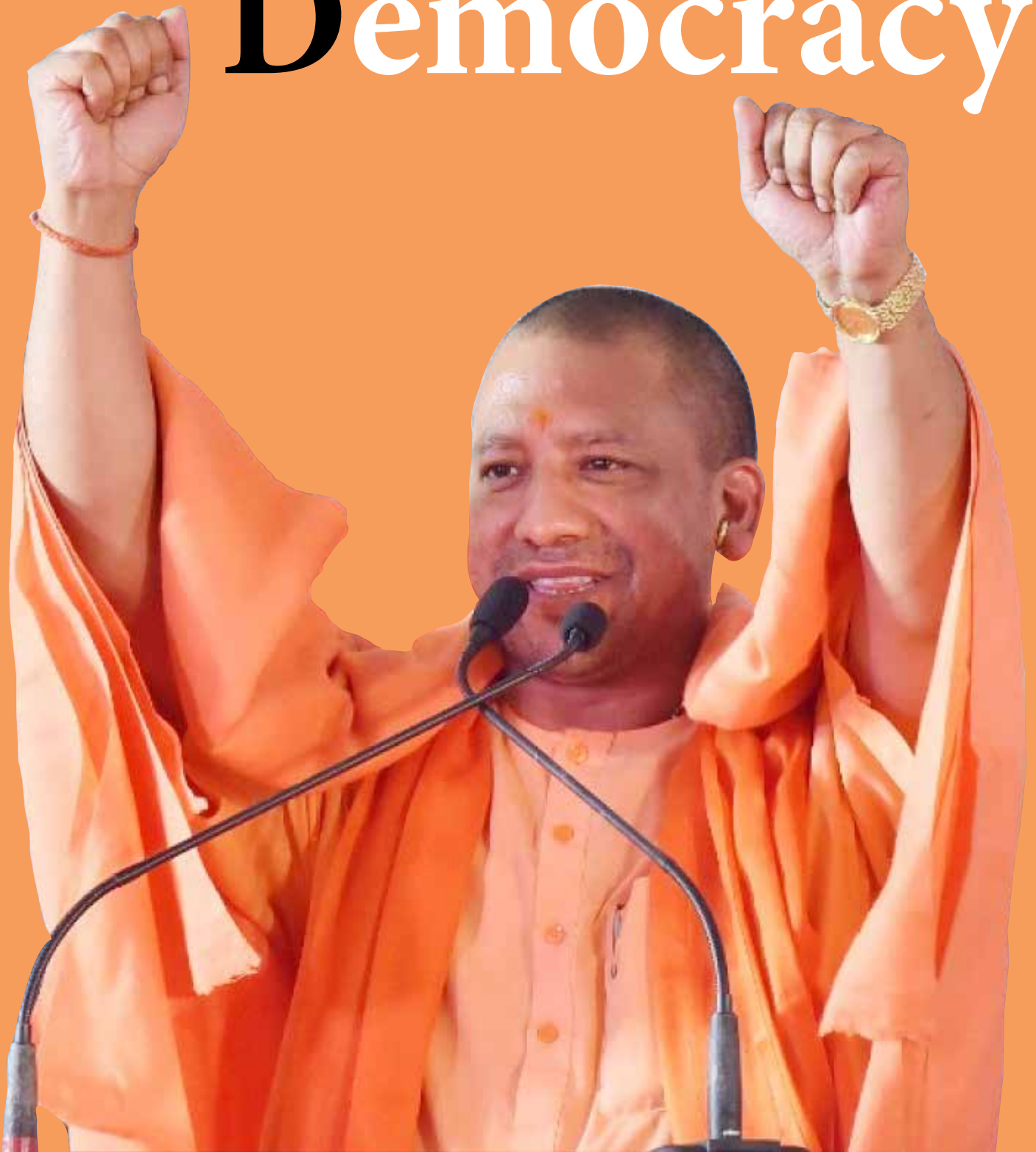


# Politics & Democracy



**Uttar Pradesh: Challenges to Opportunities**



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# Unedited Footage of Mahatma Gandhi

National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has discovered 30 reels of unedited footage on Mahatma Gandhi that amounts to almost six hours of duration.

These 35mm celluloid footages, unedited and stock shots with title cards in between, are taken by several prominent film studios of the time, such as Paramount, Pathe, Warner, Universal, British Movietone, Wadia Movietone etc.

“It is indeed a very wonderful discovery for NFAI, coming at a time when the entire world is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. There seems to be some rare footages in this collection while many visuals are now part of available short films and documentaries. Some of these shots have been used but some visuals seem unique”, said Director NFAI, Shri Prakash Magdum.

The major highlight of the discovery is a rare half-an-hour footage that has visuals of a special train carrying Mahatma Gandhi’s ashes from Madras to Rameshwaram. The stunning visuals show thousands of people thronging to stations like Chettinad, Sivaganga, Chidambaram, Manamadurai junction, Ramnad, Pudukkottai junctions in Tamil Nadu, with folded hands and tears in eyes to have a glimpse of the urn carrying the Mahatma’s ashes.



## Railway stations into Digital hubs

RailTel Corporation of India Ltd a body behind transforming Railway stations into Digital hubs by providing public Wi-Fi at major Railway stations held its 19th Annual General Meeting. Currently 4900+ stations are live with RailTel’s RailWire Wi-Fi.

RailTel has achieved a turnover of Rs.1017 crore and posted a Profit before Tax amounting to Rs. 179 crore and net profit of Rs.110 crore during 2018-19 on standalone basis.

Total dividend payout for the FY 2018-19 would be Rs.64.20 crore (including interim dividend of Rs.18 crore) which is 58.36% of PAT as approved by the shareholders in the AGM.

Chairman and Managing Director Shri Puneet Chawla, addressing stakeholders gave these details and apprised them of the latest developments and future plans of the company.

RailTel Corporation is a “Mini Ratna (Category-I)” PSU. It is one of the largest neutral telecom services providers in the country owning a Pan-India optic fiber network covering all important towns &

cities of the country and several rural areas. Along with a strong a reliable network of 52000+ RKM of Optic fibre RailTel has two tier III data centers as well, RailTel is at the forefront of providing nationwide Broadband Telecom & Multimedia Network in all parts of the country in addition to modernization of Train operations and administration of network systems for Indian Railways.







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## Youth Co:Lab

In a latest initiative to recognize young people as critical drivers of sustainable development, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India launched Youth Co:Lab which aims at accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India.

To mark the launch, a Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed between AIM, NITI Aayog and UNDP India.

Through Youth Co:Lab, young entrepreneurs and innovators will get a chance to connect with governments, mentors, incubators

and investors, who will help equip them with entrepreneurial skills.

The initiative will also convene a series of youth dialogues across several cities such as New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mumbai to promote entrepreneurship across India.

AIM and UNDP, as part of UNSDF signed between NITI Aayog and UN India, are collaborating to spread awareness about different issues pertaining to youth, the future of work and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through Youth Co:Lab.

The first phase of Youth Co:Lab

will focus on six SDGs: SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Sharing his views on the significance of youth led entrepreneurship, Mission Director Ramanan Ramanathan said that “youth entrepreneurship has immense potential benefits and the most significant one is that it creates huge employment opportunities in the country.”

## First Indigenous Fuel Cell System

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, unveiled the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries under India's flagship program named “New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)” on the occasion of CSIR Foundation Day at VigyanBhawan, New Delhi.

A unique example of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) among CSIR's three Laboratories [CSIR-NCL, Pune; CSIR-NPL, New Delhi & CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi (Chennai Center)] and two Indian industries; M/s Thermax Limited, Pune and M/s Reliance Industries Limited,

Mumbai exemplified exploiting materials of science developments at CSIR laboratories into practice by Industry. The 5.0 kW fuel cell system generates power in a green manner using methanol / bio-methane, with heat and water as bi-products for further use; amounting to greater than 70% efficiency, which otherwise may not be possible by other energy sources.

The Fuel Cells developed are based on High Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (HTPEM) Technology. The development is most suitable for distributed stationary power applications like; for small offices, commercial units, data centers etc.; where highly reliable power is essential with simultaneous requirement for air-

conditioning. This system will also meet the requirement of efficient, clean and reliable backup power generator for telecom towers, remote locations and strategic applications as well. This development would replace Diesel Generating (DG) sets and help reduce India's dependence on crude oil.

The developed technology is world class and the development has placed India in the league of developed nations which are in possession of such a knowledgebase. The Fuel Cells fit well in India's mission of replacing diesel with green and alternate fuels. The development of fuel cell technology is indigenous and carries immense national importance in terms of non-grid energy security.

## September 2019: 91,916 crore GST

The total gross GST revenue collected in the month of September, 2019 is 91,916 crore of which CGST is 16,630 crore, SGST is 22,598 crore, IGST is 45,069 crore (including 22,097 crore collected on imports) and Cess is 7,620 crore (including 728 crore collected on imports). The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed

for the month of August up to 30th September, 2019 is 75.94 lakh.

The government has settled 21,131 crore to CGST and 15,121 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement. The total revenue earned by Central Government and the State Governments after regular settlement in the month of September, 2019 is 37,761 crore for CGST and 37,719

crore for the SGST.

The revenue during September, 2019 is declined by 2.67% in comparison to the revenue during September, 2018. During April-September, 2019 vis-à-vis 2018, the domestic component has grown by 7.82% while the GST on imports has shown negative growth and the total collection has grown by 4.90%.





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# Uttar Pradesh: Challenges to Opportunities

On 19th September 2019, Adityanath Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh, completed its 2.5 years. In the past two-and-half years UP was pulled out from a state of identity crisis by converted challenges to opportunities.

• **Tarsh Sharma**

The state has created a record in the implementation of various central schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Saubhagya Yojana, Kisan insurance.

Uttar Pradesh is the perfectly blended envisage of India's history, heritage, art and culture and a flash of the growing economy, technology and development. Now, the state is taking an edge over

strengthening the nation under the dynamic leadership of Yogi Adityanath, The Chief Minister and his pro-active team. Uttar Pradesh, undoubtedly is a state which is abundant in natural and mineral resources, perennial water resources with major rivers of states like Ganga, Yamuna, massive manpower resources of working age, vast agricultural based regions and the growing service and manufacturing set

ups. Uttar Pradesh is surrounded by Uttarakhand and Nepal in its northern parts where as Delhi, Haryana lies in the western areas while the eastern part is surrounded by Bihar and Southern by Madhya Pradesh and it assumes strategic importance for Indian defense. The state surely unfurls great potentials in terms of building a better tomorrow and opportunities for workforce and investors both.

## Infrastructure

Uttar Pradesh has over 4,800 km of national highways and over 10,000 km of state highways.

The industrial park in Noida has about 4000 functioning industrial units with the state-of-art physical infrastructure.

The latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) data for registered manufacturing industries for the year 2013-14 show per unit invested capital in the state at INR 11.72 million for its "UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH" of 45, 14,463 units.

Uttar Pradesh has about 1,500 ITIs and ITCs with an annual intake of approximately 0.18 million students. There are about 350 polytechnics, both government and private, with an annual intake of about 100,000 students. In addition, there are nearly 800 degree-level institutions, mostly in private sector, with an annual intake of 250,000 in technical courses (engineering and management).

NSDC estimates that 11 million jobs are to be generated in the state between 2012 and 2022.





## Focal Industries

Uttar Pradesh accounts for major Focal industries that include Cement Manufacturing, Vegetable production, oils production, Textiles crafting, Cotton, yarn, Sugar, Carpet, Brassware, Glassware & Bangles production industries as well.

The chemicals' sector has shown growth more than 100% in terms of production.

Adobe Systems India Pvt Ltd, Computer Sciences Corporation India (CSC), Dabur India Ltd, ST Microelectronics (STM), Birlasoft Ltd., Jaypee Group, Cadence, Ingersoll-Rand India Ltd (IRIL), Delphi Automotive System, LG Electronics India Ltd (LGEIL), HCL Technologies, Indo Gulf Fertilisers Ltd, EXL Service Holdings Inc, Honda SIEL Cars India Ltd, are among the major industry giants who are already contributing and manufacturing in Uttar Pradesh.



## Skills & Opportunities

About 82 per cent of males and one-fourth of females in the age-group of 15-59 years form the labor force in Uttar Pradesh.

After agriculture, the other important industrial sectors in terms of employment are manufacturing and construction, with each employing about 13.2 per cent and 13.6 per cent of the workforce respectively in 2011-12.

Literacy rate is of about 70 per cent in Uttar Pradesh.

In the span of next ten years, the NSDC estimates show maximum demand for skilled workers at 37 per cent of the total incremental demand. This is expected to be followed by semi-skilled workers at 35 per cent, and minimally skilled workers at 28 per cent.

According to the latest Sixth Economic Census, there were 6.7 million enterprises in Uttar Pradesh where, in these enterprises provided employment to 13.75 million persons in the state.



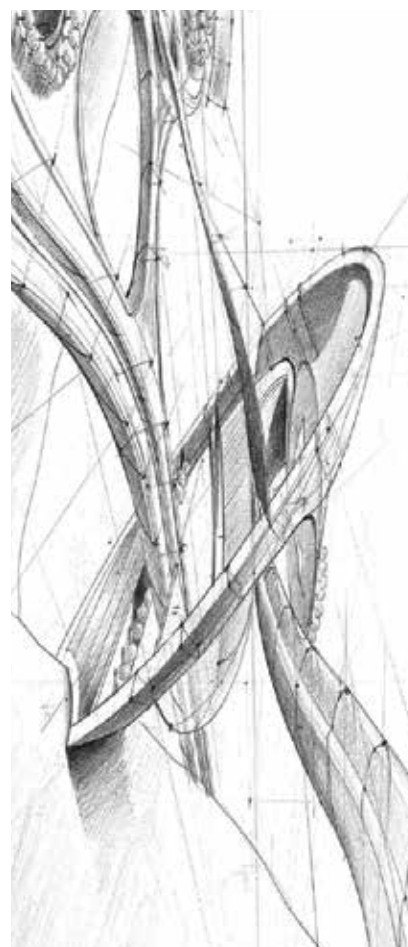
## Manufacturing

The State of Uttar Pradesh has potential to produce more than 4000 MW of Biomass power.

Uttar Pradesh accounts for 28.03 per cent of India's sugar production.

The state has the longest network of rivers and canals at 28,500 kms fostering the agriculture sector.

Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of electronic goods and is the fourth largest exporter of software products from the country with more than US \$ 900 million worth.





**Yogi Adityanath**

*Chief Minister, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh*

In the past two-and-half years UP was pulled out from a state of identity crisis as we converted challenges to opportunities.

On March 19, 2017, the BJP government was formed in the state after a 14-year-exile and our biggest challenge was to change the perception that people had of Uttar Pradesh.

We have set a benchmark for good governance, development and faith.

The condition of farmers in the state was very bad and they were forced to commit suicide. We gave a number of schemes to the farmers. Crop loans up to Rs. 1 lakh given to 86 lakh farmers in the state were waived off and record purchase of crops was done. UP has the highest number of beneficiaries of Pradhanamntri Kisan Samman Yojna in country and 25 lakh houses were given during our tenure under PM Awas Yojna.

There has not been a single incident of riot in the state in the past two-and-half years. The dreaded criminals have either fled from the state or are in jail. There has been a sharp decline in dacoity, rape, extortion, loot and riot cases. As many as 41 new police stations have been opened in the state.

In the past two-and-half years 50 lakh children have been enrolled in government primary schools.

The branding of the Kumbh Mela was done at an international level and 137 countries were invited to attend the event.

We have built roads, connected airports and now we are set to start the Purvanchal Expressway from next year.

20 to 25 thousand crores will be invested in coming months in defence corridor and it will generate more than 2 lakh employment.

Our government is working towards making the idea of Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' a reality. Women's dignity is being honoured. The infiltrators are being chased out of the country through NRC (National Register of Citizens).



## Transforming Uttar Pradesh

With the upcoming reforms in “Ease of Doing Business in UP”, “The Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy 2017” and special incentives to SCs/STs and women section will be the major key factors for transforming Uttar Pradesh and its scenario in the longer run. And, with these master moves, Uttar Pradesh government is taking up

the state being the most preferential choice of investors for their FDIs in India. Currently, the state contributes to 8.4% total GDP of the nation with nation’s largest working population constituting as much as 56%. Uttar Pradesh state aims at providing a transparent framework for the investors so that it is an easy road to map with rewarding experience. Being

the 4th largest state of the country, Uttar Pradesh is the golden quadrilateral mapping almost 250,000 kms road network, around 9000 kms railways network and higher altitude of air connectivity to the all parts of country and major international destinations to cover in the couple of years.

## Industrial Investment & Employment Promotion Policy

The newly framed policy by the government in the guidance of current chief minister of the state for industrial investment and employment prospects to be generated is striving on to leverage the growing potentials as well as back front economic dynamics of the state. This policy is eyed on benefiting majorly those industries which are lacking investments and wherein the skilled youth of the state can be best utilized and benefited as well with employment for their livelihood. The industrial investment policy aims at bringing the largest share of investment from national and international market making Uttar Pradesh prime choice of investors providing them most liberal, lucrative and easy going policy and industrial framework.

### Do you know?

### (Achievements of Yogi Adityanath in 2.5 years)

- Yogi Adityanath became the 22nd Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on March 19, 2017.
- Work started on the Poorvanchal expressway and progress has been made in the Bundelkhand expressway plan. Another expressway planned from Meerut to Prayagraj has been named Ganga expressway.
- Till 2017, Uttar Pradesh only had two airports but now there are six airports functioning. Work is in progress on 11 more airports and two international airports are being developed by the state government at Jewar near Greater Noida and in Kushinagar.
- The first waterway in the country has been set up connecting Haldia in West Bengal with Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- In the last two-and-a-half years, the state government has given 2.25 lakh jobs to the youth of the state. 20 lakh people have got employed indirectly because of the investment. 4 lakh youth have either been employed in the MSME sector or have started their own units.
- The state government paid more than Rs. 74,000 crore to sugarcane farmers.
- In the last two years, the state government has succeeded in getting investment more than Rs. 2 trillion.
- A defence expo is scheduled to take place in Lucknow in February 2020.

# Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra's Dance Drama 'SHRIRAM'

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that the epics like Ramayana reminds about ones pious duty to perform in the larger interest of the society and the country. He asked everyone take a small step on a daily and regular basis on issues of common good such as controlling pollution, saving water or preserving the environment and others to make the world a better place.

"The Ram Rajya is waiting to be realized. Our smallest contribution will help in realizing the ideal Ram Rajya – a truly enlightened ethical democratic society," he added.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra's Dance Drama 'SHRIRAM' in New Delhi, the Vice President

described the Ramayana as a heritage of the entire mankind and called for efforts to preserve, propagate and deepen peoples understanding of this immortal epic. "As we know, tradition is best preserved through constant re-creation," he added

Saying that the epic of Ramayana reminds people of their duty towards the world, society, and family, Shri Naidu said that the epic also defines the relationship of human beings with each other, and with mother earth, nature, birds, and animals.

Talking about the core values of the Ramayana and its essence, the Vice President said that Ramleela was not meant only to recall and recreate the episodes in Lord Rama's life and enjoy the taste of different Rasas that the performance would



give the audience, but it makes people actually realize the message that life story of Rama and Sita has for all humanity.

## Aadi Mahotsav

Aadi Mahotsav (Tribal Festival) organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs went off to a colourful start at Expo Centre Sector-62, Noida (UP).

Smt. Renuka Singh, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs inaugurated the festival. Shri Deepak Khandekar, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shri Ramesh Chand Meena, Chairman TRIFED and many dignitaries were present on the occasion. The festival will continue from 11 am to 8.30 pm, daily till 8th October, 2019.

The Minister took a round of the Mahotsav and interacted with the tribal artists and lauded their significant role in the protection, preservation and promotion of the rare folk art and craft of the country. She said that TRIFED is doing an excellent job by holding such purposeful programmes across the country for connecting people and integrating India and for offering



tribal artisans a platform to showcase their artistic creations to a bigger and wider mark. She spoke about the unity which can be seen in these kinds of events.

Sh. Ramesh Chand Meena elaborately explained that apart from handicrafts, the tribes gather from the forests a range of forest produces which include various tree-borne products like flowers, fruits, seeds, barks and leaves and various insect produces like honey. All these are hundred percent organic products. Knowing that organic food products command a premium price, Trifed

plans to tap this premium niche market. Thus, ensuring that the benefit of higher prices accrues to the tribals.

Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shri Deepak Khandekar expressed his happiness to have successfully launched the event. He briefed the public and brought to light the schemes and activities of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Trifed is doing significant work in this direction and have now embraced e-commerce and digital platforms to take the business forward, he added.



## eDantseva Website and Mobile Application

**D**r Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the eDantseva website and mobile application, the first ever national digital platform on oral health information and knowledge dissemination.

This marks an important milestone as e-DantSeva will reach out to more than one billion people with one click in the form of a dedicated website and mobile application. The Union Health Minister also released the Braille booklet and Voice over on Oral Health Education for the visually impaired individuals, along with the oral health posters for pregnant women and children.

At the event, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, incumbent minister at Ministry of Science & Technology (India), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

and Ministry of Earth Sciences stated that these significant initiatives have taken inspiration from the importance given to digital platforms for people's knowledge and information by the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji. "e-DantSeva is the first ever national digital platform that provides oral health information both in the form of a website and mobile application," Dr Harsh Vardhan said. He further added that oral health is indispensable for the wellbeing and good quality of life. "Poor oral health affects growth negatively in all aspects of human development," he said. He further said that dental caries/cavities and periodontal disease remain the two most prevalent dental diseases of the Indian population and dental infections have a potential for serious diseases/infections. This initiative of the Ministry with AIIMS and



other stakeholders aims to sensitize the public about the significance of maintaining optimum oral health and equips them with the tools and knowledge to do so, including awareness on the nearest oral health service facility.

## Day at Sea

**“T**he Indian Navy is ready to defend the country against all threats” - Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh said while addressing the personnel of Western Fleet, during his “day at sea” onboard INS Vikramaditya off the Goa coast.

After witnessing the prowess and fire power of the Western Fleet first hand, Raksha Mantri said, “I am most impressed to see the professionalism, commitment and spirited approach shown by the brave sailors of the Indian Navy. I am reassured that the security of our nation is in safe hands”.

Emphasising that security of India relies a lot on being strong at sea, Shri Rajnath Singh lauded the multi-dimensional approach adopted by the Navy to ensure safety and security in the country's areas of maritime interest. He said, the Navy's Mission Based Deployments at critical regions of the Indian Ocean have strengthened the maritime security environment in the region.

Raksha Mantri also commended



the Western Fleet which was immediately deployed in a strong posture in the northern Arabian Sea when the Government effectively responded to the Pulwama attacks through strikes on terror camps in Balakot. He said, “Western Fleet degraded the ability of our adversary and ensured they did not attempt any misadventure at sea”. Shri Rajnath Singh termed as most significant the role of Indian Navy to have a credible “second strike” capability as a Nuclear deterrent.

Saying that Indian Naval ships are continuously deployed for anti-piracy operations, Raksha Mantri commended the Navy for demonstrating and re-affirming its role as a Net Security Provider in the Indian Ocean Region. He said,

the Navy has been able to achieve credible deterrence by maintaining a very high degree of preparedness through regular training, quality maintenance and strategic situational awareness. He also termed naval deployments as an important tool of diplomacy which is essential to build bonds with friendly nations.

Describing Navy as the key enabler and guarantor of the India's maritime security, Raksha Mantri said, India's economic resurgence is directly linked to its overseas trade and energy needs, most of which is by sea. “About 90 percent of India's international trade by volume and about 70 percent by value are carried by sea. As we move towards our goal of 5 trillion dollar economy; the volume of maritime trade will only grow in times to come. Thus, I firmly believe that the role of the Indian Navy in general and the Western Fleet in particular is also critical in ensuring the energy security and economic growth of the country”, he added.

# Dasna-Hapur Section of Delhi-Meerut Expressway

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Dasna-Hapur section of Delhi-Meerut Expressway (package-3) in UP's Pilakhuwa.

Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways Gen (Retd) V K Singh, Deputy Chief Minister of UP Shri Keshav Chandra Maurya, Lok Sabha member Shri Rajendra Agrawal, Rajya Sabha member Shri Anil Agrawal and several MLAs were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gadkari said the Delhi-Meerut Highway will bring prosperity to the region, and will help in decongesting the National Capital Region. It will also lead to reduction in travel time

by more than 1 hour, and bring significant reduction in pollution level. He said, highways and infrastructure projects are directly related to the development of an area.

Shri Gadkari announced that the Ghazipur-Dasna section of this road (package 2) will be completed in next three months, and the entire Delhi-Meerut Expressway will be ready for commuters within six months.

Gen (Retd) V K Singh lauded the efforts of engineers and construction workers in completing a strong, wide and very useful road in such a short time. He said, the government has embarked upon an ambitious infrastructure development plan for the NCR, which will change the development scenario of the entire area.

Shri Keshav Chandra Maurya assured that the State government will accord priority to solving the problems before the highways sector, as these are important for upliftment of people in villages and suburbs.



# Indian defence industry worth \$26 billion by 2025

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has called for an increased and active participation of the private sector in defence manufacturing to achieve the Government's target of making the Indian defence industry worth \$26 billion by 2025.

He was addressing the captains of industry at the 22nd India International Security Expo, 2019 (Defence & Homeland Security). Shri Rajnath Singh reaffirmed the Government's aim of inclusive growth and making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, adding that the defence sector will play a pivotal role in achieving this goal. "Our aim is to make a world class domestic defence industry that is self-reliant and less dependent on imports", he added.

Raksha Mantri stressed that in its present set up of 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance', the Government plays the role of a facilitator and the duty of the industry is to work in tandem to realise the vision of

'New & Strong India'. He hoped that the industry partners will come up with concrete investment and technological intervention proposals related to defence and avail the business opportunities present in the sector. He said, there is a need to make the system investor friendly and create a conducive atmosphere for the growth of defence production with an increased participation of the private sector.

Shri Rajnath Singh assured the defence industry that the Government is open to new ideas and remains committed to harness the entrepreneurship spirit and energies of the private sector. "As a friend, philosopher & guide, the Government is ready to hold frank discussions, even on issues and problems", he said. Raksha Mantri expressed confidence that the Indian Defence Industry will touch newer heights and make India a major defence manufacturing hub. He invited domestic as well as foreign defence manufacturers to participate



in DefExpo 2020 to held in Lucknow from 05 – 08 February.

Sharing his vision of making India an economic powerhouse and global superpower, Raksha Mantri said, he wants that every citizen of the country feels safe & secure and works for the progress of the nation to the best of his/her ability.





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Indian Chamber of Commerce

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# National Tourism Awards

**Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the National Tourism Awards 2017-18 on World Tourism Day in New Delhi.**

A total of 76 Awards under various categories were presented. The Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (IC) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel; Secretary-General of United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili; Tourism Minister of Paraguay Ms. Sofia Montiel De Afara; Tourism Secretary Shri Yogendra Tripathi; DG Tourism Smt. Meenakshi Sharma, senior officers of Ministry of tourism and 82 international delegates were among those present on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, the Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu urged all stake holders of the tourism industry to be especially mindful of their ecological foot print and called for more responsible and sustainable tourism practices. He further urged the people, especially the youth to visit at least 15 tourist destinations within India by 2022 to give boost to domestic tourism, as per the suggestion made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shri Naidu urged students to undertake 'Bharat Darshan' to

learn about various facets of India's culture, heritage, languages and cuisine and enhance their understanding of the unique cultural mosaic of the country. The Vice President also underscored India's tremendous potential in the field of medical tourism and said that India must leverage its ancient practices of healing such as Ayurveda and Yoga to attract more tourists who seek holistic wellness.

Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (IC) expressed his happiness at India being selected as the

host country for celebration of World Tourism Day 2019 by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). He congratulated all the awardees and said that we believe in 'Atithi Devo Bhava' and that is why our tourists are very important for us. He added that the Indian government is continuously taking tourist friendly decisions like reduction of E-tourist visa fees, making available an extended e-tourist visa, reduction in GST on hotel tariffs being some of the recent important ones which will go a long way in giving boost to tourism in the country.

The Union Minister said that tourism sector is a revenue generating sector. But apart from revenue, we also want to change the perception. He added that in the last five years India has improved its position tremendously in world travel and competitiveness index from 65 in 2013 to 34 in 2019. The credit for it goes to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who has proudly presented India at international levels as a brand ambassador of the country.







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## Air India introduce new routes

**A**ir India connected the city of dreams Mumbai with the dream tourist destination Dehradun and the temple city of Varanasi with an Airbus 319 aircraft from 28th September, 2019.

Flight AI689 take off from the CSI Airport at Mumbai at 1025 hrs and reach Jolly Grant airport at Dehradun at 1240hrs. Then it leave Dehradun at 1310 hrs to land at the Lal Bahadur Shastri airport in Varanasi at 1435 hrs. The return flight AI690 leave Varanasi at 1505 hrs to arrive at Dehradun at 1630 hours. From Dehradun, the flight take off at 1700 hrs to reach Mumbai at 1900 hrs.

Scheduled to operate every Wednesday and Saturday, the flight fulfil a long-standing demand of tourists and pilgrims to connect Dehradun and Varanasi with the

finance capital of India, Mumbai. The service also lend a fillip to Air India's Connect India mission, wherein the national carrier has been

connecting Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in sync with the Government's Regional Connectivity Scheme to make flying accessible to everybody.



## Cathay Pacific: India's Most Admired Brands

**C**athay Pacific Airways has been named one of India's 100 Most Admired Brands 2018-19 by global brand consulting firm White Page International, reflecting the ceaseless dedication Hong Kong's home airline has to offering unmatched levels of service and an industry-leading customer experience.

The airline was recognised at the annual Ideasfest 2019 – Thought

Leaders Conclave in Delhi for its outstanding performance in delivering a popular, successful and sustainable service, along with its positive contributions to the aviation industry and the wider Indian economy. Gautam Sharma, Principal Consultant at White Ladder Consulting, presented the award at the grand ceremony to Cathay Pacific Regional Head of Marketing and Digital Sales for South Asia, Abhijit Abhyankar.



**Anand Yedery, Cathay Pacific Regional Head of Marketing and Sales for South Asia, Middle East and Africa (SAMEA)**

It is an incredible honour to be selected as one of India's 100 Most Admired Brands in the Premium Airline category. Cathay Pacific's focus has always been on providing a best-in class passenger experience with innovative and unique offerings that elevate our customers' journeys. Our new brand direction, Move Beyond, perfectly captures our commitment to cementing our reputation as one of the world's greatest service brands. This award not only stands as a testament to the hard work put in by all the teams at Cathay Pacific, but also serves as tremendous motivation for us to achieve even greater heights in the future. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to White Page International, UK Asian Business Council and Live from Earth Media for this recognition.





# Etihad Airways: 15 years of service to India



**E**tihad Airways, the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, has completed 15 years of service to India.

Celebrating this feat, the airline marked its anniversary in the country by hosting a blood donation drive at its airport office in Mumbai, in association with a charitable trust hospital, The Holy Spirit Hospital. To mark this occasion, the airline also distributed sweets to all guests flying in and out of Mumbai via its four daily services to the city.

Mumbai was the first Indian city to be served by Etihad Airways with the launch of daily flights

in September 2004. Three months later, flights were also launched between Abu Dhabi and New Delhi. Today, Etihad Airways offers 159 weekly flights spread across 10 gateway cities of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram. Seeing India as a cornerstone market that holds a strong historic relation with the UAE, Etihad Airways will continue to support growth in India by providing consumers with greater choice, convenience, and connectivity.

## GoAir's inaugural flight Kannur – Kuwait

The wait is over. GoAir, India's fastest-growing airline operated its maiden flight from Kannur to Kuwait with a brand new Airbus A320 aircraft.

**T**he flight takes off from Kerala's 2nd Greenfield and 4th International Airport that is built on Public Private Partnership in an area of about 2,300 acres. GoAir's inaugural flight from Kannur to Kuwait has received fantastic response and the flights are fully booked.

Reinforcing its commitment to the Middle East market, GoAir operates non-stop daily flights from Kannur

to Kuwait. The flight takes-off from Kannur International Airport at 07:00 hours (local time) and reach Kuwait at 09:30 hours (local time). The same aircraft pushback and fly from Kuwait at 10:30 hours and reach Kannur at 18:00 hours.

With Kuwait becoming GoAir's 4th destination in the Gulf region, close on the heels of launching Muscat, Abu Dhabi, followed by Dubai and now the princely state

of Kuwait, reveals GoAir's robust plans to expand its operations across the Middle East region. In doing so, Kannur has emerged as a strategic hub for GoAir's domestic as well as international operations. Kannur is a popular destination for both leisure and business travelers within the state of Kerala and the new route to Kuwait will provide more affordable flying options to the international travelers.

### *Jeh Wadia, Managing Director, GoAir*

GoAir is pleased to share that the response to Kannur Kuwait flight has been overwhelming to say the least. We are very enthused with the way things have progressed and tomorrow GoAir's inaugural flight to Kuwait will take-off. Ever since we started flying international, GoAir has added 16 aircraft to the network in the last 10 months resulting in 90 new flights. We have added 7 new airports to our network – Phuket, Male, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Dubai, Bangkok and Kannur. Tomorrow we will be starting Kuwait operations – our 8th new airport operations. GoAir will be launching Singapore flights soon (subject to regulatory approvals).



# Air Arabia: Weekly flights connecting the UAE and Austria

Air Arabia, the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier, now offers direct flights between Sharjah and Vienna.

The non-stop six-hour flight to Vienna, will operate four times a week, on Sundays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and will be expanded to daily flight service as of mid-December.

Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia and Julian Jäger, Joint CEO and COO of Vienna Airport officially inaugurated the new route at a press briefing in Vienna.

Vienna, Austria's capital is a historic and cultural jewel. From immersive museums, magnificent castles and palaces to art galleries and festivals for all senses – one can experience the diversity of Austrian culture in Vienna. Dubbed as the City of music, Vienna has been associated with music for centuries, and was home to musical geniuses of all time such as Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Johann Strauss. Ideally set on the banks of

Danube, it is famous for its opera performances, cultural events, baroque architecture, coffee-house culture and vibrant epicurean scene.

Air Arabia has already been offering direct flights to Vienna

from its hub in Morocco since October 2018. It currently operates flights to more than 170 routes across the globe from four hubs located in the Middle East and North Africa.



## *Adel Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia*

We are pleased to start our direct flights connecting Sharjah and Vienna. This new service will provide our customers in the UAE and Austria with a great opportunity to discover the beauty of both countries while enjoying Air Arabia value-for-money offers. We thank Vienna International Airport for their support and we look forward to a long-term partnership.



## *Julian Jäger, Joint CEO and COO of Vienna Airport*

In recent years, we have seen a significant rise in number of tourists from the UAE and Vienna is a popular destination amongst Arab travellers. The city of Vienna greatly benefits from Air Arabia's new direct flight connection to Vienna Airport. We have registered close to 13% growth on flights to the Middle East since the beginning of the year. We look forward to welcoming even more visitors from the Middle East to this beautiful city. Furthermore, passengers from Vienna will get to visit and explore the cultural diversity of UAE, courtesy the new flight service from Sharjah.





# Seven additional flydubai destinations from Dubai International (DXB)

**D**ubai-based carrier flydubai has announced that flights to seven destinations will move from their current operating base of Terminal 2 and relocate to Terminal 3 at Dubai International (DXB). Other flydubai services will continue to operate from Terminal 2.

From 27 October 2019, flights to Almaty, Basra, Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Nur-Sultan, Sofia, and Zanzibar will operate from Terminal 3. Flights to these destinations before 27 October will continue to operate from Terminal 2. These destinations have been chosen to

help improve connections between Emirates and flydubai with smooth and quick transit times.

The additional 07 points will bring the number of destinations operated out of Terminal 3 at Dubai International (DXB) to 22. This move is part of the innovative partnership with Emirates that goes beyond code sharing to several initiatives spanning commercial, network planning, airport operations, the alignment of the frequent flyer programmes and an enhanced customer journey.

Passengers booked to travel to these destinations will be able

to check-in for their flight at the Business Class and Economy Class desks in the departures area of Terminal 3. Business Class passengers will be able to enjoy lounge access and fast track services through immigration and security, while transiting passengers benefit from faster connection times.

Passengers who have booked to travel to these destinations from 27 October will receive communications from flydubai in advance of their date of travel, informing them of the update to their travel itinerary.

*Alex Mackenzie, Senior Vice President, Airport Services at flydubai*

As our partnership with Emirates continues to grow, the addition of these seven destinations to Terminal 3 builds on the success of last year's move and provides more opportunities for us to optimise connectivity for our passengers. By working closely together, Emirates and flydubai are able to offer passengers even more options to travel and to connect from the world's busiest airport.

## Hahn Air: seven new Carriers

**H**ahn Air, the German airline and distribution specialist, added seven new carriers to its leading network of more than 350 airlines in the third quarter of 2019.

The new partners are expanding their distribution reach with Hahn Air's product HR-169. Travel agents can issue their flights on the insolvency-safe Hahn Air HR-169 ticket, even in markets where the airlines are not participating in the local payment system (e.g. BSP or ARC).

Among the new HR-169 partners is Air Chathams (3C), New Zealand's largest privately-owned airline. They service eight domestic destinations and just recently introduced their first scheduled international passenger flight from Auckland to Norfolk

Island. "As a small regional airline, we are facing great challenges when it comes to getting visibility outside of the communities where we provide air services", says Duane Emeny, Airline & Charter General Manager of Air Chathams. "Hahn Air's HR-169 product puts our flight inventory on the global market. We have joined the Hahn Air network only a few months ago, but we are already very happy with the additional revenue they have generated for us."

Another new HR-169 partner is Jeju Air (7C) from South Korea. The low-cost carrier flies to 73 destinations in 15 Asian countries, including China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Russia and Thailand. "We have already been a partner of Hahn Air Systems since 2017 using the product H1-Air. Thanks

to the good reputation and global reach of Hahn Air, we were able to immediately increase our international sales", says Jeesuk Kee, Deputy General Manager in the Commercial Department at Jeju Air. "We therefore decided to expand our partnership by adding the product HR-169 and we expect that this will increase our sales even further". As a Dual Partner of Hahn Air, Jeju Air is available in selected GDSs under its own code 7C and in all major GDSs under the Hahn Air Systems designator H1.

Five more new HR-169 partners added in Q3 are Air Peace (P4) from Nigeria, Amazonas Uruguay (Z7), MAYAair / Aerocuahonte (5G) from Mexico, as well as two regional US carriers, RavnAir Alaska (7H) and Southern Airways Express (9X).

# Ayana Hotels: Festive Season Schedule

**H**oliday magic includes Christmas tree lighting ceremony, glamorous dining under the stars, creative cocktails, hand-delivered presents from Santa Clause, stylish rooftop countdowns and other exciting events across the ninety-hectare resort.

AYANA Hotels in Bali have unveiled their impressive schedule for Christmas and New Year's Eve via a line-up of festive events, brilliant entertainment and exclusive amenities.

In December AYANA will be decorated in traditional red, gold and bronze Christmas ornaments and flowers since the 2019 season theme is 'Festive in Bloom'. Two giant Christmas trees and the photo booth decorated with the tropical flowers from Bali will be placed at the lobbies of AYANA and RIMBA to add to the holiday feel.

The Resort's diverse 19 restaurants and bars will invite guests to indulge in the magical moments of the holidays through a range of festive menus that



will accompany them while sharing the season's joy with family and loved ones. There are offerings for every member of the family and to suit any mood.

The festive magic will start on 7 December with the fruit soaking ceremony and AYANA's signature Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at RIMBA West Lobby.

## CHRISTMAS

DAVA Steak & Seafood will offer

an Oscar chic gala evening with the five-course fiesta thoughtfully curated to impress you with a contemporary selection of the best meat cuts and seafood from all over the world.

## NEW YEAR

On the last Sunday of 2019 everybody will be invited to the Sunday Funday Pool Party at Unique Rooftop Bar & Restaurant to enjoy the Mexican food, spicy drinks and DJ mixes.

# Galaxy Entertainment Group introduce GICC and Galaxy Arena

**G**alaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), Macau's leading integrated resort, hospitality and entertainment group, officially introduced Galaxy International Convention Center (GICC) and Galaxy Arena.

Galaxy International Convention Center, together with spectacular events venue Galaxy Arena, is set to establish Asia's most iconic and advanced integrated MICE destination when it opens in Macau in the first half of 2021.

Dr. Lui Che Woo, GBM, MBE, JP, LLD, DSSc, DBA, Chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group, said, "We are honored to introduce state of the art MICE and Arena facilities to attract new visitors and complement the Macau Government's vision



of diversifying the economy and developing Macau into a World Center of Tourism and Leisure."

Creatively designed for bespoke

meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions, this ultimate integrated resort and MICE destination is the latest addition to Galaxy Entertainment Group's ever-expanding integrated resort precinct in Macau, which will set a new standard for Macau, while supporting the city's vision of becoming a 'World Center of Tourism and Leisure'.

Galaxy International Convention Center connects seamlessly with multiple award-winning integrated resort Galaxy Macau™, with Macau's largest collection of luxury hotel brands under one roof – The Ritz-Carlton, Macau, Banyan Tree Macau, JW Marriott Hotel Macau, Hotel Okura Macau, Galaxy Hotel™ and Broadway Hotel.



# The Prince Akatoki London

The official opening of The Prince Akatoki London, the highly-anticipated inaugural luxury hotel under the newly launched global brand.

Centrally located on Great Cumberland Place in Marylebone, the 5-star luxury hotel, formerly The Arch London now welcomes

guests after a multi-million-pound refurbishment. The hotel blends are fined Japanese aesthetic with a unique sense of Western heritage, creating a one-of-a-kind urban sanctuary.

Mr. Goto, President & Chief Executive Officer, Seibu Holdings, said: “We are delighted to announce

we have opened The Prince Akatoki London. This new global brand name bares our flagship brand “The Prince” of Prince Hotels and aims to raise the awareness of Prince Hotels by making full use of the brand value of Prince Hotels in Japan. Akatoki is an old expression of Akatsuki meaning sunrise, before dawn, a new beginning and speaks to a new time for Prince Hotels and Resorts, reflecting our international growth of the business.”

Interbrand Australia together with London based B3 Designers have expertly applied The Prince Akatoki brand design principles – natural light, tranquillity, modern Japanese culture and minimalism – to the existing building layout. The timeless facilities include: 82 beautiful guest rooms and suites; TOKii, a Japanese inspired restaurant; The Malt Lounge & Bar, a sophisticated late-night destination.



## Third edition of its annual culinary competition

Hyatt recently concluded the Regional semi-final of the third edition of its annual culinary competition, The Good Taste Series – India at Andaz Delhi. The Good Taste Series, an annual competition since 2017, is a testament to Hyatt Hotels & Resorts’ commitment to excellence and creativity in food and beverage. The competition which is held globally cultivates emerging culinary talent at Hyatt hotels around the world and celebrates cultural diversity.

The 2019 India edition saw 21 participants from across Hyatt hotels in India, spend two insightful days celebrating Hyatt’s food philosophy - “Food-Thoughtfully Sourced. Carefully Served”. The participants had to prepare signature recipes using the unique ingredients presented to them in the mystery box.

At the recently concluded regional area finals held at Andaz Delhi, Chef

Satya from Park Hyatt Hyderabad, Chef Balaji from Park Hyatt Chennai and Chef Balpreet from Andaz Delhi were adjudged winners who will now represent India in the next round at Vienna in November 2019. At the Vienna competition, three chefs will be selected to face off with six other Hyatt chefs in the global final – which will be held in the Middle East in March 2020.

The India edition was judged by an eminent panel comprising of Chef Manish Mehrotra, Marryam Reshii, Sourish Bhattacharya, Chef Anahita Dhondy, Chef Radhika Khandelwal, Sneha Yadav, Rupali Dean, Rajyasree Sen, Chef Warren Pearson from Grand Hyatt Gurgaon and Andaz Delhi’s Chef Vikram Ganpule. The Good Taste Series provides everyone from line cooks to executive sous chefs with an opportunity to showcase and demonstrate their culinary flair.



# ibis Styles East Perth open its gates for guests

The world's largest high-rise modular hotel, the ibis Styles East Perth, officially opened with a ceremonial ribbon cutting led by the Honourable Paul Papalia, Western Australia's Minister for Tourism and Simon McGrath Chief Operating Officer Accor Pacific.

Accor, the largest operator of hotels and resorts in Australia, together with Rehawk Property Group, teamed up to build the new-build ibis Styles East Perth which spans 18 floors and adds 252 guest rooms to East Perth's hotel supply - specifically geared towards the economy travel market.

"New, modern hotels such as the ibis Styles East Perth are an important part of Perth's transformation, which has taken place over the past few years," said Tourism Minister Mr Papalia who congratulated Accor on the launch of ibis Styles East Perth and thanked the company for its ongoing commitment to Western Australia.

"This hotel is in a great location for

visitors, offering easy access to Langley Park with views of the stunning Swan River.

"It is also perfectly situated for people attending events at Optus Stadium and the WACA Ground, including the exciting Men's and Women's T20 World Cup International matches next year."

Accor Pacific's Chief Operating Officer, Simon McGrath, said, "We are very excited to join with Rehawk Property Group and the Minister to open the new ibis Styles East Perth, and lead the charge on a new generation of designed economy hotels in Australia, in key locations.

"The past five years has seen the economy accommodation sector shift dramatically, both in terms of product and guest expectations. Quality, comfort, great aesthetics and genuinely warm service. These are all at the top of the wish list for budget-conscious travellers, and what ibis Styles East Perth delivers- at an affordable price.

"Perth has enjoyed a surge of domestic



travellers over the past 12 months, which is encouraging, and we're confident that affordable, fresh hotel product like ibis Styles - alongside Accor's new Tribe Perth and upcoming Art Series Hotel, The Adnate, will work to continue interest in the city for interstate holidaymakers."

Accor has a strong foothold in Western Australia, offering 22 hotels and resorts including 14 in Perth and its surrounds. Ibis Styles East Perth is the 29th Ibis Styles hotel in Australia, joining the global Ibis Styles network of more than 260 hotels.

## Preferred Hotels & Resorts Welcomes The Londoner

Preferred Hotels & Resorts, the world's largest independent hotel brand representing more than 750 hotels, resorts, and residences across 85 countries, is pleased to welcome The Londoner as the newest experience within the brand's esteemed Legend Collection. With The Londoner set to launch in spring 2020 as the UK's most anticipated opening of the year, this new partnership demonstrates the company's commitment to welcoming independent hotels that go beyond well-appointed guestrooms and best-in-class facilities by offering one-of-a-kind, immersive experiences that are reflective of local culture.

Located in the heart of London's West End in the world-famous Leicester Square, The Londoner is set to create a new standard for contemporary luxury hotels due to its reflection of life in the city, green building credentials, commitment to

sustainability, and its appreciation for local culture, all of which are demonstrated through the hotel's architecture and interior design, food and beverage outlets, deluxe facilities, and guest services. Home to 350 guestrooms and 35 suites, each with unique views of the cityscape, The Londoner will offer a layered, multi-dimensional experience through its prime location, curated private and public spaces, rooftop bar, and expansive meetings and events space,

which includes a state-of-the-art 6,092-square-foot pillarless ballroom that accommodates up to 864 guests and can be divided into two sections. Boutique in feeling yet staggering in scale, The Londoner will extend six levels below ground, serving as one of the deepest buildings in the world. Secluded and unique, the underground space will offer guests a luxury subterranean spa experience and two private screening rooms.







# Geejgarh Eco Village Resort



Geejgarh Eco Village Resort  
Village Geejgarh, Tehsil Sikrai  
Dist Dausa

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# I Amsterdam

Winter is coming - which is great news for anyone planning a trip to Amsterdam. The colder months are a magical time to visit the Dutch capital, when nights are cosy, food is hearty, and everything twinkles in fairy lights.

• **Tarsh Sharma**

Here are just a few reasons why Amsterdam is the perfect winter destination.

**Amsterdam looks like a fairy tale in the snow**

There are no two ways about it; Amsterdam is stunning in white. Impossibly pretty at the worst of times, the city looks like a Christmas card when it's dusted in snowflakes - making for a wildly romantic



backdrop to any visit. For optimum snowman conditions, head to one of the larger parks like Vondelpark or Westerpark where you'll find vast expanses of uninterrupted white stuff just waiting to be packed into snowballs.

**The city becomes a spectacle of light**  
Transforming Amsterdam into a huge outdoor art gallery during the darkest winter months, the annual Amsterdam Light Festival sees magical light







installations adorn canals, streets and landmarks from November to January. The best way to see the entire spectacle is via a special Amsterdam Light Festival boat tour.

### **You can (sometimes) ice-skate on the frozen canals**

It doesn't happen often, but if conditions are right (and generally the temperature needs to dip below 4 degrees for four consecutive nights) then canals are blocked off to allow enough ice to form. Et voila; the world's most beautiful ice rink. Even if the canals don't freeze over this year, there are plenty of other opportunities for outdoor ice skating in Amsterdam – including



the vast ICE\*Amsterdam outside the Rijksmuseum, and the Jaap Eden ice rink.

### **Everything is 'gezellig'**

Dark nights, Twinkling fairy lights, cosy pubs... everything about winter in Amsterdam is truly 'gezellig'. Pronounced 'he-zell-ick', this word with no literal English translation is at the heart of Dutch culture, encompassing everything from

'cosy' and 'quaint' to 'friendly' and 'relaxing'. It can be applied to any situation or thing that makes you feel warm and fuzzy inside, and you'll be hearing it a lot if you visit Amsterdam in winter.

### **Amsterdam's winter markets are amazing**

Amsterdam does an excellent line in festive fairs; taking a more independent, unique approach than many other European cities. Every







weekend in the lead-up to Christmas you'll find a different market popping up somewhere in or around the city, ranging from the traditional to the trendy, and selling beautiful produce and lovingly prepared food and drink in unique locations.

#### **It's a perfect Valentine's retreat**

Amsterdam is consistently voted amongst the most romantic cities in the world, so what better destination for a loved up Valentines break?

#### **You can eat to your heart's content**

Hearty, substantial and satisfying; Dutch cuisine was made for cold days and nights. From stamppot (traditional Dutch mash) to snert (thick pea







and ham soup) and everything in between, Dutch food is designed to warm you up from the inside out. Get inspired with these cosy winter restaurants.

### Oliebollen

If there's one reason to visit Amsterdam in the winter, then Oliebollen is it. These delicious balls of doughnutty goodness come out once a year, so it's important that you eat as many as possible while you have the chance. Get them steaming hot and dusted in sugar from a street vendor, and then get some more.

### The streets are yours

Amsterdam is less crowded in winter time, meaning shorter queues at the major museums and more chance of getting a table at your favourite bar or restaurant. Save the winter months for exploring the Anne Frank House, Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum, where you can shelter from the cold and then pile into a cosy brown bar afterwards.

### Sinterklaas is coming to town

Unlike in other parts of the world where Father Christmas only appears after children have gone to bed, the Dutch Father Christmas is not shy of the limelight. In fact he likes to make quite the spectacular entrance, sailing into town every winter on a kilometre-long parade of floats and boats, welcomed by upwards of 400,000 spectators. This year's Sinterklaas parade takes place on Sunday 18 November, with the feast of St Nicholas itself falling on December 5. Wondering what the difference is between the two big men in red? Read our spotters guide to Father Christmas v Sinterklaas.





# India Runway Week, Season 12

The much awaited Season 12 of IFFD's India Runway Week- Season 12 started with an ode to handlooms and showstoppers like veteran actress Neelima Azeem, Vaani Kapoor graced the ramp.

## • Vedika Sharma

### DAY 1

IFFD's India Runway Week, Season 12 kickstarted with the Jaivik Naari's handmade collection. Paying tribute to Gandhiji and October month the collection was all about make in india. The collection was "Gulbadan" which means delicate, graceful but yet fierce as Babur's daughter Gulbadan. To justify the theme the brand had real women walking on ramp instead of models in hand made sarees. The veteran actress Neelima Azeem performed the opening act in classical dance and closed the show.

Next show was of Newgen designers like Rasleen Kohli, Jasleen Kaur, Kaveh by Vinay Saurabh, Aastha Kaushik, Priyanka Choudhary and House of Archana. Designer Rasleen Kohli's the A/W collection 2019 – "Eternal Nature" expresses an emotion of love for nature, which has been beautifully expressed in the garments through hand embroideries, silhouettes

and draping. PRIYANKA CHOUDHARY's collection themed "OLD IS GOLD" was about how to old fashion with their best designs. The brand's moto is to be fashionable. She used different types of fabric were cotton, jute, silk, fur, net etc for this show. House of Archana's Collection 'Maktub' written is inspired by the influence of planets on our lives & the way their govern our destiny. Each outfit has planetary symbols of each planet & is embroidered with Semi precious gemstones associated with it. Designer Vinay Saurabh showcased collection themed "Blooming Bud". He shares his extreme brilliance in India wear infused with western wear.. The collection captured surreal balance of curves and geometrical lines handcrafted through kirandori and aari work. Jasleen Kaur's collection was an ode to Indian streets. Using ethically sourced linen,







working with under represented crafts groups, silhouettes that are traditionally associated with street wear, the show was a commentary on commodification of both mass culture and street identity. The collection uses linen, kalamkari and fetiya. Aastha Kaushik's Bold & Boisterous Take On Autumn/Winter Style Makes A Statement At IRW '19. Bold Style, Clean Cuts and Strong Colors was the biggest giveaway from the Delhi-based designer Aastha Kaushik's show at India Runway Week 2019. The outfits embodied the prime message behind the designs: Women Empowerment. With her latest collection, Aastha Kaushik showcased a line inspired by feisty and indomitable sides of woman. The upcoming designers Devi Muthukumar, Mona Vora and showcased next. Devi Muthukumar's collection "Chromic Bliss" was an inspiration from the traditional mughal arts- bringing in the opulence & luxury elements. The radiance of the bold and soft hues highlights the richness of the embellishments. The collection was sure to be pre bridal and occasional

wear this season.

Mona Vora. A London based designer showcased her sensuous collection. Mona Vora's elegant and feminine designs are beautifully blended with contemporary silhouettes and subtle chic embroidery details. Made with latest fashion fabrics and innovative workmanship, these designs would be ideal for someone who aims to achieve an effective fusion look. This versatile look stylishly blends the fashion forward style with a touch of regal traditionalism - sure to get a second glance from every onlooker.

The Collection 'Gold & Silver' are Designs that are timeless and luxurious which stands out from the rest due to the uniqueness of colours and detailing. It is a perfect mix of ethnicity and contemporary touch for stylish modern brides. The radiance of the luxurious fabrics sets its creations apart to make you sizzle like an absolute diva. Tanushavy's collection was about Very delicate & intricate work, hand crafting processed products from those regional craftsmen, bringing their ancestors totoday. Fabrics are also, regional manufactured sourced fabrics, like eri silk, velvet, tussar silk, organza fabric. We have also used net fabrics. Embroidery style is zardosi, with katadana, dabka, salli, cheed moti, tikli etc. As Tanushavy is highly inspired from natures, therefore, the designs and motifs comes from flora and fauna.

The collection of designer Nikhita Tandon which was all about y gowns with modern cuts and floral headbands, the collection was accessorized by Ted Baker Watches and actress Vanni Kapoor walked the ramp as a showstopper.

The day ended with an ode to handloom again by Peeli Kothi. Peeli Kothi showcased richly textured sarees. The colors were vibrant and yet very classy. Whereas, Saaj by Ankita closed day 1 with her collection "Twilight Saprkle".

## DAY 2

Day 2 kicked off with the first-ever Ethical Design Challenge where one winner was selected out of 8 young designers from all over India who won the financial support for next season

as well as bagged a sponsored show by IFFD. Sahiba Aggarwal won the Ethical Design Challenge 2019.

Second show of the day was by accessory designer Akassh K Aggarwal where he showcased a strong accessory line themed "Silent Stories" and a collection of a designer was about expression of LGBTQIA+ Community Existence and the struggle of acceptance.

The evening started with Aayana by Siimi's festive wear, finely crafted pieces with lucknowi work, thread work and Indian craftsmanship were seen. Collection which was pre-bridal, bridal wear collection was presented. Showstopper Esha Gupta closed the show for designer Siimi.

The 7 pm show was all about budding designer where Lumegee by Priya Ghosh's collection themed "Morning Bliss" was all about Morning time refers to calmness, quiet and the serene environment. Designer VIJAYA KRISHNA showcased minimalist collection which was an amalgamation of classy and elegant designs. Delhi based designer Purnima Gulati showcased her collection called 'The Blue Eye'. The collection was a blend of interesting silhouettes and amazing styles with a distinct look and precision as they portrayed ultra minimalism with maximum comfort. Bucolic by Rituvan Gupta showcased her collection was about Ecstasy of emotions stitched in mortal garments. From Couture to Pret.

EKAM BY MANISH GUPTA showcased at the day finale. His collection themed "Grazia Di EssereAutore" - Grace of being self. The collection is influenced by a lot of bright and happy colors overpowering the grey mood of the past just like the emotions that the women at EKAM as experiencing. Poonam Dubey was a second designer of day finale show where she showcased collection themed "jharokha" the collection has been inspired by ancient Indian architecture and elements of jharokha (window) has been used widely in the collection.

## DAY 3

India Runway Week dedicated its DAY 3 of Season 12 to breast cancer

awareness in collaboration with Avon. The entire event turned into pink with select city walk turning its lights pink and show logos into pink.

The day started with the breast cancer awareness conference where Dr Meenakshi moderated the conference and Chinna Dua, Dr Ambika Anand, Opel of Opel Foundation (breast cancer NGO) and Jagjit Kaur (Cancer survivor) were the panelists with Avon Marketing director, Swati Jain. Many cancer survivors, women, Surgeons, Doctors joined the conference. It was a first of its kind initiative ever by any fashion event and India Runway Week is the first to talk about the cause in collaboration with Avon.

Then the day started with Avon presenting designer Anupama Dayal showcasing her collection for the cause with cancer survivors walking for her and many female entrepreneurs walking for her to support the cause.

Thereafter, Deepthi Ganesh showcased her Winter/Festive bridal couture collection titled 'Adah'. With her Adah Collection; Deepthi Ganesh showcased a recreation of an Exotic Royal Indian era of grandeur, splendor and beauty of royal Indian palaces. The floral and faunal motifs and combinations of several other motifs from the artistic carvings gave great aesthetic pleasure. Resonating with symbolism, the collection also exhibited fine techniques of motifs embroidery embossed 3D embroideries and beautiful colors of rose gold, marsala and beige.

Ramnik's Collection named .With this collection the designer showcased

her connection with India by using a pure Indian fabric, Jute for preparing her collection.

With her creative hands and eyes Ramnik has created a fusion of Indian and

Western cultures, as she wanted to display the importance of culture and roots

in one's life. With a theme of three light shades the designer aims at globalising the Indian roots. also exhibits dresses for both formal and informal events.

Designer Jenny Saluja showcased her collection called 'Twilight Beauty' which was a recreation of different fusion of wraps and drapes with the scales of snakes used as Surface

Ornamentation. These scales showed simple and complex coloration pattern giving camouflage effect to the Garments. The Camouflage effect of the scales of snakes totally merge in with the beauty of the Twilight.

Therefore, Sunsets Are Proof, That Endings Can Be Beautiful Too.

The evening show kicked off with designer Miku Kumar who showcased her collection called "Legends of the Sea" owing to love for sea, nature, flora and fauna. Ari work and zardozi handwork techniques with some very different cuts and motifs were seen.

NB COUTURE is a brand that pays tribute to women and femininity. Each piece is worked on with masterful cuts and lines representing amalgamation of chic and posh. The beach resort wear mix collection by NB couture was a perfect blend of stylish gowns, jumpsuits and dresses.



The Grand Finale of India Runway Week- Season 12 was by designer Nida Mahmood. The collection was a delicate mix of handlooms, khadi and mercerized cottons with subtle polka dots and stripes, heady textures and a dash of embroidery teamed with delicate laces. The collection is 100% swadeshi and epitomizes the feisty quintessential Indian Girl who is powerful and bold.







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## Prediction for October 2019 by Poonam Sethi

“The more you give, the more you receive” is the motto of renowned Tarot card reader and holistic healer, Poonam Sethi, lives by. She has studied Feng Shui and Tarot card reading at several institutions across the globe and has, through extensive self-study, practice and perseverance, mastered the art of guiding people from the present into the future to precision.



### ARIES

You have hurt someone's feelings and would face the same situation too. Your mind will work overtime in order to plan for the future, exhausting you totally. There will be an addition to the family, a child maybe.

Lucky color: Pink  
Lucky number: 3



### TAURUS

You seem to get mentally exhausted very fast. The week starts with a little bad patch in health. The business seems to take a positive turn now. You will get relieved off some legal hassles too. Your boss will suddenly change his attitude towards you.

Lucky color: Orange  
Lucky number: 5



### GEMINI

Do not go back to old relationships, as there will be disappointments. You will meet an influential person who will help you to pull a few strings for your business/job. You will also have some monetary gains.

Lucky color: Yellow  
Lucky number: 9



### CANCER

You could be knocking the wrong door. Move on & take some chances. You can look forward to a celebration. Emotionally, things are not too good. Someone could be foul mouthing you so be cautious. Finances will be at a standstill.

Lucky color: Purple  
Lucky number: 2



**LEO**

A fairly balanced week ahead. Not much will happen. Be careful of your finances, as you will tend to overspend. You will go on a pilgrimage soon. You will plan to buy some property also.

Lucky color: Green

Lucky number: 8

**VIRGO**

Make good use of this time as luck is favoring you. You will gain power and fame with wealth. But don't let success go to your head. Your attitude has started changing already upsetting people around you.

Lucky color: Sea Green

Lucky number: 4

**LIBRA**

You can't do business with emotions. Control your smoking as some lung problems could come up. You will travel towards the seas. A little more hard work can give you

tremendous gains. You may have a fall so walk carefully.

Lucky color: Magenta

Lucky number: 7

**SCORPIO**

A marriage will be planned for April. Time for you now to take chances. Don't be scared. You will get some good news through the mail. Your near ones will be supportive. You will also give up at least one of your vices. A

new partnership also awaits you.

Lucky color: Blue

Lucky number: 5

**SAGITTARIUS**

The week starts on a good note as there will be some immediate financial gains. A good time to lay the base for a lot of new ventures. A fruitful travel on the cards as well. You will regain some lost

money too.

Lucky color: Violet

Lucky number: 1

**CAPRICORN**

Give up that stubborn attitude as you are holding up your success yourself. If you give your best, the results will definitely follow. You may change your job now, will be for the better. Another week for

those little disappointments to get over.

Lucky color: Indigo

Lucky number: 6

**AQUARIUS**

This week brings on a lot of changes, some expected and some unexpected. Your wishes will now come true. Don't lose any new opportunity coming your

way. You will want to splurge money on your family, do it but in limit.

Lucky color: Olive Green

Lucky number: 9

**PISCES**

An interesting encounter with a person of the opposite sex! You will not be in any mood to work and will continue to party a while longer. Not very good patches for finances so watch it.

Lucky color: Ambere

Lucky number: 8

# The 2019 Global Choice Awards

Global Choice Awards 2019 powered by Xel Research facilitate the shining stars of India. Award were given to the achievers by Bollywood celebrity Jackie Shroff and made it great bestowing moments.







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