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1XL HOLDINGS

INSIDE THE 1XL PLATFORM

A conversation with Dr. Dhiraj Jain and Dr. Mamata Jain on building a structured business platform from Dubai

Dubai has long been a hub for global business ambition. Among the emerging platforms shaping the region's entrepreneurial landscape is 1XL Holdings, a Dubai - based company building a diversified ecosystem of businesses through ownership, partnerships, and strategic investments.

In this conversation with Spice Route, Dr. Dhiraj Jain, Founder & Chairman, and Dr. Mamata Jain, Founder & MD, share insights into the vision behind the platform and how it is designed to bring together multiple growth models under a single holding structure.

Let's begin with the basics. What exactly is 1XL Holdings?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: 1XL Holdings is essentially a structured business platform. Instead of building a single company in one sector, we are building an ecosystem that brings together multiple businesses across industries. The platform operates through three distinct arms: companies that we fully own, companies we partner with, and companies we invest in as capital participants.

Why did you choose a holding company structure instead of a traditional operating company?

Dr. Mamata Jain: A holding structure gives us flexibility and scalability. It allows each company within the ecosystem to operate independently while benefiting from shared governance and strategic alignment. This model is particularly effective when you want to grow across sectors without losing operational focus in each business.

One of the pillars of the platform is what you call "Ecosystem Companies." What does that mean?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: Ecosystem companies are businesses that are fully owned by 1XL Holdings. These are ventures where we believe we can build long-term value internally. They operate as independent companies, but they are completely owned and strategically governed by the holding structure, ensuring alignment with our long-term vision and growth strategy.

Another key pillar is the partnership model with portfolio companies. How does that work?

Dr. Mamata Jain: Through our Portfolio Company Management (PCM) platform, we partner with founder-led businesses that have strong growth potential. Typically, 1XL acquires a minority equity position usually between 20% and 50%, while the founders continue to lead the business. It becomes a strategic partnership rather than a takeover.

What attracts founders to partner with 1XL?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: Many founders want to scale but don't necessarily want to give up control of their companies. Our partnership model respects that.

We participate at the ownership and governance level while allowing founders to continue running the business.

The third pillar is 1XL Capital. How is that different from the partnership model?

Dr. Mamata Jain: 1XL Capital represents opportunities where we participate purely as investors. In these cases, we are not involved in the operations or administration of the company. It's a financial investment aligned with our long-term outlook.



So the platform combines ownership, partnerships, and investments. Why is this combination important?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: Each model serves a different purpose. Ownership allows us to build businesses internally. Partnerships allow us to collaborate with great founders. Investments allow us to participate in opportunities where we see strong financial potential. Together, these three arms create a balanced and diversified platform.

You have spoken about building a platform of 100 companies. What does that vision represent?

Dr. Mamata Jain: It's about building a diversified portfolio of businesses across sectors over time. Some will be ecosystem companies and some will be partnerships. The goal is not just scale, but structured and sustainable expansion overall, ensuring long-term value creation, resilience, and strategic balance across the portfolio.

Why was Dubai chosen as the headquarters for 1XL Holdings?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: Dubai is one of the most dynamic business hubs in the world. It connects markets across the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and Africa. For a platform that aims to build and partner with companies globally, Dubai provides the right environment.

What kind of companies typically fit well within the 1XL platform?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: We are sector-agnostic, but we look for businesses with strong fundamentals and the potential to scale. What matters most is the vision of the founders, their readiness to scale, and the long-term opportunity.

For investors reading this interview during their travels, what makes the 1XL platform interesting?

Dr. Mamata Jain: The platform offers diversification through multiple types of participation - ownership, partnerships, and capital investments. It's a structured way to build a portfolio of companies rather than relying on a single venture.

Finally, what excites you the most about the future of 1XL Holdings?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: What excites me is the possibility of building a platform where multiple entrepreneurs, companies, and investors can come together under one structured ecosystem. When that happens, the potential for growth becomes exponential.



spice route

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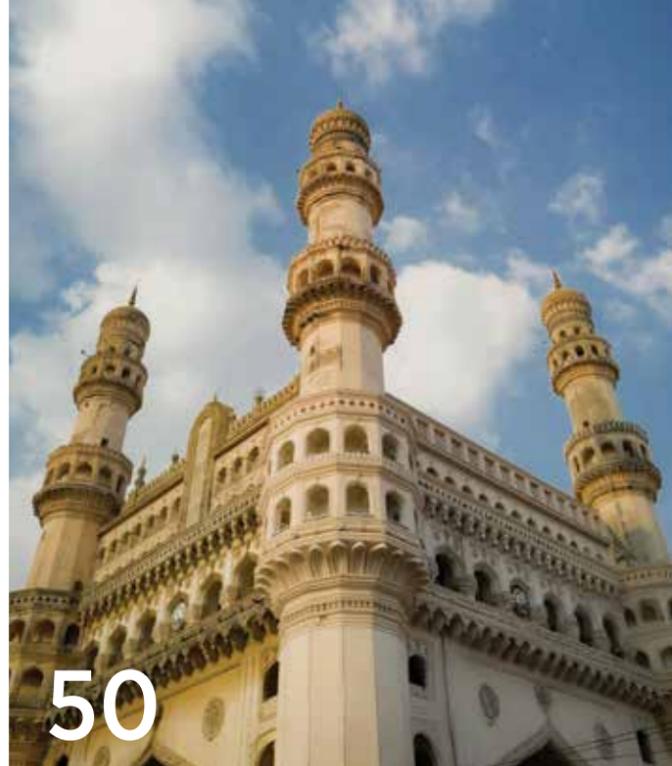




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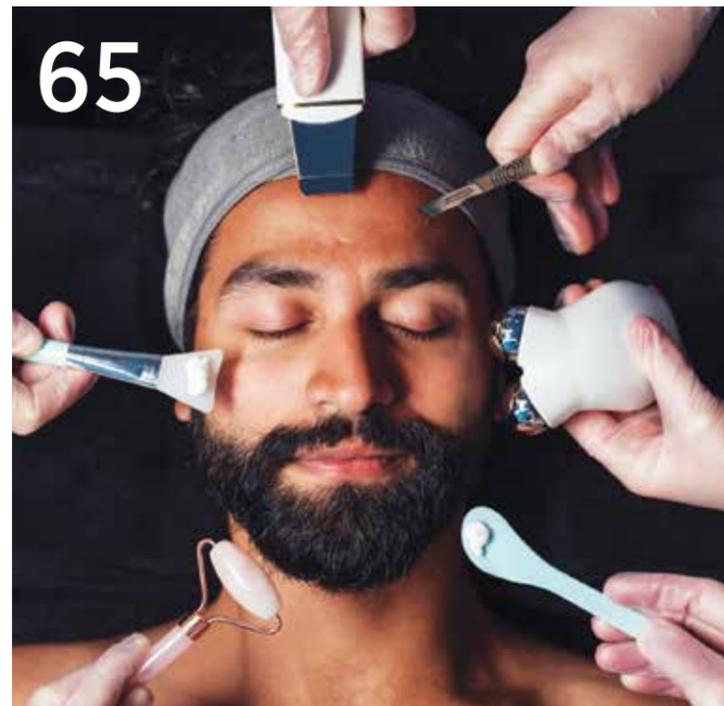
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AN OASIS OF KINDNESS IN THE HEART OF AJMAN

A reflection of the UAE's Year of Family, where one home in Ajman brought people together through care, compassion, and a shared sense of belonging.



Family is not always where you come from; sometimes, it's where you are welcomed.



"In a world that often moves too quickly, it is the quieter moments of kindness that stay with us the longest."

At the Jainam Jivika Farm in Ajman, UAE, what was once a private family retreat has transformed into something far more meaningful. A place where travellers, who were waiting for their onward journeys during the recent period of regional travel disruption in the Middle East, found comfort, warmth, and an unexpected sense of belonging.

For Dr. Dhiraj Jain and Dr. Mamata Dhiraj Jain, Founders of 1XL Holdings, opening their doors was not a decision driven by circumstance, but by instinct. **The instinct to care.** As responsible residents in a country known for its generosity, they chose to open their home to those who needed reassurance, turning uncertainty into a shared experience of humanity.

Within hours, the farmhouse began welcoming guests from different nationalities and backgrounds. Comfortable spaces were arranged, meals were prepared, and transportation was organised to ensure everyone could reach safely. Yes, beyond the logistics, something far more powerful began to unfold.

The guests themselves soon became an integral part of the experience.

What started as hospitality soon evolved into a community. Travellers stepped into the kitchen, cooking together and serving one another. Conversations flowed across cultures, children found companionship in play, and evenings were filled with shared moments of morning yoga, watching sports, playing games, and simply enjoying each other's company.



At the heart of this warmth was Dr. Mamata, whose nurturing presence made the farmhouse feel less like a place to stay and more like a home. With the care of a mother, she ensured that meals served to more than 300 guests were prepared with the same recipes and love she brings to her own family.

Alongside her, the Jain family's children, 14-year-old Jainam and 11-year-old Jivika, quietly stepped beyond their years. Engaging the guests through games, movie nights, and shared laughter, they brought lightness and joy to guests who were far from their own families.

Understanding that the guests ranged from infants just a few months old to elderly visitors in their eighties, Dr. Dhiraj also arranged for

medical support, ensuring that both physical well-being and emotional comfort were cared for throughout their stay.

The inspiration behind this gesture reflects values deeply rooted in Indian culture, **Atithi Devo Bhava**, where a guest is treated with the highest respect, and **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**, the belief that the world is one family.

This story is equally a reflection of the **United Arab Emirates**. This nation continues to bring people from around the world together through its spirit of hospitality, tolerance, and community.

In the UAE's **Year of Family**, this farmhouse became more than a place of shelter. It became a reminder that family is not only limited by walls or definitions; it is created through care, empathy, and shared moments.

As travellers eventually continued their journeys, many left with more than just memories of a stay. They carried with them the feeling of having been welcomed not as guests, but as part of a family.

And sometimes, that is what we remember the most.



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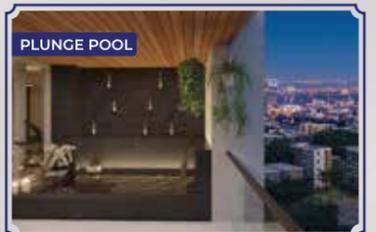
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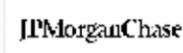
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11:29 AM - Feb 17, 2025 - 188 Views



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In the Easter Spirit!

Celebrate Easter with a thoughtfully curated Easter brunch at **Someplace Else**, where seasonal ingredients and festive flair come together for a leisurely afternoon. From fresh, vibrant small plates like Spring Bloom Lettuce Medley and Easter Garden Toast to appetisers embracing bold and layered flavours like Fire-Blossom Paneer Tikka, Golden Honey & Spring Lotus Crisps, Cracked Black Pepper Chicken, the brunch moves on to comforting yet flavourful mains. This includes White-Blossom Penne Alfredo Delight, Garden Basil & Thai Spice Chicken, Bunny Bay Hot Garlic Fish, and the celebratory Easter Feast Dum Chicken Biryani. You can end on a sweet and playful note with Nest of Indulgence and Easter Chocolate-Coated Eggs.

What: Easter Special Brunch

Where: Someplace Else, Jio World Drive, Mumbai

When: 5 April, 12:00 pm to 4 pm



TREAT FOR JAZZ BUFFS

Banyan Tree's **World Jazz Festival** returns this April for its sixth edition, bringing an exciting and acclaimed line-up of global jazz musicians for Indian audiences. Launched with the vision of enriching and expanding the jazz landscape in the country, WJF is presented in collaboration with the renowned Musician's Paradise Festival in The Netherlands, and has steadily grown into a vibrant platform for international musical exchange. Travelling across five cities, the festival will feature set lists incorporating American standards and jazz with a contemporary and international flavour — and everything in between.

What: 6th World Jazz Festival

Where: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi - 17 April; Pune International Centre, Pune - 18 April; St. Andrew's Auditorium, Mumbai - 19 April; Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Bengaluru - 24 April; Shilpakala Vedika, Hyderabad - 25 April



ONCE UPON A SCULPTOR

Chawla Art Gallery presents **Once Upon a Sculptor**, a curated exhibition tracing the artistic journey of celebrated sculptor K. S. Radhakrishnan. Bringing together works spanning decades of creative exploration, the exhibition offers a comprehensive overview of the depth, range, and emotional intensity that define his sculptural practice. Widely regarded as one of the most important sculptors of our time, Radhakrishnan is particularly known for his Maiya and Musui figures, which appear in multiple forms and avatars, each incarnation exuding emotion, with posture and expression capturing distinct states of being.

What: Once Upon a Sculptor

Where: Chawla Art Gallery, Saket, Delhi

Date: 18 March to 30 April



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International Concerts

With larger venues and an audience that embraces a variety of genres, India has become a crucial stop on the international circuit with several legendary artists performing in India time and again. April and May will see a number of global acts performing in genres ranging from pop and electronic dance music (EDM) to rock and contemporary classical. Here is a sneak peek.



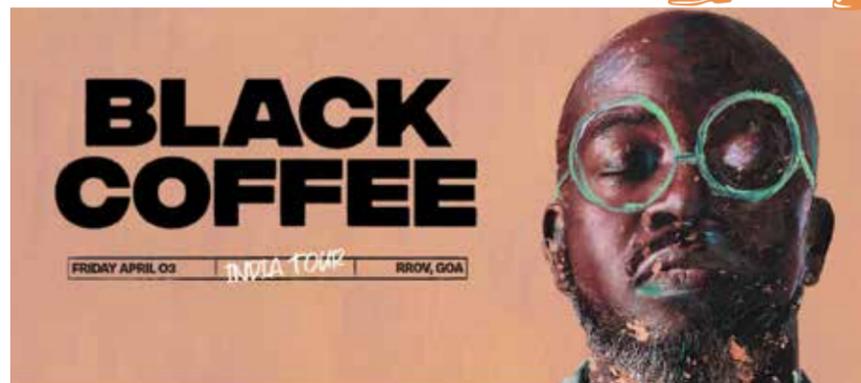
DEEPA NATARAJAN LOBO



A DEBUT TO CELEBRATE

Among the hottest names in the EDM space, Scottish DJ-producer **Calvin Harris** is all set to make his India debut. With chart-toppers such as This Is What You Came For, Summer, Feel So Close and How Deep Is Your Love to his credit, Harris's electrifying sets, powerful sound-systems, and dramatic visuals often transform open grounds into high-energy dance arenas.

What: Calvin Harris India Tour
When & Where: Embassy International Riding School, Bengaluru - 17 April; Infinity Bay, Mumbai - 18 April; Leisure Valley Grounds, Gurugram - 19 April
Tickets: BookMyShow



SOULFUL MELODIES

Grammy-winning South African DJ **Black Coffee** kicks off the month with a short India tour covering three cities. Known for sets that blend deep house rhythms with soulful melodies and layered percussion, Black Coffee has become one of the most respected names in global electronic music, performing at major festivals and clubs around the world.

What: Black Coffee India Tour
When & Where: A Dot, Gurugram (Delhi-NCR), April 1; Quake Arena, Hyderabad, April 2; RROV, Goa, April 3
Tickets: BookMyShow and Paytm Insider

Return of Classic Rock

Iconic German hard-rockers **Scorpions** return after nearly 20 years, as part of their Coming Home 2026 tour. Boasting such timeless anthems as Winds of Change, Rock You Like a Hurricane and Still Loving You, the band remains one of rock's most enduring — and endearing — acts. Their four-city tour incorporates Shillong, often referred to as the country's rock-music capital.

What: Coming Home 2026
When & Where: RBDSA Sports Complex, Shillong - 21 April; HUDA Grounds, Gurugram - 24 April; NICE Grounds, Bengaluru - 26 April; Jio World Garden, Mumbai - 30 April
Tickets: BookMyShow



CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER, ONE SMILE AT A TIME.

By partnering with the world's leading cleft-focused organization, corporates are creating meaningful CSR initiatives that inspire audiences and showcase their brand as a force for good.

Smile Train believes that every child with a cleft deserves the opportunity to live a full, healthy life. To achieve this, the organization has built a global movement that empowers local doctors through training, funding, and resources to provide **100% free cleft surgeries** and comprehensive care within their own communities. Since 1999, this model has transformed more than 2 million lives worldwide, giving children not only the ability to eat and speak but also the confidence to smile and dream again. "Smile Train represents a new standard of compassionate care which ensures that every child receives not just free surgery, but holistic treatment." **Mamta Carroll**, Sr. Vice President and Regional Director - Asia, Smile Train.

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TRANSFORM LIVES TOGETHER

Through partnerships with Smile Train India, the corporates are advancing their CSR goals and creating lasting impact. "This treatment makes a major impact in the lives of these children and revives the lost hopes of their families." **Sanjeev Bajaj**, Chairman and MD, Bajaj Finserv Ltd.



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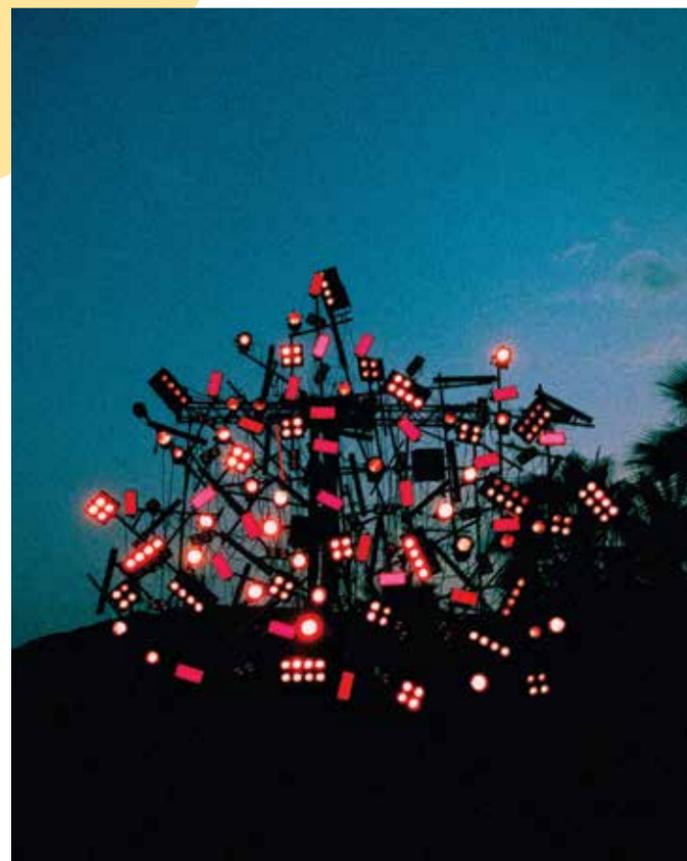
THE RICHTER EXPERIENCE

German-born British composer **Max Richter** will perform live in Mumbai for the first time, treating music connoisseurs to an evening of soundscapes as hypnotic as they are cinematic. The creator of acclaimed albums (Memoryhouse, The Blue Notebooks, and the immersive, eight-hour-long Sleep), Richter recently received an Oscar nomination for his original score for 'Hamnet' (2025), directed by Chloé Zhao.

What: Max Richter Live

When & Where: The Grand Theatre, Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Mumbai - 18 April

Tickets: NMACC website and BookMyShow



PARTY, IBIZA STYLE

The internationally renowned electronic music brand **Circoloco** will make its India bow this April. Emerging from the famous DC-10 nightclub in Ibiza, Circoloco has become synonymous with underground house and techno music. The Mumbai show is expected to feature several prominent DJs from the global electronic-music scene, presenting a party atmosphere that mirrors the brand's famous Ibiza gatherings.

What: Circoloco Mumbai

When & Where: Jio World Garden, Mumbai - 19 April

Tickets: District by Zomato

NAMASTE, KANYE

Another major international gig on the horizon is **Kanye West's** India tour. The artist now known as Ye is one of the most influential in contemporary hip-hop, boasting hits such as Stronger, Gold Digger and Runaway. Kanye's concerts are famed for their spectacular stage design and mind-blowing visuals, and the Delhi show will mark his first appearance in India.

What: Ye Live

When & Where: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi - 23 May

Tickets: District by Zomato



Culture of Care The Foundation of Meaningful Growth

At DavalIndia, we believe that meaningful growth begins not with numbers, but with people. Business success may be measured in expansion, performance, and reach, but its true strength lies in the care we extend to those we serve and those we work with every day.

A culture of care is not built overnight. It is shaped through everyday actions — through empathy in leadership, respect in relationships, and a shared commitment to making healthcare more accessible and affordable for all. For us, care is not just a value; it is the foundation on which our purpose stands.

In an industry that touches lives so deeply, empathy becomes essential. It guides how we listen to customers, how we support our teams, and how we make decisions that impact communities. When people feel heard, valued, and supported, trust grows. And where trust grows, meaningful progress follows.

DavalIndia is a pioneering force in the "healthcare industry, reshaping the landscape by making high-quality generic medicines affordable and accessible to all. Our vision is to create a healthier and more equitable future for everyone we serve.

Dr. Sujit Paul, Group CEO, Zota Healthcare Limited



Dr. Sujit Paul
Group CEO,
Zota Healthcare
Limited

At DavalIndia, leadership is not only about driving results; it is about creating an environment where people feel inspired, included, and empowered. A strong culture encourages collaboration, nurtures accountability, and reminds every individual that their contribution matters. It transforms workplaces into communities and transactions into relationships.

Meaningful growth is not only about becoming bigger; it is

about becoming better — better in service, better in responsibility, and better in the way we care for human lives. This is what gives growth its depth and purpose.

As DavalIndia continues its journey, we remain committed to building a culture where compassion and progress go hand in hand. Because when care becomes the heart of an organization, growth is no longer just a business outcome — it becomes a lasting impact.



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Summertime's Vintage ESCAPES

TEJASHEE KASHYAP

Some places feel almost suspended in time. Even if you've been before, they keep calling out to you. SpiceJet's leading summer destinations — Dharamshala, Jammu, Leh, Shillong and Srinagar — still hold a sense of discovery, and remain among the most sought-after hot-weather getaways. And here is your chance to plan in advance.

Soft, unhurried, and full of possibility, April feels like a quiet threshold. It's that in-between moment when the year begins to stretch, and thoughts instinctively turn to escape. And in seeking experiences that promise a distinct mood, a different rhythm, and a compelling reason to step away, we find that the appeal of India's classic summer retreats never fades.

Dharamshala ***Heartful of Memories***

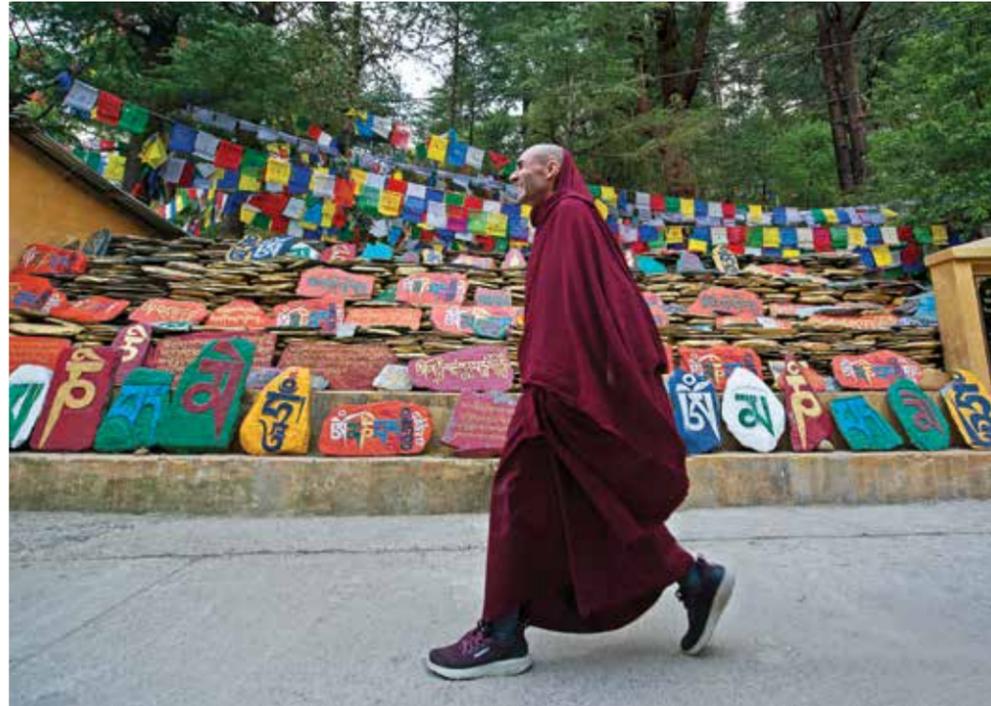
It's never quite enough when it comes to Dharamshala. Whether travelling with family or friends, it makes for the quintessential summer hideaway. The monasteries and



SPICEJET OFFERS
FLIGHTS
TO DHARAMSHALA
FROM
NEW DELHI

meditation centres lend the town a calming tenderness. Nearby, McLeod Ganj is still the embodiment of slow living with its quaint mountain cafés (where you sit looking out dreamily at the hills), street food, prayer flags, and easy rhythm. Indeed, there is a sense of stillness here that feels increasingly rare. But Dharamshala offers so much more beyond what we know.

There's Dharamkot, best reached via a 30-minute hike through forested paths and past terraced fields, along the way slipping into easy, warm conversations with the locals. The vastness of the countryside feels both humbling and quietly liberating. **And with spaces like the Tushita Meditation Centre and Vipassana centres, there's a deeper, silence-imbued spirituality in Dharamkot that continues to draw many, from all over the world, who seek introspection.** And not too far away, Naddi charms in its own way: flocks of chirping green parakeets, herds of pashmina goats, air that feels



Top & Left

A Buddhist monk walking past the religious memorial plaques in McLeod Ganj, the Tibetan hamlet near Dharamshala

Vaishno Devi in the Trikuta hills near Jammu is visited by devotees from all across the country



impossibly fresh, and the jagged, snow-capped peaks of the Dhauladhar rising into view in the distance.

Jammu
In Faith's Embrace

Jammu deserves your time and attention. It guarantees a gentler, more contemplative kind of break, one that blends spirituality, history, and culinary

traditions (for example, in the beloved Kalari cheese, a local delicacy, and the street-food staple *Kalari kulcha*). Of course, the city's rhythm is anchored to



SPICEJET OFFERS FLIGHTS TO JAMMU FROM NEW DELHI & SRINAGAR

devotion, and to hallowed Vaishno Devi. There is, undeniably, something moving about witnessing the collective act of faith at the temple.

About three kilometres out from the city centre stands Peer Kho Cave Temple, one of the oldest shrines in the vicinity. Built around natural caves and dedicated to Lord Shiva, it attracts both pilgrims and curious travellers for its serene, sheltered atmosphere. The nearby hill station – Patnitop, is a great option for an idyllic stay in the hills.

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EMG: Electromyography, *In SUI Symptoms as Reported by Patients, 1. Danneker C, et al. EMG-biofeedback assisted pelvic floor muscle training: an effective therapy of stress urinary or mixed incontinence: a 7-year experience with 390 patients. Arch Gynecol Obstet 273, 93–97 (2015).



Top & Right

A bike trip in Ladakh is the ultimate experience for all adventure seekers.

The iconic Pangong Tso at a height of approx. 14,270ft is a sight to behold

Leh
Of Lunar Vibes

An otherworldly haven, Leh is most sought-after not just for biking trips but also for its culture and cuisine, wildlife and monasteries (Lamayuru, Wanla, Alchi), and its dramatic geography. Few places in the world boast scenery quite like this: the Nubra Valley and Pangong Lake-Tso Moriri region are breathtaking, while Kargil and the Zaskar Valley unfold in equally spectacular ways.

Across Ladakh, there's an ever-shifting topography of open valleys, high mountains, tranquil settlements, and lakes that feel almost surreal in their brilliant blue.

About 135kms from Leh, Lamayuru reveals striking geological formations that have earned the village the name 'Moonland'. Hiking through its eroded hills is an experience in itself, especially at sunrise and sunset, when light and shadow wash the terrain in hues of gold and crimson. Then there's Hunder, where silent sand dunes stretch out against towering mountains, and the two-humped Bactrian camel still wanders. Hunder's remoteness is part of its magic, making it ideal for trekking, camping, and presenting a rare chance to stay with a local family, to experience life at its most unfiltered.



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Shillong A Hushed Kind Of Bliss

In Meghalaya, the hills are forever lush, the air bracingly fresh, and the skies full of drama, often shifting moods through the day. And no place is too far from the capital Shillong, including the relatively unexplored Laitlum Canyon. 'End of hills' in the Khasi dialect, Laitlum lives up to its name: an endless sweep of undulations that dissolve into the horizon. As the day drifts by, the landscape changes in colour, from earthy browns and deep greens to soft reds at dawn and dusk.

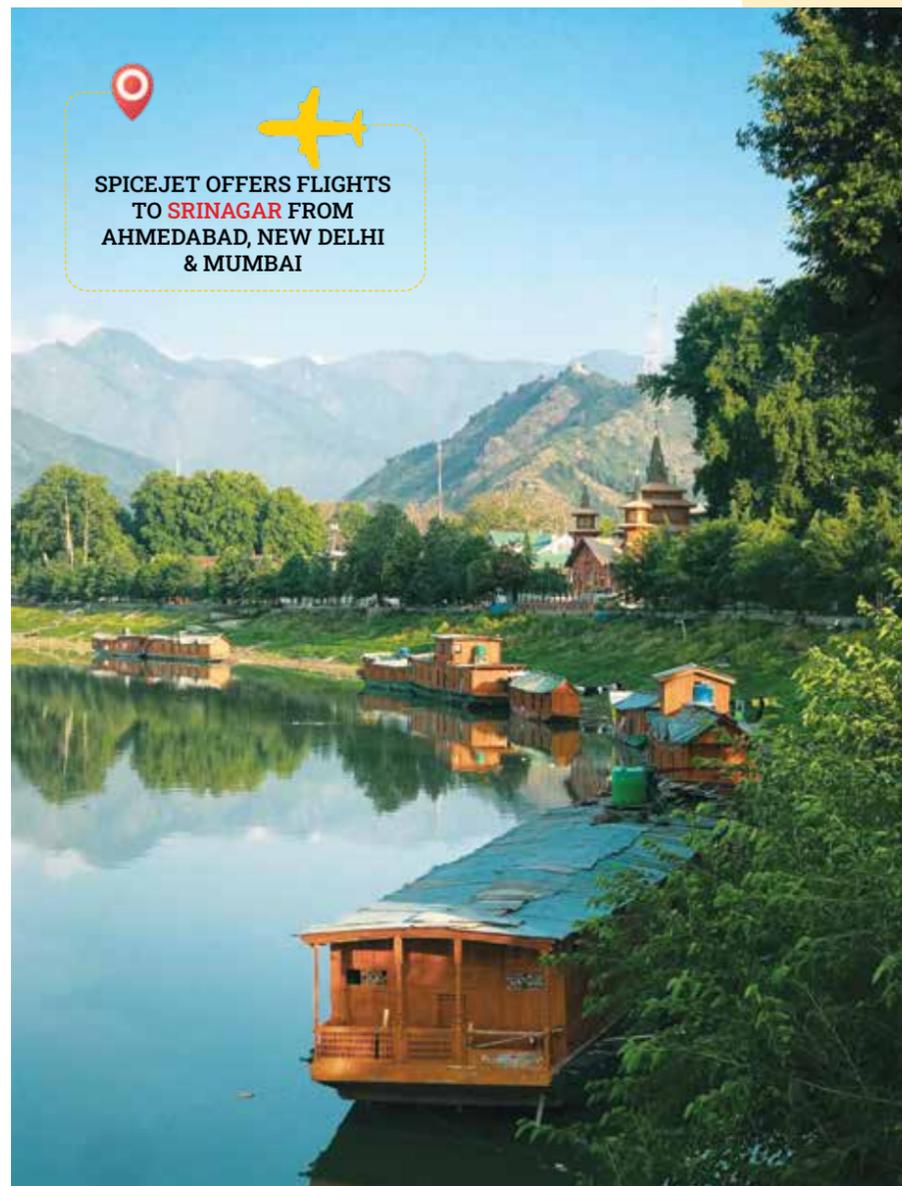
Then there's Mawphlang, a sacred grove that offers a glimpse into nature as it once was: untouched, unbroken, and deeply revered. Protected for centuries by Khasi tribal customs and



Top & Left

Popularly known as the 'Scotland of the East', Shillong is mesmerisingly beautiful throughout the year

A shikara ride on the Dal Lake is still a not-to-miss in Srinagar



SPICEJET OFFERS FLIGHTS TO SRINAGAR FROM AHMEDABAD, NEW DELHI & MUMBAI

believed to be guarded by forest spirits, Mawphlang carries a palpable stillness, a silence that, in the summer, feels almost sacred, held together by green light, cool air, and the restful sense of something enduring.

Srinagar Of Lakes & Gardens

In Srinagar, life unfolds around the magnificent Dal Lake. The chinars rise tall against the backdrop of the Zabarwan range, while the pristine Hazratbal shrine appears to float lightly on the water. **The Mughal-era Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh stand as lasting testaments to the city's layered past. Indeed, there is something about Srinagar — its light, its quietude — that imparts it an ethereal loveliness.**

And while its natural beauty is indisputable, it is Srinagar's architectural richness that truly lingers. The old city pulls you in with its wooden homes, intricately carved latticed windows, and hanging balconies. Crossing Safa Kadal — one of the seven historic wooden bridges — you find yourself wandering through a maze of narrow lanes and neighbourhoods, while traditional houses uncover the quiet interplay of Himalayan and Persian influences, still alive in their form and detail ●



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WORLD EARTH DAY

World Earth Day, observed annually on 22 April, is one of the largest global environmental initiatives aimed at protecting the planet. Introduced in 1970, Earth Day has since grown into an impactful movement aimed at raising awareness about various ecological issues, including pollution, global warming, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity. Through Earth Day, governments, organisations, and individuals are encouraged to adopt sustainable living and safeguard the planet for future generations.

Earth Day has come a long way since it was first marked in 1970, and is now embraced by more than **190 COUNTRIES**.

Each year, some 1 billion people take part in Earth Day events such as clean-up drives, tree-planting campaigns, and education initiatives, making it one of the biggest citizen-led programs in the world.



Plastic pollution is one of the biggest challenges our planet currently faces. At present, it is estimated that there is anywhere **between 75 and 199 million tonnes of plastic** in our oceans.



Plastic usage is huge, with one million plastic bottles being bought around the world every minute.



Scientific studies indicate that, compared to pre-industrial times, the average *temperature across the globe has risen by approximately 1.2°C*, mainly because of greenhouse gases emitted by human activities.



Since the 1950s, when the manufacture of plastics began, **OVER 9.2 BILLION TONNES** of plastics have been produced worldwide. A large part of this has still not been disposed of.



Deforestation remains a serious issue for biodiversity and climate security. Worldwide, **about 4.7 million hectares of forest cover** are lost each year, mostly because of agricultural activities, infrastructure development and logging.

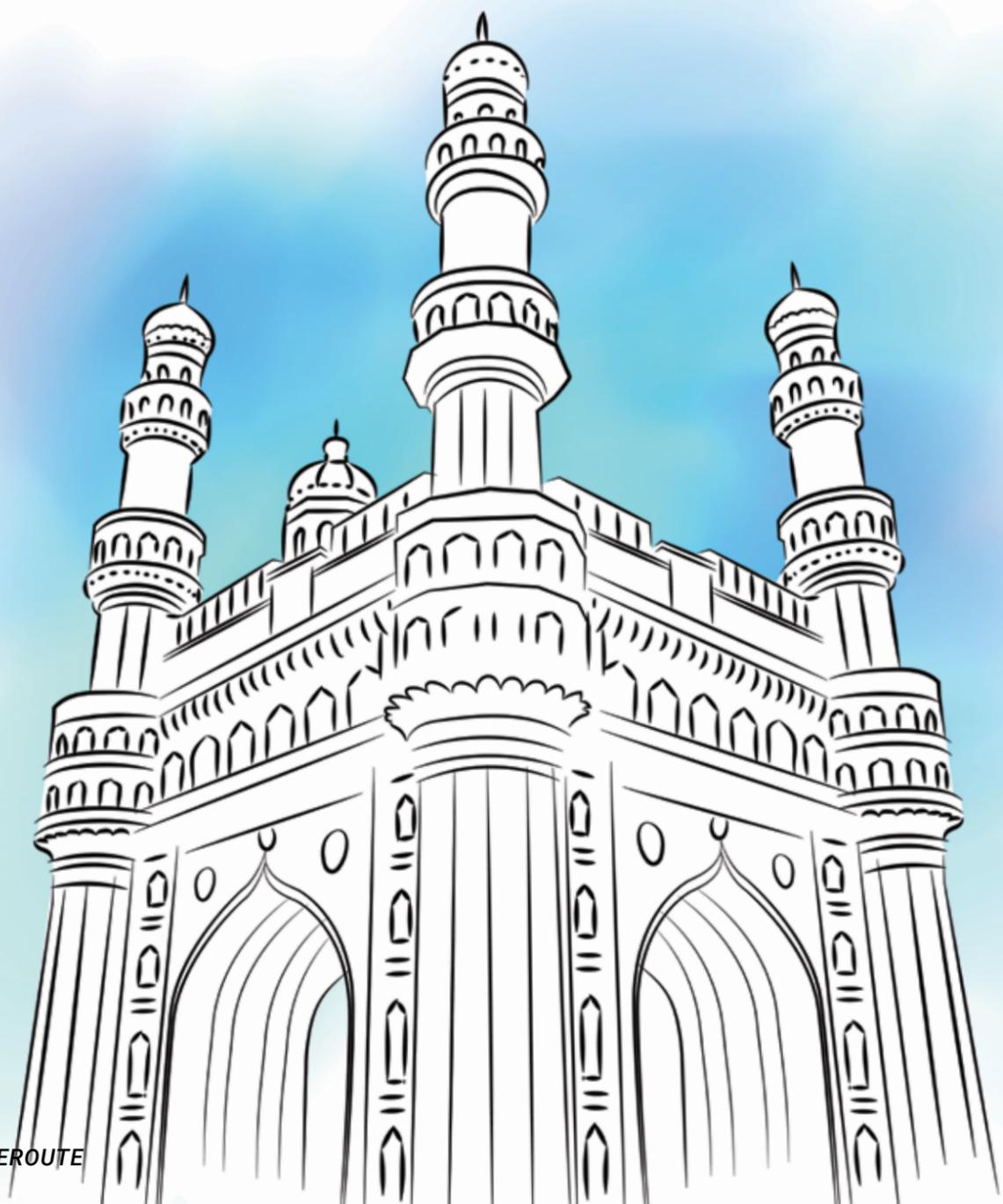


World Earth Day reminds us of the fact that environmental issues are global problems that need to be tackled right away—and together. The statistics above clearly indicate the urgency required to fight climate change and pollution, and to protect the environment. And Earth Day has been reminding people and organisations around the world of the need to do their part to ensure a healthy planet for all •

TWINNING IN HYDERABAD

MEENAKSHI. J

Hyderabad is best experienced in fragments — a temple atop a granite hill at sunrise, museums filled with curiosities, the bustle of Charminar at dusk, and an evening beside Hussain Sagar. Spend a day among bazaars, hills and palaces, and the twin cities begin to make sense.



 **SPICEJET OFFERS FLIGHTS TO HYDERABAD FROM AHMEDABAD, KOLKATA, PATNA & OTHER CITIES**

5 MOMENTS IN MOZAMJAH

On the way towards the Old City, drive past Mozamjahi Market, a granite arcade from the age of the Nizams. Its rugged stone arches and clock tower still stand out along this busy stretch of the city. The market remains lively, with grocery shops, earthenware stalls, and fruit vendors lining the arcades. It is also known for its old-style ice-cream parlours, the most popular being Famous Ice Cream, where freshly churned scoops have been served for decades.

 **Next stop: 10 minutes via road**

Pista House offers kebabs, sweets, and other favourites from the city's rich culinary repertoire

1 MORNING AT BIRLA MANDIR

Begin the day at Birla Mandir, perched on Naubat Pahad. Built from white marble a little over a half-century ago, the temple sits upon one of Hyderabad's granite hills and looks out across the city, towards the waters of Hussain Sagar. At this hour, the city below is still stirring. The hilltop breeze carries the faint sound of temple bells, and the sweeping view introduces you to Hyderabad's geography — a city shaped as much by rocky terrain and lakes as by history.

 **Next stop: 10 minutes downhill**

2 A DOSA BREAKFAST

Back at street level, head to Kamat Hotel for breakfast. Plates of crisp *dosas* arrive quickly, served with coconut chutney and strong filter coffee. The tables fill steadily with officegoers, bankers and regulars easing into their day. It is the sort of place Hyderabadis have relied on for decades, for simple food, quick service, and a comforting start to the day.

 **Next stop: 10 minutes on foot**

3 STREET ART & BAGH-E-AAM

A short walk to Public Gardens takes you past an unexpected stretch of colourful street art. The walls opposite the Telangana assembly building — built in the Indo-Saracenic style — sparkle with murals, adding bursts of contemporary expression to this historic neighbourhood. Beyond the painted walls lies the shaded

expanse of the Bagh-e-Aam (as the Public Gardens have historically been known), where walkers pass old fountains and colonial-era buildings that once formed part of Hyderabad's administrative centre.

 **Next stop: Inside the gardens**

4 EGYPTIAN MUMMY SIGHTED!

Inside the grounds of the Bagh-e-Aam — one of Hyderabad's earliest public parks, established in 1846 — stands the Telangana State Archaeology Museum. It is home to artefacts from the Kakatiya dynasty, Buddhist site excavations — and an unusual exhibit: an Egyptian mummy of Princess Naishu, brought to Hyderabad in 1930 and still among the rare few preserved in India.

 **Next stop: 20 minutes' drive**





6 TREASURES OF SALAR JUNG

Few museums in India rival the scale of the Salar Jung. The vast collection here ranges from Persian carpets and jade daggers to European sculptures and miniature paintings, collected over decades by the Salar Jung family. Around noon, visitors gather near the museum's famous musical clock, waiting for the small mechanical figure to appear and strike the hour—a cameo that continues to delight onlookers. Allow at least two hours here; the museum rewards unhurried exploration.

Next step: 10 minutes' drive

7 LUNCH IN THE OLD CITY

By early afternoon, the aromas of the Old City begin to guide lunch decisions. Hotel Shadab is known for its fragrant Hyderabadi Biryani served with *mirchi ka salan* and *raita*. Nearby Pista House offers *kebabs*, sweets, and other favourites from the city's rich culinary repertoire. The surrounding lanes bustle with vendors calling out, diners gathering, and conversations flowing across tables.

Next step: 10 minutes via road

8 ROYAL AFTERNOON AT CHOWMAHALLA

After lunch, head over to Chowmahalla Palace, once the ceremonial seat of the Nizams. Elegant courtyards lead into grand halls lined with chandeliers, vintage cars, and royal memorabilia. The palace offers a glimpse into an era when Hyderabad ranked among the wealthiest princely states in India. Arrive before closing time, so that you can discover the complex at your own pace.

Next step: 5 minutes' drive



9 A CHARMINAR EVENING

As evening approaches, the area around Charminar becomes increasingly animated. Laad Bazaar swells with shoppers browsing lacquer bangles and pearls while vendors arrange colourful displays beneath glowing shop lights. A seat at one of the cafés facing the monument, pairing a cup of Irani *chai* with freshly-baked Osmania biscuits, offers the perfect vantage point to watch the square fill up with visitors and locals alike.

Next step: 20 minutes via road

10 SUNSET ON NECKLACE ROAD

End the day by Tank Bund, where the road curves beside the waters of Hussain Sagar Lake. On nearby Necklace Road, families stroll down the promenade as cafés alongside the lake light up. The evening breeze softens the warmth of the day, and the city gradually settles into the rhythms of the night. A cup of coffee or hot chocolate here makes for a fitting close to a day spent between hills, museums, bazaars, and palaces — the many faces of Hyderabad in just a few hours.



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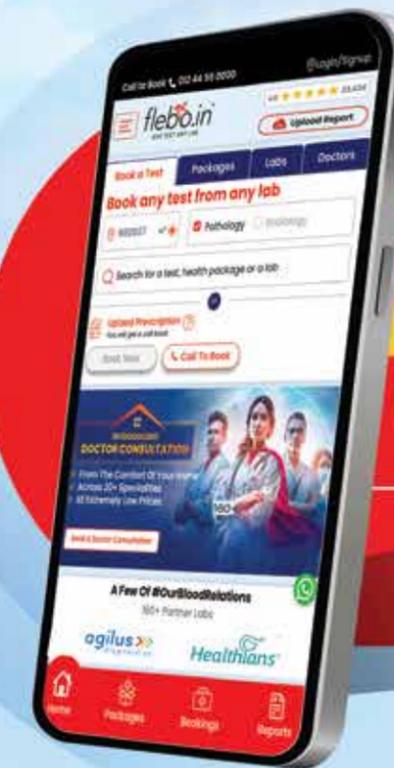
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Of Faith and Flavours



Outside of the hallowed Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), Amritsar has a fascinating past that can be discovered within its narrow, 400-year-old bylanes and alleyways

BINDU GOPAL RAO



✈️
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SPICEJET OFFERS DIRECT FLIGHTS TO AMRITSAR FROM DUBAI

Left & Below
The Partition Museum is a walk back in history showcasing the artefacts of people affected by the Great partition

A beautifully carved fresco at Thakurdwara Dariana Mal

Amritsar is history, traditions, culture and crafts – all wrapped into one, and perhaps the best way to experience it would be by walking along its streets and lanes. Morning is the ideal time for a heritage walk, for that is when the city is still waking up – and that is how I explored Amritsar. You pass through *Katras* (fortified residential units), *Akharas* (wrestling arenas), *Bungas* (rest houses), *Havelis*, and *Hattis* or shops, each showcasing how Amritsar founded around 1574, was developed.

DATE WITH HISTORY

The starting point is the historic rust-hued Town Hall, built in 1870. This towering edifice was used by the British as an entertainment space, with live bands playing every evening. Its top floor has a bell that would be rung whenever the British had to communicate a message to the people. Today, Town Hall's premises share space with the famed Partition Museum – and as you make your way through the museum, look up and take in the beautiful sight of Murano glass chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. Close by is the Jama Masjid Jaan Mohammed, dating back to 1867, and the Saragarhi Memorial Gurudwara, dedicated to the 21 soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment who were martyred by Afghan tribesmen in the Battle of Saragarhi, in 1897.

While you mull over Amritsar's history, gather your thoughts over a hot cup of tea at the *Jalebi Wala Chowk*, a square that hosts several small eateries (no prizes for guessing that it is well-known for its *jalebis!*). Look out for *Qila Ahluwalia*, almost hidden under a maze of shops and hanging wires. Its façade boasts colonial-style architecture and

elaborate stonework, while inside lie an ancient well and stable. Stop a while at the *Udasin Ashram Akhara Sangalwala* (1771), and the *Chitta Akhara*, established in 1781. The latter has an ancient tomb within, surrounded by vibrant paintings and religious idols. Today, the alleys around here are bustling markets selling jewellery and clothes.



BINDU GOPAL RAO



IF BRICKS COULD SPEAK...

Make it a point to observe the Nanakshahi bricks, unique to Sikh architecture. Thin, red in colour, hand-moulded, and clay-fired, these bricks have low porosity and are used in the construction of many of the buildings here. Another important element is the Pinjara woodwork and wood-carving technique, which can be spotted

in a fair number of the city's older structures. Spend time at Darshani Deori, the place where Guru Arjan and Guru Hargobind would stand and gaze upon the Golden Temple, when the views were unobstructed — don't forget to admire the archway's stunning ceiling, all painted and gilded. And as you make your way towards the end of Bartan Bazaar, you will catch glimpse of a revered banyan tree, which has witnessed the creation of Amritsar.

Then there's the Thakurdwara Dariana Mal, whose colonial-era design is accentuated with frescoes of intricate floral patterns and detailed ornamentation. Also check out Chaurasti Attari, whose four passages house 32 shops; it was built in the early 1600s by the sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind, who had invited the traders here and often spent time with them. Meanwhile, located at Katra Hari Singh is the city's first mint, or Taksal, where

Clockwise from Top

The buzzing streets of Amritsar around the Golden Temple

Makke de Roti and Sarsoon ka Saag is among the most popular dish

Walking along the lanes bring back memories of an era gone by



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thousands of coins have been minted over the years. And as you end the walk through an ancient passage, it is impossible not to appreciate how beautifully the city straddles the past and the present — as good a reason for you to add Amritsar to your travel wish-list this year.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

The food scene in Amritsar is an ode to, and a reflection of, Punjab's culinary exuberance. While in town, you can't miss Amritsari kulcha and chole, Amritsari Machhi—a fried fish especially popular at the *Makhan Fish*

BAZAARS OF WONDER

Amritsar is also a shopper's delight. Stop by the bustling and bursting-with-variety Hall Bazaar near the Golden Temple, Katra Jaimal Singh Market for vintage Punjabi clothes and footwear, and Guru Bazaar for traditional jewellery. Keep your eyes peeled for the hand-embroidered and colourful Phulkari, textiles, shawls, and Punjabi juttis, and (among other food items) papads and wariān—especially in the shops around Sri Harmandir Sahib. And pick up some delicious local pickles, a great way by which to remember your visit to this many-splendored city •

Below & Inset

The Golden Temple is known to offer langar to thousands of devotees everyday.

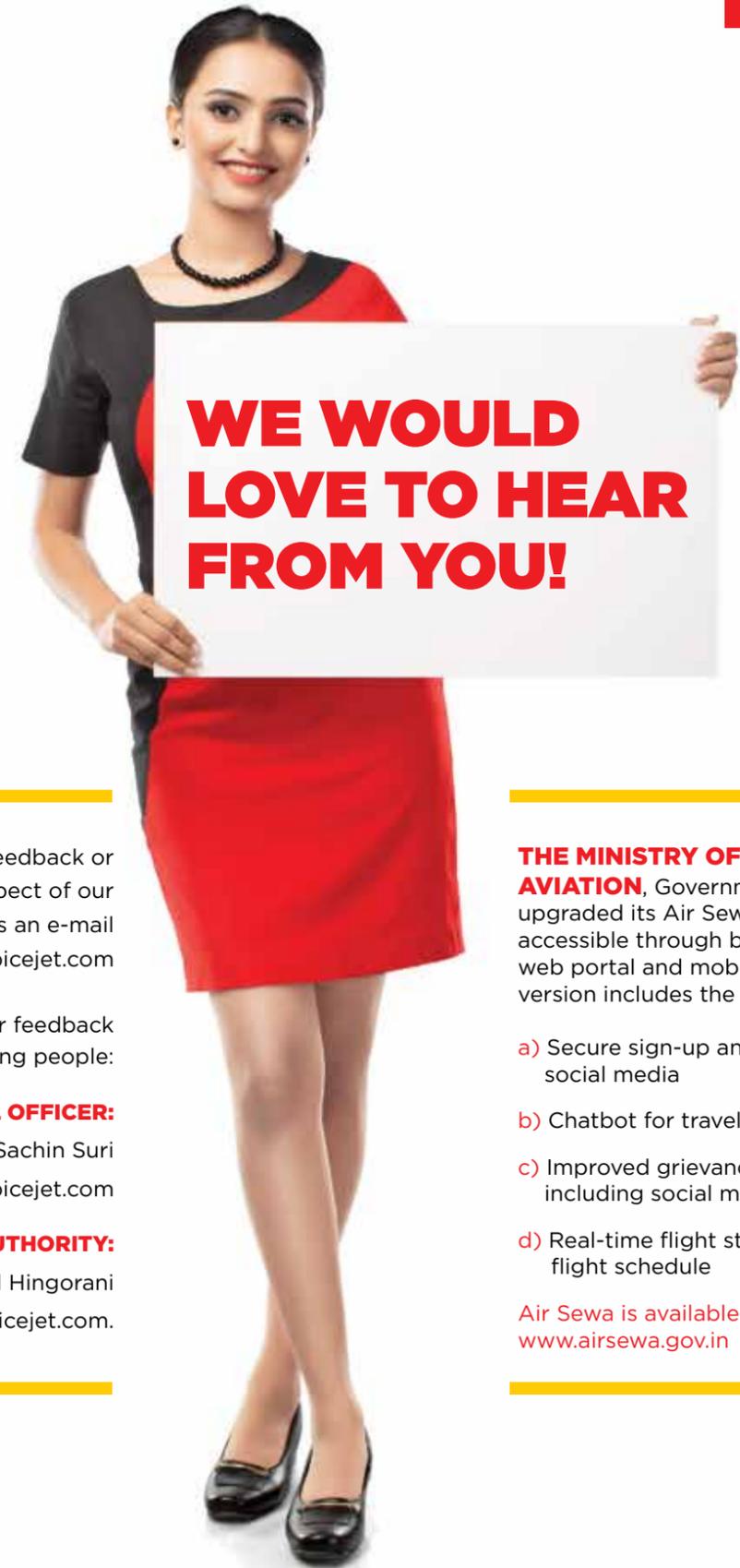
Amritsar is a shopper's paradise with shops selling colorful garments and juttis.



restaurant—and the sweet and creamy *lassi*. And if you're visiting in winter, tuck into the classic comfort food that is *Sarson da Saag* and *Makki di Roti*. For more humbler fare, partake of the *Guru ka Langar* at the Golden Temple, and marvel at how the community kitchen works. *Kesar da Dhaba* and *Gian di Lassi* are renowned for their local fare, and vegetarians must halt at Haveli, which serves delectable food at very reasonable prices.



BINDU GOPAL RAO



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A SHARK OF all times

FLORINA SOREN

Five time Shark, and CEO & Co-founder of SUGAR Cosmetics, Vineeta Singh opens up about India's thriving startup ecosystem, enduring beauty trends, and her impressive fitness regimen. Gearing up to run 42 kms on the Great Wall of China this May, she says staying fit has made her a better entrepreneur.



An alumna of IIT Madras and IIM Ahmedabad, you rejected a high-paying job offer to become an entrepreneur - what was the inspiration?

I actually started my entrepreneurial journey in 2007 when I rejected a high-paying campus offer at IIM Ahmedabad. I was not sure about the inspiration, but yes I always knew I wanted to build something of my own. At 23, I also completely underestimated how hard that was going to be.

Was SUGAR Cosmetics your first venture? And what made you choose the beauty cosmetics sector?

SUGAR was not my first venture. After two failed attempts, I started Fab Bag in 2012, a beauty subscription service for busy women. Two years in, I realised the real gap was not discovery, but lack of products suited for Indian skin tones and specific weather conditions. Though I had to bring down Fab Bag, that was also the birth of SUGAR Cosmetics, with the aim to solve that exact problem statement. Each of our products is especially designed for the Indian skin tone, and yes, our consumers are loving the shift.

What would you say is the core philosophy of your business that has helped you stay ahead of the curve?

Trends change fast, but quality and value do not. If your product truly works for the Indian consumer and is priced right, it stays relevant. We focus less on chasing trends and more on

solving real consumer needs, and this has helped us stay relevant always.

At a time when all aspects of our lives are being remodeled with the use of technology and AI, what are the big changes you see in the industry?

Technology is omnipresent and all sectors stand to benefit from it. Even in the beauty sector, technological enhancement has brought in clarity

and speed. Our mantra has been - to be very clear about who we are as a brand, and we make it a point to execute faster than everyone else. This combination is what has kept us going. We have already adapted a lot to this shift. Nearly 20 percent of our business now comes from products delivered in under 20 minutes. Across product, marketing, and customer service, AI is improving speed and accuracy. Over the next year, this will only accelerate.

You have been a Shark for all 5 seasons - tell us about your experience at Shark Tank and the businesses that you see coming in.

I have been fortunate to be part of all five seasons, and each season of Shark Tank is getting better than the other. Entrepreneurship in India has gone from being seen as risky to being aspirational. You can see that shift in the quality of businesses as well. Today, we see profitable companies, strong fundamentals, and founders thinking long term. I truly believe that we will see many Shark Tank IPOs in the years to come.

What are the key points that you take into consideration when you decide to invest in a business?

There are many factors that come into play when one decides to invest in a business. First is the founder-market fit. Building a business takes years, and founders who are deeply aligned with





My daily average workout time is 40 minutes a day. It does not sound like much, but I've seen the consistency over years compound



Vineeta Singh with her husband Kaushik Mukherjee and her two sons

their space tend to last longer. Second is product market fit. I strongly believe founders should not raise capital before they find the right fit. These two factors are sacrosanct.

How has being in Shark Tank shaped your perception of the startup ecosystem of India?

The venture ecosystem is still quite concentrated in metros and 90% of funded businesses still have only male founders, but entrepreneurship in India is not so homogenous. On Shark Tank, we see founders across ages, geographies, and backgrounds. 40% of the pitchers are women. This diversity gives me a lot of optimism that in a country like India where opportunity is everywhere, entrepreneurship will truly be the great equaliser.

Tell us a little about your much talked about fitness regime. How and when did your fitness journey begin?

Fitness is not something that is new to me, and over time it has become non-negotiable. Wherever I am or however busy I might be, I steal some time out for exercise or a quick run. I ran my first marathon at 23 while I was still a student. What started as a little challenge became a way of life as I realised that staying fit made me a better entrepreneur and eventually also a better parent. Today, apart from running marathons, I lift weights and also do pilates.

How many hours of workout do you manage to put in on a daily basis? And your fitness tips for busy professionals.

My daily average workout time is 40 minutes a day. It does not sound like much, but I've seen the consistency over years compound. My biggest advice is to find a fitness activity you find joy in. The key is to start small, be consistent and ensure it does

not come at the cost of 7 to 8 hours of sleep everyday.

Being in the beauty business, what is your not-to-miss daily beauty routine?

My non-negotiables are sunscreen during the day, and a proper cleanse followed by moisturising at night. I try to keep a lip balm, an eyebrow definer and a mascara handy, and on days I need some mood lifting, I just add a red lipstick to my look!

How has SUGAR Cosmetics changed the way girls do their makeup?

We have tried to make makeup more about self expression and less about perfection. It is not about looking like someone else. It is about owning who you are and having fun with it.

How do you spend your leisure time?

I have two young boys, so most of my free time is spent playing sports like badminton, pickleball and also board games with them.

Are you an impromptu traveller, or do you like planned itineraries?

I plan trips well in advance because my schedule gets packed otherwise. But once I am there, I like to keep things flexible and explore freely, often on foot or while running. Early morning runs to discover popular monuments without the long queues is my favourite travel hack •

Rapid Fire



Makeup trends 2026 Less is more, and red lips are back

Running or workout Running for the mind, strength for the body

Power breakfast Lots of eggs and an avocado sandwich

Last read 'The Obstacle Is the Way' by Ryan Holiday

Travel goal 2026 Running 42 kms on the Great Wall of China this May

FROM FIELDS

to festivities



Baisakhi, celebrated annually on 13th/14th of April, marks the harvest of rabi crops and the beginning of a new solar year. The festival holds both agricultural and cultural significance, symbolising prosperity, gratitude, and new beginnings.

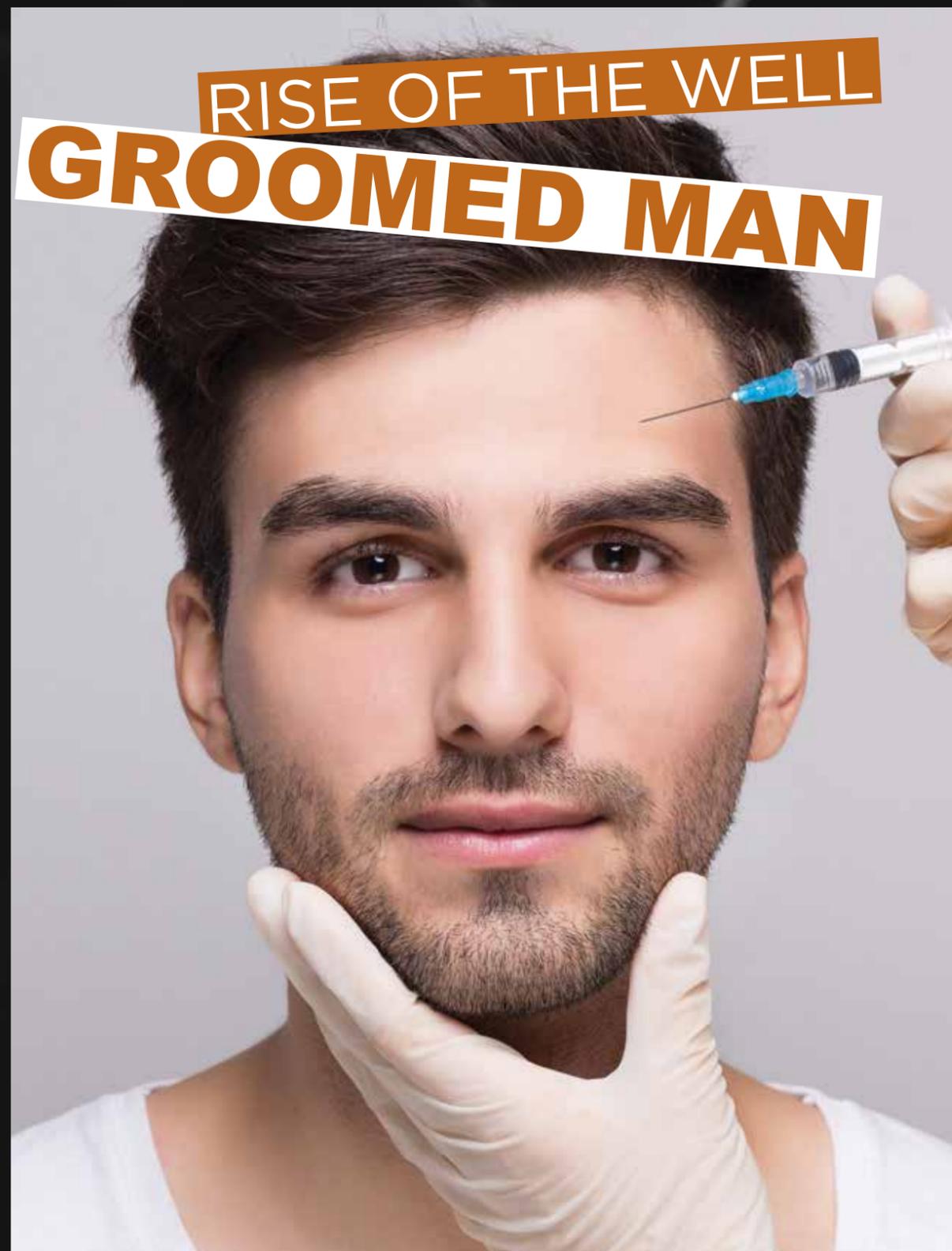
Baisakhi is an agrarian and religious festival for the people of Punjab, holding great significance. It commemorates the harvesting of rabi crops and the creation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. On Baisakhi, people visit their local gurudwaras to pray, followed by *kirtans*. *Bhangra*, *gidda* and regional fairs are some other activities that celebrate the spirit of Baisakhi.

In Assam, during the same period, it is celebrated as Rongali Bihu, marking the commencement of the Assamese New Year, along with the arrival of spring. Coming to Kerala, the festival of Vishu heralds the beginning of the new year. The ritualistic aspect of the festival is known as Vishu Kani, where

people look at an arrangement of auspicious things at the break of dawn, which is supposed to ensure prosperity. In West Bengal, Poila Boishakh is celebrated with people decorating their homes with *alpona* and engaging in various cultural activities.

While the customs and names of the festivals vary from region to region, they are similar in their underlying themes, expression of gratitude for nature's bounty, happiness associated with communal celebrations, and aspirations for a prosperous year. These festivals, therefore, not only showcase the diversity of Indian culture, they also celebrate the common heritage of Indian agriculture and tradition ●

RISE OF THE WELL GROOMED MAN



If you thought it was only women who cared about their thinning hair and dark circles, you are mistaken. Men are the new growing market in the world of cosmetic medicine, and definitely not shying away from botox, fillers, laser treatment and the likes.

NIVI SHRIVASTAVA



For decades, aesthetic treatments were largely viewed through a gendered lens. Skin clinics, laser treatments, and injectables were often associated with women, celebrities, or anyone under the constant glare of cameras. Today, the goal is no longer striking cosmetic change; it's all about looking refreshed, well-groomed, and confident.

FROM VANITY TO SELF-CARE

Dermatologists say the drift has been gradual but obvious. A growing number of male clients are seeking treatments that improve skin tone, texture and overall appearance, while maintaining natural features. Cosmetologist Dr. Jenovia Dawn Jung, COO and Co-Founder of KorinMi, says this transformation is visible in clinics today. While earlier visits were largely limited to acne remedies or hair-loss consultations, today more men are exploring skin-rejuvenation

treatments, pigmentation correction, and preventative procedures.

“Nowadays, men are becoming much more conscious about their appearance and overall grooming. We actually see a higher number of male clients, especially for skin-brightening and skin-rejuvenation treatments. Currently, we are seeing a significant increase in men seeking aesthetic treatments for both skin and hair concerns. Among the most popular procedures are laser resurfacing treatments for the face and exosome therapy for hair restoration,” says Dr Jung, adding, “Many male patients primarily aim to improve skin texture, reduce tanning and uneven skin tone, and achieve a healthier, brighter complexion.”

MINIMALLY INVASIVE TREATMENTS

Another noticeable shift is the increasing acceptance of minimally invasive aesthetic procedures among

men. These treatments are designed to enhance facial features subtly while maintaining a natural appearance. “Commonly requested minimally invasive procedures include Botox injections to soften forehead lines and frown lines, and dermal fillers to restore subtle facial volume and enhance facial definition, particularly around the jawline and under-eye area,” explains Dr. Aparajita Lamba, Consultant Dermatologist and Aesthetic Physician at Iksana Wellness, New Delhi.

Laser-based treatments, she mentions, have also become progressively popular among male patients. “These are commonly used to address concerns such as pigmentation, acne scars, uneven skin tone, and dull skin. Laser hair reduction is another frequently sought treatment, especially for areas like the beard line, neck, chest, and back, as it helps maintain a cleaner and more manageable grooming routine.”

AGE OF PREVENTIVE GROOMING

While the 30-50 age group still dominates the aesthetic market, dermatologists are seeing a noticeable rise in younger male clients exploring preventive treatments. Men in their late twenties and early thirties are

increasingly opting for procedures that maintain skin quality and delay evident ageing. Laser treatments, skin-rejuvenation therapies, and low-dose Botox are often chosen as subtle preventative measures.

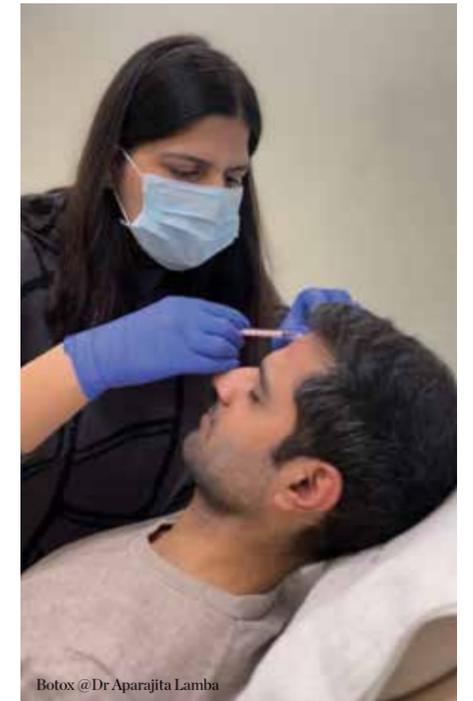
Dr Aisshwarya Panddit, Founder of AuraEdge Aesthetic & Wellness, has observed this change. “In the last few years, I have seen a very clear shift in how men approach grooming and aesthetic care. What was once considered niche or purely cosmetic is now increasingly viewed as part of overall self-care and professional presentation,” she describes. “Men in their late 20s and 30s are increasingly exploring treatments focused on skin quality, preventive ageing, under-eye rejuvenation, and facial structure enhancement.”

Adds Dr. Pandit, “Another interesting observation is that male patients usually prefer subtle, natural-looking outcomes. Treatments such as skin-rejuvenation procedures, regenerative therapies, and carefully calibrated injectables are becoming more common because they enhance skin health and structure without appearing obvious.”

THE ZOOM EFFECT

An additional factor behind this shift is the ubiquity of digital life. High-definition cameras, video meetings, and social media have made people more aware of how they appear on screen—sometimes referred to as the ‘Zoom effect’. Most men prefer procedures that help them look fresher and more rested, rather than noticeably altered. Dr. Rinky Kapoor, Co-Founder and Director, The Esthetic Clinics, explains, “The biggest shift in male aesthetics is the growing preference for non-surgical procedures that improve skin quality and slow visible ageing without requiring long recovery periods. Botox, hyaluronic acid fillers, laser resurfacing, skin-tightening treatments, and hair-restoration treatments like QR678®, are currently among the most requested procedures in clinics.”

Dr. Kapoor continues, “Many men are also opting for chemical peels and laser treatments that help improve skin tone, reduce pigmentation, and treat acne scarring. Rather than dramatic cosmetic changes, the focus is usually on looking fresher and well-rested.”



Botox @ Dr Aparajita Lamba

Pre-wedding glow

Pre-wedding grooming has also emerged as a fast-growing trend, with grooms seeking treatments months before their wedding to improve skin quality and overall appearance.

However, hair loss remains one of the most common reasons men seek dermatological advice.

Treatments such as PRP therapy, medical management for hair thinning and hair transplantation are widely used to slow hair loss and improve scalp health.





Photo by **Neha Jain**
(Jaipur - Mumbai)



Photo by **SK Imran**
(Kolkata - Ahmedabad)



Photo by **Dr. Tushar Palve**
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Photo by **Devang Mehta**
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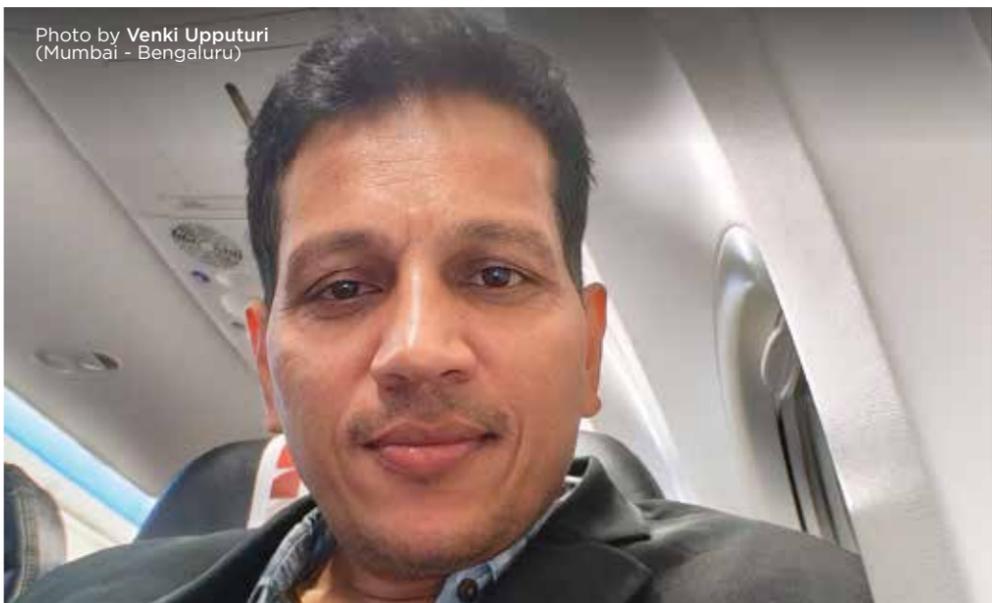


Photo by **Venki Upputuri**
(Mumbai - Bengaluru)

ON SET

INSIDE MUMBAI'S TRIBUTE TO MOVIES

A medium that has found space in the hearts and minds of Indians, cinema truly captures the lifeblood of the country.

ARJUN KUMAR



also a chronicle of dreams imagined, technologies mastered, and stories that shaped generations.

Spread across two buildings—Gulshan Mahal, a restored heritage bungalow, and a sleek contemporary structure—the museum unfolds like a carefully edited screenplay, moving from origins to evolution, from artefacts to immersion.

Dawn of Indian Cinema

The experience begins at Gulshan Mahal, whose colonial-era architecture instantly evokes the mood of times gone by. This space is devoted largely to the early history of Indian cinema.

A central gallery is dedicated to Dadasaheb Phalke, regarded as the Father of Indian Cinema. Rare photographs, personal correspondence, and production stills from Raja Harishchandra (1913) takes back visitors to the very birth

of Indian filmmaking, while original hand-cranked cameras, the first projectors, and decades-old lighting equipment reveal the physical and technical challenges faced by filmmakers in the early 20th century.

Another gallery focuses on the era of silent films, displaying vintage posters, lobby cards, film reels, and publicity material from the 1910s and 1920s. Painted posters, many of them handcrafted, stand out as



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rare artefacts of visual culture. And the transition from silent cinema to sound is marked by exhibits on Alam Ara (1931), India's first talkie. Early microphones and sound-recording devices, and documentation related to sound synchronisation, highlight how profoundly this innovation transformed storytelling.

Craft of Cinema Tech & Collab

The modern building expands the narrative to the craft of filmmaking. Galleries focusing on cinematography reveal equipment ranging from early Mitchell models to the Arriflex motion-picture cameras, next to lenses and lighting instruments. Alongside, detailed explanations trace the evolution of visual grammar in Indian films.

The editing and sound-design section showcases editing tables, magnetic tape recorders, and mixing consoles, with interactive displays demonstrating how sound, music—and silence—shape emotion, narrative, and rhythm. Meanwhile, the costume and production-design gallery presents sketches, fabric samples, miniature sets, and iconic costume details, offering insight into the world that defines Indian cinema's visual depth.

Songs, Stars & Stardom

Soundtracks are intrinsically linked to Indian cinema and a dedicated gallery on music celebrates composers, lyricists, and playback singers. Handwritten musical notations, gramophone records, and listening stations chart the evolution



of film music across eras—a joy for anyone with an evergreen tune on their lips.

Then there's the 'star system' gallery, which explores the rise of film celebrities through fan mail, magazine covers, interviews, and promotional material, observing how actors became symbols of aspiration and identity.



Cinema and the Nation

One of the museum's most reflective sections examines cinema's relationship with history and society. Here, films responding to topics such as colonial rule, independence, social reform, and political change are contextualised with timelines and commentary. Also featured is regional cinema, which receives special attention via exhibits representing major film traditions across India, reinforcing the diversity of voices that define Indian cinema.

A Living Archive

A section of the museum showcases screening rooms showing restored classics and documentaries, ensuring the museum remains a living monument to the medium rather than just a static archive

Additionally, rotating exhibitions add freshness to repeat visits.

Ultimately, the National Museum of Indian Cinema is a celebration of collective memory, reminding visitors that movies are more than just entertainment; they make up a powerful cultural force, one that continues to shape emotions, identities, and dreams. As you step back into Mumbai's bustle, you carry a renewed appreciation for the magic of the moving image, and for the stories that have illuminated screens and lives for over a century •

HIGHLIGHTS

*There are special sub-sections within the galleries, paying tribute to Raj Kapoor, Mrinal Sen, Mehboob Khan, Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak and Bimal Roy.



*A statue of Raj Kapoor in his Chaplinesque form is now a popular selfie spot.

* Documentaries are screened every Friday and run through till the next week. Restored classics are screened every Saturday.

* The technology section includes replicas of the Mutoscope, the camera used by the Lumiere Brothers, and the Praxinoscope - a spinning cylindrical animation device invented in France in the 1870s.



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BARASHA MEDHI
SENIOR CABIN CREW

My Town

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

Where is your home, and what makes it so special?

My home is in Assam, a land where nature doesn't just surround you, it breathes with you. What makes it special is its graceful resilience. From the ancient legends of the Nilachal Hills to the untamed wilds of Kaziranga, Assam is a tapestry of gold (Muga, or silk) and green (tea). It is a place where every stranger is an Aita (grandmother) or a Dada (brother), and hospitality is as natural as the flowing river.

The one thing that keeps on bringing you back again and again...

It is the longing for 'Xunor Axom' (Golden Assam). No matter how high the skyscrapers in Delhi rise, my heart seeks the humility of the paddy fields. I am pulled back by the sound of the Brahmaputra, a river so vast it feels like an ocean. It carries the stories of our ancestors, and standing on its banks is the only place where I feel truly whole.

Which is the perfect hangout spot in Assam?

The Dhekiakhowa Bornamghar—a place of worship in Jorhat district established by saint-reformer Madhavdev in the 15th century—or any one of the state's



quiet tea-estate bungalows. While the world rushes by, these spaces offer a beautiful blend of history and silence. Sitting on a porch watching the light filter through the Hollong trees, and holding a cup of authentic Assam CTC tea in your hands, is the ultimate luxury. It's where conversations don't need to be loud to be deep.

Name one restaurant you would recommend to a visitor, and a can't-miss delicacy on the menu...

I would take a visitor to a traditional home-style kitchen in the heart of the countryside. The must-try? Hahor Mangxo aru Kumura, a duck curry with ash gourd, served with Koni-Dhan (a local variety of rice). Eating this off a banana leaf, accompanied by Khar and



Masor Tenga, is an experience that's more than just a meal; it is an initiation into the Assamese way of life—simple, organic, and filled with love.

What is the best season to visit Assam and why?

Bohag in April, when this land is at its most emotional. The air is heavy with the scent of Kopou Phul (orchids), and the rhythm of the dhol creates a heartbeat for the Assamese. To experience Rongali Bihu is to see a civilization celebrating its survival and its hopes. It is the season of new beginnings.

Which must-visit places would you recommend?

Majuli: The world's largest river island. Majuli is the spiritual heart of Assam, where the Sattras (monasteries) preserve art—and a peace that the modern world has forgotten.
Kaziranga: Where the majestic one-horned rhino stands as a silent sentinel of our heritage.
Sivasagar: Walk among the monuments of the Ahom kings, and feel the pride of a 600-year-old unconquered empire ●



QUICK DAY TRIP...



Meghalaya (Shillong/Cherrapunji)

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PRIDE HOTELS LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the DRHP dated September 30, 2025, with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges on September 30, 2025. The DRHP is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, as well as on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, on the website of the Company at www.pridehotel.com and on the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers ("BRLMs"), i.e. Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited and JM Financial Limited at www.motilaloswalgroup.com and www.jmfi.com, respectively. Any potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see "Risk Factors" on page 41 of the DRHP filed with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges for making any investment decision and should instead rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved, for making any investment decision. The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act"), and may not be offered or sold within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold outside of the United States in "offshore transactions" in reliance on Regulation S and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur.

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DUBAI (DXB)	PORBANDAR (PBD)
FUJAIRAH (FJR)	PUNE (PNQ)
GUWAHATI (GAU)	SHARJAH (SHJ)
GORAKHPUR (GOP)	SHILLONG (SHL)
GOA (GOX)	SHIVAMOGGA (RQY)
HYDERABAD (HYD)	SRINAGAR (SXR)
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SpiceJet was a pioneer in India's UDAN scheme, launching regional flights in July 2017 and connecting remote regions like Porbandar, Kandla, Pakyong, Kishangarh, Lilabari, Jharsuguda, Jaisalmer, and Adampur. It also led India's first seaplane trials, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reaffirming its commitment to serving unserved and underserved regions.

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Map not to scale, graphic representation only. Content as on 31st March, 2026.



PREDICTIONS

April 2026

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

Momentum builds quickly for you, bringing sharp instincts and confident decisions. You seem able to anticipate situations before they unfold. Earlier efforts may finally earn recognition or appreciation. Romance feels lively as a magnetic personality catches your attention. Social interactions increase, and financial progress remains stable with mindful spending.

Lucky No.: 17
Lucky Colour: Red



TAURUS

April encourages a slower, more thoughtful rhythm, especially in matters related to family and emotional responsibility. Someone close may need your patience and reassurance; your calming presence becomes their greatest comfort. Financially, an opportunity may appear and reward quick action. Appreciation at work lifts motivation.

Lucky No.: 6
Lucky Colour: Green



GEMINI

Support from someone close sets a positive tone this month. Emotional clarity helps you remain confident while handling personal and professional responsibilities. A friend may inspire you to take fitness more seriously and adopt healthier habits. Workplace cooperation allows pending tasks to move forward smoothly.

Lucky No.: 11
Lucky Colour: Yellow



CANCER

April highlights the power of professional and personal collaboration. Joining hands with the right people helps projects progress smoothly. Finances stabilise as you manage resources carefully. Health benefits from a lifestyle adjustment that restores energy and balance. Academic confusion clears once priorities are reorganised. Recognition at work may arrive quietly.

Lucky No.: 9
Lucky Colour: Grey



LEO

Responsibility takes centre stage this month, urging you to remain disciplined and composed in important situations. Financial support you have been waiting for may finally arrive, helping you move forward with plans. Professional discussions benefit from diplomacy rather than hasty reactions. Travel brings refreshing experiences.

Lucky No.: 22
Lucky Colour: Peach



VIRGO

April brings encouraging progress, particularly when teamwork replaces working alone. Your organised approach impresses seniors and strengthens professional prospects. A pleasant new acquaintance may add excitement to your emotional life. Financial decisions require caution, as attractive offers may lack long-term value. Health remains balanced.

Lucky No.: 3
Lucky Colour: Cream



LIBRA

Clarity and emotional balance will shape your experiences. Taking time to observe before reacting helps avoid misunderstandings. Encouragement from family strengthens your determination to pursue personal goals. A chance meeting may spark romantic interest. Academic competition motivates you to sharpen your approach. Friends continue to provide support.

Lucky No.: 4
Lucky Colour: Purple



SCORPIO

Financial prospects start looking up as opportunities unfold gradually. Business owners/retailers might notice increased activity and rewarding results. A supportive partner may join you in fitness routines, helping maintain motivation. Professional life require patience but dedication enhances credibility. Academic focus can fluctuate, necessitating planning.

Lucky No.: 7
Lucky Colour: Blue



SAGITTARIUS

April encourages deeper emotional understanding, particularly within relationships. Honest conversations help clear confusion and strengthen bonds. Professional partnerships prove beneficial, though balancing work and personal commitments may require diplomacy. Romance blossoms beautifully when openness and trust remain at the centre of your connections.

Lucky No.: 18
Lucky Colour: Maroon



CAPRICORN

Thoughtful decision-making becomes essential. Accepting responsibilities without preparation may lead to unnecessary pressure, so careful planning is key. Professionally, your leadership qualities guide others through complicated situations. Financial judgement remains strong as you manage expenses wisely. Disciplined habits improve health and overall well-being.

Lucky No.: 8
Lucky Colour: Brown



AQUARIUS

April advises patience and judgement in daily matters. Stay attentive, for even a small oversight could create avoidable inconvenience. Family matters demand attention. Your presence brings comfort to loved ones, and supportive friends step forward when needed. Professional tasks may move slowly but sincerity ensures quality results.

Lucky No.: 2
Lucky Colour: Magenta



PISCES

Opportunity appears when you reach out sincerely; people respond positively to your requests, making it easier to secure guidance or support. Despite a busy schedule, you find time to relax while managing responsibilities. Career plans benefit from reviewing long-term goals and refining strategies. Financial prospects improve when seeking backing for important ideas.

Lucky No.: 5
Lucky Colour: Orange

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Upendrra Rai
CMD & Editor-in-Chief
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Dr. Dhiraj Jain

(FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN)

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