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Welcome aboard SpiceJet!

As they say, perseverance and hard work always pay off.

At SpiceJet, we have lived by this belief every single day, through turbulence and tailwinds alike. I am happy to share that the green shoots of revival are finally visible. We recently reported our first annual profit in seven years. This is a moment of immense pride and a testament to the collective resilience of Team SpiceJet.

That's not all. Our quarterly profit surged 12-fold to INR 319 crore for the January-March 2025 period, making it our highest-ever quarterly profit. None of this would have been possible without you, our loyal passengers. Your continued trust and unwavering support have kept our aircraft flying full, with load factors touching nearly 90% last quarter, regardless of the season. For this, we are deeply grateful.

Not too long ago, SpiceJet was battling headwinds. Today, I am proud to share that the airline has achieved a positive net worth of INR 683 crore, a significant milestone that reflects our turnaround and future-readiness.

We are expanding responsibly and strategically. New destinations like Kathmandu, Tuticorin, Porbandar, and Dehradun have been added to our network, bringing us closer to our goal of stronger regional and international connectivity.

At the heart of our expansion is an unwavering commitment to safety. I am proud to inform you that SpiceJet recently cleared the IATA IOSA audit, the gold standard in aviation safety worldwide.



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As we move ahead with renewed purpose and a strengthened foundation, I thank you once again for choosing SpiceJet. We look forward to welcoming you on board – today and always.

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# FROM CLAY TO COTTON:

*Stories of Strength from Odisha's Women Entrepreneurs*



For generations, the women of Odisha have quietly shaped their families and communities. Today, through SUBHADRA, they are stepping into the spotlight—not just as caregivers, but as economic leaders, cultural anchors, and agents of change.

Inspired by the strength of Goddess Subhadra and the government's vision for inclusive growth, SUBHADRA places women at the core of Odisha's development journey. With ₹10,000 annually for five years, credited directly into their bank accounts on Rakhi Purnima and International Women's Day, the initiative ensures financial independence and dignity for every eligible woman aged 21 to 60.

But SUBHADRA goes beyond financial support. It's a comprehensive platform for empowerment, in

tegrating skill-building, education, and entrepreneurship. With initiatives like Kuho SUBHADRA, SUBHADRA Samikhyas, and Kisor SUBHADRA, it aims to reach women from every corner of Odisha.

This is more than a scheme. This is GHARE GHARE SUBHADRA.

## Subhadra: A Journey of Empowerment

On 17th September 2024, SUBHADRA was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in Odisha—marking more than just a policy rollout, but the beginning of a powerful movement. In a single day, ₹1,250 crore reached over 25 lakh women, reinforcing the state's commitment to women-led development. Since then, over 1 crore women have benefited, with 41.1% from SC/ST communities. Designed through a bottom-up, participatory

approach, SUBHADRA reflects Odisha's vision for inclusive growth, backed by an ambitious ₹55,825 crore outlay over five years.

With 150+ consultations across departments, SUBHADRA was built on transparency, technology, and reach. The SUBHADRA portal, Kuho call centre, and biometric eKYC ensure efficient and secure delivery, even in remote areas. Benefits are credited directly via DBT and CBDC, with over 1 lakh digital wallet transactions already processed.

To raise awareness, the SUBHADRA Sachetanata Rath traversed districts and Panchayats. Through hoardings, community rallies, and SHG outreach, the scheme ensured no woman was left behind. On Women's Day,



over 1 crore SUBHADRA lit lamps in celebration—a glowing symbol of transformation.

What truly defines SUBHADRA, however, are the stories it enables: a goat farmer in Nuapada increasing her income, an artisan in Rayagada reviving bamboo crafts, or a young girl in Balasore finally pursuing her dream to teach.

Across Odisha, women are no longer just caregivers—they are entrepreneurs, leaders, and changemakers. This is GHARE GHARE SUBHADRA—a movement lighting homes and futures, one empowered woman at a time.



## Menaka Pradhan, Artisan: Bamboo Craft

Limited by raw materials, Menaka couldn't meet rising demand for her bamboo craft. With SUBHADRA's help, she invested in superior-quality bamboo, improving durability and market appeal. Now, her business is steadily expanding.



## Tikili Rana, Artisan: Pottery

For Tikili, pottery was a family tradition, but sustaining it as a business was tough. Aided by SUBHADRA, she secured better clay and tools, boosting efficiency and product quality. Her handcrafted pieces now attract buyers from beyond her village.



## Sushma Jharia, Entrepreneur: Cotton Wicks

Running a cotton wick business required consistency in supply, but Sushma lacked the capital to expand. A ₹5,000 investment through SUBHADRA allowed her to increase production, fulfill larger orders, and reach new customers. With business thriving, she now has the confidence to take her trade further.



## Daru Phulma Hikka, Farmer: Goatery

Daru counted the coins in her palm. Not enough. It was always like this. The goats gave milk, but not enough to sell in bulk. The market was too far, the feed was too costly. Something had to change. A little investment, a few smarter choices—better feed, two more goats, a plan to grow. A few months later, she ran the numbers again. This time, it was enough. SUBHADRA had made sure of it.







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# SpiceJet Reports Highest-Ever Quarterly Profit and Second Consecutive Profitable Quarter

**Q4 FY25 Profit Surges 12 times to INR 319 Crore  
Airline Posts First Annual Profit in Seven Years**

**SpiceJet's Net Worth Turned Positive in the Third Quarter of FY25 and Remained Positive in the Fourth Quarter, Reaching INR 683 Crore**

**Operating Revenue Jumps 17.5% to INR 1,446 Crore; Registers Strong Passenger Load Factor of 88.1%; Operating RASK Increases to INR 5.66**

SpiceJet Ltd. announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and full year ending March 31, 2025. The airline posted its highest-ever quarterly profit of INR 319 Crore for Q4 FY25, marking its second consecutive profitable quarter, and a full-year net profit of INR 48 Crore – the first in seven years – underscoring the success of its financial and operational turnaround strategy.

Driven by improved yields, sustaining high load factors, and cost optimization, SpiceJet's revenue for Q4 FY25 rose 17.6% QoQ to INR 1,942 Crore, while EBITDA increased to INR 527 Crore from INR 209 Crore in the last quarter. The Passenger Load Factor stood at 88.1%, highlighting strong demand.

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the airline posted a net profit of INR 48 Crore, a remarkable recovery from a loss of INR 404 Crore in FY24. Revenue for the year stood at INR 6,736 Crore. Passenger RASK improved by 3.4% YoY, and the airline has achieved a positive net worth of INR 683 Crore at the end of the period.

The Promoter Group completed an equity infusion of INR 500 Crore, including the final tranche of INR 294.09 Crore in Q4 FY25, underscoring its strong confidence in the company's long-term vision and potential.

**Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said,** "As we share our quarterly and annual performance today, our thoughts are with those affected by the tragic Air India crash in Ahmedabad. This heartbreaking tragedy has deeply affected us all, and our thoughts are with the families and loved ones of those lost in this devastating crash. The entire aviation community stands together in this moment of grief."

"SpiceJet has delivered a strong set of results, marking a significant turnaround in our operational and financial performance. Posting a profit for the second consecutive quarter and for the full financial year after seven years is a reflection of the tireless efforts of our team, the continued trust of our passengers, and the resilience of our brand. With a strengthened balance sheet, renewed investor trust and continued network expansion, SpiceJet is well-positioned for sustainable growth."

"While the revival of our grounded fleet has taken longer than anticipated due to complex global supply chain and engine overhaul challenges, momentum is now clearly building. Our partnerships with world-class OEMs and MROs like StandardAero and Carlyle Aviation are bearing fruit, and engine overhauls are underway. With overhauled engines now returning, we expect a steady ramp-up in operational capacity in the weeks ahead."

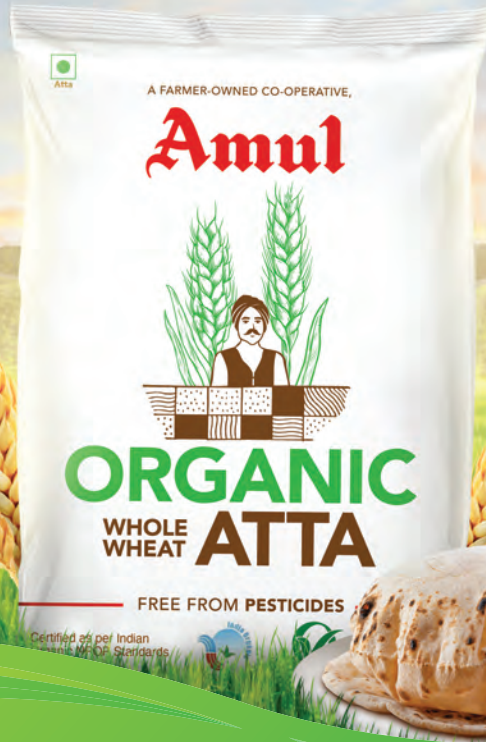




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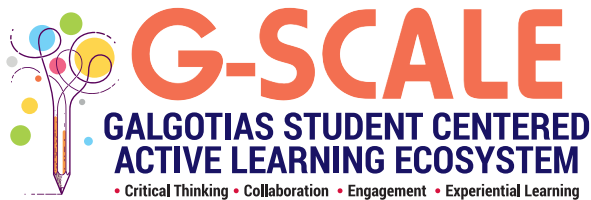


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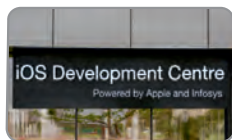
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## "BNW DEVELOPMENTS IS LEADING RAS AL KHAIMAH'S LARGEST PRIVATE REAL ESTATE TRANSFORMATION."

*Arch. Abdulla Al Abdouli,  
CEO of Marjan*

*Fashion TV Acacia sets a new benchmark for high-style living on Al Marjan Island, Ras Al Khaimah. A **visionary creation** by BNW Developments, it blends couture-inspired architecture with the serenity of island life. From tailored interiors to **panoramic sea views**, every element is designed to impress. Acacia is where elegance meets ease, crafted for those who seek refined comfort, timeless aesthetics, and an address that speaks volumes.*

*Designed for those who value understated **luxury**, Acacia offers a lifestyle where fashion and architecture seamlessly converge. From chic 1-bedroom apartments to expansive penthouses, each home is a canvas of light, space, and style. More than a residence, Acacia is a statement of presence, poise, and **elevated island living**.*



### AMENITIES

Kids' Play Area

Lounge Seating

Landscaped Gardens

Infinity Pool

Café & Restaurant

Modern Gym

*From sunrise yoga to sunset cocktails, Acacia's infinity pool, sky gym, and signature restaurant turn daily living into a stylish, ramp-worthy experience.*

*Moonlit terraces and fashion-forward lounges make FashionTV Acacia your private runway, where every detail whispers luxury and every moment feels iconic. Set amid five-star resorts and just minutes from **Wynn Resort** and RAK Central, Acacia boasts one of the UAE's most prized locations.*

*BNW Developments, helmed by **Ankur Aggarwal** and **Vivek Anand Oberoi**, is the Middle East's foremost private developer with a commanding **AED 22B+** portfolio.*



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PROPERTIES

On May 6, 2025, a significant milestone was achieved in Dubai's ever-evolving skyline. Our Chairman, Tauseef Khan, alongside CEO Azaan Khan and President Eifaad Khan, proudly officiated the groundbreaking ceremony for Terra Tower, a premier residential project by Dugasta Properties.

Set in Dubai land, the heart of the bustling metropolis of Dubai, is Terra Tower by Dugasta Properties. Rising majestically above the city skyline, Terra Tower is a testament to modern architectural brilliance. This premium residential tower offers an unparalleled collection of studio, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom homes, each meticulously crafted to embody the essence of luxury and sophistication.

With its futuristic and aesthetic design, Terra Tower redefines the concept of urban living. The interiors are thoughtfully curated, combining functional layouts with lavish finishes. Enjoy breathtaking views of the city from the private balcony while basking in the serene ambience of a family-friendly community. Inspired by the color of the Earth, Terra Tower is strategically located near major highways and renowned landmarks, offering the perfect blend of convenience and tranquility.







## KEEP UP WITH TIME

Blending speed with style, **Fossil** introduces its newest collaboration—an officially licensed, limited-edition timepiece inspired by the iconic performance cars of Shelby American, designed for both car lovers and watch collectors alike. The collaboration consists of the Grand Tourer Watch, Fossil's most elevated chronograph to date that pays tribute to Shelby's automotive legacy. Crafted in silver-tone stainless steel, the watch features a Japanese chronograph movement with subdials for minutes and seconds. The dial has Shelby's distinctive striped finish in their signature shades of Guardsman Blue and Wimbledon White, accented by the Shelby logo—a coiled cobra ready to strike.

**Price:** Grand Tourer Watch INR 31,995



## what's TRENDING

### TASTE OF THE SEASON

**The Grammar Room**, the all-day haven, invites you to feel at home with Chef Dhruv Oberoi's fresh summer menu. For breakfast, there's the K-Benedict—where kimchi shrimp and poached eggs meet mantou—alongside Tempeh Akuri (Parsi-style scrambled tofu and tempeh) and Turkish Eggs with garlic labneh and patata harra, both hearty and wholesome. Meanwhile, the menu's small plates are made for snacking, sharing, and sparking conversation. Try the Teriyaki Sushi Tostada, Jackfruit Mole on a crispy corn tostada, or Korean Corn Elote with a citrus-gochujang glaze. And say cheers to the TGR Signature Tequila Martini with amlabrine—a classic with a twist!

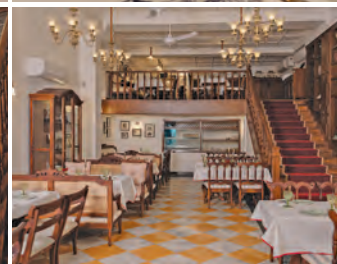
**What:** Special Menu at The Grammar Room



### BEST OF PUNJABIYAT IN CP

**Ikk Panjab**, the best place in Delhi to experience the old-world warmth of Punjabiya, has a new outlet in the iconic heart of the city: Connaught Circle. The Capital's latest fine-dining address boasts a vintage feel, its dark mahogany furniture and cosy seating taking you back to the homes of the colonels of old. The menu, inspired by the character and charm of undivided Punjab, has been reinvented to include mouthwatering standouts such as Gosht Beliram from Maharaja Ranjit Singh's court, Atta Chicken from Kotkapura, Karachi Koyla Kadhahi, Lahori Chikkad Cholle, Ferozpuri Macchi, and Tarn Taran da Jaleba.

**Where:** Ikk Panjab, Connaught Place






















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## A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF CHOCOLATE

**Manam Chocolate**, the international award-winning, TIME-recognised premium Indian craft chocolate™ brand, launches its first experiential space in New Delhi. In this one-of-its-kind destination—in Eldeco Centre, Saket—residents of Delhi and neighbouring Noida and Gurgaon can look forward to discovering, exploring and engaging with the wonderful world of craft chocolate.

Here, chocolate is reimagined, not just as a bar but as an expression of flavour, form and craft, deeply rooted in India's terroir. And beyond the products, Manam Chocolate presents a host of immersive encounters of the chocolatey kind—including a first-of-its-kind Craft Chocolate Beverage Bar with 36 unique beverages; a 'make-your-own tablet' station; a café serving globally inspired cuisine; a classroom for curated chocolate workshops; and high seats to perch

yourself on and watch chocolatiers mould chocolate into a variety of indulgences.

Meaning 'We' or 'Us' in Telugu, 'Manam' Chocolate is both a heartfelt tribute to its Indian roots, and a collective of passionate craftspeople—farmers, fermenters, chocolate makers, and storytellers—working together to usher in a new era in Indian chocolates.

**Opened:** 25 June 2025



## ELEVATING INDIA'S SUPER SNACK

In a world shifting toward mindful eating, Swadikaa is redefining India's snacking habits one pack of makhana at a time. Born out of a passion for wellness and rooted in tradition, the brand offers a range of premium roasted foxnuts.

Swadikaa sources its makhana directly from Bihar, ensuring top-tier quality while empowering local farmers. With minimal processing and maximum nutrition, it caters to the growing demand for clean-label, plant-based, and gluten-free snacks. The brand is widely available in India and is making inroads into international markets like the USA, UAE, and Singapore.

**What:** Healthy snacks by Swadikaa



### IN FOCUS

(Birthday dedication to Syed Basil)

*Life is buzzing*

*We live once, we die once  
So, why we cannot live life to the fullest always  
Moment turns to hours then centuries  
So, why always stuck to our boundaries  
Buds change to flowers then fruits  
So why we always have to follow our roots  
Sunshine come every day moonlight often  
Sun rays falls everywhere moon beams brighten  
Infant grows to teenagers then youth  
Parents grow old and career remains as truth  
Lots to express, lot to share  
Syed, why words restricts to dare.  
Syed*

(From Syed Aayaz)





## 10 Trailblazing Entrepreneurs to Watch in 2025 by Timez Applaud

Timez Applaud proudly announces the Top 10 Trailblazing Entrepreneurs to Watch in 2025 — visionary leaders transforming industries with innovation, excellence, and passion. These changemakers are redefining success and inspiring millions with their bold ideas, resilience, and leadership in today's dynamic world.



**Ar. Amit Agrawal**

**Founder and Director of Pinakiin Designs**

Ar. Amit Agrawal, Founder and Director of Pinakiin Designs, has over 18 years of experience in workplace design and build solutions. His leadership has expanded the firm from Pune to a national presence, setting benchmarks in sustainability, safety, and design through a strong commitment to quality, innovation, and client-centric execution.



**Amit Ghotikar**

**Amit Ghotikar, Founder & CEO of TFCS Kitchen Solutions Ltd**

Amit Ghotikar, Founder & CEO of TFCS Kitchen Solutions Ltd, turned years of experience in hotels, QSRs, and cafés into a bold new approach—chefless kitchens. Backed by hospitality and retail expertise, he's building smarter, scalable food brands through tech, systems, and consulting that simplify how the industry runs today.

**Bhavesh Jain**

**Director of Max Fresh World India Pvt Ltd**

Forged in tradition and driven by innovation, the Jain family transformed Shree Vallabh Metals from a modest venture into a global stainless steel powerhouse. With brands like Neelkanth and Maxfresh, they've built a legacy of quality, trust, and modern design — impacting homes in over 80+ countries. [info@maxfresh.co.in](mailto:info@maxfresh.co.in) [www.maxfresh.in](http://www.maxfresh.in)



**Dr. Aamir Junaid Ahmad**

**(CEO and Founder - S S Systems Pvt Ltd)**

A visionary AI evangelist, serial entrepreneur, and digital innovator, Dr. Aamir Junaid Ahmad is redefining human-AI interaction. With global citations, patented innovations, and award-winning ventures, he empowers education, healthcare, and industry through cutting-edge tech solutions and leadership that inspires transformation across sectors.



**Dr. Mohammed Zoheb Hossain**

**Entrepreneur, Educator, and Philanthropist**

Dr. Mohammed Zoheb Hossain is a Kolkata-based entrepreneur, educator, and philanthropist. He founded Pinnacle Suppliers and leads Kidderpore Child's World School, expanding it into a thriving educational institution. As head of the Kidderpore Minority Welfare and Educational Trust, he empowers communities through education and social initiatives. His action-driven leadership and sustainable business vision have earned national acclaim.



**Dr. Mahesh Kumar Jogani**

**India's First Patent Holder for Concrete Fibre (Director, Jogani Reinforcement)**

Dr. Mahesh Kumar Jogani is a renowned research engineer and innovator with over two decades of expertise in advanced materials. A pioneer in basalt fibre and sustainable reinforcement solutions, he is also the author of the book "World of Basalt Fiber." As Director of Jogani Reinforcement, his work spans critical sectors including construction, de-

fense, and aerospace. The company has been honored with the India Innovation Award for its breakthrough technologies in crack control and reinforcement solutions for construction and infrastructure projects.



**Gopal Das Baghel**

**A Visionary Leader in Sports and Education**

Gopal Das Baghel, a seasoned entrepreneur and finance expert, is empowering youth through sports and education. Rising from humble beginnings, he founded the nationally recognized College Sports Premier League, revolutionizing sports management in India. His journey is a powerful example of determination and visionary leadership.

**Sanjay Kalika**

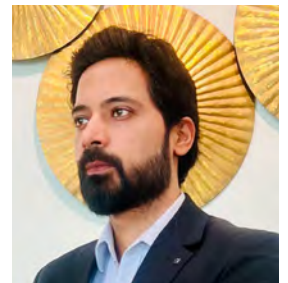
For 25 years, Sanjay Kalika has co-managed a risk management company with his partner, Vijay Arora. Residing in Mumbai, he is passionate about filmmaking and co-owns a production house to create impactful social content. His most outstanding achievement is shaping the destinies of underprivileged youth, as he believes that passion fosters societal change.



**Dr. Pramod Sharma**

**Founder of IIHM-Vasai (Mumbai)**

Dr. Pramod Sharma is a trailblazer of providing professional & technical education along with traditional courses. His approach to impart learning is modern with traditional values. He has been shaping global hospitality & IT workforce and has made his life's mission to dedicate in the service of fellow citizens through his educational and social institutions.



**Tausif Ahmad**

**(Managing Director & CEO, MILLI Group of Institutions)**

Tausif Ahmad is a dynamic and visionary young leader at the helm of the MILLI Group of Institutions. With an unwavering commitment to excellence and an eye firmly set on the future, he is steering the group into a bold new era of growth and impact. Under his leadership, the group has recently inaugurated Kashmir Medical College & Hospital—Kashmir's first private medical college—a historic milestone that marks a transformative leap for healthcare and education in the region.



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# Dubai

TEJA LELE

Home to towering skyscrapers, the biggest shopping mall ever built, ultra-luxe hotels, man-made islands, and adventure parks, Dubai is the place to be if you're seeking a break that marries 21st-century glamour with tradition. The emirate promises a vast desert landscape ideal for safaris, camping trips, camel rides, and 4x4 dune bashing, alongside a multitude of souks, a growing art circuit, and a mouthwatering food scene. Here's how you can get the most out of your stay in Dubai.



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**9:30 AM**

### **EMBRACE THE PAST**

Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood is among the oldest districts in Dubai. Its maze of winding alleyways and traditional wind towers, set along the Dubai Creek, is best explored on foot. Meanwhile, the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding offers a tour that's culturally immersive.

**11:00 AM**

### **SERVED WITH LOVE**

For more than two decades, Arabian Tea House has been presenting a beautiful blend of Emirati and Arabic cuisine and hospitality. Choose from an assortment of 150 different types of teas and drinks. Or else, pair Arabic coffee with regag, a flat bread stuffed with egg and cheese and drizzled with honey, or khabeesa, a traditional dessert.







**12:00 PM**

### GLIMPSE OF TOMORROW

An asymmetric torus clad in steel and glass, the Museum of the Future represents Dubai's "vision of the future". This seven-storey "living museum" explores how society can look beyond the present and imagines the limitless possibilities of tomorrow, with displays such as a space-station simulation, rainforest, and oasis.

**2:00 PM**

### GO MICHELIN

Home to more than 100 nationalities, Dubai's diversity is best seen in its array of culinary options. Break for lunch at one of the 19 Michelin-starred restaurants that offer a variety of cuisines: Emirati, Indian, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, or Contemporary. Choose from 11 Woodfire, Al Muntaha, Armani/Ristorante, Avatara, Hōseki, La Dame de Pic, Moonrise, Row on 45, STAY by Yannick Alléno, or Trèsind Studio.

**4:00 PM**

### FLOWER POWER

Flowers take centrestage at Dubai Miracle Garden, which at 72,000sq m is the world's largest natural flower garden. Here, 150 million blooms are arranged in beautiful exhibits, among them the Guinness Book of World Records-breaking floral version of an Airbus A380, a Smurfs Village, a floating lady, a heart-shaped pathway, castles, and houses.

**6:00 PM**

### NEW BAZAAR, OLD VIBES

Take an abra, a traditional Emirati boat, and head for Souk Madinat Jumeirah, a vibrant Arabian market that's an endless maze of alleys and walkways. The colourful stands and stalls here sell trinkets, handicrafts, and accessories. Don't miss the Grand Bazaar, the souk of fragrant spices.

**8:00 PM**

### RETAIL THERAPY

Spanning over a million square metres and featuring more than 1,200 retail stores, Dubai Mall is the world's biggest destination for shopping, entertainment and leisure. Enjoy a meal at one of the umpteen food and beverage outlets and then make your way to the Dubai Fountain, one of the largest choreographed fountain displays anywhere.



**11:00 PM**

### STAR OF THE SHOW

There's no better place than the Dubai Marina for a glittering night out. Behold the sparkling lights as you stroll along a section of the Dubai Marina Walk, a 7km palm tree-lined path bordering the waterway. Bring your Dubai sojourn to a fitting end with a nightcap at a buzzing restaurant or lounge.



### WHEN TO VISIT

Dubai is at its most pleasant from November to March; if on a budget, you can plan a trip between June and September, but keep in mind that temperatures above 38°C are not uncommon at this time of year.

### WHERE TO STAY

The emirate's staggering range of luxury resorts includes Atlantis The Palm, JW Marriott Marquis, and The First Collection, while among the chic five-star hotels are St. Regis, Hilton, and Fairmont. Budget travellers can opt for Citymax, Rove, Ramada Plaza by Wyndham, and Premier Inn.

### WHAT TO EAT

Dubai is truly a foodie's delight! When in town, try manousheh, the local pizza; tabbouleh, a salad of vegetables, wheat and herbs; machboos, a rice dish; margoogat, a meaty, tomato-based stew; chebab, Emirati-style pancakes; or harees, which combines wheat and minced meat.

Finish with luqaimat, a close cousin of the gulab jamun, or basbousa, a traditional Levantine cake.







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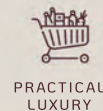
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# Beneath the **Monsoon** Sky

CHANDREYI BANDYOPADHYAY

Come July and the monsoon clouds bring in a whiff of freshness all around. With peacocks spreading their wings and children frolicking in the rains, the season brings smiles to every face and joy to every heart.

As lakes fill up, riverbeds burst into life, and waterfalls come cascading to the ground, places like Wayanad down south, Goa in the west, Rajasthan up north and Meghalaya out east, entice the traveller with the promise of gorgeously verdant vistas, misty days without end, and the soothing rhythm of the rain.



*Photos@Joydeep Mondal*





**SPICEJET OFFERS DIRECT  
DAILY FLIGHTS TO  
SRINAGAR FROM DELHI  
AND JAMMU**

#### **Top and Right:**

*A lone shikara  
breaking through  
the languid waters in  
Srinagar*

*The majestic  
Dudhsagar waterfalls,  
an hour's drive away  
from Goa*

As the skies over India turn grey, the land transforms. Originating in the Indian Ocean and making its steady way across the Subcontinent all the way up to the Himalayas, the Southwest Monsoon revives the parched earth and brings blessed relief from the heat.

The north Indian city of Srinagar is an ideal destination to visit in the monsoon months of July-August. The serene lakes, with shikaras and houseboats by the side, make for a relaxing holiday. Meanwhile, the coastal hotspot of Goa is bedecked with lush greenery during the rainy season, making it a popular tourist destination.







**Clockwise from Top Left:**

*A tiger enjoying the monsoon rain*

*Manjarabad fort in Karnataka covered with a carpet of moss.*

*A seasonal waterfall at the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra.*



**SPICEJET OFFERS DIRECT  
DAILY FLIGHTS TO  
BENGALURU FROM DELHI**

The season reveals a striking blend of wildlife and history. Heritage sites are replete with natural growth and graced by rain-fed waterfalls and streams. Bedecked with glistening moss, ancient sites look even more resplendent.

At Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, the forest bursts into life. While tigers lurk in the undergrowth, migratory birds delight with their calls and wild species dart across wet grasslands, enjoying the bounty of nature





SPICEJET OFFERS DIRECT  
DAILY FLIGHTS TO **MUMBAI**  
FROM KOLKATA AND  
VARANASI

**Right and Bottom:**

*A child beaming with happiness in  
a farmhouse window in Dahanu-  
Maharashtra.*

*Mist descends, dark and dense, in  
Kerala's Wayanad.*

Monsoon travel demands patience and rewards the bravehearts with rare natural beauty. Beholding mist-draped locales, swaying paddy fields and rain-slicked trails has its own appeal. And in the chaos of the rain and thunder lies a rhythm.

Offbeat destinations such as Vagamon, near Kochi, the breathtaking Konkan region, and pristine hotspots of Yercaud and Meghamalai in Tamil Nadu, are all perfect places to embrace the romance of the rains ●





# SpiceJet SUPERSTARS

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



**ASIRUDDIN KHAN**

## Catering

### Experience with SpiceJet

My 8 years journey with SpiceJet has been truly remarkable – much beyond words can express. This glorious period has been filled with incredible enthusiasm and continuous learning – all of which have contributed significantly to my professional growth. Throughout my tenure, I have been fortunate to receive the unwavering support of my HODs and colleagues. I am grateful for the opportunities given to me and will always remain deeply committed to SpiceJet.

### Internal Appreciation

Asiruddin has consistently demonstrated dedication and sincerity in all his tasks. He actively contributes to the team, always maintaining a strong focus on the work at hand. His proactive approach and his ability to provide timely updates are invaluable and significantly contribute to the smooth completion of various responsibilities. We truly value having such a remarkable and dedicated employee within our team.



**MANOJ KUMAR**

## Administration

### Experience with SpiceJet

I have been working as an electrician in the Administration Department at SpiceJet since 2010. Every day at work brings new joy as well as challenges. When a job is well done – it gives me immense satisfaction. I have learnt a lot through my work, most importantly how to manage my work within the given timeframe. I am very happy and proud to be a part of the SpiceJet family.

### Internal Appreciation

We sincerely appreciate Manoj for the unwavering dedication. He takes great pride in his work and always pays a lot of attention to details. His commitment to perfection, punctuality, and consistent hard work is much appreciated by all at SpiceJet. We would like to thank him for his outstanding service and for always going above and beyond. Manoj is truly an asset to the company.



**ABDE ALI KANOR**

## Training

### Experience with SpiceJet

Starting my journey with SpiceJet as a Customer Service Executive marked the beginning of a dynamic chapter in my career. Over time, I transitioned into the role of an instructor – where I find immense satisfaction in mentoring and guiding others. Alongside Training responsibilities, I also took on administrative duties, contributing to the smooth functioning in Operations.

### Internal Appreciation

Abde Ali goes above and beyond his duties, always ready for any task – thereby contributing significantly to the company's success. His unwavering dedication to the Airport Service Training Department is truly commendable. Abde's commitment and positive attitude are an inspiration to us all at SpiceJet. We would like to thank him for his invaluable contributions and wish him good luck for his future.



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There are also specially curated meals for kids. Apart from the main meal of the day or sandwich, you can also pre-book chef's choices and special meals such as Jain meal, meals for diabetics, gluten-free meals, fruit platters, low-calorie salads, etc. Didn't we say you would be spoilt for choice?

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We care for our elders and won't let them down. That's why SpiceJet offers all senior citizens above 60 years of age up to 14 per cent discount on base fares. The discount is applicable on domestic flights for both one-way and return journeys and only on direct bookings made through SpiceJet website, mobile app and reservation centre. The bookings made under this fare are changeable and refundable, but are not transferable.





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For the brave men and women of the Indian Armed forces who are keeping the nation safe, SpiceJet offers up to 21 per cent discount on base fares. The discount is valid on bookings that are made on the SpiceJet website, mobile app or through our reservation numbers. It is also available at select airport ticketing centres.

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## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

SpiceJet has a host of benefits to offer government employees. You can enjoy complimentary seats, excluding those under SpiceMax. Even the extra-comfortable Spice seats can be booked at a 25 per cent discount. Avail complimentary meals - vegetarian or non-vegetarian.

Change of date or cancellation of tickets booked under this offering can be done at a nominal fee of INR 500. You can also enjoy the convenience of You1<sup>st</sup> service at a 50 per cent discount. This is valid on bookings made on the SpiceJet website and mobile app.



## FRIENDS & FAMILY

Get up to 25 per cent off on base fare when you book for two or more people together. You can avail of the discount when you book for up to nine passengers. The discount is valid on bookings made on the SpiceJet website, mobile app or through our reservation centre on domestic and international flights for both one-way and return journeys. Changes or cancellation of tickets booked under this fare can only be done through SpiceJet's reservation centre.

Cancellation shall only be permissible if a minimum of two passengers are retained in the booking.





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## SPICEJET LUGGAGE ASSIST

Travellers can now enjoy a more convenient flight experience with SpiceJet Luggage Assist. Get your luggage picked up from your doorstep and have it delivered to a desired location in the city of arrival. This service is currently available in Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad. Powered by CarterX, go to its website and simply enter your SpiceJet travel details, such as PNR and last name/email id, to book your luggage.

## CARRY MORE ON-BOARD

Have you exceeded your cabin luggage limit of 7 kg? Or do you wish you could skip the conveyor belt wait periods or the queue at the baggage drop counter? To carry a cabin bag weighing up to 12 kg, reserve SpiceJet's Carry More On-board service right now. Take your belongings with you and travel without any hassles!





# SUPER SpiceJet EXPERIENCES



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@flyspicejet excellent crew of SG 503 on 19th May, especially the ones serving the in the front. While the trip seemed impossible some good folks at CC and ground staff did their best ensuring a smooth journey.  
@DGCAIndia @SachinPilot



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All the very best @flyspicejet and @AjaySingh\_SG. I have taken multiple flights. It was a really awesome experience. Thank you team you are doing a very good job. Keep flying.



**Balbeer Saran**  
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Good, polite service by your check in counter staff at #MDUAIRPORT while checking in for SG23 flight. Happy to see the standards getting better!



**Rohit Ganguly**  
@rohitganguly777

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A big THANK YOU to @flyspicejet's Brijesh Patel -131745 & Rinki Majumder 132356 for their incredible support during a tough situation at Delhi Airport flight SG709 on 17/05/2025. Their kindness & efficiency made all the difference.



**Wasim Ahmad**  
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# Dehradun

## *Where nature meets serenity*

MANJULIKA PRAMOD

**D**o you know there is a song titled 'Dehra Dun' by the late George Harrison from the Beatles group? Such has been the allure of Doon Valley that it inspires limitless creativity. Reminisced as one of the rarest Beatles songs, this one was composed in the spring of 1968 when the group had visited Dehradun during their sojourn in Rishikesh. Today, the city may have transformed into a bustling hotspot but remains enveloped in its old-world charms. Nestled between the Himalayan foothills and the Shivalik ranges, Dehradun lives up to its Garhwali name where 'Dehra' means dera, griha or abode and 'Doon' implies valley. The vibrant city entices with its quintessential colonial charm, cultural brotherhood, spectacular surroundings and rich cultural tapestry, making it worthy of a weekend retreat rather than a brief stopover.



Many a times, I have glided past the city to reach the hills of Mussoorie or the towering altitudes of Garhwal Himalayan region of Uttarakhand, but last year, a friend's wedding presented me an opportunity to spend a week in the city and experience it in a different perspective. I had always known Dehradun for its esteemed institutions like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, the Zoological Survey of India, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Survey of India, and the prestigious Doon School, Welham Girls School, Indian Military Academy (IMA), and Forest Research Institute (FRI), but what I discovered during my stay is that the city captivates with its delightful year-round climate, charming cafes and bakeries, heritage monuments, numerous village hiking routes, and spirited bazaars.

## Spring, Waterfall and Caves

Nestled between the Song River, a tributary of Ganga, and the Asan River, a tributary of Yamuna on the west, Dehradun exemplifies the all-season, year-round destination. The springs and caves are major attractions: Sahastradhara or the 'Thousand-fold Spring' is emblematic of Dehradun. The peaceful ambience renders it a perfect retreat for nature enthusiasts. I recollect witnessing these caves as a child (for the first time) and being spellbound by the limestone stalactites. Another destination is the Robber's cave or 'Gucchu Pani' - a natural cave formation and intersecting water stream. The cave's folklore of erstwhile robbers' hideout enhances its allure.



**SPICEJET OFFERS DIRECT  
FLIGHTS TO DEHRADUN  
FROM DELHI, MUMBAI AND  
AHMEDABAD**



### Top and Bottom:

*The much revered Tapkeshwar Cave Temple.*

*The iconic Forest Research Institute stands tall embodying the evolution and development of scientific forestry.*

— ” —  
The peaceful  
ambience  
renders it a  
perfect retreat  
for nature  
enthusiasts

## Spiritual and tranquil attractions

Another must visit during my visits are Dehradun's spiritual treasures. Just six kilometres from the city's bustling heart lies the Tapkeshwar Cave Temple, a sanctuary where devotion drips literally from the rocks - each drop blessed by Lord Shiva himself. It is believed that the legendary guru Dronacharya found solitude here.

Yet another destination is the Mindrolling Monastery. A masterpiece of Tibetan architecture - its vibrant murals tell tales of Buddhist philosophy. The chanting of monks creates an otherworldly soundtrack to your exploration.

For those willing to venture further, Kalsi, 90 kilometres away from the city, is a visitor's paradise. This hidden hamlet in Chakrata safeguards one of Emperor Ashoka's rock edicts, its ancient inscriptions whispering stories of dharma across millennia.

The journey culminates at Tapovan Ashram, where yogis and seekers find their centre amidst pristine woodlands.







## Doon Valley Diaries

Dehradun isn't just a gateway to the celebrated heights of Mussoorie, Dhanaulti, and Landour – it's a treasure chest of hidden gems.

Cycling is one of the most fun activities in Dehradun. One may find several leisure cycling tracks in the city starting from Rajpur road. The Old Dehradun-Mussoorie Road is one of my favourites for hiking as well as cycling.

Wildlife enthusiasts will find their nirvana in Rajaji National Park, where every rustle in the undergrowth promises a potential photograph.

Don't forget to visit the iconic trinity of Kempty Falls, Gun Hill, and Mall Road in Mussoorie which stands ready to provide that perfect finale to your Dehradun adventure.



### Clockwise from Above:

*The superbly scenic drive to nearby Mussoorie.*

*Landour Bakehouse, a perfect place for a coffee break.*

*The popular Kempty Falls is popular among tourists, especially children*



## A Tale of Cafés

In the heart of Dehradun, lies a world of charming cafes. The iconic Clock Tower—or Ghanta Ghar, as locals affectionately call it—stands sentinel over a maze of bustling lanes that beckon the curious traveller. From vintage-inspired Landour Bakehouse to the contemporary Ama Cafe, the

cafes offer a perfect blend of tradition and modernity. And for those seeking sweet salvation, Eddie's Patisserie crafts confections would make French pastry chefs run for their money! And of course, Ellora's Bakery, where their legendary milk rusks—crisp, sweet, and utterly addictive—have been perfected over generations.

The fusion of Pahadi heritage, Nepali influences, and colonial-era recipes in their daily cuisine is highly recommended.

For retail therapy enthusiasts, Dehradun doesn't disappoint. Paltan Bazaar, Indira Market, Pacific Mall and Cross Road Mall, are hotspots for shopping ●

### HISTORY AND HERITAGE

According to legends, Sikh Guru Baba Ram Ra, the eldest son of the Seventh Sikh Guru Har Rai, set up his camp in the Valley, which in turn became an abode for his followers, and thus the city was founded in the 18th century.

### FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

The traditional festival of Phool Dei, celebrated by people of Uttarakhand to welcome spring, is a popular festival.

### PLACES TO STAY

Welcomhotel's The Savoy Mussoorie is an elegant and historic hotel, built in the style of English Gothic architecture.



# Travel Apps

to Make your Journeys super easy

JITENDRA SONI

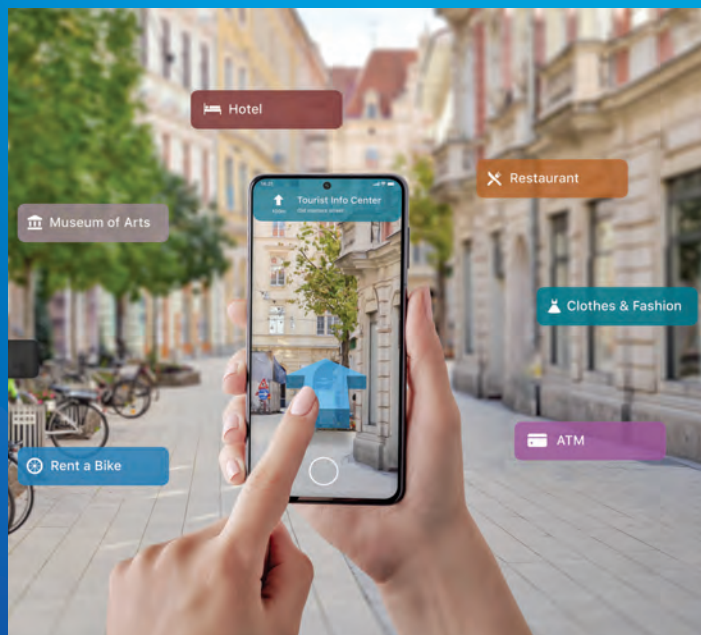
When Oscar Wilde said, "Travel far, travel often, and travel without regrets," he wasn't discussing improper planning, scheduling, or booking expensive tickets. But little did he know that with time, these issues could be a significant reason behind post-travel regrets.

However, like almost everything, technology has transformed chaotic travel experiences into a smooth ride. Carrying paper maps and guidebooks, getting tickets and reservations done on time, printing boarding passes, and several other tasks have been replaced by a few applications residing on your smartphone.

As per reports, travel apps have experienced explosive growth over the last few years, clocking over 3 billion downloads in 2023. These incredible numbers underline that travel apps are being entrusted with making travel planning increasingly effortless for consumers.

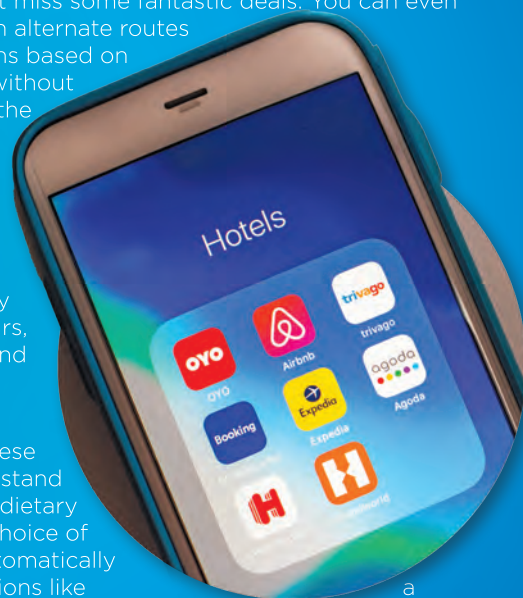
## STREAMLINED PLANNING AND ORGANISATION

Planning a trip has been an overwhelming puzzle for most travellers. Starting from researching the location, to comparing flight and hotel prices, and finalising the itinerary has not only been a tedious but also a time-consuming process.



Today, several applications like Kayak, Skyscanner, and others not only help you quickly find flights, but they can even predict the fares and send you an alert when the prices go down, so you don't miss some fantastic deals. You can even get suggestions on alternate routes or even destinations based on your preferences without compromising on the budget. Similarly, apps like Airbnb, Booking.com, and others have revolutionised the way you hunt for accommodation by offering virtual tours, genuine reviews, and instant booking.

The real magic is unleashed once these applications understand your travel habits, dietary preferences, and choice of destinations to automatically curate holiday options like personal assistant would do.



## TO GET LOST OR NOT TO GET LOST

Getting smitten with the beauty of a place is one thing, but actually getting lost whilst travelling to a foreign country could be the worst nightmare. Navigation apps like Google Maps, Waze, or Apple Maps are some of the most useful applications while on a vacation. Most of these applications serve multiple purposes. Not only do they help you find a location, but they can also help you with local transport options and attractions near you.

Make sure that you download the maps on your smartphone. This will ensure that you'll still be able to use navigation features even when you're out of the network connectivity zone.





## BREAK DOWN THOSE LANGUAGE BARRIERS

When travelling to a foreign land, a real-time language translation app is a must-have. Applications like Google Translate, iTranslate, or Microsoft Translate are not only free but can translate documents in over 100 languages. So if you want to read a signboard when in Japan or China, all you need to do is point the phone's camera, capture the image, and hit translate.

Google Translate also has a conversation mode that offers real-time translation to help a traveller communicate confidently with a local. The democratisation of this technology has opened several destinations that were once inaccessible for foreigners because of the language barrier.

## ENHANCED SAFETY AND SECURITY

Besides the ease of communication and booking, mobile applications are extremely helpful in case of an emergency. Emergency SOS buttons offer a one-tap solution to connect with your loved ones, and AI-powered risk assessment tools can analyse your destinations and travel plan to keep you informed about potential threats. WhatsApp and Google Maps have a feature that lets you share your live location with dear ones to ensure no one wanders away from the group.

Similarly, various other apps offer real-time updates on weather changes, political unrest, or changes in flight schedules, allowing you to make necessary adjustments well in time.



## CONTACTLESS AND SEAMLESS PAYMENTS

While it may not sound like a massive deal, features like tap-and-pay are extremely useful when traveling. Rather than handing out your payment cards for payments and exposing personal details, you can pair the card with your

preferred digital payment applications and simply tap your smartphone to the point of sale to make payments. Scanning QR codes to make payments is also a very handy solution. Hotels have also adopted digital key technology, which removes the need for a physical key and allows you to unlock your room directly using your smartphone.

While these innovations help make your travel smoother and seamless, you need to ensure that your phone has NFC connectivity to use these features. Moreover, losing your phone while traveling may not just lock you out of your hotel room but may also expose your financial and personal details to fraudsters and criminals.

## THE FUTURE OF EFFORTLESS TRAVEL

Travel apps have made the life of a traveller easy and have put the control back into their hands. No more last-minute chaos, no more forgetting important documents, taking printouts of boarding passes, maps, and other papers or documents. Technology allows you to relax and enjoy your trip without being bothered by mundane things that can ruin your vacation. Moreover, as artificial intelligence continues to evolve and integrate deeper into travel applications, we can expect even more personalized and intuitive experiences.

From trip planning and booking to real-time updates, language help, and expense tracking, everything is now possible with just a few taps on your phone.







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You may also send your feedback to the following people:

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**THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL**

**AVIATION**, Government of India, has upgraded its Air Sewa portal, which is accessible through both interactive web portal and mobile app. The new version includes the following features:

- a) Secure sign-up and log-in with social media
- b) Chatbot for travellers' support
- c) Improved grievance management, including social media grievance
- d) Real-time flight status and detailed flight schedule

Air Sewa is available at  
[www.airsewa.gov.in](http://www.airsewa.gov.in)

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# **NEPAL**

## *on a plate*

**KALPANA SUNDER**

Nepal, the kingdom of high mountains and shrines — both Hindu and Buddhist — boasts a rich culinary heritage, one that is shaped by ethnicity (there are as many as 125 ethnic groups in the country), terrain, geographic diversity, and climate, and also influenced by neighbours India, China and Tibet.

A large part of this Himalayan nation is cold for much of the year, and so hardy crops like buckwheat, millet, beans, and high-altitude rice are eaten. And because of the chilly weather, locals often prefer warm nourishments such as soup, Thukpa (a Tibetan noodle soup) and tea, besides strong alcoholic drinks like rice beer. Here is our list of must-try foods and beverages in Nepal



## Dal Bhat

The best and most ubiquitous meal in Nepal, Dal Bhat consists of rice and lentils paired with vegetables or meat. Served all over the country, this dish was initially a simple meal of steamed rice and lentil soup with spices, filled with carbs and protein, and eaten by farmers and labourers across the land. Now it's also accompanied by meat and vegetables. This is a standard fare in Nepal, and is available in most of the local eateries.



### Drinks for every occasion

Alcoholic drinks such as Chyang, Raksi, and Aila are deeply rooted in the country's customs and also served at religious rituals, festivals, and social gatherings. Aila, or rice beer, is prepared in every household and had by all; besides rice, it is also made from grains like millet and barley. Chiya, Nepali tea, is a staple. Herbal teas, made from a variety of plants and spices, have been a part of traditional Nepali medicine for centuries.



## Gundruk

A side dish of fermented leafy vegetables, Gundruk is usually eaten during the off season. The shredded greens are kept in warm water in an earthen pot for about a week. Once they have turned slightly acidic, they are left to dry in the sun before being stored.

## Sel rotis

Deep-fried Sel rotis, which look like doughnuts, are sold as street food and usually eaten for breakfast. Made from rice flour, water, sugar, ghee and spices, these rotis are served across the country, during festivals as well as at wedding parties and other ceremonies. It's also the ceremonial bread of the Nepali New Year.







## Samay Baji

A traditional and signature dish of the Newaris, Samay Baji is usually served during festivals, with assorted items on a single plate. Varieties of fried black soybeans, Aloo Saag, Choyela (grilled meat), puffed rice, egg, vegetable preparations, and Achaar – a medley of vegetables pickled in spices and oil – are placed on a platter and served. These bites were customarily carried by farming families, and did not need to be reheated or recooked.

## Thakali Thali

Thakali is the cuisine of Nepalese hailing from the Pokhara and Mustang areas, who were traders. Since they lived in the higher reaches, many of their vegetables were dried before being cooked. Typically, a Thakali Thali would include dried goat and yak meat, fermented leafy greens (also known as Gundruk) with soybean, along with buckwheat, barley flour, and a spiced tomato pickle. Timur, a zesty Himalayan pepper, is what makes Thakali food distinct; it is the dried outer pod of the berry of a tree from the prickly ash family, which is used to flavour soups, vegetables and gravies.



### Food you can't miss

Have a meal at Krishnarpan at The Dwarika Hotel in Kathmandu. Here, dishes from different regions are served on metal platters, by women dressed in the traditional costumes of each region. Another great place to eat – and one with a chef's table – is The Nanee, a boutique hotel in Bhaktapur which has a rooftop restaurant as well as one on the ground floor. In Patan, I would recommend a Thakali platter at Jimbu Thakali by Capital Grill, and Raithaane, which has vegan options. And for a meal with a view, head to The Dwarika's Resort in Dhulikhel.



## Juju Dhau

An essential part of the diet, especially in Bhaktapur, Juju Dhau, or king of curd, is a sweetened curd made from the milk of the buffalo, which is set in mud pots. It is relished for its rich taste and creamy consistency. Mixed with beaten rice, the curd is a popular snack among the Newari community, for whom it is also a ceremonial food ●





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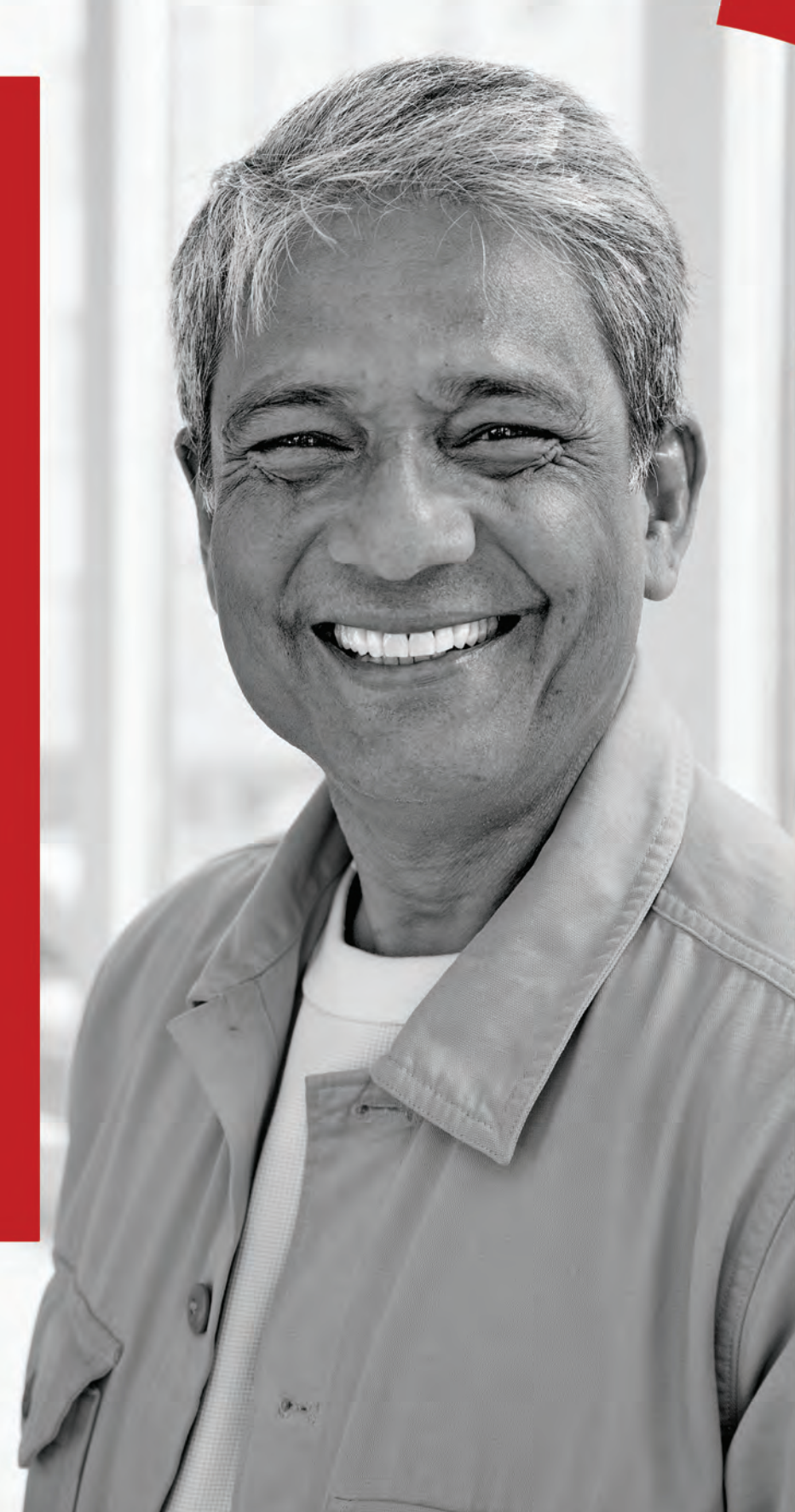
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Adil Hussain calls himself a “fanatically” method actor, embellishes his answers with the sayings of spiritual scholars and academics, and loves to indulge in travel. The knowledgeable Hussain, who has made India proud with his work in ‘The Life of Pi’, ‘What Will People Say’, and ‘The Reluctant Fundamentalist’ – besides roles in Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Tamil, Marathi, Malayalam, Norwegian and French films – opens up on his journey thus far.

# **ADIL** and his many *Journeys*

**RANA SIDDIQUI ZAMAN**



***You trained at NSD and then went to Drama Studio London. What were the major differences in the way acting is taught in these spaces?***

Fundamentally, I saw that in India we focused, theoretically but sporadically, on wholesome development and understanding of art and craft, and social history – that includes human history; history of art, architecture, literature, ancient literature; modern Western, ancient and modern Indian history, and more. It includes the relevant parts which are connected to artistic understanding, like how humans have been shaped all through the years, how human behaviour changed in terms of art, from cave paintings to surrealism and postmodernism, from Ajanta-Ellora and Southeast Asian paintings to minimalism from Japan, and so on. All these are comprehensive in theory.



The downside is that it is probably too much in too short a time. Quite often, students would get confused. Some of them come from different backgrounds, from remote villages and towns in Tamil Nadu, or Nagaland, or Mizoram, and are not necessarily exposed to art and the artistic world, so it is difficult for them to grasp so quickly. But it has an advantage, in that when you churn it, and munch on it with time, you understand, 'Oh, it was that!' (Laughs).

In comparison, the training I got in the UK was very categorised, extremely disciplined, and focused on the fundamental aspects of a craft – for example, characterisation. The teacher could be trained in two different schools of thought, could be from Stanislavski's school of thought, or Lecoq or Grotowski's. And he/she would be giving you both practical and theory, thoroughly, in her conversation. Then there would be the focus on the body and voice.

***...the travel within my own country showed me that wisdom is available in every nook and cranny without having to pay a penny***



***It is said that directors/producers give what the public wants, in terms of songs or films that are not so aesthetic. What is your take on this?***

No! I don't believe in that. We as artistes and filmmakers have great responsibility. Films have the power to mould public opinion, and there are several examples from around the world to prove that. If someone blames it on the public, either he is lying, or he is being foolish, or trying to avoid taking responsibility and accountability as a filmmaker. It is in our hands, and it has to be from a space or place of integrity, to see what kind of society we are trying to create for the next generation. After we pass, what will our action teach them? Is my action only to make some money? Or is it going to give them something of value and substance for a lifetime? If the answer is money, then we as film creators are not creating films but a product, like a toothpaste or soap.

***Do you like to travel? If yes, where all have you travelled?***

I have been an avid traveller. Travels have changed my life for the better. I spent two years, in 1995/96, travelling on a motorbike crisscrossing the country, because I wanted to feel the weather (and) its grind on my body. I started from Delhi. My first stop was south of Madhya Pradesh, now Chhattisgarh; three months in



Jagdalpur. We went to the Gond and Bharia tribal regions, lived with them, dressed, danced, hunted and ate like them. Then we crossed the belly of the country, nearly all the states; went to Pune, Mumbai, Goa, then to Pondicherry and Kerala, back to Delhi, and again to the south. When you are on a bike, it's like being on horseback; you are at the mercy of the elements. I bathed in the river, slept under the trees and at the houses of strangers, who welcomed me with different kinds of food.

***How have your travels enriched your personal and professional journey?***

Two years of travel changed my view about India. Before that, I would go to the UK, do Shakespeare and all, but the travel within my own country showed me that wisdom is available in every nook and cranny without having to pay a penny. But you have to have an incessant curiosity to know, understand and fathom the answers to your questions, all the time. I met illiterate but incredible people who taught me the wisest things in life. You learn so much about a new culture and behaviour, and diversify your thoughts about the human condition, ideas and ideologies, which make you a large-hearted person. You become more accepting, and your sense of empathy intensifies.

***Your forthcoming ventures?***

'Secret of the Mountain Serpent', directed by Nidhi Saxena, will premiere at the Venice Film Festival. 'Clouds Have Bridges Too' directed by Wanphrang Diengdoh, who also directed my first film, 'Lorni - the Flaneur' ●





## Your Perfect Smile!

Spreading joy, one passenger at a time—our airport team's 'Smile Campaign' is in full swing!







Annually celebrated on 26 July, Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrates the successful completion of Operation Vijay in 1999, marking a new chapter in India's history. Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates the great courage and sacrifices of the Indian soldiers, who fearlessly fought at the high-altitude posts in Kargil district, to regain control of Indian territory occupied by Pakistani soldiers and militants. Kargil Vijay Diwas stands as a solemn reminder of their bravery, and a testament to the unwavering spirit with which they defended India's sovereignty and territorial integrity against all odds.

The war began with covert infiltration by Pakistani military and paramilitary forces into the rugged heights of Kargil, intending to sever India's access to the strategic Ladakh region via the NH-1A highway



In May 1999, India retaliated with Operation Vijay, deploying around

**200,000 troops**

and air support (Operation Safed Sagar) to eject the invaders. During the following weeks of fierce fighting, crucial summits such as Tiger Hill and Tololing were reclaimed.

Indian troops regained all captured heights by

**26 July 1999,**

marking the end of the war. The three-month conflict took the lives of around

**527 Indian soldiers**







Each year on

**Kargil Vijay Diwas,** ceremonies are held at the Kargil War Memorial in Dras and at important national monuments like India Gate in New Delhi. Wreath-laying, flag hoisting, solemn remembrance, and speeches honour the fallen heroes.



In 2025, the Indian Army is undertaking a two-month nationwide tribute campaign in the run-up to the

**26th anniversary,** comprising marathons, memorial walks, exhibitions, and educational outreach in **Ladakh.**







Photo by **Deepankar Tomar**  
(Bangkok - Delhi)



Photo by **Nagendra Prasad**  
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Photo by **Vinay Kumar**  
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# KALEIDOSCOPIC HI

**K**ochi, erstwhile Cochin, is a key port town in the district of Ernakulam, in Kerala. The ‘Queen of the Arabian Sea’ has been a major centre of the spice trade since ancient times, and is today the southern state’s financial, commercial and industrial capital. It has a rich cultural heritage, with tourists from within and outside India drawn by attractions such as Mattancherry Palace, Church of Saint Francis, Marine Drive, Venduruthy Bridge, Mattancherry Bridge — and the fishing nets introduced by the Chinese in the 14th century, an iconic symbol of the city.

Musicians performing on the streets of Fort Kochi during the New Year carnival. They’re playing the Kombu, also known as Kombu Pattu, a wind instrument native to Kerala







Tourists shopping for spices and condiments inside a shop in Kochi's spice market. The spices are also available in easy-to-carry powder form.



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Historic Jew Street in Fort Kochi, a narrow but quaint lane between Mattancherry Palace and Paradesi Synagogue known for shops that sell antiques, curios and books. The synagogue, the oldest in the Commonwealth, was built in 1568.

Sunset over Vembanad Lake on Marine Drive, with tourist boats in the background ●





# My Town

In our series, we travel to various Indian destinations with a SpiceJet family member. This time, Komal Darjee takes us around her home state, Sikkim.

**Where is your hometown, and tell us one thing which is very special about the place?**

Yes, I was born and raised in the beautiful state of Sikkim. What makes Sikkim truly special is its breathtaking natural beauty and rich biodiversity. Nestled in the Himalayas, it is home to the majestic Kanchenjunga — the third-highest mountain in the world. Sikkim offers a harmonious blend of vibrant cultures, deep-rooted traditions, and awe-inspiring landscapes, including lush green valleys, serene lakes, and pristine alpine forests.

**The one thing that makes you come back to your hometown again and again...**

I wish to return again and again because it offers a sense of peace and connection that's hard to find

elsewhere. The serene environment, stunning landscapes like Tsoomgo Lake and Yumthang Valley, and the towering Kanchenjunga never fail to leave me in awe. What truly makes each visit special is the warmth of the people and the richness of their culture and festivals. Every time I'm back, I discover something new—be it a tradition, a story, or simply the calm that Sikkim brings. It's not just a destination; it's home in every sense.

**Which is the perfect hang out spot in your town?**

Sikkim offers several delightful spots for relaxation and leisure. Gangtok, the capital city, is known for its vibrant charm, with cozy cafés, bustling local markets, and scenic viewpoints. While the nightlife may not rival that of larger cities, the inviting cafés and eateries



**MS. KOMAL DARJEE**  
CABIN CREW

create the perfect setting to unwind. MG Marg, in particular, is my favorite hangout—its lively atmosphere, street performances, and variety of local delicacies make it an ideal place to enjoy with friends while picking up souvenirs and soaking in the local culture.

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

One restaurant I highly recommend in Gangtok is The Dragon Wok. Offering a delightful mix of cuisines, this culinary gem truly stands out for its authentic Sikkimese flavors. Be sure to try the local delicacies—Momo (steamed





dumplings filled with savory goodness) and Thukpa (a hearty noodle soup infused with aromatic spices). The fusion of traditional recipes with a modern twist makes it a haven for food lovers. To top it off, the warm, inviting ambiance creates the perfect setting for a memorable dining experience.

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

The best time to visit Sikkim is during the spring and autumn seasons. These months offer the most pleasant weather, with clear skies and comfortable temperatures that are perfect for sightseeing. In spring, the hills come alive with vibrant blooms of rhododendrons, painting the landscape in dazzling colors. Autumn, on the other hand, offers crisp air and breathtaking views of the Himalayas. These seasons are also ideal for trekking and outdoor adventures, allowing visitors to fully immerse themselves in Sikkim's natural



beauty without the challenges of winter chill or monsoon rains.

### ***Which are the must-visit places in your town?***

Sikkim is home to a wealth of breathtaking destinations that should not be missed. Tsomgo Lake, with its striking blue waters and backdrop of snow-capped peaks, offers a picture-perfect view that changes with the seasons. For a glimpse into the spiritual heart of the region, visit the Rumtek Monastery, a magnificent center of Tibetan Buddhism that reflects Sikkim's deep-rooted cultural heritage. Head to Pelling for panoramic vistas of the majestic Kanchenjunga, the world's

third-highest mountain. While there, make sure to explore the serene and mystical Khecheopalri Lake, revered by locals as a sacred site where not even a leaf is allowed to float on its surface.



## **QUICK GETAWAYS NEAR SIKKIM**

There are several beautiful destinations near Sikkim that are well worth exploring. One such place is **Nathula Pass**, a breathtaking mountain pass that not only offers panoramic views of the Eastern Himalayas but also provides a rare glimpse into Indo-China relations, being one of the few open border posts between the two countries. For those seeking natural beauty, a day trip to **Lachung** is ideal—this charming mountain village is renowned for its

serene landscapes and serves as a gateway to the spectacular **Yumthang Valley**, often referred to as the "Valley of Flowers." Another wonderful option is the historic town of **Kalimpong**, known for its peaceful monasteries, colonial architecture, and vibrant flower markets, making it a perfect retreat for culture and nature lovers alike.

**Keoladeo National Park**, Bharatpur: A paradise for nature lovers, this bird sanctuary shelters hundreds of species, especially migratory birds in winter, making it an ideal getaway for wildlife enthusiasts.





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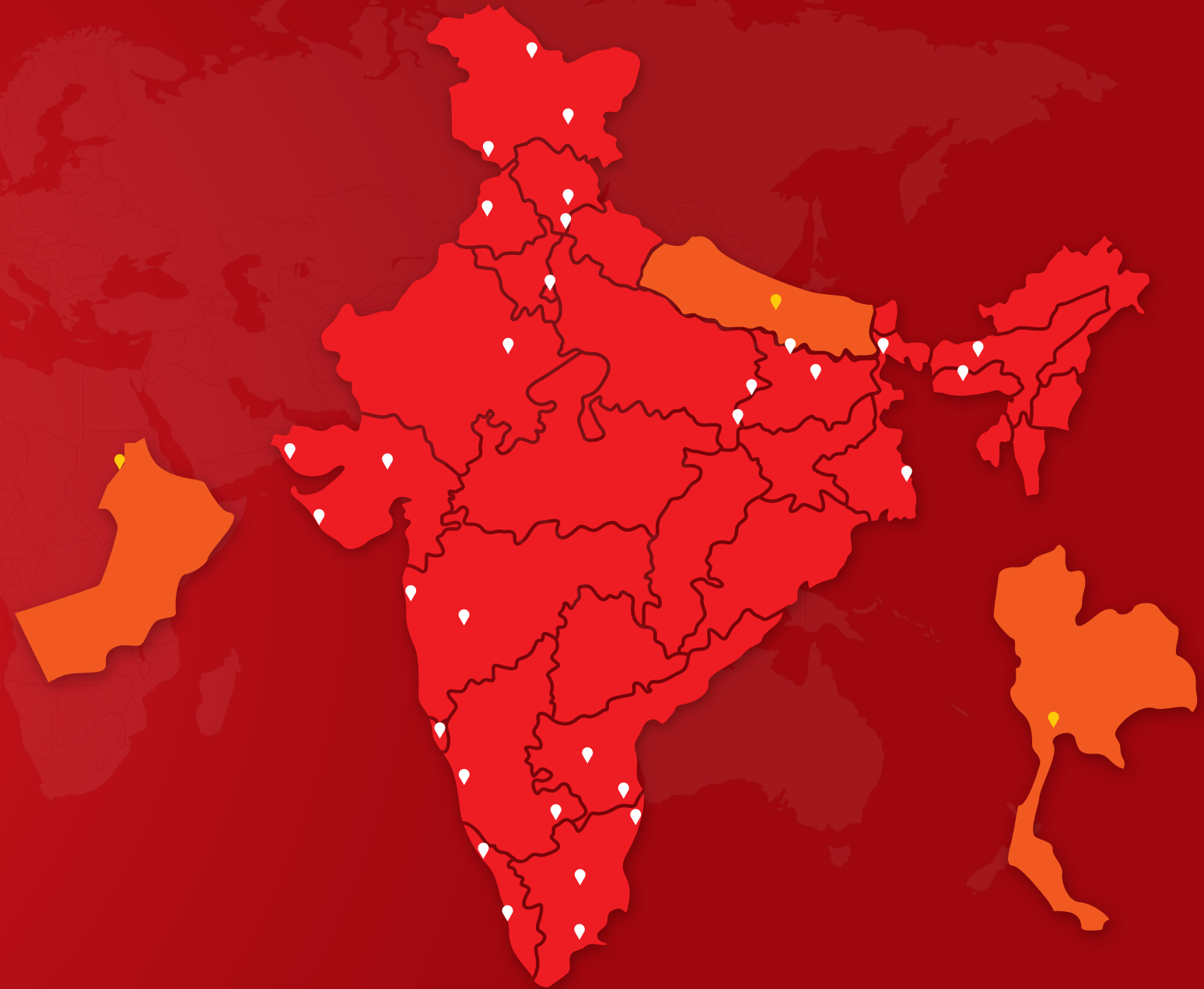
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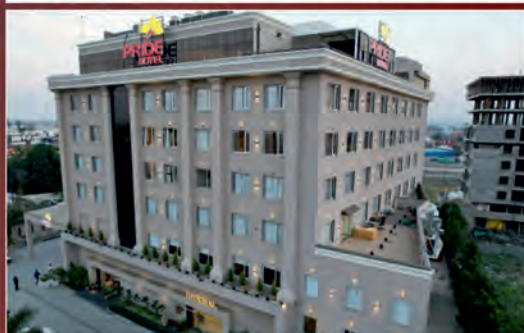




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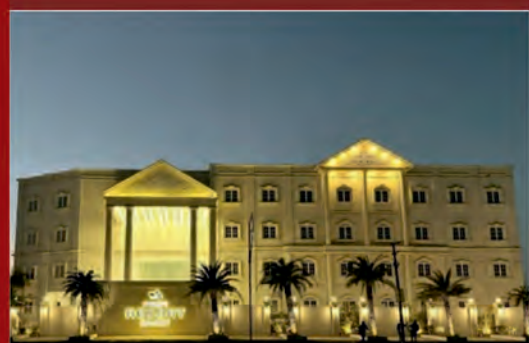
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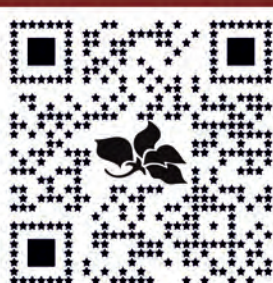
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# PREDICTIONS

## July 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

July brings emotional turbulence and financial slowdowns, urging you to pause before making any bold moves. Work life might be uncertain, so resist reacting in haste. Support from loved ones and a refreshing short trip will uplift your spirits. Romance offers comfort and healing. Focus on your physical well-being and avoid unnecessary stress. Embrace simple routines and trust your instincts.

**Lucky No.: 22**

**Lucky Colour: Blue**



### TAURUS

Career advancements and financial gains define this month. Even if your health feels slightly off, a calm mindset will help you stay productive. Property transactions bring positive results and family bonds feel stronger than ever. Stay grounded during travel and focus on strengthening long-term goals. This is a great time to lay a solid foundation for future security.

**Lucky No.: 6**

**Lucky Colour: Purple**



### GEMINI

A wave of good health and high energy pushes you to take bold steps. Travel brings both joy and fresh perspectives. Romantic relationships may feel disconnected so try to avoid miscommunication. Financial matters require tighter control. Let creativity guide your decisions and stay open to emotional clarity. July is your time to shine through ideas rather than impulse.

**Lucky No.: 1**

**Lucky Colour: Golden**



### CANCER

Romance grows in beautiful ways this month. Financial and professional stability supports your peace of mind. Prioritise your health as fatigue could slow you down. Enjoyable travel and calm family dynamics bring lightness to your days. Focus on emotional harmony and inner clarity while gently working through practical responsibilities. Let love and self-reflection guide your progress forward.

**Lucky No.: 11**

**Lucky Colour: Pink**



### LEO

Financial luck favours you and property ventures show success. Work feels stuck but steady effort can unlock progress. Personal life may feel strained as romance lacks passion but family interactions add warmth and joy. Choose stability over speed and stay patient in matters of the heart. Focus on nurturing bonds that uplift and support your personal journey.

**Lucky No.: 7**

**Lucky Colour: Brown**



### VIRGO

Love fills the month with sweet moments and deeper emotional understanding. Work remains stable while finances will support your ambitions. Property matters may stall and health might need closer monitoring. Family time brings emotional balance, and travel provides a welcome break. Trust patience over urgency and allow life to unfold gently. Prioritise what truly matters without stretching yourself too thin.

**Lucky No.: 5**

**Lucky Colour: Green**



### LIBRA

Excellent health and family bonding add emotional richness to July. Money flows steadily and career offers gradual growth. Travel could bring mild frustrations or setbacks but creative efforts start taking shape. Embrace routines that bring peace and invest time in meaningful conversations. Focus on slow but consistent progress while letting go of things that no longer serve your peace.

**Lucky No.: 2**

**Lucky Colour: Silver**



### SCORPIO

Romance promises excitement and renewal. Your health supports progress but financial decisions may need restraint. Work may feel demanding without immediate reward so keep your patience. Travel brings mixed emotions but some unexpected insights too. Let your emotions be your compass this month and trust that inner clarity will guide you through uncertainty.

**Lucky No.: 8**

**Lucky Colour: Red**



### SAGITTARIUS

Recognition and success light up your professional world in July. Love blossoms but do not ignore nagging health concerns. Finances improve steadily while property efforts may face minor roadblocks. Travel brings introspection and valuable lessons. Be mindful of your energy and avoid burnout. Focus on gratitude and balance as your outer achievements align with your inner growth.

**Lucky No.: 17**

**Lucky Colour: White**



### CAPRICORN

Romantic gestures and refreshing travel bring emotional satisfaction. Financial challenges continue but steady effort offers relief. Work may feel repetitive but remains under control. Family bonding grows deeper and more fulfilling while health requires consistent care. Take time to evaluate your goals and invest in meaningful relationships. Value inner peace over outer performance and move at your own pace.

**Lucky No.: 4**

**Lucky Colour: Cream**



### AQUARIUS

With professional recognition and growing finances, you feel grounded and focused. Make space for heartfelt conversations. Family relationships thrive, bringing joy and encouragement. Travel could be unreliable so avoid unnecessary plans. Maintain overall balance and listen to your inner voice. July gives you the clarity to restructure your priorities and move closer to your personal and career ambitions.

**Lucky No.: 9**

**Lucky Colour: Magenta**



### PISCES

Health supports daily routine while travel offers healing insights. Let your imagination and intuition guide decisions this month. Stay committed to your dreams without getting overwhelmed by temporary hurdles, and focus on healing through love and creativity. Romance makes July emotionally rewarding and joyful. Career setbacks and financial delays may test your resolve but spiritual clarity keeps you anchored.

**Lucky No.: 3**

**Lucky Colour: Orange**



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