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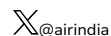
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EDITOR'S NOTE

In the September issue, we invite you to explore the world's most vibrant and enchanting destinations, all brimming with energy, colour, and character.

Our Cover Story takes you on a journey through the urban pulse of the US, highlighting the distinct aspects of three landmark cities—Los Angeles, dazzling with its Hollywood charm; Chicago, impressing with its iconic skyline; and New York, captivating with its dynamic people and culture.

What unites these cities is a shared spirit of boundless energy and enthusiasm, promising unforgettable experiences for every visitor. Join us as we uncover the essence of these extraordinary places, each with its own compelling story to tell.

From the 'land of opportunities', we traverse to the 'land of diversity' and invite a unique perspective from a special guest author, the Ambassador of the US to India, Eric Garcetti. He pens down his eclectic experiences and what made him fall in love with India and its people.

The love affair with India continues as we take you to the vivid and captivating landscapes of Rajasthan, where every corner, tradition, and artwork presents a kaleidoscopic canvas. Our journey culminates with Doha, where the ancient and the modern gracefully intertwine. Explore its enchanting souks, offering a shopping experience that is both rich and deeply immersive.

We hope these stories inspire you as we continue to bring you the very best in travel and heritage. This is your window to the world!

Happy reading and Namaste!

— **Namaste.ai** Editorial Team



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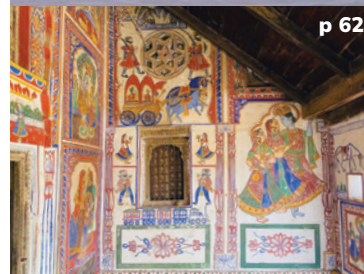
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EDITOR'S PICK OF THE MONTH
A curated fusion of the finest events, travels, exquisite cuisine, and enriching experiences, presenting a snapshot of life's vibrant mosaic.

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A Mumbai-based F&B expert, he is a consultant and writer who strives to wed the flavours of food to the myriad moods of life. With a keen eye on global hospitality trends, he takes comfort in uncovering culinary stories, worldwide.



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She is a much-awarded travel writer with over 25 books to her credit. She is also a heritage conservationist and a member of various advisory and working committees (on heritage, art, and culture) of the Government of Rajasthan.

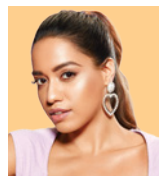
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Amit Dixit

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He is a writer, editor, and photographer based in Delhi. In the past, as editor of a leading travel magazine, Amit travelled the world—mostly from his desk. He's given that up now to do the real thing. A self-confessed foodie and travel junkie, he's always looking for the next great adventure, or meal.



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All the author images courtesy the respective authors
Left to right: Unsplash; Getty Images; Maserati



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Sumer Verma on his first trip to the Galápagos Islands



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A list of must-attend global festivals this season

On the Cover
Manhattan's vibrant dawn from Jersey City's perspective

Cover image courtesy
Getty Images/Edgar Feliz
Map courtesy
Asia Media Design



U.S. Embassy



INDIA: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Reflecting on my year-and-a-half journey of travels, connections, and milestones as the Ambassador of the US to India

words by **Eric Garcetti**

I first came to India as a 14-year-old with my sister and my parents. India captured my heart. Over the decades, I have seen so much change, as a modern and proud country was reborn, but one thing has stayed the same—the hospitality and generosity of this incredible place and the people who define and redefine it every day. It is such a privilege to live in India at such an exciting time, as the US-India partnership becomes stronger and more important than ever. I tell all my American friends: if you've never been to India, it's time to come; if you've been before, it's time to return.

In that spirit, every journey I undertake here is not just a diplomatic mission but also a personal exploration of a land that captivates the senses with its rich tapestry of landscapes, cultures, and culinary delights. My travels across India have provided me with a deeper appreciation for the nation's

diversity, its vibrant traditions, and the warmth of its people.

EXPLORING THE COUNTRY

One of the most unforgettable experiences of my tenure in India was my visit to Kanyakumari at the southernmost tip of the Indian subcontinent. Standing at the confluence of the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal, and the Arabian Sea, I was greeted by a breathtaking sunrise that painted the sky in hues of orange, pink, and purple. It was a moment of sheer beauty, a reminder of the natural splendour that India possesses. I am amazed by the contrast between this southern gem, with its tranquil beaches and spiritual significance, against the picturesque mountains and valleys of Nagaland, which I had the honour of visiting last fall. India's geographical diversity is nothing short of mesmerising.

As I've travelled from the vibrant streets of Mumbai to the beating cultural heart of

The Ambassador of the US to India, Eric Garcetti, embraces cricket as a true passion



ABOVE
Mumbai, with its famous landmarks, is one of the Ambassador's favourite cities

FACING PAGE
(clockwise from top left) The Ambassador enjoys a warm and memorable exchange with a tribesman in Nagaland; Banana chips from Kerala carries the essence of India's culinary ethos for the diplomat; Sweet jalebis are one of his favourite treats; The Ambassador beams with joy posing in front of Kolkata's iconic yellow taxi, also called the Ambassador.

Kolkata, I've been continually amazed by the distinct flavours, languages, and traditions that define each region. Mumbai's energy is contagious, with its fast-paced lifestyle and ever-evolving skyline, while Kolkata's historic charm, with its colonial architecture and literary heritage, offers a window into India's rich past. Every city, every town I visit adds another layer to my understanding of this incredible country.

SAVOURING DIVERSE FLAVOURS

India's culinary heritage is equally diverse. From spicy chaats to sweet jalebis, the variety is endless, and each dish tells a story of the city's rich history and diverse population. In Chennai,

during our National Day celebrations, the event's menu was carefully curated to reflect the region's flavours, further emphasising the deep connections between food and culture in India. Each bite was a burst of flavour, a reflection of the region's abundant natural resources and culinary traditions passed down through many generations.

I've also taken to social media to share these experiences and I've been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic responses and suggestions from people across India. From cashew macaroons in Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) to banana chips in Kerala, each recommendation has been a new chapter in my ongoing culinary adventure.

Food, in many ways, is a bridge that connects us all and through these shared experiences, I've felt a deeper connection with the people of India.

STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES

While my travels and culinary experiences have enriched my personal journey, the professional milestones we've achieved together are a testament to the strength of the US-India relationship. Last fall, I had the honour of handing over the one-millionth non-immigrant visa issued by the US Mission to India that year. This achievement is not just a number; it symbolises the growing ties between our nations and the increased desire for Indians

to explore opportunities in the United States—whether for education, business or tourism.

Last year, our mission issued more than 1,40,000 student visas; one out of every four foreign students in the United States is from India, with a total of nearly 3,00,000 Indians studying at US colleges and universities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden set an ambitious goal to improve and expedite the visa process and I'm proud to say that we have delivered on that promise. The consular teams at the embassy and four consulates work tirelessly to ensure that we meet the surging demand. We hope that you will soon visit us in the United States, including my home town of Los Angeles, thanks to the increasing direct flight connections between our countries.

Today, the United States is India's largest trading partner, with nearly US\$200 billion in two-way trade. And that includes planes like the one you might be sitting in! Indian-origin CEOs head many of the United States' largest and most iconic companies, like Alphabet/Google, Microsoft, Starbucks, and Adobe, and the diaspora continues to grow. My goal as the Ambassador is to build on and expand these personal ties between our peoples, in both directions.

From the signing of the Cultural Property Agreement, which will help protect India's rich heritage, to our collaborations in



space exploration, the US-India relationship is stronger than ever. Our efforts centred on the US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) are not just about strengthening ties between governments but also about building lasting relationships between our research institutes and our people.

My time in India has been a journey of discovery, both personally and professionally. Every sunrise I witness, every dish I taste, and every milestone we achieve together, deepens my admiration for this incredible country.

As the US Ambassador to India, I am committed to continuing this journey, to exploring more of this remarkable nation, and to strengthening the bonds that unite our two great countries. Together, we are not just building a partnership; we are creating a legacy for future generations to cherish.



TRUE SPIRIT

The public artwork, titled *Believe*, painted by Queen Andrea, celebrates the city's rich cultural diversity and the **vibrant energy of urban life**, according to a statement.





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CULTURE TRAILS

Narrations of how three iconic
US cities define modern vitality
and set the pulse of urban life

Unsplash

FROM SKYSCRAPERS



T O S P E A K E A S I E S

From old world architecture to modernist aesthetics, Chicago's skyline is iconic, as are its Prohibition-era speakeasies, food halls, and Michelin-star restaurants

words by **Preeti Verma Lal**

If you're on a business trip to the Windy City, with limited time, don't miss the iconic skyscrapers. Their breathtaking architecture is a testament to Chicago's proud design heritage. Never before have I stared at a staircase so long—smitten by its geometry and besotted by the repeating patterns of the balustrades. I'm talking about an oriel staircase winding down daintily from the 12th to the 2nd floor of the Rookery Building, one of the oldest standing skyscrapers

LEFT TO RIGHT
Chicago's train system, or 'L', with the lofty Trump International Hotel & Tower in the backdrop; Savour cocktails at The Violet Hour; Unwind with rum agricoles at The Bamboo Room (at Three Dots and a Dash) bar.



in Chicago, Illinois. The Light Court, a two-storeyed space of wrought iron and glass, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, is yet another marvel. I could spend hours swathed in the Court's natural light but I had more skyscraper-gaping to do—Aqua Tower with its rippling facade; the iconic Willis Tower; The St. Regis Chicago, a 101-storey building designed by a

renowned female architect, Jeanne Gang; and the Tribune Tower that bears chips from historic sites around the world. Chicago's skyscrapers are innumerable. So, I whooshed up to the 94th floor Observation Deck of the 875 North Michigan Avenue (erstwhile John Hancock Center) for a 360-degree view of the skyline. Whether for business or leisure, admiring

LEFT AND RIGHT
A Hot Fudge Sundae Royale is one of the most popular dishes of Bavette's Bar & Boeuf; An Architecture River Tour takes tourists past numerous skyscrapers that dot the Chicago skyline.



GETTING THERE
Air India flies non-stop to Chicago from Delhi.

stunning architecture is always a favourite.

After a long walk and admiring the cityscape, your stomach will surely be ready for a bite. I mused whether to wave the fork in a Michelin-star restaurant or quaff inside a speakeasy. And speakeasy, it was. I took

a swig at The Violet Hour, rooted in pre-Prohibition style libations, and another in Three Dots and a Dash, a tiki bar where drinks are served in quaint custom vessels. Dinner at Michelin-starred Bavette's Bar & Boeuf was the perfect epilogue to the day.

As dusk transitioned into an inky night and the skyscrapers wore their glitters, an unseen bluesman sang. I strolled by the Chicago river and recalled Mr Wright's prophecy: "Eventually, I think Chicago will be the most beautiful great city left in the world."

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Temperatures are pleasant around **April, May**, and between **September** and **October**. Summer is peak tourist season with plenty of festivals and outdoor activities for visitors to enjoy.





BEST TIME TO VISIT

Year-round pleasant weather in Los Angeles means that any month is ideal for a visit. For a more relaxed experience, fall (**September to November**) and spring (**March to May**) are best.

THE DUAL PULSE

Hollywood's glamour or Silicon Beach's creativity—there's always something to love in Los Angeles

words by **Pallavi Mehra**

Living in LA feels like being at the heart of a vibrant, ever-evolving city. Not only is it the home of Hollywood's glitz and glamour but it's also a bustling tech hub where established and emerging entrepreneurs thrive. I'm constantly inspired by the iconic landmarks, cutting-edge venues, unique museums, and hidden gems that surround me. In the City of Angels, collaborative spaces and creative energy make every day an adventure. Begin this adventure with a walking tour of Hollywood Boulevard. During this, you will visit the Hollywood Walk of Fame, The Hollywood Roosevelt, Amoeba Music, and the historic TCL Chinese Theatre, where you are likely



LEFT AND RIGHT
A view of Hollywood Boulevard; A sculpture titled Balloon Dog (Blue) by popular US artist Jeff Koons on display at The Broad.

BELOW

Artwork at the Intuit Dome, home to the Los Angeles Clippers

FACING PAGE

(clockwise from top left) Visitors enjoy an outing at Venice Beach; A dazzling firework display at the Hollywood Bowl; A dish from Coucou inspired by French bistros; The Griffith Observatory, yet another must-visit spot in LA, commands a spectacular bird's-eye view of the city.

to catch a red-carpet event. Undoubtedly, Los Angeles boasts a diverse culinary landscape. Some of the finest celebrity hotspots, apt for both client meetings and catching up with friends, are Nobu Malibu, Polo Lounge, The Tower Bar, Amour Weho, and Providence. For a taste of Californian cuisine, check out Coucou in West Hollywood, an indoor-outdoor restaurant serving a delightful 'Parisian-meets-Pacific' fare. In the evening, go for a show at the Hollywood Bowl, an outdoor amphitheatre that hosts musical performances in an awe-inspiring setting.

Further, LA is home to a

few of the most spectacular beaches in the world—from the vibrant boardwalk of Venice Beach to the tranquil coves of Malibu. To people's surprise, the city also boasts a thriving art scene with the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, The Broad, Getty Center, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The Jeffrey Deitch gallery elevates a bright warehouse space through museum-like presentation.

LA's sports stadiums are world-class, to say the least. The recently-opened Intuit Dome is a sports arena featuring an avant-garde design, futuristic

technology, and unparalleled fan experiences. It is home to artworks by celebrated artists, including an arresting mural by Shepard Fairey.

When in LA, I always recommend checking the event line-up at the Los Angeles Convention Center, a multipurpose venue that hosts a wide range of events. For digital nomads, the city's coworking spaces, including NeueHouse Hollywood, Rita House, and Phase Two, are worth exploring.

Whether I'm chasing glamour or seeking the perfect nook for my business meetings, Los Angeles never fails to amaze.



Iwan Baan





TOP AND BOTTOM

Visitors pose on The Beam, custom-built for panoramic views, from Top of the Rock; The original inspiration, Lunch Atop a Skyscraper photograph, from 1932.



BITING THE BIG APPLE

New York as a destination never gets old, with new surprises and attractions at every turn, alongside some classic favourites

words by **Amit Dixit**



Broadway's brand-new show, MJ The Musical, presents the life and works of Michael Jackson

BEST TIME TO VISIT

New York is great any time of year but **autumn is special**—it's not so crowded, prices are great, and fall colours can be seen everywhere.

TOP AND BOTTOM
Public art, celebrating Día De Muertos, on display at Rockefeller Center; New Yorkers take a stroll in Central Park.



If there is one city in the world I can never tire of, it's New York. There's always something 'new' here. So, whenever I'm in my favourite city, I make it a point to check out the latest attractions, explore neighbourhoods I haven't been to before, and, of course, catch a show or two on Broadway.

My first rendezvous was with the Rock. Not the actor but Rockefeller Center, as it's fondly referred to by New Yorkers. The 360-degree views of the city from the Top of the Rock are legendary, after all. I had signed up for the VIP Tour, which lets you skip the long queues and comes with pre-tour drinks in the VIP lounge, use of a private elevator, and access to special areas, including the famed Rainbow Room.

What I was really keen on, though, was 'The Beam', their hottest new attraction. We've all seen that legendary image of construction workers having a meal on a beam, taken during the erection of the Center in 1932. You can now recreate that moment, weather permitting, on a custom-built beam on the

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FOLLOW ALONG WITH US





An officer of the NYPD Mounted Unit, also known as 10 Foot Cops, is a popular sight around Times Square



GETTING THERE

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69th floor, which lifts you 12ft above the observation deck, then rotates 180-degrees, providing spectacular views of Central Park and beyond.

Photo-op done, it was time for a bus tour. The guide had us in splits with a disparaging sense of humour that's so typically New York as THE RIDE (a custom-built theatre bus) took us across the sights of Midtown and Times Square. At designated points, the bus would stop and street performers would enact a scene for us. For THE RIDE, the streets of NYC are the stage and the city's landmarks, the set.

Quite apt, as my next stop was Broadway. This is where the foot-tapping,

high-octane energy of New York reaches its peak. And I couldn't have chosen better than *MJ The Musical*. The queue ran right round the block but the wait was worth it, as the riveting story of the world's greatest pop artist unfolded before me. The 'moonwalk' was a bonus.

You can't come to New York City and not take in one of its great museums. While The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) remained a favourite, the Museum Hack's private tour, which they tailor to your tastes, was perfect. The guide was smart, sassy, and sarcastic, and even threw in a glass of wine for good measure. If you find museums boring,

this tour will change your mind forever.

When we think of New York, more often than not, we're thinking only of Manhattan. But the city has four more boroughs with plenty to explore.

This time, I walked across the historic Brooklyn Bridge, took a left and found myself in DUMBO, an acronym for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass. This is also where you can take that iconic image of the Empire State Building framed by the Manhattan Bridge.

That's the thing about New York City—whether you look at it from above or below, it always manages to take your breath away.

THE PEOPLE

34 ➔ EXPERT SPEAK 40 ➔ Q&A



DRIVING IMPACT

Actor and UNDP India's first Youth Climate Champion, Prajakta Koli talks about her diverse and fulfilling journey

From YouTube sensation to girls' education advocate, Prajakta is inspiring millions across the globe, with her vision

Jac Lockwood

PK

NO ORDINARY STAR

words by **Shrabasti Anindita Mallik**

From becoming an YouTube icon and advocating a better future for the world to penning her debut novel—**Prajakta Koli** has done it all. And she is nowhere close to stopping ➔

GROWING UP, YOU WANTED TO BECOME A RADIO JOCKEY. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO CHANGE CAREERS?

Everything began with the realisation that I wasn't particularly good at radio. I wasn't enjoying it. An acquaintance suggested that I try making content on YouTube. It wasn't so much a planned decision as it was a way out of something that wasn't fulfilling. I took a leap of faith and the rest is history.

YOU WERE ALSO NAMED UNDP INDIA'S FIRST YOUTH CLIMATE CHAMPION. HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

It all started in 2016 when I began conversations around body positivity, which gradually expanded into education, gender equality, and inclusivity. Climate action naturally

became one of these dominoes. I've been fortunate to partner with incredible organisations and people, including the Obama Foundation, Gates Foundation, and YouTube, which has been a significant platform and power tool for me. This ongoing engagement led to UNDP reaching out to me, which is how I became their Youth Climate Champion from India.

YOU ALSO COVERED THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S ANNUAL MEETING AT DAVOS LAST YEAR. HOW HAS THAT EXPERIENCE BEEN?

It was my first time there and it was amazing to see so many influential people gathered in one place. Those rooms were probably the only times where I have felt that both parts of the problem and parts of the

solution were present together, working on the issues at hand. It was a fantastic learning experience.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES THAT RESONATE WITH YOU MOST?

Fitness has become a significant part of my life, both for my mental and physical well-being. That's why the partnership with the 2024 Olympics, particularly through their 'Let's Move' campaign, was so meaningful. It aims to inspire young adults to embrace the benefits of movement and sports, which aligns perfectly with my own beliefs.

Climate action is equally crucial. As someone who has been actively advocating for sustainable living and environmental awareness, I believe it's imperative that we highlight the urgency of addressing climate change. This isn't just about policy; it's about making individual choices that collectively make a big impact.

Education is another pillar that I am passionate about. Gender equality ties into this as well because education is a fundamental right that should be available to all, regardless of gender.

YOUR DEBUT BOOK IS SET FOR RELEASE LATER THIS YEAR, TOO.

Becoming an author is a completely new experience. I'm excited but also anxious to see how it's received.

A LESSON THAT HAS SERVED YOU IN GOOD STEAD ALL THESE YEARS?

Being my biggest cheerleader. I'm my own best-friend and my biggest fan. I work hard; I love what I do and I'm proud of it. I've been fortunate to have an amazing audience and community both online and offline. Reminding myself of this keeps me grounded and motivated all the time.

BELONGING TO THE GENERATION THAT IS PAVING NEW PATHS FOR OUR COUNTRY, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON 'NEW INDIA'?

My message to aspiring creators is simple: just do it. If there was ever a good time to start, it's now. India is, currently, the biggest digital economy in the world and all eyes are on us. The scopes are endless, so seize them and start creating. I happen to be extremely fortunate that I'm getting to live in a country that encourages jobs and people like me, giving me the power, the platform, and the resources to keep doing what I'm doing.

WHEN THE WORK MODE IS OFF...

I unwind. Like now, after this interview, I plan to go for a swim, have dinner, take a shower, and then curl up with a book until I fall asleep. That's my way of switching off and recharging.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Prajakta represented India at the WEF's annual meeting at Davos in 2023; She was the only Indian YouTuber invited to the 2023 COP28 Summit as a speaker; She was a part of the Daytime Emmy-winning docu-series that advocated for girls' education globally, with former First Lady of the US, Michelle Obama.



"INDIA IS, CURRENTLY, THE BIGGEST DIGITAL ECONOMY IN THE WORLD AND ALL EYES ARE ON US."



AIRPLANE MODE ON!

Here is a guide that reveals secrets to inflight wellness and how to arrive fresh and fabulous

words by **Debasree Banerjee**

Travelling long distances is both exciting and exhausting, often leaving you feeling far from your best upon arrival. The confined space, dry cabin air, and hours of sitting can take a toll on your skin, body, and overall well-being. With a few expert hacks, you can keep your wellness in check and arrive refreshed and radiant. Here's a guide:

PRE-FLIGHT PREP: A SMOOTH TAKE-OFF

Before you even step on the plane, a little preparation goes a long way.

Rehydrate and protect:

Start with a gentle, hydrating cleanser to remove impurities. Follow up with a serum, packed with hyaluronic acid, to lock in the moisture. Seal the deal with a rich moisturiser to ensure your skin stays soft, despite the dry cabin air.

Rest well for the journey:

A good night's sleep before your flight is key to feeling your best. Aim for 7 to 8 hours to boost your immune system and handle the stress of travel. Rest up and you'll board the plane feeling great!

Eat smart, fly light: Before you take off, fuel up with a light, balanced meal. Think lean proteins, whole grains, and plenty of fruits and veggies. Avoid heavy and greasy food that can leave



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you feeling sluggish, sore, and bloated.

INFLIGHT ESSENTIALS: CRUISE CONTROL

Once you're in the air, it's all about maintaining comfort and moisture.

Keep hydration handy:

Pack a face mist to spritz your skin; it's your best friend to tackle the dry cabin air. Also, don't forget a nourishing hand cream.

Drink up: Keeping your body hydrated is crucial to feeling great during and after your flight. Aim to drink at least eight glasses



of water every hour. Skip the inflight cocktail and opt for a soothing beverage like lemon tea.

Stretch and unwind:

Long flights can leave your muscles stiff. Simple seated stretches like neck rolls, shoulder shrugs, and ankle circles can work wonders. Slip on a noise-cancelling headphone for a quick meditation session or listening to calming music.

POST-FLIGHT REVIVAL: TOUCHDOWN AND GLOW

After a long flight, your skin and body may need extra care. These post-flight rituals will help you bounce back quickly.

Cleanse and rejuvenate:

As soon as you land, cleanse your face to remove any inflight grime. This will clear your pores and refresh your complexion. Follow up with a hydrating mask to replenish lost moisture.

Depuff and revive: A quick

facial massage can do wonders to depuff your skin and boost circulation. Use gentle, upward motions to stimulate blood flow and reduce any swelling. You are sure to look and feel refreshed in no time.

DRESS SMART, FEEL GREAT

Comfort is key when flying long hauls. Opt for breathable fabrics like cotton to help regulate your body temperature. Dress in layers to adjust easily to the ever-changing temperatures.

READY TO SHINE

By taking the time to care for your skin, staying hydrated, and keeping your body moving during your flight, you'll arrive at your destination feeling refreshed and radiant. With these simple practices, you can turn a long-haul flight from exhausting to exhilarating. Safe travels!

DID YOU KNOW?
The low humidity in aeroplane cabins can cause dry skin and eyes. Using a moisturising cream and eye drops can help keep you comfortable during your flight.

Preparing for an AI-first future with AMD and Ryzen™ AI

In today's professional world, where technology is crucial for productivity, the right laptop can make a significant difference. AMD's integration of Ryzen™ AI into consumer Ryzen™ and professional Ryzen™ PRO laptops is transforming these devices from versatile tools to dynamic work partners, especially in a world increasingly driven by Artificial Intelligence.

Envision yourself in various work environments - be it a busy cafe, a home office, or a traditional workplace. Your Ryzen™ PRO laptop is there to support a multitude of tasks. It's not just about document editing or presentation reviews; it's also about enhancing your communication through features like background blurring in video calls, AI-driven noise suppression for clear audio, and gaze correction for improved interaction. These advanced features, powered by Ryzen™ AI, optimize your virtual meetings, making them more professional and effective.

AMD is expanding its commercial mobile and desktop AI PC portfolio with **AMD Ryzen™ PRO 8040 Series mobile processors**. By leveraging the CPU, GPU and dedicated, on-chip NPU, the Ryzen™ AI-powered processors provide more trillions of

operations per second (TOPS) than previous generations.

Commercial PCs equipped with new Ryzen™ AI-enabled processors have the potential to deliver greater performance for content creation, data and analytics. With the addition of AMD PRO technologies, IT managers can simplify IT operations and complete PC deployment faster across the organization. AMD PRO technologies help IT managers save time by enabling them to deploy devices up to 41% faster and manage them at scale with cloud-based tools, including **Windows Autopilot**.

With our new AMD Ryzen™ AI 300 series processors, you get power efficient performance with enhanced security and long-lasting battery. Delivering up to 50 TOPS, including Copilot+ experiences, the Ryzen™ AI Series processors built for AI with 3x more AI engine performance than the previous generation processors.

AMD is continuing to work with industry partners to bring more AI-enabled applications to market. Currently, there are more than 100 AI-enabled experiences in apps such as Microsoft Teams available through Ryzen™ AI, which empowers businesses to create professional documents,

correspondence and business presentations from just a few bullet points. They can also summarize and respond to emails, freeing up valuable time during the day.

As AI PCs evolve, AMD's dedication to enhancing power efficiency while delivering powerful AI-driven functionalities ensures that these next-generation devices will be more environmentally friendly than their predecessors.



VINAY SINHA
CVP & Managing Director, Sales AMD India

ADVANCE YOUR BUSINESS WITH AMD RYZEN™ AI

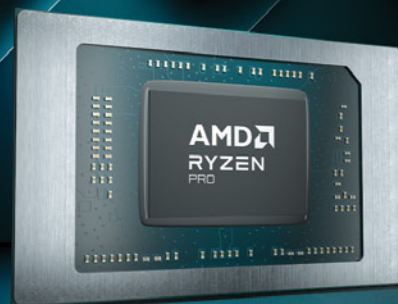
ACER TRAVELMATE P4



Lenovo ThinkPad Z16 Gen 2



HP ELITEBOOK 845 G11



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

Excerpts from the Chairman's Speech at the 55th Annual General Meeting



“Our strategic objective is to scale our loan book to ₹10 lakh crore by 2030 and we are targeting to achieve a renewables loan book portfolio of ₹3 lakh crore by 2030.”



Vivek Kumar Dewangan
Chairman & Managing Director

Dear Stakeholders,

I welcome you all to the 55th Annual General Meeting of REC Limited. Creating history seems to be a new habit of REC and I am again happy to share that during FY24, REC delivered an outstanding performance across all fronts.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FY24

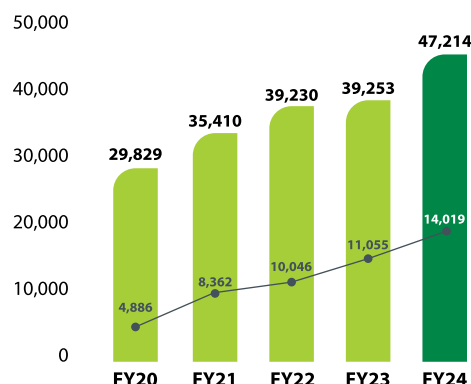
Operations & Finance

- » Highest ever yearly Sanctions: ₹3,58,816 crore (▲34% YoY)
- » Highest ever yearly Disbursements: ₹1,61,462 crore (▲67% YoY)
- » Renewable energy sanctions: ₹1,36,516 crore (▲539% YoY)
- » Total Income: ₹47,214 crore (▲20% YoY)
- » Net Profit: ₹14,019 crore (▲27% YoY)
- » Loan book: ₹5.09 lakh crore (▲17% YoY)
- » Capital Adequacy Ratio: 25.82% well above the minimum requirement of 15%
- » No New NPAs during last 9 quarters

Fund Mobilisation

- » Foreign Currency Borrowings account for 29% of the outstanding borrowing (▲25% YoY)
- » Mobilized funds of ₹1,46,747 crore from the market, including ₹11,421 crore from 54EC Bonds, ₹42,437 crore from Institutional Bonds/ Subordinate Debt and ₹36,961 crore from Foreign Currency Borrowings
- » Award-winning issuance of USD 750 million Green Bonds issued in April 2023 marking India's first Green Bond issuance post-G20 Presidency and the largest Senior Green Bond Tranche by a South & South-East Asian issuer
- » Successfully issued inaugural Japanese Yen (JPY) 61.1 billion 5-year, 5.25-year and 10-year Green bonds, issued under US\$ 10 billion Global Medium Term Notes Programme
- » Received NoC from RBI to set up a subsidiary in International Financial Services Centre at GIFT City, Gandhinagar which will enhance REC's presence in global market

Total Income and Profit After Tax (₹in crore)



DIVIDEND

As one of the highest dividend-paying companies among its peers, the Board has recommended a final dividend of ₹5 per equity share, subject to your approval for the financial year 2023-24.

The total dividend for the financial year, including the proposed final dividend, amounts to ₹16 per share i.e. 160% of the paid-up share capital, compared to ₹12.60 per share i.e. 126% of the paid-up share capital, for the previous year. The total dividend payout for the financial year 2023-24, including the proposed final dividend, will be ₹4,213.16 crore.

GOVERNMENT'S PARTNER IN VIKSIT BHARAT VISION

REC continues to play a pivotal role in the Government's major schemes and has been appointed as the nodal agency for several States and Union Territories under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

REC is also the National Program Implementation Agency for the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with a total budget of

₹75,021 crore. This initiative aims to install rooftop solar panels and provide free electricity up to 300 units per month for one crore households.

During FY24, Government of India has allocated 3.3% of GDP to infrastructure sector, with a strong focus on transport and logistics and REC being accorded the Maharatna Status, is now authorized to lend to both logistics and non-power infrastructure sectors. In FY24, REC sanctioned ₹40,569 crore to non-power infrastructure projects.



CSR Symposium cum Interaction with Stakeholders for discussing pivotal initiatives aimed at community welfare

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

During FY24, REC sanctioned projects worth around ₹467 crore and incurred the highest ever expenditure of ₹255 crore on various thematic areas surpassing minimum statutory requirement. Some of the major initiatives are:

- » REC Foundation organised a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Symposium bringing together key stakeholders from social sector
- » Various athletes supported through ₹100 crore pledge to National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) who are now excelling on the global stage
- » Launched scheme to deploy mobile medical units for primary health care in underserved districts across India

RECOGNITION

- » Rated "Excellent" for MoU signed under DPE guidelines of Government of India
- » Dun & Bradstreet Award-2023 for 'Best Central PSU' in the Financial Services category
- » Golden Peacock Award by the Institute of Directors (IoD) in the Risk Management category
- » First prize among power PSUs for implementing the official language policy
- » Issuer of the Year award at the 6th National Summit for the Corporate Bond Market by Assocham
- » Best Green Bond - Corporate Award at the Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance.



REC Limited avails green loan facility of JPY 31.96 Billion (USD 200 Million) from Deutsche Bank AG, Gift City Branch

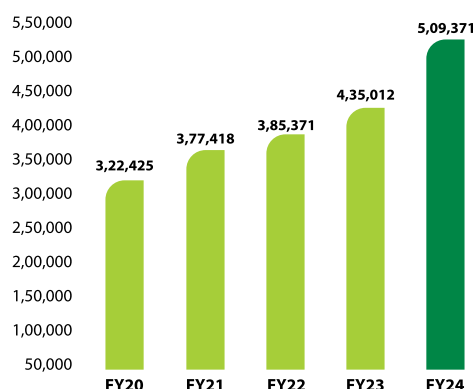
- » 'Sustainability Champion – Editor's Choice Award' at the 'Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024'
- » SKOCH ESG Award 2024 for 'Renewable Energy Financing'

THE PATH AHEAD

The Government of India is diligently addressing the dual objectives of ensuring energy security and facilitating an energy transition towards cleaner and sustainable sources. REC is determined to play its part in contributing to country's energy transition goals by continuing as Government's strategic partner to finance entire power sector value chain and by capitalising on the new thrust areas by the Government which includes upcoming renewable energy projects; Pumped and battery energy storage, EV's / charging infrastructure, smart metering, green hydrogen/ green ammonia etc. Our strategic objective is to scale our loan book to ₹10 lakh crore by 2030 from the current loan book of ₹5.09 lakh crore. We are targeting to achieve a renewables loan book portfolio of ₹3 lakh crore by 2030 from the present level of about ₹38,971 crore.

Further, our foray into non-power infrastructure & logistics sectors adds diversification and complements our core focus areas. As India advances towards the vision of "Viksit Bharat", REC continues to be a beacon of progress and sustainability.

Asset Under Management (₹in crore)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Power, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, the Secretary (Power) and all esteemed officials of the Ministry of Power for their steadfast support and visionary guidance. I also thank our holding company, Power Finance Corporation Limited, for their continued cooperation.

I am immensely grateful for the unwavering support from all the statutory authorities and other professionals associated with the Company. I extend my deepest thanks to all shareholders, debenture-holders, investors, lenders, borrowers and customers and all related stakeholders of the Company including the visionary State Governments, State power utilities and dynamic private sector entrepreneurs. With your invaluable support, we will embark on a thrilling journey to elevate REC to unprecedented heights.

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting)

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'STAYING TRUE TO OUR AESTHETIC IS PARAMOUNT'

Ace couturiers Shantanu and Nikhil Mehra introduce their latest collection and delve into their entrepreneurial journey spanning over two decades

words by **Deepali Singh**

IN WHAT WAYS DOES YOUR LATEST COUTURE COLLECTION STUDIO MIX TRY TO CAPTURE THE ALLURE OF THE SWINGING 70S?

We have drawn inspiration from the bold individuality, freedom, and eclectic style of the 1970s, particularly its music and carefree spirit. We selected materials like silk velvets, sequined fabrics, and foil printing—all hallmarks of the time. These have been blended with such contemporary elements as faux leather and bespoke Italian suiting fabrics to create a collection that merges retro glam with modern sophistication. Paisley motifs, which carry rich cultural symbolism, have been intricately woven into the designs, adding depth and narrative. The result is a line that honours the boldness of the past while maintaining a fresh, innovative edge.

DID YOU HAVE CERTAIN PERSONALITIES IN MIND WHILE DESIGNING THE COLLECTION?

We drew inspiration from iconic

figures of the 1970s (like David Bowie, Halston, Bianca Jagger, and Diane von Furstenberg, who defined an era of bold experimentation and individuality). Bowie's androgynous style and love for metallics influenced our use of avant-garde patterns, while Halston's sleek, minimalist designs inspired our modern yet glamorous silhouettes. The daring spirit of Bianca Jagger and the effortless chic of Diane von Furstenberg's wrap dress also played a significant role in shaping the eclectic and adventurous spirit of our latest creations.

ZEENAT AMAN OPENED THE SHOW WITH A SPEECH AND SIDDHARTH MALHOTRA WALKED THE RAMP AS THE SHOW STOPPER. IN WHAT WAYS DO THEY EMBODY YOUR SENSIBILITIES AS DESIGNERS?

Zeenaat ji, with her fearless spirit and timeless elegance, represents the revolutionary fashion of the 1970s that continues to inspire us. Siddharth epitomises the modern S&N man—confident, refined, and

effortlessly stylish. Their presence bridges the gap between past and present, honouring our legacy while pushing the boundaries of contemporary fashion, ultimately celebrating the timeless allure of both generations.

WHICH MILESTONE DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE A GAMECHANGER FOR YOU AS DESIGNERS?

A significant turning point in our entrepreneurial journey came when we were approached to dress Amitabh Bachchan for the second season of *Kaun Banega Crorepati*.

"...WE HAVE EMBRACED AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH, CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF NEW-AGE INDIA..."

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LEFT TO RIGHT
Glamorous silhouettes are a hallmark of the creations; The design-duo; Retro glam meets modern elegance in an S&N creation.

He typically dresses in formal and conventional attires. The brief was to create something contemporary. This opportunity reaffirmed our belief in the potential and relevance of our brand.

HOW HAS YOUR DESIGN ETHOS EVOLVED IN THE LAST TWO GLORIOUS DECADES?

Design is an intensely personal and individual expression for each designer, which is why staying true to our aesthetic is paramount. We differentiate our collections by focusing on continuously evolving our designs while remaining faithful to our unique blend of contemporary craftsmanship and traditional ethos. Over time, we have embraced an inclusive approach, celebrating the spirit of new-age India through both

menswear and womenswear. This journey required us to unlearn rigid design norms and embrace fluidity, allowing us to experiment with silhouettes, fabrics, and surface ornamentation, while staying true to our brand's core philosophy of blending tradition with modernity.

WHAT IS YOUR APPROACH TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY?

We have introduced an initiative where customers can exchange their old Shantanu & Nikhil outfits for credit towards new purchases. This not only encourages mindful consumption but also helps us manage production more efficiently, thereby reducing waste. With the support of informed influencers, we can amplify this movement and contribute to a more sustainable fashion industry.

THE CHECKLIST

50 ➔ AUTOMOBILES 56 ➔ EVENTS 58 ➔ NOW TRENDING 60 ➔ BOOKS

Both the Indian curry and Mexican mole feature a rich and complex spice mix



TWIN TASTES

A flavourful duet of Indian and Mexican fares



PALATE ECHOES

Food's universal language connects two distant countries—India and Mexico—revealing a surprising closeness in culture

words by **Nikhil P Merchant**

↑ RICE KHEER ↻ ARROZ CON LECHE

Rice is a key ingredient in both India and Mexico, featuring extensively in their cuisines. Rice *kheer* and *arroz con leche* share a common lineage of creamy, indulgent desserts that celebrate rice. *Kheer*, a rich traditional rice-based Indian dessert, is spiced with cardamom and saffron, and garnished with dried fruits and nuts. *Arroz con leche*, a Mexican favourite, uses cinnamon and raisins to create a deliciously-spiced, creamy rice pudding.

INGREDIENTS TO HIGHLIGHT:

India-Short grain rice like gobindobhog or sona masoori

Mexico-Medium grain rice like arroz de grano medio

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SCAN FOR
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📌 CHILLI-SALT-LEMON 🔄 TAJIN

Sliced, juicy tropical fruits meet the tangy, spicy savouriness of a chilli-salt-lime mix. In India, summer means street stalls piled high with fleshy guavas and mangoes, topped with a heavy sprinkle of salt, hot chilli powder, and a squeeze of lime. Mexico's tropical climes offer mangoes, melons, and jicama, all seasoned with *Tajín*, a popular spice-salt mix. This blend contains dried lime powder, adding a zingy tang.

INGREDIENTS TO HIGHLIGHT:

India-Kashmiri chilli powder, black salt

Mexico-Tajín, a blend of dried Mexican peppers like guajillo, pasilla or ancho, lime, salt to taste



📌 OKHAL 🔄 MOLCAJETE

You can opt for old or nouveau methods but some kitchen tools remain unchanged. One such essential traditional tool is the mortar and pestle, in various sizes. The Indian *okhal* is ideal for grinding spices into fragrant pastes and masalas. The *molcajete*, a Mexican version, crushes tomatillos and chilli peppers into chunky salsas, or coarsely mashes avocados for guacamole. Both offer textures that electric blenders can't replicate.

HISTORICAL CONNECTION: Both ancient kitchen tools are used for artisanal food preparation even today

📌 CHUTNEYS 🔄 SALSA

A combination of herbs, spices, fruits, and nuts—chutneys and salsas add vibrant colours and essential flavours. In India, over 30 traditional varieties, including coriander, coconut, tomato, and mango, are commonly prepared, rendering many street foods and sides incomplete without them. In Mexico, salsa rules, with about 20 regional variations—from the cooked *salsa roja*, made with tomato and chillies, to the refreshing *salsa verde*, featuring tomatillos, green chillies, and cilantro.

INGREDIENTS TO HIGHLIGHT:

India-Coriander, coconut, tamarind

Mexico-Tomato, cilantro, chipotle



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↑ ROOMALI ROTI ↻ SONORAN TORTILLA

Bread is a cornerstone of any cuisine, and among the many varieties, the *roomali roti* in India and the Sonoran tortilla from the Sonora region in northern Mexico, stand out. *Roomali*, meaning 'handkerchief' in Urdu, is an incredibly thin, white flour flatbread cooked on an inverted griddle. It pairs exquisitely with curries and kebabs. Sonoran tortilla is a thin, chewy, hearty, white flour bread—a newer addition to Mexican cuisine—often used for burritos or griddle-fried quesadillas.

INGREDIENTS TO HIGHLIGHT:

India-White flour, ghee

Mexico-White flour, lard, baking powder

↓ CURRY ↻ MOLE

Complex sauces form an essential part of many traditional dishes.

Curry, a blend of spices, has links to ancient spice trade routes that influenced regional Indian cooking styles through elaborate vegetable and meat preparations. *Mole* is a quintessential Mexican sauce that traces its history to pre-Columbian Mesoamerican cultures that combine native ingredients with Spanish influences, including chillies and chocolate, with a smattering of nuts. They both reflect an intricate heritage for comfort fares.

INGREDIENTS TO HIGHLIGHT:

India-Kashmiri chillies, dry spices, tomatoes

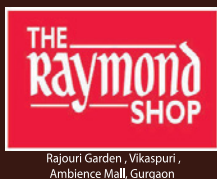
Mexico-Abuelita/Ibarra (Mexican cooking chocolate brands), almonds, pasilla chillies





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was the growth of
India's luxury car
segment in FY23-24

SOURCE: JATO Dynamics India



VIBRANT WHEELS

India's car bazaar remains red-hot with striking new offerings across categories

words by **Siddharth Vinayak Patankar**

↑ MERCEDES-BENZ EQA

Price on request

The Mercedes-Benz electric car onslaught continues with the compact EQA crossover SUV. Based on the bestselling fuel-driven GLA, the EQA is gaining momentum in many markets. In India, we get the EQA 250+. It has a 70.5kWh battery, up to 560km range, 184bhp power, 385Nm of torque, and front-wheel drive. It has AR-generated maps, head-up display, and comes in seven colours.

Why buy? Compact, fully-loaded, electric

➔ VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN

Starting from US\$28,880

The 3rd generation of the compact SUV has been developed and designed from scratch. The compact SUV ticks many boxes since it's a well-built, fairly well-loaded model. While we can expect a petrol variant, globally the car is available in diesel and plug-in-hybrid modes too. The new styling brings in more of the ID family design language. But while that means a jump in tech (like a 15-inch infotainment screen and a new Digital Cockpit), it's also about vibrant colours. The R-Line variants look particularly smashing.

Why buy? Well-built and spacious family car with great dynamics



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🔻 MINI COOPER S

Price on request

The adorable MINI Cooper has a new generation model. While the 4th gen hatch has transitioned to the all-electric SE variant, the petrol models have also adopted a new design language and massively-updated interior. The big focus is an industry-first 9.4-inch round touchscreen that doubles up as an infotainment and instrument cluster. The OLED screen, co-developed with Samsung, delivers superb graphics, vibrant colour, deeper blacks, and great response. MINI's trademark colour palette gets enhanced with some new shades for the body and interior trim. The 'Sunny Side Yellow' is a standout!

Why buy? Fun, colour, exhilarating drive



🔼 HYUNDAI ALCAZAR

Price on request

Hyundai's 3-row, 6/7 seater SUV has a massive facelift and new equipment. The Alcazar now gets ADAS and other safety features, a twin-screen dash layout, and new connected taillights and H-style LED daytime running lights. There are nine colours including the new 'Robust Emerald Matte'. The engine line-up stays the same with a 1.5 turbo petrol/diesel; each has manual or automatic gearboxes. Hyundai is hoping that the upcoming festive season in India and upmarket upgrade will make the car's second innings more successful.

Why buy? Spacious, advanced features, sharper tech and safety

➡ KIA EV9

Price in Europe varies by country and trim level

The flagship model for Kia worldwide and the reigning 2024 World Car of the Year—the Kia EV9 is finally coming to India in October 2024 and is expected to be priced around ₹90 lakh. Its available features include newest generation Auto Emergency Braking technology. The EV9 has options of a 76.1kWh and 99.8kWh battery. It boasts Kia's latest design language, swanky interiors, plenty of tech and safety features, and a flexible 3-row seating, including 2nd row seats that can swivel around to the back.

Why buy? India's first full-size 3-row EV



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PREMIUM

"Sero" trademark is owned by Savla Corporation, Dadar, Mumbai- 28.

↓ ŠKODA KODIAQ

Starting from ₹53,670

Another flagship on our list, the Kodiaq shares much with the VW Tiguan. But this one is a 3-row, larger SUV that has grown with its 2nd generation. The Kodiaq's design gets more chiselled, while maintaining the Škoda family grille.

The colours are more striking than before; it comes in seven options, including the 'Bronx Gold'. The car also gets a lot of tech updates in the cabin. It is expected in India as a petrol-only offering and will be launched as the classier, better built, and capable option to other full-size SUVs.

Why buy? Superb build, spacious



➡ MASERATI GRECALE

Starting from UD\$69,900

The Maserati Grecale performance SUV is a competitor to the formidable Porsche Macan. But while the latter has gone EV-only, the Grecale is available with 4- and 6-cylinder petrol engines, and an upcoming EV avatar as well. The Grecale has been launched in three variants—GT (300bhp), Modena (330bhp), and range-topping Trofeo (530bhp). Even though this car isn't for everyone, you can customise it to make it more unique with lots of options for trim and colour.

Why buy? Performance, colour, Italian style



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FESTIVE NOTES

Global events not to miss this September



TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Toronto, Canada

5th-15th September

One of the most prestigious film festivals in the world, TIFF 2024 will open with the world premiere of Ben Stiller-starrer *Nutcrackers* at Roy Thomson Hall. Keep an eye out for the world premiere 4K restoration screening of Raj Kapoor's 1951 classic movie, *Awara*.

tiff.net

HISTORIC RACE BERLIN MARATHON

Berlin, Germany

29th September

This famed event marks its 50th anniversary in 2024 with a series of festivals leading up to the iconic 42-km run. The celebratory weekend kick-starts with an Opening Ceremony at Brandenburg Gate, featuring musical performances by international artistes and bands, with world-renowned athletes in attendance. Other highlights include a Literature Marathon and a free-to-enter Expo, besides the popular Genarali 5K, held a day before the competition. Join the Post-race Party at Kosmos (with a €5 entry fee).

bmw-berlin-marathon.com



INDIE RHYTHMS ZIRO FESTIVAL

Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

26th-29th September

Get ready for an unforgettable experience amid the serene Ziro Valley at this unique eco-friendly music fest,

constructed using locally-sourced materials by the Apatani tribe. It features some of the best indie bands and global artistes. The line-up boasts Kailasa (Kailash Kher), local artiste Carolina Norbu, Singapore's Amateur Takes Control, Sweden's Hollow Ship, and more. zirofestival.com

ON THE RADAR



I. M. PEI: LIFE IS ARCHITECTURE

M+, Hong Kong
Till 5th January 2025

The first full-scale retrospective of legendary architect, Ieoh Ming Pei's life, philosophy, and works.
mplus.org.hk



HERMANUS WHALE FESTIVAL

Hermanus, South Africa
27th-29th September

Watch southern right whales on their migration to the Hermanus coast. hermanuswhalefestival.co.za



WHITIANGA OCEANS FESTIVAL

Whitianga, New Zealand
14th September

Expect eclectic entertainment, and an array of food and wine at this festival. oceansfestival.co.nz

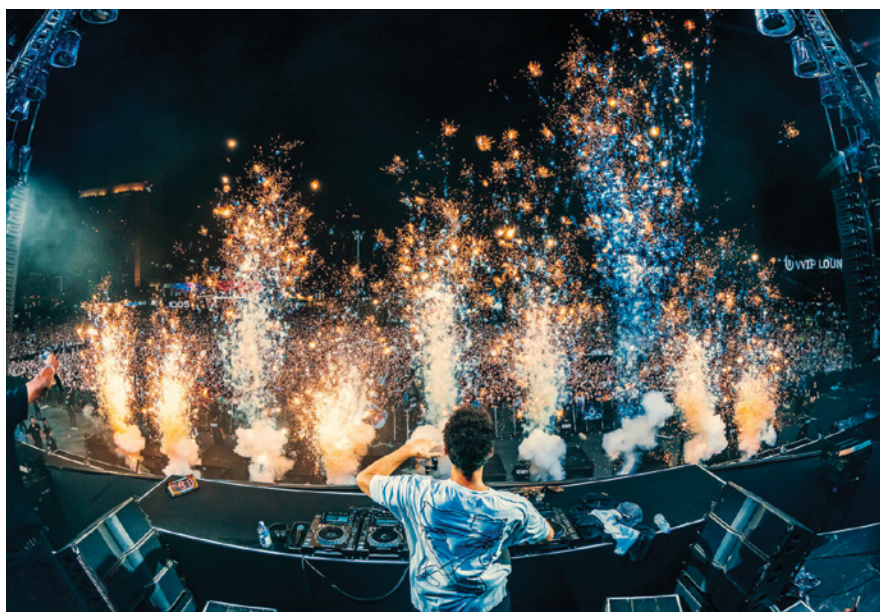


DIVINE CELEBRATIONS

GANESH CHATURTHI

Mumbai, Maharashtra
7th-17th September

The festivities are at their grandest in Mumbai. With the pulsating beats of *dhol-tasha* in the air, visit a few of the popular Ganapati pandals, including GSB Seva Mandal, Mumbaicha Raja, Andhericha Raja, and the phenomenal Lalbaugcha Raja. Don't miss having *ukadiche modak* (sweet, steamed dumplings) that are traditionally made during the festival and offered to the Lord. The immersion processions are equally majestic and lively.
maharashtratourism.gov.in



ALL ABOUT MUSIC

ULTRA JAPAN

Tokyo, Japan
14th and 15th September

The Tokyo Odaiba ULTRA Park will host the 9th edition of this two-day extravaganza, boasting the world's top EDM DJs and emerging artistes in the field, along with unparalleled stage designs and top-tier production. The main headliners include Afrojack, Alesso (who makes a comeback to the event after seven years), Armin van Buuren, Isoknock, and Steve Aoki. ultrajapan.com



↑ INDIAN REPUBLIC CANTEEN

Why: For a taste of childhood and comfort food. The all-vegetarian menu boasts quintessential Indian flavours with a twist of Italian, American, and Mexican cuisines. **Where:** Connaught Place, New Delhi
Recommended: *Pesto Dosa, Dal Pakwan Tacos, Waffle Bread Pakora*



↑ A MEDITATIVE BUBBLE

Why: Explore the specially-designed domes of White Desert (a tour operator) at their flagship camp, Whichaway, and immerse in enhanced wellness offerings. It will be operational from December 2024. **Where:** Antarctica **Highlights:** *On-site biokineticist, meditation instructor, group activities*

ALL IN VOGUE

The latest in fashion, food, wellness, and beyond!



A MUSICAL MEDLEY

British artiste Jay Sean recently founded a new record label called 3AM Entertainment, in partnership with Virgin Music Group and Range Media Partners. The label is committed to supporting artistic greatness across South Asia from all genres.



HEARTY FEAST

Join Burma Burma's 10th anniversary celebrations with a special menu, featuring delicacies like Sar Hpye, Kho Poong with Pebok Chet, and Siman Thoke, till 30th September.



ECLECTIC FLAIR

H&M, in collaboration with fashion designer Anamika Khanna, has launched a luxury collection (on 5th Sept) that takes cues from India's textiles and crafts.



↑ DIOR WELLNESS RETREAT

Why: Enjoy a holistic getaway through personalised programmes (14th-17th October) in the company of the brand's in-house experts Bryony Deery (Pilates) and Rose Ferguson (nutrition). **Where:** Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Antibes, France **Highlights:** *Meditation, spa rituals, mindful nutrition*



A SKY FULL OF STARS

The 2nd edition of Nakshatra Sabha, to be held from 4th-6th October in Jageshwar, Uttarakhand, will include celestial observations, night-sky navigation, and much more.



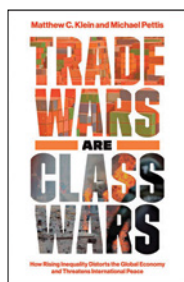
↑ WORLD GOURMET FESTIVAL

Why: The 24th edition of this event (24th-29th September) will host 16 world-renowned chefs (collective 30 Michelin Stars). **Where:** Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand **Highlights:** *A gala six-course dinner, guest bartenders from Asia and the World's 50 Best Bars*



TOP FIVE READS

Author, broadcaster, and former diplomat **Amish Tripathi** shares his all-time favourite titles



TRADE WARS ARE CLASS WARS
(Matthew C Klein and Michael Pettis)

A delightful read, it weaves a tapestry of monetary, fiscal, and social policies throughout history.
Yale University Press
₹1,510



THE VALMIKI RAMAYANA
(Translated by Bibek Debroy)

The author's translation of the timeless epic (in three volumes) is masterful. I thoroughly enjoy reading his works.
India Penguin Classics
₹599

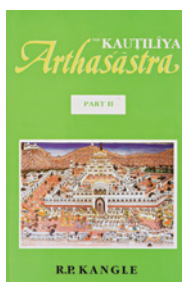
THE EDITOR'S PICK
NONE OF THIS IS TRUE
(Lisa Jewell)

In this psychological thriller, Alix Summer becomes the focus of her own popular true crime podcast.
Simon & Schuster
₹2,348



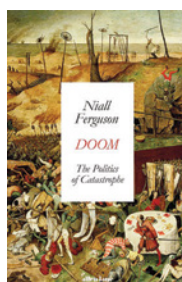
THE MAHABHARATA
(Translated by Bibek Debroy)

A rare, unabridged English translation (10 volumes) of the original Sanskrit epic.
India Penguin; ₹499



THE KAUTILYA ARTHASASTRA
(RP Kangle)

Divided in three volumes, it's one of the oldest treaties on state governance.
MLBD; ₹1,495



DOOM
(Niall Ferguson)

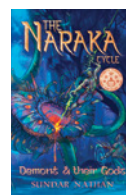
Drawing across disciplines, it narrates a history of disasters and their consequences.
Allen Lane; ₹647

NEW ON THE SHELF



ROSARITA
(Anita Desai)

The three-time Booker Prize-shortlisted author's first book in a decade is a haunting tale of a young woman trying to discover her own path.
Pan Macmillan India; ₹499



DEMONS & THEIR GODS
(Sundar Nathan)

The second part of *The Naraka Cycle* revolves around Ravan, the mighty Asura prince, weaving together fantasy and adventure, bringing alive scenes of epic battles.
Notion Press; ₹359



BEYOND SUMMERLAND
(Jenny Lecoat)

From the NYT bestselling author comes the story of 19-year-old Jean on her search for truth, which stands to risk everything she once believed in.
HarperCollins Publishers
₹1,593

THE PLACES

66 DOHA

A woman
collects air-
dried textiles
in a traditional
saree factory



THE HUES OF LIFE

See Rajasthan like never before
through its vivid colours



GETTING THERE

Air India flies non-stop to Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Udaipur from Delhi and Mumbai.

ARTY TONES

In Rajasthan, every corner tells a story and every shade has a meaning. Here's a checklist for you

words by **Dharmendar Kanwar**



↑ BLUE POTTERY OF JAIPUR

A trip to the state capital is not complete if you don't splurge on its eponymous handmade blue-hued ceramic craft. And those looking for an immersive experience, there are a few outlets across the city—on Amber Road, Gopalpura Bypass, and Tonk Road—that conduct workshops. You can make a plate or design a colourful tile under expert guidance. If you are apprehensive that the fragile objects may break during transit, some shops will gladly courier them to your address.



↓ PUPPETS AND MINIATURE PAINTINGS

GI tagged, the Kathputlis of Rajasthan are the most identifiable aspect of the state's cultural fabric. Catch vibrant puppet shows at Amer Fort, Jaipur; Bagore Ki Haveli Museum, Udaipur; and Desert Culture Centre and Museum, Jaisalmer (master puppeteers offer workshops here).

Equally colourful are the miniature paintings marked by different styles, with Mewar and Bundi being the most popular ones. The Chitrashala in Taragarh Fort, Bundi, is one of the best spots to witness this art form. Catch miniature artists at work at Bundi's local markets.



Left to right: Shutterstock,
Shutterstock, Getty Images



➡ SHEKHAWATI

For the artistically inclined, a trip to the historical Shekhawati region is a must. Also known as an open art gallery, it is dotted with grand palaces like Goenka, Jhunjhunwala, Char Chowk Ki Haveli, and Chaudhari Haveli that are decorated with delicate yet ornate frescoes. These intricate artworks have been painstakingly restored by the palace owners across Shekhawati using natural colours and traditional materials that include *chuna-surkhi* (lime and trass). It is an ongoing process where local artisans learn from expert painters. Many havelis even welcome visitors and offer guided tours of their stunning wall murals.



➡ MEENAKARI AND JADAU JEWELLERY

As intricate as they are beautiful, *meenakari* and *jadau* jewellery are Rajasthan's pride and speak volumes of its rich cultural heritage. While the first involves setting precious stones into gold and enamelling them, in the latter, such precious stones as emeralds, rubies, and diamonds are embedded into softened gold. Visit the jewellers that line the streets of Johari Bazar, Jaipur, to witness the craftsmen at work. Rajasthan is also known for its traditional yet opulent *kundan*, *polki*, and *thewa* jewelleryes—must-haves in your collection for their time-honoured elegance.

↓ LEHRIYA AND BANDHANI TEXTILES

Nothing, perhaps, embodies the vibrant ethos of Rajasthan more than its textiles, with the *bandhani* and the *lehriya* reigning supreme. These two techniques are used in a wide range of clothing—from sarees and *dupattas* (or *odhnis* for the locals) to turbans and traditional *poshak*. To get a hands-on experience, visit tie-dye guru Ishwar Dewani's workshop in Jodhpur's Clock Tower market. The *lehriya* stripes vary in thickness and can be multi-hued, like the five-coloured *panchranga* and seven-coloured *satranga*. Master craftsman Dr Badshah Miyan conducts tours in the process of *lehriya* in Jaipur.



Clockwise from right: Getty Images; Getty Images; Shutterstock



↑ SAMBHAR SALT LAKE

Take a calming break at the pink-hued Sambhar Lake, nestled in the historic town of the same name. This tourist hotspot is a Ramsar Site and India's largest saline wetland. From remnants of colonial-era heritage buildings and a salt museum to a trolley train—it's an ideal getaway as well as an Instagrammable spot. Perhaps the most appealing element here is the migration of thousands of flamingos and other birds from northern Asia and Siberia (Nov-Feb) making it a birdwatcher's paradise. Enhance your travel experience here with off-roading activities, bird-watching camps, and heritage walks.

MUST KNOW

If you are in Rajasthan this September, don't miss **Jodhpur RIFF**, an annual international roots (folk) music festival, between 16th and 20th October 2024.

the places doha

GO SOUQ HOPPING!

Immerse yourself in Doha's rich culture by exploring its lively and colourful marketplaces

words by **Pallavi Pasricha**



Brightly-lit
alleys of Souq
Waqif in Doha

T

he aroma of spices, Arabic coffee, and incense hangs thick in the air as I stroll through **Souq Waqif**, Doha's bustling, century-old marketplace. Entering it on my first day in the city, I realise there is no better way to experience the Qatari capital than through its vibrant souks, where tradition, culture, and shopping converge seamlessly in one colourful melting pot.

At the heart of this experience is Souq Waqif, or 'the standing souk', where the alleyways amid the mud-daubed buildings are lined with shops selling handcrafted perfumes, intricate handicrafts, pearls, and traditional garments. There is a variety of restaurants offering authentic Qatari cuisine and, as night falls, one can even unwind at any of the *shisha* (hookah) bars in the market.

Built on the site of Doha's century-old trading market on the banks of the **Wadi Musheireb**, the souk makes me realise how tradition is built into the very DNA of this city, making it a heady mix of the old and new. As I wander through the main promenade, I spot local vendors selling Arabic coffee,



Colourful
carpets and
rugs at Doha's
Souq Waqif

Getty Images

karak tea, and delicious local snacks like *ragag* or thin crêpes with toppings like cheese, honey, and more.

It's easy to lose sense of time in the shops that entice everyone (locals and tourists alike) with their wide range of offerings—from expensive pearls and antiques to reasonably-priced souvenirs that make great gifts. I step into an incense shop and find myself immersed in the bouquet of fragrances for longer than I intended.

Going ahead, I am mesmerised by a massive bronze thumb sculpture with a gold patina. My tour guide tells me that it is called *Le Pouce* and was created by French artist César Baldaccini to commemorate the moment Qatar won the Asian Cup in February 2019.

Get ready for a delightful array of flavours and explore Doha's rich food culture with Qatari cuisine that blends influences from India, Persia, Lebanon, and North Africa. Lunch is at **Damasca One**, a Syrian restaurant with intricate wooden carvings, mosaic tiles, and ornate chandeliers. The meal is a feast of Middle Eastern flavours with a mezze platter, kebabs, *kibbeh*, *majboos* (very similar to biryani) and a dish called *warak enab* (vine leaves stuffed with meat and rice).

Each souk unravels a different story about Qatar's heritage. In **Falcon Souq**, a buzzing marketplace in the

Best time to visit

The ideal months to travel to Doha are between **October and March**, when the weather is relatively cooler. It's great for outdoor activities and a few festivals take place during this time.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

Doha is considered a shopper's paradise catering to all tastes and needs; The iconic *Le Pouce*, a sculpture in the shape of a giant thumb, is seen in the heart of Doha; A visitor relaxes at the Souq Al Wakrah; A local man is seen with the regal national bird at Doha's Falcon Souq.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Majboos, similar to biryani, is a typical dish of the Persian Gulf cuisine; Luqaimat is a traditional Arabic dessert of fried dough dunked in sugar syrup; Doha's skyline from The Ritz-Carlton hotel; Raffles Doha creatively blends modern décor with traditional designs.



heart of this capital city, one can take a deep dive into falconry by watching these majestic birds, listening to their stories, and understanding why they are such an important part of Qatar's culture. Developed by the Bedouin tribes, the art of training falcons to hunt for food goes back centuries. One can even feed Qatar's national bird here or, as I chose to do, just pose with one perched on their arm. That's not all. Nearby, a camel pen offers a chance to see the mighty ships of the desert up close and personal.

'All that glitters is not gold' is a phrase that cannot be applied in Doha. In fact, if anything, the opposite is true here—especially at the **Gold Souq**, a glittering hotspot. From traditional Arabian designs to modern, contemporary pieces, the dazzling shops offer exquisite gold jewellery and, browsing around, it is quite easy to get tempted by ornaments that gleam, glitter, and call out to you.

Art enthusiasts as well as curious tourists cannot ignore the **Souq Waqif Art Centre** that is stocked with paintings—available for sale—by local and visiting artists. This centre, decorated with beautiful woodwork, hand-painted tiles, and colourful lanterns, is all about showcasing



GETTING THERE

Air India flies non-stop to Doha from Delhi, Mumbai, and Kochi.



DESERT'S GRACE

Traditional dishdashaclothed riders on **Arab horses** bring Doha's **vibrant culture** to life amidst the bustling charm of its markets.

LEFT AND RIGHT

Tourists can take a break from souk-hopping at any of the several restaurants in Doha. A vendor carrying a traditional vessel to sell Arabic tea.



diverse forms of visual arts that reflect the heritage and tradition of the State of Qatar. It hosts exhibitions throughout the year and conducts workshops on sculpting, pottery, Arabic calligraphy, and more.

Souq Al Dira is yet another colourful haven for gorgeous textiles that go all the way from shimmering organza to luxurious silks and from soft cottons, crepes, and georgettes, to cashmere pashminas. You're sure to be spoilt for choice. And if time permits, you can even have your purchases tailored. Prices are not fixed, so don't think

twice before deciding to bargain. It's a lively and colourful market—perfect for someone who's looking for fabrics.

As I wrap up my exploration of the perfumed alleyways to discover spices, trinkets, and treasures, I soon realise that Doha's souks are more than places to shop—they are living, breathing parts of a city that blend tradition with contemporary flair. Each market narrates tales of ancient heritage.

What I will always remember fondly is the warmth of the locals who keep the charm of these souks alive, finding a place in our hearts and memories.

HOTELS TO STAY AT

The Ritz-Carlton Doha

With seven dining options, this luxury hotel on a private island on West Bay Lagoon, offers great views of Doha's skyline.

Raffles Doha

Located in one of the most eye-catching buildings of Doha, Katara Towers, this gorgeous all-suite hotel comes with personal butler service.

Rixos Premium Qetaifan Island North

What stands out about this all-inclusive resort is the water park. It has four restaurants and a private beach as well.

YOUR AIR INDIA



NEWS

We keep you abreast of our latest news and updates, so you never miss a beat

p 77 

ROUTES

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

p 78 

PARTNERS

Along with our partners and through alliances, we connect the world and create a bond

p 82 



WORLD-CLASS AIRLINE WITH AN INDIAN HEART

In 2022, Air India launched its five-year transformation programme, Vihaan.AI, embarking on its journey to become a world-class airline with an Indian heart—the absolute best-in-class in customer service, technology, product, reliability, and hospitality.

TAXI 



Phase 1: March 2023
Fix the basics

TAKE-OFF 



Phase 2: April 2023 – March 2024
Build for excellence

CLIMB 



Phase 3: April 2024 – March 2027
Scale and grow

TRANSFORMATION PILLARS

People and Digital as differentiators



Global loyal customer base



Robust and clockwork operations



Industry best talent



Industry captain on future agendas



Commercially efficient and growing

Enablers

- Clear and open communication
- Powered by technology
- Values-driven cultural transformation

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

- Launched **new brand identities** of Air India and Air India Express including the new livery.



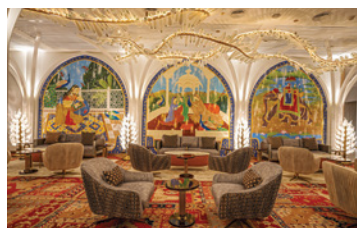
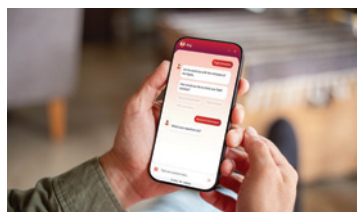
- Rolled out the **new Air India experience** aboard A350 flights: world-class cabin product along with new tableware, bedding, amenity kits by Ferragamo and TUMI.



- Redesigned **Flying Returns** loyalty programme adding a slew of customer-friendly features.



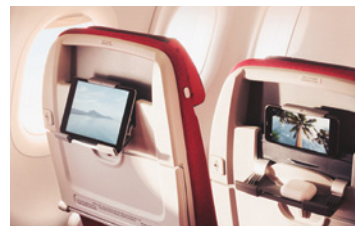
- Unveiled refreshed website and mobile app including the industry's first Generative **AI chatbot, AI.g**



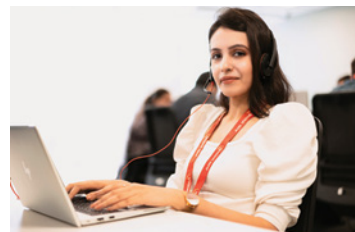
- Placed record-setting orders for **470 aircraft**. Now arriving at the rate of one new aircraft every six days.



- Started adding new **A320neo** aircraft in three-class cabin configuration, including **Premium Economy**.



- Introduced **Vista**, a wireless inflight entertainment across legacy widebody fleet while such aircraft undergo a full interior refresh.



- **Augmented customer care** with 5 new contact centres globally, serving you in 9 Indian languages.

- Opened a new, **exclusive lounge** at Terminal 2 Bengaluru Airport, and redesign of the lounges at Delhi and New York JFK airports is underway.

PROUD WINGS

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



← 06
A350-900
Length 66.80m



← 08
A319
33.84m

→ 04
A321neo
44.51m



← 13
A321ceo
44.50m

→ 08
B777-200LR
63.70m



← 48
A320neo
37.57m

→ 27
B787-8
56.72m



← 09
A320ceo
37.57m

→ 19
B777-300ER
73.9m



*Total number as on 23rd August 2024



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Air India enhances IFE with Vista;
Its Flying Returns Members can
now earn reward points on over 40
global cruise lines; Air India will now
improve the ease of mobile app using
with its 'AEYE Vision' by Air India.

↑ BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

Air India recently launched its wireless Inflight Entertainment (IFE) service, Vista, across the existing widebody fleet (except for the newly-inducted B777 and A350 aircraft) for its guests to enjoy uninterrupted entertainment until the retrofit. Following this, Vista will also be available on narrowbody aircraft. Powered by Bluebox, Vista enables guests to stream content on their personal electronic devices.

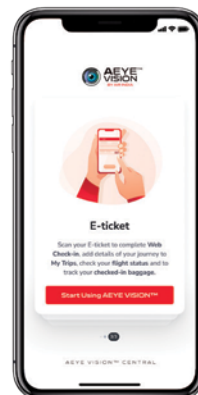
CONNECTING HEARTS AND CITIES

Air India will temporarily operate additional flights to Kolkata from four Indian cities—Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi, and Mumbai—to meet travel demand to the city during the upcoming Durga Puja festivities. The airline has also started non-stop services between Bengaluru and London Gatwick.



A REWARDING PARTNERSHIP

Air India and Arrivia, the world's largest stand-alone travel loyalty provider, have partnered for Air India's Flying Returns loyalty programme. It enables the members to earn Reward Points on their cruise trips on more than 40 major cruise lines, offering over 30,000 itineraries across the world.



ENHANCING CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

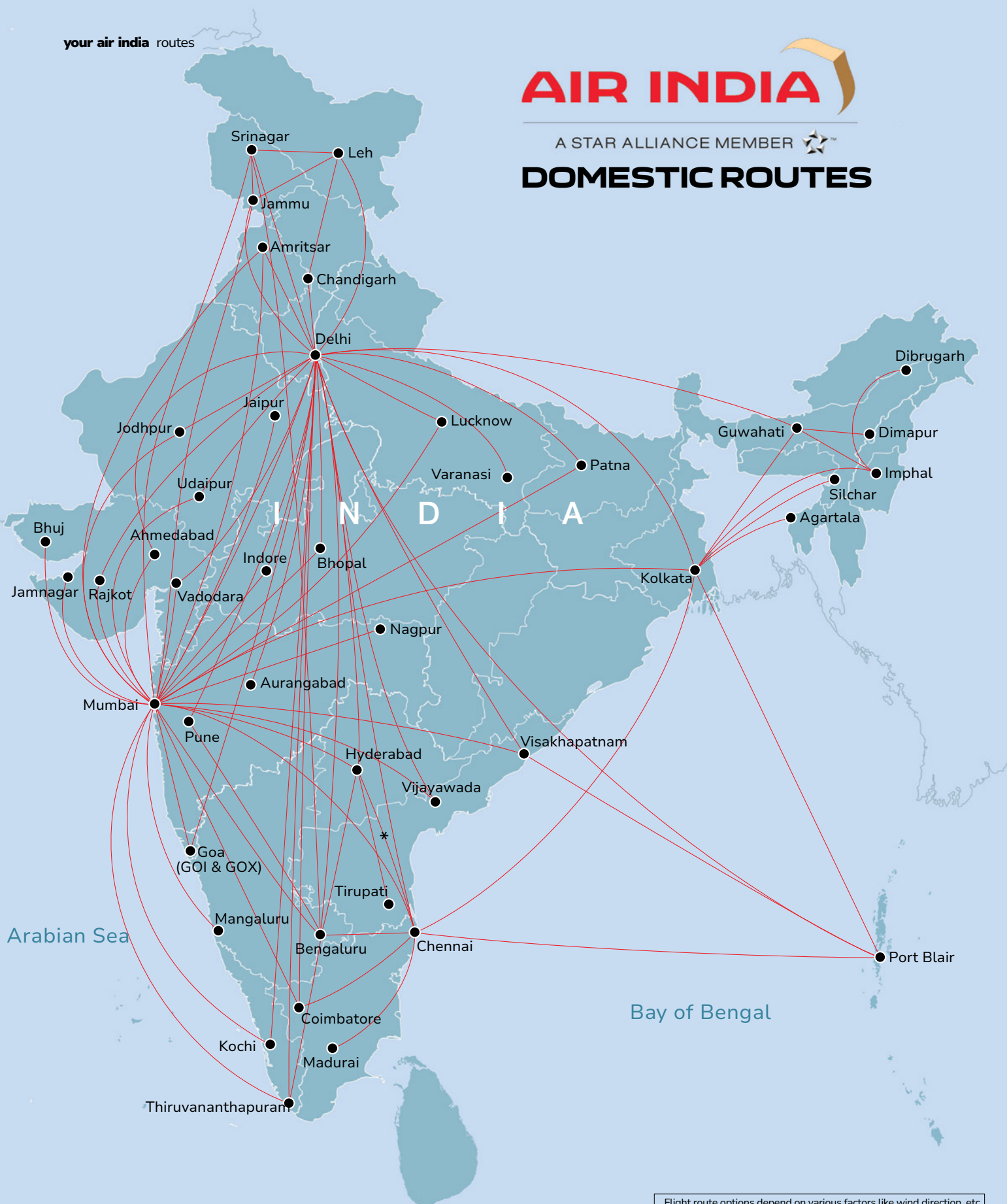
Air India has rolled out an easy-to-use computer vision capability on its mobile app. Named 'AEYE Vision' by Air India, it is powered by the latest artificial intelligence technology enabling users to simply point their cell phone camera at a boarding card, baggage tag or a ticket and pull-in the details related to these into the mobile app without any data entry.

your air india routes



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

DOMESTIC ROUTES



Flight route options depend on various factors like wind direction, etc.
Map not to scale. The depiction and use of routes and boundaries are for informative purposes only.

* Temporary operations with A350-900

BETTER. NON-STOP.

WITH OUR NEW A350.

TO NEW YORK AND LONDON*.



Private suites
in business class



All-new premium
economy cabins



Gourmet
dining



Luxurious
amenities

*Flights from Delhi - London will start from 1st September, 2024.
Flights from Delhi - New York will start from 1st November, 2024.
For more details, visit www.airindia.com

your air india routes



AIR INDIA

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



**INTERNATIONAL
ROUTES**



WANDER WORLDWIDE

Connect to 700+ destinations around the globe through our international Codeshare and Interline partnerships

↓ C O D E S H A R E *

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AIR MAURITIUS

ANA

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EGYPTAIR

Ethiopian የኢትዮጵያ

EVA AIR

LOT POLISH AIRLINES

Lufthansa

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

SriLankan Airlines

SWISS

TAP AIR PORTUGAL

vistara
Fly the new feeling™

FLY TO STONEHENGE WITH US

Dive into global ventures with our tailored itinerary, designed with our valued partners

AIR INDIA

*DEL, BOM, BLR, ATQ,
AMD, COK, GOI

↑ Fly non-stop to London
(Heathrow or Gatwick), the
UK, with Air India

*LGW/LHR

Airport and railway station: Shutterstock;
Stonehenge: Unsplash

✿ I N T E R L I N E

AccesRail	Aegean Airlines	Aeroflot	Aerolineas Argentinas
Air Astana	Air Austral	Air Canada	Air China
Air Europa	Air France	Air Macau	Air Malta
Air New Zealand	Air Niugini	Air Seychelles	Air Tanzania
Alaska Airlines	American Airlines	Austrian Airlines	Azerbaijan Airlines
British Airways	Bangkok Airways	Biman Bangladesh Airlines	Brussels Airlines
Cathay Pacific	Caribbean Airlines	China Airlines	China Eastern Airlines
China Southern Airlines	Condor	Copa Airlines	Delta Air Lines
El Al	Emirates	Etihad Airways	Fiji Airways
Finnair	German Rail	Gulf Air	Hahn Air
Hainan Airlines	Hong Kong Airlines	Iberia	Icelandair
ITA Airways	Japan Airlines	JetBlue	Jetstar
JetStar Asia	Juneyao Airlines	Kam Air	Kenya Airways
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines	Korean Air	Kuwait Airways	Madagascar Airlines
Malaysia Airlines	MIAT Mongolian Airlines	Middle East Airlines	Myanmar Airways International
Nepal Airlines	Oman Air	Philippine Airlines	Qantas
Qatar Airways	Royal Air Maroc	Royal Brunei Airlines	Royal Jordanian
RwandAir	Saudia	Scandinavian Airlines	Shandong Airlines
Shanghai Airlines	Shenzhen Airlines	South African Airways	Thai Airways
Turkish Airlines	United Airlines	Uzbekistan Airways	Vietnam Airlines
Virgin Atlantic	Vistara		

*Both Codeshare and Interline Partners



*DEL: Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi Airport), New Delhi, Delhi *BOM: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Mumbai, Mumbai, Maharashtra *BLR: Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, Bengaluru, Karnataka *ATQ: Sri Guru Ram Das Jee International Airport, Amritsar-Ajnala Road, Amritsar, Punjab *AMD: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (Ahmedabad International Airport), Hansol, Ahmedabad, Gujarat *COK: Cochin International Airport, Nedumbassery, Kerala *GOI: Dabolim Airport, Dabolim, Goa *LGW: London Gatwick Airport, Gatwick, the UK *LHR: Heathrow Airport, Hounslow, the UK *SAL: Salisbury Station, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England

EARN REWARDS WITH EVERY SPEND

Enter a new world of possibilities with Flying Returns and unlock unmatched benefits



Earn up to 12 points
per ₹100 spent
with Air India



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and Boarding



Points that never expire
for active members



Earn and Redeem points
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Star Alliance airlines



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cancellations fee waivers



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Scan to enrol and earn
1000 bonus points
on your first flight

OUR EXPANDING PARTNER NETWORK

BANKING PARTNERS

POINTS CONVERSION



CO - BRANDED CARDS



STAY PARTNERS



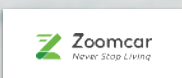
LIFESTYLE PARTNERS



EXPERIENCE PARTNERS



CAR RENTAL PARTNERS



*T&C Apply



YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE

DIGIYATRA

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय द्वारा 13 एयरपोर्ट्स—दिल्ली, बेंगलुरु, वाराणसी, पुणे, कोलकाता, विजयवाड़ा, हैदराबाद, अहमदाबाद, मुंबई, जयपुर, लखनऊ, गुवाहाटी और कोचीन के लिए डीजी यात्रा की सुविधा का शुभारंभ किया गया है। डीजी यात्रा ऐप को डाउनलोड करके खुद को नामांकित करें और इन एयरपोर्ट्स पर निर्बाध और बाधा रहित यात्रा का अनुभव करें।

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched DigiYatra facilities at 13 Indian airports, namely Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Pune, Kolkata, Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, and Cochin. You can avail it and have a seamless and hassle-free experience at these airports. To avail the facility, you can download the DigiYatra app and register on it.

MISSION LIFE

पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूक जीवन शैली को अपनाने की

दिशा में व्यवहारिक परिवर्तनों को प्रेरित करने के लिए, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री ने मिशन लाइफ—लाइफस्टाइल फॉर एनवायरनमेंट शुरू किया है, जो की भारत के नेतृत्व वाला वैश्विक जन आंदोलन है। आइए हम सभी प्रो-प्लैनेट एक्शन लेने का संकल्प लें, जैसे ऊर्जा की बचत, पानी का संरक्षण, पेड़ों का पोषण और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल अपशिष्ट निपटान।

Mission LiFE—Lifestyle for Environment is an India-led global mass movement launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister for inducing behavioural changes towards adopting environmentally-conscious lifestyles. Let us all pledge to take Pro-Planet actions like saving energy, conserving water, nurturing trees, and eco-friendly waste disposal.

AIR SEVA

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने विमान सेवा पोर्टल को अपग्रेड किया है, जो इंटरैक्टिव वेब पोर्टल और मोबाइल ऐप के ज़रिए सुलभ है। इस नए संस्करण में:

(क) सोशल मीडिया के साथ सुरक्षित साइन अप और लॉग इन

(ख) अतिथियों की सहायता के लिए, चैट बॉक्स

(ग) सोशल मीडिया शिकायत सहित, परिष्कृत प्रबंधन

(घ) रियल टाइम उड़ान स्टेटस और विस्तृत उड़ान संबंधी जानकारी शामिल है

सेवा संबंधी किसी और जानकारी के लिए आप airsewa.gov.in पर लॉग इन कर सकते हैं।

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has upgraded its Air Sewa portal, which is accessible through an interactive web portal and a mobile app. The new version includes:

a) Secure sign-up and log-in with social media

b) Chat box for traveller's support

c) Improved grievance management, including social media grievance

d) Real-time flight status and detailed flight schedule.

Air Sewa is available at airsewa.gov.in.

A TRAVELLER'S TALE



DEEP DIVE

Underwater photographer **Sumer Verma** trains his lens on the Galápagos



AN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY

The trip to the Galápagos Islands in 2013, when I took a group of tourists scuba diving with my company, Lacadives. And that visit is special because it was my first one there.

THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

The Galápagos Islands are famous for hammerhead sharks and we were determined to spot them. The water was colder than we expected, even though we were in thick wetsuits. However, the first sight of the iconic schools of hammerhead sharks knocked the breath out of us. I went back there around 2018-19, and it was a wonderful trip filled with stunning underwater sightings, but it did not come close to the original thrill.

DO NOT MISS

The Wolf Island, Darwin Island, and Darwin's Arch. Keep an eye out for the eponymous tortoises—they are quite tourist-friendly. The archipelago is a true nature lover's paradise, so expect to see land and marine iguanas, and diverse avian species too.

— As told to **Shrabasti A Mallik**

The Featherlite logo is displayed in a red banner at the top right of the image. It features the brand name in a stylized, italicized font with a registered trademark symbol.

Featherlite®

The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a modern office environment. It shows a row of white Featherlite Double Storage Workstations. Each workstation consists of a white desk with a grey ergonomic office chair. Above the desk, there are white storage cabinets with individual number locks. The office has large windows and modern lighting.

Double up
on Storage,
Declutter your Space.

Ideal for Finance & Accounts Teams

Featherlite's new Double Storage Workstation is crafted for focus. With built-in double storage, it helps keep essentials, paperwork and files at hand. Individual number locks make security seamlessly integrated.

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Present in 66 locations across India, also in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Philippines, and UAE.

Amul

WORLD'S LARGEST PROBIOTIC BUTTERMILK BRAND



Stomach This

70% of Your Immunity Resides in your Gut.

The human gastrointestinal tract hosts a complex ecosystem of microorganisms known as the gut microbiota. This microbiota plays a vital role in various aspects of human health, including digestion, immune function, and nutrient metabolism. Your gut houses over 70% of your immune functions, making gut health essential for keeping you in the pink of health to improve your overall well-being.

Gulp This Down

Bifidobacteria -

The Army of Good Probiotics
That Fights Bad Bacteria.

When choosing probiotic drinks, opt for high-quality products with live and active cultures, a variety of strains, and minimal added sugars. Amul Probiotic Buttermilk, rich with Bifidobacteria, meets all these criteria. It supports gut microflora balance, enhances immune function, improves digestion, and benefits mental and metabolic health.

**DRINK 1 GLASS OF
AMUL PROBIOTIC BUTTERMILK
DAILY FOR A STRONGER GUT.**

Chew on This

Making Probiotics A Way of Life.

Probiotics are live microorganisms with health benefits that can significantly enhance your gut health. A balanced and healthy gut is essential for overall well-being. When the gut bacteria becomes imbalanced, it can lead to various health issues such as digestive disorders, immune dysfunction, and inflammation.

Digest This

Amul Probiotic Buttermilk.

Priced at just ₹15* for a 460 mL pouch, Amul Probiotic Buttermilk is conveniently available through regular milk delivery channels and e-commerce platforms. Incorporating a glass of Probiotic Buttermilk in your daily diet can significantly enhance gut health, boost immunity, and promote overall well-being. From aiding digestion to strengthening your immune system, Amul Probiotic Buttermilk is a simple and affordable way to stay healthy, rain or shine, in every season.

Discover a healthier you with Amul's probiotic line of products including **Amul Chocobar, Sugar-Free Ice Cream, Frozen Yoghurt, Probiotic Lassi, Probiotic Curd, and High-Protein Dahi.**



Scan here to watch the latest
Amul Probiotic Buttermilk TVCs.

Amul

*MRP (incl. of all taxes). Conditions apply.

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