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Group CEO **Abdul Majid Khan**

Editor **Florina Soren**

**Head Office | NKN Media**

Dubai Media City Building 6 - 1st Floor - Office 109  
King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud St - Al Sufouh - Al Sufouh 2 - Dubai  
Tel: +971 52 219 3009, Email: info@nknmedia.in

**Advertising:** info@nknmedia.in

**Content contributions:** editor@nknmedia.in

VP - Sales & Marketing **Shakil Siraj Naviwala**  
Phone: +971 52 822 8316

**North Sales Head Rakhi Thakur**

Suite # 1621, World Trade Tower, Tower B, 16th Floor,  
Sector 16, Noida, UP | Phone: +91 9560632646

**AGM - Sales & Marketing Tanveer Ahmad**

Suite # 1621, World Trade Tower, Tower B, 16th Floor,  
Sector 16, Noida, UP | Phone: +91 9555098401

**GM - West Sajeed Iqbal Momin**

404, A block, Juhi Garden Co-Op, Sector 7, Plot 8,  
JICE, Navi Mumbai - 410209, Maharashtra | Phone: +91 9819244603

**AGM - Sales & Marketing (South) Barathan TP**

No 164, Old No 119, Lake View Road, West Mambalam,  
Near Public Health Center, Apollo Pharmacy, Chennai 600033 | Phone: +91 9840059463

**NKN MEDIA INTERNATIONAL OFFICES**

**UAE | GM - Asad Hussain Dharsi**

NKN MEDIA FZ L.L.C, - Dubai Media City Building 6  
1st floor - Office 109. Phone: +971 56 386 2110

**Singapore | NKN MEDIA PTE. LTD, 3 Shenton Way #07-03**  
Shenton House (068805). Phone: +65 9008 0571

**London | NKN MEDIA UK LIMITED, 25 Tarry way, Boughton,**  
Northampton, England, NN28GP. Phone: + 44 7424 491361

**Sri Lanka | NKN MEDIA (PVT) LTD, Paramount Tower,**  
Level 02-05, No:192 9th lane, Nawala Road, Kotte. Phone: +971 522193009



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## DEAR READERS,

Welcome aboard SpiceJet and Happy Holi!

As we celebrate the festival of colours, love, and beginning of Spring, here's wishing you the best of times with your loved ones, blessed with togetherness and happiness.

This month also marks International Women's Day – a time to celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of women across the world. At SpiceJet, we take immense pride in the remarkable women who are shaping the aviation industry and breaking barriers every day.

We remain committed to making flying more accessible, connecting you with your family, friends, and dear ones. As we embark on a path of enhanced services and continuous improvement, your love and support remain our greatest motivator.

Allow me to begin by proudly saying that we are 'Back in Black!' Your favourite airline's net worth has turned positive for the first time in a decade – an important milestone that underscores the success of our turnaround strategy. SpiceJet has reported a profit of INR 26 Crore in Q3FY25, marking a remarkable turnaround. Our airline's total revenue has surged significantly driven by strong passenger demand, improved yields, enhanced operational efficiency and an impressive passenger occupancy. This quarter's performance is a testament to SpiceJet's resilience and our relentless focus on financial and operational recovery.

The overwhelming response to our INR 3000 Crore fundraise and the trust of global investors, combined with operational resilience and financial discipline, has set the stage for sustained growth. We have significantly strengthened our balance sheet, resolved key disputes, and are continuously expanding our fleet. We are in discussions with OEMs for advanced deliveries of aircraft and are actively exploring both organic and inorganic growth opportunities.



Back-to-back ratings upgrade within a span of three months reflects our exceptional focus on enhancing services, operational efficiency and overall passenger experience. The improved rating highlights the airline's steady financial recovery and progress in executing its turnaround plan.

Recently, ten aircraft have been successfully added to our fleet. We are on track to add ten more aircraft to our operational fleet by April including four Boeing 737 MAX. Steady progress has been made on this front with one MAX aircraft already back in operation. Over the past few months, our network expansion strategy has resulted in the addition of more than 60 new flights adding more seats and providing affordable air travel option to countless passengers.

All these positive developments are the reflection of our focus on a vibrant and customer-focused culture.

As part of our commitment to making air travel accessible to all during Maha Kumbh, SpiceJet has successfully operated special flights to Prayagraj from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Guwahati, Chennai, Kolkata, and Hyderabad. These flights are a testament to our dedication to facilitating seamless travel for pilgrims attending the world's largest gathering—a celebration of faith, devotion, and unity.

On behalf of SpiceJet, I wish you and your family a very happy, colourful, and healthy Holi and a splendid Women's Day.

Jai Hind!

**AJAY SINGH**  
Chairman & Managing Director

# SpiceJet Assigned BB - with Stable Outlook by CARE Ratings Citing Improved Liquidity and Turnaround Prospects

## Second Rating Upgrade in Three Months for SpiceJet

SpiceJet has been assigned a BB -; Stable credit rating by CareEdge Ratings, marking its second upgrade in just three months. The improved rating highlights the airline's steady financial recovery and progress in executing its turnaround plan.

SpiceJet's liquidity remains adequate, bolstered by recent fundraises and an expected additional INR 676 crore from outstanding share warrants over the short-to-medium term. With recent fund issuances, the company has been slowly increasing its operating fleet, the rating agency said.

"The company's liquidity is currently characterised as adequate considering its cash & cash equivalent derived from preferential issuances and QIP issuance in the last 18 months. The company has raised INR 3878 crore which has been used to largely clear its statutory dues, settlement with creditors, settling of external commercial borrowings, ungrounding of fleet and new induction, servicing debt obligations, among others," Care Ratings said.

"We are delighted with the rating upgrade, which is a testament to our efforts to strengthen our balance sheet and improve our operational efficiency," said **Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet**. "The funds we have raised, coupled with our focus on ungrounding aircraft and optimising our fleet, will ensure a

strong turnaround for the airline. With a firm plan in place, we are confident in delivering sustainable growth, financial stability, and enhanced value to all stakeholders."

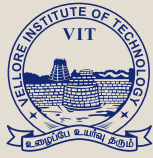
The ratings agency has also recognized SpiceJet's consistent track record as one of the most efficient utilisers of its operating fleet, with the highest passenger load factor (PLF) in the industry for the last four fiscal years through FY24. The rating agency expects this trend to continue, which is key to sustainable profitable operations.

The stable outlook reflects Care Ratings' expectation that SpiceJet will continue to maintain its adequate liquidity position and make progress in its operational turnaround, supported by its efficient fleet utilisation and the promoter's experience. "The promoter's experience will be key in driving the turnaround of SpiceJet's operations supported by his experience of over 20 years in aviation industry," it said.

A significant focus of the airline's turnaround strategy is the reactivation of its grounded aircraft, which currently incur fixed overhead costs without revenue generation. SpiceJet aims to bring a majority of these aircraft back into operation by the end of FY26, a move expected to enhance revenue and drive profitability.







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# AMUL CHEESE, YES PLEASE



## Amul Cheese A Culinary Journey of Flavour and Nutrition

For over five decades, Amul Cheese has been a beloved staple in Indian kitchens, transforming ordinary meals into extraordinary culinary experiences. Crafted from 100% pure milk, our range of cheeses offers not just exceptional taste, but also essential nutrients like protein and calcium.

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#### Amul Feta Cheese

Brings the vibrant spirit of Mediterranean cuisine to Amul's collection. This Greek classic, reimagined with an Indian touch, is a favourite among health-conscious food enthusiasts. It transforms salads, pizzas, flatbreads, wraps, and sandwiches with its tangy distinctive taste.



#### Amul Gouda Cheese

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#### Amul Edam Cheese

Tells the story of Dutch cheese-making tradition, presenting a unique flavour profile that evolves beautifully with age. Amul's Edam proves exceptionally versatile in the kitchen, excelling in gratins, salad toppings, smooth sauces, and elegant cheese platter.

#### Amul Emmental Cheese

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#### Amul Cheddar Cheese

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#### Amul Cheese Sauces

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#### Amul Diced Cheese The perfect cheese for Pizzas

Our Diced Cheese range brings authentic Italian flair right to your kitchen. Perfectly diced and ready to use, this convenient cheese blend adds a creamy, tangy dimension to pizzas, salads, and countless other dishes.



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# SpiceJet SUPERSTARS

Meet the achievers of the month from the SpiceJet family, who have stood out for their outstanding work.



**RAJ KAMAL TIWARI**

**Human Resource**

### Experience with SpiceJet

Being a part of the dynamic HR team at SpiceJet has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. The collaborative and inspiring work environment here constantly motivates me to strive for excellence. I am immensely grateful to my leaders for their continual support and guidance, which has given me the confidence to overcome any and every challenge.

### Internal Appreciation

Raj Kamal has been a valued member of our Compensation & Benefits team. Alongside consistently demonstrating exceptional commitment, attention to detail, and a deep understanding of payroll management, and compliance, his ability to navigate complex challenges with precision and professionalism makes him a true asset.



**ROHAN ARORA**

**Flight Support Centre**

### Experience with SpiceJet

Nine years have passed, yet it feels like yesterday. It has been an incredible and rewarding journey; one of growth, transformation, and evolution from a young professional to a responsible individual. SpiceJet has not only given me the wings to fly but has also empowered me to soar to greater heights. And I couldn't have reached here without the unwavering support of my seniors and colleagues.

### Internal Appreciation

Rohan's keen attention to detail, commitment to excellence, and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed. He has consistently gone above and beyond duty, setting a high standard for others. Whether by way of innovative ideas, problem-solving abilities, or willingness to embrace new challenges, Rohan delivers with professionalism and enthusiasm. We are privileged to have him as part of our team.



**KAUSHAL VYAS**

**Ground Operations**

### Experience with SpiceJet

I have been associated with this 'Red, Hot and Spicy' airline since 2006, and have enjoyed every moment here. I've been incredibly fortunate to have as mentors the best in industry leaders who have heard me out, and helped me reach my true potential. I look forward to continue serving our customers by putting into practice what I learnt at the start of my journey - to serve with a smile and sincerity.

### Internal Appreciation

Kaushal has risen from the ranks to the coveted post of Station Manager-Dubai by sheer dint of hard work, perseverance, a positive mindset, and a readiness to embrace responsibility and leadership roles. At Dubai Airport, he has successfully handled various projects, including dual terminal flight operations, and airport manpower transition, with meticulous planning and flawless execution.





# ANKUR AGGARWAL

## A REAL ESTATE TYCOON WITH A PIONEERING LEGACY

An entrepreneur, chartered accountant, philanthropist, and visionary leader—**Mr. Ankur Aggarwal**, the charismatic founder and chairman of BNW Developments, embodies excellence across diverse fields. **The panoramic view** of the city's skyline from his Dubai headquarters seems to mirror his own meteoric rise. It's a view that perfectly encapsulates a story of ambition, strategic brilliance, and transformative leadership. From humble beginnings in a working-class suburb of Delhi to extraordinary success, Mr. Aggarwal's journey began when he first came to Dubai as a tourist. Today, he leads BNW Developments, a real estate powerhouse with an impressive **\$5.4 billion in Assets under Development**. His journey has been a roller coaster ride, of resilience and overcoming obstacles with unwavering determination.

His achievements go beyond mere numbers, fuelled by a visionary outlook and an unrelenting commitment to excellence. BNW Developments stands apart in the world of real estate, pushing industry standards with a profound impact. Under Mr. Aggarwal's leadership and partnership with the well-known actor and entrepreneur, **Mr. Vivek Anand Oberoi**, it has become a global brand, developing properties that are lifestyle statements. **Headquartered in Dubai** with an office in New Delhi, BNW leverages its expansive global reach to offer tailored solutions for a diverse clientele. Whether designing high-end residential spaces, commercial hubs, or mixed-use developments, the company integrates local insights with global expertise, ensuring projects that resonate with clients' aspirations and deliver long-term value. BNW Developments' project lineup is anchored by **"Aqua Arc" and "Pelagia"**, among others. These two ultra-luxury developments in **Al Marjan Island, Ras Al Khaimah** exemplify commitment to luxury, innovation, and excellence in real estate.

Additionally, BNW is expanding its presence with **8-10 more projects** currently in the pipeline in both **Ras Al Khaimah and Dubai**. These projects feature collaborations with global brands in the field of luxury, hospitality, fashion, and lifestyle to offer an **unmatched living experience** and **sky-high returns to investors**. Despite receiving accolades such as the Global Business Icon Award, Icons of the UAE, and the Real Estate Excellence Award at the World Realty Congress 2024, among other prestigious honours, Mr. Aggarwal's modesty and humility shine through effortlessly. He speaks with the measured confidence of someone who understands that success is a continuous journey, not a destination. Mr. Aggarwal's story extends beyond business success. His commitment to social causes, particularly women's empowerment and community welfare, reveals a depth of character that sets him apart from other corporate leaders. Moreover, his deep-rooted faith and a passion for sports set him apart. What becomes clear during a conversation with Mr. Aggarwal is that his success isn't about luck. It's about relentless strategic thinking, an ability to adapt, and a genuine passion for creating value—not just for shareholders, but for communities. Mr. Ankur Aggarwal represents a new generation of global entrepreneurs: those who measure success not just in financial terms, but in their capacity to create meaningful change. In a world often cynical about business leadership, Mr. Aggarwal offers a refreshing narrative of purpose-driven success.



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# SUPER SpiceJet EXPERIENCES



**Manan Munjal**  
@mananmunjal07

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Flew with @flyspicejet on Dash 8 from Khajuraho @aaikhjairport to Delhi @DelhiAirport. Smooth but delayed flight due to fog. Though aircraft upkeep was not very good, luggage arrived quickly. This flight exceeded my expectations.

**Amit Jaiswal**  
@AmitJaiswa39576

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@flyspicejet My heartfelt gratitude to the SpiceJet Ground team at Varanasi airport for their exceptional management and hospitality. An impeccable experience, extremely humble, cooperative and truly epitomizing the SpiceJet tagline —“With all our heart”.Thank you - Thank you 🙏

**Aniket Paul**  
@aniket61

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**Ahmed Shah Balti**  
@baltiahmedshah

**Follow** ...

Reached at Delhi via @flyspicejet flight, Thank you so much for your good service 🙏



**Md Azam Siddique(Z...)**  
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**Darshit Joshi** 🇮🇳  
@DarshiJoshi\_

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@flyspicejet is celebrating 76th Republic Day with customised paper cap! Flight attendants are in Indian Traditional attire, wish to have slow patriotic music in flight 🇮🇳 while we are waiting!  
#HappyRepublicDay



**Purnesh Rustagi**  
@purneshr

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@flyspicejet It was a wonderful experience flying with Angrej, Debolina, Nilesh and Richa in SG 185 Delhi to Pune on Jan 26th. Happy Republic Day!



**raj ria**  
@tadafti\_fauz

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@flyspicejet @Spicejets . Today I was on SG 2940 and were in plane for 3 hours at dharmshala due to delhi fog. I must compliment your team member shameen of handling the situation so well that not even a single person got agitated.old. young and children. She handled so well.

**Ashwin verma**  
@Ashvanitwit

**Follow** x1 ...

A special thanks for the delightful surprise—a certificate for my child's first flight, along with refreshments. It meant the world to us and made the experience unforgettable, Thank you for making this moment so memorable! Garima-Syed-Arfat-Shivani big thanks SG213 #spicejet

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## what's TRENDING

### RED LORRY FILM FESTIVAL

The **Red Lorry Film Festival** presents over 120 internationally acclaimed films, spanning various genres and languages. Curated by BookMyShow, it features award-winning titles such as Nina, Hollywoodgate, and 999: The Forgotten Girls. A newly introduced competition segment celebrates outstanding films, welcoming diverse submissions. Beyond screenings, the festival offers masterclasses and workshops led by industry experts, fostering learning and networking. Collaborations with major global studios enhance the experience, making it a must-attend event for cinephiles. With a diverse selection of films and engaging sessions, the festival provides an immersive platform for filmmakers, critics, and movie enthusiasts alike.



**What:** Red Lorry Film Festival

**Where:** Mumbai (Maison INOX at Jio World Plaza & Maison PVR at Jio World Drive, BKC) and Hyderabad (Prasads Multiplex)

**When:** March 21st – 23rd, 2025



### SKY GARDEN

**Sky Garden** at Della Resorts offers a breathtaking dining experience, suspending guests 150 feet above Lonavala's lush landscape. Designed by Jimmy Mistry, this 24-seater levitating restaurant provides a 360-degree swivel for uninterrupted views of the starlit sky and scenic surroundings. The gourmet menu features Asian and Italian delicacies, multi-course meals, and live counters, complemented by expertly crafted cocktails. With an ambiance that blends thrill and luxury, Sky Garden transforms every meal into an unforgettable gourmet experience under the stars.

**What:** Sky Garden Restaurant

**Where:** Della Resorts, Lonavala





# Dr. Unmesh Takalkar Revolutionized Healthcare in Marathwada

## Pioneering business icon transforming healthcare with vision and innovation

Dr. Unmesh Takalkar transformed healthcare in Marathwada, pioneering CARE CIIGMA Hospital to bring world-class medical care to underserved communities.

From a modest 40-bed hospital to a 300-bed multi-specialty institution, Dr. Takalkar's mission is to redefine healthcare in Maharashtra.

Dr. Unmesh Takalkar is a pioneer in initiating many healthcare first in this region of Marathwada like -

- First Organ Transplant
- First Heart Transplant
- First NABH & ISO Hospital
- International Conference (GI Vision)
- Set up of Nuclear Medicine, 3D Laparoscopy
- First Robotic Surgery
- First Most Advanced DRAGER Medical gases system (Germany)
- First AIROX Oxygen generator plant
- First Luminous fusion ERCP system (Digital Fluro), Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS system)
- First Central Maharashtra most advanced video EEG and intra-operative monitoring system and so forth
- First hospital having institutional Ethics Committee of CIIGMA Group of Hospitals for Clinical Trial & Research
- First NABH accredited Ethics Committee for Clinical Trial & Research in Marathwada region

A journey rooted in purpose Dr. Takalkar's medical journey began in 1983 when he embarked on his MBBS studies. His thirst for excellence led him to train at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, followed by advanced fellowships in Switzerland and the United States. Despite the allure of international opportunities, his vision remained clear-bringing world-class healthcare to his homeland.

"My responsibility is not just to treat patients but to ensure they receive selfless, high-quality care at their doorstep," says Dr. Takalkar.

While many of his peers chose the global stage, he saw an opportunity in the challenges of his region. He returned to Maharashtra, where healthcare infrastructure struggled to keep pace with modern demands, and envisioned a medical facility that would address multi-disciplinary needs under one roof.

The birth of CIIGMA: A game-changer in healthcare founded in 2007, CIIGMA Hospital stands for Cancer, Infertility, Intensive Care, Gastroenterology, Gynecology, Maternity, & Anesthesia - a name that encapsulates its comprehensive approach to patient care, started as a 40-bed facility has now expanded into a 300-bed multi-specialty network in collaboration with CARE CIIGMA Group.

His mission is clear: "Patients often come with multiple health issues, requiring a multi-modal approach. Our goal is to provide seamless treatment under one roof while raising the bar for quality healthcare."

A Surgeon with a vision beyond the operating room with over 100,000 surgeries to his name, Dr. Takalkar's technical



## DR. UNMESH TAKALKAR Chief Managing Director of CARE CIIGMA Hospital

expertise is unparalleled. However, his greatest strength lies in his ability to build high-performing healthcare ecosystems.

"Our most valuable asset is our people-competent doctors, administrators, nurses, and technicians working in sync to provide the best care," he emphasizes.

CARE CIIGMA Hospital is the first NABH & ISO-accredited hospital in the region, a reflection of its world-class infrastructure and protocols. Beyond patient care, the institution has also pioneered clinical research, establishing Marathwada's first NABH-accredited Ethics Committee for clinical trials & research.

"Medicine is not just about healing individuals; it's about building institutions and training the next generation to carry forward the mission," he states.

Transforming Lives: The human impact the true impact of Dr. Takalkar's work is measured not just in numbers and accolades, but in the thousands of lives transformed. Before CIIGMA, patients often had to travel hundreds of kilometers for specialized treatment. Today, advanced care is accessible at their doorstep.

Future Plans: Expanding the vision as a visionary leader, Dr. Takalkar has not stopped here. His future roadmap includes:

Expanding CIIGMA's reach by establishing satellite centers across tier-2 and tier-3 cities Incorporating AI-driven diagnostics to improve efficiency and precision.

The man behind the mission despite his monumental achievements, Dr. Takalkar remains deeply grounded. He is often seen personally checking on patients, ensuring that the ethos of compassionate care remains intact. His ability to blend technology, expertise, and empathy makes him a true game-changer in Indian healthcare.

His story is a powerful reminder that success in medicine is not measured by personal achievements alone, but by the lasting positive impact one creates in society. In a world where many seek fortune abroad, Dr. Unmesh Vidyadhar Takalkar chose to build a legacy at home-one that will inspire generations to come.



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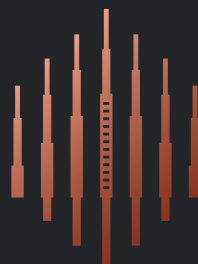
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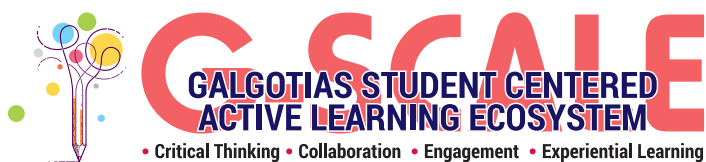
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inspiring stories.***






## STANZIN MENTOK

*Soaring High, Caring Deep - A Journey of Wings & Compassion*

As a Senior Cabin Crew — Inflight Services at SpiceJet, my journey has been about achieving big and reaching new heights—not just in my career, but also in my passion for animal welfare. While flying has given me the opportunity to explore the world, my heart has always been grounded in caring for stray animals, ensuring they receive the love, shelter, and protection they deserve.

Since joining SpiceJet in 2019, I have grown both professionally and personally—transitioning from the excitement of training to the deep responsibility of ensuring passenger comfort and safety. However, beyond my uniform, my true purpose lies in helping animals in need.


In Ladakh, I cared for nearly 25-30 stray animals, making sure they were fed, warm, and safe. Each day, I found solace in tending to these voiceless souls. Even after moving to Delhi, my commitment has remained unwavering—I now look after nearly 10 stray animals, feeding them daily and ensuring they receive medical care whenever needed. For me, they are more than just strays; they are family, my closest companions, and my source of peace.

While flying has allowed me to see the world, my greatest fulfillment comes from making a difference in the lives of these animals. Financial independence has empowered me to support them, and my travels have taught me that kindness knows no barriers. Every time I step off a flight, my first thought is about my four-legged friends waiting for me back home. To me, success is not just about soaring in the skies—it's also about lifting those who cannot lift themselves. 



## IBHA PURI

*Believe in yourself & push boundaries*

My journey with SpiceJet began in 2007, and what an incredible ride it has been! From dreaming big to becoming a Senior Manager - Flight Support Centre, this journey has been one of grit, determination, and resilience. Aviation demands 24/7 dedication, quick decision-making, and adaptability. As a woman, proving my mettle in this fast-paced world while raising a 9-year-old has been a challenge. Through it all, my family has been my greatest pillar of strength. Night shifts, long hours, and missed milestones became routine, but I never let guilt overshadow my ambition. Instead, I embraced my reality, setting an example for my child. SpiceJet has been more than just a workplace - it's my launchpad, mentor, and enabler. It shaped me into a confident, independent leader who uplifts others. 



## SUNANDA SATULE

*From Wings to Wins - A Journey of Strength and Determination*

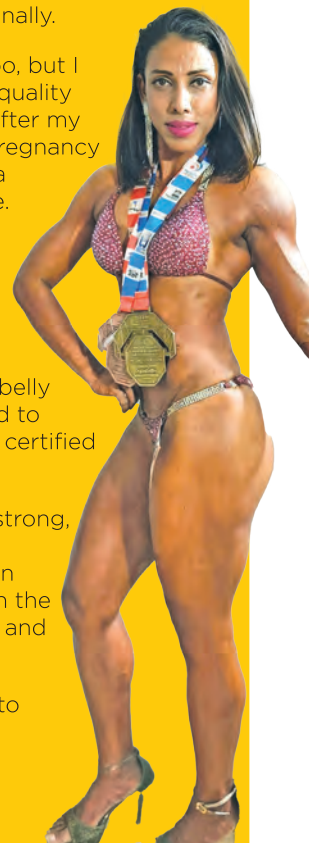
I joined SpiceJet in 2005 as a Cabin Crew (Batch 1) and, through grit and determination, worked my way up to become a Deputy Base Manager — Inflight Services. My journey has been one of discipline, resilience, and self-transformation—both professionally and personally.

Who doesn't dream of having six-pack abs? I did too, but I turned it into a reality with immense dedication—a quality I honed through my professional role at SpiceJet. After my third child was born, I joined the gym to shed my pregnancy weight. Every day, I ran on the treadmill, staring at a poster of a fit woman, imagining myself in her place. When I shared my goal with my children, they laughed, saying, "Abs take immense effort." Their words only strengthened my resolve.

Balancing work and motherhood slowed my progress, but everything changed when people around me started commenting on my weight and belly fat. That moment became my turning point. I turned to yoga, practiced diligently, and eventually became a certified yoga trainer.

SpiceJet played a crucial role in shaping me into a strong, independent woman, instilling in me resilience and discipline—qualities that fueled my fitness journey. In 2024, I achieved a milestone I never imagined: I won the Mumbai Shree title, followed by Maharashtra Shree, and finally, the Ms. India title.

To all the women out there—You are limitless. Dare to dream, work relentlessly, and break every barrier!





## AFSANA BANNA

### *Leading with Heart, Lifting with Purpose*

I joined SpiceJet as Senior Cabin Crew in the year 2016, and with hard work, determination, and a passion for excellence, I worked my way up to become a Base Manager — Inflight Services. My journey has been one of dedication, perseverance, and growth, teaching me that true leadership isn't about authority—it's about inspiring, guiding, and uplifting others. In the skies, just as in life, turbulence is inevitable, but how we navigate through it defines who we are.

Beyond my career, I have always believed in giving back to the society. I actively connect with various NGOs, senior citizen homes, and orphanages, dedicating time to those who need support and companionship. One of the greatest sources of joy in my life is my visits to a school for blind children. Spending time with them, spreading love and happiness, fills my heart in a way nothing else does. Their resilience, laughter, and boundless spirit remind me that life's true beauty isn't in what we see, but in how we feel and the love we share. Through them, I've learned that even the smallest gestures can light up someone's world. My greatest pride is being a mother to my daughter, Zoya. Being a single mother comes with challenges, but my strength comes from my own mother, whose sacrifices have made me who I am today.

My mantra: Keep shining, and never stop believing in yourself.



## MONICA SHARMA

### *Breaking Barriers in Aviation*

Eighteen years ago, I took a leap of faith, leaving my small town to chase my dream of building a career in aviation. The journey has been both challenging and rewarding, but with perseverance and dedication, I worked my way up to become one of the first women Airport Station Managers—a role that comes with immense responsibilities.

This Women's Day, I celebrate not just my journey but the strength of every woman who faces challenges head-on and refuses to give up. To all the women out there—keep believing in yourself, and never let obstacles hold you back. The sky is not the limit; it's just the beginning.



## NEETU SURI

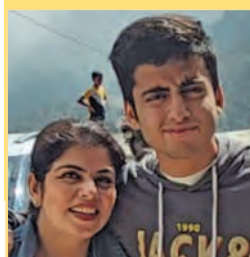
### *Soaring Through Challenges with Strength and Grace*

As one of SpiceJet's first cabin crew members, I have had the rare privilege of witnessing its journey since its inception. My role extended beyond the skies—I helped shape grooming standards for the crew and contributed to training programs that define excellence today.

SpiceJet is more than just a workplace; it is where my confidence and aspirations take flight every day. Motherhood brought unexpected challenges when my autoimmune condition worsened, making mobility a struggle. Just when life seemed to pause, SpiceJet stood by me, offering a leadership role that allowed me to return as DGM – Service, Standards, and Quality.

There were more health hurdles along the way, but with SpiceJet's unwavering support, I reclaimed my life. Today, as an NLP practitioner and mindfulness coach, I empower others to find their inner

strength. Most importantly, my son sees me as a strong, bold, and empowered woman—one who has faced life's toughest challenges with grace, resilience, and determination.







# राष्ट्रीय विधायक सम्मेलन भारत

## CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

### for STATE LEGISLATORS of BHARAT 2025

08-09 February 2025

॥ विधानं राष्ट्र-धर्मः ॥



## ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT OF LEGISLATORS FOR THE FUTURE OF BHARAT

The National Legislators' Conference (NLC) Bharat Capacity Enhancement Program 2025 successfully concluded on 8-9 February, bringing together MLAs and MLCs from across Bharat in the presence of Shri. Satish Mahana, Hon'ble Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri. Rabindra Nath Mahato, Hon'ble Speaker, Jharkhand Legislative Assembly, Shri. Kuldeep Singh Pathania, Hon'ble Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri. Thomas Sangma, Hon'ble Speaker & Shri. Timothy Shira, Deputy Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, and Shri. Ram Shinde, Hon'ble Chairperson & Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chairperson, Maharashtra Legislative Council. This transformative event fostered cross-party collaboration, enabling legislators to engage in open dialogue, address governance challenges, and develop innovative solutions. The inaugural edition of **NLC Bharat**, held in Mumbai from **June 15 to 17, 2023**, attracted **1,800 legislators**. This event facilitated interactions among legislators from diverse political backgrounds and regions for the first time since Bharat's independence.

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NEHA CHAUHAN

### From Cabin Crew to Cockpit - Breaking Barriers in the Sky

I began my journey the way many young girls dream—as a glamorous cabin crew member. But I always believed in breaking barriers and reaching higher. My time as a cabin crew member ignited a bigger dream—to become a pilot, and today, I proudly wear the stripes as a First Officer.

Taking this giant leap felt like climbing a mountain, filled with moments of self-doubt and relentless challenges. From mastering complex maneuvers to passing rigorous exams, the road wasn't easy. But my determination, resilience, and the euphoria of flying kept me going.

This Women's Day, my message to every woman out there—pursue your dreams fearlessly, break every limit, and never let anyone define what you can or cannot achieve. The sky is not the limit—it's just the beginning!



PRIYA RAWAT

### Breaking Barriers, Defying Limits

Growing up in a small town in Uttarakhand, breaking societal norms to build a career was never easy. But I refused to let circumstances define my future. My first earning of Rs. 2000, earned through tutoring, was more than just money—it was a symbol of independence and determination.

Moving to Delhi was daunting, but my will to be financially independent pushed me forward. Today, as an Executive, Customer Experience at SpiceJet, I stand as proof that hard work and perseverance can turn dreams into reality. I have learned to embrace new opportunities while staying rooted in my culture, proving that ambition and tradition can go hand in hand.

My journey has not just given me financial independence, but the strength to be a role model for women in my community. This Women's Day, I want to inspire every woman to chase her dreams fearlessly, just as my mother inspired me. Because when women dare to rise, nothing can hold them back.



SHALINI SAINI

### Rising Strong - A Woman's Journey of Resilience

My journey at SpiceJet began in the reservation department, and after a decade of hard work and perseverance, I stand today as a Team Leader — Reservations. But leadership, to me, is more than just a title—it's about mentoring, guiding, and uplifting others to grow and succeed. I once dreamt of becoming an IPS officer, but life had different plans. The untimely loss of my father turned my world upside down, placing the responsibility of my family on my young shoulders. It wasn't easy, but I chose to rise instead of breaking.

Today, I take pride in being a pillar of strength—a super daughter to my mother, a caring elder sister, and a woman who strives to fill the void left by my father. My journey is a testament to resilience, courage, and determination, and I hope my story inspires every woman to believe that no challenge is too big when faced with strength and perseverance. This Women's Day, I stand tall—not just for myself, but for every woman who refuses to give up.





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## MADHURA BAGCHI

***Bringing Smiles, Creating Impact***

My journey began early as a freelance journalist during college, driven by my love for people and travel. This passion ultimately led me to aviation, where I started as a cabin crew member in the year 2007. Today, I am Base Manager — Inflight Services, embracing every challenge with dedication and pride.

But my purpose extends beyond aviation. Witnessing aging parents struggle with loneliness, declining health, and limited support, my mother and I took an initiative to bring smiles. In 2022, we created a care system for elderly parents whose children live abroad, ensuring they receive personalized care, health support, and companionship. This mission is more than just a service; it is our way of giving back to those who once nurtured us.

This Women's Day, I stand proud—not just for my achievements but for the impact I create. Because true success is not just about soaring high, but about lifting others along the way.



## SUSHMITA GUPTA



***Soaring Against All Odds – A Mother, A Leader, A Woman***

I entered aviation in 1996, full of dreams and determination, but my story is about more than just my profession—it's about resilience, love, and the unbreakable spirit of a woman.

As a single mother, my two daughters are my world. Raising them while managing a demanding career meant endless sacrifices, sleepless nights, and moments of self-doubt. As a Deputy Manager - Ground Services, long hours and relentless responsibilities tested me daily. But I refused to let the weight of responsibility break me. Instead, I found strength in my purpose—to give my daughters a life where they can dream freely and achieve without limitations.

This Women's Day, I share my journey—not as a tale of struggle, but as a testament to the power, resilience, and determination of every woman. Because we don't just survive, we rise, we lead, and we soar.



## SHIBINA PILAPPALLI NARAYANAN

***Fearless, Limitless, Unstoppable***

This Women's Day, as I reflect on my journey, my heart swells with pride. By 30, I've achieved more than I ever imagined—built a house at 26, explored 53 countries, learned kickboxing, learned to drive, learned to ride a bike, and even climbed the Great Wall of China. Each milestone shaped me into the strong, independent woman I am today.

I have always believed in challenging stereotypes, embracing new skills, and fearlessly stepping into uncharted adventures. Motherhood transformed me, and today, I strive to be a role model for my daughter—instilling in her the same confidence and courage that drive me.

SpiceJet has been my pillar of support, empowering me to balance my roles as a mother, wife, daughter, and Cabin Crew. To every woman out there—believe in yourself, take risks, and chase your dreams unapologetically. Because you are fearless, limitless, and unstoppable!







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# Davaindia Generic Pharmacy:

## Pioneering a Healthcare Revolution with Affordable Excellence

### Redefining Healthcare Access in India

Imagine a world where quality healthcare is accessible to everyone, not just a privileged few. Davaindia Generic Pharmacy is making this vision a reality. As India's leading affordable healthcare brand, Davaindia offers a new approach to wellness, combining quality, affordability, and innovation. Founded in 2017, this groundbreaking company is redefining healthcare and setting a new standard in accessibility and trust.

### A Visionary Approach to Affordable Healthcare

Davaindia Generic Pharmacy thrives on a commitment to providing affordable, high-quality healthcare solutions across India. Under the leadership of Group CEO Dr. Sujit Paul, Davaindia has grown into a vast network of over 1,200 outlets nationwide, fulfilling its mission to make essential health and wellness products accessible to all.

### Strategic Leadership Driving Success

Guided by the strategic vision of Dr. Sujit Paul, Davaindia's parent company, Zota Healthcare Limited, operates under a Strategic Business Unit (SBU) model. This approach allows each unit to maintain operational autonomy while supporting the broader mission of accessible healthcare. Dr. Paul's leadership drives Davaindia's expansion with a strong focus on operational excellence, growth, and customer satisfaction.

### Changing the Perception of Generic Medicines

Davaindia is on a mission to change the way people view generic medicines. With generics gaining acceptance across India, the company is helping to shift perceptions by delivering high-quality, affordable products that inspire trust. Each product in Davaindia's portfolio is rigorously tested, proving that effective healthcare doesn't need to be costly. Davaindia's dedication to quality is reshaping the conversation around generics, empowering consumers to make informed healthcare choices.

### Looking Ahead: A Vision for a Healthier, More Equitable Future

Dr. Sujit Paul envisions Davaindia as a household name across India, recognized for its unwavering commitment to affordable and accessible healthcare. As an omni-channel retail leader, Davaindia is strategically positioned to serve communities nationwide. With every store and product, the company is transforming the healthcare landscape—pushing boundaries and inspiring a healthier, more equitable world.



**So next time you need a trusted healthcare solution, remember Davaindia Generic Pharmacy—a name transforming healthcare, one community at a time.**

### Elevating Everyday Healthcare

Davaindia offers a wide range of products, from essential Generic Medicines to Over-the-Counter (OTC) items, premium Cosmetics, Gym essentials, and a variety of health and wellness products. Through its own private labels, Davaindia adheres to stringent quality standards, ensuring that each product—from vitamins to skincare to fitness essentials—delivers on its promise of quality.

### Bringing Affordable Healthcare to Your Fingertips

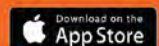
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# SHIVAMOGGA

Beauty in the wilderness

Popularly referred to as the 'Gateway to the Western Ghats,'

**Shivamogga** is a wonderland where nature and history intersect. Surrounded by a verdant landscape, thundering waterfalls, and a profusion of wildlife, the city offers a welcome respite from the daily grind. Every moment here feels like entering a living postcard, whether you're admiring the stunning architecture or watching elephants take a morning bath. In fact, whatever your interests—adventure, history, or the outdoors—Shivamogga promises tranquillity, excitement, and a host of memories.



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TO **SHIVAMOGGA** FROM  
HYDERABAD AND CHENNAI




**7:00 AM**

### MORNING TRUNK CALL

Located approximately 14kms from Shivamogga, Sakrebailu Elephant Camp is unquestionably the most recommended destination when travelling with family and friends—and the most memorable too, providing as it does the chance to engage with these amiable giants. In addition to watching them bathe and play, you can observe mahouts feed and train the elephants, of which the camp has more than 50. Situated on the Thirthahalli Road and accessible by local buses and private taxi, Sakrebailu also has a herbal garden, and offers birdwatching excursions, trekking, and campfires.

**10:00 AM**

### DATE WITH THE WILD

Next, head to Tyavarekoppa, famous for its lion and tiger safari. Established in 1998, it has grown into a popular picnic spot for tourists thanks to the eponymous safari. But you'll see more than just lions and tigers here, for Tyavarekoppa is also home to deer, sloth bears and leopards, among other species. Besides, there's a kids' park, zoo, and small canteen, making it the perfect day trip for families. The reserve, around 10kms from the centre of Shivamogga, is set amid forest cover.

**1:00 PM**

### KARNATAKA ON A PLATE

Back in the city, there are plenty of

options to sample the flavours of the region's diverse culinary legacy. Ragi Mudde and Soppina Saaru—respectively, a wholesome finger-millet dish and tasty stew of greens and lentils—make for a typical Shivamogga lunch, but you can't miss Bisi Bele Bath, a spicy one-pot preparation of rice, lentils and tamarind. Another must-try is Thatte Idli, a tender, plate-sized *idli* served with *sambar* and coconut chutney. Meanwhile, seafood lovers are likely to be tempted by the delicious Mangalorean-style fish curry served over steamed rice. As a cooling



accompaniment, there's Majjige, a buttermilk, and Kosambari, a lentil salad. Finish with Mysore Pak, or Kayi Holige, a flatbread stuffed with coconut and drenched in ghee and jaggery syrup.

**2:00 PM**

### SANCTUARY FOR THE SPIRIT

The Keladi Nayakas, a dynasty that held sway in present-day Shivamogga district from the 16th to the mid-18th centuries,

built the historical Keladi Rameshwara Temple, some 8kms from the town of Sagara. Boasting elaborately carved pillars and legendary stone sculptures, the temple is a fusion of the Dravidian and Hoysala styles of architecture, and is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. With its serene surrounds and cultural richness, Keladi Rameshwara is as much a haven for history buffs, photographers and spiritual seekers.


**4:00 PM**

### IN THE CRADLE OF NATURE

Found in the Western Ghats is one of India's tallest waterfalls, which plunges 830 feet (253 metres) to the ground. The Sharāvati River created the four cascades that make up Jog Falls—Raja, Rani, Roarer, and Rocket—and all present a different view, each as eye-catching as the other. The falls are at their spectacular best during the monsoon season, between June and September. There are also hiking trails, while watercraft are available for visitors at the base. And adding to the beauty of the location is the neighbouring Linganamakki Dam.

**7:00 PM**

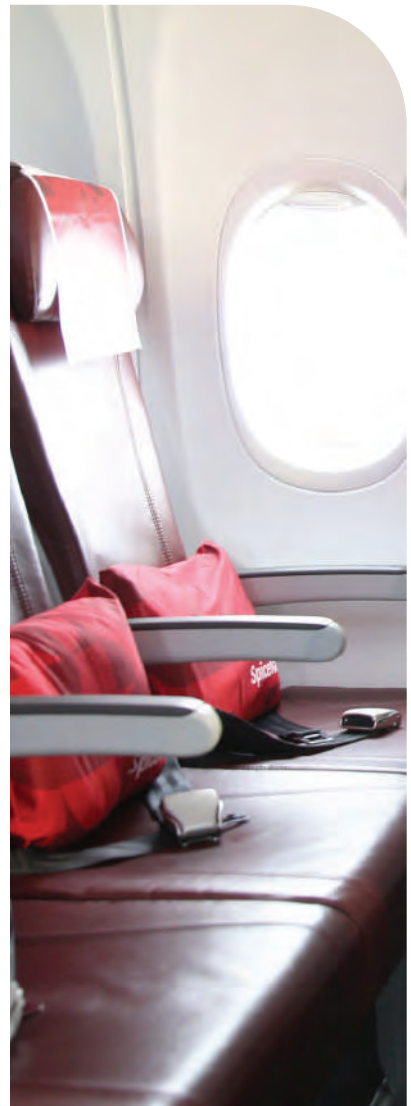
### TRIP FOR THE SENSES

End your day with an evening stroll through Shivamogga's vibrant and brilliantly lit local markets, an experience that's full of colour, cultural variety, and the irresistible sights and smells of street food. Visit Durgigudi Market or B.H. Road, where lively stalls offer fresh fruit, fragrant spices, locally made handicrafts, and quirky mementos. Here you can also purchase handmade antiques, sandalwood goods, and genuine Mysore silk. And look out for street vendors selling Karnataka delicacies such as Maddur Vada, Mangalore Buns, and Churumuri (spicy puffed rice with onions and masala), ideal for eating on the go ●

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# THE MANY HUES OF HOLI

PAMELA MUKHERJEE

Holi, the festival of colours, is one of India's most vibrant and jubilant celebrations, symbolising the arrival of spring and exulting the love of Radha and Krishna. While most people associate Holi with playful colour fights and festive sweets, different regions in India celebrate the festival in unique ways, deeply rooted in local traditions and culture. If you're looking for an extraordinary Holi experience, these unique celebrations in 2025 should be on your travel list!



## BARSANA LATHMAR HOLI, UP

**What's Special:** Women playfully beat men with sticks in a lively re-enactment of Radha-Krishna's legendary love story.

In Barsana, the birthplace of Radha, women from the village "attack" men from Nandgaon (Krishna's village) with sticks, while the men try to protect themselves with shields. The atmosphere is electric, filled with songs, colours, and laughter. It's a unique take on Holi where women lead the celebrations!





## MANJAL KULI, Kerala

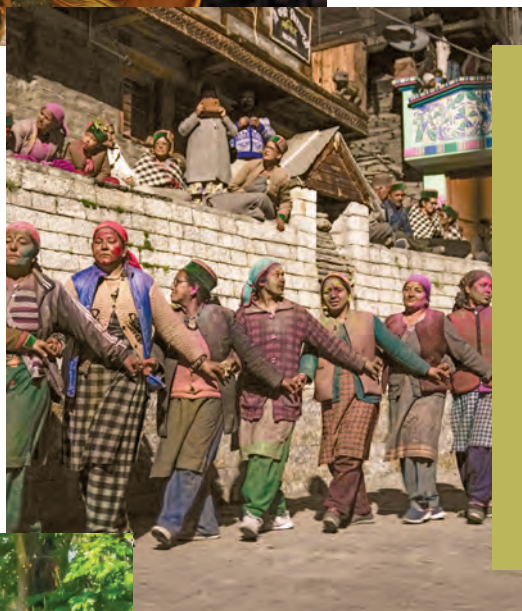
**What's Special:** *Holi is played with turmeric water instead of colours.*

Celebrated by the Konkani and Gaud Saraswat Brahmin communities, this Holi is deeply rooted in tradition. Devotees gather at temples and play with turmeric-infused water, symbolising purity, prosperity, and the arrival of spring. It's a simple yet deeply meaningful way to celebrate the festival.

## DOL JATRA West Bengal, Odisha, Assam

**What's Special:** *A graceful and artistic Holi with religious processions*

Unlike the boisterous Holi of the north, Dol Jatra is a more elegant affair where idols of Radha and Krishna are placed on beautifully decorated palanquins and paraded through the streets. Devotees sing devotional songs, dance, and apply *abir* (dry coloured powder) to each other as a mark of love and respect.



## SANGLA HOLI, Himachal Pradesh

**What's Special:** *A tribal Holi in the Himalayas featuring folk music, dance, and bonfires.*

In the scenic Kinnaur region, Sangla Holi is celebrated with a blend of spirituality and tribal traditions. Locals perform the Nati dance, sing folk songs, and light bonfires to honour deities. Unlike the colour-drenched Holi of the plains, this festival has a more communal and cultural essence.



## PHOOLON KI HOLI, Uttar Pradesh

**What's Special:** *A divine Holi celebrated with flower petals instead of colours.*

Held at the famous Banke Bihari Temple, this Holi is a serene and spiritual experience. In place of the usual powdered colours, devotees shower each other with fragrant flowers as devotional songs dedicated to Lord Krishna fill the air. It's a mesmerising spectacle that offers a peaceful yet colourful celebration.





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# KHONOMA

## A SWEEP OF GREEN

FLORINA SOREN

**T**ucked in the midst of high mountains and terraced paddy fields in faraway Nagaland is tiny Khonoma village, which once stood firmly against the might of the British army. Cut to the present, and this modest settlement holds the honour of being India's first 'green village'.

In the last couple of years, my travels have mostly been to the Northeastern part of the country, and each trip has been an eye-opener of sorts. Yet this visit to Nagaland, was beyond what I had imagined. With its proud history of participation in the freedom struggle, a culture so enriching, and the warm hospitality of the locals, the state stole my heart. But the happening nightlife, and the posh cafés, came as a pleasant surprise—as did the thriving alcohol-beverage scene in the neighbouring state of Assam.

We decided to give Kisama Heritage Village (setting of the annual—and very popular—Hornbill Festival) a miss and instead head towards the less visited Khonoma. The 'green village' is a multi-crore project sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, and the Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland. Since its inception in 2005, this Angami village has become a model for others to follow. It is also known for its sustainable practices, making



it an ideal ecotourism destination. Meanwhile, Khonoma is also home to the Blyth's tragopan, an endangered pheasant species. Other avian species found here make this place a great birding destination.

After a short drive from Kohima, we reach the quaint and pristine Khonoma, almost hidden from view and looking as if straight out of a Grimm's fairytale. And following a climb, you're in the centre of Khonoma, with the Baptist church on one side and a flight of stairs leading to the village area on the other. There were hues of green all around, and for a city-bred person like me it was the most enchanting sight. The



azure sky above was equally dramatic with fluffy white clouds drifting lazily by.

As we explored Khonoma on foot, it felt relaxing to see locals carry on with their unhurried lives. While ladies were busy with household chores, carrying wood and washing dishes in common areas, a few young girls were sitting in groups making artistic bead jewellery and accessories. The sound of children bursting into laughter as they chased each other broke the silence. However, what struck me most was how everyone here looked happy and content. It could have been the



mesmerising views on all sides of this 'green village,' because all that the eyes could see was unending fields of paddy and mountains everywhere. Indeed, it is said that over 40 varieties of rice are grown in the fields in and around Khonoma.

Home to the Angami Naga tribe, Khonoma still carries a piece of history, with the fort standing tall and strong. Written on a plaque right above the structure's door are the words: "The fiercest of battles were fought between the British and the Nagas during 1850-79 in the Semoma Fort of Khonoma." A little below the fort is the village centre, where two Naga huts stand stoic telling tales of a bygone era. And a musket raised on one of the walls is a testimony to the lifestyle of the people here, who led a life of adventure and bravery, one in which hunting and headhunting played a key part.

The next day another adventure awaited us, albeit we had to cross over to Assam next door to visit one of the largest distilleries in the region. It is amazing how this state in India's

Northeast is making its presence felt in the country's alco-beverage space. Here, in the wilderness of Khatkhathi village, lies the distilling unit of Radiant Manufacturers, which produces one of India's premium alcobev brands, the Dark Knight whiskey. An extensive tour of the distillery was a learning experience: the spirit is made from locally sourced corn, filtered using bamboo charcoal, and finally batch-



filled into charred oak-wood casks. The sight of endless rows of casks was one to behold. And what's more, you can reserve a personal barrel of the fine spirit in your name, for those special moments.

On this high note, the short but memorable trip to the Northeast came to an end. As we drove back to Dimapur airport, I was taking back memories of time well spent, along with loads of local products, including fashionable winterwear, infused beverages, and the hot and spicy bhoot jolokia or ghost pepper, which finds pride of place in the Guinness Book of World Records for being the hottest chilli in the world ●



# Picturesque *Puducherry*

BINDU GOPAL RAO

This seaside French colony is a delightful amalgamation of nature, history, culture, and food. With its vibrant Gallic connection, Puducherry stands out as a city which will hold a special place in every visitor's heart.





A one-time French settlement, Puducherry is among my favourite holiday hotspots, and the White Town or French Quarter here is my favoured place. The best way to explore this stunning promenade overlooking the beach is to take a leisurely walk. There are several boutique properties around this area as well as heritage ones that have been converted to hotels that make for great accommodation options. A walk through the many lanes around the promenade – with interesting names, including the French ‘Rue,’ meaning street – will give you a great insight into the colonial history here. The buildings are painted in stunning hues – ochre, pink, blue, green, and more – so keep your camera charged, for there are several Instagram-worthy images that can make their way to your phone. I suggest you stop at the stunning Manakula Vinayagar Temple, which dates back to the 17th century. Its colourful façade and surrounds, with vendors selling water lilies, make for a great start to the day. Check out the famed Aurobindo Ashram located close by, where you can pay your obeisance to the mortal remains of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. Admire the stunning

architecture and stained-glass images at Our Lady of Angels Church, and if all that walking has worked up your appetite, head to one of the French cafes that dot the place for an Indo-French breakfast.

## AUROVILLE VIBES

One of the other places I always visit is Auroville, the experimental township outside city limits that is home to the Matrimandir. Set apart from the hustle and bustle of city life, Auroville lets you pause and spend a few quiet moments with your inner self. People from around the world come here for some peace and reflection. Walking around Auroville, you will come across several interesting shops – leather is one of the industries here so bags and shoes are aplenty. I recommend you check out the many ceramic stores, some of which have the production units attached, allowing you to see how the beautiful ceramic pottery is made. There are also soap-making factories, offering the visitor a wide array of hand-made soaps to choose from. And Auroville has some nice restaurants where you can stop by for a scrumptious lunch.

### **Clockwise from Top:**

*Perfectly laid-out colonial buildings at the White Town.*

*People enjoying the peace at Auroville.*

*The seaside sunset – a sight to behold.*







Another interesting place to visit is the Tamil Quarter, where you can see heritage homes and markets, that will make you feel as if time has stopped

**Clockwise from Left:**

*The Arikamedu ruins, an once upon a time Indo-Roman trading city.*

*The many restaurants in Puducherry offer the most delectable cuisine.*

*Shopping for local souvenirs and leather goods is a must here.*

## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

In my trips to Puducherry, I have always tried to look for offbeat experiences and on my latest trip, I discovered Arikamedu, where you can gaze upon Roman ruins. The site is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and the crumbling brick buildings here stand testimony to the fact that this was once a famed Indo-Roman trading port. There have been ongoing excavations in the area which have unearthed terracotta remains and pottery, all of which I am told will make their way to a museum here. Spend some time around the ruins and you are sure to be transported to a bygone era. Another interesting place to visit is the Tamil Quarter, where you can see heritage homes and markets, spaces that will make you feel as if time has stopped. Located in and around Sivan Koil Street and Kamatchi Amman Street these old homes are a fine example of vernacular architecture.

## SHOP TILL YOU DROP

When in Puducherry, do not miss shopping for local souvenirs at the many Ashram stores in and around the White Town. Handmade paper especially is a speciality here and a visit to Sri Aurobindo Handmade Paper, established in 1959 is a must for me. I always end up buying stationery here - the paper products and boxes also make for interesting gifting ideas. One of the nicer places to shop for local products is the Crafts Bazaar in White Town, where prices are also reasonable. The many boutique stores that dot Mission Street are full of interesting

clothes, accessories and more, ensuring your bags are heavier than when you arrived in Puducherry.

## FOOD AND FUN

With its interesting Indo-Franco cuisine, the gastronomic scene in Puducherry is one to fall in love with. New-age cafes, old-time bakeries, and French and Indian restaurants ensure there is never a dull moment for food connoisseurs here. A city boasting multifarious options, Puducherry has a magic and charm like none other. The unmatched joy of catching an incredible sunset in Puducherry, as you savour the myriad experiences the city has to offer, is something that will make you come back to Puducherry again and again, just like I do ●





Photo by Dinesh Kharwar  
(Ahmedabad - Prayagraj)



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# Tech Sidekicks for the **Savvy Traveller**

JITENDRA SONI

Travel experiences have undergone a significant transformation thanks to the integration of AI into gadgets, devices, and services. Gone are the days of cumbersome planning, or relying on a travel advisor to dictate your travel plans. Now, you can ask your favourite AI chatbot to help chalk out a plan within your budget and according to your taste – and recommend restaurants serving your favourite cuisines within seconds.

## AI VOICE RECORDER AND NOTE-TAKER

An AI voice recorder stands out for its ability to not just record but transform audio experiences for travellers. But note-taking tools can be extremely useful in documenting adventures or collecting information while on the go.

These devices or apps leverage natural language processing to convert spoken words into text with high accuracy, even amidst the din of travel. They go further by offering contextual tags, automatically summarising discussions, and suggesting action items or reminders based on the content of the notes.

Gadgets like Pocket by OpenVision can integrate with digital diaries or travel journals, enhancing them with location data, time stamps, and even emotional cues detected from the tone of voice, making your notes informative, deeply personal, and reflective of your journey.



## AI-INTEGRATED WIRELESS EARBUDS

Wireless earbuds with AI capabilities are redefining the auditory experience for travellers. Beyond playing music or podcasts, these earbuds can perform real-time translation for conversations, making language barriers virtually non-existent. They use AI for Adaptive Noise Cancellation, which learns from the user's environment to provide the most effective noise isolation, whether you're on a plane, train, or in a crowded café.

Voice command features allow hands-free operation, essential when you're on the move – or when you need to keep your hands free. They also adjust sound settings to suit individual hearing profiles, offering a personalised listening experience that can be particularly beneficial during long journeys.



## LUGGAGE TRACKERS

The integration of AI into luggage trackers has brought peace of mind for travellers concerned about lost or delayed luggage. These devices – such as the Apple AirTags or Tile trackers – offer real-time tracking, thus reducing the scope of luggage mishaps while on the road.

They can alert you if your luggage deviates from your

itinerary or enters unauthorised areas. Some advanced trackers even integrate with smart home systems to announce the arrival of your luggage back home, ensuring you're always in the loop without the stress of constant checking.



## AI-ENHANCED CAMERA PHONES

AI has transformed travel photography in camera phones, making everyone a potential photographer. AI-driven features include scene recognition for automatic settings



adjustments, real-time photo enhancement, and prompts for better shots based on composition rules. Night photography is vastly improved, with AI managing light and colour balance. AI also helps organise your photo library, recognise faces, landmarks or events, and suggest edits or collages.

Smartphones like Apple iPhone or Google's Pixel series come with a slew of advanced features that provide contextual information about what you photograph, or even translate signs in real-time, enriching your visual travel narrative.



## PORTABLE GAMING DEVICES

Compact gaming devices have evolved with AI to offer more than just entertainment for the traveller. AI can adapt game difficulty to the player's skill level, ensuring games remain engaging without being frustrating.

These devices can learn user preferences to recommend new games, or suggest gaming sessions based on your schedule or mood. With cloud gaming integration, such gadgets don't need heavy hardware, making them ideal for travel. Devices like Nintendo Switch and Steam Deck – or gaming laptops – let you play your favourite games anywhere and anytime.

AI also helps create more immersive and interactive experiences with dynamic narratives or adaptive game environments, turning downtime on the road into a rich gaming adventure.

### Conclusion

AI gadgets for travellers are not just about convenience; they are about enhancing the travel experience through smart, adaptive technology that understands and anticipates the needs of the modern explorer. These AI-powered devices and services will help you get the most out of your next trip.



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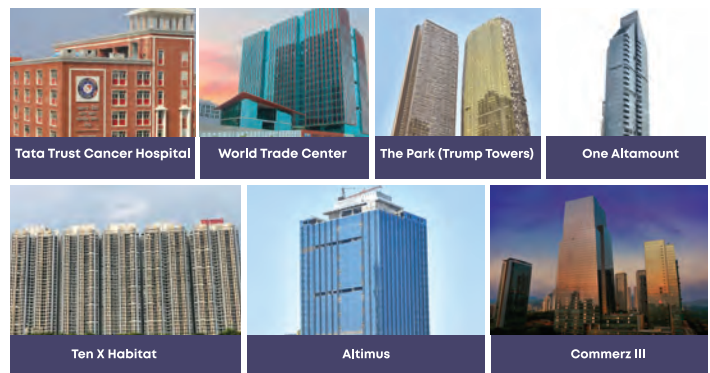
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- In-flight Menu and Magazine

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The Government of India observes National Vaccination Day on March 16 to recognise the efforts of frontline healthcare workers and ensure that every child is vaccinated. By stepping up vaccination campaigns, India has made impressive strides towards increasing the number of people receiving routine vaccinations.

India launched the Pulse Polio Immunisation Program on **March 16, 1995**, leading to the country being declared polio-free in 2014.



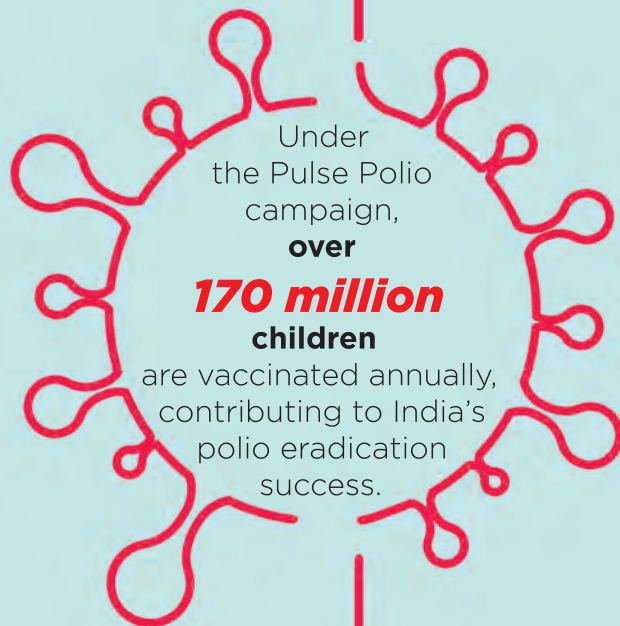
India's COVID-19 vaccination drive, launched on January 16, 2021, **administered over 220 crore doses**, covering 97% of the eligible population with at least one dose.





Mission Indradhanush, launched in 2014, aims to increase full immunisation for children; from 65% in 2014 to

**90%,**  
earlier than 2020.



Under the Pulse Polio campaign, over

**170 million**  
children

are vaccinated annually, contributing to India's polio eradication success.



The introduction of digital platforms like **U-WIN** has strengthened immunisation tracking, with **6.46 crore** beneficiaries registered as of **16 September 2024**.



Through **MR immunisation** efforts, the nation worked to eradicate measles and rubella by vaccinating over **324 million children** between 2017 and 2020.



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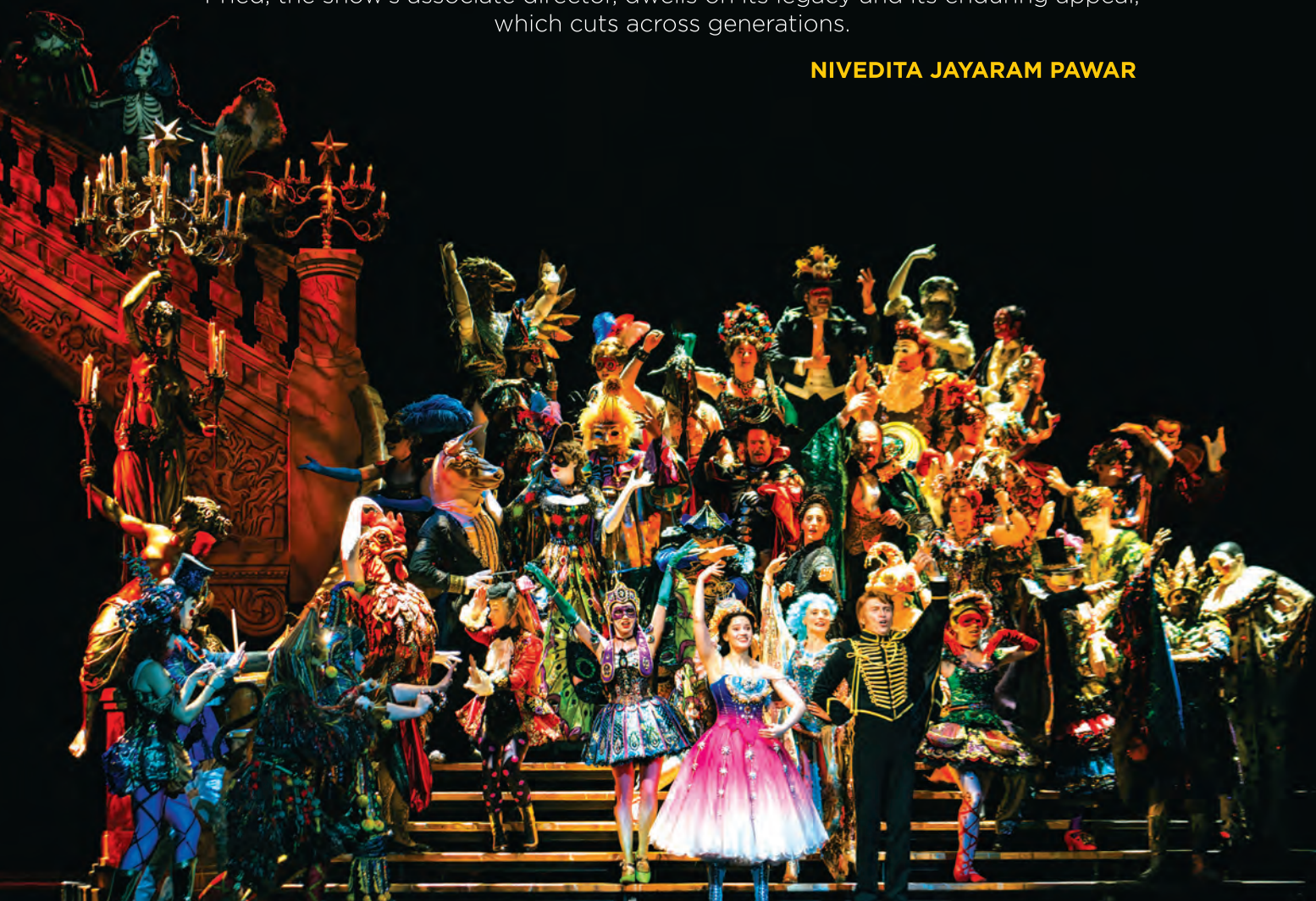




At its core,  
**PHANTOM**  
is a very romantic story

After captivating audiences in 85 cities worldwide since its 1986 premiere, 'The Phantom of the Opera' – Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterpiece that's also a feast for the senses – is finally set to make its India debut in Mumbai. This critically acclaimed musical – which revolves around a disfigured musical virtuoso and his infatuation with a young soprano – unapologetically embraces theatrical extravagance, and is renowned for its mesmerising setting, lavish costumes, pyrotechnics, and show-stopping ensemble numbers. In a candid chat, Rainer Fried, the show's associate director, dwells on its legacy and its enduring appeal, which cuts across generations.

**NIVEDITA JAYARAM PAWAR**





***What makes this 1980s mega-musical still resonate with audiences after all these years?***

Though 'The Phantom of the Opera' is often referred to as a classic, I call it a phenomenon! No other musical has been able to defy changing demographics, and cultural and sociological change, the way 'Phantom' has done. Every audience member wants to be the 'Phantom,' they want to be Christine, and they can easily relate to what



the characters are going through emotionally. That is the real secret.

***Will the younger audiences of today connect with the show's tale of a disfigured musical genius and his obsession with a soprano?***

Actually, we have observed a significant increase in the number of younger people coming to see 'Phantom' in the theatres.

***Interesting - why is that?***

That's because at its core, 'Phantom of the Opera' is a very romantic story, in a world without much romance. People feel drawn to that.

***How has 'Phantom' evolved over 30 years, particularly with advancements in automation and technology?***

Technological advancements have allowed us to become much more flexible in terms of how we schedule 'Phantom' tours, and has also significantly widened the range of venues we can take the show to. And all of that has been possible without (making) compromises to the show itself.

***What is the biggest challenge of directing a musical of this scale and grandeur?***

Figuring out a way to organise rehearsals with a cast and crew that comes from all over the world



*Rainer Fried*

is a very complicated puzzle. The secret of a successful performance of 'Phantom' lies in the detail of the storytelling as well as the technical elements, sound, costumes, wigs, etc. To be able to collaborate with so many highly skilled people bringing all those elements together is not





so much a challenge to me, but a privilege and a joy.

***Can you take us through the scene backstage during a performance?***

It's like a second show that the audience never gets to see! Major costume changes take place in a very short time. Some of the changes happen in less than 30 seconds, which means that a performer will be surrounded by up to five crew members – dresser, make-up, wigs, sound, and stage management. Every move and every action is well rehearsed. Everyone backstage is dressed in black, and many are wearing headsets enabling them to communicate with each other but most importantly with the stage management team, who are in charge of all the action.

***What are your expectations from the Mumbai show?***

I am hopeful – and perhaps quietly confident – that the show will have a similar impact on audiences in India as it has had all over the world for so



***The secret of a successful performance of 'Phantom' lies in the detail of storytelling as well as the technical elements, sound, costumes, wigs et al.***

many years now. But I would never be so presumptuous as to predict exactly how audiences will respond. Discovering this in different corners of the globe is one of the great joys of being associated with 'Phantom,' and every corner has its own unique energy. I cannot wait to see how Indian audiences respond to the show.

***Any plans during your time in Mumbai?***

I hope to see at least a little of Mumbai. But most of all I hope I will be able to try some of the city's authentic local delicacies, which is a great passion of mine •

*'The Phantom Of The Opera' will be performed at NMACC starting 5 March 2025*

## **VIT FOUNDER & CHANCELLOR DR. G. VISWANATHAN AWARDED DOCTORATE BY ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA**

Kolkata, February 15, 2025: In a momentous occasion at the 6th Convocation Ceremony of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, Dr. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), was conferred with the prestigious Doctor of Literature (D.Litt., Honoris Causa). The honor was bestowed upon him in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education, leadership, public service, and humanitarian efforts.

The convocation ceremony, held at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town, was presided over by Hon'ble Chancellor Rev. Dr. James Arjen Tete, S.J & Vice-Chancellor Rev Dr. John Felix Raj. The event featured a distinguished gathering of academicians, dignitaries, students, and esteemed guests. The Convocation Address was delivered by Mr. Justice I. P. Mukherji, Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya.

Dr. Viswanathan, an eminent educationist and visionary leader, has played a pivotal role in transforming higher education in India. This recognition marks the first time an Indian university has conferred an honorary doctorate upon him. Previously, he was honored with an honorary doctorate by West Virginia University, USA, in 2009, and more recently by the State University of New York, Binghamton University, USA, in 2024.



Expressing gratitude for the honor, Dr. Viswanathan thanked St. Xavier's University for conferring the Honoris Causa on him and recollected his long association with Bengal. He emphasized the importance of quality education and research in shaping the future of the nation. He reaffirmed his commitment to fostering academic excellence and societal development. He also emphasized the importance of growth in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for an improved economic development.

Prominent dignitaries from VIT, Vice-Presidents Mr. Sankar Viswanathan & Dr. Sekar Viswanathan, Vice-Chancellor – Dr. Kanchana Bhaaskaran, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Partha Sharathi Mallick, Director -Alumni Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Rufus, Fr. Dominic Gomes, Vicar general Archdiocese of Calcutta, Fr. Malay Dcosta, Financial Administrator, Archdiocese of Calcutta, Fr. Jayraj Veluswamy, S.J, Rector St. Xavier's College Calcutta were present during this historic occasion.





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# My Town

In our series, we travel to various Indian destinations with a SpiceJet family member. This time, Nisha Raj – Cabin Crew – takes us around her home city, Gaya.

***Tell us something about Gaya that makes it so special?***

Gaya holds a special place in my heart for many reasons, but what truly sets it apart is its profound spirituality. Revered as one of the holiest sites in Hinduism, it is where devotees perform the sacred 'Pind Daan' ritual to honour their ancestors. And Hindus attach great importance to the iconic Vishnupad Temple here, which is believed to preserve Lord Vishnu's footprint; it's a place of worship that draws pilgrims from all corners of the world.

***What's the one thing about your hometown that keeps you coming back?***

It's a destination like no other, one where history, spirituality, architecture,

cuisine and modern comforts come together beautifully. But what really makes Gaya special is the warmth and hospitality of its people. No matter how many times I return, I'm always welcomed with kindness, and leave with cherished memories of this timeless city.

***Which is the perfect hangout spot in Gaya?***

There's the Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site where Lord Buddha meditated under the Bodhi tree and attained enlightenment. But my hometown also boasts the bustling Gaya Haat, an emporium that tempts with local handicrafts and textiles, and the vibrant Bodhgaya Market, where you can find artefacts and items related to Buddhism. Both of these places



**MS. NISHA**  
CABIN CREW

are ideal for visitors looking to take home a souvenir of the city's cultural heritage. Indeed, Gaya offers something for everyone, whether they're exploring its historical landmarks or admiring the local artisanship.

***Name a restaurant you would recommend to a visitor, and a not-to-miss delicacy on the menu?***

Each of Paprika and The Spice Affair offer an unforgettable experience, combining great taste, a wonderful vibe, and exceptional hospitality. But Gaya promises a culinary journey that is diverse and deeply connected to its legacy, whether you're enjoying street food at a lively market or indulging





yourself at a fine-dining restaurant. From the smoky, earthy taste of Litti Chokha to the aromatic and flavourful biryani, every dish here reflects authenticity. Meanwhile, Gaya's sweets – among them Tilkut, Khaja and Anarsa – are irresistible to anyone with a sweet tooth.

#### ***What is the best season to visit your hometown and why?***

Between October and March, the weather is at its most pleasant, and ideal for sightseeing and shopping, or for embarking on a spiritual journey. This time of year is also perfect for frequenting Gaya's numerous picturesque spots, where one can relax and spend quality time with family and friends. One such is Brahmayoni Hill, a welcome escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.

#### ***Which are the must-visit places in Gaya?***

The Great Buddha Statue is a truly remarkable sight, a symbol of peace and enlightenment. Its sheer size, elaborate craftsmanship and tranquil ambience imbue it with an air of spirituality that simply has to be experienced; it's just the space for one to sit and reflect. Another is Vishnupad Temple, which is surrounded by the ancient and immortal banyan tree, Akshayavat, under which the final rites for the deceased are performed. This tree, and the deep spiritual connection it carries, adds to the temple's sanctity, and provides a sense of solace to every devotee ●



## **FEW SPOTS FOR A QUICK DAY-TRIP OUTSIDE YOUR HOMETOWN**

There are several destinations nearby that are well worth visiting, each offering a unique blend of history, culture and faith. Alongside Gaya, these form an enriching travel circuit, presenting travellers a deep-dive into India's sacred and intellectual heritage.

**Rajgir:** Renowned for its ancient Cyclopean Wall and scenic hills, Rajgriha – as it was once known – is a city of great historical and religious significance. The erstwhile capital of the Magadh kingdom, it is closely associated with both Buddhism and Jainism, attracting pilgrims and history enthusiasts alike.

**Nalanda:** Renowned for its ancient university, which was established in the 5th century and is celebrated as one of the greatest centres

of learning in the ancient world. It once attracted scholars from across the globe and specialised in subjects such as the Vedas, logic, grammar, and metaphysics. The ruins of Nalanda's university still stand as a testament to India's glorious academic traditions, making it a must-visit for anyone interested in the past and the story of education.



## WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR IN **APRIL**

**06**  
APR  
2025

### **RAM NAVAMI**

The birth of Lord Rama is celebrated across the country with processions and special prayers. Special ceremonies along the banks of river Sarayu along with dramatic reenactments of Rama's life are part of the great celebrations in Ayodhya.



### **SONGKRAN**

Thailand's traditional New Year event, Songkran, is well-known for its enormous water fights. The celebration, which takes place from April 13 to April 15, represents renewal and purification.

The most well-known events, where people splash water on each other, take place in Phuket, Chiang Mai, and Bangkok's Khao San Road.

**13-15**  
APR  
2025

**14**  
APR  
2025

### **BAISAKHI**

The Punjabi New Year and the spring harvest festival - Baisakhi, is celebrated with lots of fun and fervour. Farmers express thankfulness for a good harvest, while for everyone it is a celebration of joy, faith, and community.



### **COACHELLA**

One of the largest and most well-known music festivals in the world is the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which takes place in Indio, California.

Coachella, which takes place over two consecutive weekends, is marked with concerts by leading international musicians in pop, rock, hip-hop, and electronic music.

**11-13**  
**18-20**  
APR  
2025



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THB 140 | SAR 15

Spicy Chicken



Mast Masala



#### Yu

##### Hyderabadi Masala Biryani

INR 300 | USD 4 | AED 15 | THB 140 | SAR 15



#### M.O.M

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#### Daawat

##### Sambhar Rice

INR 300 | USD 4 | AED 15  
THB 140 | SAR 15



##### Three Cheese Pasta

INR 250 | USD 4 | AED 15 | THB 120 | SAR 15



##### Rava Upma

INR 300 | USD 4 | AED 15 | THB 140 | SAR 15



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### MUNCHIES

#### Cashew

INR 200 | USD 3 | AED 10 | THB 100 | SAR 10



Roasted Salted Cashews

#### Cookie Man

INR 100 | USD 2 | AED 5  
THB 50 | SAR 5



Cookies Double Choc Chip | Blueberry

#### Cornitos

INR 150  
USD 2  
AED 10  
THB 70  
SAR 10



Jalapeño Nachos & Salsa Dip



## BEVERAGES

### Continental/Chai Point

Cappuccino / Masala chai

INR 150 | USD 2 | AED 10  
THB 70 | SAR 10



### Real Activ

100% Orange Juice / Multi Fruit Beverage

INR 150 | USD 2 | AED 10 | THB 70 | SAR 10



### WOW

100% Coconut Water

INR 150 | USD 2 | AED 10  
THB 70 | SAR 10



### Coke / Coke Zero

Aerated Drink

INR 100 | USD 2 | AED 5  
THB 50 | SAR 5

## MINIATURES AND BEER

### Glen Moray

12 YO Single Malt Scotch Whisky (50 ml)

INR 750 | USD 10 | AED 35  
THB 320 | SAR 35



### Johnnie Walker

Black Label Whisky (50 ml)

INR 750 | USD 10 | AED 35  
THB 320 | SAR 35



### Stolichnaya

Premium Vodka (50 ml)

INR 750 | USD 10 | AED 35  
THB 320 | SAR 35



### Budweiser

Beer (330 ml)

INR 450 | USD 6 | AED 25  
THB 190 | SAR 25



## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (TAKE-AWAY)

### A. De Fussigny Grande Champagne VSOP

Cognac (700 ml)

1 Bottle

INR 2750 | USD 34 | AED 125 | THB 1,140 | SAR 125

2 Bottles

INR 5400 | USD 66 | AED 245 | THB 2,230 | SAR 250



### Glen Moray

15 YO Single Malt Scotch Whisky (750 ml)

1 Bottle

INR 2500 | USD 31 | AED 115 | THB 1,040 | SAR 115

2 Bottles

INR 5000 | USD 61 | AED 225 | THB 2,070 | SAR 230



### Absolut

Vodka (1 l)

1 Bottle

INR 900 | USD 11 | AED 45 | THB 380 | SAR 45

2 Bottles



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# PREDICTIONS

## March 2025

**Dr. Prem Kumar Sharma**

(Astrologer, Palmist, Numerologist, Vaastu Consultant & 3-Time Limca Book of Records Holder)

**email:** psharma@premaastrologer.com | **web:** www.premaastrologer.com



### ARIES

You're feeling a surge of motivation, making this an excellent time to pursue new opportunities and enhance your professional influence. Exciting prospects emerge in love, bringing fresh energy whether you are single or committed. Family life may feel dynamic, making it essential to find a balance between personal and home responsibilities.

**Lucky No.: 9**

**Lucky Colour: Brown**



### TAURUS

Romantic relationships may require a little extra effort, but adding spontaneity into the mix will keep things exciting. Work brings well-deserved recognition, making this a productive phase. With new investment opportunities, Your finances show positive growth. Health remains strong, helping you maintain an active lifestyle. Real-estate matters are progressing, and hobbies can bring great satisfaction.

**Lucky No.: 2**

**Lucky Colour: Purple**



### GEMINI

Exciting travel opportunities await, bringing new experiences and cultural enrichment. At work, your dedication is paying off, with career progress on the horizon. Your love life is flourishing with meaningful connections and moments. Family matters need balancing between your personal and collective responsibilities. Financially, it's a good time to focus on saving and optimising investments.

**Lucky No.: 18**

**Lucky Colour: Yellow**



### CANCER

Love life might need a fresh approach—open communication will help create harmony. Work recognition is on the rise, giving you a chance to showcase your talents. Finances are growing with stability. Health may need extra attention, so self-care should be a top priority. Family bonds strengthen, and time spent with loved ones will be fulfilling.

**Lucky No.: 11**

**Lucky Colour: Beige**



### LEO

Family will be your emotional anchor, offering warmth and support throughout the month. Work challenges may arise, but patience and perseverance will see you through. Health might fluctuate, so maintaining a healthy routine is important. Romance is steady but requires thoughtful gestures to keep the connection alive.

**Lucky No.: 6**

**Lucky Colour: Peach**



### VIRGO

Property matters remain stable, making it an ideal time to refine your existing assets. Career progress feels steady—staying adaptable will help you embrace opportunities. Romance flourishes through open and honest conversations. Health requires extra focus, particularly staying hydrated and following a balanced diet. Financially, it's a good period for strategising short-term gains.

**Lucky No.: 1**

**Lucky Colour: Orange**



### LIBRA

A vibrant social life keeps you engaged, bringing new opportunities and meaningful connections. Career-wise, minor setbacks may occur, but they serve as learning experiences for future success. Health remains strong with outdoor activities boosting well-being. Invest emotionally in family matters to maintain balance. Review spending habits as finances may be challenging. Romance thrives with special moments.

**Lucky No.: 17**

**Lucky Colour: Beige**



### SCORPIO

Your career shines with leadership opportunities and impact. Travel brings adventure and fresh perspectives. Financial matters need a well-balanced approach to maintain stability. Health is in great shape; stay active to enhance your vitality. Family responsibilities require attention, but maintaining equilibrium will keep things harmonious. Romance might present challenges, so focus on rebuilding trust.

**Lucky No.: 7**

**Lucky Colour: Light Red**



### SAGITTARIUS

Your financial situation looks promising, but consolidating resources will help maximise your wealth. Work offers growth, with steady efforts ensuring long-term rewards. Nurture love with small gestures. Stay active to maintain strong health and high energy. Family time will be enriching, strengthening bonds. Real-estate ventures look favourable, and engaging in community projects will bring personal satisfaction.

**Lucky No.: 2**

**Lucky Colour: Yellow**



### CAPRICORN

Family life brings joy, making it a great time for heartfelt conversations and celebrations. Work presents opportunities to showcase leadership skills, leading to career success. Health is steady, wellness practices will boost well-being. Clear communication will strengthen your love life. Finances are stable; smart savings enhance security. Real-estate decisions look promising, whether buying, selling, or upgrading.

**Lucky No.: 7**

**Lucky Colour: Saffron**



### AQUARIUS

Creativity and innovative thinking will be your strengths this month. Career-wise, steady progress will lead to long-term success. Health remains balanced, but stress management should be a priority. Your love life thrives, deepening connections. Family bonds strengthen with fulfilling interactions. Financial stability is near, but future savings matter. Re-evaluate property matters before committing.

**Lucky No.: 6**

**Lucky Colour: Peach**



### PISCES

Love life may need adjustments—addressing concerns directly will improve understanding. Health is in great shape, and maintaining a nutritious diet will keep you feeling your best. Financial management is key, and staying disciplined will help maximise returns. Family moments bring warmth, and celebrating achievements strengthens relationships. Property investments, especially home improvements, look promising.

**Lucky No.: 22**

**Lucky Colour: Pink**



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Sanandan Jalali 7204457541 sanandan.jalali@ttkprestige.com | **North:** Anchal

Verma 8171626999 anchal.verma@ttkprestige.com | **East:** Soumyadeep Roy

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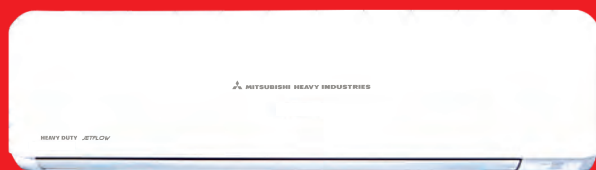
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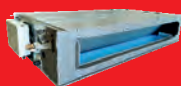
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