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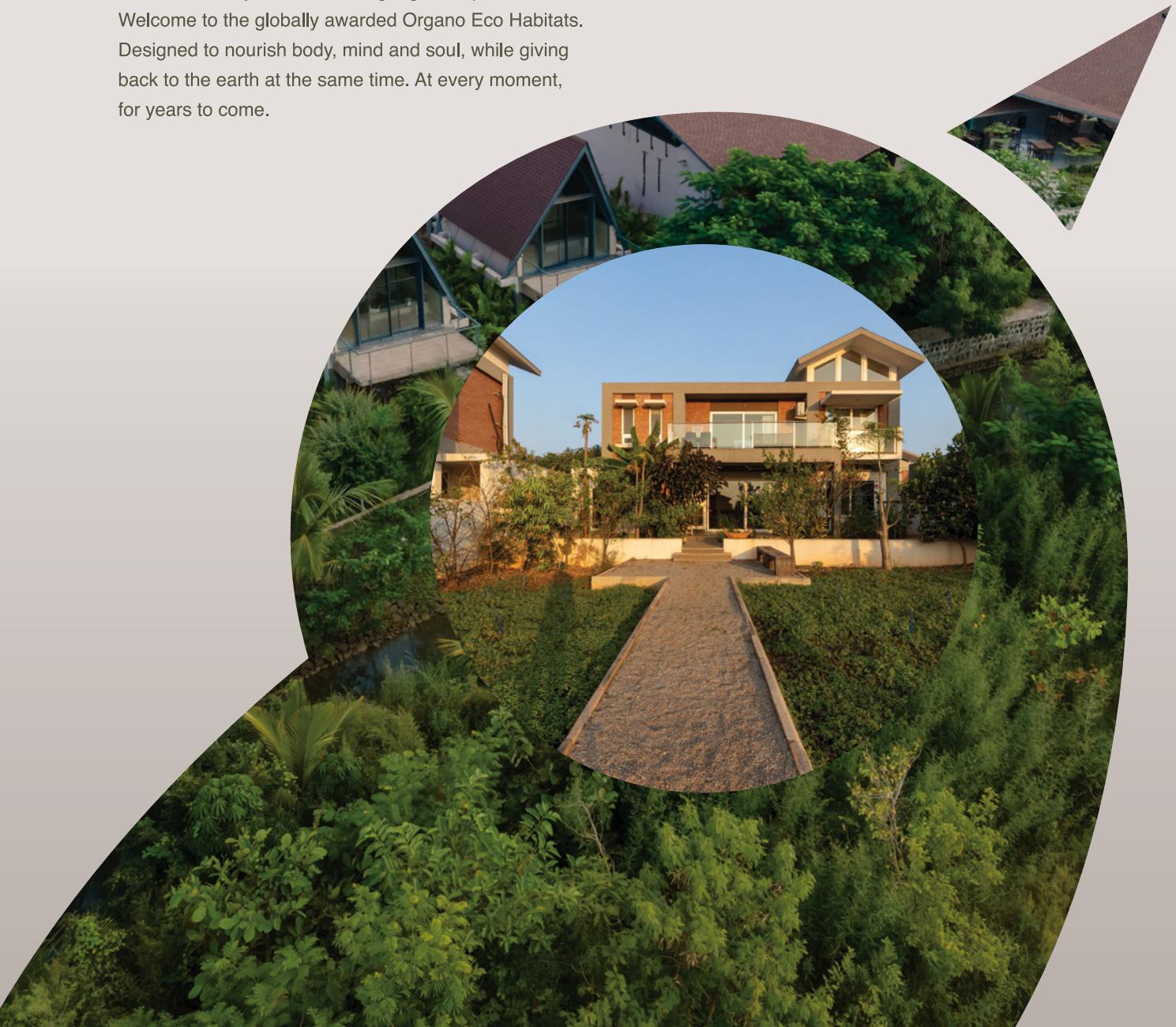
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EDITOR'S NOTE



p 14

Covered in a fresh coat of snow, Gstaad, in Switzerland, looks like a picture postcard in winter

The notion of luxury is changing. No more is it about ostentation; instead, luxury now whispers its presence. It envelopes the air in languid and slow discoveries, beckons you to savour intimate experiences, and lets you immerse yourself in stories, culture, and cuisines.

Our Cover Story this month highlights this—come with us as we discover Gstaad sans any electronic devices and online bucket lists; cherish a meal at the very exclusive NAAR in Kasauli, where the Himalayas are celebrated not just through the local produce but by embracing an entire ethos of mindfulness; savour the experience of sampling peaty malts in Islay, home to nearly 10 distilleries; and check out a few celeb-approved handbags that denote understated luxury.

Carrying the theme further, we travel to Jaisalmer, a city that offers the rare luxury of quiet reflection. In Mind, we shine a spotlight on the revival of the regal Parsi Gara and how it is being adapted to appeal to a wider audience. And in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a region replete with wellness treatments that draw inspiration from the surroundings, we explore luxury therapies designed to help you reset and relax. Elsewhere, celebrity fitness instructor Yasmin Karachiwala talks about the importance of recovery and rest in any fitness regime.

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Happy reading!

— **Namaste.ai** Editorial Team

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INDULGENCE

Raise a toast to Islay's
premium single malts



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On The Cover

Sunset on the desert in Jaisalmer

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Clockwise from top left: Six Senses Southern Dunes, The Red Sea; Shutterstock



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An award-winning textile designer, author, and curator, Ashdeen is known for his research on and revival of the Parsi Gara. He sees himself as a keeper of stories and a steward of Parsi and Zoroastrian culture. Ashdeen has designed collections for several luxury textile, lifestyle, and jewellery brands. He writes about his association with the Parsi Gara that led to the establishment of his eponymous brand.

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Forum Parekh

 @barriersandborders

Forum is an architect and travel storyteller currently based in Germany. Alongside her partner, Shiva, she runs Barriers and Borders, where they share stories of slow and sustainable travel. Their work highlights the importance of mindful travel that respects nature and local communities. She chronicles her memories of an unplugged exploration of Gstaad.

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Surya Shahi

 @thesunshineladki

A travel content creator and photographer, Surya has travelled to all the states and UTs in India. Having toured extensively for nearly a decade, she loves to document people, festivals, and unique locations across the world. She writes on the beautiful desertscape of Jaisalmer that lures her back time and again.

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Yasmin Karachiwala

 @yasminkarachiwala

A fitness expert with over 30 years of experience, Yasmin is a pioneer of Pilates in India. Widely regarded as Bollywood's leading celebrity trainer, her clientele includes Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt, and others. She is the driving force behind disciplined fitness and holistic lifestyles and runs her personal fitness studio in Bandra (Mumbai). She shares her thoughts about the importance of rest and recovery on the path to fitness.

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Jaya Asokan

 @jayaasokan

As the current Director of India Art Fair, Jaya brings nearly three decades of experience in art, design, and culture. Trained in graphic design at Parsons School of Design, New York, she has worked across the US and India. Under her leadership, the Fair has expanded in scale, inclusivity, sustainability, and year-round cultural programming, with global relevance and strategic clarity. She highlights a few notable participants of the Fair that visitors should look out for.

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POV

Stories that
inspire and
enrich

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ALPINE SPLENDOUR

Exploring the Swiss town of Gstaad, completely offline, turned out to be an unexpected experience

words by **Forum Parekh**





Gstaad is a great winter destination, with sports like skiing and snowboarding attracting visitors

My eyes are riveted and limbs still as I gaze out at rolling green meadows, gradually turning into a shimmering world blanketed in fresh snow. The valley below is dotted with tiny hamlets; above them rise hills of pine trees, and higher still, snowy, jagged peaks pierce the sky. The scenery feels so intimate that I almost forget I am on a train. And that is no surprise—this is no ordinary train.

We are on the panoramic GoldenPass Express that runs from Zweisimmen, a chalet village in the Simmental Valley, to Montreux, a town at the shoreline of Lake Geneva in Switzerland. It is my partner's birthday, and we are travelling to the Swiss village of Gstaad. I have bookmarked a thousand offbeat spots, imagining the perfect week in the Alps, until my partner reveals his birthday wish: 'To keep our phones away.' I had not seen that coming.

These days, the internet is more than a medium—it is our personal travel assistant, itinerary curator, restaurant locator, translator, social planner, and so on. We are more confident following Google Maps than our own instincts. We are comfortable with fast-paced travel—a few taps to pick a place to eat; a quick scroll to decide what is worth seeing. I, too, was caught in this web—until this trip broke me free.

As soon as we entered Switzerland, our German SIM cards lost connectivity. With my partner's wish and the sudden lack of internet, it just felt like a push to travel the old-school way. No maps. No saved lists. No online reviews. To navigate, we would have to trust our senses or strike up conversations with locals in our broken *Deutsch*.

Our first morning in Gstaad began with a gentle rhythm: horse-drawn carriages clip-clopped along pedestrianised streets lined with ornate wooden chalets. Above, rustic chimneys curled out soft trails of smoke, while below, traditional *boulangeries* filled the air with the aromas of freshly-baked *gipfeli*—the Swiss version of a croissant—and coffee. Devoid of modern sophistication, this alpine village felt suspended in another age. I also realised that leaving our phones behind perhaps added to this time-warp effect.

With navigation anxieties creeping in, I tried to take mental snapshots of every signboard and street corner we passed. Our stroll brought us to a pathway along the Saane river. There, my partner pointed out a board illustrating local wildlife with interactive playback of their calls—a cool educational stop that turned us into excited kids. A little further, another board held cowbells of varying sizes, explaining their origins that date back to the 15th century. This trail, also known as Yehudi Menuhin Philosophenweg, was lined with quotes from great philosophers worldwide.

At dawn the following day, we laced up our hiking boots and grabbed our poles to hike to the Eggli Ski station. We were the only ones on the route that early, and the sunrise



over the Bernese Alps was nothing short of spectacular. We spent several minutes watching the rays illuminate the peaks behind us, one after the other—catching the highest massif first, followed by the lower ones.

With no GPS, we followed wooden signposts marking the trail. The ascent was steep, but with the melodious sounds of jays and finches for company, I felt light-footed. Our near-meditative state was broken by hundreds of families signalling that we were close to the summit. Relief washed over us, knowing the journey ahead was downhill. But this was short-lived. Amidst the ski-station chaos, we lost track of signs for the descent. Tired, we considered hitching a ride downhill via the cable car but eventually decided against it when a local gentleman guided us back onto the trail.

Back at our hotel in



Gstaad, the receptionist noticed our strained movements and suggested their signature spa treatment. Spontaneously, we said yes—our bodies deserved some thanks. Amid softly flickering candlelight and the scent of fresh flowers, I drifted into a state of complete surrender. The massage was restorative, loosening up each of my muscles that were put to the test earlier.

Curling up with a blanket on our balcony, I realised that being disconnected

from our devices allowed us to connect deeply with the place. I pondered if disconnection, by itself, was perhaps the greatest luxury.

As I looked out into this magical neighbourhood, the only lights were of the triangular outlines of the gabled roofs, gleaming against the dark. Snow-capped peaks reflected the moonlight. I was cocooned by the silence.

Gstaad's simple mantra and promise stood fulfilled: we came up, and we more than certainly slowed down.

TOP AND BOTTOM
During the winter months, Gstaad is enveloped in a blanket of snow; The author on Saanen Bridge, made famous in the film Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge.

WHERE TO STAY

Ultima Hotel Gstaad

A chalet-style hotel, it features cozy suites and private residences, and is located next to the Eggi Ski station.

Gstaad Palace

This century-old hotel offers stunning alpine views outside and Belle Époque elegance inside.

Alpenchalet Weidhaus

Traditional and nature-immersed Swiss chalets that are ideal for those seeking a quietcation.

GETTING THERE

Air India flies non-stop to Zürich from Delhi. Connect to Bern with our Interline Partner, Swiss Rail. Gstaad is about 86km from Bern.



A SIP OF THE GOOD LIFE

The Scottish island of Islay is famed not just for its peated single malts, but a slower, more elemental kind of luxury

words by **Teja Lele**



Islay is home to around 10 working distilleries

A wee dram of whisky and a large sense of disbelief. My family and I—my sister, my parents, and my curious seven-year-old daughter—were huddled inside the tasting room at Bowmore, the oldest distillery on the Hebridean island of Islay in Scotland. Outside, briny Atlantic winds lashed the harbour, rattling the masts of fishing boats. Inside, warmed by oak barrels and low light, we were earnestly trying to identify notes of 'sea spray' and 'peat smoke' even as my husband was off on his own whisky pilgrimage at the nearby Laphroaig distillery.

My daughter sniffed her glass with exaggerated seriousness, seeming to commit the moment to memory.

The Scottish island has that effect: time slows, senses sharpen, and even the uninitiated feel part of something old and deliberate.

The transition begins on the way to the island. The flight from Glasgow is brief but theatrical, skimming over silver lochs and rugged coastline. There is no grand arrival; Islay offers a quieter welcome, one that feels increasingly rare—space, silence, and air that smells faintly of salt and smoke.

Often called Scotland's whisky

island, Islay (pronounced 'eye-luh') is home to about 3,000 people and nearly 10 working distilleries, each producing spectacular single malts shaped as much by geography as by craft. Peat cut from local bogs, Atlantic winds that rush through open maltings, and warehouses positioned deliberately close to the sea—each detail contributes to the intensity and individuality of the whiskies.

For the serious connoisseur, this is a place of pilgrimage, where flavour is inseparable from landscape. The tasting experience is elevated by intimacy. At distilleries like Laphroaig,



TOP AND BOTTOM
The Laphroaig distillery in Islay; A whisky tasting in progress.

Lagavulin, and Ardbeg, which sit along the south-eastern coast, tastings often take place in small groups, sometimes directly inside barrel warehouses, with the guide drawing samples straight from the cask. These are not generic pours, but limited expressions, distillery-only bottlings, and aged releases rarely found beyond the island. It is a privilege to sample a whisky where it matures.

At Laphroaig, the guide takes visitors on a walk across the peat bogs that supply the distillery, revealing how layers of earth, compressed over millennia, lend the whisky its unique medicinal smokiness. At Lagavulin, tastings unfold slowly, encouraging contemplation rather than comparison.

Bowmore, founded in 1779, sits by Loch Indaal in the island's main village and still malts some of its barley onsite. Bunnahabhain, further north, produces gentler drams that remind visitors that Islay is not a single flavour profile. Newer distilleries like Kilchoman and Ardnahoe show how tradition and innovation can work hand in hand.

WHERE TO STAY

Kilmenny Country House

An elegant family-run homestay set in a rolling farmland, it is in proximity of the sea and offers warm hospitality.

Port Charlotte Hotel

This charming loch-side property offers cosy rooms, live traditional music, and a whisky bar.

Islay House

Established in 1677 by the Laird of Cawdor, rooms at this historic country mansion offer stunning sea views.

Between distilleries, Islay reveals another side of itself: long, empty beaches, an abundance of nature, and wide-open skies. The island's beauty—austere, cinematic, and calming—offers luxury as an elemental experience.

Most visitors base themselves in Bowmore or in the pretty village of Port Charlotte, where sea-view inns and cosy pubs offer whisky, yes, but also bowls of Cullen skink (rich smoked-haddock soup that tastes like comfort itself). Distances are short, and the best way to explore is to walk as the wind rushes across the moors.

Our base, a gracious country house, reflected Islay's understated elegance. Evenings were spent by the

The Museum of Islay Life, located in Port Charlotte, houses a large and fascinating collection of objects, books, and exhibits that showcase life on the island (the museum remains closed during winter; it will reopen in June 2026)



fire, revisiting drams chosen earlier in the day while dinner showcased the island's fresh produce: hand-dived scallops, smoked salmon, lamb raised on salt-sprayed pastures. The pairing of terroir-driven spirits and local cuisine defined the epitome of quiet luxury.

Back at Bowmore, as our tasting session drew to a close, what struck me was how inclusive the island remains, despite its cult status among connoisseurs. Distillery managers linger over conversation. Questions are welcomed, whether from first-

time tasters or seasoned enthusiasts. Luxury here has bypassed exclusivity; it is about depth, thanks to access to knowledge, craft, and time.

The guide offered one last sample. My daughter nodded solemnly and asked if she could, "at least smell it". My parents shared a glance of quiet amusement. It was a small gesture, but it captured the essence of Islay—a place where tradition is shared freely and where travellers become part of a story that began long ago and lingers in every sip of smoky malt.

BEYOND THE DISTILLERIES: ISLAY'S OTHER SUBTLE LUXURIES

The island's allure extends well beyond its stills. In fact, the elemental landscape is one of its greatest luxuries. While Machir Bay is a pale ribbon of sand and surf, the cliffs of Oa Peninsula offer dramatic Atlantic views and a sense of solitude, and Loch Indaal's sweeping shoreline is a haven for birdlife.

The 8th-century Kildalton Cross continues to stand tall in a quiet, coastal kirkyard, revealing its ancient antecedents. Islay Woollen Mill, tucked just off the Port Askaig road, goes back to 1883 and still produces tweed on traditional looms. It has supplied fabric for films like *Braveheart*, *Forrest Gump*, and *The Spiderwick Chronicles*.

GETTING THERE

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GOING BEYOND LOGOS

Discover these understated labels, defined by impeccable conscious-luxury credentials, and loved by celebrities

words by
Mignonne Dsouza

When is a handbag not a handbag? When it becomes the one accessory that elevates an ensemble, serves as a style marker, and even reveals clues about the owner's personality. Over the last few decades, handbags have become almost mystical choices in fashion circles. Even as major luxury brands have gone from strength to strength, fashion-forward celebrities have turned to design-driven labels to make a bold statement.

These under-the-radar choices—from Staud to Mansur Gavriel and Aupen to Polène—boast an impressive line-up of fans. Catherine, Princess of Wales, has stepped out for royal visits carrying the Polène Numéro Sept Mini handbag, while Taylor Swift has accessorised date nights with the Aupen Nirvana bag. Sarah Jessica Parker has posed with Mansur Gavriel's Cloud Leather Clutch,

TOP AND BOTTOM
Staud's Moon Tote bag; Polène's Numéro Huit Mini bucket bag.



TOP TO BOTTOM
Catherine, Princess of Wales, with the Polène Numéro Sept Mini bag; Hailey Bieber sports the Staud Felix bag; Sarah Jessica Parker carries the Mansur Gavriel Cloud clutch.



while Hailey Bieber has been spotted with Freja's Caroline bag. Other brands, like Ganni, count Kendall Jenner among their customers, while Katie Holmes and Nicole Kidman have carried designs by Hunting Season.

What makes these bags such a popular choice with boldface names? The answer lies, first, in their materials and craftsmanship—these brands use high-quality leathers, employ skilled artisans, and produce their line-up in curated batches, making them a conscious luxury choice without an eye-watering price tag.

DeMellier uses sustainably-sourced materials and crafts its

designs at family-run factories in Europe, while the Quince label uses high-quality leather and a global network of factories that only work with luxury brands. Mansur Gavriel has taken sustainable practices a step further by debuting a Bucket Bag made from 100 per cent vegan apple leather.

The designers of these creations also use cutting-edge sensibility, choosing modern silhouettes, trending styles, and standout flourishes to create new favourites. Another attraction for celebrities is the lack of logos, making the bags an in-the-know style statement. Many stars, in fact, are not ambassadors for these labels, which makes these bags a more authentic statement of their personal fashion choices.

The more modest price tags (almost always under US\$1,000) also ensure that such bags, once seen on a celebrity, become a cult favourite amongst the wider public. This boosts reputation, and the bags often sell out once they have been snapped on the arm of a famous face.

Thanks to their impeccable design, superior materials, and celebrity championship, quiet luxury brands appear to be gaining an edge, at least in the foreseeable future.



AN INTIMATE SPREAD

Luxury at NAAR is not loud. It does not shimmer or announce itself. Instead, it sits beside you at the table, leans in, and asks you to pay attention

words by
Neeta Lal

Foraged Greens with Mountain Whey and Wild Herbs

Nestled in the hills of Kasauli, Chef Prateek Sadhu's 16-seater restaurant NAAR (meaning 'fire' in Kashmiri) strikes you as a place that's not built for scale or spectacle. Instead, it feels deliberately small, almost protective of itself. The looming mountains outside seem to dictate the rhythm within, and everything—from the pace of the service to the food on the plate—moves in quiet conversation with the Himalayas.

Chef Sadhu welcomes

guests himself, and that personal attention immediately changes the dynamic. This doesn't feel like a restaurant visit; it feels like an invitation. He asks about your relationship with Himalayan flavours, your tolerance for bitterness and fermentation, what kind of food memories you carry. "NAAR was never meant to be anonymous," he tells me. "If I'm cooking for you, I want to know who you are."

The dining room mirrors this ethos. Built with natural materials—wood, stone, soft neutral textures—it's warm without being decorative.

Large windows pull the landscape inward, making the mountains a constant presence. Nothing competes for attention. The luxury here is restrained. With limited seats, every detail feels considered, every pause intentional.

The tasting menu is entirely seasonal, shaped by what Chef Sadhu is foraging, growing, or sourcing locally at that time. There are no permanent signatures, no promises of repetition. "The Himalayas decide what we cook," he says. "I just interpret what they give me."



The meal begins gently. One of the opening dishes is Bhang Chutney with Stone-Ground Millet Crisp, a nod to local flavours that immediately anchors you in place. Earthy and slightly nutty, it tastes ancient and modern at once. Another early course, Foraged Greens with Mountain Whey and Wild Herbs, carries a soft bitterness that feels intentional, even grounding—an introduction to the region's palate rather than a concession to comfort.

As the courses progress, the cooking becomes quietly expressive. A standout dish is River Fish with

Fermented Radish and Himalayan Mustard Oil, cooked with such restraint that the freshness of the fish remains untouched. The mustard oil doesn't overpower; it hums softly in the background. Chef Sadhu explains how the fish comes from nearby waters, its availability dictated by temperature and flow. "If an ingredient isn't at its best, it simply doesn't belong on the menu," he explains.

Heirloom Red Rice Khichdi with Smoked Local Vegetables is deeply comforting yet deceptively complex. Each grain holds its shape, layered with smoke, fermentation, and

THE DESIGN AESTHETIC

NAAR's design is a natural extension of its Himalayan setting—restrained, tactile, and deeply intentional. The interiors favour raw wood, local stone, and muted earth tones that echo the surrounding hills, creating a sense of warmth without ornamentation. Large windows bring the outdoors in, making the mountains an ever-present part of the experience. Nothing feels forced; every choice of material reinforces calm and focus. The space slows you down, encouraging quiet attention to food, conversation, and seasonality. It is luxury rooted in stillness, where design supports the meal rather than competing with it.

subtle spice. The dish's architecture seems like a memory reassembled through technique. Then comes Slow-Roasted Squash with Pine Needle Oil and Cultured Butter, a dish that transforms a humble vegetable into something quietly luxurious—proof that indulgence doesn't require extravagance.

What elevates these dishes is not just flavour, but context. Chef Sadhu speaks about foraging

TOP AND BOTTOM
Using wood, local stone, and a muted colour palette gives NAAR a grounded vibe reinforcing quiet luxury. The restaurant only seats 16 at a time.



IF I DON'T RESPECT THE LAND, THE FOOD LOSES ITS SOUL.



walks, about growing produce himself, about working closely with farmers who understand the land intimately. Sustainability here is not an aesthetic choice; it is operational. "Luxury, for me, is knowing the journey of every ingredient," he says. "If I don't respect the land, the food loses its soul."

Dessert follows the same philosophy. There's no sugar-laden finale, no theatrical flourish. Instead, Apple Wood-Smoked Pear with Honey and Mountain Cream closes the meal softly. It feels appropriate, seasonal, almost inevitable. You don't crave more—you feel satiated.

Throughout the experience, Chef Sadhu volleys between kitchen and dining room, explaining dishes, answering



questions, reading the table. There's no hierarchy here, no chef's-table performance. Just presence. "I want guests to feel engaged, not impressed," he says. "When you understand why something exists on the plate, it becomes meaningful."

By the meal's end, I realised that NAAR's luxury lies in its intentional limits. The limited seats. The ever-changing menu. The refusal to cater to expectation. This is not a restaurant



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Chef Prateek Sadhu's menu celebrates local produce; The golden Himalayan raspberry or yellow Himalayan raspberry; The curry leaf berry; One of the dishes is Heirloom Red Rice Khichdi.

THE JOURNEY
Reaching NAAR is as much a part of the experience as the meal itself. Tucked away in the lower Himalayas at an altitude of about 4,800 feet, the journey unfolds slowly, inviting you to leave the rush of the plains behind. The restaurant is a 90-minute drive from Chandigarh.

Checklist

Everything worth
checking out

- 26 ➔ GADGETS
- 30 ➔ IN FOCUS
- 38 ➔ FOOD
- 44 ➔ EVENTS
- 48 ➔ ON THE CLOCK
- 52 ➔ NOW TRENDING
- 58 ➔ BOOKS





DELL XPS

After ditching it in 2025, the company is bringing back its XPS brand this year.

The new XPS 14 and XPS 16 combine sharp OLED displays and improved thermal management up to Intel Core Ultra X9 388H performance in a lightweight aluminium chassis. These machines look more modern, and there is a new 'XPS' branding instead of Dell on the lid.

Why buy: Thin and light in a modern look

The Consumer Electronics Show 2026 showcased next-gen tech

words by
Prakhar
Khanna

THE FUTURE IS HERE



ROBOROCK SAROS ROVER

This is a robot vacuum cleaner with legs that help it climb stairs (yes, really). In the demo, the Roborock Saros Rover took approximately 30 to 40 seconds to climb about five large steps. It deploys a pair of legs (with wheels at the bottom) to lever itself up over stairs and other obstacles. The legs then fold themselves up behind its back before deploying again for the next step. While the price and availability timeline remain unknown, Roborock has assured us the product will release.

Why buy: A game-changer for home gadgets

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⌚ SAMSUNG GALAXY Z TRIFOLD

The electronics and technology giant has created a 10-inch tablet that folds twice into a phone. It is similar to its Fold 7 sibling but with two hinges and a wider unfolded screen. It shares the same camera set-up (200MP main, 10MP telephoto, and 12MP ultra-wide), a 6.5-inch AMOLED cover screen, and Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Elite processor. However, you get a bigger 5,600mAh battery that charges at a faster 45-watt rate, along with Samsung DeX wireless support for a better experience. It is ideal for those who want a folding phone to watch videos and a replacement for their tablet.

Why buy: A tablet that fits inside your pocket



↑ MOTOROLA RAZR FOLD

The brand will finally launch its first book-style foldable, the Razr Fold, in 2026. It will take on industry heavyweights like Samsung and Google. Ahead of the launch, Motorola has confirmed multiple specifications: an 8.1-inch folding display, a 6.6-inch cover screen, and three 50MP cameras. While the software was not final at CES 2026, the hardware feels top-notch and elegant. In my experience, its in-hand feel is up there with the Galaxy Z Fold 7 and better than the Google Pixel 10 Pro Fold.

Why buy: A stylish flex



⌚ ASUS ZENBOOK DUO

The company took its dual-screen laptop idea from quirky to mainstream with the ZenBook Duo (2026). It improved the hinge design, slimmed down the bezels between its two 14-inch 3K OLED screens, and paired Intel Core Ultra X9 Series 3 power with a bigger 99Wh battery. During my hands-on time, the laptop felt more premium and multitasking was intuitive. Plus, the new keyboard docking system makes it easier to attach to the bottom screen.

Why buy: Multitasking maven



↑ EVEN REALITIES G2 SMART GLASSES

Unlike the Meta Ray-Ban AI Glasses, these have no camera or audio capabilities. Instead, you get a display on each lens, which can be used to navigate, translate, and more. It is a bigger and brighter screen that doubles as a reliable teleprompter. You can control it with gestures with either the on-stem controls or with an accompanying R1 smart ring (sold separately). Even Realities made the G2s lighter and stronger with a titanium alloy build. In fact, these are the first smart glasses that feel impressively close to traditional specs. I have worn the last-gen G1 glasses for six months, but the G2 could be the real deal for those who want a display-equipped device without the weight of technology-infused smart glasses.

Why buy: Lightweight and impressively effective



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KEEP AN EYE

Out

Delhi's India Art Fair (IAF) 2026 shines a spotlight on artists and makers engaging deeply with craft, community, and form

words by
Jaya Asokan

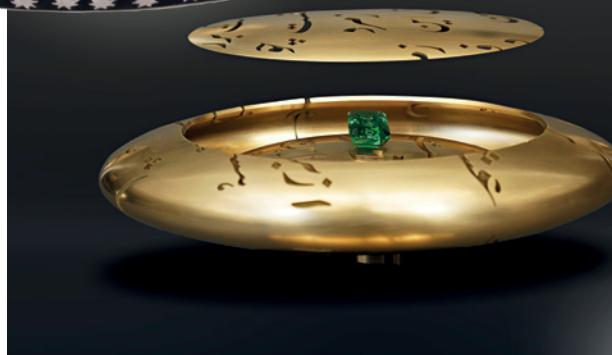


UMAR RASHID

The inaugural winner of the AMA Artist Award, Rashid's work blends real and imagined histories to explore how narratives of colonial power, identity, and influence are constructed.

For more than two decades, he has built a sprawling narrative world, most notably his "Frenglish Empire", that confronts the traditional custodians of history. Drawing from inspirations, including African cosmology, Native American ledger art, hip-hop, Classical and Egyptian mythology, and Afrofuturism, the artist weaves lyrical storytelling, dense symbolism, and incisive humour into works that challenge linear, dominant narratives.

For his showcase, Rashid will bring a variety of works, including brand-new paintings, exploring the colonial histories of India. The exhibition will travel to Tokyo in September.



GHIORA AHARONI DESIGN STUDIO

Founder of the studio, artist Aharoni's practice is driven by an interest in dualities—between the sacred and the secular, the symbolic and the functional, tradition and reinvention. His work frequently draws upon traditional objects, materials, and symbols, recontextualising them to generate new meanings. Aharoni's studio practises foreground craftsmanship, material resonance, and the layered cultural histories embedded within objects. This year's work is *The Zamrud*—an emerald reliquary in brass—a physical and metaphorical prism that creates a sculptural form at the intersection of design and art.




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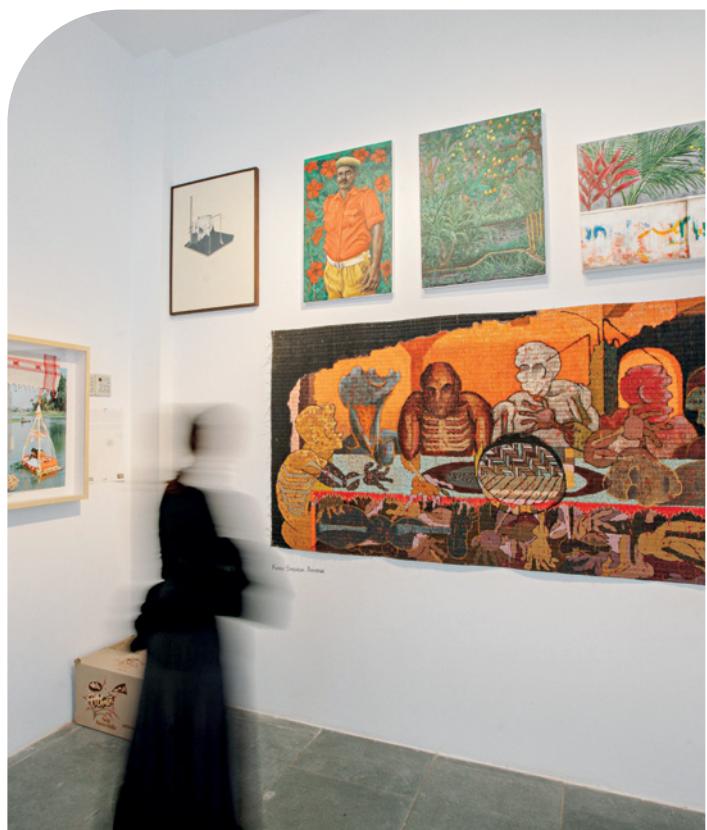
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IAF YOUNG COLLECTORS' PROGRAMME (YCP)

The YCP is one of the most recognisable and fast-evolving initiatives of the Fair, conceived as a catalyst for engaging an adventurous new generation of collectors and cultural patrons from the region and beyond. Now in its seventh year, the Programme finds a new home in Delhi's Triveni Kala Sangam. The central exhibition, *Omens. Organisms. Objects. Order.*, curated by Wribhu Borphukon, unfolds as relational encounters, bringing together machines, games, and matter reflecting on material intelligence and origins, algorithmic senses, and ritual gestures by both known and new artists, alongside an integrated performance programme. Other exhibitions include *The (Mal)functions of Light*, curated by Wribhu Borphukon, the project *Monção*, curated by Strangers House Gallery, and *Disobedient Objects: The Biography of Clothes*, curated by Sreyansi Singh and held at STIR Art Gallery.



PRINCESS PEA (NATASHA PREENJA)

Karishma Swalí and the Chanakya Foundation, in partnership with India Art Fair, has introduced the Swalí Craft Prize, a new award conceived as an homage to the enduring and evolving language of craft. The inaugural prize has been awarded to Natasha Preenja, who works under the name Princess Pea.

At IAF, Princess Pea will bring together her proposed vision through a convergence of materials central to her practice—lathed wooden figures combined with embroidery and threadwork. The works reflect an active exchange between artistic intent and inherited craft knowledge, positioning itself as a site of negotiation, intimacy, and meaning.





Gaurang

The Textile Museum
Now - The Present

At Gaurang, craft is not just a passion—it is life itself. Every weave tells a story of emotion, heritage, and the quiet strength of India's artisans. A long -cherished dream has now taken shape in a museum and retail space that celebrates the creativity and craftsmanship of India's finest weavers.

Plot No 1146, Road No 58, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad 500033 | +91 9848029120 | www.gaurang.co



AFRAH SHAFIQ

This multimedia artist works at the intersection of art, technology, literature, and systems thinking. Her practice frequently employs digital tools to examine how histories of labour, gender, and knowledge are produced, transmitted, and transformed over time. Drawing from craft traditions, oral storytelling, and archival research, Shafiq treats digital systems not as neutral technologies but as cultural structures shaped by power, memory, and material practice. As the winner of The Future is Born of Art Commission, presented by BMW India and India Art Fair, her commission this year is *A Giant Sampler*, a textile sampler, drawing from embroidery traditions across cultures alongside Indian references. Visitors can scan motifs via an app, activating layered histories rooted in oral traditions and material memory.

BREAKFAST IN A BLIZZARD

The Performance Programme by HH Art Spaces, supported by Soho House, is set in an open-air kitchen and constructed to host but not serve food. Artistes come up with a range of 'other' offerings to concoct, serve, feed, and nourish our souls. They take turns to conceptually cook, sometimes overlapping, other times a participatory potluck. Led by Yuko Kaseki (Japan/Berlin), Uriel Barthelemy (Paris), and Suman Shridhar/Black Mamba (Mumbai), the collective presents performances referencing the act of feeding ideas and forms. Feeding also serves as a metaphor and antidote for the love-stricken, featuring during both mourning and celebrations.

SIDHANT KUMAR

This performance artiste's practice engages closely with questions of ecology, land, and embodied knowledge. Working through research-led and site-responsive processes, Kumar examines how agricultural landscapes function as living archives—holding histories of labour, sustenance, and community that are increasingly obscured or erased. Kumar is the recipient of the PRAF x IAF Discover 09 Grant, a collaborative initiative between Prameya Art Foundation and India Art Fair, that supports emerging practices engaging critically with social and ecological concerns.

Emerging from Kumar's research into farming, survival, and landscapes under ecological stress, this performance considers agriculture as an act of endurance. The harvest is described as 'quiet' because destruction unfolds gradually and becomes normalised, and nourishment is replaced by toxicity and legitimised through administrative systems and records. The work reflects on land treated as expendable, and on farming reduced to survival rather than regeneration.



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words by **Rushina Munshaw Ghildiyal**

• 'GOZ' or GÖZLEME

Every turn in the city's vibrant laneways offers new discoveries. One morning, the aroma of roasting coffee was accented by the scent of sizzling butter. I followed my nose to a crowd gathered at a gözleme shop. Affectionately called 'goz' by Australians, these are thin, crisp pastry flatbreads from Turkey, stuffed with delicious fillings and griddle-fried in butter. They are named after göz (Turkish for 'eye'), a nod to the spots that appear as the dough turns golden and crisp. What makes Melbourne's versions fantastic are the twists using local feta or meats.

Where to try it: Göz City, Little Collins Street

• MELBOURNE MAGIC COFFEE

This city sets the gold standard for coffee. Himanshi Munshaw Luhar of Foodie Trails introduced me to the 'Magic' on one of her food tours. Not only did I learn that it all began in the 1880s, during the temperance movement, with the city's magnificent coffee palaces—designed as a family-friendly alternative to alcohol—but also that the 'Magic' itself emerged from this rich history in the early 2000s. Consisting of a double *ristretto* topped with steamed milk in a 160ml cup, this delivers a sweeter, more intense flavour than a latte. It remains my ultimate 'insider's order'.

Where to try it: Dukes Coffee Roasters, 247 Flinders Lane





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➲ SMASHED AVOCADO TOAST

Melbourne serves this quintessential brunch offering in as many textures and flavours as there are cafés in the city. The creamy smashed avocado prevails universally but it may come on thick-cut, lightly-toasted sourdough or waffles, topped with poached egg or feta, fresh herbs or heirloom tomatoes, and finished with flourishes like lemon, extra virgin olive oil, dukkah, balsamic glazed beetroot, and chilli jam.

Where to try it: La Roche, 138-140 Acland Street, St Kilda



➲ MEAT PIE

This savoury pick—a legacy of the British—rose to popularity in the 1800s as the ideal hearty meal-on-the-go for miners, farmers, and workers. Artisan bakeries layer in oodles of quality and passion, to offer a variety of versions bursting with slow-cooked chunky vegetarian, mushroom, and spiced meat fillings that elevate the pie-eating experience. That contrast of buttery shortcrust, rich gravy-meaty filling, and flaky puff pastry top... you have not really 'pied' until you have had a Melbourne meat pie.

Where to try it: Miss Amelie Gourmet Pies in Prahran Market and Queen Victoria Market

➲ LUNE CROISSANTS

A home-grown landmark, Lune Croissanterie became a global culinary destination after the *New York Times* lauded its products, calling them some of the 'best in the world' in 2016. Founder Kate Reid, a former Formula 1 engineer, blended French heritage with scientific precision to create the Lune croissant, a masterpiece balancing buttery flavour and airy, layered texture. Lune serves fresh batches at regular intervals throughout the day.

Where to try it: Lune Croissanterie, 16/161 Collins St





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➲ HOT JAM DOUGHNUTS

I highly recommend fortifying yourself with a fresh, hot, jammy doughnut before embarking on an expedition into the sheds of Queen Victoria Market. The warm, yeasty, sugar-kissed golden spheres, filled with molten jam are a true rite of passage. Once satiated, you will be able to do justice to the unique produce and charming shops of this historic, open-air landmark, famed for its vibrant atmosphere.

Where to try it: American Doughnut Kitchen, Queen Victoria Market



➲ BANH MI

A legacy of the Vietnamese community that arrived in larger Victoria (with some settling in Melbourne) post 1970, this version marries traditional Vietnamese-French fusion sandwiches with Australian influences. Classic crusty French baguettes come filled with flavour-packed local meats, salads, mayonnaise, crunchy-pickled vegetables, and fresh, fragrant Vietnamese herbs. Do not miss the city's signature crispy roast pork crackling version.

Where to try it: Nhu Lan Bakery, 116 Hopkins St, Footscray



➲ PARMA aka CHICKEN PARMIGIANA

The Parma, as Melbourne knows it today, is a an Italian-American pub classic that is believed to have appeared in menus in the 1980s. Featuring a golden, breaded schnitzel topped with a rich, zesty Napoli sauce and finished with a layer of mozzarella, it is typically served with chips, a side salad, and a tall pint on the side. The city's modern gastropubs elevate it to a refined art form, with a variety of takes that perfectly attune to its soul-satisfying food scene.

Where to try it: The Cheeky Pint, 231 Barkly Street, Footscray

GETTING THERE

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 **PARADE DAY
MARDI GRAS**
📍 **New Orleans, USA**
17th February

While the festival goes on for weeks, Mardi Gras Day is celebrated on Fat Tuesday, and is one of the city's earliest traditions. Visitors usually dress in purple, green, and gold (Mardi Gras colours), and watch the parade floats across the city. A family-friendly, fun event.

neworleans.com

 **SPORTS SPECIAL
2026 WINTER OLYMPICS**

📍 **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy**
6th-22nd February

Watch athletes take part in 16 winter sports including old favourites like skiing, skating, hockey, and curling, plus new additions like ski mountaineering.

 olympics.com



 **CULINARY MAGIC
TASTE OF DUBAI**

📍 **Dubai, UAE**
6th-8th February

Held at the Dubai Media City Amphitheatre, this brings together 16 of the city's best restaurants, as well as world-renowned chefs. Expect workshops, bands, DJs, and more.

 tasteofdubaifestival.com



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ON THE RADAR



↑ MICHAEL LEARNS TO ROCK – TAKE US TO YOUR HEART TOUR

📍 Bengaluru, Karnataka

19th February

This popular Danish band will perform at Phoenix Marketcity.

district.in



↑ MAHINDRA BLUES FESTIVAL

📍 Mumbai, Maharashtra

14th-15th February

The 14th edition will see performances by Matt Schofield and Shemekia Copeland.

mahindrablues.com



↑ SUFI HERITAGE FESTIVAL

📍 New Delhi

28th February-1st March

Performances, workshops, and masterclasses. Look out for Daler Mehndi and Sonam Kalra.

sufiheritageproject.com



ART STOP LUMINOUS TERRAINS

📍 New Delhi
28th February-4th April

The new show by Paresh Maity is on from 28th February to 10th March at Bikaner House and from 14th March to 4th April at Art Alive Gallery. The solo exhibit relooks at ecology and diversity of landscapes across India, Venice, and France through Maity's creative expression.

bikanerhouse.rajasthan.gov.in



SOLO EXHIBIT THE LONG NOW OF US: JAGANNATH PANDA

📍 Bhubaneswar,
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14th-27th February

Held at the Lalit Kala Akademi, this landmark exhibition by the internationally-acclaimed contemporary artist is the first in his hometown. It situates his three-decade career within the cultural and geographic landscape that shaped his early sensibilities.

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THE LITTLE BIG CITY

Gardens to fall in love with, art to lose yourself in, and structures to marvel at—Chandigarh is where modernism breathes quietly amid nature

words by **Jaskiran Kapoor**

The man-made Sukhna Lake boasts the longest channel for rowing in Asia

⌚ 07:00AM
Escape into the wild
📍 Nagar Van

One of the city's best-kept secrets, Nagar Van in Sector 1, behind Sukhna Lake, is spread across nearly 100 hectares. The trail has broad paths winding through dense woodland alive with birdsong, native flora, and fleeting wildlife sightings. Play equipment carved from fallen trees, an open-air gym, and a children's park dot the trail.

⌚ 08:30AM
Enjoy tranquil time
📍 Sukhna Lake and Garden of Silence

A national wetland, the Lake was conceived by Le Corbusier and engineer PL Verma. This rain-fed reservoir hosts migratory birds, and boasts boating, jogging tracks, and a café. The Garden of Silence, located at the end of the Lake, offers a meditation space.

⌚ 10:00AM
Spot avian species
📍 Chandigarh Bird Park

Step into this elegantly designed sanctuary that celebrates colour, sound, and movement. Home to macaws, cockatoos, pheasants, swans, and water birds, the Park blends conservation with visual delight. Elevated walkways, shaded viewing areas, and spacious aviaries make this a great experience. Perfect for bird lovers, shutterbugs, and families.

⌚ 11:30AM
Mark the moment
📍 War Memorial

Close by, in Sector 3, is one of India's largest post-Independence war memorials. It bears the names of over 8,000 soldiers from the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy who have laid down their lives since 1947. Inaugurated by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in 2006, it stands as a deeply moving tribute.

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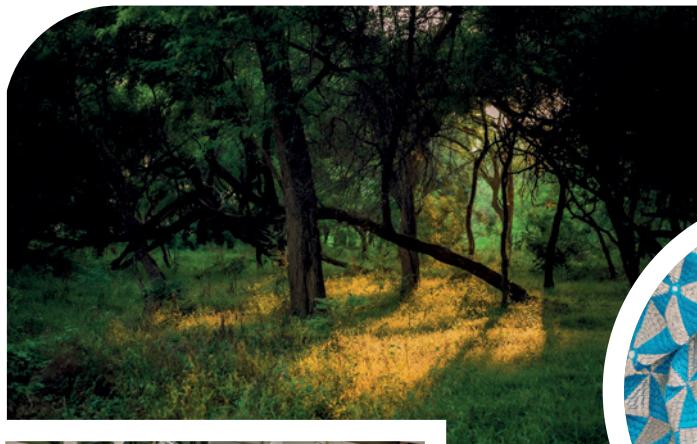
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
Start the day at Nagar Van; Buy souvenirs at 1469 or Phulkari; The underpass is a quirky, artsy space; Back to Source champions local produce; The Le Corbusier Centre showcases the city's history.



STYLISH STAYS

1/ Taj Chandigarh: Elegant, centrally located, and known for impeccable service, it is one of the city's earliest five-star hotels.

2/ Hyatt Centric Sector 17 Chandigarh: Perfect for travellers on the move, it offers excellent connectivity and is in close proximity to key tourist attractions.

3/ Hotel Mountview, Sector 10: Run by the UT Administration, this heritage property enjoys a prime location near the Rose Garden, Sector 17, and Sukhna Lake.



⌚ 12:15PM
Ponder design marvels
📍 The Capitol Complex

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it houses iconic structures. From the symbolic Open Hand to Geometric Hill, this reveals Le Corbusier's genius. Next, head to Sector 7 for lunch at Cottage—try baby roast chicken, lamb with hummus, and cottage cheese filo parcels.

⌚ 03:00PM
Marvel at a master's plan
📍 Le Corbusier Centre

Right across Sector 7, in Sector 19, step into the building where Le Corbusier and his team sketched the city into existence. Now restored as the Le Corbusier Centre, it houses original drawings, machines, photographs and archives. Boasting a charming café, it offers a quiet, insightful pause.

⌚ 05:00PM
Catch live acts
📍 Sector 16/17 Underpass

One of the most happening spots in the city, this underpass recently featured in the film *Dhurandhar*. Its claim to fame, however, is its artistic vibe and young crowd—you can catch rappers in action and view art exhibitions. There is a skateboarding area above it, too.

⌚ 06:30PM
Eat, shop, indulge
📍 Sector 17

Chandigarh's beating heart, this is an open-air plaza lined with trees, benches, fountains, shops, and cafés. Snack on *batata vada*, *bun maska*, and filter coffee at *Chhota Banaras*. Shop at 1469 and Phulkari for local craft, then head for dinner to Back to Source, for locally-sourced food. Try the beetroot *tikkis*, mutton *seekh kebabs*, and *khamiri roti*.



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↓ → **HAUTE COUTURE MEETS BEAUTY**

Couturiers Falguni Shane Peacock have unveiled their first beauty collaboration with Kay Beauty. The collection, named Kay Kouture, includes 12 matte lipsticks and two face palettes.



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← ↑ **SHE'S HERE OPENS IN GURUGRAM**

Why: To try Wafu cuisine; Italian staples infused with Japanese ingredients and techniques.

Where: HQ 27, Sector 27

Recommendations: John Dory Kushi (with Asian Chimichurri), Kinoko no Kamameshi, Pork Belly Kushi



→ **DESIGNED FOR DINING**

The House of Rose, a luxury jewellery maison, has launched its first crockery collection. It draws from refined influences like the graphic richness of imperial motifs, sculptural contemporary forms, and textures inspired by nature.





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↑ NEW WINTER MENU AT LE CORNICHON

Why: It brings together gourmet comfort food and Parisian creativity, alongside its famous staples. **Where:** 11th Arrondissement, Paris, France
Recommendations: Pear Belle-Hélène, Breaded fish with cabbage salad, Prawn cocktail



→ A TRIBUTE TO LOVE

German luxury brand Montblanc has unveiled its Meisterstück Romeo and Juliet Collection, a series of writing instruments that reimagine William Shakespeare's timeless love story through symbolic details and the maison's signature craftsmanship.



↑ MARRIOTT: JAISALMER'S JEWEL

Why: To experience a heritage-inspired desert sanctuary blending palace architecture, luxury, fort views, and local artistry. **Where:** Rajasthan
Highlights: Guided tours of historic attractions, signature experiences of Rajasthani folk traditions like Kalbelia dance and Manganiyar music, luxury tent lounges, sweeping courtyards with majestic arches and domes, a Palm Garden, Pool Deck



↑ CELEBRATIONS AT PURPLE LAUREL

Why: Ring in the Chinese Year of the Fire Horse at this fine-dining restaurant that blends the essence of Cantonese and Jiangnan cuisines. **Where:** Bangkok, Thailand
Recommendations: Traditional Peking Duck, Rice Wine Lobster, signature Pork Belly with Pandan Buns



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MEET THE TEAM THAT REIMAGINED THE INDIAN WEDDING

Fifteen years ago, weddings were documentation. Today, they are cinema, says The Wedding Filmer's Vishal Punjabi.



These are the people you want by your side when you're getting married. Vishal Punjabi (centre) with The Wedding Filmer Crew at his wedding.

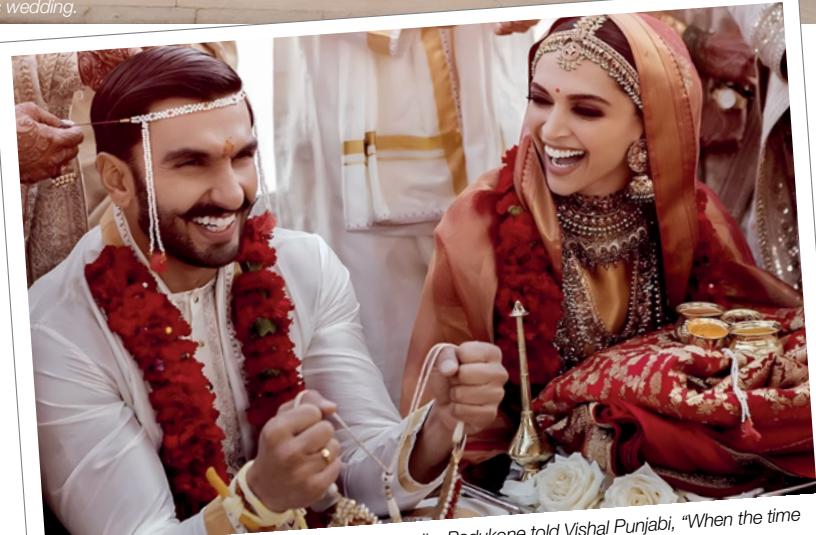
Rewriting the language of Indian weddings

Before weddings, I trained in filmmaking at Red Chillies Entertainment, working closely with Shah Rukh Khan and Farah Khan on movies, and directing TV commercials.

While researching a script, I found myself drawn to weddings. I filmed one to better understand the space. What emerged were story arcs—pacing, sound design, original music, and emotional restraint. It became a film I wanted to watch, and I fell in love with the process.

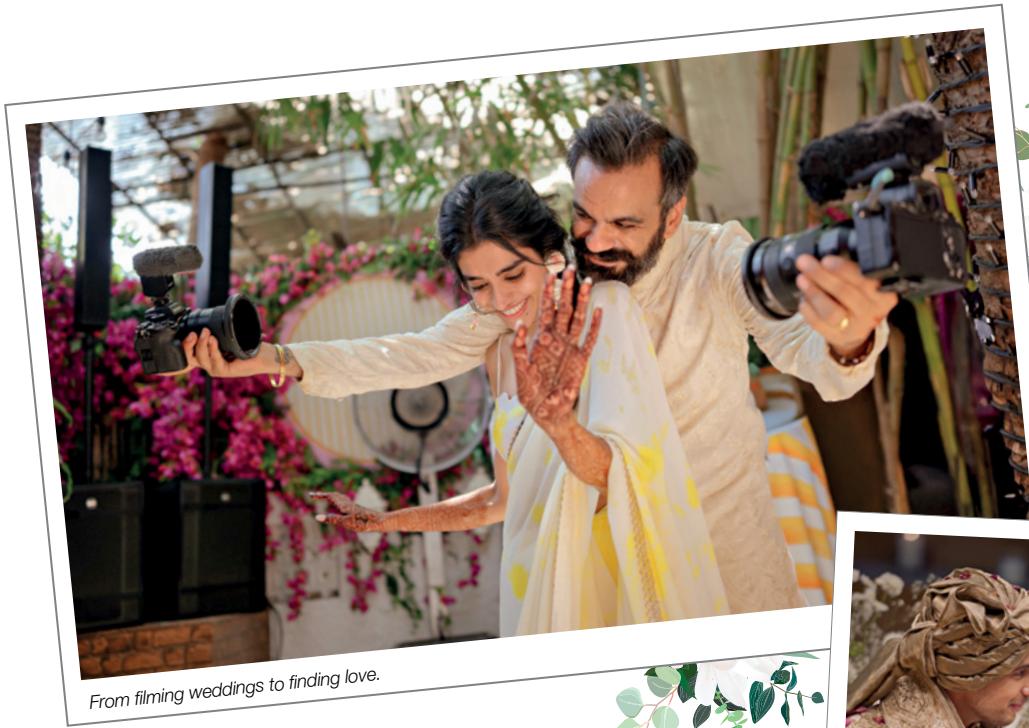
How The Wedding Filmer made bridal entries iconic

It was always there. But it was not cinema. Through film language, music, anticipation, and pacing, we turned a walk into a moment. Today, every photographer and filmmaker waits for the bridal entry—because we taught them to. That moment was not tradition; it became iconic through creative storytelling.



On the sets of "Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani", Deepika Padukone told Vishal Punjabi, "When the time comes for my wedding, I'd be honoured if you could be the one to capture it." And so, The Wedding Filmer did!





From filming weddings to finding love.



From co-stars to sharing a life; an ethereal love story, captured by The Wedding Filmer.

From wedding films to pop culture phenomenon

During *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani*, director Ayan Mukerji wanted the wedding sequences to feel intimate and emotionally real, much like a The Wedding Filmer (TWF) film he had seen online. We were brought in to infuse that sensibility while directing those scenes.

The wedding sequence went on to shape how India imagined destination weddings and played a quiet role in establishing Udaipur as the wedding capital of the country.

Why India's biggest names choose The Wedding Filmer

Trust and restraint. Over the years, TWF has documented weddings for Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal, Farhan Akhtar and Shibani Dandekar, Dia Mirza and Vaibhav Rekhi, Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover, Rajkummar Rao and Patralekhaa, Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth, PV Sindhu and Venkata Datta Sai, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani, Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan, Jasprit Bumrah and Sanjana

Ganesan, Varun Dhawan and Natasha Dalal, all three children of the Ambani family, and many more!

It is one thing to be trusted with these stories, it is another to deliver them with consistency and care, every single time.

Weddings now are bigger than ever

Scale impresses; intimacy lasts. TWF is equipped to film the largest weddings in the world. But I am increasingly drawn to quieter celebrations. Big weddings travel fast. Intimate weddings age well.

Top five wedding destinations in India

Over the years, TWF has witnessed how locations shape the soul of a celebration.

- ❖ Ajabgarh stands out for its almost magical quality. Set deep within a valley and surrounded by jungles, it offers an untouched, cinematic landscape that feels intimate and otherworldly.
- ❖ Udaipur remains timeless with its palaces, lakes, and deep-rooted traditions, creating weddings that feel regal and steeped in history.
- ❖ For couples drawn to the sea, Kovalam

brings a distinct South Indian charm, where palm-lined beaches, coconut groves, and coastal rituals lend a relaxed yet culturally rich atmosphere.

- ❖ Jaisalmer, with its sand dunes and ancient forts, delivers drama and grandeur, turning weddings into desert epics.
- ❖ For those seeking unspoiled beauty, Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island) in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands offers pristine beaches and a sense of escape, perfect for weddings that feel raw and intimate.

What defines The Wedding Filmer today

These films are cultural documents—anthropologically valuable records of how love, faith, family, and identity are expressed in our time. Long after the flowers wilt and we wither, these films remain. As history. And they are worth remembering beautifully.

BEYOND THE PAGE

Irish author and BBC National Short Story Award winner **Lucy Caldwell** on the short stories she holds closest to her heart

Short stories have accompanied me through my writing life in a way few other forms have. They arrive quietly, often unassumingly, and yet they linger—leaving behind images, emotions, and questions that refuse to fade.

One story I have returned to time and again is *The Dead* by James Joyce, the final piece in *Dubliners*. On the surface, it unfolds around the banalities of a family Christmas, but it ends with a breathtaking, cosmic swoop. Those final lines—about the snow falling softly—are among the most famous in fiction, and deservedly so. I love it so deeply that, while revisiting it for a BBC programme on great endings, I found myself writing my own response to it.

Another story that has stayed with me is Ambai's *In a Forest, a Deer*, translated by Lakshmi Holmstrom. It begins in realism, with children listening to stories before sleep, and drifts into

something more otherworldly. The image of a deer lost in moonlight becomes a haunting metaphor for a woman whose life never quite unfolded as it should have.

Yan Ge's *How I Fell in Love With the Well-Documented Life of Alex Whelan* is another masterpiece. It follows a young Chinese woman in Dublin, grappling with loneliness and exclusion. Only at the end do we realise how deeply despair has shaped her life.

Claire Keegan's *Walk the Blue Fields* is a story of restrained heartbreak, unfolding over the day of a woman's wedding, presided over by the priest she once loved. It undoes me every time.

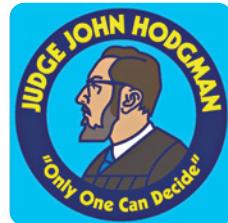
Finally, there is Anton Chekhov's *The Lady with the Dog*, a story I have read countless times and still do not fully understand—and that is its gift. Its open, compassionate ending reminds me that the best fiction continues to live long after the page ends.

— As told to **Shrabasti A Mallik**



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THREE BEAN SALAD
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Each week, these UK comedians tackle a different theme, with banter and music. It has won the Chortle Award.

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PIZZA



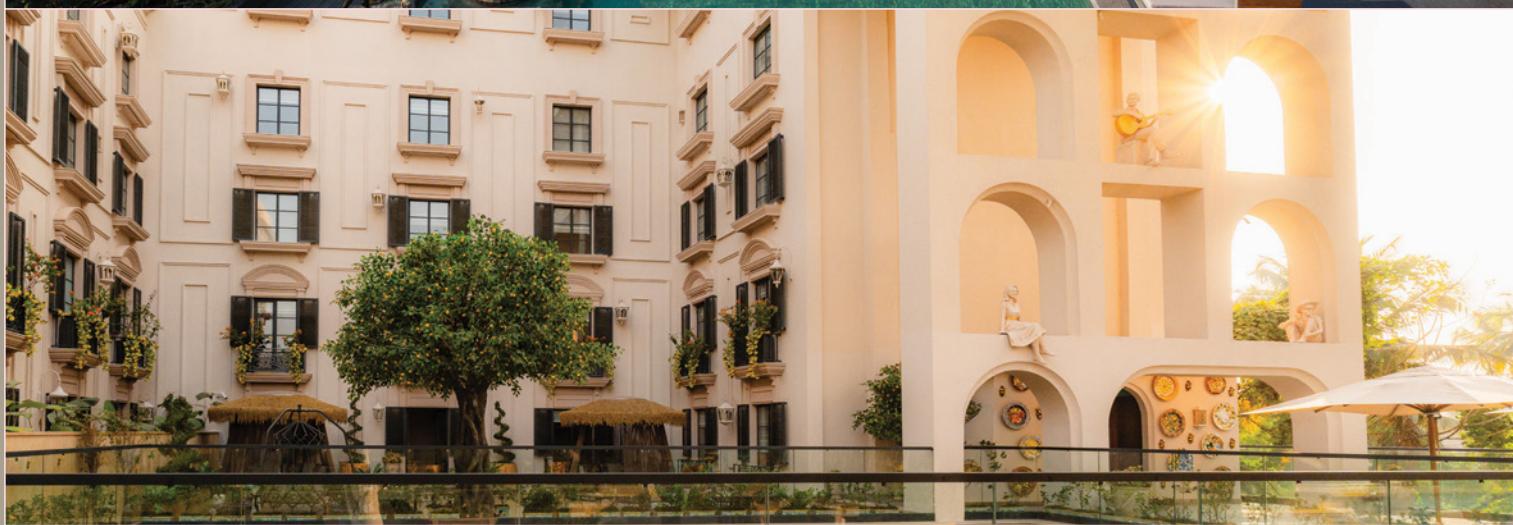
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Shilpa Shetty Kundra in an Ashdeen creation

Reviving the ancient craft of Parsi Gara, and contemporarising it, was an emotional journey that brought me closer to my roots

words by **Ashdeen Z Lilaowala**

I often marvel at how my relationship with a particular strand of textile arts connects me to my identity, unique culture, and sense of purpose. Still a child when I encountered the resplendent Parsi Garas covered in intricate hand embroidery, I watched and learned as the women in my family treasured them, taking them out from the armoire only for special occasions. Being raised by a mother with an incredible sense of style, and growing up with two sisters in a Parsi *baug* in Mumbai on a steady diet of cinema, music, theatre, and textiles further strengthened this bond for me.

The Parsis, followers of the Prophet Zarathushtra, first arrived in Gujarat and eventually settled along India's west coast. The Parsi Gara is an aesthetic that was born from an amalgamation of Persian, Chinese, European, and Indian sensibilities as a by-product of the community's extensive trade links. Even though the term eventually came to be associated exclusively with the sari, the same aesthetic was also used to decorate *ijars* (trousers), *jhablas* (kids' tunics), *sapats* (flat footwear), purses, *potlis* (drawstring pouches), and home furnishings.

The milestones on my journey to reimagine the Parsi Gara aesthetic and embroidery as an integral part of my eponymous label have not been exact dates, but realisations I have had along the way that I am on the right path. Here is the story of how my life became intertwined with the Gara and how I fell wholly and irrevocably in love with it.



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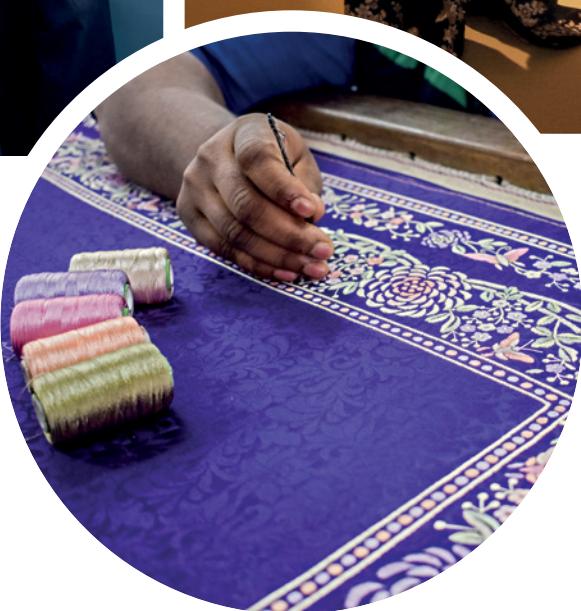
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Traditional Gara embroidery on contemporary outfits; Bhumi Pednekar draped in an Ashdeen Parsi Gara sari; The brand works with over 300 artisans; This lehenga is paired with a corset top, both hand-embroidered with heirloom florals and birds of paradise.



Developing a craft consciousness

My mother's black sari, a family heirloom hand-embroidered with golden-yellow flowers by my father's grandmother, is my earliest memory of the Gara. This fascination only grew as I attended navjotes (the initiation ritual of the Parsi faith) and weddings, and saw Parsi aunties dressed in these spectacular, intricately decorated saris.

When I went on to study textiles at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, I experienced the tactility of working with cloth, and traditional Indian techniques through workshops and visits to craft



clusters. After graduation, I travelled across India, China, and Iran with the Parzor Foundation, tracing the roots of the Gara. I had the opportunity to interact with families at the heart of the craft and examine people's personal collections.

This journey eventually led to the first Gara (in green and off-white) I had

the privilege of creating as a wedding gift for a friend. Conceptualising and physically realising that Gara marked the start of my journey, leading to the creation of my label, Ashdeen, in 2012.

A living legacy
By the time we created our third or fourth collection,



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Models in the Yvonne kurta set and Alice stole from the Inheritance collection

I began to realise that through this work, I was representing my community... that it was my responsibility to do justice to this craft as I engage with newer audiences. Our endeavour at Ashdeen, across our three flagship stores in Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad, therefore, has been to push the possibilities of the Gara, but at the same time ensure that it does not waver from its essence. Staying true to its handmade heritage is part of this. We have also dressed celebrities—Oprah Winfrey, Waheeda Rehman, Madhuri Dixit, Sonam Kapoor, and others—for editorial features

and events. Today, I see myself as a contemporary keeper of stories not just limited to the realm of the Gara but the larger Parsi culture too.

One of our brand's missions has been to create sustained livelihoods for the 300+ artisans we work with across West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. Having worked with many master craftspeople over the years, the equation has evolved into an exchange of ideas and inputs rather than instruction. Some of them have become entrepreneurs running their own studios. We have been able to engage families and

extended families in the craft and involve younger generations as well.

To me, the Gara is not just beautiful, but a living tradition I have dedicated my life to stewarding. There is a strange kind of dichotomy afoot, and if you put your ear to the ground, you will be able to hear it. As the world becomes more automated, globalised, and advanced, people are seeking out handmade crafts—stories they can get behind and art forms they can feel. As we stand at the precipice of change, I am hopeful for the future of Indian textiles and this niche art form.

#TALESOFINDIA

Air India Express' #TalesOfIndia theme shares the country's stories through a visual journey. The diverse tail designs represent the vibrant culture and heritage of India, and each design is a tribute to the unique patterns and traditions of different regions. The Parsi Gara tradition was born of a blend of motifs and styles from Iran, China, India, and Europe, and the tail pays tribute to this distinctive style of embroidery, which borrows inspiration from nature's creations.





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TO KNOW MORE

NARRATIVES IN MOTION



Amitav Ghosh was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2007 and received the prestigious Erasmus Prize in 2024

Award-winning novelist Amitav Ghosh on his latest novel, *Ghost-Eye*, the Sundarbans, and the stories that link past, present, and the planet

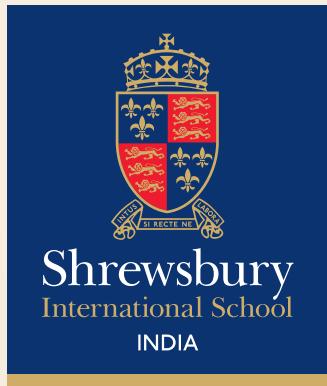
**words by
Shrabasti Anindita
Mallik**

Your latest, *Ghost-Eye*, returns readers to landscapes and concerns they may recognise from *The Hungry Tide* and *Gun Island*. Do you see it as part of an ongoing conversation with those books?

While *Ghost-Eye* is a new story, it is absolutely in conversation with *The Hungry Tide* and *Gun Island*. The Sundarbans has become a central, animate character in my own imagination—a place where the boundaries between human and non-human, past and present, the real and the mythical are perpetually porous. *The Hungry Tide* asked about justice in that labyrinth. *Gun Island* explored its ancient, migratory connections to a global present. *Ghost-Eye*, in a sense, asks what memory means in such a landscape.

Your writing frequently moves between timelines, geographies, and voices. What draws you to parallel narratives as a way of understanding the world?

Parallel narratives are my attempt to create a counterpoint between different realities. They are a way to suggest that the story of the planetary crisis isn't



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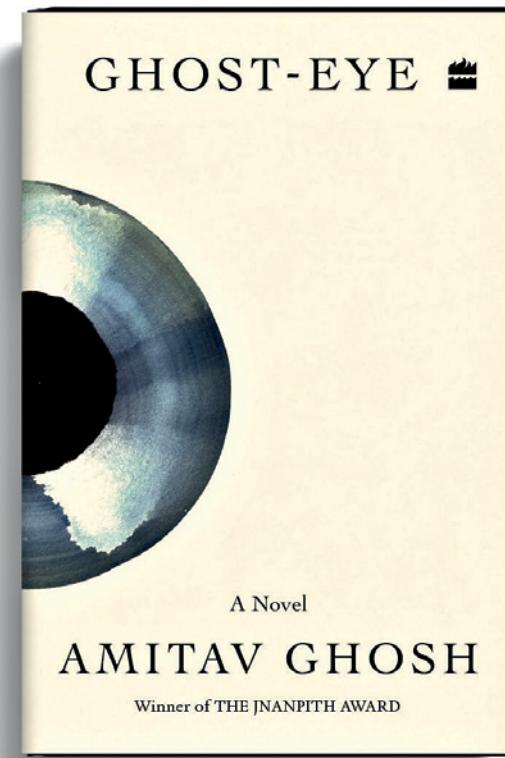


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TOP TO BOTTOM
Ghost-Eye is Amitav Ghosh's latest novel; it harks back to Ghosh's earlier works, *Gun Island* and *The Hungry Tide*; the latter won the Crossword Book Award for best novel of the year in 2005.

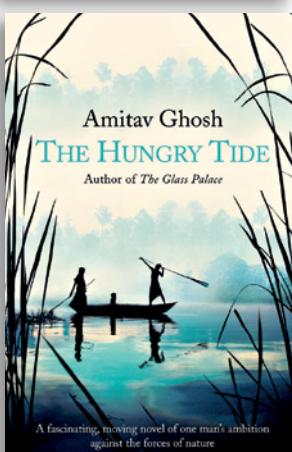
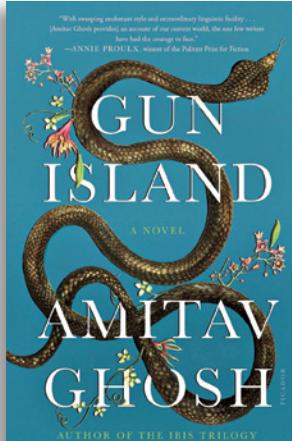
just in the boardroom or the scientific report—it has to be told in many different ways.

Your books are deeply researched yet never feel weighed down by fact. How do you navigate the balance between historical accuracy and imaginative freedom?

While research has always been important to me, the story always comes first. I follow the archives, the testimonies, the landscapes, and I wait for the moment when something is sparked in my imagination. The historical record tells you what happened; the novel must ask how it felt, and what silences surround the event.

You have lived and worked in many parts of the world. How has choosing to live between places shaped the way you think about belonging and home?

Living between different places has sharpened my sense of the world as a network of entangled histories. It has



QUIET OBSERVATION—WHETHER OF A FOREST, A CITY STREET OR THE PLAY OF LIGHT ON WATER—is WHERE THE SEEDS OF STORIES ARE OFTEN PLANTED.

made me see that the stories of the Mississippi Delta and the Nile Delta are inextricably linked to that of the Bengal Delta, through estuarine geographies as well as the impacts of climate change. My 'home' is perhaps less a point on a map, and more the connective tissue between such points.

You have often spoken about the importance of quiet observation. How essential is solitude to your thinking and writing life?

Solitude is an essential precondition for writing. And quiet observation—whether of a forest, a city street or the play of light on water—is where the seeds of stories are often planted. And as for reading, that too is essential for a writer.

What still excites you when you begin a new book?

For me, writing has always been a process of learning; a process of teaching myself about the world. The excitement that comes with that has never ceased.



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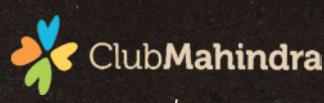
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BASKING IN THE GOLDEN CITY

From its natural beauty to its impressive heritage and architecture, Jaisalmer exerts an undeniable charm that keeps luring you back

words by **Surya Shahi**

There are some places you visit once and remember fondly. And then there are some destinations you find yourself returning to—not out of habit, but because they stir something within your soul. Jaisalmer is that place for me. I have experienced this stark, desert city so many times over the years (my most recent visit being last year), and yet every trip feels different.

I first went to this desert city with a group of girl friends around New Year's Eve five years ago. We headed to the desert to celebrate, and that

experience is something I will never forget—the clear skies, the absence of chaos (or a phone signal), and the indescribable feeling of watching the sunrise over the endless sands. That fixed Jaisalmer in my head as a special destination and fired in me the desire to return.

And I have returned, every year since, for either work or a holiday. To me, the experience never gets old. What draws me to Jaisalmer is not just its golden fort rising from the desert like a mirage or the majestic sand dunes stretching endlessly into the horizon. It's the feeling of slowing down in a world that constantly makes

impossible demands on your time. Walking through the old city never feels routine. So many residents still wear traditional attire, all the houses are painted alike, and this vintage vibe always gives me a sense of being in a different world, a feeling I cherish. The fort—one of the few living forts in the world—feels less like a monument and more like a breathing organism. Narrow lanes wind past ancient homes, temples, and small cafés. Standing on its ramparts, looking out over the city below, I always feel grounded, conscious of the weight of history and the many stories that have resonated here.

WHERE TO STAY

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Modern desert palace with a focus on immersive and curated luxury.

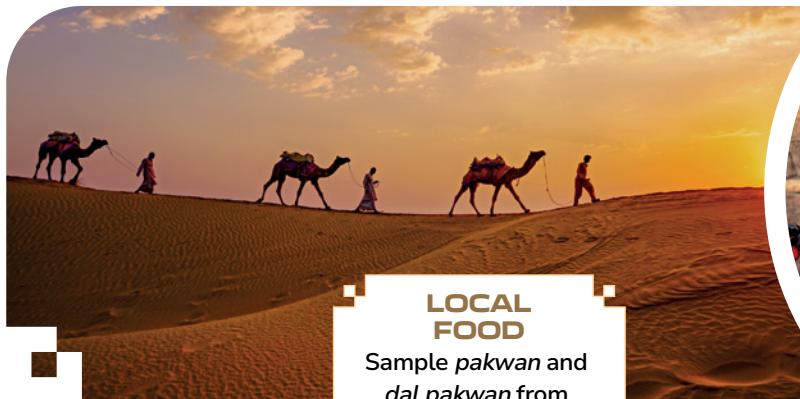
Gobindgarh

Nestled in the heart of the city, this heritage property celebrates the rich tapestry of the Thar desert and offers several curated experiences.

Luxury desert camps

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Gadisar Lake is one of Jaisalmer's main attractions



Moments to reflect

Sunsets in Jaisalmer are always an attraction and Gadisar Lake offers the perfect vantage point. As the sun dips low, the water turns molten gold, reflecting temples and *chhatris* in soft silhouettes. Even though there are always people around, it is easy to avoid them and find a quiet perch to soak in the moment. But for a truly elevating experience, and a more solitary one, make the effort to wake up early and bike your way to Bada Bagh, a 30-minute ride out of the city. Zooming past a desert landscape with the crisp air filling your lungs makes you feel like an explorer, not

LOCAL FOOD

Sample *pakwan* and *dal pakwan* from food stalls near the fort area. Try sweets like *gajar ka halwa* or *ghevar* from local shops.

LOCAL SHOPPING

Go to Sadar Bazaar for textiles, jewellery, and souvenirs. Inside the fort are many antique shops. On my first trip, I purchased an old watch that I still cherish.

a tourist, and the amazing sunrise you witness is just the icing on the cake.

Beyond the fort, Jaisalmer's *havelis* and monuments are a big draw

and never fail to impress.

From Kothari's Patwa Haveli and Salim Singh ki Haveli to Nathmal ki Haveli—each one has a timeless beauty that pulls you in. The intricate facades, delicate *jharokhas*, and sunlit courtyards all offer a glimpse of how the families who owned these properties lived, worked, and played.

And beyond the city is the most stunning sight of all, the desert itself. Elemental sand dunes surround the city, giving it a backdrop like no other, creating landscapes you will keep wanting to capture on your phone. The desert cannot be narrated, only experienced, and you may well find, like me, that one visit is not enough.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
Jaisalmer Fort is said to be one of the very few 'living forts' in the world; The author loves riding a bike in and around the city; The magical desert draws her to the city time and again.

GETTING THERE

Air India flies non-stop to Jaisalmer from Delhi.



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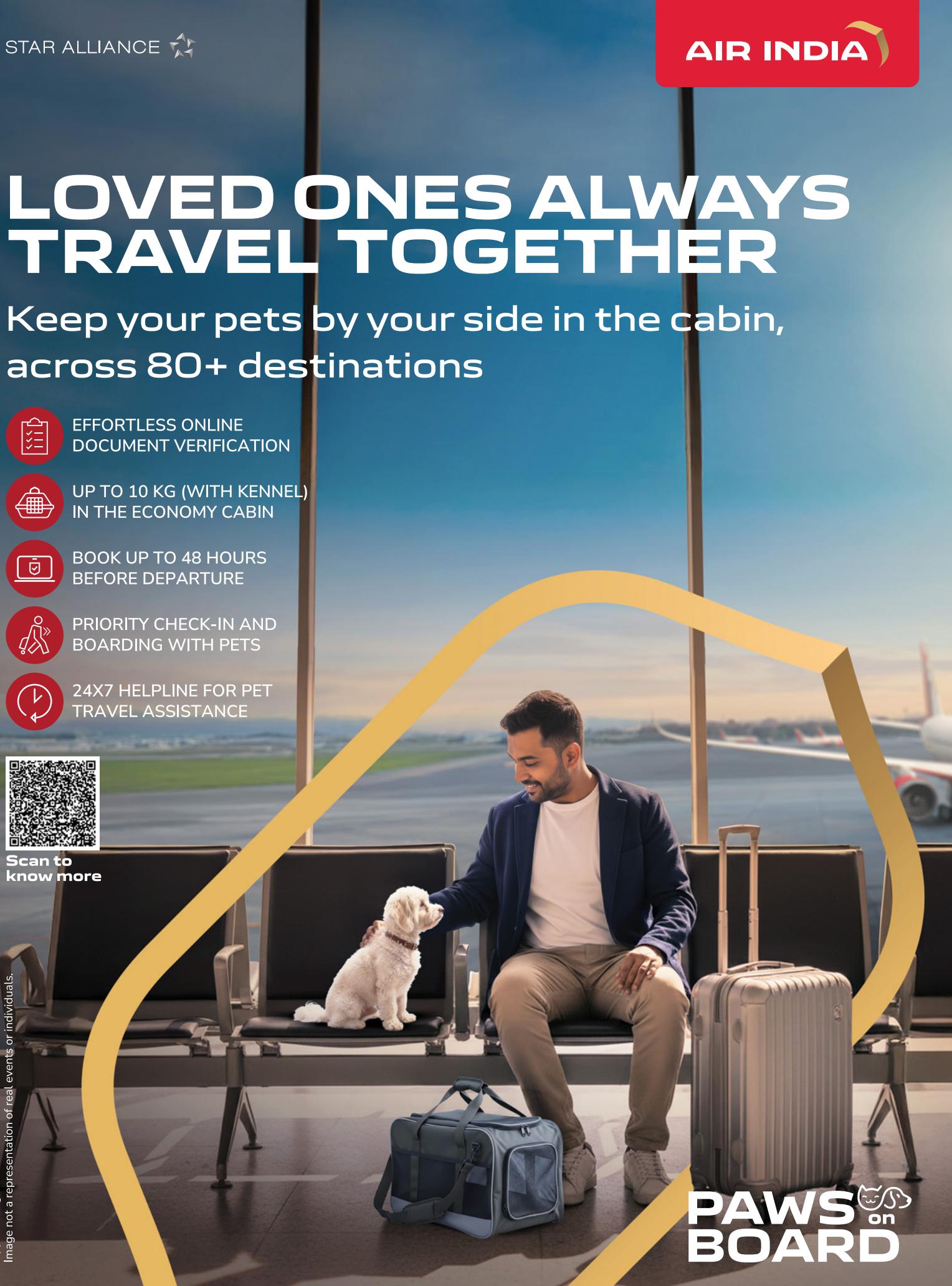
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Yasmin Karachiwala



THE LAND THAT HEALS

Indulge in a variety of unique wellness treatments, indigenous to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, that nourish the body and soul

words by **Fareeda Kanga**

Our Habitas, AlUla, combines the best modern-day techniques and ancestral practices, offering treatments set amidst stunning natural landscapes

Amongst the newest travel trends that emerged last year, wellness holidays was right up there. And the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—nestled between the vast openness of the desert and the glitzy metropolises with round-the-clock energy—is taking wellness to a whole new level. What is noteworthy is the way resorts and spas

in the region have fused tradition with modernity, using organic and local oils, plants, and clays in their therapies, all offered in the comfort of unparalleled luxury. The incense larder from the desert—Mastika, Frankincense, Moringa peregrina—is used judiciously as pre- and post-treatment ingredients to relax the body.

Here are a few signature treatments—rooted in

ancient native remedies—that use local elements, blending global and Middle Eastern techniques with ancestral practices.

Sand Bath and Exfoliation Treatment

Why not use sand since it is all around? Start your wellness journey with a signature Arabian treatment that has been in existence for centuries, primarily aimed at detoxification.

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In the desert landscape of AlUla, the sand bath body treatment works miracles as it essentially harnesses the heat and weight of the sand to erase the pain of sore muscles and minor aches, whilst also boosting circulation and increasing mineral absorption. Just like a sauna, the high temperature activates pores, leaving one fresher and cleansed of impurities.

The Al Tajid Al Arabi Exfoliation in AlUla is another Arabian wonder. Indigenous vitamin-rich ingredients, namely Prickly Pear and Date Seed Oil, work on stubborn collagen,

ramping up production, whilst diminishing dark spots caused by UV sun rays.

Where to try it: The Thuraya Spa at Our Habitas, AlUla

Craniosacral Massage and Quartz Sand Treatment

If you cannot bear to tear yourself away from the spa, try a peaceful nap on a quartz sand bed (essentially a surface brimming with heated quartz crystals that act on relaxing muscles and improving circulation). The added benefit? A micro massage that mimics the feeling of lying on warm sand. Add a gentle

craniosacral massage to realign connective tissue, and you will feel like Arab royalty.

Where to try it: Six Senses Southern Dunes, The Red Sea, Umluj

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
The Al Tajid Al Arabi Exfoliation treatment at The Thuraya Spa at Our Habitas, AlUla; Platinum Plated Hot Stones is a popular massage at The St. Regis Red Sea Resort; Organic oils, plants, and herbs are used in the treatments.

Luxury Date Seed Hammam

Bedouins and kings relied on the humble date for their nourishment. Once forming the cornerstone of cuisine in the Middle East, it has now made its way into the wellness world. This hammam, prepared with a coarsely ground paste of dates scrubs the skin to a dewy glow, thanks to its rich, therapeutic, and antioxidant

GETTING THERE

Fly to AlUla with Air India's Codeshare Partner, Saudia*



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
Welcoming the indoors in at Our Habitas, AlUla;
The Mastika ritual is a
traditional treatment available
in most spas in Saudi Arabia;
A typical hammam treatment
room in the Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia.



properties. The skin is, however, first cleansed with a kese mitt before being generously smeared with the paste that also acts as an exfoliant. Finally, a rich, hydrating cream drenches the face and body with moisture. If a dry fruit massage does not appeal, you will find many treatments using fresh roses and oats, which are widely used in Saudi culture.

Where to try it: Six Senses Southern Dunes, The Red Sea, Umluj

Canyon Sound Bath

If a massage is too routine, try a canyon sound bath under the stars. Experience

an outdoor meditative sound journey under AlUla's starry skies led by specific instruments to realign body and soul. The resonance of instruments like cymbals, crystal bowls, chimes, and gongs work on sound frequencies to calm and harmonise the spirit.

Where to try it: The Thuraya Spa at Our Habitas, AlUla

Meteorite and Volcanic Rock Journey

This unique facial (for men) uses crushed rocks rich in minerals. The treatment pays homage to the cultural heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and celebrates the exclusive natural habitat of Ummahat Island in the Red Sea. Crushed volcanic and meteorite rock are used to exfoliate the skin to smoothen, brighten, and nourish from within.

A warm Rhassoul body mask fights free radicals, protecting the skin from modern pollutants. All ingredients are sourced from their natural habitats, harnessing the therapeutic power of nature.

Where to try it: The St. Regis Red Sea Resort



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ROAD TO RECOVERY

Want optimum results from your workout? Set aside enough time for rest, and see the difference

words by **Yasmin Karachiwala**

While working out is important, it is also essential to devote adequate time to rest

Recovery is the most underrated part of any fitness journey. Most people put a lot of thought into their workout—how many days to train, which routine to follow, what class to book—but hardly anyone gives the same attention to recovery. The truth is that if you don't recover, your workouts are not going to give you the benefits they are meant to. I always tell my clients that the challenge of your workout is your body itself,

and your recovery changes your body. If you ignore one, the other cannot deliver.

I think most people underestimate recovery because it does not involve any effort. You don't sweat, you don't get breathless—it's a very quiet experience. Also, a lot of people who work hard think they are being lazy if they take time out to recover. On social media, you also see people exercising, but, very rarely do you see them resting or asleep. When you feel sore after you work out, you

don't realise that you must give the soreness also its due respect.

Devise a plan for rest

The elements to consider when you are designing a recovery plan should be rest and sleep, because this is when your body repairs, resets, and rebuilds. If your sleep is poor, your body is always going to lag behind, no matter how good your workout. Sleep is an absolute game changer. It is one recovery tool I would like everyone to prioritise.



TOP AND BOTTOM

The author feels stretching supports recovery at a deeper level; Active recovery options like walking help reduce stiffness and improve circulation



ACTIVE RECOVERY OPTIONS

Active recovery isn't just about slowing down—it's about choosing tools that help your body repair more efficiently. Gentle movement like walking, stretching or Pilates improves circulation and reduces stiffness, while modalities like cold plunges, cryotherapy, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT), and red light therapy support recovery at a deeper level by reducing inflammation, improving oxygen delivery, and enhancing cellular repair. Unlike complete rest, which is passive, active recovery works with your body's systems to help you feel better sooner, and train more consistently. For instance, I take a massage every Sunday; that is a non-negotiable for me.

During sleep, your body releases growth hormones, your muscles repair, your inflammation decreases, your nervous system resets and your brain clears stress. If you don't get enough sleep and still work out the next day, your workout will not be of the same quality, because your body is tired and you have not got the rest required to achieve the best results. Also, you could be at risk of injury if you work out without being well rested.

Pay attention to nutrition

The other aspect is nutrition. You can't hope to rebuild your muscles without the proper fuel: including protein repair and carb refuel. You can spend one to two hours in the gym, but nutrition is what takes care of the body for the other 22 hours. Nutrition plays a really big role in recovery. If you are working out endlessly, and not really seeing results, the

answer lies in your nutrition choices. Protein helps rebuild muscles; carbs help to replenish energy. Healthy fats help in regulating hormones, and you also need vitamins and minerals because they help you heal at a cellular level. It is not that you need to eat more to recover, it is about eating the right kind of food.

Spare time for hydration

Another non-negotiable is hydration, because dehydration definitely affects performance, digestion, and your recovery from soreness. Also, hydration gives you energy, so one must drink fluids during your workout and through the day. Sweating does not mean you are losing weight; it just means that you are losing electrolytes.

Even mild dehydration can make you feel sore, tired and sluggish. Water keeps your muscles supple, your joints lubricated, and



TOP AND BOTTOM
If your sleep is poor, your body is always going to lag behind, no matter how good your workout. You cannot hope to rebuild your muscles without proper nutrition, including protein repair and carb refuel.

your energy stable. I always add some electrolytes to my water when I engage in a hard workout, so that my body stays completely hydrated. If you don't want to use electrolytes, you can squeeze a lemon in your water and add some mint

or basil to get the hydration you require.

You need to understand that recovery is not a break. It is part of the workout plan, and that is one reason it cannot be skipped. Recovery is what allows you to train consistently without a burnout or injury. A lot of people ask me how I am always so enthusiastic about working out every day, and I always tell them that it is because I make sure that every week, I set aside one day to recover.

How much rest you need depends on what your training is like. For example, if you prefer strength training, you will need a minimum of 24 hours for the same muscle group, preferably a rest period of 24 to 48 hours. If you are doing Pilates or yoga, the amount of rest you need would be determined by the duration and intensity of your workout. For swimming or walking, it will depend on how your body feels the next day.

YOUR AIR INDIA



The Air India cabin crew with the first made-for-Air India Boeing 787-9

FLEET

Take a look at our aircraft range that flies you across the world

p 100 

ROUTES

We present our latest global connectivity, offering you unparalleled access worldwide

p 101 

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p 112 

TAKING TO THE *Skies*

We welcome the first made-for-Air India Boeing 787-9 that has just been added to the fleet

Air India marks a major milestone in its ongoing transformation journey with the arrival of its first line-fit Boeing 787-9 aircraft. It features completely new cabin interiors and has been designed especially for Air India.

Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India, said: "The arrival of this new Boeing 787-9, the first production widebody from the 470 aircraft-strong order signed three years ago, is a significant moment in Air India's 5-year Vihaan AI transformation programme. It underscores Air India's commitment to delivering a world-class physical product and inflight entertainment experience to complement the warm Indian hospitality already delivered by our crew."

The new widebody comes with 296 seats. The cabins feature customised versions of the Elevate Ascent seat in Business, and RECARO

PL3530 and CL3710 seats in Premium Economy and Economy, respectively.

A new design standard

The interiors, including seats, galleys, lavatories, side panels, laminates, etc. have been designed in collaboration with JPA Design, to reflect Air India's revitalised global brand identity. The cabins feature a palette of soft creams, pinks, reds, warm golds, and rich purples, complemented by tactile materials inspired by natural textures and modern craftsmanship. This creates a sensorial experience of quiet luxury and contemporary Indian

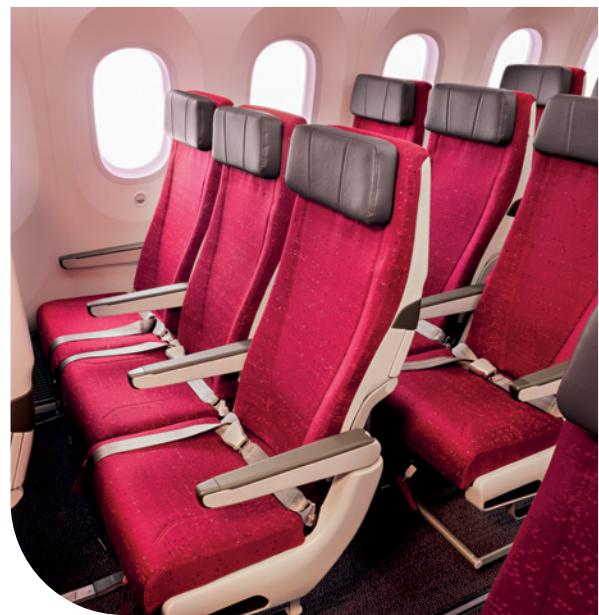
identity, with refined detailing, soft curves, warm lighting, improved stowage, and intuitive usability across all classes.

Mood lighting inspired by Indian wellness traditions

Air India has introduced a unique mood lighting system, developed in collaboration with Tata Elxsi. It draws inspiration from India's rich heritage in wellness and the ancient concept of *chakras*—vital energy centres in the human body. The new mood lighting offers 10 custom scenes designed to align with passengers' circadian rhythms and aid melatonin regulation, enhancing well-being on long-haul flights.

- **Business Class** cabin showcases **30** suites
- **Premium Economy** features **28** seats
- **Economy Class** features **238** seats





Each Business Class cabin seat offers 42" of pitch and reclines into a full lie-flat bed of 79" in length, a 17" Inflight Entertainment (IFE) screen, Bluetooth headphone pairing, and a feature lamp designed with Air India's *jaali* pattern.

Each Premium Economy seat offers 38" pitch and 7" recline, 6-way adjustable headrest, individually-adjustable calf rest as well as a leg rest, and a 13.3" IFE screen.

Each Economy Class seat offers the standard 31"/32" pitch and 5" recline, an 11.6" IFE screen, and Type A and C charging ports.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

Each Business Class cabin has seats in the 1-2-1 configuration, offering direct aisle access to every guest; Economy Class features lightweight and ergonomically optimised seats in a 3-3-3 configuration; Premium Economy has a dedicated, upscale cabin offering greater privacy, and features seats in a 2-3-2 configuration.



SAY CHEERS AT 35,000FT

A refreshed beverage collection is the latest chapter in Air India's transformation narrative

FOOD & WINE PAIRING

A few of the highlights include Napa Valley Chardonnay, to complement Chicken Roulade layered with goat cheese and caramelised onion; German Riesling, to pair with the Seoul Flamed Prawns; and a selection of red wines to go with Indian Nawabi Paneer, Gucchi Kofta, and Murgh Musallam.

Travellers on Air India international flights can now

enjoy some of the world's most celebrated wines and spirits at 35,000ft. The airline has rolled out a refreshed beverage collection, featuring a premium ensemble of globally acclaimed labels. "Paired with the newly revamped international menu, the newly curated beverage menu seeks to provide guests with a dining journey crafted with care and passion, elevating the overall inflight experience," said Rajesh Dogra, Chief Customer Experience Officer, Air India.

A cornerstone of this upgrade is the exclusive 'Regional Wine Programme', designed to offer a taste of the destination you are flying to. Cabin crew have also undergone specialised sommelier-style

training to guide guests through personalised recommendations.

In a landmark category-first for Indian aviation, Air India now serves tequila onboard, featuring 1800 Reserva Añejo from Mexico. The spirits line-up also includes India's celebrated Rampur Double Cask single malt. Another delightful introduction is a celebratory pour of Villa Sandi Il Fresco Prosecco in Premium Economy shortly after take-off.

In First Class, guests can look forward to an ultra-premium selection, including Aberfeldy 21 YO single malt from Scotland, Hennessy V.S.O.P Cognac, Charles

Heidsieck Blanc de Blancs Champagne, and Classic Burgundy Chardonnay. Business Class guests can look forward to Roku Gin from Japan, Charles Heidsieck Brut Champagne, Bottega Gold Prosecco, Château Teyssier Saint-Émilion Grand Cru, and Birra Moretti beer from Italy, among other labels.

Economy guests can enjoy classic Bordeaux white and red wines, Dewar's blended Scotch, Bombay Sapphire gin from England, Absolut Vodka from Sweden, Caribbean Rum, Heineken beer from the Netherlands, and India's most loved lager Kingfisher Ultra, to name a few.

Disclaimer: The newly-curated beverage menu is only available on flights to and from international destinations, in keeping with legal requirements. The above details are only for the purposes of information and do not, in any manner, seek to solicit or induce the consumption of alcohol.





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OUR WINGS

A look at the aircraft in Air India's Fleet*

Airbus A319

 06

Airbus A320neo

 94

Airbus A320ceo

 04

Airbus A321ceo

 13

Airbus A321neo

 10

Airbus A350-900

06

Boeing 777-300ER

 19

Boeing 777-200LR

 01

Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner

 07

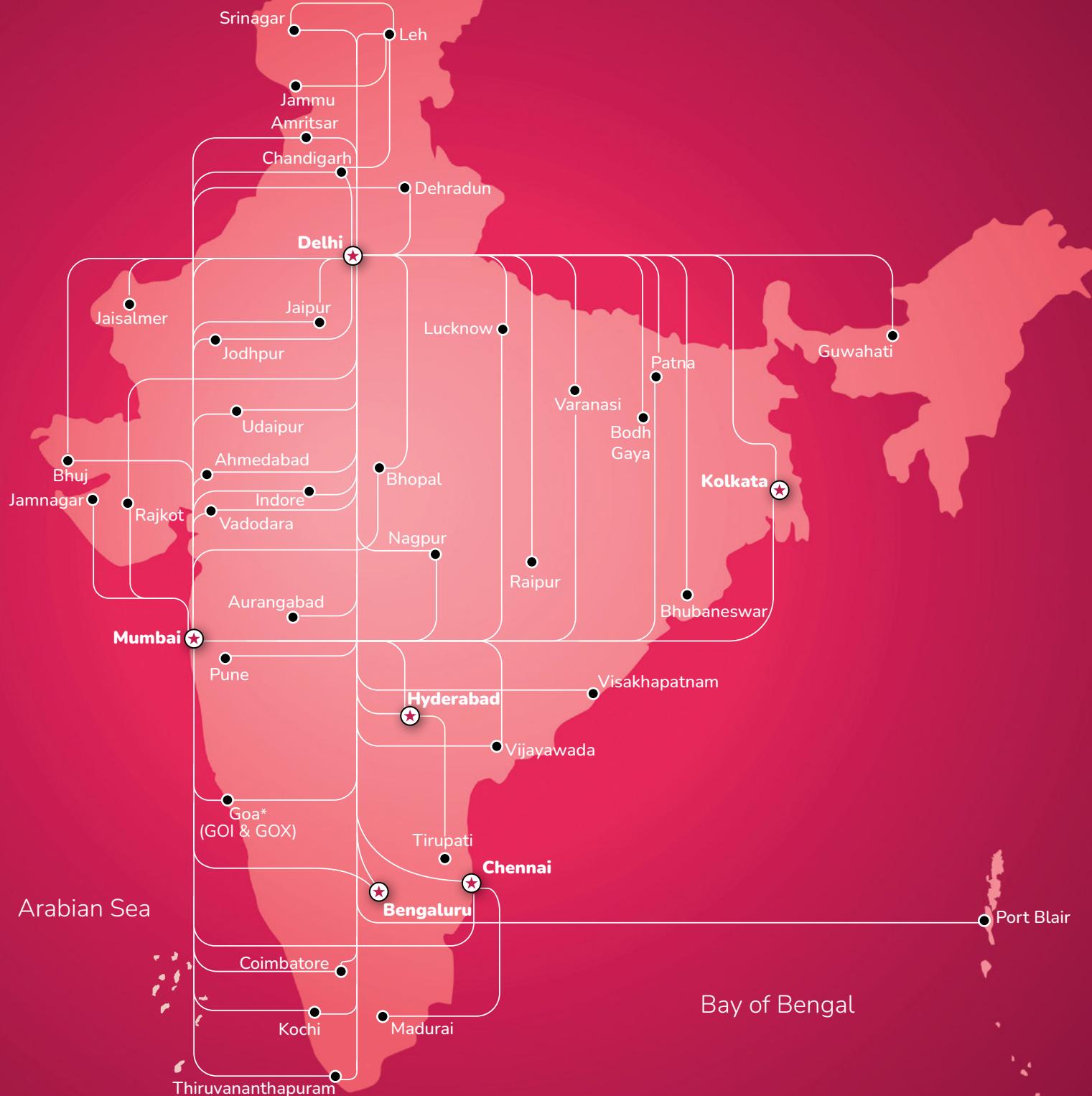
Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner

 26

**FLEET
STRENGTH**
186

*Total number as on 16th January 2026;
This fleet count is exclusive of Air India Express
(Air India Group's low-cost carrier)

DOMESTIC CONNECTIVITY



*Mumbai-Goa is operational via GOI; Ahmedabad-Goa is operational via GOX; Delhi-Goa is operational via GOI and GOX

Map not to scale. The depiction and use of routes and boundaries are for informative purposes only

This route map pertains only to destinations served by Air India

Route map as on 19th January 2026



INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Air India flies non-stop to 40 destinations across five continents from multiple Indian cities (pinned on the map of India)

Europe

Amsterdam (AMS)	↔	DEL
Copenhagen (CPH)	↔	DEL
Frankfurt (FRA)	↔	DEL BOM
Milan (MXP)	↔	DEL
Paris (CDG)	↔	DEL
Vienna (VIE)	↔	DEL
Zurich (ZRH)	↔	DEL

UK



Birmingham (BHX) ↔ DEL ATQ

London

Heathrow (LHR) ↔ DEL BOM BLR

Gatwick (LGW) ↔ ATQ AMD



North America



Chicago (ORD) ↔ DEL

Newark (EWR) ↔ DEL BOM

New York (JFK) ↔ DEL BOM

San Francisco (SFO) ↔ DEL BOM BLR

Toronto (YYZ) ↔ DEL

Vancouver (YVR) ↔ DEL

Middle East

Dammam (DMM) ↔ BOM

Doha (DOH) ↔ DEL BOM

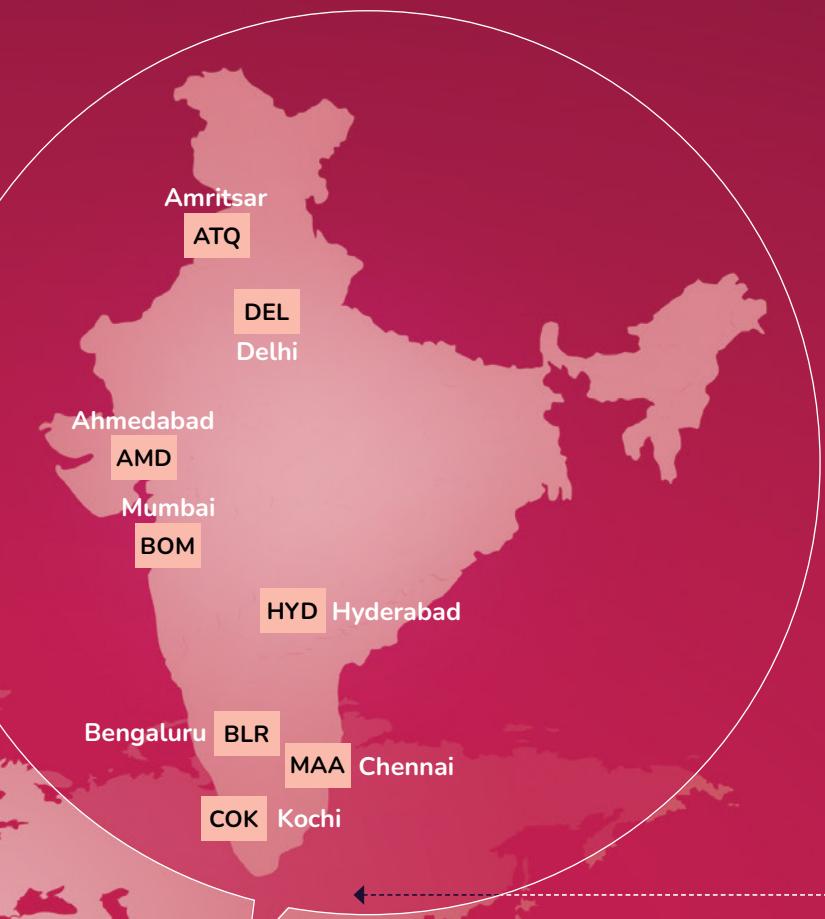
Dubai (DXB) ↔ DEL BOM COK HYD MAA

Jeddah (JED) ↔ DEL BOM

Riyadh (RUH) ↔ DEL BOM

Tel Aviv (TLV) ↔ DEL

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Far East

Hong Kong (HKG)	↔	DEL
Seoul (ICN)	↔	DEL
Tokyo (HND)	↔	DEL
Shanghai (PVG)	↔	DEL

South East Asia

Bali (DPS)	↔	DEL
Bangkok (BKK)	↔	DEL BOM
Ho Chi Minh City (SGN)	↔	DEL
Kuala Lumpur (KUL)	↔	DEL
Phuket (HKT)	↔	DEL
Singapore (SIN)	↔	DEL BOM MAA
Manila (MNL)	↔	DEL

Australia

Melbourne (MEL)	↔	DEL
Sydney (SYD)	↔	DEL



Africa

Mauritius (MRU)	↔	BOM
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Indian Subcontinent

Colombo (CMB)	↔	DEL BOM
Dhaka (DAC)	↔	DEL BOM
Kathmandu (KTM)	↔	DEL
Malé (MLE)	↔	DEL
Yangon (RGN)	↔	DEL

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ABOARD AIX

A look at the aircraft in Air India Express' fleet*

Airbus A321neo



Airbus A320neo



Airbus A320ceo



**FLEET
STRENGTH**
110

Boeing 737 NG



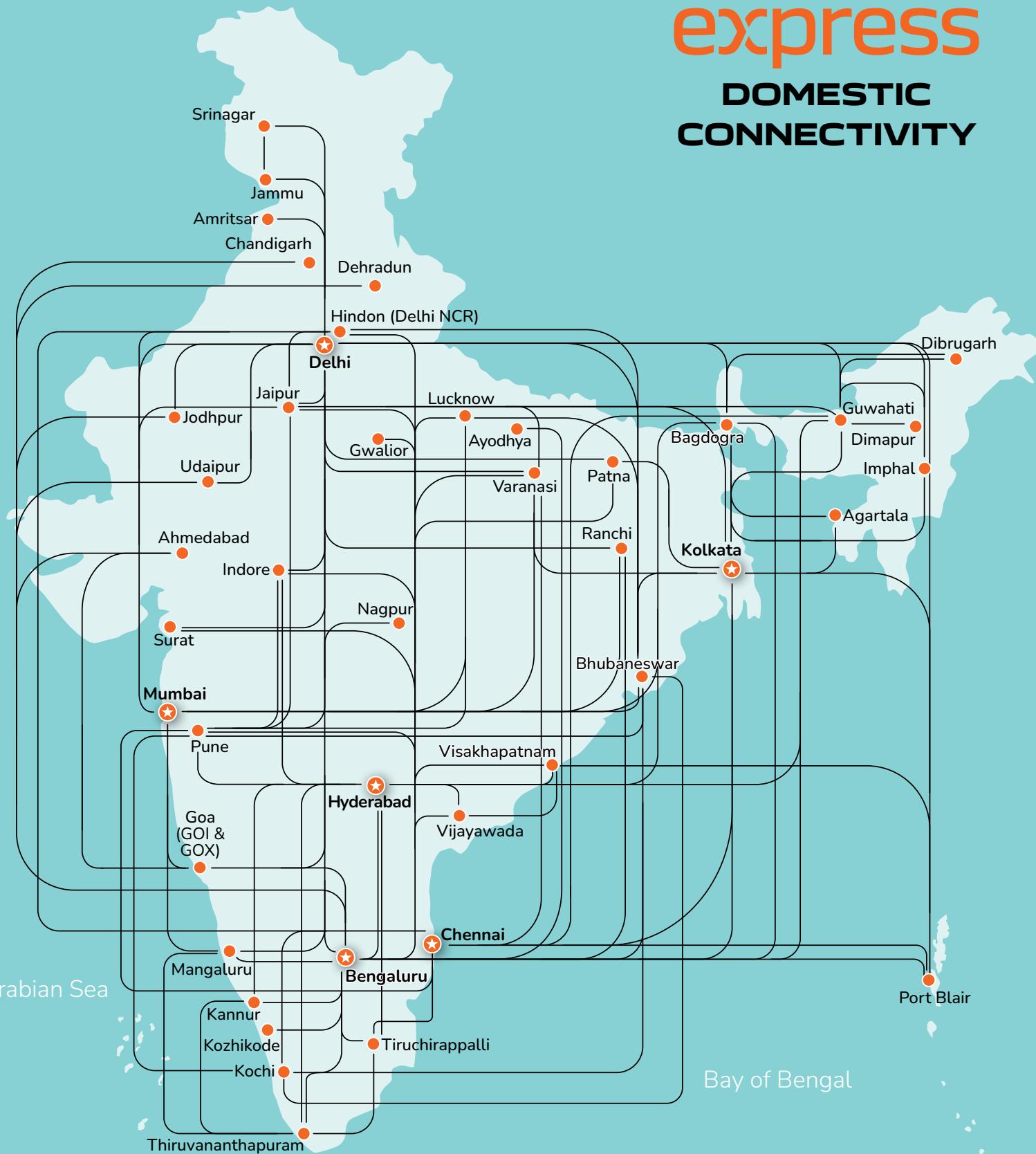
Boeing 737 Max



*Total number as on 16th January 2026

AIR INDIA
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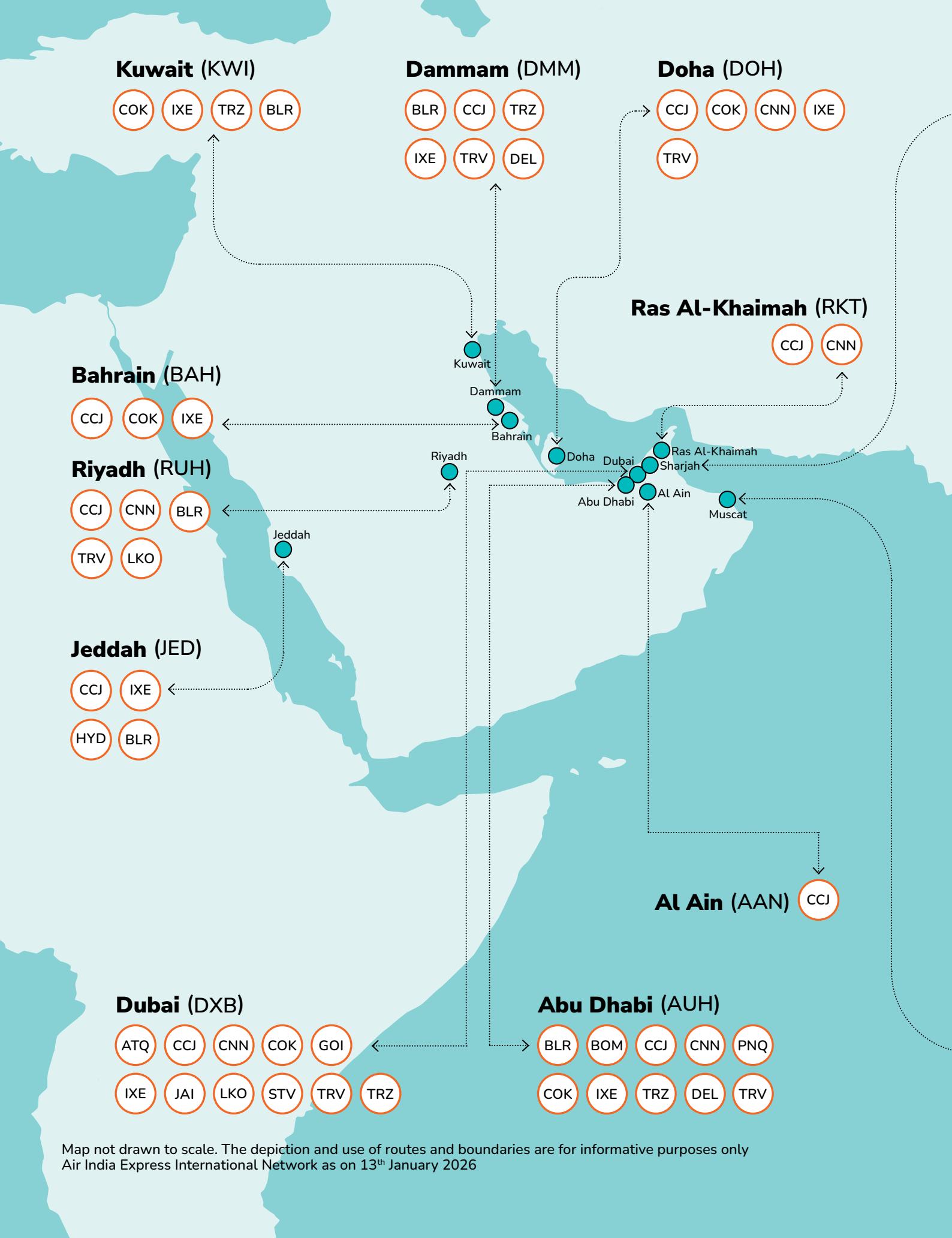
**DOMESTIC
CONNECTIVITY**



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Indian Ocean

Map not to scale. The depiction and use of routes and boundaries are for informative purposes only
Route map as on 13th January 2026

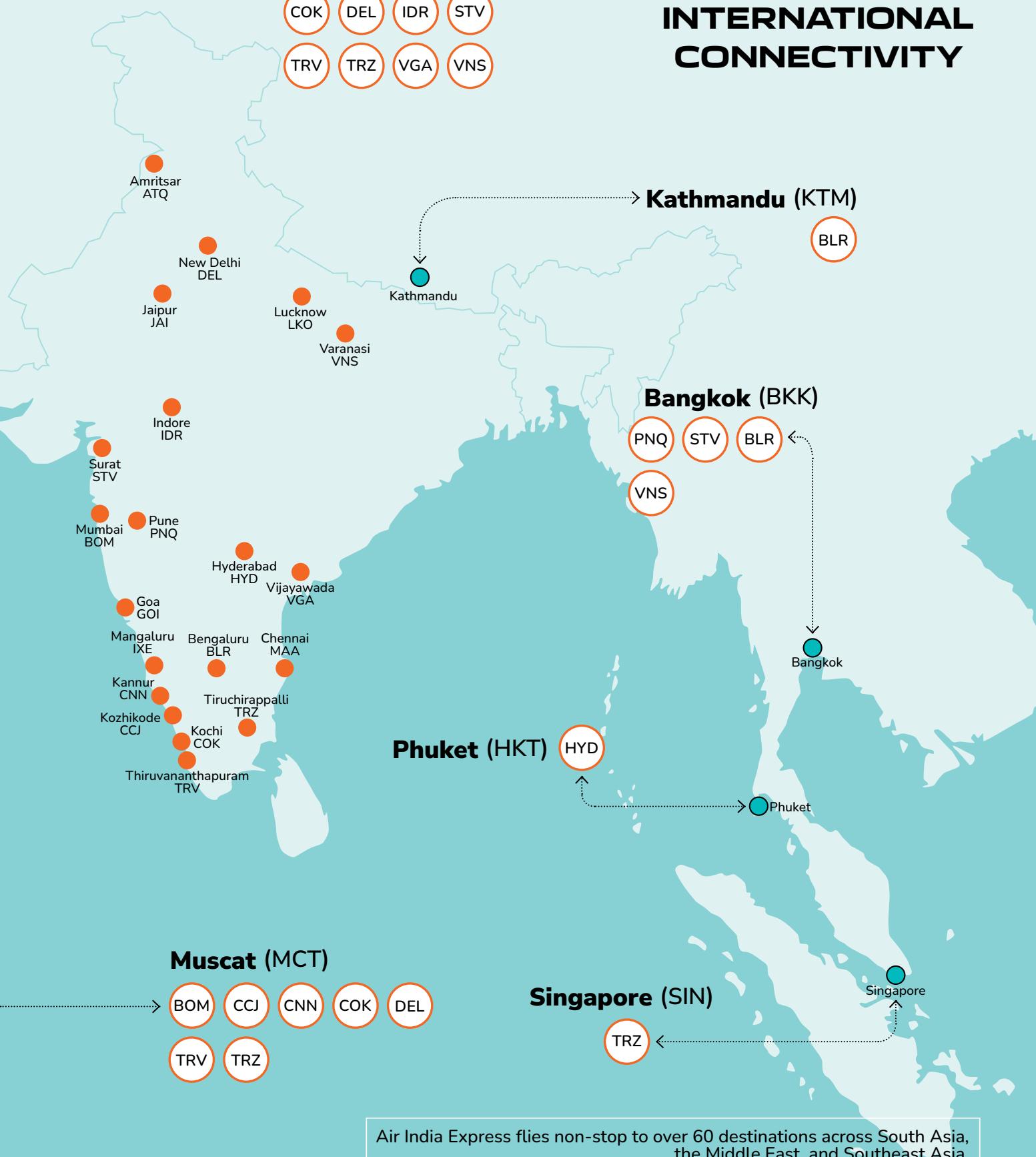


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ABOUT THE ATTRACTION:

Alberta Street is regarded as the Art Nouveau epicentre of Riga. Noteworthy examples include the apartment house at No. 11, designed by Eižens Laube, featuring travertine and wood, and embellished with ethnographic ornamentation, and the multi-floor building (currently housing the Art Nouveau Museum) at No. 12, defined by a grandiose central spiral staircase.



Take a taxi or shuttle to Alberta Street



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REGULATORY INFORMATION FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS LANDING INTO INDIA

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Carrying any satellite phone from abroad to India is not permitted.

MISSION LIFE

मिशन लाइफ, जिसे माननीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा शुरू किया गया है, पर्यावरण की सुरक्षा और संरक्षण के लिए लोगों को प्रेरित करने वाला एक वैश्विक जन आंदोलन है। इसका मकसद लोगों को पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूक करना और उन्हें पर्यावरण की रक्षा के लिए कदम उठाने के लिए प्रेरित करना है।

Mission LiFE is a global mass movement, launched by Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to inspire people to protect and conserve the environment. Its purpose is to make people aware of the environment and motivate them to take steps to protect the environment.

AIR-SEWA

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने अपने एयर-सेवा पोर्टल को अपग्रेड किया है जो उपरोक्तराओं को अँनलाइन शिकायतें जमा करने, ट्रैक करने और भारत में हवाई यात्रा के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त करने की अनुमती देता है। सेवा संबंधी किसी और जानकारी के लिए, आप airsewa.gov.in पर लॉगिन कर सकते हैं।

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has upgraded its Air Sewa portal that allows users to submit and track grievances/complaints online and get information about air travel in India. For any further service-related information, you can login to airsewa.gov.in

DIGI YATRA

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों जैसे दिल्ली, बैगलुरु, वाराणसी, पुणे, कोलकाता, विजयवाड़ा, हैदराबाद, अहमदाबाद, मुंबई, जयपुर, लखनऊ, गुवाहाटी, कोची और अन्य के लिए, डिजी यात्रा की सुविधा शुरू की गई है। डिजी यात्रा ऐप डाउनलोड करके खुद को नामांकित करे, और इन हवाई अड्डों पर बिना रुकावट के यात्रा का अनुभव करे।

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has



introduced Digi Yatra facilities at major airports, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Pune, Kolkata, Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Kochi, and others. This platform aims to provide a seamless, hassle-free experience for travellers. To avail of this facility, simply download the Digi Yatra app and complete your registration.

PROHIBITION OF AERIAL/ GROUND PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY, AND CARRIAGE OF SENSORY EQUIPMENT – SECURITY GUIDELINES AT DEFENCE AIRFIELDS

(IAF JUAs - Joint User Airfields)

हवाई अड्डों पर और उड़ान संचालन के दौरान, विशेष रूप से 10,000 फीट से नीचे हवाई और जमीनी फोटोग्राफी और वीडियोग्राफी पर प्रतिबंध है। यह प्रतिबंध टर्मिनलों, विमानों और हवाई अड्डे के आसपास के क्षेत्रों सहित विभिन्न स्थानों पर लागू होता है, जैसे कि:

- टर्मिनल के अंदर;
- विमान तक, या विमान से दूर जाने वाले वाहनों में;
- विमान के बाहर;
- लैंडिंग के दौरान;
- हवाई अड्डे पर;
- पुशबैक, टैक्सीइंग, टेक-ऑफ के दौरान, और जब विमान 10,000 फीट से नीचे उड़ रहा हो।

Please be informed that aerial or ground photography and videography are strictly prohibited at all times during a passenger's travel, including when he or she is inside the terminal; in vehicles en route to or from the aircraft; outside the aircraft; during

landing; at the airport; during pushback, taxiing, take-off, and while the aircraft is flying below 10,000 feet.

FTI - TTP (FAST TRACK IMMIGRATION – TRUSTED TRAVELLER PROGRAMME)

भारत सरकार द्वारा भारतीय पासपोर्ट एवं ओसीआई कार्ड धारकों के लिए ट्रस्टेड ट्रैवलर प्रोग्राम शुरू किया गया है। अब आप ftittp.mha.gov.in पर केवल 30 सेकंड में निशुल्क पंजीकरण करके स्वचालित ई-गेट से तेजी से इमिग्रेशन प्रक्रिया पूरी कर सकते हैं। We are pleased to inform you about the Government of India's Trusted Traveller Programme for Indian passport and OCI card holders. You can now complete your immigration quickly through automated e-gates by registering at ftittp.mha.gov.in – it's free and takes just 30 seconds.

FOR FLIGHTS ARRIVING IN DELHI (DOMESTIC FLIGHTS OPERATING FROM TERMINAL 2)

हम आपको सूचित करना चाहते हैं कि 26 अक्टूबर से प्रभावी रूप से, चार अंकों वाली आंतरिक उड़ान, जिनके नंबर 'AI 1500 से 1999' के बीच हैं, टर्मिनल 2 से संचालित होंगी। यदि आप एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान से कनेक्ट कर रहे हैं, तो कृपया टर्मिनल 1 पर जाएं। टर्मिनलों के बीच हर 10-मिनट में फ्री शटल बस सेवा उपलब्ध है, टर्मिनल 2 और टर्मिनल 3 के बीच यह सेवा उपलब्ध नहीं है। दोनों टर्मिनलों के बीच पैदल चलने का समय 10-मिनट है। आपके आगमन पर यदि किसी प्रकार की सहायता की आवश्यकता हो, तो कृपया हमारे ग्राउन्ड स्टाफ से संपर्क करें।

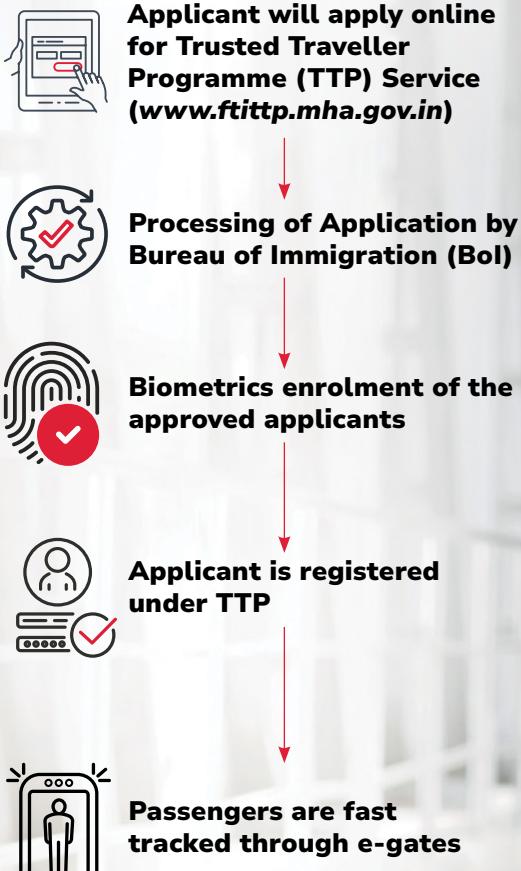
Effective 26th October, domestic flights with 4-digit numbers starting from 'AI 1500 to 1999' will operate from Terminal 2. If you are connecting on Air India Express, please proceed to Terminal 1. Free shuttle buses are available every 10 minutes between terminals, except between T2 and T3, which are connected by a convenient 10-minute walk. Should you require any assistance upon arrival, please feel free to approach our ground staff.

SEAMLESS TRAVEL

India recently introduced the 'Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)' to speed up Immigration Clearance for international travellers. The objective behind this implementation is to promote international mobility by developing world-class immigration facilities. The programme will be executed in two phases, with the first one (already in action) covering Indian nationals and OCI card holders. In the second phase, foreign travellers would be covered.

Currently, this facility is available at the following airports: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, and Ahmedabad. Subsequently, it will be implemented at other major airports, namely Lucknow, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Navi Mumbai, Mopa, Jaipur, and Mangaluru.

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A TRAVELLER'S TALE



TAKE A PAUSE

Singer-actor Ammy Virk's break in the Republic of Maldives was refreshing

MY LOCAL EXPERIENCE

I recently went to the Maldives with my wife and daughter. This is one of my favourite destinations because you can truly switch off and breathe. The beauty is unreal, the quietness resets you. The highlights were the peaceful evenings filled with long conversations, soft music, and the sound of the ocean.

MEMORIES FOR LIFE

We stayed in an overwater villa and waking up to that view is a memory I will always cherish. Also, on this holiday, I really slowed down. Most of the time was spent sitting with my family, watching the ocean change colour, and floating in the water. One memory I will keep close to my heart is of sitting by the water one dark night and seeing a faint blue shimmer near the shore every time the waves touched it. It felt like the ocean was breathing light.

A FARE TO REMEMBER

I loved the local, homely, coconut-based cuisine and highly recommend *mas huni*, a comforting mix of tuna, coconut, and chilli, typically eaten with warm *roshi* (flatbread).

I RECOMMEND

We visited small, local shops for handmade souvenirs.

— As told to **Veenu Singh**



Clockwise from top left: Shutterstock; Ammy Virk, Shutterstock; Shutterstock; Ammy Virk

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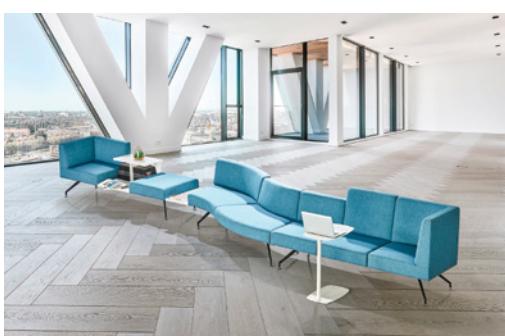


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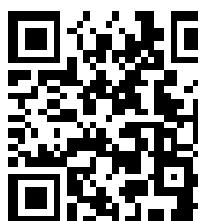
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