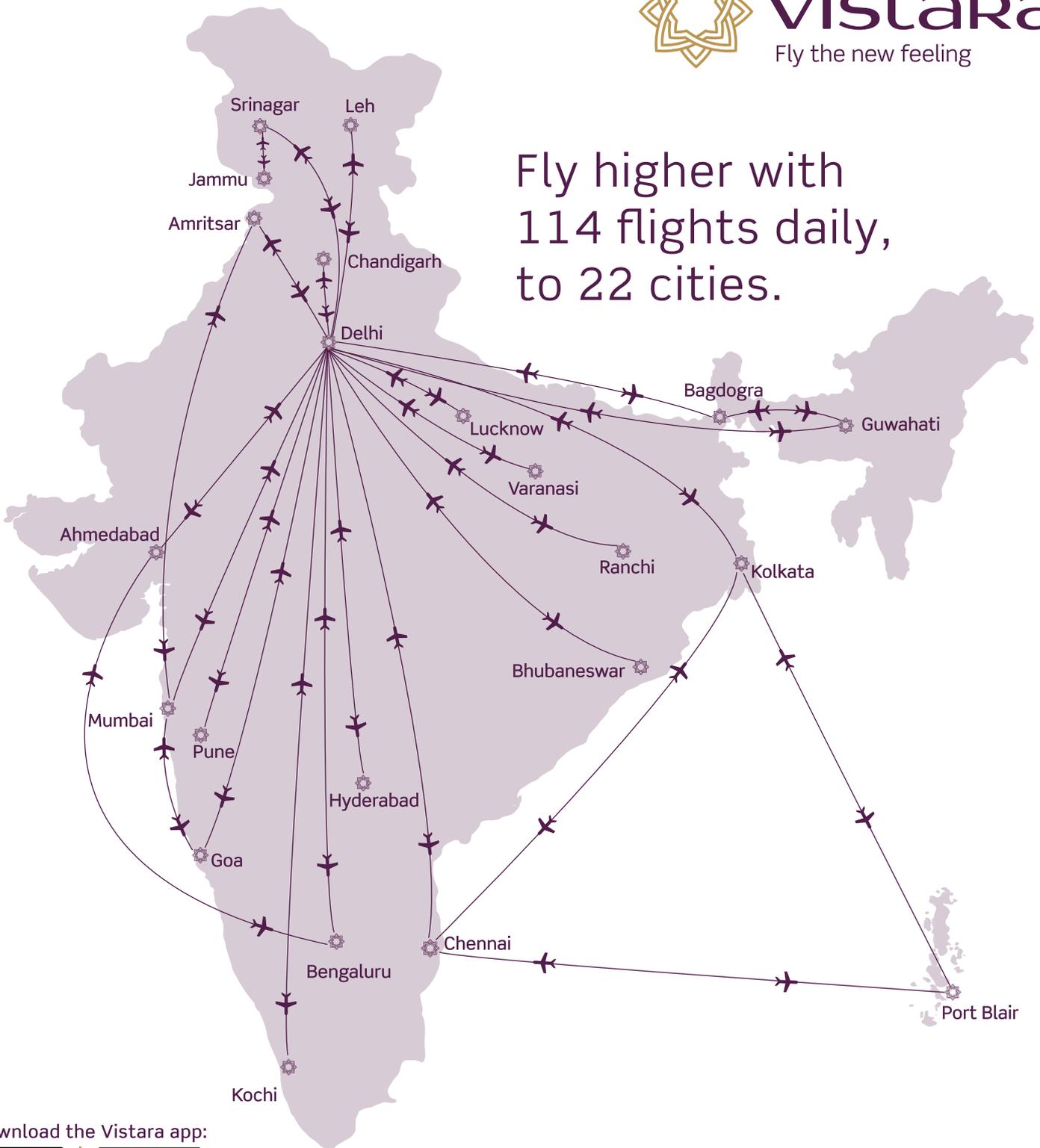


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Cruising Speed	833 km/h
Takeoff weight	73500 kg
Range	6,500 km
Business	8
Premium Economy	24
Economy	126/132
Engine	CFM LEAP1A



A320ceo

Vistara Fleet	A320ceo
Count	13
Length	37.57 m
Wingspan	35.80 m
Height	11.76 m
Cruising Speed	829 km/h
Takeoff weight	73500 kg
Range	6,100 km
Business	8
Premium Economy	24
Economy	126/132
Engine	IAE V2500-A5



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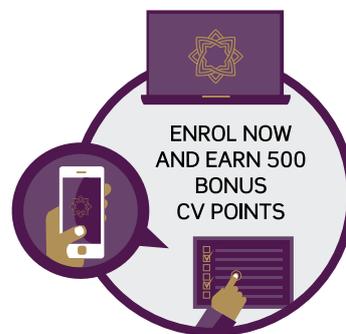
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CV Gold	25000 OR	30
CV Platinum	35000	40

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Tier / CV Points	8 CV Points / INR 100	9 CV Points / INR 100	10 CV Points / INR 100	11 CV Points / INR 100
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Priority Waitlist Clearance		✓	✓	✓
Carry-On Plus			✓	✓
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