

# wonderlust

www.wonderlust.in

06

**New policies and incentives set to transform Jharkhand into a premier tourism hub** Anjali Yadav,  
Director of Jharkhand Tourism Board

22

**A Balinese escape in Uttar Pradesh: Arun Khurana's journey in transforming Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai**

## **Raft, Trek and Climb:**

*The Ultimate Adventure Playgrounds  
in India and abroad*

**EGYPTAIR** 

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



**MOST IMPROVED AIRLINE  
IN AFRICA 2024**



**DELHI  ALL NETWORK  
UP TO 30% DISCOUNT**

Flight No.	Sector	Departure	Arrival	Days	Frequency
MS 974	DEL-CAI	11:40	15:55	1,5,6,7	4 Weekly Flights
MS 973	CAI-DEL	00:50	09:40	1,5,6,7	4 Weekly Flights

Terms & conditions apply\*

For more information, please contact :  
Toll free number : 1800 103 3586 | E-mail: [delhi\\_to@egyptair.com](mailto:delhi_to@egyptair.com)

# Indo Global Holidaz

YOUR HOST IN Europe & UK

Call for  
Customized Package

Exclusive  
Deal



+44 7440583634,  
+44 203751 6095  
Whats App  
+91 9811099599



## Our Services

Hotel Booking

Tours & Transfer

Excursions

Meet & Assist



INDO GLOBAL  
HOLIDAZ

Indo Global Holidaz UK Ltd.  
First Floor, Himalaya shopping centre  
Unit -9, 65 The Broadway Southall  
UB 11 JY United Kingdom

**Editor-in-Chief**

Ravi Arora

**Editor**

Ayushi Anand

**Senior Correspondent**

Anubha Surana

**Junior Writer**

Vaidehi Kaushik

**Marketing team**

Shailender Singh

Vaibhav Mehra

Anuj Pathak

**Creative**

Sumit Gaur

**Production and distribution**

Avinash Tiwari

Annual Subscription Rs 2000/

Single copy Rs 200/

Total Number of Pages: 48

(Including Covers)

©Wonderlust

No part of this publication may be

reproduced without

the express written permission of the publishers

Advertising, Subscription and sales

enquiries to

**Salt n Pepper Publications Pvt.Ltd**

F-25, 1st, Floor, Bhagat Singh Market,

New Delhi-110001

T: +91 11 47818283, 011-23349599

Email: ravi@wonderlust.in

Web: www.wonderlust.in

Published, owned, printed and edited

by Ravi Arora from

F-25, Bhagat Singh Market,

New Delhi-110001

Printed at: Niharika Creations

5764/6, New Chanderwal, Near Malka Ganj,

Delhi-110007



Dear readers,

As we step into the season of harvest- Autumn, it brings the perfect time for adventure. In this October issue, we invite you to step out of your comfort zone and dive into the thrilling world of adventure tourism. Autumn, with its striking colours and cooler temperatures, offers an unparalleled backdrop for explorers and adrenaline seekers alike.

Our cover story leads you across the globe to discover the top destinations for adventure—from scaling the rugged peaks of New Zealand to traversing the scenic trails of the Rocky Mountains in Canada. Whether you're a thrill-seeker or simply looking for an escape, we've curated destinations that promise an unforgettable autumn experience.

We are also thrilled to feature Anjali Yadav, Director of Jharkhand Tourism, who shares her insights on how the state is transforming into a tourism hub. From treks through lush forests to thrilling water sports, Jharkhand offers something for every type of traveller. Dr D Vijay Kumar, Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya delves into the untapped potential of adventure tourism in the mesmerising state of Meghalaya. With its majestic waterfalls, misty mountains and unexplored caves, Meghalaya is fast becoming a dream destination for adventure enthusiasts. Adventure takes to the skies with Amr Ali, General Manager of Egypt Air, who discusses the airline's ambitious expansion plans and the role it plays in promoting global travel.

Back on home soil, we explore a Bali-inspired property in Orai, Uttar Pradesh, that offers an exotic blend of luxury and adventure. This unique retreat captures the essence of Balinese design while being deeply rooted in Indian hospitality, making it a must-visit for those seeking a tranquil yet adventurous escape. Additionally, in honour of World Tourism Day 2024, we celebrate the power of tourism to break down barriers, promote sustainability and unite people from all walks of life. This year's theme focuses on 'Tourism and Peace.'

This edition is packed with thrilling features, inspiring stories and fresh perspectives. Whether you're dreaming of your next adventure or seeking inspiration for future travels, we hope this issue fills you with the spirit of exploration. So, grab your gear and let the wind carry you to new heights of adventure.

Happy reading and happy travels!

# Contents



**06**  
New policies and incentives set to transform Jharkhand into a premier tourism hub Anjali Yadav, Director of Jharkhand Tourism Board



**14**  
Celebrating World Tourism Day 2024: A journey towards peace and understanding

New policies and incentives set to transform Jharkhand into a premier tourism hub Anjali Yadav, Director of Jharkhand Tourism Board [p.06](#)

The journey of Madhya Pradesh Tourism towards global recognition [p.12](#)

Celebrating World Tourism Day 2024: A journey towards peace and understanding [p.14](#)

From Himalayas to Canyons exploring global adventures in autumn's splendour [p.16](#)

Exploring wild frontiers: Louisiana's wetlands and Indonesia's islands [p.20](#)

A Balinese escape in Uttar Pradesh: Arun Khurana's journey in transforming Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai [p.22](#)

Welcom Heritage Cheetahgarh Resort & Spa unveils a luxurious new banquet venue amidst Rajasthan's wilderness [p.26](#)

Postcard travel club partners with CGH Earth [p.28](#)

Illinois Office of Tourism opens New Delhi office in collaboration with Sartha Global Marketing [p.30](#)

"India's adventure tourism is unsafe due to lack of regulation and modern equipment," PP Khanna, President of ADTOI [p.32](#)

NIMA celebrates 10 years and declares 2025 the "Year of MICE Tourism" [p.33](#)

The Lodhi enhances leadership with appointment of Anuj Nainta as the Hotel Manager [p.34](#)

FCM Travel Asia has appointed Gursheel Dhillon as its new Head of Marketing [p.35](#)

Amr Ali steers Egypt Air towards global expansion through innovation and bold strategies [p.36](#)

Pandaw's new Cruise to Kochi to unveil Kerala's hidden gems in October 2025 [p.38](#)

Norwegian Cruise Line introduces new luxury cruise ship available for booking in 2026 [p.40](#)



**16**  
From Himalayas to Canyons exploring global adventures in autumn's splendour



**22**  
A Balinese escape in Uttar Pradesh: Arun Khurana's journey in transforming Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai



**34**  
The Lodhi enhances leadership with appointment of Anuj Nainta as the Hotel Manager

## New policies and incentives set to transform Jharkhand into a premier tourism hub

### Anjali Yadav, Director of Jharkhand Tourism Board

*The Jharkhand tourism industry is marching towards growth by introducing a range of innovative policies aimed at promoting private investments and expanding the state's tourist destinations. Anjali Yadav, Director, Jharkhand Tourism Board, shared insights into the new developments within Jharkhand tourism, which include the formulation of a wayside amenity policy and a rural tourism policy. These policies aim to enhance infrastructure and attract visitors to the lesser-known but picturesque locations across the state.*

By Vaidehi Kaushik



The Jharkhand tourism industry is marching towards growth by introducing a range of innovative policies aimed at promoting private investments and expanding the state's tourist destinations. Anjali Yadav, Director, Jharkhand Tourism Board, shared insights into the new developments within Jharkhand tourism, which include the formulation of a wayside amenity policy and a rural tourism policy. These policies aim to enhance infrastructure and attract visitors to the lesser-known but picturesque locations across the state. "We have recently notified the guidelines for the registration of travel and tour operators and issued adventure sports guidelines to ensure all activities adhere to safety norms in Jharkhand," she explained.

#### Attracting big brands

The state government is fostering Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investments, enlisting Deloitte as a transaction advisor for the development of key properties in Patratu, Netarhat and Deoghar. Yadav's approach is focused on making Jharkhand an attractive destination for high-end tourism investments.

"We are expecting five-star brands to participate in the bids, which will likely be conducted in November. Our goal is to bring bigger names to develop these properties, enhancing Jharkhand's tourism infrastructure," she said. These efforts are supported by Jharkhand's tourism policy, launched in 2021, which offers significant fiscal incentives to stakeholders, including subsidies for hotels and tourism-related infrastructure. "We offer great fiscal incentives to encourage investment, which we hope will draw even more interest from private players," Yadav remarked.

#### Adventure tourism and river cruise development

Another exciting area of development is adventure tourism. The state is ensuring safety standards are met through strict guidelines, enabling tourists to experience Jharkhand's rich natural landscapes in a safe environment. "Our

adventure sports guidelines are part of a broader effort to promote Jharkhand as an adventure tourism hub," Yadav noted.

She also highlighted the state's ambitious plans for river cruise tourism. Sahebganj district, located along the Ganges and falling under National Waterway 1, has the potential to become a key destination for cruise tourism. "We are working to develop a complete circuit around river cruise tourism so that when tourists disembark, they can explore the scenic beauty of the surrounding area," she shared.

#### Collaboration and future outlook

Collaboration with different stakeholders remains a central theme in Jharkhand's tourism strategy. From government agencies to private investors, Yadav is working to build partnerships that will advance the state's tourism offerings. "We are actively collaborating with various stakeholders to push these initiatives forward and make Jharkhand a top destination for both domestic and international tourists," she concluded.

Under Anjali Yadav's leadership, Jharkhand Tourism is poised to become a significant player in India's tourism sector, offering visitors a unique mix of natural beauty, adventure and modern amenities.



CHUCHAI BURI  
Sri Amphawa



## CHUCHAI BURI SRI AMPHAWA HOTEL - SONGKHRAM THAILAND -

The Hotel is located in Amphawa District, Samut Songkhram Province, about 90 km. southwest of Bangkok. It is on the way to Hua Hin, another famous destination in Thailand. The hotel setting is located on the bank of Amphawa Canal, about 700 meters away from the center of the town where the floating and local market, restaurants, and governmental offices are located. The famous Chulamanee Temple and King Rama 2 Memorial Park are also nearby.

HERITAGE  
THAILAND

*Represented in India by ISA Tourism Pvt Ltd*

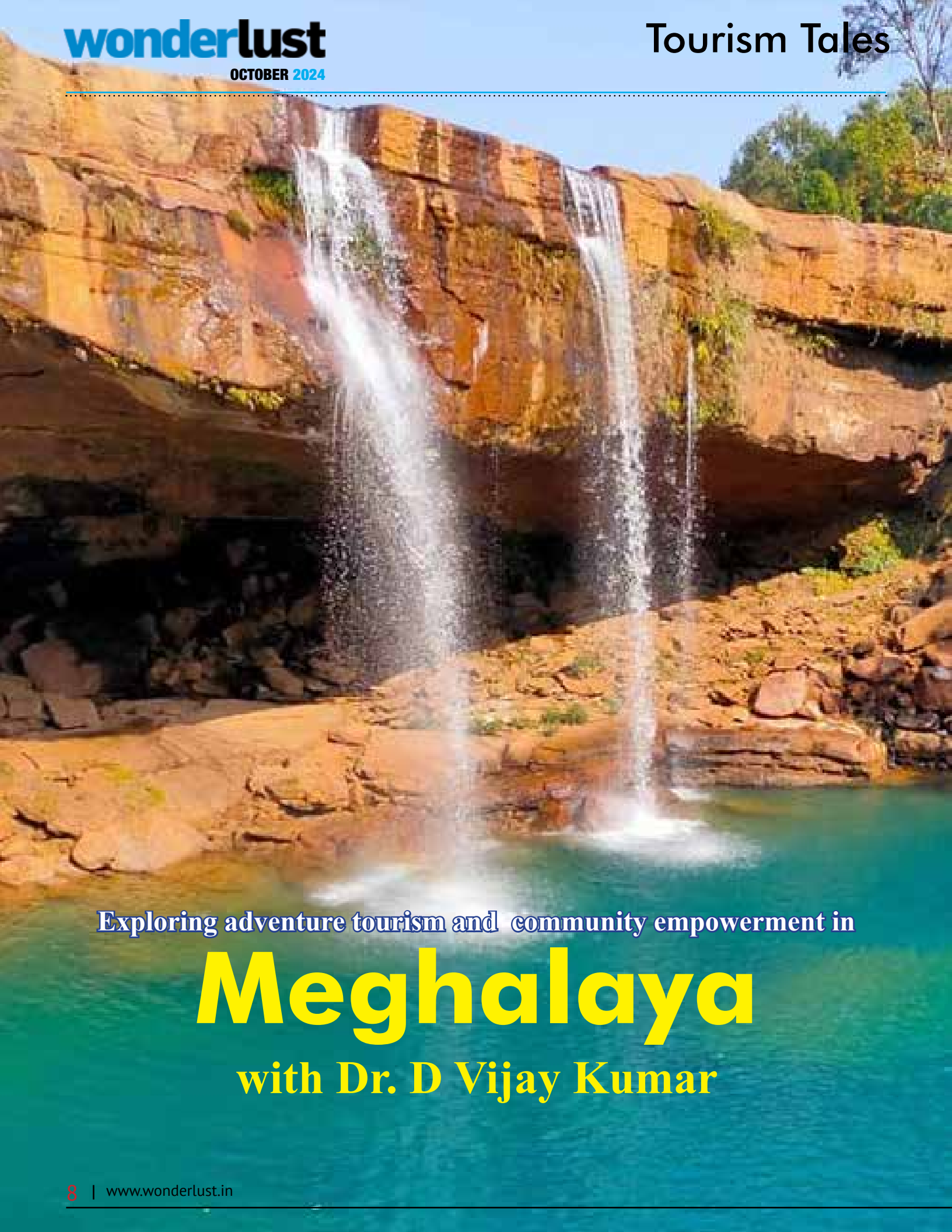
[del@india-sales.com](mailto:del@india-sales.com) , [hotels@india-sales.com](mailto:hotels@india-sales.com)

+91 9999064470 | +91 9811690504

[chuchaiburi.com](http://chuchaiburi.com)



**ISA TOURISM PVT LTD**  
*partners in growth*



Exploring adventure tourism and community empowerment in

# Meghalaya

with Dr. D Vijay Kumar





Nestled in the northeastern part of India, Meghalaya is known for its natural beauty which makes it a popular destination for tourists. Meghalaya boasts of a landscape of rolling hills, dense forests, majestic waterfalls and mysterious caves, making it an adventure enthusiast's dream destination. However, what truly sets Meghalaya apart is its holistic approach to tourism—one that combines thrill-seeking experiences with a deep respect for the environment and local communities.

Dr. D Vijay Kumar, Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, has played an important role in the state's tourism development, integrating sustainable practices and community engagement. Kumar has been instrumental in driving this vision forward, ensuring that tourism development is not only sustainable but also inclusive, benefiting the state's diverse and vibrant communities.

### **A multidisciplinary approach to policy-making**

Kumar's academic background in economics and public policy has greatly influenced his approach to governance, particularly in social policy and tourism. He explains how education has helped him in make decisions that go beyond

financial considerations. "In government, we often face choices that are not just about finances. Some projects may not make economic sense at first glance, but they have a larger impact in terms of equity and community welfare," he said. For example, Kumar recalls a project that involved setting up a remote food processing unit with a substantial subsidy. While the initial investment raised questions, the long-term benefits to the local population justified the decision. This same logic applies to tourism infrastructure, where decisions are made with an eye on both economic sustainability and social impact.

### **Investment in tourism infrastructure**

Meghalaya's tourism sector is experiencing significant growth, with an annual investment of INR 300-350 crores, which is set to increase to INR 500 crores this year with the coming of many new projects. These new projects include a ropeway project and the Unity Mall initiative, aimed at boosting tourism in the state. These developments are designed not only to attract more visitors but also to create sustainable opportunities for local communities.

### **Adventure tourism in Meghalaya**

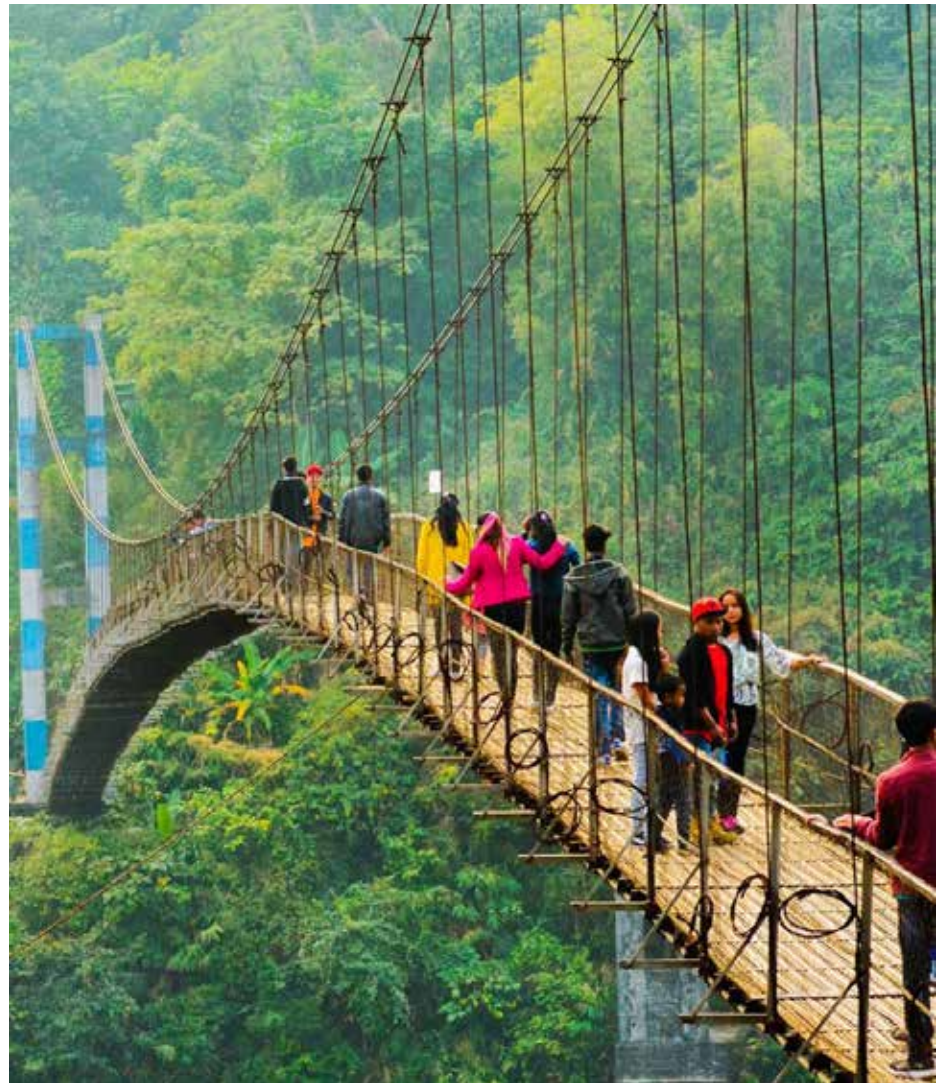
Meghalaya, which is known for its breathtaking natural beauty, is quickly becoming a hub for adventure tourism. From bungee jumping to caving, the state offers a wide array of activities for thrill-seekers. Kumar is especially enthusiastic about the recent opening of a bungee jumping facility en route Cherrapunji, which he describes as "one of the most exciting adventure attractions in the Northeast."

Water sports are another significant draw. "We have beautiful water bodies like Umiam Lake, where visitors can enjoy sailing, rowing and kayaking," he said. The state has Umiam Sailing Association, Rowing Association which is doing the Rowing Regatta in October and White-Water Rafting which organises rafting festivals every year for the last three years. According to Kumar, "Water sports is big in Meghalaya," further positioning Meghalaya as a premier destination for water-based adventure tourism. Caving is perhaps Meghalaya's most distinctive adventure offering, because this is something which is not anywhere in the country at the level it is in Meghalaya. He explained that the state's caves, open for exploration during the winter months, range from easy-access sites to complex cave systems that require advanced skills. The Meghalaya Adventure Association has taken a proactive role in training local youth to become certified caving guides, with some even receiving international training in cave rescue operations.

### Ensuring safety of the tourist in adventure tourism

While adventure tourism is thrilling, it also comes with inherent risks. Kumar stressed on the importance of safety measures across all tourism sites, particularly those offering adventure activities. “Safety is something we are very cognizant of,” he affirmed. Local youth, who manage many of the tourist spots, are being trained in basic life-saving techniques, such as CPR and first aid. This training ensures that, in the event of accidents, immediate assistance is available.

Meghalaya has gone a step further in ensuring the safety of its visitors, especially in its most challenging adventure activity: caving. The state has Meghalaya Adventure Association, with internationally certified cave rescue team, trained by experts who were involved in the famous Thailand cave rescue mission. This team stands ready to respond to emergencies, adding an extra layer of security for those eager to explore Meghalaya’s underground wonders.



### Connectivity and infrastructure development

Connectivity remains a critical factor in Meghalaya’s tourism development. Kumar revealed that the state spent around ₹2000 crores on road development last year, with a significant portion allocated to improving access to major tourist destinations. This investment is essential for facilitating travel to remote adventure spots and ensuring a seamless experience for tourists.

### Engaging local communities

One of the key pillars of Meghalaya’s tourism strategy is community involvement. Most of the state’s tourist sites are owned and managed

by local communities and this communal ownership is fundamental to sustainable tourism development. “Tourism development in Meghalaya is always a collaborative process,” said Kumar. The government acts as a facilitator, providing technical and financial support, but the communities play a central role in decision-making. An excellent example of this collaboration is the management of the ‘Living Root Bridges’, one of Meghalaya’s most iconic attractions. He explained that the government worked closely with the local community to define carrying capacity norms, limiting the number of visitors to protect the fragile ecosystem. “The community sets

the rules, charging fees and controlling access, ensuring that tourism benefits are shared while preserving the environment,” he added.

Under Kumar’s leadership, Meghalaya has emerged as a model for sustainable tourism that balances adventure with responsibility. By investing in infrastructure, ensuring safety and engaging local communities, the state is setting new standards for eco-friendly and community-driven tourism. As adventure tourism continues to grow in popularity, Meghalaya is well-positioned to offer visitors not just an adrenaline rush but a deeper connection with nature and local culture.



Imagine a bustling village in Punjab. Beautiful mud houses, lassi being churned, men busy in animated discussions on their charpais, children climbing trees, artisans creating something beautiful, women singing a soulful melodies, a group of youngsters breaking into a joyful dance.

THAT'S  
**SADDA PIND**  
Best Tourist Destination in Amritsar



## WHAT IS SADDA PIND?

Sadda Pind is a vibrant, living museum that offers visitors an immersive experience into the art, culture, and rich heritage of rural Punjab and transports you back in time, allowing you to experience the traditional ways of life in Punjab. Situated in the holy city of Amritsar, just 8 KM from Golden Temple and 7 KM from Airport, Sadda Pind offers a perfect setting for a weekend getaway or a short stay with family and friends. The elderly can remember their happier times. Foreign tourists can sample the true Indian rustic lifestyle.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO HERE?

At Sadda Pind, experience the vibrant culture of Punjab with folk dances, music, handicrafts, and local cuisine. It offers day packages and you can also stay here overnight. You can learn a traditional art or create a masterpiece of your own. Punjabi jutti, clay toys and utensils, ironwork, durries, agricultural implements are some of the traditional arts showcased here. At Sadda Pind, treat your senses to the vibrance and beats of traditional Punjabi folk dances like Bhangra, Gidha, Jhumar and Kikli.



## CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Your trip to Punjab is incomplete without savouring its authentic flavours. At Sadda Pind, you can sample the traditional North Indian or authentic Punjabi cuisine at Chayee Ji Ka Vehra, the Dhaba at Sadda Pind. We offer an ala carte menu as well as a traditional thali. Kadhi chawal, amritsari naan, lassi, makki di roti, sarso da saag, naan, missi roti, gulab jamun & kheer are a few of our specialities.

## STAY EXPERIENCE SADDA PIND

Staying at Sadda Pind is an unforgettable experience. You can enjoy bhangra, gidha on the beats of dhol and music and can also participate in dance with over artists. Sadda Pind offers 20 spacious and comfortable guest rooms. Each room has been choicely designed with rustic motifs, offering you an experience of a traditional Punjabi village. It is an experience of a life time and we would want you to have it.



### • HOW TO REACH **SADDA PIND**

Sadda Pind is located in Amritsar which is easily accessible from anywhere in India by

🚆 By Train | ✈️ By Air | 🚗 By Road

### • **BEST TIME TO VISIT**

Open year-round to visitors.

### • **WHO CAN VISIT**

Sadda Pind is a living museum of Punjabi village culture, perfect for families, friends and colleagues. Enjoy a day visit or stay overnight, with attractions for all ages and interests.

## SADDA PIND PACKAGES

A day package allows you to spend whole day at Sadda Pind. It offers a complete tour of the place along with fun filled activities. You can experience the traditions, culture, flavours & celebrations of Punjab. You can also book a night stay at Sadda Pind.



## Plan Your Visit Today

Experience the magic of Punjab at Sadda Pind, where every visit is a homecoming. Book your stay today and discover why Sadda Pind is the most talked-about destination in Amritsar.

For further information, visit [www.saddapind.co.in](http://www.saddapind.co.in) or call: +91 99152 44999 | email: [info@saddapind.co.in](mailto:info@saddapind.co.in)

# The journey of Madhya Pradesh Tourism towards global recognition

*Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India, offers a rich tapestry of experiences, from its stunning heritage sites like Khajuraho and Mandu to its diverse wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. Known for its spiritual destinations and cultural festivals, the state attracts travellers seeking both adventure and serenity.*



Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India, offers a rich tapestry of experiences, from its stunning heritage sites like Khajuraho and Mandu to its diverse wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. Known for its spiritual destinations and cultural festivals, the state attracts travellers seeking both adventure and serenity. With growing initiatives in offbeat tourism, wedding tourism and wellness, Madhya Pradesh is rapidly emerging as a global travel destination. Ms Bidhisha Mukherjee, the Additional Managing Director of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, talked about a range of key initiatives aimed at further bolstering the state's tourism potential.

From innovative partnerships with foreign embassies to the promotion of offbeat destinations, Madhya Pradesh is carving a niche in the global tourism market.

## **Expanding global reach through embassy collaborations and FAM tours**

One of the standout strategies of Madhya Pradesh Tourism (MPT) is its ongoing collaboration with international embassies. MPT is currently engaging with over 20 embassies, including Israel, Finland and Sweden, with plans to host several Familiarisation tours

(FAM). These initiatives aim to bring international tourists closer to the cultural and spiritual richness of the state. The FAM tours will allow travel agents, tourism representatives and other stakeholders to experience Madhya Pradesh firsthand, enabling them to share these unique experiences with potential travellers from around the world. Mukherjee expressed optimism about the potential boost these efforts could bring, particularly in increasing the current inbound tourist count of two lakh visitors.

## **Subsidies and incentives for tour operators**

In line with Madhya Pradesh's



commitment to expanding its global footprint, the tourism board has introduced a range of incentives for tour operators. Stakeholders participating in international travel marts can receive subsidies of up to one lakh rupees, covering 50 per cent of their travel expenses. Additionally, Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (MPSTDC) offers a 22.5 per cent commission to General Sales Agents (GSA) who bring bookings to the state. She is clear that these financial incentives are carefully calculated to ensure a win-win situation for both the state and its tourism partners. These measures are designed to foster greater collaboration, increase visibility and ultimately drive more visitors to Madhya Pradesh from across the globe.

## Offbeat destinations and heritage tourism

While well-known sites like Khajuraho and Sanchi continue to attract tourists, she stressed the importance of highlighting lesser-known destinations. The state's rich heritage offers a wide range of opportunities for cultural and spiritual tourism, from the sacred banks of the Narmada River at Maheshwar to the majestic forts of Mandu and Chanderi. The growing interest in the Buddhist circuit, particularly from Japan

and Southeast Asian countries, presents another opportunity for Madhya Pradesh. The board aims to expand the prominence of lesser-known Buddhist sites, complementing the iconic Sanchi with additional spiritual stops. European travellers, on the other hand, are increasingly drawn to the state's heritage properties, with destinations like Orchha and Maheshwar gaining traction as upcoming wedding and leisure spots.

## Wedding and medical tourism

Madhya Pradesh is also positioning itself as a top destination for wedding tourism, with several key locations including Indore, Bhopal, Mandu, Maheshwar and Chanderi. These destinations are being actively promoted as ideal wedding venues due to their picturesque settings and historical significance. The tourism board offers a capital subsidy of 15-30 per cent for investments in wedding venues, further encouraging the development of this market. Medical tourism, however infamous, is set for future growth. The state has signed MOUs with companies specialising in yoga, meditation and naturopathy and is identifying suitable land parcels to support wellness tourism. An upcoming symposium on medical tourism aims to attract global players to Madhya Pradesh, highlighting the state's natural beauty and wellness offerings.

## Empowering women and ensuring safety in tourism

A strong focus on women's safety in tourism is at the core of Madhya Pradesh's initiatives. Through the Nirbhaya Fund, the state has trained 10,000 women in various fields within the tourism and hospitality industry, from guiding and cooking to front desk management. As part of this initiative, women-led services are available

for solo female travellers, offering everything from female guides to women-only hotel staff. In a bid to further promote women's empowerment, the state has also launched women-only establishments, including the Amalthas Hotel in Pachmarhi, which is entirely run by women. A similar initiative has been introduced with a cafe in Pranpur, Chanderi, managed by a team of trained women. These efforts are designed not only to ensure safety but also to encourage more women to participate in and benefit from the state's tourism growth.

## Connectivity and investment for the future

The State is continually working to enhance its tourism infrastructure, with robust road, rail and air connectivity. The state already has two international airports and three domestic airports, with plans for two additional airports in the coming time. The launch of the 'Vayu Seva' air connectivity scheme is set to connect more remote areas, including Rewa, Singroli and Ujjain, making it easier for tourists to access these destinations. Investment promotion is a key focus, with the state offering 580 hectares of land to investors looking to build resorts, branded hotels and wildlife lodges. Also, Madhya Pradesh's film-friendly policies offer significant incentives to production companies, further boosting the state's visibility as a prime filming location.

With such a diverse range of initiatives, from offbeat tourism to empowering women, Madhya Pradesh is truly on its way to becoming a global tourism destination. The combined efforts of the state and its stakeholders promise a future where Madhya Pradesh is not only a favourite domestic destination but a beacon of international tourism.



## Celebrating World Tourism Day 2024: A journey towards peace and understanding

*As we commemorate World Tourism Day 2024 on September 27, we reflect on the profound influence of travel in fostering global peace and understanding.*

**By Ayushi Anand**

Established by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in 1980, this day not only highlights the significance of tourism in driving economic growth but also underscores its role in promoting social and cultural development.

The theme for this year, "Tourism and Peace," invites us to explore the intricate relationship between travel and the harmonious coexistence of diverse cultures.

### **A day rooted in history**

World Tourism Day is celebrated annually on September 27, marking the anniversary of the adoption of the UNWTO statutes in 1975. This date serves as a reminder of tourism's potential to bridge divides, connect communities and cultivate mutual respect. As the world continues to

recover from the pandemic, this year's celebration is particularly significant, as it takes place amidst a resurgence in travel, with global tourism rebounding to 96% of pre-pandemic levels.

This year's host country, Georgia, offers a fitting backdrop for the celebration, showcasing its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Known for its stunning mountains, ancient history and warm hospitality, Georgia exemplifies the spirit of adventure and connection that tourism embodies. The nation is committed to sustainable practices, ensuring that its natural beauty and cultural richness endure for generations to come.

### **Promoting peace and compassion**

As Pranav Dangi, Founder and CEO of The Hosteller, aptly stated, "Travel has the unique power to break down

cultural barriers, promote empathy and foster meaningful connections between people from diverse backgrounds." At The Hosteller, the focus is on creating shared spaces where travellers can immerse themselves in local cultures and engage in intercultural dialogue. From participating in local festivals to supporting artisans, each experience is a step towards greater understanding and respect for diverse customs and traditions.

Dangi's vision resonates deeply in today's global landscape, where fostering empathy and tolerance is more important than ever. The shared experiences that emerge from travel not only enrich the traveller but also contribute to a more inclusive and compassionate global community.



**Bulat Nurmukhanov**

## **A commitment to sustainable travel**

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, Ashok Vashist, Founder and CEO of WTICabs, celebrates the resilience of global tourism. "While we reflect on our contribution to this recovery, our focus remains on providing seamless travel experiences across diverse destinations," he said. WTICabs is committed to sustainability, with eco-friendly transportation services that connect travellers to the heart of local cultures while minimising carbon footprints.

As the demand for authentic, off-the-beaten-path experiences continues to grow, Vashist emphasises the importance of responsible tourism practices. "Our aim is to foster tourism that benefits local communities and preserves destinations for future generations," he asserted. This commitment aligns perfectly with the theme of World Tourism Day, reminding us that travel can be a force for good.

## **A broader perspective on tourism**

Bulat Nurmukhanov, Deputy Chairman



**Ashok Vashist**

of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, articulated the essence of tourism: "Tourism is a truly remarkable field, having always been more than just a type of leisure or merely a source of revenue for individual regions or cities. It is primarily a way to get immersed in new cultures and experience history." His insights remind us that every journey offers an opportunity for personal growth and a deeper understanding of the world.

Nurmukhanov further highlighted the importance of feedback from tourists, noting the impact of famous landmarks in Moscow that leave a lasting impression. This feedback not only shapes tourism strategies but also reinforces the notion that every destination has its unique narrative waiting to be discovered.

## **Embracing diversity through travel**

On World Tourism Day, we are reminded that every journey is an opportunity to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our world. Travel allows us to step outside our comfort zones



**Pranav Dangi**

and engage with diverse communities, fostering dialogue and understanding. By appreciating different perspectives and traditions, we not only enrich our own lives but also contribute to global harmony. Whether it's tasting local cuisines, participating in traditional ceremonies or simply sharing stories with fellow travellers, each encounter has the potential to break down barriers and build bridges.

## **Looking ahead**

Let us celebrate the incredible connections we make through travel and the cultures we embrace. The day serves as a reminder that tourism can be a powerful vehicle for peace, understanding and sustainable practices. We encourage our readers to embark on new adventures, immerse themselves in diverse cultures and engage with the communities they visit. In doing so, we contribute to a more compassionate world, one journey at a time. As we embrace the spirit of World Tourism Day, may your travels be filled with wonder, discovery and lasting memories. Happy World Tourism Day!

# From Himalayas to Canyons exploring global adventures in autumn's splendour

*When the golden hues of autumn start to paint the landscapes and the crispness of fall is around, there is no better time to embark on an adventure. Offering a pleasant weather, October serves as the perfect month for travellers to indulge in adrenaline-pumping activities. There are many awe-inspiring adventure activities which travel enthusiasts can experience during the autumn season which comes with a blend of cooler temperatures and natural beauty. Whether you're craving the rugged landscapes of India's untamed wilderness or the pulse-pounding activities in renowned international destinations, this is the time to embrace the call of the wild.*

**By Vaidehi Kaushik**

## Autumn - the season for adventure

There is something magical about the autumn season that makes it the best time for adventure tourism. The cooler temperatures provide comfort for physically demanding activities, whether you're trekking in the Himalayas or hiking through the canyons of Utah. The post-monsoon and pre-winter periods offer optimal conditions for many outdoor sports, from rafting to skydiving. One gets to experience breathtaking natural beauty— such as the fiery leaves of Canada and the flaxen hills of New Zealand.

For those who seek adrenaline-fuelled experiences, this season is not just a transition from summer to winter; it's the ultimate time for exploration and thrill.

So, pack your gear and get ready to make the most of this season, where every thrill comes with a touch of autumnal beauty!

## Adventure awaits in every corner of India

From the towering Himalayas to the



coastal plains and arid deserts, India is a playground for adrenaline junkies. Autumn transforms the country's varied landscapes into spectacles of vibrant colours and pleasant weather, making it the best time for adventure tourism.

### Manali, Himachal Pradesh

Nestled in the heart of Himachal Pradesh, Manali is the gateway to some of India's most thrilling trekking routes and paragliding adventures. During this time of the month, the trails are clear after the monsoon rains and the landscape is washed with hues of gold and orange. Trekking through Solang Valley or up to Hampta Pass is a dream for hikers, while paragliders can soar over the valleys, enjoying the stunning scenery from dizzying heights.

### Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

Known as the 'Yoga Capital of the World', Rishikesh is also a haven for adventure lovers, especially white-water rafting. The post-monsoon flow of the Ganges makes it ideal for tackling rapids, with the river offering the perfect challenge. The surrounding forests and riverbanks transform into vibrant shades of autumn, providing an exhilarating yet scenic experience.

### Leh-Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir

Autumn is the last opportunity for motorbike enthusiasts to traverse the mighty roads of Leh-Ladakh before winter snows close the passes. The barren, rugged landscape of the Himalayas takes on an almost mystical





## Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Autumn is the best time to visit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for water-based adventures. With the monsoon season over, the waters around the islands become crystal clear, offering perfect conditions for snorkelling and scuba diving. Explore the vibrant coral reefs and marine life at sites such as Havelock Island and Neil Island, where the sun and calm seas ensure a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## Kerala

While Kerala is known for its tranquil backwaters, the hill station of Vagamon offers some of the best paragliding experiences in India. The weather is calm and cool, with sweeping views of the green hills and valleys that stretch as far as the eye can view. Paragliders can float above the mist-covered hills, catching the cool breezes of the season while taking in Kerala's natural beauty.

## Rajasthan

October is the best month to experience the Thar Desert in Rajasthan. The scorching heat of summer has given way to cooler, more pleasant temperatures, making it ideal for activities like dune

quality under the sky. The cool, dry air is apt for biking through mountain passes like Khardung La, one of the highest motorable roads in the world.

## Goa

While known for its beaches, Goa, offers much more in terms of adventure tourism, particularly kitesurfing and scuba diving. The waters calm down after the monsoons and October brings ideal conditions for both activities. The pleasant, dry climate is the right time for kitesurfing along Goa's beaches.

## Meghalaya

Autumn in Meghalaya, the land of clouds, is the perfect time to explore its stunning network of caves and waterfalls. The monsoon rains subside, leaving the caves and falls more accessible. Rappelling down waterfalls like the famous Nohkalikai Falls, the highest in India, is a must-do activity for thrill-seekers. The lush greenery of the region, refreshed by the rains, bursts into vibrant hues, offering a unique adventure in one of India's most scenic landscapes.





bashing and camel safaris. Jaisalmer, with its golden sand dunes, offers thrilling off-road desert safaris where travellers can experience the vast, dramatic landscape and even camp under the stars.

## Sikkim

Autumn brings clear skies and perfect conditions for mountaineering in the Eastern Himalayas, with Sikkim standing out as a top destination. The crisp air and vibrant mountain landscapes make trekking routes like the Goechala Trail an unforgettable adventure. For those seeking a different kind of thrill, the Teesta River is prime for rafting, with its cool, clear waters flowing with just the right amount of challenge.

## Karnataka

For adventure lovers, fall is the best time to visit Badami, Karnataka's rock-climbing haven. The sandstone cliffs, bathed in the fair light, provide a challenge to both beginner and experienced climbers. The cool, dry weather ensures safe climbing

conditions, with the striking red and gold landscape adding to the adventure.

## Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu offers the perfect climate for trekking and rock climbing in the serene Yelagiri Hills. As the summer heat fades, the cool, pleasant weather makes it ideal for exploring the rugged landscapes. The Swamimalai Hills Trek, a favourite among adventurers, provides panoramic views of the valley from its peak. The clear skies and mild temperatures create favourable conditions for rock climbing, making

Yelagiri a must-visit destination for thrill-seekers during this season.

## Maharashtra

In Maharashtra, experience the thrill of white-water rafting on the Kundalika River in Kolad. The monsoon rains swell the river and by this time of the month, the flow is apt for rafting—challenging enough for adventure lovers, yet safe and enjoyable. The surrounding landscapes, rich from the rains, create a stunning backdrop, making rafting here an exhilarating and scenic adventure in the heart of nature.



## International thrills of adventure destinations

For those looking to venture abroad, fall season is also the best time to explore some of the world's most famous adventure destinations.



destination for thrill-seekers, with everything from canyoning in the fast-flowing rivers to paragliding over Lake Thun and Lake Brienz.

### The United States of America

The vast, otherworldly landscapes of Utah's national parks—Zion, Bryce Canyon and Arches—are perfect for canyoneering and rock climbing in autumn. The cooler weather allows adventurers to explore the deep canyons without the scorching summer heat and the parks' fiery red rock formations contrast beautifully against the clear blue skies. With fewer tourists at that time, it's the perfect time for both seasoned climbers and beginners to experience the grandeur of the American Southwest.

### New Zealand

New Zealand's stunning South Island becomes more spectacular in fall, with its golden landscapes offering the perfect setting for adventure. It is the ideal time for glacier hiking on the Franz Josef Glacier, as the cooler temperatures create promising trekking conditions. If you're after something even more heart-pumping, skydiving over Queenstown allows you to take in panoramic views of snow-capped mountains and gleaming forests, a view that's unmatched during any other season.

of hiking more comfortable, while the vibrant landscape ensures stunning vistas around every corner.

### Switzerland

The Swiss Alps are a wonderland for adventure seekers. Before the winter snow sets in, the alpine meadows and forests turn fiery shades of red and orange, providing a stunning scene for hiking, mountain biking and even paragliding. Interlaken is a top

### Canada

Fall in Canada is synonymous with vibrant foliage, but for adventure lovers, it is also the perfect time for kayaking and wildlife expeditions. Kayaking along the rugged coastline of British Columbia offers the chance to spot whales, sea lions and bald eagles. The fresh air and calm waters create ideal conditions for paddling, while the surrounding forests burst into a kaleidoscope of hues.

### Nepal

The season of harvest is peak trekking season in Nepal, especially on the famous Annapurna Circuit. The post-monsoon skies are clear and the trails are alive with bright colours. It is the perfect time to embark on one of the world's most iconic treks, passing through picturesque villages, alpine meadows and towering peaks. The cooler temperatures make long days



# Exploring wild frontiers: Louisiana's wetlands and Indonesia's islands

*Adventure tourism offers travellers the chance to explore some of the world's most extraordinary landscapes, from vast wetlands to volcanic islands.*

**By Vaidehi Kaushik**



Two such destinations with unique offerings are, Louisiana, with its sprawling Atchafalaya Basin and Indonesia, an archipelagic wonderland with active volcanoes and pristine marine environments. Leaders from both regions—Billy Nungesser, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana and Nobel Pardamean, Deputy Director of Tourism Marketing for Indonesia—highlight the unforgettable experiences awaiting thrill-seekers in their respective territories. Keep reading as we tell you exciting insights that make these destinations truly special.

## **Louisiana's Atchafalaya basin adventure**

Billy Nungesser, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, paints an enticing picture of Louisiana's adventure tourism scene. "Louisiana has the largest wetlands, the Atchafalaya Basin, where you can experience airboat tours and interact

with alligators and wildlife like nowhere else in the world," he said.

The Atchafalaya Basin offers a one-of-a-kind encounter with nature's untamed beauty. "We have many swamp tours along the whole coast where you will be out there with the wildlife and feed the alligators, something you don't do anywhere else in the world," he added. It's not just an exploration of the wetlands, but an immersive adventure into Louisiana's wild side, where visitors are brought up close to the wildlife.

## **Indonesia's volcanoes and marine adventures**

Nobel Pardamean, Deputy Director of Tourism Marketing for South and Central Asia at the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia, showcases the thrilling variety of adventure opportunities in Indonesia. "Indonesia is the largest archipelagic country in the world; we have plenty

of attractions starting from beaches, beautiful underwater and also highlands, mountains and volcanoes," he stated, inviting adventurers to explore beyond the usual.

"Apart from Bali, there are many other destinations special for adventures in Indonesia. One is Labuan Bajo with very beautiful underwater scenery and also the Komodo Dragon," he highlighted. "Mount Bromo is an active volcano and it's very famous because the sunrise is very beautiful there. There's also Mount Merapi in Central Java," he continued, reassuring that "even though it is an active volcano, it's perfectly safe to go because we are watching closely to the volcanic status." From marine marvels to volcanic treks, Indonesia offers a thrilling spectrum of adventure tourism, particularly for those looking to explore both underwater wonders and fiery mountain landscapes.

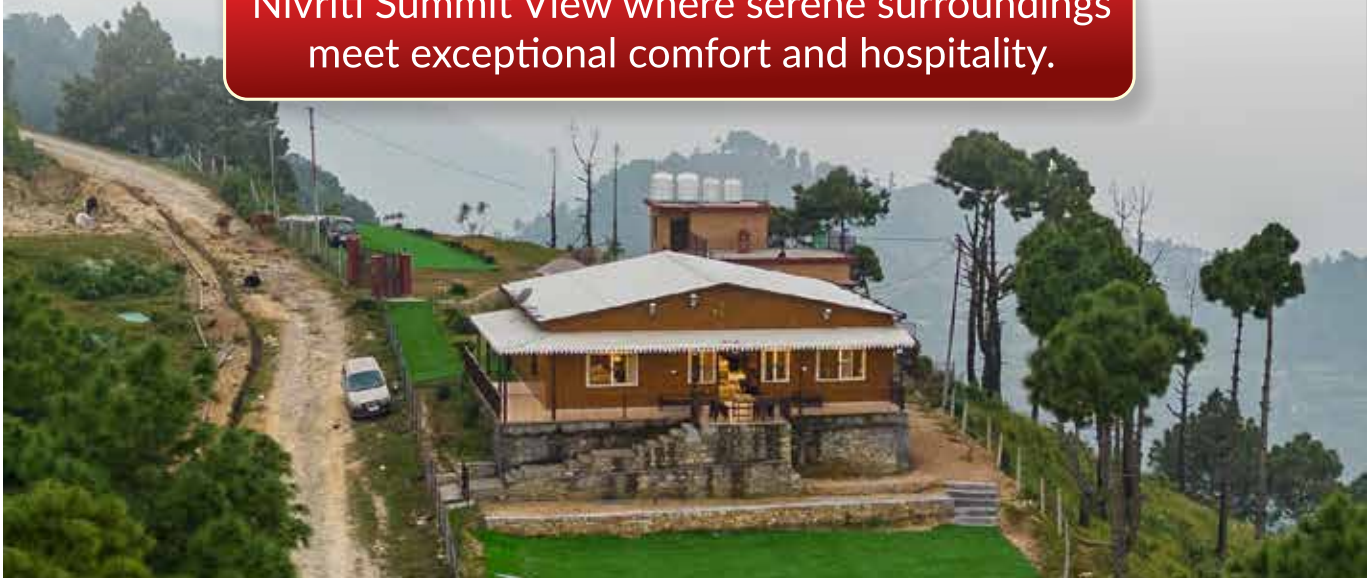




#UttarakhandHomeStay

# Scenic Bliss, Ultimate Relaxation

Nivriti Summit View where serene surroundings meet exceptional comfort and hospitality.



**FOR RESERVATION**

**+91 8383 8644 00**

info@nivritisummitview.com | bkng@nivritisummitview.com

Jihar, Near - Basot, Bhikiyasen, Distt - Almora,  
Uttarakhand, Pin - 263860, India

[www.nivritisummitview.com](http://www.nivritisummitview.com)



**Uttarakhand**  
Simply Heaven!

## A Balinese escape in Uttar Pradesh: Arun Khurana's journey in transforming Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai

*The launch of Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai, began with a clear vision to provide a unique and upscale experience to a region lacking such offerings. Located in Orai, Uttar Pradesh, this is a premier hotel which offers an ideal blend of luxury and comfort to both business and leisure travellers.*

**By Ayushi Anand**



The hotel ensures a serene stay with minimalistic designed rooms, suites and cottages. Guests can choose from six room categories, including deluxe twin and double rooms, executive rooms, executive cottages, suites and honeymoon cottages.

The in-house restaurant - Flavours serves a diverse selection of delectable dishes and refreshing beverages, which leads to a delightful culinary experience. With six sophisticated event venues—Lotus, Lotus Garden, Hibiscus, Euphorbia, poolside and Daffodil—the hotel is well-equipped for hosting events of all kinds especially weddings. Orai is a spiritual destination known for its religious sites such as the Radhakrishna Mandir, Maharishi Vedvyas Mandir and Beri Wale Baba Dargah. "Our location is our biggest USP," exclaimed Arun Khurana, General Manager, Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai, emphasising on the fact that the hotel is strategically positioned between the emerging smart cities of Jhansi and Kanpur, both 100 kilometres away. This ideal location, combined with a modern, Bali-inspired design, makes the property an oasis of comfort and luxury in the Bundelkhand region.

### **Diverse offerings of the hotel**

Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai caters to a variety of needs, including banqueting, staycations and MICE. With one of



the largest banquet facilities in Bundelkhand, the hotel has become a sought-after destination for weddings and large events. “We are fulfilling our vision of catering to multiple segments,” Khurana mentioned proudly. The hotel is equipped with five categories of rooms, offering flexibility and comfort to every kind of traveller, whether corporate guests, couples on honeymoon or families on holiday. “You won’t find this variety in many hotels unless it’s a star hotel,” he added.



## Turning challenges into opportunities

Operating a luxury hotel in a smaller city like Orai comes with its own set of challenges, but Khurana sees them as opportunities. “People in the town are not used to such big hotels,” he admitted, but he believes that every challenge should be viewed as an opportunity for growth. One of the key challenges is introducing locals and visitors to the idea of Orai as a destination. He revealed that the hotel’s excellent infrastructure plays a significant role in achieving this vision.





The hotel ensures a serene stay with minimalistic designed rooms, suites and cottages. Guests can choose from six room categories, including deluxe twin and double rooms, executive rooms, executive cottages, suites and honeymoon cottages.

The in-house restaurant - Flavours serves a diverse selection of delectable dishes and refreshing beverages, which leads to a delightful culinary experience. With six sophisticated event venues—Lotus, Lotus Garden, Hibiscus, Euphorbia, poolside and Daffodil—the hotel is well-equipped for hosting events of all kinds especially weddings. Orai is a spiritual destination known for its religious sites such as the Radhakrishna Mandir, Maharishi Vedvyas Mandir and Beri Wale Baba Dargah. “Our location is our biggest USP,” exclaimed Arun Khurana, General Manager, Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai, emphasising on the fact that the hotel is strategically positioned between the emerging smart cities of Jhansi and Kanpur, both 100 kilometres away. This ideal location, combined with a modern, Bali-inspired design, makes the property an oasis of comfort and

luxury in the Bundelkhand region.

### **Diverse offerings of the hotel**

Shyama Sarovar Portico Orai caters to a variety of needs, including banqueting, staycations and MICE. With one of the largest banquet facilities in Bundelkhand, the hotel has become a sought-after destination for weddings and large events. “We are fulfilling our vision of catering to multiple segments,” Khurana mentioned proudly. The hotel is equipped with five categories of rooms, offering flexibility and comfort to every kind of traveller,

whether corporate guests, couples on honeymoon or families on holiday. “You won’t find this variety in many hotels unless it’s a star hotel,” he added.

### **Turning challenges into opportunities**

Operating a luxury hotel in a smaller city like Orai comes with its own set of challenges, but Khurana sees them as opportunities. “People in the town are not used to such big hotels,” he admitted, but he believes that every challenge should be viewed as an opportunity for growth. One of the key challenges







is introducing locals and visitors to the idea of Orai as a destination. He revealed that the hotel's excellent infrastructure plays a significant role in achieving this vision.

### **A Bali inspired escape**

One of the unique features of Sarovar Portico Orai is its Balinese theme, which was conceptualised to offer something different for the people of Orai and neighbouring cities. "We wanted to give something unique to the people here and to an extent, we are the only hotel like this up till Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh," Khurana explained. The hotel's design features, 'the gate of heavens' at the hotel's entrance, water bodies shaped like lions and intricate carvings in the rooms and public areas. "Guests are often taken aback by surprise when they see such a hotel in a small city," he said, noting how the theme adds to the overall experience.

### **Top-class amenities and services**

The amenities at Sarovar Portico Orai are a testament to its commitment to luxury and guest satisfaction. The banquet hall, with a ceiling height of 44 feet, can host up to 1,500 guests, making



it one of the largest in the region. "Our facilities, including a swimming pool, gym and multi-cuisine restaurant, make us a completely fulfilled hotel," said Khurana.

### **The numbers behind success**

In terms of investment, the hotel represents a significant venture. "The investment is about 70-80 crores," Khurana revealed, but he was quick to add that it is too early to fully evaluate

the ROI. However, the hotel's second year of operations has seen increase in footfalls and growing awareness of its services. "People are becoming more aware of our product and that's what keeps us motivated," he said.

### **A focus on quality**

Maintaining high standards of hospitality in a smaller city like Orai requires a careful balance, but Khurana

## Welcom Heritage Cheetahgarh Resort & Spa unveils a luxurious new banquet venue amidst Rajasthan's wilderness

*WelcomHeritage Cheetahgarh Resort & Spa unveiled its new banqueting facility, set against the stunning backdrop of the Aravalli hills in Bera, Rajasthan. This charming venue is designed for intimate gatherings and smaller weddings, blending contemporary style with classic elegance, making it an ideal choice for special occasions.*

**By Anubha Surana**



### Indoor and outdoor spaces

The newly launched banquet hall at the resort offers an inviting indoor space that can comfortably host up to 70 guests. For those desiring a larger setting, the banquet opens onto a spacious outdoor garden, which can accommodate an additional 50 guests, bringing the total capacity to around 150. This versatile arrangement allows for personalised events, enhanced by the serene and scenic surroundings of the resort.

### Personalised experiences

The resort's skilled events team is dedicated to helping guests craft unforgettable experiences, offering tailored services that include event planning, decorative arrangements and customised dining options. The culinary team is ready to serve a wide selection of delectable dishes, with a menu that

features both authentic Rajasthani flavours and international cuisines, ensuring every guest is catered for. Beyond its impressive event spaces, WelcomHeritage Cheetahgarh Resort & Spa is renowned for its luxurious take on the unspoilt wilderness of Rajasthan and its immersive Jawai experiences. The resort spans 20 acres of pristine landscape and boasts 22 opulent rooms, one- and two-bedroom chalets, villas and luxury tents, some of which feature private temperature-controlled

pools with outdoor decks.

For events requiring additional accommodation, the nearby hotel offers extra rooms, ensuring that all attendees enjoy a comfortable stay.

### The perfect escape

The resort's location, along with its curated activities, enhances its appeal, providing guests with the chance to explore the cultural and natural beauty of the region. Visitors can partake in leopard safaris, birdwatching, guided walks through the vibrant Rabari villages, rock climbing, archery, trekking and tours of historic temples and forts. WelcomHeritage Cheetahgarh Resort & Spa offers an ideal choice for those looking at a relaxing yet enthralling break from the mundane chaos of urban life, romantic getaways, intimate family and friends' reunions, solo and all-women holidays or for those interested in exploring Bera's fascinating wilderness and culture whilst immersed in ultimate luxury.





The  
Grand  
HO TRAM



Welcome to  
**DISTRICT  
VUI**

*The new icon defining  
luxury entertainment*

  
**INTERCONTINENTAL.**  
GRAND HO TRAM

  
AN IHG<sup>®</sup> HOTEL  
HO TRAM BEACH

 **ixora**  
by fusion  
ho tram

THE  
**BLUFFS**  
— GRAND HO TRAM —

Phuoc Thuan, Xuyen Moc, Ba Ria - Vung Tau, Viet Nam

T: 028 3528 5301 | E: sales@thegrandhotram.com | www.thegrandhotram.com

# Postcard travel club partners with CGH Earth

*Postcard Travel Club, a community dedicated to conscious luxury travellers, travel designers, storytellers and boutique properties that promote responsible tourism, has partnered with CGH Earth to add 20 boutique properties to its platform.*

**By Anubha Surana**

Postcard Travel Club, a community dedicated to conscious luxury travellers, travel designers, storytellers and boutique properties that promote responsible tourism, has partnered with CGH Earth to add 20 boutique properties to its platform.

These properties, located across Southern India, are known for offering unique, experience-focused stays that support sustainable tourism. This collaboration strengthens both organisations' dedication to environmental sustainability, community involvement and mindful travel.

Commenting on the collaboration, Amit Jaipura, Founder and CEO of Postcard Travel Club, said, "Postcard Travel Club is delighted to announce a new alliance with CGH Earth as we advance our mission of bringing together all stakeholders in conscious luxury travel. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in our journey and brings us closer to our goal of onboarding 500+ partners in 50+ countries by the end of 2024."

As part of this partnership, the Postcard Travel Club platform now features a range of distinctive properties from CGH Earth, including Spice Village Resort, Coconut Lagoon Resort, Merari Beach Resort and Lockhart Bungalow. These properties offer a variety of immersive experiences, such as exploring Kerala's serene backwaters, wellness



**Palais de Mahe Facade**

retreats in eco-sensitive areas and heritage stays in culturally significant locations. CGH Earth's commitment to responsible tourism is reflected in their eco-conscious practices, which prioritise resource conservation, waste reduction and the preservation of local traditions and biodiversity.

"CGH Earth is about the transformative power of travel that nurtures and respects the environment, community and culture. We are proud to partner with Postcard Travel Club and further amplify our shared belief in responsible tourism," added Shilendran M, Vice President Sales, CGH Earth.

In addition to this collaboration, Postcard Travel Club has recently launched a new website designed to offer an engaging and interactive



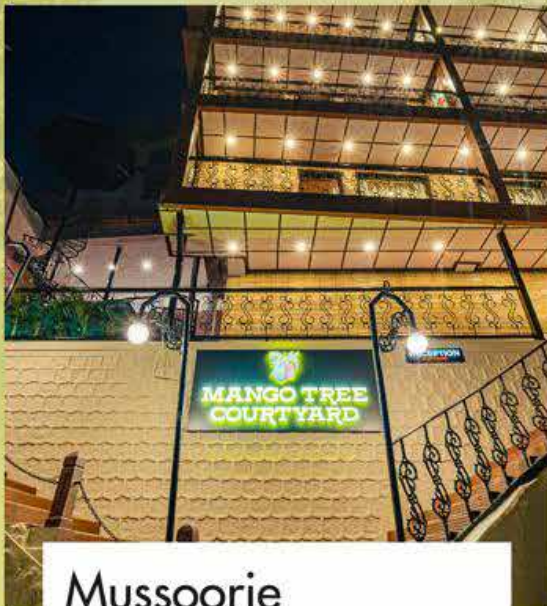
**Marari Beach**

experience for its users. The brand has also introduced the "Postcard Search Engine," a unique tool that allows conscious luxury travellers to discover immersive experiences and boutique properties based on their personal interests and values.

# A Stay Like No Other

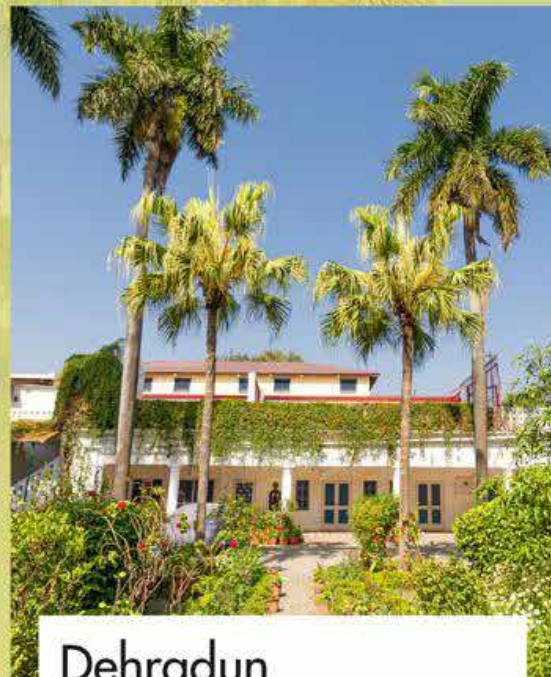


Indulge in the perfect blend of casual elegance and homeliness at Mango Tree Courtyard Dehradun, Mussoorie, and Goa.  
Whether you seek Dehradun's liveliness, the majestic hills of Mussoorie, or Goa's spectacular sunsets and beaches, you have all the makings of your dream getaway.  
Come. Relax. Enjoy. Explore.



## Mussoorie

Mango Tree Courtyard Mussoorie provides panoramic vistas of rolling hills and misty mornings. Well-appointed, cozy rooms enhance your connection with the surrounding beauty, thanks to large windows and balconies that bring the outside in. And don't miss Mall Road's endless shopping and dining options, a short walk away from your peaceful retreat.



## Dehradun

History, elegance and graciousness are hallmarks of Mango Tree Courtyard Dehradun. Wake to the melody of birds singing in the trees, a steaming cup of coffee and a delicious, home-cooked breakfast. This century-old, heritage family property boasts spacious rooms, tasteful decor, modern amenities, and lush gardens beckoning you to relax and unwind.



## Goa

Strategically located to offer easy access to the best beaches, restaurants and clubs, Mango Tree Courtyard Goa offers a haven of comfort. Chic decor, modern amenities and attentive staff ensure your stay is as delightful as the destination itself.

## Illinois Office of Tourism opens New Delhi office in collaboration with Sartha Global Marketing

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Tourism, has launched a new office in New Delhi, India, to attract more Indian travellers to the state. Appointing Sartha Global Marketing LLP as their partner for marketing and promotional efforts, Illinois aims to inspire Indian tourists to explore its unique blend of luxury, outdoor adventures and cultural attractions.

### Here's why you should visit Illinois

Illinois is renowned for its world-class dining, from Chicago's Michelin-starred restaurants to hidden local gems, as well as its rich cultural experiences, including vibrant festivals, art galleries, museums, and shopping. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the state's 64 parks, a national forest, seven scenic byways and the legendary Route 66,

providing endless opportunities for exploration. Illinois is perfect for families, offering year-round attractions such as waterparks, zoos, amusement parks and museums. The state also boasts a pulsating sports scene with numerous events throughout the year. Accommodation options range from opulent hotels to secluded forest cabins, catering to all types of travellers.

Illinois is easily accessible, with Chicago O'Hare International Airport, one of the busiest in the world, offering direct flights from India. Daniel Thomas, Deputy Director of the Illinois Office of Tourism, highlighted India as the state's largest overseas source market, with a 55% increase in visitors between 2019 and 2023. He welcomed Indian travellers to discover Illinois' diverse offerings, from vibrant cities like Chicago to charming small towns and natural landscapes. Sheema Vohra,



Managing Director of Sartha Global Marketing, expressed excitement about promoting Illinois in India, describing it as a destination with dynamic cities, breathtaking outdoor adventures and a rich historical legacy. With so much to offer, Illinois is positioned as a must-visit destination for Indian travellers seeking a truly diverse and enriching experience.

## Embraer designates Fokker Services Asia as an Authorised Service Centre for E-Jets

Fokker Services Asia, a subsidiary of Fokker Services Group (FSG), has been appointed as an Embraer Authorised Service Centre, marking a significant milestone for both companies. This partnership was solidified during the Aviation Week MRO Asia Pacific 2024 event in Singapore, where the final contract was signed.

### About the partnership

The certification allows Fokker Services Asia to provide maintenance services for Embraer's first-generation E-Jets, particularly the E190 aircraft. This achievement not only enhances FSG's

operational capabilities in the Asia Pacific region but also strengthens Embraer's support network in this rapidly expanding market. Frank Stevens, Vice President of MRO Services at Embraer, expressed his satisfaction with the collaboration, highlighting the strategic importance of having an additional location to serve customers and expand their service footprint. Leon Kouters, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at FSG, shared his enthusiasm for meeting the stringent requirements and being recognised as an official service centre. Thomas Kennedy, Managing Director of Fokker Services Asia, noted that

the certification establishes a new line of work for the company, further expanding their expertise in Embraer aircraft maintenance. He emphasised the significance of already having Alliance Airlines' Embraer aircraft from Australia in their hangar, signalling their readiness and commitment to this new venture. Embraer's first-generation E-Jets are operated across the Asia Pacific by airlines in countries such as Australia, India, Myanmar, Japan and China, making this certification a vital step in supporting the region's growing aviation needs.

## IATO calls for financial backing for international promotion to revitalise inbound tourism



The Inbound Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has urgently called for government support, as tour operators continue to struggle with foreign tourist

arrivals (FTAs) still lagging behind pre-pandemic levels. The association attributes this slow recovery to the lack of budgetary support for international publicity and the withdrawal of incentives for tour operators, which had previously helped promote India in key markets like the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, France and Russia. While domestic and outbound tourism have rebounded strongly due to pent-up demand and incentives like visa fee waivers, India has not introduced similar measures to attract foreign tourists. As a result, neighbouring countries offering such benefits have drawn tourists away from India.

Rajiv Mehra, President of IATO, pointed out that while India saw 10.56 million and 10.93 million foreign tourists in

2018 and 2019, the figure for 2023 was only 9.24 million, with this year's growth unlikely to reach pre-pandemic levels. He highlighted that tourism contributed 5.19 per cent to India's GDP in 2019–2020, creating 79.86 million jobs, demonstrating the sector's potential. Mehra urged the government to restore or increase funding for international promotions, resume overseas advertising campaigns and introduce roadshows. He also suggested a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for tour operators to boost foreign exchange earnings, along with a visa fee waiver to stimulate inbound travel. These steps, according to IATO, could help India recover its FTAs and unlock significant economic opportunities.

## India's corporate travel market is projected to reach \$20.8 billion by FY30, doubling from its current value of \$10.6 billion



According to a Deloitte India report, corporate travel in India is driven by sectors such as IT, BFSI, pharmaceuticals and automotive, contributing 86% of travel spend among the top 100 companies. The report predicts that India's corporate travel sector, currently

valued at \$10.6 billion, will grow to \$20.8 billion by fiscal year 2030, with the overall travel market reaching \$97 billion. Airlines and hotels dominate 70% of the \$53 billion travel market, while railways and other transport modes account for the rest.

The corporate air travel market is valued at \$3.4 billion domestically, with 25% of bookings made through corporate contracts and 15% through agents or online travel agencies, including SME fares. International corporate air travel is worth \$2.2 billion, with business and professional travel representing 17% of Indian departures. The report also highlights emerging trends such

as 'bleisure' and 'workcations,' which are reshaping business travel post-pandemic, as more travellers combine business with leisure. It points to travel management companies' evolving strategies, leveraging AI and data analytics to meet the demands of modern corporate travellers, focusing on cost efficiency, innovation and sustainability. Accommodation providers are adapting to this shift, offering tailored services to cater to hybrid work models and new traveller needs. This transformation reflects the growing importance of flexibility and technological integration in the corporate travel landscape.

## “India’s adventure tourism is unsafe due to lack of regulation and modern equipment,” PP Khanna, President of ADTOI

*The future of domestic tourism in India holds immense potential, with key industry leaders focusing on its growth and development.*

By Ayushi Anand



PP Khanna

The future of domestic tourism in India holds immense potential, with key industry leaders focusing on its growth and development. One such leader is PP Khanna, President of Association of Domestic Tourists of India (ADTOI), working towards the betterment of domestic tour operators and addressing the challenges facing adventure tourism and infrastructure in India.

### India’s youth: The key to tourism’s growth

With nearly 67 percent of India’s population under 35, Khanna sees immense potential in the younger generation to drive domestic tourism. He urges Indian youth to embrace the diverse offerings of their homeland, from the country’s natural landscapes to its rich cultural heritage. India’s vast geographical diversity – from lakes and mountains to deserts and beaches – it presents endless opportunities for exploration. Adventure tourism, in particular,

holds significant appeal for younger travellers, with activities ranging from trekking and paragliding to scuba diving. According to him, a large portion of India’s youth are eager to engage in such adventures every few months. Yet, he acknowledges that there are several hurdles to overcome.

### Safety and infrastructure challenges

Despite the growing interest in adventure tourism, safety remains a major concern. Khanna points out that India lags behind developed nations when it comes to adventure tourism infrastructure. “Tourists, especially youngsters, often feel unsafe due to the lack of modern equipment and clear regulations,” he said. In countries like the United States of America and across Europe, adventure activities are regulated to ensure the safety of participants, but this is not yet the case in India.

He called upon the Ministry of Tourism and other relevant bodies to address these shortcomings by introducing proper regulations and investing in state-of-the-art equipment. The coastline of India, with its 7500 km stretch and proximity to 73 percent of the Himalayas, offers tremendous potential for adventure tourism and cruise tourism. However, this potential remains largely untapped.

### Learning from smaller countries

Khanna highlighted how smaller countries, such as Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, have excelled in promoting safe and exciting adventure

tourism. These nations offer a wide range of well-organised and highly regulated adventure activities that draw tourists from across the globe. In contrast, India’s offerings are limited and underdeveloped. He believes that by learning from these countries, India can enhance its adventure tourism scene and make it more appealing to both domestic and international tourists.

### Hurdles in domestic tourism

India is one of the fastest-growing domestic tourism markets in the world. However, Khanna pointed out that the country still faces several infrastructure challenges. Airports and railways, while improving, are not yet up to the standards when compared to other smaller countries, especially in terms of cleanliness and efficiency.

One particular issue Khanna emphasised on is the lack of proper toilet facilities, especially in rural areas and along travel routes. This not only poses an inconvenience for tourists but can also lead to significant discomfort, particularly for women. He stressed that improving basic amenities like toilets is essential for making India a more traveller-friendly destination.

PP Khanna envisions a future where domestic tourism in India flourishes, driven by the energy of the country’s youth and supported by robust infrastructure. He believes that with improvements in safety, accessibility and amenities, India can become a top destination for adventure and domestic travel.



## NIMA celebrates 10 years and declares 2025 the “Year of MICE Tourism”

*As Network of Indian MICE Agents (NIMA) celebrated its 10-year milestone on August 28, 2024, it continues to shine as a pioneer for Indian MICE agents.*



As Network of Indian MICE Agents (NIMA) celebrated its 10-year milestone on August 28, 2024, it continues to shine as a pioneer for Indian MICE agents. Since its inception in 2014, NIMA has championed the growth and development of the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry across the country. Over the past decade, it has upheld its promise of supporting its members with 100 per cent free membership, offering no hidden charges while fostering a community of professionals dedicated to excellence.

### Empowerment through practical skills and collaborations

NIMA has focused on empowering its members with practical education, skill enhancement programmes and mentorship in key areas such as digital marketing and social media. Partnering with national and regional tourism boards, it has curated a robust curriculum designed to keep MICE agents at the forefront of industry trends. Its strong commitment to

education extends even further, with NIMA tying up with institutions across the country to help shape curricula, offer live projects and support training and placement efforts.

### The year of Indian MICE Tourism

As the Ministry of Commerce & Industry continues its drive to position India as a global MICE hub, NIMA has pledged to complement these efforts by declaring 2025 the “Year of Indian MICE Tourism.” Throughout the year, events and activities will be held nationwide to promote MICE tourism from Raipur to Ranchi, Madurai to Mohali and from Agra to Amritsar. This nationwide celebration will showcase the incredible potential of India as a MICE destination, bringing together stakeholders from all corners of the country.

### World MICE Tourism day

Another remarkable initiative is the introduction of “World MICE Tourism Day,” set to be celebrated annually on June 21, the summer solstice in the

Northern Hemisphere. The day has been strategically chosen, as it symbolises the peak of the global travel and event season, making it an ideal time to highlight the significance of MICE tourism worldwide.

### Expansion and commitment to excellence

During the celebration, NIMA’s leaders spoke about the future vision of the organisation. Gajesh Giridhar emphasised on the importance of launching World MICE Tourism Day, while Vikas Khanduri highlighted the significance of 2025 as a defining year for MICE tourism in India. Dr Nitin Mittal discussed the organisation’s ongoing initiatives in education and training and Gurmeet Chhatwal elaborated on NIMA’s growing presence in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, stressing the importance of agents in these regions. International expansion is also on the horizon, with Jyoti Monga tasked with taking NIMA into international markets. Rajiv Chawla shared plans to establish NIMA’s presence in every state of India and Sanjay Sharma underlined the importance of establishing clear SLAs and SOPs for corporate MICE business, ensuring high standards of service and delivery.

The ten-year celebration team included Rakesh Arora and Dr Anup Tarafdar, whose contributions have been instrumental in NIMA’s journey so far. As the organisation embarks on its next decade, the future looks bright for Indian MICE tourism, with NIMA continuing to lead the way.

## The Lodhi enhances leadership with appointment of Anuj Nainta as the Hotel Manager



The Lodhi, New Delhi appointed Anuj Nainta as its new Hotel Manager. With over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Nainta brings a wealth of knowledge and a proven history of success to this esteemed position.

In his new role, Nainta will oversee the day-to-day operations of the luxury hotel, leading a team of 380 skilled associates. His responsibilities will include maintaining the hotel's high standards, ensuring guest satisfaction, driving innovative projects and optimising financial performance. Prior to his appointment Nainta was the Director of Food and Beverage at the Taj Mahal and Towers Hotel in Mumbai where he managed a team of 367 associates, overseeing nine well-regarded restaurants and bars, alongside eleven cutting-edge event spaces. His strategic approach to marketing, supplier negotiations and recruitment significantly contributed to the hotel's achievements.

## San Francisco Travel has appointed Anna Marie Presutti as its first female President and CEO in its 115-year history



The San Francisco Travel Association, the official destination marketing organisation for the City and County of San Francisco, has announced the immediate appointment of Anna Marie Presutti as its new President and CEO. Presutti had been serving as the interim President and CEO since mid-May.

In her new role, Presutti will lead one of the largest and oldest membership-based tourism promotion organisations in the U.S. San Francisco Travel markets the city internationally, aiming to attract conventions, meetings and leisure travellers. Tourism remains a key industry in San Francisco, generating significant revenue.

## TripJack names Subhodeep Bhattacharya as its new Chief Human Resources Officer



TripJack, a leading B2B travel platform, has appointed Subhodeep Bhattacharya as its Chief Human Resources Officer. In this role, Bhattacharya will lead a major HR transformation, aiming to drive growth and encourage innovation throughout the company.

With extensive experience in HR leadership, Bhattacharya joins TripJack from DreamSetGo by Dream Sports, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the organisation and leading strategic HR initiatives. Prior to that, he served as Head of Business HR and Talent Acquisition at TransUnion CIBIL and Head of Corporate HR at Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Funds.

## FCM Travel Asia has appointed Gursheel Dhillon as its new Head of Marketing



FCM Travel Asia has appointed Gursheel Dhillon as the new Head of Marketing. Dhillon, an experienced marketer and communicator, has played a crucial role in the business, managing Public Relations and Communications across six key markets in Asia.

In her first year with the company, Dhillon was named Global Corporate Marketer of the Year by the ASX-listed Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG), achieving over 800 media features. She has been instrumental in shaping FCM's narrative in Asia, helping to expand the brand's visibility across both trade and mainstream media while collaborating closely with key stakeholders.

## Sunjae Sharma appointed Chairperson of ASSOCHAM National Council on Travel and Tourism



Sunjae Sharma, Managing Director for India and Southwest Asia at Hyatt, has been appointed Chairperson of the ASSOCHAM National Council on Travel and Tourism for 2024. In this role, Sharma will collaborate with ASSOCHAM to address key challenges within the travel and tourism industry and drive its growth, helping to build a stronger and more resilient sector.

With over three decades of experience in hospitality, Sharma's appointment marks a significant milestone for ASSOCHAM as it continues to influence India's development in this field. He will play a pivotal role in advancing ASSOCHAM's policy initiatives and reinforcing its position as a leading knowledge hub for the tourism and hospitality industries.

## Massimo Brancaleoni named new CCO of Kempinski Hotels



Kempinski Hotels has announced the appointment of Massimo Brancaleoni as Chief Commercial Officer (COO), effective November 1, 2024.

An Italian national, Brancaleoni previously served as Senior Vice President of Sales and Revenues at Silversea Cruises and brings over 25 years of commercial expertise to his new role. He succeeds Amanda Elder, who has stepped down to explore new opportunities. Massimo has a strong history of managing large teams and creating successful global sales strategies. He dedicated a substantial portion of his career—20 years—to the cruise line company Costa Crociere.

## Amr Ali steers Egypt Air towards global expansion through innovation and bold strategies

*Egypt Air, established in 1932, is one of the pioneers in the global aviation sector and a leading airline in the Middle East and Africa. It is the first airline in Africa and the Middle East and seventh in the world to join the International Air Transport Association (IATA).*

By Ayushi Anand



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



Under the leadership of Amr Ali, General Manager, Egypt Air the airline continues to strengthen its position in the industry.

Egypt's strategic geographical location offers a significant advantage, allowing Cairo Airport to serve as a crucial hub connecting Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. According to Ali, "Our genius strategic geographical location supports Egypt Air a lot to continue its operation through Cairo airport for over 92 years now," demonstrating how the airline has leveraged this positioning to grow its network.

Ali highlights the airline's continuous efforts to maintain its competitiveness, including being a member of the Star Alliance, the largest airline alliance in the world, for over 15 years. Through partnerships with other global carriers such as Air India, Egypt Air has established extensive code-share agreements, enhancing its reach across

domestic and international markets. This network expansion includes new routes to Lisbon, Zurich, Somalia, Prague, Djibouti et al, demonstrating the airline's commitment to global growth.

### Sustainability in the sky

As environmental concerns are on the rise, Egypt Air has made significant strides to minimise its carbon footprint. The airline is focused on fleet renewal, with a strong emphasis on acquiring modern aircraft that are fuel-efficient and eco-friendly. "Fleet replacement and purchasing modern aircraft that reduce emissions and are more environment-friendly is very important to us," Ali explained.

"We participate in many conferences and workshops that focus on protecting the environment and reducing aircraft emissions," he said. Egypt Air is also exploring the use of biofuels, which Ali believes will play a key role in the

future of aviation.

### Enhancing the customer experience

Technology and customer comfort are central to Egypt Air's approach. "We introduced Wi-Fi on our aircraft, including the A320 Neo and flatbeds in the business class of the 777 and 787, providing more convenience for our customers," said Ali, highlighting recent advancements that have significantly improved the passenger experience.

In addition, Egypt Air offers transit to passengers at Cairo Airport which is a unique experience through its in-house travel agency, Karnak. Passengers with long layovers can explore Egypt's iconic landmarks, such as the Pyramids of Giza and the Egyptian Museum, without additional visa requirements.

### Adventure tourism and beyond

Egypt's rich potential for adventure tourism has not gone unnoticed



by Egypt Air. Ali emphasises on the airline's efforts to promote Egypt as a destination beyond the historical sites of Cairo. "We promote many destinations in Egypt beyond Cairo, like diving in Sharm ElSheikh and safaris in the Egyptian desert, famous for its white sands," he said.

Through its travel agencies and partnerships, Egypt Air offers a variety of tourist packages. These cater to diverse interests, including diving in the Red Sea, camping in Dahab and mountain tourism in Sinai. Ali also spoke about the safety and security of Egypt, which is a key factor in encouraging adventure tourism. "We have a big diversity for the tourist products like cultural tourism, beach tourism, sea tourism, we have water sports like diving-blue hole which is the most famous place for diving in the world. We have coral diving to enjoy the colourful corals under Egyptian seas especially in the Red Sea. We have also

mountain tourism like in Santa Catarina which is the highest peak in Egypt and one of the highest in Africa. We also have religious tourism with places that deserve a visit like Pharaonic, Islamic, Christian and the temples in Luxor and Aswan," Ali revealed.

### **Fleet expansion and future plans**

Egypt Air plans to double its fleet size over the next decade, "We already have ordered a number of aircrafts between narrow and wide body to enhance our fleet and our operations," he said. The airline is working towards expansion and plans to double its current number of carriers in the next 5 to 10 years.

### **Building stronger international ties**

In terms of international operations, Ali claimed that Egypt Air dominates the domestic market with an impressive number, confirming the airline's strong

position in Egypt. On the international front, Cairo Airport leads the market.

Egypt Air's presence in India has grown significantly. The airline has strengthened ties through diplomatic and business initiatives, regularly organising B2B events and partnering with local travel agencies. "We hold events to host our trade partners and award the best-performing agents," said Ali, highlighting the airline's efforts to build strong relationships in key markets like India.

Under Ali's leadership, Egypt Air is not only upholding its historical legacy but also forging a path forward with innovation, sustainability and customer-focused strategies. From expanding its global network to promoting adventure tourism, Egypt Air continues to evolve while maintaining its competitive edge in the aviation industry.

## Pandaw's new Cruise to Kochi to unveil Kerala's hidden gems in October 2025

*Pandaw, a specialist in Asian river cruises, is ready to unveil its newest vessel, the Kochi Pandaw, on the Kerala Backwaters in October 2025. This 10-cabin ship will provide a distinctive and intimate experience, allowing travellers to explore the scenic waterways of southwest India.*

**By Ayushi Anand**



### **A new era in Kerala river cruising**

The Kochi Pandaw will showcase Pandaw's signature design, featuring wraparound promenade decks. It will house four cabins on the upper deck and six on the main deck, along with a salon, guest relations area and a library. The vessel will offer a seven-night roundtrip cruise from Kochi, taking guests through both popular and hidden corners of the Kerala Backwaters, a 900-kilometre network of interconnected waterways. The itinerary will include visits to iconic sites such

as Fort Kochi, where travellers can explore landmarks like St Louis Church, Jew Town with its historic Paradesi Synagogue, bustling local markets and the Shiva Temple.

### **An enriching journey**

Passengers will also have the chance to visit Thanneermukkom, known for its Syrian Christian heritage, historic churches and the 1,400-metre-long Thanneermukkom Bund that divides Lake Vembanad. The journey continues to Kumarakom, where visitors can explore the Kumarakom

Bird Sanctuary, the Craft Museum and the traditional fishing village of Kavalam. Other highlights include the Munroe Lighthouse in Nattakom and Kettuvallam, where traditional wooden boats are crafted. The cruise will also stop in Alleppey, Thottappally and Perumbalam Island, offering travellers a chance to visit the Perumpalam Bhagavathy Temple and the village of Mannar. The launch of the Kochi Pandaw underscores Pandaw's commitment to providing culturally enriching and immersive travel experiences in one of India's most picturesque regions.

# Goa's new cruise terminal set to transform tourism experience

*Goa has seen a significant rise in cruise passenger arrivals, with a 40 percent increase recorded during the 2023-24 financial year. This surge has prompted the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) to expand and develop the International and Domestic Cruise Terminal in the state. According to an official release, the project is expected to be completed by March 2025 and aims to further boost tourism, enhance passenger convenience and support the local economy.*

**By Anubha Surana**



offering travellers enhanced services and amenities.

## Focus on enhanced passenger experience

The new cruise terminal's focus will be on delivering a superior passenger experience. The international terminal will feature 24 immigration counters, 10 check-in counters and a spacious waiting lounge, providing a seamless experience for travellers. The domestic terminal will offer similar amenities, including 12 check-in counters and comfortable waiting lounges. These enhancements aim to streamline the boarding and arrival processes, making Goa a more attractive destination for cruise tourism.

The new terminal will also include an ancillary commercial building, which will feature an experiential shopping zone specifically designed for cruise tourists but also open to the general public. The building will house duty-free shops, lounges and food courts, offering a wide range of services and entertainment options for travellers, further enhancing the overall cruise experience.

## Sustainable growth and economic benefits

With these developments, Goa is not only set to attract more cruise tourists

## Expansion of cruise terminal

The new terminal will offer a host of amenities designed to improve the overall experience for cruise passengers. According to an MPA official, these infrastructure developments are expected to strengthen Goa's position on the global cruise industry map. The terminal will be a key factor in attracting more international and domestic tourists, contributing to the state's already thriving tourism industry, which is particularly popular for its beaches and cultural heritage.

## Target of 1.5 million cruise tourists by 2030

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, has been actively monitoring the progress of the new cruise terminal project. In a tweet, Sonowal highlighted the

government's target of attracting 1.5 million cruise tourists by 2030. As part of his commitment to this goal, he inspected the ongoing construction at the domestic and international cruise terminals at Mormugao Port. Speaking at the Maritime States Development Council meeting held in Goa on September 12 and 13, officials remarked that the rise in global cruise traffic has significantly increased the number of cruise ships arriving at Mormugao Port. This upward trend signals strong potential for continued growth in Goa's cruise tourism sector.

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the number of cruise vessels calling at Goa increased by 15%, while cruise passenger numbers surged by 40% compared to the previous year. This growth is expected to continue as the new terminal nears completion,

## Norwegian Cruise Line introduces new luxury cruise ship available for booking in 2026

*Norwegian Cruise Line has introduced its latest luxury cruise ship, the Norwegian Luna, which is set to make its debut in March 2026. Promising an opulent Caribbean holiday experience, the ship will offer travellers a unique blend of luxury and adventure.*



### Sister ship to Norwegian Aqua

As the sister ship to the eagerly awaited Norwegian Aqua, Norwegian Luna will feature similar design elements and amenities, including the innovative Aqua Slidecoaster, Glow Court and Haven Suites. The vessel, however, will be 10% larger, providing additional space and facilities, with a length of 1,056 feet and the capacity to host around 3,550 passengers.

### Caribbean adventure awaits

The ship's exterior artwork, crafted by acclaimed street artist ELLE, is a breathtaking tribute to the moon and its shimmering reflection on the ocean.

Norwegian Luna will set sail from Miami, visiting a range of Caribbean destinations such as Roatan, Costa Maya, Cozumel, Harvest Caye, Puerto Plata, Tortola, St. Thomas and Great Stirrup Cay. Passengers will have the opportunity to indulge in a diverse array of dining and entertainment offerings on board, including speciality restaurants, bars, lounges and live performances.

### Unmatched on-board amenities

In addition, the ship boasts luxurious features like Ocean Boulevard, Vibe Beach Club and Infinity Beach, ensuring

ample relaxation opportunities amidst stunning seascapes. "Norwegian Luna is the second vessel in our acclaimed Prima Plus Class, representing the continued evolution of our fleet. This Class offers everything Indian cruisers love – more space to relax, diverse dining options, upscale health & wellness facilities and world-class entertainment venues. With the launch of Norwegian Luna, we continue to deliver more opportunities for our guests to embark on the holiday of their dreams across a choice of 400+ destinations," said Ben Angell, Vice President and Managing Director, Norwegian Cruise Line Asia-Pacific.



COME AND DISCOVER  
**COURCHEVEL**

FROM 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024 TO 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2025



The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy/Tourism and Creative Economy Agency (MoTCE) of the Republic of Indonesia in collaboration with Badung Regency Government of Bali and Indonesia tourism industry held a Tourism Sales Mission and Media Meet in New Delhi on September 16, 2024. The mission covered five cities—Bangalore, Chennai, New Delhi, Jaipur in India and Kathmandu in Nepal—aiming to strengthen Indonesia’s appeal as a top destination for South Asian travellers.



The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India organised the third edition of World Food India 2024 from September 19, 2024, to September 22, 2024, with the theme ‘Processing for Prosperity.’ The Government of Meghalaya launched Meghalaya Collectives with 21 food processing brands and FPO’s. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was also signed between the National Cooperatives of Organic Limited (NCOL) and MEGNOLIA to create a partnership focused on procuring, marketing, and selling organic products from Meghalaya. Subsequently, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) also launched its report on promoting Agri-export from Meghalaya. Present at the inauguration and launch were Dr Ashish Kumar Bhutani, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, Dr. Vijay Kumar D., IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Department, R. M. Mishra, Rtd. IAS, Executive Chairman, Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Government of Meghalaya, Abhishek Dev, IAS, Chairman, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Abhishek Dev, IAS, Chairman, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Meenesh Shah, Chairman, National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI) and Vipul Mittal, Managing Director, National Cooperative for Organic Limited (NCOL) and other officials from allied departments.



Travel Club International (TCI) held its second Networking Meet on September 25, 2024, at Delhi Gymkhana Club, New Delhi. The event was exclusively available to members and invitee guests. This event presented a distinctive chance to network, collaborate and establish enduring professional connections. The trade professionals indulged in an evening filled with valuable connections and enriching discussions.





Imagine a world where your

# dreams take shape

where spaces come alive and  
where every line, curve and angle  
tells a story...

# UTKARSH VASTUKARAN

Where imagination meets innovation...

We specialise in interior designing for  
**HOSPITALITY , LUXURY VILLAS, COMMERCIAL  
SEGMENTS & RESORTS.**

utkarshvastukaran @

Utkarsh Vastukaran Design studio



Shop No. 2, Ground Floor,  
Kshitij Vivanta Apartments, Lake Road,  
Bhandup-west, Mumbai-400078

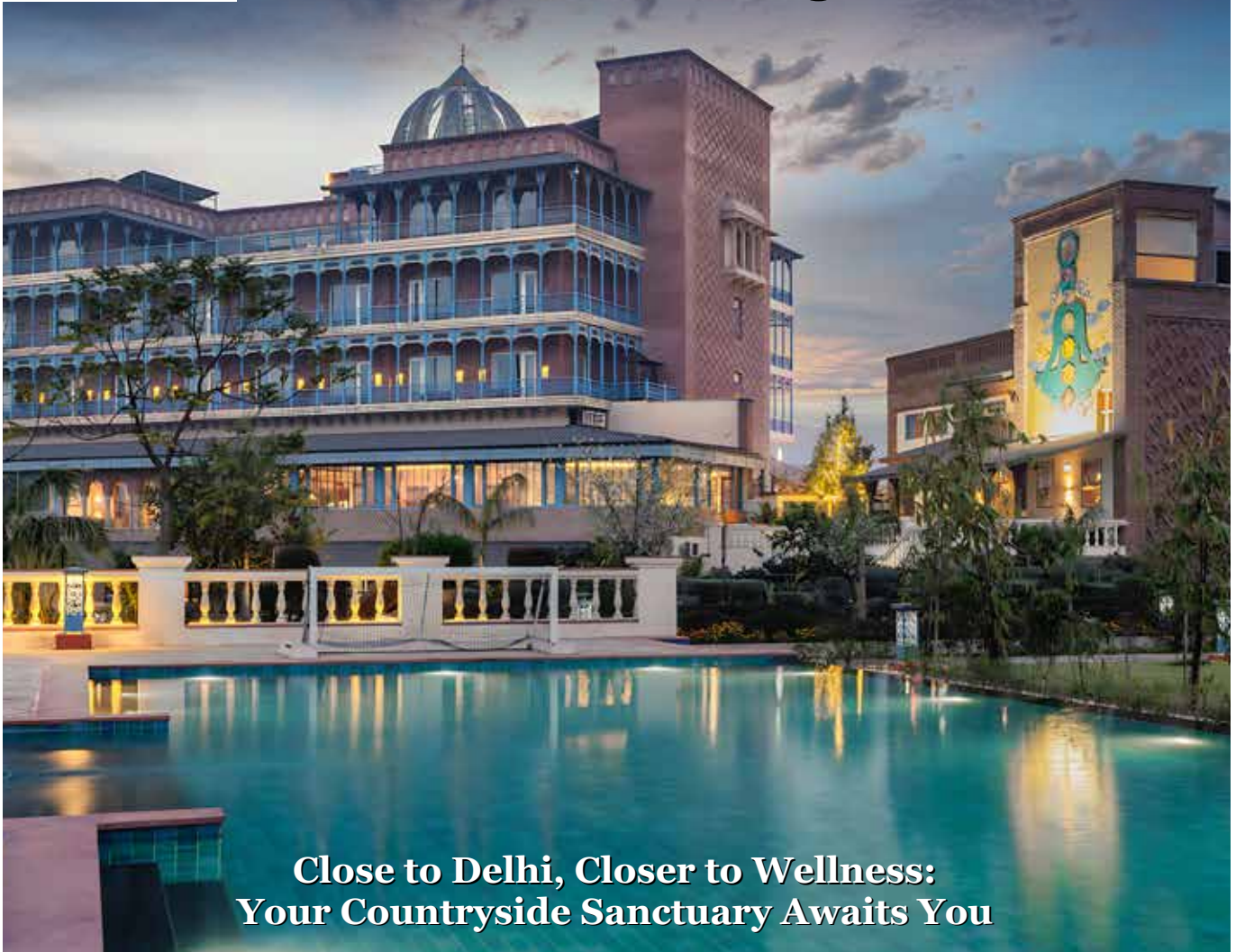
+91 98330-06111  
utkarshvastukaran@gmail.com  
www.utkarshvastukaran.com





# Namaste Dwaar

## Award-winning Resort



### Close to Delhi, Closer to Wellness: Your Countryside Sanctuary Awaits You

Experience the charm of rural life and a change of scenery on your weekends, holidays and special occasions. Just a short drive from New Delhi, Namaste Dwaar resort offers a perfect blend of relaxation and enjoyment so that you can unwind and reconnect with loved ones amidst nature.



Rustic Luxe Accomodation



Pet-friendly Rooms



Family Activities



105 KM Milestone NH-58 - Delhi-Haridwar-Dehradun

Highway, Mansurpur, Uttar Pradesh - 251203

For reservations: [www.namastedwaar.com](http://www.namastedwaar.com)

+91 9818400525 , +91 9818438001 | [reservations@namastedwaar.com](mailto:reservations@namastedwaar.com)





BOTANIC  
SANCTUARY  
ANTWERP

# INFINITE INDULGENCE



BOTANIC LIVING



HENRY'S BAR & BISTRO



HERTOG JAN



FINE FLEUR



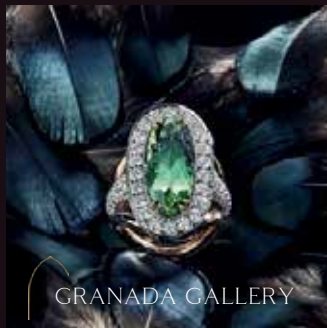
HET GEBAAR



BAR BULOT



SAINT CHARLES



GRANADA GALLERY



BOTANIC SPA



HEALTH CLUB



CONGRESS CENTER