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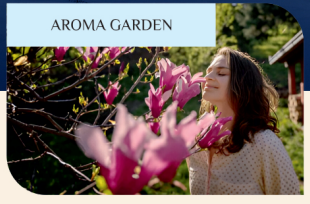



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This would not have been possible without the extraordinary spirit of our people, the pilots who command our skies, the cabin crew who make every journey comfortable, and the engineers, airport teams, other operational staff and countless colleagues across our offices who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep us flying. They are the backbone of SpiceJet, turning every challenge into a testament to resilience.

But at the heart of SpiceJet is you, our passengers. You have been our co-pilots on this twenty one-year journey, standing by us through clear skies and heavy clouds alike. Your trust has stayed with us through the highs and the lows, and that means everything.

Our journey, like aviation itself, has had its fair share of turbulence. From the unprecedented disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic to the grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX, and more recently, the ripple effects of global conflicts and rising fuel costs. These have been testing times not just for us, but for the entire industry. There were moments when the skies seemed uncertain. But through it all, SpiceJet kept flying. We adapted, we held our ground, and we moved forward, step by step, flight by flight.

What has kept us going is a clear sense of purpose. Beyond schedules and sectors, we have always believed in being an airline that serves. Whether it was bringing people home during the Vande Bharat Mission or operating special flights in times of need, our teams have consistently stepped up with a quiet sense of duty. These are moments that define who we are.

Over the past few months, we have been steadily rebuilding – bringing aircraft back into service, strengthening our network on key routes, and focusing on operational reliability. The effort is ongoing, but the direction is clear. We are moving ahead with discipline and optimism, one step at a time.

As we step into our 22nd year, we do so with renewed energy and a deep sense of gratitude. The journey continues, and we look forward to welcoming you onboard many more times.

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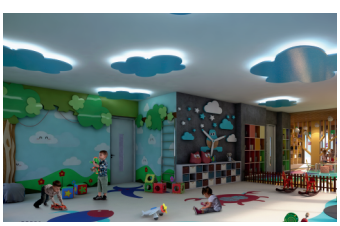

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INSIDE THE 1XL PLATFORM

Conversation on Building a Diversified Investment Structure from Dubai

As global investors seek structured, diversified opportunities, platforms combining ownership, partnerships, and capital participation are gaining attention. In this edition of Spice Route, we speak with Dr. Dhiraj Jain and Dr. Mamata Dhiraj Jain of 1XL Holdings about their vision to build a multi-company platform for long-term value.

Many companies focus on building one strong business. Why build a platform instead?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: Because concentration creates dependency. A platform approach allows us to spread participation across multiple businesses. Instead of relying on a single outcome, we build a structure that allows growth to come from different directions.

How should investors think about 1XL Holdings - as a company or something larger?

Dr. Mamata Dhiraj Jain: It is more than a company. It is a holding structure that brings together multiple businesses. The idea is to create a platform where different companies operate under a single umbrella while remaining independent.

What is the thinking behind combining ownership, partnerships, and investments in one platform?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: Each approach gives a different kind of exposure. Ownership gives control, partnerships give collaboration, and investments give reach. When you combine all three, you create a more balanced and resilient structure.

How do you decide whether a company becomes part of the ecosystem, a partnership, or an investment?

Dr. Mamata Dhiraj Jain: It depends on the nature of the opportunity. Some businesses are better suited for full ownership, some for strategic partnerships, and some for pure investment. The structure is flexible, but always aligned to long-term value.

That's interesting. Can you take us a level deeper into how this decision is actually made?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: It comes down to how we participate. Where long-term value needs to be built, we pursue full ownership. Where strong leadership exists, we form strategic equity partnerships. Where the opportunity is primarily financial, we invest. The structure is flexible, guided by one principle - aligning participation with the business's long-term value potential.



The concept of 100+ companies is ambitious. How do you maintain clarity within such a scale?

Dr. Mamata Dhiraj Jain: Scale without structure creates confusion. That is why the platform is designed with clear layers. Every company fits into a defined category, and that clarity allows us to grow without losing direction.

Many platforms struggle as they scale, with complexity often diluting focus. What prevents that from happening within 1XL?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: That typically happens when scale outpaces structure. In our case, the structure is defined first. Every company enters the platform with a clear position, whether as an owned entity, a partnership, or an investment.

That clarity avoids overlap and confusion. At the same time, governance remains centralised at the holding level, while each business retains its own operating identity.

So growth doesn't create complexity; it builds within a defined framework, which keeps the platform coherent as it expands.

How do you ensure independence for companies within the platform?

Dr. Mamata Dhiraj Jain: Each company operates with its own leadership and direction. The holding structure provides alignment at a higher level, but operational identity remains with the company.

What kind of mindset should an investor have when looking at 1XL Holdings?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: A long-term mindset. This is not about a single return event. It is about participating in a platform that grows over time through multiple businesses.

In a simple way, how would you explain the advantage of this model to an investor?

Dr. Mamata Dhiraj Jain: It allows you to participate in multiple businesses through a single structured platform, rather than being exposed to just one company. The idea of not putting all your eggs in one basket applies strongly here.

What is the larger ambition behind 1XL Holdings?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: To build a platform where businesses, founders, and capital come together in a structured way. When that alignment happens, growth becomes more sustainable and scalable.

If you had to define 1XL in one sentence, what would it be?

Dr. Mamata Dhiraj Jain: A platform designed to bring multiple businesses under one structured opportunity.

Why is Dubai central to the 1XL story?

Dr. Dhiraj Jain: Dubai is a natural meeting point for global business. It gives us access to diverse markets, capital, and opportunities, all from one location. Furthermore, Dubai offers a unique combination of stability, vision, and execution. The government's proactive approach, especially in times of global uncertainty, creates a level of confidence that is critical for long-term business planning.

What stands out is not just the infrastructure, but the mindset. Policies are designed to enable growth, attract global capital, and support entrepreneurship. From ease of doing business to regulatory clarity, the ecosystem is built to facilitate expansion.

For a platform like 1XL, which brings together businesses and investments across geographies, Dubai provides both a strategic location and a forward-looking environment that supports scale.



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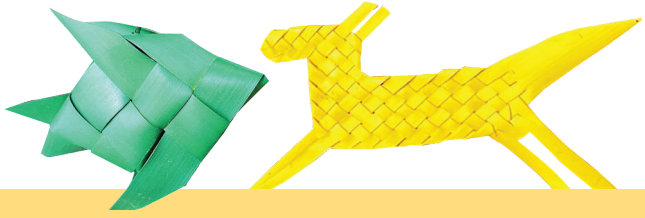

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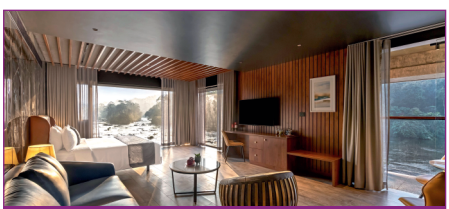
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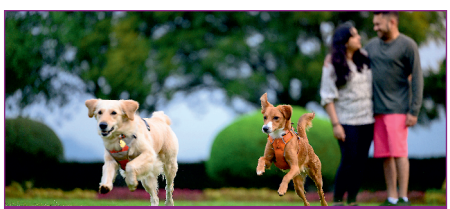
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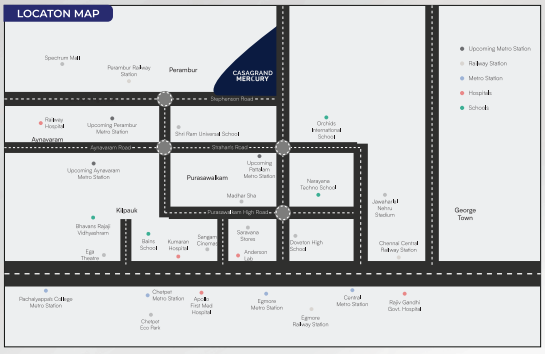

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Tru Chocolate 150 mL / ₹10*
Star Anise Doodh 125 mL / ₹25*
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SpiceJet SUPERSTARS

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



PAWAN SOROUT

Payroll (Finance)

Experience with SpiceJet

SpiceJet has given me not just a workplace but a platform to explore my potential and be a part of initiatives that directly contribute to the organisation's success. Working in a dynamic and ever-evolving environment has strengthened my skills and shaped my perspective. And it's been a privilege to work alongside colleagues whose passion for excellence has been truly inspiring.

Internal Appreciation

Pawan is an excellent team player whose positive attitude and proactive approach make him a valuable asset to the organisation. Over the last four years with the SpiceJet family, he has consistently demonstrated reliability, professionalism, and dedication. Pawan believes in finding solutions rather than focusing on problems, which reflects his constructive mindset and strong team spirit.



TRIPTJEET SINGH BACHHAL

Product & Customer Experience

Experience with SpiceJet

Since joining SpiceJet in 2019, my journey has been a continuous learning experience, allowing me the opportunity to take on responsibilities and grow within the organisation. The support of my colleagues and seniors, along with the positive work environment, continues to motivate me to improve and contribute consistently. I will continue to apply my learnings in my current role.

Internal Appreciation

With over two decades of rich experience in aviation, Triptjeet brings depth, consistency and quiet strength to the SpiceJet team. He is known for his willingness to step in, support colleagues, and ensure things run smoothly — often going beyond the call of duty. Triptjeet's collaborative spirit strengthens the workplace culture, and his contributions continue to inspire those around him.



SHUBHAM SHUKLA

Reservations (Projects)

Experience with SpiceJet

During my two years with SpiceJet, I successfully took on increasing responsibilities, ensured strong team support, and contributed towards operational efficiency and service excellence. The trust placed in me and the collaborative work environment enabled me to perform at my best. These experiences have strengthened my ability to handle challenges, drive outcomes, and add value to the organisation.

Internal Appreciation

Over the last quarter, Shubham Shukla, Sr. Manager-Reservations (Projects), has demonstrated exceptional performance by consistently achieving targets and navigating challenges with a strong result-oriented approach. Beyond numbers, Shubham has played a pivotal role in upholding the company's reputation through professionalism and a customer-first mindset.

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abhinav pandey
@Drpandeyabhinav

Thank you for finally locating the bag and delivering it. Special thanks to Afreen, the only spicejet employee how took responsibility and efforts in locating my baggage. She was in touch with us even when she was offduty.
Afreen thank you once again

Zaakir Ali aslam
@ZaakirAslam

Huge shoutout to Disho from @flyspicejet at FJR airport ✈️ After a stressful flight suspension at DXB on March 17, Disho was incredibly professional & calm. He went out of his way to reroute me via Mumbai, saving me 17 hrs of waiting Amazing service.👏 #SpiceJet #CustomerService

JASMINE 🇮🇳
@jasminiacc

She is yet to reach back home as her connecting flight to Kolkata was cancelled. Still we are grateful that @flyspicejet arranged special flights from UAE during this difficult time.

Angrej singh
@Angrej_2017
Follow

Thank you Priyanka for the Lovely flight and being kind to me and all fellow passengers. #amazing @flyspicejet ❤️🥰



MEHUL SHARMA
@MEHULSH91943961

@flyspicejet I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the outstanding service provided by Spicejet during our recent journey.
This was my baby's very first flight, and naturally, we were a bit anxious. The staff was extremely supportive, caring.Thanks SpiceJet.



Mehul Goradia
Rosemont Partners · 2K followers
1mo

In a time when uncertainty is driving many people to pause, reconsider plans, or even leave the region, I made a very different decision.

Having spent 21+ years living and working in the UAE, this country has become more than a place of employment — it's home.

Over the past few days, I've watched many residents make the difficult decision to return to their home countries out of caution. Everyone has to make the choice that feels right for them and their families. For me, the choice was clear: to return to the UAE and continue standing alongside the community I've been part of for more than 2 decades.

While abroad briefly in Mumbai, I made the decision to fly back into the UAE navigating a route via Fujairah, a shout out to SpiceJet Limited for flying me.

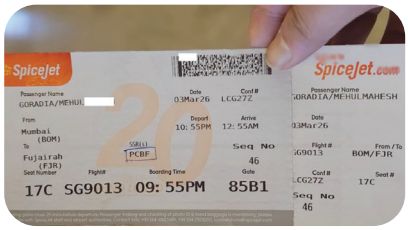
Why?

Because throughout my time here, the UAE has consistently demonstrated strong leadership, effective governance, and a commitment to safety and stability. I have full confidence in the authorities and the systems in place that have earned the trust of millions of residents.

Returning to Dubai wasn't just a logistical decision — it was a statement of belief in the place that has given so many of us opportunities to grow, build careers, and contribute.

I'm grateful to be back and looking forward to continuing to support our clients, partners, stakeholders, and colleagues, just as we always have — with professionalism, resilience, and collaboration.

The UAE has always been a place that moves forward with confidence. I'm proud to continue being part of that journey.



Umang Dalal
@Hungry_Since93

A huge shoutout to @flyspicejet
the way your staff and management has managed the situation in Dubai is commendable.

Arpit Vij
@arpitvij

Had to contact @flyspicejet again as my flight got cancelled due to operational issue. Happen to speak to Karan from customer care. Such a polite and hospitable person and helped me with alternative flight & refunds immediately! Kuddos give me regards to him :)

XDC Anil Chinchawale
@AnilChinchawale

There are moments in life that test you in ways you never imagined ,our recent days in the UAE were exactly that.

With God's grace and the prayers of so many well-wishers, we are finally back home, safe and reunited with our family. Words cannot fully express the gratitude we feel. This experience reminded us how precious safety, stability, and loved ones truly are. In uncertain times, you discover the real power of faith and resilience.

Our heartfelt prayers remain with those who are still awaiting their return home. May they reunite with their families very soon.

We sincerely appreciate @UAEmediaoffice @modgovae @PMOIndia @MEAIndia both nations' governments for their swift efforts during this crisis, and a special thank you to @flyspicejet for arranging special flights and helping bring us back safely. Every passing hour felt intense — like a real-life chapter of courage, hope, and endurance.



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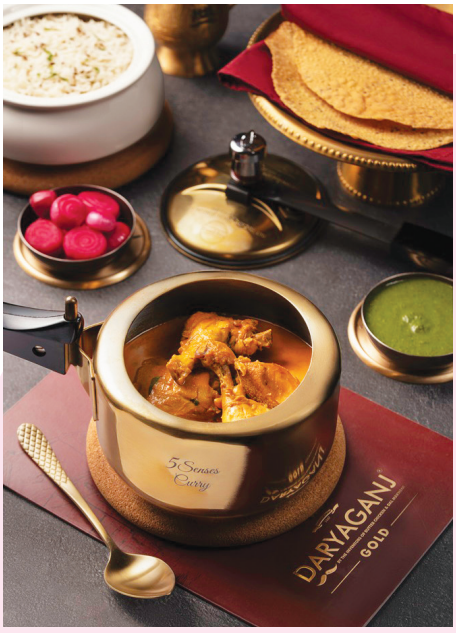
WHAT'S TRENDING

Gold Standard In Dining

Daryaganj Gold marks a significant evolution for the legacy brand, introducing its most lavish dining format yet at GMR Square, Aerocity. This new concept builds on Daryaganj's longstanding association with nostalgia-infused North Indian cuisine, while elevating it to a more refined and experiential space. The expansive restaurant accommodates over 150 guests, with private dining rooms upto 20 covers, catering to both intimate gatherings and larger celebrations. The experience extends beyond dining, with interactive elements such as a live tawa and chaat section, alongside curated programming like Chef Theatre Nights and Studio Nights. The menu stays rooted in signature offerings while introducing the specially curated Daryaganj Gold Menu, featuring dishes like Dahi Bhalla Bingsu, 24 Karat Mutton Biryani, and Daulat Ki Chaat, alongside legacy recipes dating back to 1947. With its focus on atmosphere, storytelling, and flavour, the space weaves pure magic.

What: Fine Dining at Daryaganj Gold

Where: GMR Square, Aerocity, New Delhi





MANGO SEASON, REIMAGINED

Coppetto introduces its seasonal highlight, Mango Cheesecake Gelato, crafted to capture the essence of summer pleasure. Blending the sweetness of ripe mangoes with the richness of cheesecake, the flavour offers a smooth, creamy texture balanced by a subtle tang and a delicate biscuit crumble. Staying true to the brand's small-batch philosophy, the gelato delivers both freshness and consistency in every scoop. With its nostalgic yet elevated taste profile, Mango Cheesecake Gelato is set to become a seasonal favourite among dessert lovers seeking a refreshing yet indulgent treat.

What: Mango Cheesecake Gelato Launch

Where: Coppetto outlets (Jio World Drive – BKC, Chowpatty, Oshiwara, Juhu) & online

Earth To Plate

Kiara Soul Kitchen has emerged as a pioneering name in vegetarian fine-dining since its inception in 2018. Conceptualised by Madhav Windlass and Manav Windlass, the brand bridges the gap between traditional vegetarian fare and contemporary global cuisine, offering a thoughtfully curated menu that prioritises both flavour and nutrition. Rooted in a 'clean ingredient' philosophy, the kitchen uses organic grains like millets, quinoa, and Himalayan black rice, alongside farm-sourced produce and natural sweeteners such as jaggery and honey. Signature dishes — including OG Black Rice, Sprouts Galouti Kebab, and Mushroom Velouté— highlight its innovative approach to plant-based cooking.

What: Vegetarian Fine-Dining Experience

Where: Greater Kailash II & Ashok Vihar, New Delhi



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FRAMES THAT TRAVEL WITH YOU



D'YAVOL X introduces Cruise, a new eyewear style inspired by the spirit of travel and modern luxury. Designed as a bold, architectural frame, it draws from classic silhouettes while incorporating contemporary detailing. Crafted in Japan using premium acetate and titanium, and fitted with ZEISS gradient lenses, the design balances durability with elevated aesthetics. Available in two distinct colourways, Cruise reflects a refined yet confident identity. Fronted by Shah Rukh Khan, the collection positions itself as an expression of movement, individuality, and timeless style.

What: Cruise Eyewear Collection

Where: Available online & select retail outlets





Conscious Comfort

Ed-a-Mamma, founded by Alia Bhatt, continues to strengthen its position as a homegrown sustainable clothing and lifestyle brand for children and moms-to-be. Its Spring Summer 2026 collection reflects a nature-first philosophy, featuring garments crafted from natural fabrics, AZO-free non-toxic dyes, and GOTS-certified organic cotton for infants. Thoughtful design details—plastic-free buttons, nickel-free trims, and recycled sewing threads—are complemented by ZDHC-compliant denims developed using significantly less water. Expanding beyond apparel, Ed-a-Mamma has also introduced a personal care range for babies made using gentle, plant-derived actives, and aligned with the brand's conscious and safe approach to everyday care..

Where: Online and flagship stores across Mumbai, Pune, Noida, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Raipur

Mythology in Motion

The Kendra Dance Festival returns with a compelling line-up at Kamani Auditorium, presented by Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra. Spanning three days, the festival brings together mythology and contemporary choreography through productions like Chakravyuh, Shri Durga, and Kartikeya. Each performance reinterprets classical narratives with modern stagecraft, exploring themes of valour, शक्ति, and cosmic balance. Mentored by leading figures in Indian performing arts, the festival continues to be a significant platform for dance-drama, blending tradition with innovation for today's audiences.

Where: Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi

When 1 – 3 May 2026





THE SHAPE OF A QUIET MIND

At an age when most are still finding their footing, Vedika Mahesh Patil has already earned a seat at the table — emerging as one of the youngest Independent Directors in corporate India, and doing so with a composure that belies her years.
Some people announce themselves the moment they enter a room. Others change the room simply by being in it. Vedika Mahesh Patil belongs firmly to the second kind.

A Mind Built on Questions

Vedika grew up in Mumbai, a city that rarely gives anyone the luxury of stillness. Perhaps that is why she learned, very early, to create stillness inside herself. As a schoolgirl, she discovered debate; not as a hobby, but as a discipline. This discipline carried her to the world stage, where she went on to win many accolades. From Mumbai, her path led to the University of Oxford, where she pursued advanced studies in Economics. Oxford, for Vedika, was not a destination; it was a discipline. It gave her something she considers more valuable than any degree — the patience to sit with complexity before reaching for conclusions.

A Consultant by Temperament, Long Before Title

Even before formal roles found her, Vedika had begun doing what came naturally — advising. Founders, operators, and small teams reached out to her for perspective, and she found herself drawn to the quiet architecture of how businesses actually work: how decisions get made, how trust is built, how small inefficiencies become large failures over time. Today, she consults across sectors, and her work tends to begin with the same instinct: before we change anything, let us first understand what is actually happening here.

Among the Youngest in the Boardroom

Vedika currently serves as an Independent Director at DJ Mediaprint & Logistics Limited, a company listed on both the BSE and NSE. It is a responsibility she carries with unusual seriousness — the kind of seriousness that does not come from ambition alone, but from a genuine belief in what independent directorship is meant to protect. The Company itself offers a fitting backdrop for her sensibility. DJ Mediaprint & Logistics Limited operates across a uniquely diverse set of capabilities — print and media communication, advertising, data management, digitisation, records management, warehousing, distribution, and logistics — held together by a pan-India presence and an international office in Guangzhou. Of particular interest to her are its specialised mobility solutions within the aviation ecosystem, a function that depends on precision, discretion, and time — qualities she considers foundational to good governance itself.



The Person Behind the Profile

Away from the boardrooms and the consulting conversations, Vedika is, in many ways, refreshingly ordinary in her interests. She enjoys long walks, finding in them the same rhythm she values in her work — steady, unhurried, clarifying. She writes often, mostly for herself, and believes that writing is the most honest form of thinking. She reads across genres, laughs easily at herself, and guards her privacy not out of distance, but out of discipline. "The world does not need another performance," she once remarked. "It needs people who are actually doing the work."

A Life Still Being Written

Vedika Mahesh Patil is at the very beginning of what promises to be a long and thoughtful career. The titles will grow. The responsibilities will deepen. More rooms will open to her, and in each one, she is likely to do exactly what she has always done — listen first, think clearly, speak only when it matters. In an age that often mistakes noise for leadership, there is something deeply reassuring about a young leader who understands the difference. And somewhere above the clouds, as this aircraft moves quietly towards its destination, that feels like exactly the kind of story worth carrying home.



WHERE JAPAN MEETS PERU

Located within the Sheraton Grand Bengaluru, **Tomo Kei** introduces an intimate Nikkei dining experience to the city. With just 52 covers, the space is designed for thoughtful, unhurried dining, where every detail, from seating to service, centres on connection. Led by Bobby T. Recto, the menu brings together Japanese precision and Peruvian warmth through dishes like Salmon Tiradito, Jalapeño Miso Cod, and Smoky Anticucho Lamb Chops. Ritual-led elements, including a Pisco Toast and tableside finishes, add a layer of theatre, making the experience as immersive as it is flavour-driven.

What: Tomo Kei Nikkei Dining Experience
Where: Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel & Convention Center



JEWELLERY FOR THE MODERN MUSE



Attrangi presents a curated jewellery edit that celebrates individuality through contemporary design. Featuring polki accents, pearls, and vibrant gemstones, the collection balances statement pieces with versatile everyday wear. Designed for the modern woman, the pieces transition seamlessly across occasions, from festive gatherings to daily styling. With an emphasis on elegance and wearability, the edit includes bold cuffs, delicate earrings, and layered chains that reflect both tradition and personal expression, presenting a refined yet accessible take on fashion jewellery.

What: Attrangi Jewellery Collectioni
Where: Available online





Malaal

In the quiet corners of my mind, Solitude whispers, gentle and kind.

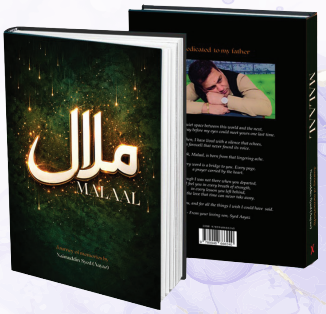
No voices crowd, no footsteps near, Just my on heartbeat, crystal clear.

It is the pause between each sigh, the silent truth that cannot lie.

Alone, yet whole, I find my way, through shadowed nights and breaking day.

In solitude, the soul can see, the hidden depths of what can be.

It teaches patience, strength, and grace, a sacred space, a timeless place.



Dedicated by Syed Aayaz to his father

Aayaz_naim

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Anuj Kumar Acharya: The Force Behind Language Pantheon's Journey

By Dinesh Anand

Language is far more than a tool for communication—it is a bridge to success, a gateway to opportunity, and a pathway to global dreams. In today's fast-changing, interconnected world, mastering a foreign language is no longer just an extra skill but a vital necessity for anyone aspiring to study, work, or settle abroad. Among the many languages that open doors to international opportunities, German stands out as one of the most influential and rewarding. German is Europe's most widely spoken language and is deeply linked to some of the world's most prestigious universities, research hubs, and industries. Known for its innovation and economic strength, Germany has emerged as one of the top destinations for Indian students and professionals. Its world-class education system, combined with tuition-free or low-cost public universities, attracts thousands of ambitious learners each year. Add to that the thriving job market and advanced research opportunities, and it's clear why Germany is regarded as a land of promise.

However, one major factor determines whether students can truly succeed—language proficiency. While some programs are offered in English, real success in Germany, whether academically, professionally, or socially, depends on fluency in German. Without it, even the most talented individuals face barriers in internships, part-time jobs, and cultural integration. Recognizing this challenge, Anuj Kumar Acharya, a passionate educator and visionary leader, set out to create a platform that could help bridge this gap. In 2007, he founded Language Pantheon, an institute solely dedicated to German language education. What began as a modest initiative with just a few students has grown into India's largest German language institute, having trained over 22,000 students across 41 countries, supported by a team of more than 100 expert faculty members..

Anuj's journey reflects his commitment to excellence and transformation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in German Language and Literature (2007–2004), which gave him a deep foundation in the language, and a Bachelor of Laws in Criminal Justice and Political Science (2012–2009), which sharpened his leadership and strategic thinking skills. With this unique background, he envisioned building an institute where students wouldn't just "learn" German but master it completely and apply it with confidence. "I wanted to build a system where failure doesn't exist," he explains. "Every student should feel empowered to pursue opportunities abroad without fear or hesitation."

To bring his vision to life, Anuj designed innovative teaching methodologies that revolutionized German language education in India. He introduced fast-track courses that enable students to complete levels quickly without compromising on quality. With a structured examination process, learners progress smoothly from A1 (beginner) to C2 (advanced mastery). Understanding the need for accessibility, he also developed online programs alongside traditional classroom teaching, making top-quality education available to students across India and even abroad.

Germany's higher education system is world-renowned, especially in fields like engineering, management, medicine, and research. Public universities offer affordable or even free education, making them highly attractive to students from countries like India. However, academic excellence alone isn't enough. Strong German proficiency is essential to fully participate in internships, corporate roles, and community life. Anuj identified this early on and made it the core of Language Pantheon's mission. "Language is the bridge that connects dreams with reality," he says. "At Language Pantheon, we don't just teach grammar—we prepare students to thrive in every aspect of life abroad."

Over the past 18 years, Language Pantheon has grown from a single classroom to a global hub for German language learning. Its programs are recognized by German public universities, and graduates are actively recruited by leading companies such as Amazon, TCS, and Concentrix. The institute's success is built on three strong pillars: expert faculty, an innovative, practical curriculum, and comprehensive support services like university admission guidance, visa counselling, and career preparation. This holistic approach ensures that students have everything they need to transition smoothly from learning a language to living and working abroad.

The most compelling evidence of Language Pantheon's impact lies in the success stories of its students. Hardik

Deepakbhai Gor, now a Supply Chain Engineer at Würth, recalls, "I studied German at Language Pantheon from A1 to C1 and cleared all my exams on the first attempt. When I moved to Germany for my master's, this preparation was invaluable. Within a week, I found a part-time job, then became a student assistant, and later secured an internship at Audi. Today, I work full-time at Würth, and I owe much of my success to Anuj Sir and his team."

Similarly, Khusboo Arora, currently pursuing her MBA and interning at Continental AG, says, "I studied up to the C1 level at Language Pantheon, and it completely changed my life. Wherever I am today is because of this institute and its amazing faculty. A heartfelt thank you to Anuj Sir for creating such a transformative platform."

These are just two among thousands of stories. Language Pantheon alumni have gone on to study at top German universities and build careers with global giants like BMW, Bosch, Siemens, and Volkswagen, proving the institute's credibility and excellence.



One of the most popular offerings at Language Pantheon is its fast-track German course, designed for those who need to achieve fluency quickly, such as students with upcoming university deadlines or professionals preparing for overseas assignments. This intensive program condenses months of study into a shorter duration while maintaining the highest standards of quality. Live online classes make it possible for students anywhere in the world to participate, ensuring personalized attention and guidance.

What truly distinguishes Language Pantheon is Anuj's personal mentorship. Despite running a large organization, he remains deeply involved with his students, often working 16-hour days to answer queries and guide learners. Many describe him as more than a teacher—a mentor who genuinely cares about their future. One student shared, "Anuj Sir's way of explaining concepts is unmatched. After his classes, you don't just know German—you feel confident using it." This dedication creates a supportive environment where students feel empowered to take bold steps toward their dreams

The institute's impact has been recognized by leaders across industries and education. Anand Kumar, Founder of Super 30, praised Anuj's work, saying, "Anuj Acharya ji is not only an excellent teacher of German but also a vital contributor to creating employment opportunities for India's youth." This acknowledgment highlights Language Pantheon's role not only as a language school but also as a driver of national progress through skill development..

> **Language is the bridge that connects dreams with reality, and at Language Pantheon, we don't just teach German—we build those bridges.**
> **– Anuj Kumar Acharya**

Building India's largest German language institute was not without its challenges. In the early days, many families were unaware of the opportunities that fluency in German could create. Convincing students and parents of its importance required persistence and proof of success. Scaling the institute while maintaining high standards was another hurdle, but Anuj overcame these with innovation and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Today, Language Pantheon stands as a symbol of trust and quality education.

Looking ahead, Anuj plans to integrate AI-driven learning tools to create more personalized and interactive programs. He also aims to strengthen partnerships with international universities and corporations, providing students with direct pathways from education to employment. "Our mission doesn't end when a student finishes a course," Anuj explains. "It ends when they've built a career and a life they are proud of."

Language Pantheon is more than an institute; it is a movement of transformation. It gives students the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to thrive globally. Under Anuj's leadership, countless young Indians have found the courage to chase their dreams and build successful futures abroad. As he reflects on this journey, Anuj remains humble and grateful. "Language is not just about words," he says. "It's about building connections, creating futures, and turning dreams into reality. At Language Pantheon, we don't just teach German—we help students write their own success stories."

Through his vision and leadership, Anuj Kumar Acharya has built a bridge between India and the world. As thousands of students cross that bridge toward brighter futures, the legacy of Language Pantheon continues to grow—proving that with the right guidance, no dream is too far to reach.









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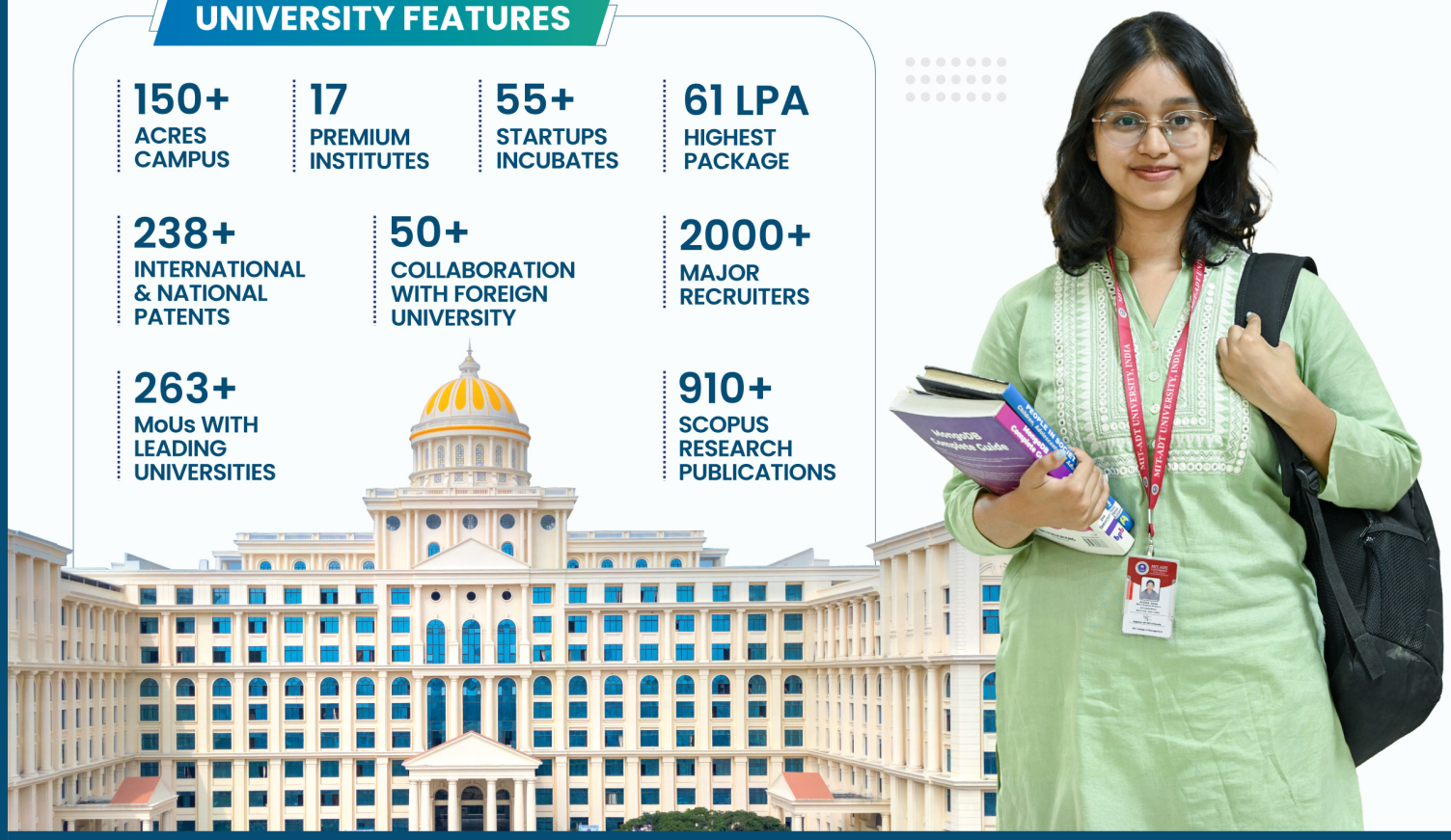

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A Leader Beyond Profits

Dr. Anil Kumar

on Business, Nation-Building and Social Impact

Dr. Anil Kumar, Founder & CEO of the Ankita Group of Companies, New Delhi, is widely recognised as a leader in the trading industry and for his strong commitment to social impact. Alongside building a successful business, he has consistently focused on empowering women, supporting the girl child, and strengthening the vision of an Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

As an industry leader, what has guided your vision to empower the export sector that contributes towards strengthening the Indian economy?

India's biggest strength is its young population combined with the experience of industry leaders. However, we must shift the mindset from being job seekers to becoming job creators.

During the Covid pandemic, I witnessed this first-hand in Bagaha village in Bihar's Champaran district. Many men in the village had passed away due to the virus, leaving women and children in distress. While I initially extended financial help, I realised that a long-term solution was necessary.

The region had a traditional skill in rope-making. I offered a one-time investment in raw materials if the women agreed to revive this activity. Today, these women are economically independent and self-reliant. I believe this cooperative model can be replicated across villages and towns in India, creating employment and strengthening the foundation of a truly self-reliant nation.

> **"By identifying and promoting regional strengths—from cultivation to processing, packaging, and export—India can generate employment, attract investment, and strengthen its global trade presence."**

How have you linked your business experience with social responsibility?

Through my work in underdeveloped areas, I realised the potential of initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, which focuses on skilling youth and women. I have applied for space to establish training centres where girls can learn skills based on their interests and then receive support to launch their own ventures.

The government recently offered opportunities to develop training centres in Maharashtra and Odisha. However, my preference is to work closer to Delhi or in Bihar, my home state, where I can devote more time and effort. My dream is to ensure that every young person in the country gains access to skills and entrepreneurial opportunities.

What initiative are you currently focusing on through your philanthropic foundation?



Through the Maheshwar Laxmi Memorial Foundation, we are launching a programme to provide nutritious, organic food to pregnant mothers throughout their nine-month term. Inspired by Ayurveda, nine specialised nutritional supplements have been developed under the guidance of the Ayushman Bharat Committee.

The initiative will begin in one of India's most backward states, with distribution of nutritional kits through Anganwadis and Skill India centres. The kits will initially be offered at a nominal cost to ensure awareness and responsible usage, with the long-term goal of making them completely free. I firmly believe that a healthy nation begins with the health of mothers.

How do you see India's future on the global trade platform?

Every region in India has unique indigenous products that can find a global market if supported with proper training, marketing, and export infrastructure. A good example is Makhana from North Bihar, a highly nutritious superfood grown only in that region. As its benefits became widely known, demand surged globally, and prices rose dramatically.

What support do traders need from the government?

One of the biggest challenges today is logistics. There is a shortage of freezer containers, and costs remain high, which affects exporters dealing with perishable goods. Delays in supply chains not only cause financial losses but also affect credibility with international buyers.

We have raised these concerns through industry bodies like CII and FICCI, but implementation is still pending. Improving logistics and ensuring ease of doing business will significantly strengthen trade and reduce migration from rural areas to cities.

If we can address these challenges, I believe India will move rapidly toward becoming a major global economic power. As Swami Vivekananda said, "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached."



BUDDHA PURNIMA

Also known as Vesak, Buddha Purnima is the most revered festival celebrated by Buddhists all over the world. It symbolises the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana of Lord Gautam Buddha. In 2026, Buddha Purnima falls on 1 May; it always falls on a full moon during the Hindu month of Vaishakha.

Buddha Purnima carries a lot of religious significance for followers of Buddhism everywhere. It is observed because Lord Buddha was born, attained enlightenment, and left his mortal form on this day. Indeed, three major aspects of Lord Buddha's life—birth, enlightenment, and death—take place on this holy day, thereby making it a unique event.

Buddhist devotees observe the festival through prayers, meditation, and good deeds. Monasteries are decorated in honour of the occasion, and believers flock to shrines to light candles, offer flowers, and chant mantras from scriptures. Also on this day, sermons related to the teachings of the Buddha, such as compassion and non-violence, are preached. Besides, devotees participate in charitable activities like feeding the poor and needy.

Some of the important pilgrimage sites for Buddhists in India include Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar. Buddha Purnima helps one lead an ethical and peaceful life, and its celebration continues to enlighten millions of people around the world through the faith's principles of love and tranquillity.

Buddhist devotees observe this festival through prayers, meditation, and good deeds

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A Spa vacation is the best way to keep stress away and bring back romance into your lives. Here are some hand-picked spa-perfect destinations to keep you cool this summer.

The new language of relaxing is no longer a destination with a packed itinerary, rather a spa vacation that helps you slow down and relax well. And with SpiceJet providing convenient access across India, slipping away to the country's best wellness hideouts has never been simpler. From beachside resorts to palace retreats and urban calm zones, these five destinations prove one thing clearly – holidays feel better when it comes with a great massage.





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Kochi

With Shirodhara, and Kizhi/ Njavarakizhi therapies that soothe mind and body, Kochi brings you home to Ayurveda. Warm medicated oil moves in slow, synchronised strokes during Abhyangam, lossening muscle tension while body slips into a near-sleep state. Shirodhara's steady stream across the forehead dulls mental chatter, and Njavarakizhi's heat-packed rice bundles leave the skin tingling, heavy, and is a deep reset. For the 'serious' version of a spa escape, CGH Kalari Kovilakom in Palakkad, 50km from Kochi, runs immersive programmes like Panchakarma (complete detox), Manashanthi Chikitsa (stress management), and Rasayana (rejuvenation/ healthy ageing), typically in 14/21/28-day stays. The price of a two-week package starts around ₹6,35,000, depending on the category of suite. Kalari massage, rooted in Kerala's martial-arts tradition of Kalaripayattu, ranges from ₹3,000 to ₹4,500 per session. On Cherai Beach, boasting a classic Kochi vibe, Jojo's Prakruthi Ayurveda has a menu-style pricing: Abhyanga for ₹1,800 and Nasya for ₹400.





Shirodhara's steady stream across the forehead dulls mental chatter, and Njavarakizhi's heat-packed rice bundles leave the skin tingling, heavy, and is a deep reset.

Dubai

Dubai is for couples who find 'subtle' overrated. One minute it's skyscrapers, supercars, and desert adrenaline, the next it's steam rooms, marble slabs, and spa therapists guiding you back to the art of slowing down. The hammam begins with dense steam that opens the lungs followed by vigurous exfoilation that leaves the skin raw, polished, and hyper-aware. Post-treatment, the body feels weightless against the marble, with a sharp contrast between desert heat outside and the slowed, cooled pulse within. Start at Talise Ottoman Spa (Jumeirah Zabeel Saray) if you want Dubai at its most dramatic—and we mean traditional Turkish hammam (45 min) at approx. ₹14,500, Gold/Rose Arabian hammam at ₹15,900, and the Royal Ottoman Talise (60 min) at around ₹18,000. For something sleek and science-y, The Spa at Palace Downtown has modern reset detox, and a shape-and-recharge programm priced at approx. ₹54,000 (165 min). And if your taste runs to French luxury with a sea view, The Palm's Guerlain Spa offers Dubai Harmony at around ₹25,000 for and Hammam Ritual ₹28,400.





Udaipur

If your holiday plans lean toward palaces and lakes, Udaipur will flirt with you, turning your romance 'royal' with couple massages in heritage suites, floral baths by Lake Pichola, and age-old Indian therapies that leave you glowing. Treatments unfold at unhurried pace, with oils, petals, and lake air blending into a languid sensory haze that feels almost ceremonial. By the end, the body is sofetened and perfumed, carrying a floating calm that mirrors the stillness of the surrounding water. The Oberoi Udaivilas sets the benchmark with signature 'almost royally-indulgent' Ayurvedic spa treatments that typically sit between ₹12,000 and ₹25,000. At the Taj Lake Palace, wellness floats, quite literally—aromatherapy massages and body wraps unfold on water, with couple experiences priced between ₹10,000 and ₹25,000. And for those who like their pampering served with a side of fortress drama, RAAS Devigarh delivers holistic couple rituals priced between ₹9,000 and ₹18,000, while Sayaji Resorts & Spa keeps things snug yet luxurious, offering more accessible packages from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000.

GOA

Factor in a catamaran cruise, a little stargazing, and one unhurried day in a spa, and Goa stops feeling like a party cliché and starts reading like a love story. Salt air and rhythmic massage strokes work together, with the sound of waves syncing to the therapist's pace and pulling the body into a steady, grounded calm. The finish leaves a lightness in the limbs and a lingering warmth on the skin that extends well beyond the treatment room. At Taj Exotica, Benaulim, the experience is anchored by J Wellness Circle, which offers Goa-focused signature rituals such as Vrikshamla with cashew nut oil—expect to pay ₹9,000-₹14,000 for a couple session (60 to 90 minutes). For something cosier and low-key, Vyana Shala, the spa at Vaayu Kula, Mandrem, embraces yoga, breath-work, somatic movement, ice baths, and energy-based healing. Their moonrise and sunset suites with sweeping ocean views are perfect for a reset. Meanwhile, Rio Luxury Spa & Wellness, Arpora leans into soft-light, candlelit set-ups that typically cost around ₹6,000-₹9,000 for two. And when the mood calls for understated polish, The Leela Goa is the splurge button: three hours at the Private Leela Spa Suite allows you to enjoy scrubs and wraps.





Bangkok

In Bangkok Spa rituals go beyond the basics—Royal Thai massage, Luk Pra Kob herbal compress therapy, and aromatherapy oil journeys designed to be experienced side by side. Thai massage works through deep pressure and assisted stretches, alternating intensity with moments of release that realign the body and sharpen circulation. Herbal compresses add a penetrating heat, leaving muscles loosened, joints open, and the body relaxed, and more alter. At Divana Virtue Spa, guests retreat into garden suites for pleasures such as body polish, aromatic massage, and rose-petal soak, priced between ₹7,000 and ₹12,000. The Oriental Spa at Mandarin Oriental elevates tradition via signature therapies and Thai Silk body treatment, with couple experiences ranging from ₹12,000 to ₹22,000. For a more contemporary wellness fix, Japanese-style onsen spa presents private onsen baths, hot-stone massages, and foot reflexology, starting at ₹7,000 and going up to ₹15,000.

A spa holiday always stays with you. So, skip the clichés and choose a destination that lets you slow down, breathe deeper, and truly reconnect

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1 SUNRISE AT KAMAKHYA

Absorb the quiet energy of pilgrims heading up Nilachal Hills to Kamakhya Temple, one of India's most revered Shakti Peethas. A prominent centre of Tantric practice and feminine divinity, this temple is unlike most: there is no idol here, only a natural, spring-fed fissure symbolising creation and the cyclical force of menstruation. From the hilltop, sweeping views of the Brahmaputra bring a sense of calm and scale, giving the shrine a character that feels both deeply spiritual and distinctly its own.

Next stop: Right outside Kamakhya



2 BREAKFAST TO RELISH

Just outside the temple premises, rows of food stalls come alive with a diversity of breakfast options. People are often seen in groups relishing the variety of dishes offered here. The must-try here is *Poori-Sabji.* Hot, fluffy *puris* served with chole-aloo curry, accompanied by green chutney on the side, ensure a simple yet satisfying start to the day. Another local favourite worth trying is the Assamese *pitha* — a lightly sweet, rice-based treat often paired with *chai.*

Next stop: 30 minutes' drive

SPICEJET OFFERS FLIGHTS TO GUWAHATI FROM NEW DELHI

3 MORE THAN A RIVER

Prepare to be amazed by the grand Brahmaputra even before setting foot in it. The Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre is a unique cultural space honouring the river through carefully crafted events that draw nature and heritage together. Located inside a 170-year-old colonial bungalow overlooking the Brahmaputra, the centre provides visitors with an easy entry point into Assam's cultural terrain. The centre is a sneak peek into the culture of Assam.

Next stop: 7 minutes' walk



4 UP, UP & AWAY

Built to ease daily commutes for locals, the Guwahati Ropeway connects two busy parts of Assam's largest city in just under eight minutes, a journey that can otherwise take over an hour by road. But what began as a practical solution has quickly become one of Guwahati's most compelling experiences for tourists. Hop into a cable car and soar above the Brahmaputra to get a sense of its impressive size, the leisurely flow of its current, and for a scenic view of the distant hills surrounding it.

Next stop: 15 minutes' drive





ANANYA SENGUPTA

5 TIME TRAVEL

Back on land, head straight to the Assam State Museum to learn about the region's past. Set up in 1940, the museum hosts an extensive collection of relics, which help trace the development of Assam from ancient times to the present day, including displays of stone and bronze carvings, old manuscripts, artefacts from the Ahom dynasty, and finely handwoven cloths. There is also a gallery that takes you into the world of Assam's tribes—with plenty to see, set aside at least a couple of hours for your visit.

Next stop: 10 minutes' drive



6 BARGAINS & BITES

By late afternoon, the narrow alleys of Fancy Bazar are buzzing with activity. With its textile stores, spice shops, and stalls selling necessities, this busy space constitutes Guwahati's commercial hub. Vendors shout at the top of their lungs, cycles dodge past crowds, and shops overflow with items like mekhela chador and Assamese textiles, artificial jewellery, and local spices. Beat the humidity with a chilled Kulhad Lassi or a delicious *Kulfi Falooda*, and refuel with plates of cheese *Momos* or *Chole Kulche*, to make up for all that walking.

Next stop: 7 minutes' drive

7 CRUISING ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA

Return to the river at dusk and treat yourself to a soothing cruise along the Brahmaputra, a 90-minute journey that's nothing less than a spiritual experience, after the hustle and bustle of Guwahati. With boats gliding slowly across the vast river, the changing colours of the sky, and a cool breeze on the face, it's a locale that stirs up emotions which are hard to put into words. For others, there's food and music to enjoy, all set against the Brahmaputra's backdrop.

Next stop: 15 minutes' drive



8 AN ASSAMESE FEAST

Indulge in a traditional Assamese thali at Khorikaa, a restaurant where subtle spices and balanced flavours unite in thoughtfully made dishes that offer an authentic taste of the region. A meal would include *khar*, an interesting alkaline preparation, before proceeding onto rice, lentils and stir-fried vegetables. Although fish is a mainstay (as in the tangy fish curry, *Masor Tenga*), other meats — such as chicken, pork and mutton — are also served. A unique component in much of the cuisine here •

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HER VOICE Lives On...

In April, the world of music lost one of its brightest stars when Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 92. Asha's was a voice for all seasons and for every mood, as many a fond tribute recalled.

SWARNENDU BISWAS

Born to Deenanath Mangeshkar and his second wife Shevanti, Asha was the third youngest of the famous Mangeshkar sisters. After their father's untimely death at age 41, Asha and her eldest sister Lata began singing and acting to support the family. Asha was barely 10 when she stood in front of the microphone for her first film song, *Chala Chala Nav Bala*, for the Marathi film *Mazhe Bal* (1943).

But her breakthrough year in Hindi films was 1948, when she sang three numbers each in *Andhon Ki Duniya* and *Chunariya*. And in the following year, Asha recorded her first solo film song, for *Raat Ki Rani*.

Portrait: Aviral Jha



> Her repertoire stretched well beyond the Bollywood songs to incorporate ghazals, bhajans, classicals, qawwalis & Rabindra Sangeet

However, unlike Lata—who achieved fame in Bollywood early on through her out-of-the-world singing in *Mahal* (1949) and Barsaat (1949)—Asha struggled for years to find her niche. Initially, her lone chance to sing came mostly in low-budget films, many of which were soon lost to obscurity, save for Bimal Roy's *Parineeta* (1953) and Raj Kapoor's *Boot Polish* (1954). In fact, it was only after the release of the latter films that she began to get noticed, and grow in popularity, nationally.

OP & RD: Hitting The Right Notes

Credit should go to O.P. Nayyar for discovering and nurturing her amazing talent and unique voice, for giving Asha her identity, and helping her step out of Lata's shadow.

The extraordinary collaboration between the music director and the singer lasted for close to two decades, during which time they came up with multiple hits, across films like *Naya Daur* (1957), Howrah Bridge (1958), Kashmir Ki Kali (1964), Mere Sanam (1965), and *Sawan Ki Ghata* (1966), among a plethora of others. To me, their partnership reached its zenith with Asha's ethereal *Chain Se Humko Kabhi,* from *Pran Jaye Par Vachan Na Jaye* (1974), though the song was ultimately left out of the film.

Another gifted music director who played a crucial role in bringing out Asha's versatility and phenomenal range was none other than the maverick and experimental R.D. Burman, the vocalist's second husband. This partnership brought forth perennial hits such as *Chura Liya Hain Tumne Jo Dil Ko, Dum Maro Dum, Oh Mere Sona Re, Daiya Yeh Main Kahan Phasi, Piya Tu Ab Toh Aaja, and Mera Kuchh Samaan*. The RD-Asha magic, too, endured for a couple of decades, dominating Bollywood from the late 1960s to the end of 1980s. Indeed, theirs was an alliance that revolutionised Hindi film music.

During a career that spanned a remarkable eight decades, Asha also sang for other prominent music directors, including S.D. Burman, Jaidev, Khayyam, Ravi, Bappi Lahiri, A.R. Rahman, and Ilaiyaraaja. And her repertoire stretched well beyond the Bollywood universe to incorporate ghazals, bhajans, Hindustani classical, *qawwalis,* and Rabindra Sangeet (songs composed and written by Rabindranath Tagore).

A Lasting Legacy

According to the renowned Rabindra Sangeet singer Swagatalakshmi Dasgupta, Asha's voice modulation and adaptability made her a truly great artiste. "Ashaji's god-gifted voice effortlessly waltzed from a cabaret number to a romantic duet to a ghazal to Rabindra Sangeet with fascinating dexterity, without losing the nuances demanded from each such rendition. Her musical potency never ceases to amaze me."

And, believes Kolkata-based music composer, Debajyoti Ghosh, "To R.D. Burman and Ashaji should go the credit for giving a massive momentum to the application of western musical styles and form in Bollywood. And I am quite sure Ashaji was the first to make cabaret singing mainstream in Hindi cinema. Her legacy will continue to inspire many future music-makers and singers in India."

Over eras and generations, Asha's mesmerising voice effortlessly transcended man-made borders to leave an indelible impact as much on listeners abroad as it did on those in India. She overcame adversity and personal tragedies to dedicate her life to singing, still delighting millions across the world well into her 70s, 80s, and even 90s. Asha's legacy will surely endure, and her voice will linger on in our hearts ●

Top 10 Asha Solos

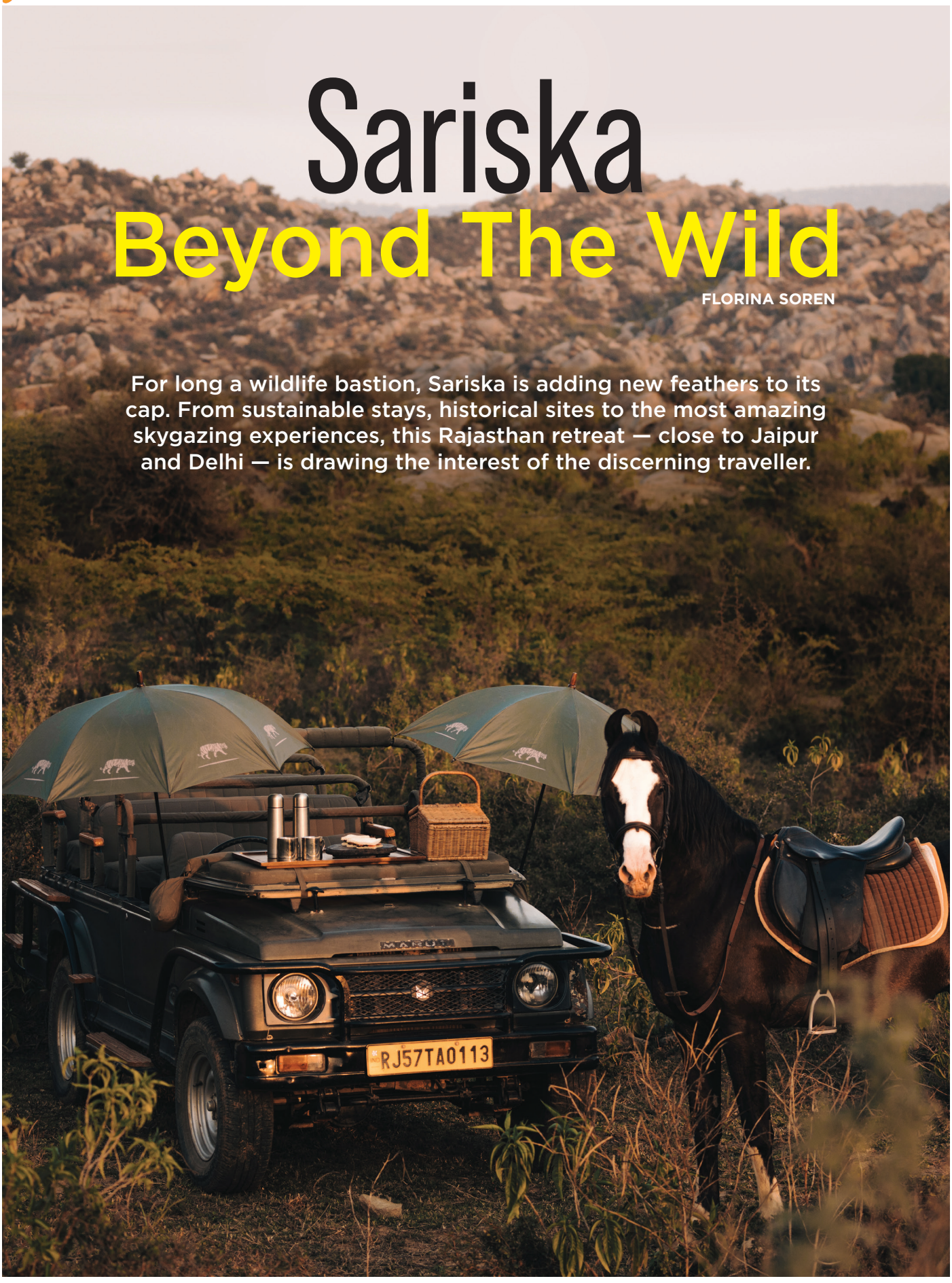
Aaiye Meherban for Howrah Bridge (1958)
Jahan Main Aisa Kaun Hai for Hum Dono (1961)
Jaiyee Aap Kahan Jayenge for Mere Sanam (1965)
Raat Akeli Hai for Jewel Thief (1967)
Daiya Yeh Main Kahan Phasi for Caravan (1971)
Dum Maro Dum for Hare Rama Hare Krishna (1971)
Chain Se Humko Kabhi for Pran Jaye Par Vachan Na Jaye (1974)
In Aankhon Ki Masti for Umrao Jaan (1981)
Katra Katra for Ijaazat (1987)
Mera Kuchh Samaan for Ijaazat (1987)



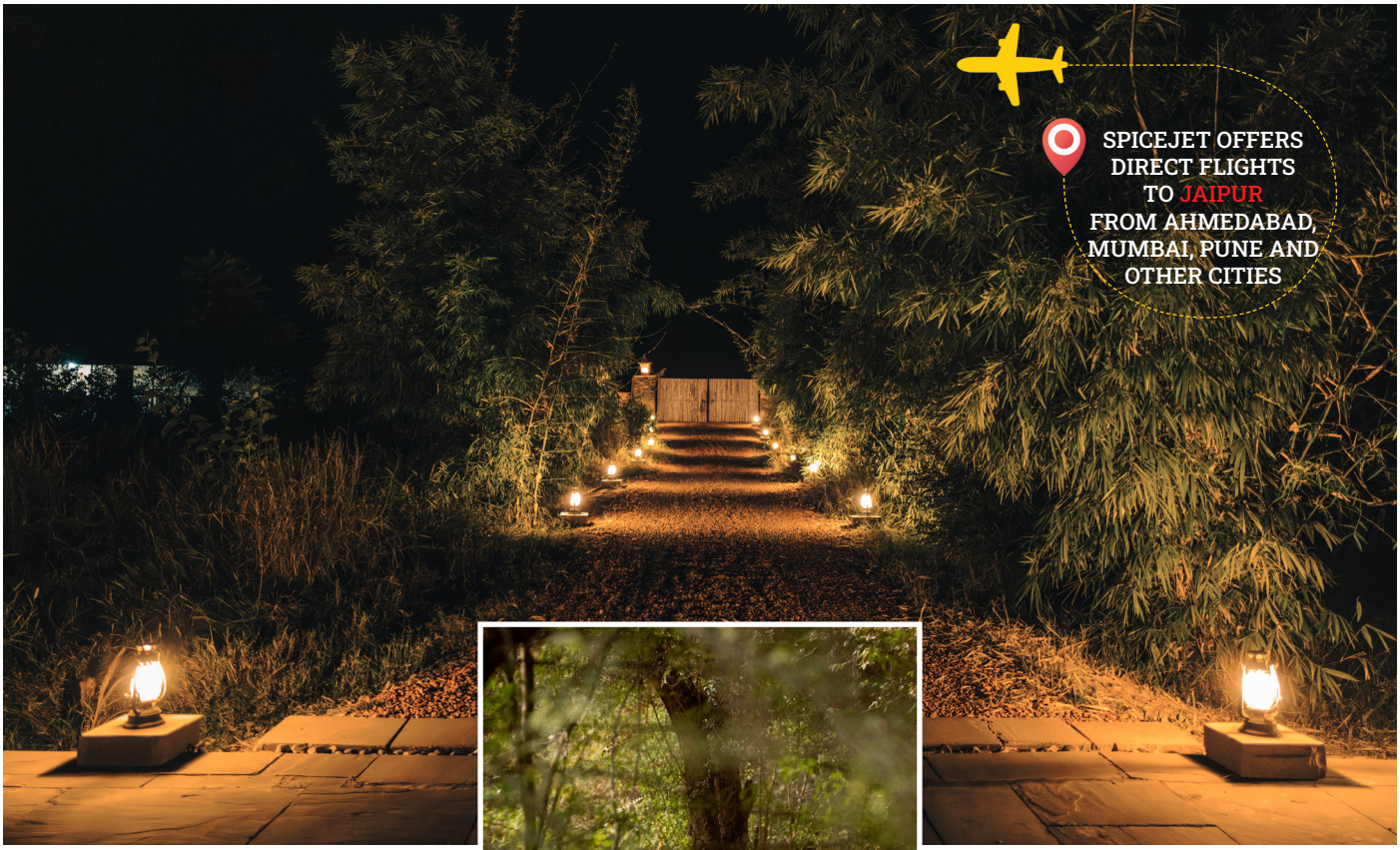
Sariska
Beyond The Wild

FLORINA SOREN

For long a wildlife bastion, Sariska is adding new feathers to its cap. From sustainable stays, historical sites to the most amazing skygazing experiences, this Rajasthan retreat — close to Jaipur and Delhi — is drawing the interest of the discerning traveller.



Photos@Sariska Lodge



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Top, Insert & Bottom
Sariska Lodge - an oasis of tranquality

Teatime in a perfect jungle setting

The ancient Neelkant Temple is an architectural wonder

My recent visit to Sariska was everything out of the ordinary. I expected an arid landscape with the Sariska Tiger Reserve its only highlight, but ended up being bowled over by the sanctuary's history, the thriving wilderness outside the reserve — and my stay, which turned out to be an oasis of sustainable living.

Tall bamboo trees and equally tall jungle grass welcome me as I step into the lush-green 15 acres of Sariska Lodge, my home for the next two days. Sustainability here goes beyond the tagline: from the wooden comb and brush to the cautiously chosen handwoven rugs and upholstery in your room, this is conscious living at its best. The resort harvests its own water, ensuring there's sufficient supply throughout the year. And every meal here follows the 'farm to table' philosophy, one the owners are rightly proud of.

Flowering pomegranate trees and lofty lemongrass sway along the pathway, giving the Lodge its tranquil charm. The property is covered with over 220 species of plants and trees, with many varieties reintroduced from time to time. And after years of nurturing what was once a barren land, its soil today is fertile enough to grow an abundance of organic vegetables and spices.

SPIRIT OF THE LAND

Stepping out of my cosy room with its amazing mountain view was not, I must admit, something I was looking forward to. But, then again, who would want to miss out on a visit to the ancient Neelkanth Mahadev temple? A picturesque uphill drive to the buffer area of the Sariska Tiger Reserve leads one to the shrine, whose intricate carvings are still a sight to behold, and whose architectural mastery has not faded over time. Nearby, and within the temple complex, stands the gigantic statue of a Jain tirthankara, its sandstone a mix of orange and red hues.

Surrounded by the Aravalli range on all sides, this space turns stunningly beautiful as the sun sinks behind the hills. Local children wave at you as you pass them by, all while a resplendent flock of peacocks and langurs grace the way.

WISH UPON A STAR

While chasing the wildlife, one can lose sight of how Sariska's clear skies have much more to offer. Indeed, the





possibilities of observing celestial bodies are limitless here; even with the naked eye, you can marvel at the endless galaxies and constellations.

Lying on the deck by the pool, the experience of gazing up at a sky bedecked with stars was perhaps the most soul-stirring, and the most memorable experience, I have ever had. As evening falls, and with minimal lighting at ground level, the skies burst into life. And that's when the magic unfolds. The magic of Orion, the hunter leaping across the cosmos with his bow; of Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, twinkling right above me; and of the constellations of the Zodiacs, almost all of which I could see.

UNTAMED WONDER

Sariska is breathtakingly beautiful. But it's a beauty that is raw and rustic. Nothing here is curated to please the eye. The park is home to hardy tree species such as the Dhok, Khejri, and Babul. And at every corner, there is a surprise for a city-bred person like me: a herd of goats bringing your car to a halt, or a sounder of wild boars crossing the road with pride in their gait.



Clockwise from Top

Sariska offers the most amazing skygazing experience

Pack of langurs welcome guests on way to the temple

A thali is a great way to experience the flavours of Rajasthan



You can also spot leopards in their habitat, especially among the boulders of Tehla, against the crimson of the dipping sun, a glimpse of a leopard is one that will stay with you. Pre-dating the Aravallis, these igneous rocks, set among undulating terrain dotted with thorny bushes, are home to a good variety of wildlife, including the Indian hyena, golden jackal, and jungle cat.

A VIBE ALL ITS OWN

My Sariska sojourn ended on a romantic note, the heavenly aroma of dinner, cooked over a fire, filling the air, while the melodious strains of Rajasthani folk songs drifted through the night. Before me lay a regal spread of local delights, with the *Junglee Maas* stealing the spotlight. Up in the sky, the stars were shining bright, keeping up with the mood below (or, was it the other way round?).

As glasses were refilled, there were tales of tiger sightings, and leopard cubs at the backdoor, some true, some clearly fragments of the imagination. What was certainly real was the magic of Sariska ●

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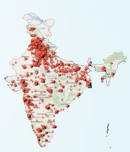

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At Home
Easy Protein Fixes

The east's foraged greens, the southeastern belt's simplicity, and the north's robust flavours unite to tell one story: that nourishment has always been at the heart of Indian cooking.

CHEF NISHANT CHOUBEY



In today's fast-paced lifestyle, rustling up protein-rich meals at home is often perceived as time-consuming and complex. But some of the most nourishing, protein-packed, and easy-to-cook dishes come from our own regional kitchens, dishes built on intuition, seasonality, and simplicity. Across eastern India, in the southeastern belt, and in the north, food has always been about balance. Here, protein is not an add-on but an integral part of everyday meals.



robust masala omelette with onions, green chilies, and coriander

Take eggs, for instance: humble, versatile, and quick to prepare. In north India, a robust masala omelette with onions, green chilies, and coriander is a staple. Move eastward, and you'll find eggs gently curried in mustard-based gravies or simply scrambled with local greens. A soft scramble finished with herbs and a sprinkle of crushed American pistachios brings a modern texture to a timeless recipe. Wrap it in a millet or ragi roti, and you have a wholesome, protein-rich meal in minutes.

But the true nutritional depth of protein lies in lentils and indigenous ingredients. In Jharkhand and the east, *kulthi dal* (horse gram) stands out, not just for its protein content but for its deeply earthy character. A quick *kulthi-dal*



moong-dal chilla

soup, tempered with garlic and mustard oil, reflects both nourishment and heritage. Similarly, chana and sattu have long been the backbone of protein-rich cuisine in Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh. A simple *sattu* drink—mixed with water, lemon, salt, and green chilies—is arguably one of the fastest natural protein boosters. In the north, it transforms into a hearty meal when stuffed into parathas, one that is both comforting and sustaining.

The southeastern belt, including parts of Odisha and Bengal, introduces us to unique greens like beng *saag* and *futkal saag*, often foraged, always nutrient-rich. These greens, when paired with lentils or folded into a *moong-dal chilla* batter, create dishes that are rustic yet incredibly contemporary in their appeal. Speaking of *chilla*, this preparation bridges regions beautifully. In the north, it's a breakfast staple; in eastern kitchens, it adapts effortlessly to local ingredients. A *moong-dal chilla* can become a desi taco, filled with spiced paneer, sautéed greens, and yogurt. Or it can take a playful turn as an uttapam-style base, layered with *chutneys,* vegetables, and paneer or shredded chicken, merging southeastern influences with northern comfort.



sattu drink–mixed with water, lemon, salt, and green chilies

Paneer, synonymous with cuisine in the north, continues to be a reliable protein source. A quick paneer *bhurji* or stir-fry is timeless, but when paired with mustard oil, garlic, and eastern greens, it takes on a completely new identity—rooted yet innovative. Crumbled paneer added to millet *khichdi* enhances both nutrition and texture, making it a complete meal.

For non-vegetarians, chicken and fish remain indispensable. In the north, quick chicken sautés with ginger, garlic, and spices are common, while in eastern regions, lighter preparations allow the meat to shine. A Jharkhand-style country chicken, cooked with minimal spices, is a perfect example of protein meeting purity. And fish, especially in eastern and southeastern India, is both everyday food and a nutritional powerhouse. A simple pan-seared fish finished with mustard oil and lemon, paired with sautéed greens or millet salads, is quick, elegant, and deeply satisfying. Flaked fish can also be used creatively—layered over uttapam-style bases or tucked into wraps with fresh herbs and *chutneys*.

Grains like millets, widely used across these regions, further enhance protein intake. A millet *khichdi* enriched with lentils is one of the most complete meals—versatile, easy to digest, and comforting. Finished with *ghee*, seasonal vegetables, or roasted nuts, it transforms into a dish that's as traditional as it is modern.



paneer bhurji or stir-fry is timeless

Protein-rich meals at home are not about reinventing food; they are about rediscovering what has always existed.



masala omelette with onions, green chilies, and coriander

Besides, eastern India also boasts lesser-known but robust ingredients like *khesari dal.* When cooked simply and paired with rice or millets, it forms a nourishing base that can be elevated by roasted vegetables and nut-based dressings. It's such adaptability that has enabled regional staples to stay relevant. Then there is the seamless interplay between regions and ideas, which makes home cooking so exciting—a paneer dish from the north can carry eastern flavours, and a southeastern ingredient can find space in a modern wrap.

Even snacking evolves naturally within this framework. A protein *chaat* combining sprouts, paneer, chickpeas, yogurt, and *chutneys,* perfectly manifests how Indian cuisine has always aligned with balanced nutrition. Ultimately, protein-rich meals at home are not about reinventing food; they are about rediscovering what has always existed. The future lies in embracing these roots while allowing room for creativity. Because when tradition meets thoughtful innovation, even the simplest meals become powerful, protein-rich expressions of culture, comfort, and care ●

An Enduring CRAFT



In Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, a 74-year-old palm-leaf artisan, among the last of his kind, reveals a slow, sustainable craft, almost invisible today.

VEIDEHI GITE

The first thing I noticed when I entered Krishnaswamy's house in Kulathur, Pollachi, about an hour from Coimbatore, was how quiet the work was. No machines. No rush. Just hands moving. "This is the last family doing this here," said my guide Muthu. Inside, strips of palm leaves lay in small, careful bundles. Some pale, some dyed in bright pinks, greens, and yellows. And in the middle of it all sat Krishnaswamy, 74, using a razor blade to carve a strip of palm leaf into the shape of a bird. "He makes everything—parrots, fish, flowers, baskets," Muthu shared.

Krishnaswamy glanced up after finishing the fold. I asked him about the leaf. "It's a tender palm leaf," he replied. It has to be plucked at the right stage, when it is young and flexible. Then it's left in the shade for 10 to 15 days. "After that, I soak the leaves in water for 15 minutes, so that they bend properly," revealed Krishnaswamy. In a region where palm trees are part of the landscape—lined along fields, marking boundaries, standing through heat and drought—this craft is not separate from the land. It is an extension of it.

His wife, Karupathal, 61, sat nearby, sorting coloured strips. "For colour, we use hot water and chemical dye," she mentioned. "Dip it, take it out, dry for two days. After that, we make crafts." I picked up a small fish. Almost weightless, but complete in form. It would sell, I was told, for Rs 20 or Rs 25. I looked around the room again. The labour, the time, the precision — priced less than a cup of tea. Krishnaswamy makes over a hundred pieces a day. Still, the numbers don't add up. "Where do they go?" I asked. "Villages, temples, weddings," Karupathal answered. "Earlier, only zamindars and temples bought them, but now people buy them everywhere."

Krishnaswamy's father and grandfather made these crafts for the Agathooramman and Kali Amman temples, and for the zamindars of Uthukuli. Krishnaswamy, however, took it further by supplying different variations of the crafts on a larger scale. On the wall hung awards and certificates from 2017, 2018 and 2023. "His work has travelled farther than he ever has," said Muthu jokingly. Recognitions have come from craft councils and local bodies. "We sent more than 3,000 pieces for Akash Ambani's wedding," Karupathal quickly added. But this shift carries a quiet loss. Demand is irregular, value negotiable, and skill expendable. And the craft now exists at the margins. "This is the last generation," Muthu tells me. "They don't have children."

THE ADAPTABLE LEAF

Palm-leaf work appears in Kerala's temple festivals and eco-weddings as woven arches, often made collectively in Chingoli-style displays. In Chettinad, similar techniques take shape as kottan (basket) elements. Across weddings today, they shift easily into boho, tropical, and rustic aesthetics. Even outside India, they show up in ceremonial arches, backdrops, table runners, baskets, and wedding chuppahs (canopies). In Bali, palm









hangings called Lamak are still used in temples and rituals.

The parrots I had seen earlier, in long strands in Pollachi Riverhouse, also belong to this continuum. Large installations of these birds are now made in the hundreds, sometimes thousands, suspended from cascading lines or dense canopies during Ugadi, Makar Sankranti, and Diwali, or in mall exhibitions, associated as they are with fertility, prosperity, and temple iconography. “Every season, nearly 30 to 40 students come from Coimbatore and Pollachi to learn from me,” Krishnaswamy declares proudly. “I also teach at Kumarakulam and Gurukulam institutions.”

Still, learning a craft like this is not just about watching. It is about staying, repeating, failing, and returning. That kind of time and patience is disappearing. And yet, what is being lost is not only a skill. It is a way of creating that is inherently sustainable. The byproducts of palm-leaf craft are biodegradable, and leave almost no waste. The process consumes minimal energy. Even the drying depends on natural elements, compared to the synthetic alternatives that flood markets today.

But sustainability, in practice, does not guarantee survival. When a piece that takes hours to handcraft is sold for twenty rupees, sustainability becomes invisible labour. I watched Krishnaswamy start another piece. A strip folded, tightened, turned. A form emerging from nothing. There was no sketch, no measurement. Just muscle memory. This is what vanishes first — the memory in the hands. Not because the craft is not beautiful or useful, but because it cannot compete with a system that has no patience for slowness. Traditions survive as aesthetics, not as a necessity. I left Pollachi with a small parrot and a fish in my hand. It weighed almost nothing. But it carried time, history, skill, and the silence of a craft nearing its end ●

Top & Right
The palm-leaf art is a living tradition of Pollachi. Over 3000 pieces were used to decorate the venue at the high profile Ambani wedding

Krishnaswamy has taken the art of palm-leaf curation to the next level, hand-crafting one piece at a time

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed each year on 22nd May to draw attention to the significance of biodiversity and the urgency of ecosystem conservation. Established by the United Nations, the day enhance awareness around the protection of biodiversity, and its role in food security, health, livelihoods, and climate adaptation.



Biodiversity is integral to human existence, **with more than 80% of human** consumption originating from plant-based foods.

UNESCO recognises 785 sites across ***142 countries in its World Network of Biosphere Reserves***; these help protect over 8 million sq.km. of land and sea.

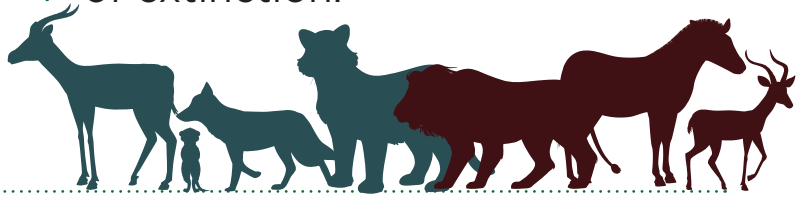




Almost **80% of the population in developing nations depends on plant-based medicine** as their primary healthcare service provider.



According to global biodiversity studies, more than ***1 million species*** are facing the risk of extinction.



Approximately 3 billion individuals worldwide consume fish as their main animal protein source.

Human interventions have affected ecosystems, with nearly 75% of land and 66% of marine areas having undergone considerable transformations.



The 2030 and 2050 goals are set out in the 23 objectives in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These include restoring 20% of damaged ecosystems and halving the spread of invasive species.



Loss of biodiversity poses a threat to achieving ***80% of the SDGs.***

Conservation of nature is not a choice but a necessity, a point the International Day for Biological Diversity seeks to emphasise. In light of the multi-fold challenges it faces, biodiversity can only be safeguarded if there is cooperation on a global scale, and if urgent actions are taken. Further, a liveable future will only be guaranteed if our planet's resources are tended with love and care.



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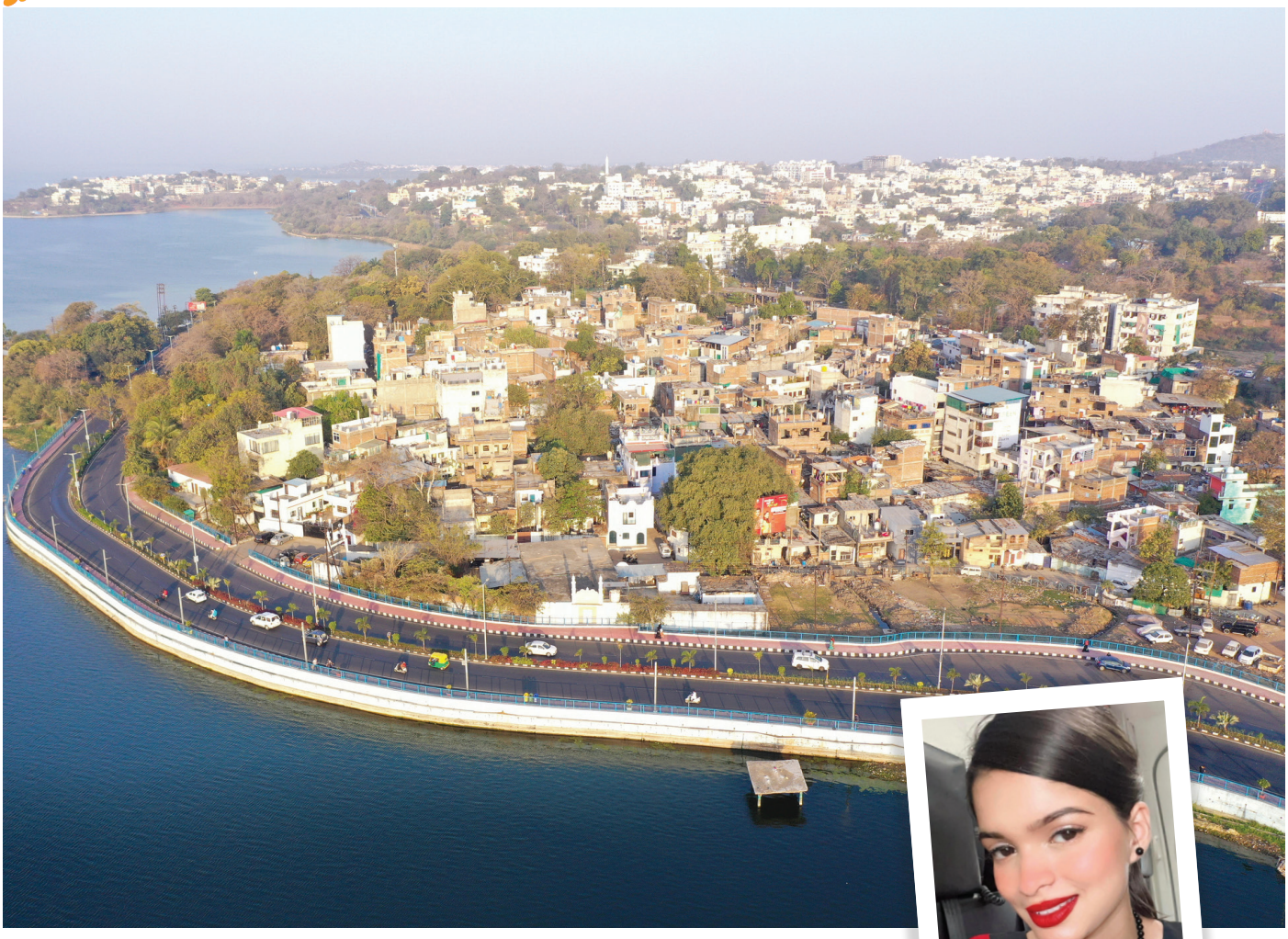
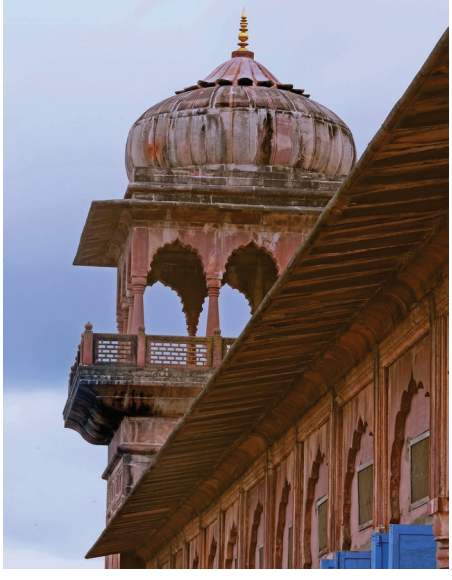


My Town

In our series, we travel to various Indian destinations with a SpiceJet family member. This time, Sakshi takes us around her home town, Bhopal.

SAKSHI GADWAL
CABIN CREW



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

Beautiful Bhopal, located in the heart of India, is often called the 'City of Lakes'. What makes it truly special is its rare blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage. With its serene lakes, lush greenery, and a rich Nawabi history, Bhopal promises an atmosphere that is peaceful and vibrant at the same time, which makes it stand apart from a typical city.

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

It is the calm and comforting vibe that Bhopal evokes. The tranquil views of the Upper Lake—also known as Bhojtal, or Bada Talab—combined with the warmth of its people and slower pace of life, create a sense of belonging that keeps drawing you back.

Which is the perfect hangout spot in Bhopal?

For locals and visitors alike, the lakeside areas around Bhojtal and Van Vihar National Park are ideal for unwinding. Whether you're seeking a peaceful evening walk, a spot of cycling, or simply enjoying a sunset, each of these spots offer an idyllic escape from the city's daily hustle.

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

A visit to Bhopal is incomplete without dining at Hakeem's restaurant. Known



for its rich Mughlai flavours, the Bhopali Gosht Korma and Chicken Rezala here are absolute must-tries, both these dishes presenting a delectable taste of the city's royal culinary heritage.

What is the best season to visit Bhopal and why?

Between the months of October and March, a time of year when the weather is at its most pleasant, perfect for enjoying lakeside views and exploring outdoor attractions. It's best to avoid the intense heat of Bhopal's summer, if you want to take in and experience all that the city has to offer.

Which must-visit places would you recommend back home?

Bhopal is packed with spaces that cater to history lovers and nature enthusiasts alike:
Taj-ul-Masajid: The 'Crown among Mosques' is said to be the largest such structure in India. This majestic masjid—the construction of which started in the reign of Shahjehan Begum (1868-1901), and was completed by her grandson Hamidullah Khan after Independence—can be recognised by its pink sandstone and expansive courtyard, which can hold more than 1,00,000 worshippers.
MP Tribal Museum: Here, you can learn about the state's fascinating tribal past and living present, including the tribes' customs, connections with the land, social structures, and indigenous knowledge systems.
State Museum: With its 16 themed galleries, and a stunning diversity of artefacts spanning centuries, this is a treasure trove of art, culture, and history ●



QUICK GETAWAYS

Bhojeshwar Temple This incomplete yet imposing 1,000-year-old temple in the village of Bhojpur is famous for its massive Shiva Lingam. The pastoral setting, overlooking the Betwa River, adds to its charm.

Bhimbetka An archaeological marvel, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the rock shelters here showcase still-stunning prehistoric cave paintings.

Sanchi Also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sanchi is home to the iconic Great Stupa, set on a hilltop and one among a number of stupas inside a Buddhist complex.

Udayagiri A complex of rock-cut cave temples dating back to the Gupta period and featuring some of the earliest Hindu iconography.

Pachmarhi This scenic hill station known as the 'Queen of Satpura', boasts waterfalls, forests, ancient caves, and breathtaking vistas.

OUR RED HOT ROUTES

AMRITSAR (ATQ)

AHMEDABAD (AMD)

BENGALURU (BLR)

BAGDOGRA (IXB)

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DELHI (DEL)

DHARAMSHALA (DHM)

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FUJAIRAH (FJR)

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GOA (GOX)

HYDERABAD (HYD)

JAIPUR (JAI)

JAMMU (IXJ)



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KOLKATA (CCU)

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LEH (IXL)

MADURAI (IXM)

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If you have any feedback or suggestions on any aspect of our services, please send us an e-mail at custrelations@spicejet.com

You may also send your feedback to the following people:

NODAL OFFICER:

Mr Sachin Suri

nodalofficer@spicejet.com

APPELLATE AUTHORITY:

Mr Kamal Hingorani

appellateauthority@spicejet.com.

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

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

b) Chatbot for travellers' support

c) Improved grievance management, including social media grievance

d) Real-time flight status and detailed flight schedule

Air Sewa is available at www.airsewa.gov.in

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

PREDICTIONS
May 2026

Dr. Prem Kumar Sharma

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

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



ARIES

Professionally and academically, your drive pushes you into a space of influence where results become visible. Financial discipline gradually helps strengthen your position. Guidance from someone experienced keeps you aligned with your goals. Emotional expectations deepen, demanding sincerity in relationships. Health supports your pace when you balance effort and recovery.

Lucky Number: 18

Lucky Colour: Yellow



TAURUS

In May, your consistent efforts begin translating into recognition and responsibility. Financial prospects expand through multiple avenues, enhancing your sense of security. Health shows visible improvement, especially in recurring concerns. Relationships may experience occasional emotional fluctuations, requiring patience and understanding. Travel calls for alertness.

Lucky Number: 11

Lucky Colour: Orange



GEMINI

The month highlights emotional awareness and the ability to handle personal relationships with maturity. Taking initiative will help resolve lingering misunderstandings with friends and restore warmth. Financial inflow from diverse sources enhances confidence. Social engagements become more enjoyable as your presence energises others.

Lucky Number: 4

Lucky Colour: Green



CANCER

A demanding phase encourages focus and organisation, allowing you to prove your capability through action. Financial decisions remain controlled, although a recent expense may require reassessment. Professional expectations increase, yet your planning keeps everything on track. Home life feels lively, romantic experiences deepen.

Lucky Number: 1

Lucky Colour: White



LEO

Responsibility shapes the month as multiple commitments demand your attention and leadership. Financial inflow from varied sources supports your ambitions and future planning. Your guidance ensures domestic matters remain under control. Emotional involvement in others' concerns requires clear boundaries.

Lucky Number: 5

Lucky Colour: Red



VIRGO

May brings moments of introspection, prompting you to reassess expectations and emotional responses. Professional challenges could test your confidence, yet your practical approach helps you regain control. Family interactions may require patience, but understanding restores harmony. Health needs attention to avoid minor disruptions.

Lucky Number: 3

Lucky Colour: Beige



LIBRA

A restorative phase defines the month as you rebuild connections and restore emotional harmony with all. Professional responsibilities increase, and your dedication brings recognition. Financial opportunities show promise for future gains. Academic efforts sharpen through competition. Social life regains ease, helping you feel aligned.

Lucky Number: 7

Lucky Colour: Purple



SCORPIO

May introduces emotional intensity and meaningful connections, adding depth to your personal life. A romantic development or renewed bond brings excitement. Your guidance proves valuable within the family. Professional responsibilities increase, yet your determination ensures progress. Social interactions remain lively. , enhancing your influence.

Lucky Number: 22

Lucky Colour: Blue



SAGITTARIUS

This period encourages emotional awareness, especially in communication and relationships. Balancing personal priorities with professional responsibilities becomes important. Financial decisions require caution, particularly in uncertain situations. Romantic bonds may fluctuate but deepen through honest dialogue. Family interactions call for patience. Travel remains manageable.

Lucky Number: 6

Lucky Colour: Pink



CAPRICORN

A rewarding phase unfolds as your professional efforts begin delivering visible outcomes. Financial planning strengthens long-term security. Your supportive nature enhances your reputation in the workplace. Family time remains fulfilling despite a demanding schedule. Short travel this month will reinforce your sense of stability and direction.

Lucky Number: 2

Lucky Colour: Grey



AQUARIUS

Creativity and fresh thinking make you stand out in professional and creative pursuits. Financial gains enhance your sense of security and future planning. Family support is key in managing responsibilities. While romance may feel quieter, emotional understanding remains intact. Skill development strengthen your long term vision.

Lucky Number: 9

Lucky Colour: Maroon



PISCES

A reflective phase encourages emotional maturity and thoughtful communication. Romantic relationships may face temporary challenges but will improve through patience and empathy. Professional efficiency finally earns recognition and strengthens credibility in professional life. Financial matters continue to be well-managed throughout this month.

Lucky Number: 8

Lucky Colour: Golden

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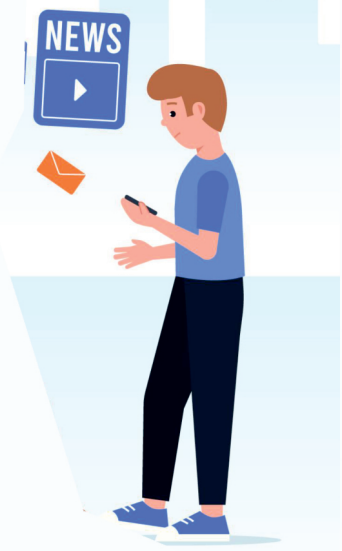





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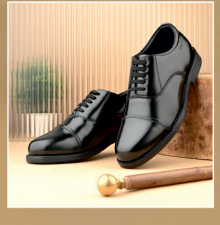




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