

Politics & Democracy

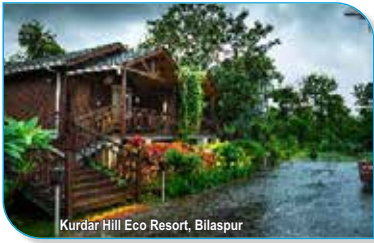
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AMRIT KAAL Budget of the Largest State of India “UTTAR PRADESH”





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CONTENT

Politics & Democracy

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Amrit Kaal: Budget of the Largest State of India “UTTAR PRADESH”

Suresh Khanna the Finance Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) tabled the fourth consecutive budget of his tenure in the Vidhan Sabha and the seventh budget of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's tenure on 22nd February 2023.



On March 21st, 2023, the Indian Railways is scheduled to introduce the Bharat Gaurav Train to the North East region.



Indian Spectrum Round the Globe HOLI

Holi is a Hindu festival that is primarily celebrated in India and Nepal. However, due to migration and globalization, the festival is now celebrated in many other parts of the world as well.

38



20

Air India to add over 4200 cabin crew and 900 pilots through 2023

Air India, India's leading airline and a Star Alliance member, announced plans to hireover 4200 cabin crew trainees and 900 pilots in 2023 as the airline adds new aircraft and rapidly expands its domestic and international operations.



26

No Restrictions for Entry into Fiji

The Fijian Government announced, effective 14 February 2023, international travellers to Fiji will no longer be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and travel insurance.



30

The Set Collection

THRS (Travel and Hospitality Representation Services) has been appointed as the PR and sales representative for The Set Collection to promote their collection of iconic independent luxury hotels in Europe to the Indian market.



32

Relish the beauty of wonderful Gujarat

Gujarat, a state located in the western part of India, is known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse wildlife, and beautiful beaches.

AMRIT KAAL: Budget of the Largest State of India “UTTAR PRADESH”

Suresh Khanna the Finance Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) tabled the fourth consecutive budget of his tenure in the Vidhan Sabha and the seventh budget of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's tenure on 22nd February 2023.



A total of Rs 6.90 lakh crore allocated towards various sectors in UP government's budget for 2023-24.

The annual budget presented with aim to boost the state's economy, creating jobs, and improving the standard of living for its citizens. Uttar Pradesh Budget includes provisions for a start-up policy, women empowerment, farmers' upliftment, health infrastructure, and road and railways projects.



Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh

In the first year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, today seems to be a new year. The budget of Uttar Pradesh will add new golden chapters in the history of social, economic and cultural development of the state. Undoubtedly, this UP Budget 2023 fulfills the interests of every section of the society including the poor farmers, youth and women of the village as per the vision of the respected Prime Minister.



This budget will help make UP self-reliant and serve as the foundation to make UP's economy in next five years a \$1 trillion economy. With its focus on development and job creation, the Uttar Pradesh Budget 2023-24 is poised to drive growth and transformation in the state.

Suresh Khanna, Finance Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh

It would be the biggest budget in the history of the state. There had been a 16.8 per cent growth in state GDP and the unemployment rate before 2017 was 14.4 per cent which has come down to 4.2 per cent now and this is a crucial achievement. The budget focuses on building "New Uttar Pradesh" and aims to create 40,000 jobs in the textile sector in the financial year 2023-2024. It will be for youth, strengthening farmers and giving honour to women. The focus will be on infrastructure so that more employment opportunities can be generated.





- Rs 235 crores allocated for two new link Expressways i.e Jhansi Link Expressway and Chitrakoot link Expressway.
- Rs 600 crores under CM Mass marriage scheme for general category girls, while Rs 150 crores for marriage of OBC girls.
- In order to empower rural women, Rs 83 crore has been proposed for Self Help Groups.
- Rs 4032 crore have been allocated to provide assistance to destitute widows. At present about 32.62 lakh women are being provided assistance in the state.
- Rs 36,230 crore proposed for new 594 km long Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj.
- A fund of Rs 2491 crore has been earmarked to build 14 new medical colleges.
- Rs 200 crore proposed for developing industrial corridor along Gorakhpur link expressways.
- Rs 25 crore to be allocated for Pharma Parks, Rs 20 cr for establishing UP institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Development, and Rs 26 crores for establishing nursing colleges.
- Rs 21,159 crore proposed for construction of

- new roads and flyovers, while another Rs 6209 crore for maintenance of existing ones. The government has allocated Rs 1525 crore for rural roads and Rs 250 crore for widening of roads leading to sugar mills. Another 50 crores have been allocated for widening of roads leading to Industrial and Logistic parks.
- In accordance with the Jan Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra of the BJP for 2022 Assembly polls, 100 percent exemption of power tariff to be given for private tube wells. Rs 1500 crore proposed for the same. In 2022-23 budget, this was 50 per cent.
- Rs 1554 crore proposed for establishing second phase of Green Energy corridor in Bundelkhand to extract and transfer energy from solar plants. The target is to complete the scheme in next 3 years.
- The size of the UP annual budget is Rs 6.90 lakh crore for fiscal year 2023-24, as compared to Rs 6.15 lakh crore, the last fiscal.
- The fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs 84,883 crore, which is 3.84% of the estimated Gross State Domestic Product.

Allocation of Budget in Uttar Pradesh



Geographic Information System



The Uttar Pradesh government has recently released its budget for the year 2023, and one of the notable aspects of the budget is the emphasis on the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in various sectors. GIS is a powerful technology that allows the collection, storage, analysis, and visualization of geographic

data. It has a wide range of applications in various fields, including urban planning, natural resource management, disaster management, public health, and many others. In recent years, GIS has gained significant traction in India, with many government agencies and private organizations adopting it to enhance their decision-making processes.



Amount of Funds for the use of GIS Technology

The Uttar Pradesh budget for 2023 has allocated a significant amount of funds for the use of GIS technology in various sectors. The government has emphasized the use of GIS technology in the development of smart cities, agriculture, water resource management, and disaster management.



Development of Smart Cities

One of the major areas of focus is the development of smart cities. The government has allocated Rs. 5,000 crores for the development of 10 smart cities in the state. GIS technology will play a crucial role in the planning and implementation of these projects, including the identification of suitable locations, infrastructure planning, and monitoring of progress. The use of GIS technology in the development of smart cities is expected to bring many benefits to the state of Uttar Pradesh, including improved living standards, better access to services, and enhanced economic growth.



GIS Technology in Agriculture

In addition to smart city development, the Uttar Pradesh government has also emphasized the use of GIS technology in agriculture. GIS mapping techniques have been helping farmers and the Indian agriculture industry to grow to their fullest potential. The budget allocates Rs. 300 crores for the implementation of a GIS-based crop insurance scheme that will help farmers to mitigate the risks of crop failure. The implementation of the GIS-based crop insurance scheme is expected to benefit many farmers in the state, particularly those who are vulnerable to crop failures.

Development of a Water Resource Information System

Furthermore, the budget includes a provision for the development of a water resource information system. The system will help in the management and conservation of water resources in the state. The government has allocated Rs. 100 crores for the development of this system. The water resource information system is expected to bring many benefits to the state of Uttar Pradesh, including better management of water resources, improved access to safe drinking water, and enhanced agricultural productivity.



GIS-based Disaster Management System

The budget also includes a provision for the establishment of a GIS-based disaster management system. The system will help in the early warning of natural disasters and the efficient management of relief operations during emergencies. The government has allocated Rs. 50 crores for the implementation of this system. The GIS-based disaster management system is expected to benefit many citizens in the state, particularly those who are vulnerable to natural disasters.



Benefits of GIS in Uttar Pradesh

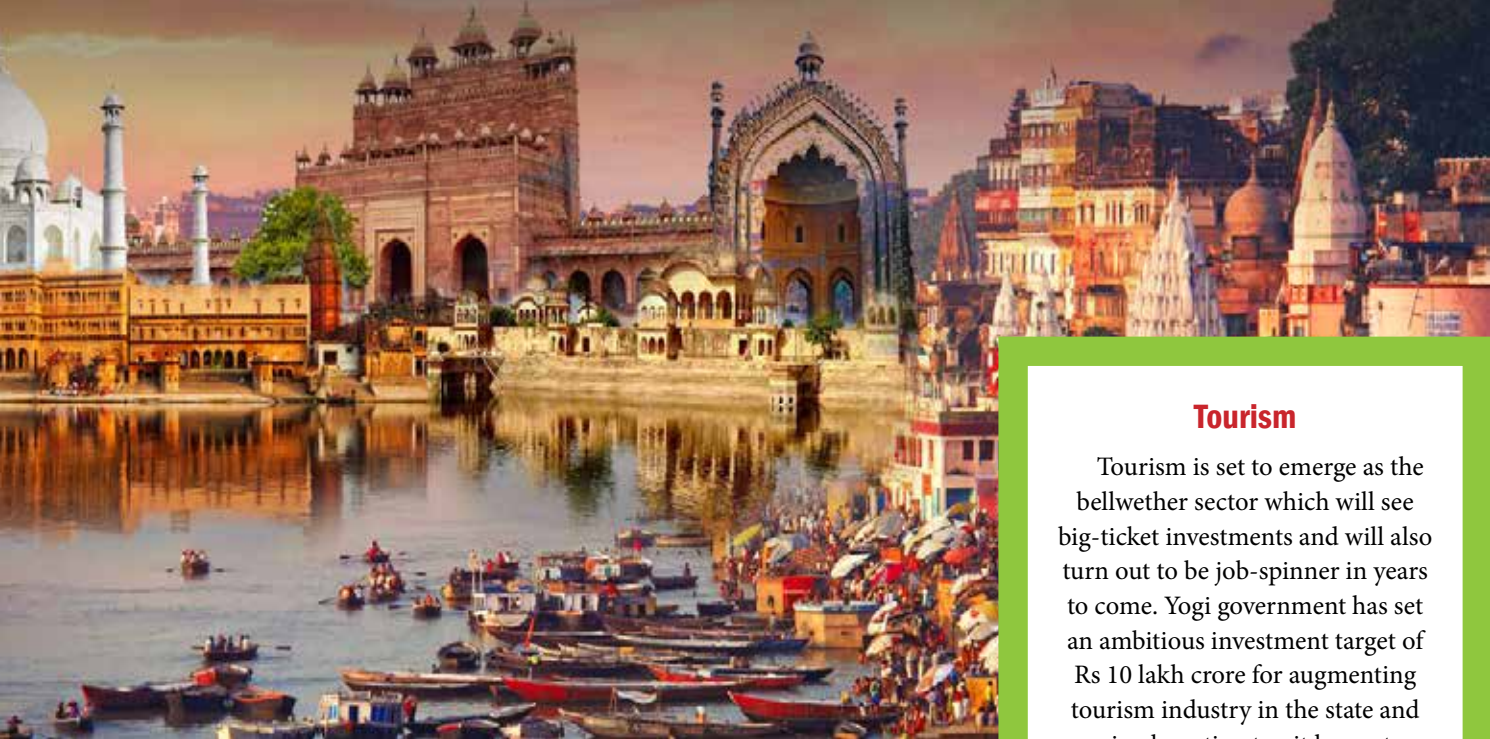
The use of GIS technology in various sectors is expected to bring many benefits to the state of Uttar Pradesh. It will help in the efficient allocation of resources, better planning, and decision-making, and improved service delivery to citizens. Moreover, the adoption of GIS technology is likely to create many employment opportunities in the state, particularly in the field of geospatial technology.



GIS: Welcome Move on the State's Overall Development

The emphasis on GIS technology in the Uttar Pradesh budget for 2023 is a welcome move that is likely to have a positive impact on the state's development. The allocation of funds for the development of smart cities, agriculture, water resource management, and disaster management demonstrates the government's commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of its citizens. It will be interesting to see how these initiatives are implemented in the coming years and the impact they have on the state's overall development.





Infrastructure

For the state's infrastructure development, the budget has set up Rs 28,350.31 crore. The growth of airports and ports, as well as the building of roads, bridges, and flyovers, would be the government's main priorities. The budget also aims to increase accessibility for citizens and raise the standard of public transit.



Tourism

Tourism is set to emerge as the bellwether sector which will see big-ticket investments and will also turn out to be job-spinner in years to come. Yogi government has set an ambitious investment target of Rs 10 lakh crore for augmenting tourism industry in the state and going by estimates, it hopes to create 20,000 jobs in next 5 years, under UP Tourism Policy 2022.

The state government priority is to build a network of corridors enabling simple access to religious sites.

In the annual Budget, the Finance Minister said that Rs 2,538 crore was being proposed for widening/strengthening of roads. A proposed investment of Rs 1,000 crore was also announced to promote religious tourism in the state. These roads leading to religious places will be called 'Dharmarth Marg'.

Religious tourism is set to see manifold increase in the state, owing to construction of Ram Temple and an International airport, the deadline for which has been set by late 2023. Post the inauguration of Kashi corridor, the influx of pilgrims has already recorded a new high.

Agriculture

One of Uttar Pradesh's main economic drivers is agriculture. Agriculture and allied sectors will now receive Rs 22,114.78 crore from the government. The budget aims to encourage the adoption of contemporary technologies, enhance irrigation systems, and expand farmer access to credit.





Health

The health sector would receive Rs 18,790.62 crore from the government. The budget aims to raise the standard of healthcare, expand access to medications and medical supplies, and encourage the use of telemedicine to reach out to rural areas. Also, the state's administration intends to establish new medical schools and hospitals.

Education

The education sector would receive Rs 25,873.62 crore from the budget. The establishment of new schools and colleges, the offering of scholarships to students, and the improvement of teacher training are all efforts made by the government to raise the quality of education in the state. In order to give young people greater options for employment, the budget also aims to enhance the accessibility of programmes for skill development and vocational training.



Social Welfare

Rs.16,785.91 crore have been there in the budget for social welfare programmes. The goal of the government is to give money to the underprivileged and disadvantaged members of society, such as women, children, and the elderly. The budget also aims to give the homeless and less fortunate access to housing, food, and other essentials.



Urban Development

9,600 crore Rs have been set out in the budget for urban development. The development of highways, flyovers, and bridges is just one of the measures the government is taking to improve the services and infrastructure in metropolitan areas. The budget also aims to enhance the city and town public transportation network, including the opening of additional metro lines and bus services. To encourage sustainable growth, the government also wants to build smart cities across the state.



On March 21st, 2023, the Indian Railways is scheduled to introduce the Bharat Gaurav Train to the North East region.

This much sought-after train tour Deluxe Tourist Train will start on North East Circuit for 15 days tour



Indian Railways has decided to operate “North East Discovery: Beyond Guwahati”, specially designed tour to cover the North eastern states of India by Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist train. The train tour will start from Delhi Safdarjung railway station on March 21, 2023 and will cover Guwahati, Sivasagar, Jorhat & Kaziranga in Assam, Unakoti, Agartala & Udaipur in Tripura, Dimapur & Kohima in Nagaland and Shillong & Cherapunji in Meghalaya in 15 days tour.

Spanning over 14 nights and 15 days, the first stop of this train is Guwahati where tourists will visit Kamakhya Temple followed by Umananda Temple and a sunset cruise on the Brahmaputra. This train will further depart on overnight journey for Naharlagun Railway Station which is 30 kms from the next destination Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh. The next city

to follow is Sivasagar - the old capital of the Ahom Kingdom in Eastern part of Assam. The famous Shiva temple at Sivasagar, Sivadol is a part of the itinerary besides other heritage sites. Further the tea gardens at Jorhat and an overnight stay at Kaziranga followed by an early morning jungle safari at Kaziranga National Park will be experienced by the tourists.

The Deluxe AC Tourist Train next departs from the Furkating Railway Station for the state of Tripura where the sightseeing of famous heritage site of Unakoti and of Agartala including the famous Ujjayanta Palace. On the next day, the Neermahal palace and Tripura Sundari mandir at Udaipur will be covered in the itinerary. Post Tripura, the train departs to Dimapur for visiting the state of Nagaland. The scenic train journey between Badarpur station to Lumding Jn can be witnessed by the guests in the early hours of the morning

This special tour offers tour opportunity to India's North East covering Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya.

The much sought-after train tour “North East Discovery: Beyond Guwahati” is ready to depart on March 21, 2023 from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station on a 14 nights/15 days itinerary. State of the art Deluxe AC Tourist Train with AC I & AC II class will accommodate total 156 tourists.

The places covered are Guwahati, Sivasagar, Jorhat & Kaziranga in Assam, Unakoti, Agartala & Udaipur in Tripura, Dimapur & Kohima in Nagaland and Shillong & Cherapunji in Meghalaya.

Tourists can also board/deboard at Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla, Itawah, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi. Railway Station on this tourist train. IRCTC has also tied up with Paytm and Razorpay payment gateways for providing EMI payment option to the customers



from their seats. From Dimapur station tourists shall be taken to Kohima by buses for visiting the local sites including a tour of the Khonoma village to experience the Naga way of life. The next halt for the tourist train will be Guwahati and tourist will be taken to Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya by road with a pit stop at the majestic Umiam Lake enroute. The next day starts with an excursion to Cherrapunji nestled in the East Khasi Hills. Shillong Peak, Elephant Falls, Nawkhalikai falls and Mawmai caves are a part of the day's sightseeing. From Cherrapunji the tourists travel back to Guwahati Station to board the train for the return train journey to Delhi. Guests will be travelling roughly 5800 Kms in this entire tour by train.

The modern Deluxe AC Tourist Train has a host of amazing features including two fine dining restaurants, a contemporary kitchen, shower cubicles in coaches, sensor based washroom functions, foot massager and a mini library. The fully air-conditioned train provides two types of accommodation



viz. AC I and AC II. The train has enhanced security features like CCTV cameras, electronic safes and dedicated security guards appointed for each coach.

Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train launch is in line with the Government of India initiative "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" and "Dekho Apna Desh" to promote domestic tourism. At a price range starting from Rs.1,06,990/- per person in AC 2 Tier, Rs.1,31,990/- per person for AC 1 (Cabin) and Rs.1,49,290/- Per Person for AC 1 (Coupe) the IRCTC tourist train will be a 15 days all inclusive tour package and the price will cover train journey in respective class, Night stay at AC hotels, All meals

(VEG ONLY), all transfer & sight-seeing in buses, Travel Insurance and services of guide etc. All necessary health precautionary measures will be taken care of and IRCTC will make efforts to provide a safe and memorable experience to the guests.

To ensure safety measures in the present COVID 19 scenario, full vaccination (double doses) for guests of age group 18 or above is mandatory. Besides, IRCTC will also provide a safety kit to all tourists, which would include a face mask, hand gloves and sanitizer. Regular temperature checking of all tourists and staff, frequent train sanitization at halt stations etc and other precautions has also been adopted. Staff shall be screened thoroughly and kitchen & restaurants shall be sanitized after every meal service.

In order to make this package more attractive and affordable to a large population, IRCTC has tied up with Paytm and Razorpay payment gateways for providing EMI payment option for breaking the total payment in small amount EMIs.

The first meeting of G20 Digital Economy Working Group was successfully held in Lucknow

Extensive discussions held on priority areas regarding Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Cyber Security in Digital Economy and Digital Skilling

Global economy could lose up to \$11.5 trillion by 2028 due to the Digital Skills gap: shared by NASSCOM and UNESCO
G20 Member nations and 8 Guest countries participated in the deliberations

International organisations namely ITU, UNDP, OECD, UNESCO and World Bank also participated as the Knowledge Partners

Over 18,000 people visited the exhibition and Digital India Experience Centre & enjoyed the immersive experience
Digital Van visited over 75 locations and engaged with 120,000+ persons

The First G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) meeting in India concluded today, setting the tone for a productive and meaningful deliberations for the future DEWG meetings. The three-day meeting, which took place in Lucknow, showcased India's digital transformation journey, and brought together G20 members, key knowledge partners, and guest countries to discuss digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity, and digital skilling.

The inauguration day showcased by five workshops that covered



various topics related to digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity solutions for MSMEs, sustainable development goals, and the use of geospatial technologies. In addition, the meeting showcased digital initiatives from the state of Uttar Pradesh.

On the second day, the DEWG meeting began with a keynote address from India's G20 Sherpa, Shri Amitabh Kant, followed by insightful presentations and interventions from participants. Subsequently, the delegates discussed two priority areas namely Digital Public Infrastructure and Cyber security were discussed at length and expressed their willingness for further deliberations in subsequent working group meetings for greater shared understanding.

In the second half of the day, the participants embarked on an excursion to Bara Imambara, a historic monument that is widely considered an architectural masterpiece. The site was a perfect backdrop for the participants to unwind and enjoy the local culture and traditions. The day ended on a high note with the sound, light and dance shows, creating a magical and memorable atmosphere for all.

The final and the third day of the meeting focused on the priority of Digital Skilling. India proposed mechanisms for digitally skilled future ready workforce. The member



nations appreciated the inclusion of digital skilling in the DEWG agenda and supported the India's proposed priority areas broadly. Summary discussions were also held on three key priority areas namely Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Cyber Security in Digital Economy and Digital Skilling. The Co-Chair and Joint Secretary, MeitY - Shri Sushil Pal made the concluding remarks.

The Chair of G20-DEWG and Secretary, MeitY, Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma, in his press brief shared the key highlights of the last three days. He thanked the G20 member states, guest countries and international organisations for the invigorating conversations on the priority areas. He stated that immersive digital mobile van, travelled to over 75 destinations and provided an interactive and immersive experience to about 120,000 persons on the India's digital transformation journey. The exhibition and experience centre, showcasing virtual realities and innovative solutions, attracted around 18,000 visitors. He thanked the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for their phenomenal support in organising this DEWG meeting. He said that this DEWG meeting is the first of four scheduled to be conducted in India, with the next ones taking place in Hyderabad, Pune and Bangalore.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt emphasized complete indigenisation of arms and ammunition for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' during the Indian Navy-DDP seminar at Aero India 2023.

In line with the Government's policy to reduce foreign dependence and achieve self-reliance in defence, the Indian Navy, in collaboration with Department of Defence Production, conducted a seminar on the topic 'Aatmanirbharta in Aero Armament Sustenance' during Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru on February 15, 2023. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt was the Chief Guest of the seminar. He emphasised on complete indigenisation of arms and ammunition in the Armed Forces.

The Raksha Rajya Mantri commended the response of the Armed Forces to the government's clarion call for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', also expressing satisfaction over the fact that many indigenous projects in the defence sector are being taken forward by DRDO, DPSUs and private industries. He stated that looking at the overwhelming response of the private industry, Ministry of Defence has come out with several policy decisions to encourage their participation for the progress of the nation. He stressed the need to work together to fulfil the goal which a strong and self-reliant India, as envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

In his address, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar said, "The contemporary security canvas is characterised by increasing uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity amongst nations, leading to a world of 'permacrisis.' In overcoming these challenges, among the instruments of national power, a well-equipped, technologically-enabled and efficiently supported modern military will remain critical."



The Chief of the Naval Staff added that the Indian Navy has established a three-tier organisation under Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation to further synchronise and stimulate our collaboration with the industry. This seminar is organised to bring key stakeholders to a common platform, so that we can share our requirements and, listen to your constructive ideas, inputs and challenges.

The aim of the seminar was to highlight the opportunities and challenges involved in realising missile sustenance of the tri-services through Indian industry and to achieve the following three-fold objectives:

- To highlight the scope of work in terms of various missiles held in the Indian Navy inventory proposed to be life extended and sustained in the coming years.
- To emphasise the various advantages accrued by the private sector, in terms of understanding the nuances of sustaining missiles/armaments.
- To discuss the technical expertise and resources available with various stake-holders within the country and take feedback from user, R&D

labs, vendors and QA agencies on the opportunities and challenges towards realising missile sustenance for the tri-services through private industry.

The seminar provided a platform to key stakeholders from the MoD, User, maintainer, QA agencies, DRDO, DPSUs and the Indian industry to engage in detailed panel discussions on the Govt's initiative and way-ahead for Industry partners to participate in taking on sustenance of missiles held with the Armed Forces.

Government's clarion call for 'Aatmanirbharta' has been responded well by both the Armed Forces and Indian industry towards achieving self-reliance in the area of defence production. Recent efforts in the designing & development of complete indigenous systems by private industries have yielded notable success and boosted confidence of private industry to take-on more projects. It has, thus, become essential for the Armed Forces to ensure maintenance and sustenance of the existing weapons and systems over the next few years of transition when the imported inventory will be phased out and replaced altogether with indigenous weapons.

5 beautiful things that happen after a spiritual awakening

A spiritual awakening is the realization of the truth. It is Enlightenment — it is being enlightened with the truth. It is more than spiritual knowledge. It is a realization, an inner intuitive experience. We realize who we are — the Atman, the Spirit, the Soul — a Spark Of Unique Life. We realize that the Soul is the Supreme Immortal Power we call God, that we are a part of this Power and everyone and everything is a Divine manifestation.

Enlightenment is the goal of life. It is why we are born. It is the purpose of human life. It is Divine Bliss, an ecstasy unknown to common man. One experiences not just a transformation but a metamorphosis, an irreversible, life-altering change. It frees us from all suffering and misery on earth. It leads to Moksha — liberation from Karma, liberation from being born again and again and union with God.

There are several beautiful things one experiences after a spiritual awakening:

1. We move out of the darkness of ignorance into the light of the truth. We realize who we are — we are not what we appear to be, the body, mind and ego. We are the Divine Soul, the Atman, the Spirit. We realize that this world is only a drama. Nothing is real. We are actors who come and go. Whatever happens is the unfolding of our Karma. We live with acceptance and surrender.
2. We experience a sense of bliss and joy. We realize that we are a part of the Divine, a part of the very God we seek. We live with self-awareness. It is both humbling and elevating. We realize that the



Enlightenment is the goal of life. It is why we are born. It is the purpose of human life. It is Divine Bliss, an ecstasy unknown to common man. One experiences not just a transformation but a metamorphosis, an irreversible, life-altering change.

Supreme Immortal Power we call God lives in the temple of our heart.

3. We realize that life has meaning and purpose. We are not born by chance or because of some random happening. We realize the futility of chasing wealth and

success. Nothing belongs to us! The joy from material things is ephemeral. It is transient, only momentary pleasure. Spiritual awakening, on the other hand is true happiness. When we live with meaning and purpose, when we attain the purpose of life, we live with a sense of joy and fulfillment.

4. A spiritual awakening liberates us from suffering and misery. We transcend the body, mind and ego. We overcome the desires and the cravings of the body; the misery, fear, stress caused by the mind; the anger, hatred and jealousy caused by the ego. We are able to live in a state of Consciousness where we experience true peace. And peace is the foundation of happiness. When we live in a state of Consciousness of the truth, we experience the state of Satchitananda — seamless Divine bliss. Not only are we free from suffering on earth but also from the Karmic cycle of death and rebirth.
5. We experience a sense of oneness with everyone — with God, people, nature and other beings because we realize that everything, each one of us is a manifestation of God. Only God is, there is nothing else. We feel a universal connection with everything around us. Love evolves to spiritual love — love from Soul to Soul, love for one and all.

Spiritual awakening opens the doors to a life of Everlasting Bliss, Divine Love and Eternal Peace. Once we are enlightened, we can never lose our Enlightenment. But we have to continue to live in Yoga, in union with God and not sink back into the material world of pleasures.

Meditation for beginners: 6 tips to help you get started

Awareness and mindfulness Meditation techniques bring us back to the present moment, allowing us to fully concentrate on the task at hand. This boosts output and keeps us concentrated on our goals. Any mindfulness technique's fundamental aim is to create a state of acute, clear, and focused relaxation through conscious, judgment-free observation of thoughts and sensations. There are numerous methods for practising mindfulness. This makes it possible for the mind to return to the present moment. Each practise of awareness is a form of meditation.

Learn this art properly

There is never a dull moment during a yoga practise. Every day offers a chance to learn something new and a brand-new beginning. You should generally be open to learning, but you should also practise restraint until you get the feel of it. If you have never exercised or participated in any meditation activity before, it might be seem overwhelming and daunting. Take care to develop your foundational techniques by starting off slowly.

Alignment with your breathing

Know the proper alignment of breath and seated pose for each method prior to practising. This helps to prevent

confusion and ensures that you can benefit the most from your practise. Be careful and avoid certain techniques if you are not sure of them. Additionally, the breath rate must be coordinated. Learn and understand the proper breathing technique for each technique by taking your time.

Set realistic goals

Yoga is the ideal practise for assisting you in internalising the notion that goals are crucial. Yoga gives you the strength to endure whenever you attempt any technique and find it difficult. Therefore, completing that becomes your objective, which motivates you to keep trying until you are successful in it. However, it's crucial to move slowly and be kind to yourself. Yoga teaches us how to maximise the amazing breathing and life systems that God has given us. It is a science of the body and mind. By becoming aware of both, you can form a close relationship with it.

Yoga and nutrition

After eating, do not immediately begin your practise. Try to wait at least two hours before eating or



practising. Additionally, it's a good idea to postpone taking a bath right after practise. Your lunch and practise should be separated by at least 30 minutes. The food you eat affects how your body is now feeling and how healthy you are. If you want to develop yourself, enrich the food that you eat.

Dedication and discipline

Like any new experience, practising yoga calls for dedication and perseverance. Only by consistently practising will you be able to reap its advantages, thus consistency is essential. Your first step in demonstrating your passion and commitment to yoga can be as simple as turning up on your yoga mat each day for practise.

Practical application of meditation

Instead than being a technique, meditation is a way of life and an attitude. So that you can think like a yogi, make meditation a lifestyle. This mindset will also guarantee that you maintain your composure no matter what difficulties you encounter in life.

Air India to add over 4200 cabin crew and 900 pilots through 2023

Air India, India's leading airline and a Star Alliance member, announced plans to hire over 4200 cabin crew trainees and 900 pilots in 2023 as the airline adds new aircraft and rapidly expands its domestic and international operations.



Earlier this month, Air India announced a mega order to purchase 470 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus to support its growth plans. It has already announced plans to lease 36 aircraft of which two

B 777-200 LR have already joined the fleet.

The cabin crew, who will be recruited

from around the country, will undergo a 15-week programme imparting safety and service skills, and will be coached to exemplify the best of Indian hospitality and Tata group culture. The training program will include extensive classroom and in-flight training at the airline's training facility in Mumbai as well as familiarization flights.

Notably, between May 2022-February 2023, Air India has hired over 1900 cabin crew. Over 1,100 cabin crew have been trained in the last seven months (between July'22-January'23), and in the past three months, approximately 500 cabin crew have been released for flying by the airline.

Commenting on the hiring plans, Sandeep Verma, Head - Inflight Services said, "With a sizeable aircraft order that was announced earlier in the month, more flights on international and domestic networks, and re-alignment of domestic routes with AIX connect, cabin crew will play a decisive role in shaping the present and future of the Air India group. Addition of fresh talent will also accelerate the pace of cultural transformation at Air India, which is an integral part of our Vihaan. AI transformation program. We are also looking to step up hiring of more pilots and maintenance engineers."

AirAsia India commences operations from Terminal 2 at BLR Airport



AirAsia India commenced operations from the newly launched Terminal 2 at BLR Airport in Bengaluru from 15th February. Bengaluru is the largest hub for the airline, with 43 scheduled daily departures connecting

Bengaluru to Delhi, Goa, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Pune, Bagdogra, Lucknow, Ranchi, Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Jaipur, and Surat. The airline also operates connecting flights from Bengaluru to Imphal and Srinagar.

Flydubai has increased its network in Africa to 11 destinations

flydubai, the Dubai-based airline, announced the launch of a daily service to Mogadishu Aden Adde International Airport (MGQ) from 09 March 2023. The carrier will double the frequency of flights from 01 June 2023, making it the first carrier to connect Somalia directly with Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

With the start of flights to Mogadishu from 09 March 2023, flydubai expands its network in Africa to 11 destinations, providing passengers from the UAE

and the region with more convenient options for travel. This includes Addis Ababa, Alexandria, Asmara, Dar esSalaam, Djibouti, Entebbe, Hargeisa, Khartoum, Juba and Zanzibar.

Hamad Obaidalla, Chief Commercial Officer at flydubai



we continue to look for opportunities to grow our network in East Africa and open up underserved markets. This region has seen significant economic growth and development in recent years, our direct flights will further stimulate the economy and help create free flows of travel and trade.

Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations (UAE, GCC, Africa and the Indian Subcontinent) at flydubai



Flydubai will offer convenient and reliable travel services between both countries. This route will be operated by our fleet of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, offering customers the comfort of our Business Class cabin or a more customised experience in Economy Class. We are looking forward to doubling our frequency to Somalia from 01 June 2023 and further connecting the market to Dubai and beyond.



Etihad Introduces new Flights to Thrilling Summer Destinations

The airline will be connecting Abu Dhabi to Portugal's capital city right in time for the summer holidays, with three weekly flights scheduled to be operated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Summer flights to Malaga and Mykonos

As well as introducing flights to Lisbon, Etihad Airways will be returning to Málaga on the Spanish Costa del Sol and the popular Greek island of Mykonos this summer. Etihad Airways will be flying to Málaga twice-per-week, on Wednesdays and Sundays, from 18 June 2023. Lying on a wide bay with stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea and one of the most visited coastal cities in Spain, Málaga is famous for its miles-long sandy beaches, culture and food.

Travellers can also look forward to Etihad Airways launching flights to Mykonos, lying in the deep blue waters of the Aegean sea, with twice-per-week services on Mondays and Fridays from 16 June 2023. With world-class beaches, restaurants and entertainment, as well as plenty of opportunities to discover ancient Greek history, the island is one of the hottest summer spots in Europe.

With the addition of new routes to Lisbon, Malaga and Mykonos, Etihad Airways will be offering travellers nearly 160 weekly flights to 21 destinations in Europe this summer, with 20% more seats available than in 2022.



New Choice of New India

“As a leading private jet and charter company in India, we believe that the government's initiative to promote domestic tourism will definitely benefit our business,” said Kanika Tekriwal, CEO, JetSetGo.

Give us some insights about your family and background?

I come from a Marwari family, all my family members are involved in various businesses in some form or other.

Did you think about starting JetSetGo-Aviation before you were diagnosed with Cancer?

Since the age of four, I had aspired to become a pilot, but coming from a traditional Marwadi business family, it was tough for girls to pursue such a career. During an internship at a design company, I shared my passion for aviation with my boss who invited me to help set up his aviation business. After some time, I moved to London to pursue my dreams but had to return to India when I was diagnosed with cancer at 22. Following a successful battle against the disease, I was inspired to start JetSetGo & will always be grateful as life gave me another chance.

How did you get the idea of launching India's first marketplace for private jets and helicopter charters in India?

When you belong to a typical Marwari family, you know that entrepreneurship is in your blood. I always knew, from a very young age, that I would be running a business of my own at some point in my life. Though my parents were all prepared

to pack me off into a ‘nice Marwari family,’ which would have put my chances of doing business near zero, they have been incredibly supportive since JetSetGo was founded.

Did you ever feel any gender discrimination as a woman who decided to launch India's first marketplace for private jets?

At the onset of my entrepreneurial journey, I did receive varied advice such as I should set up a bakery and start baking cupcakes. People told me that aviation was not my cup of tea and I should instead take up a business that is into making clothes. Someone during the inception days of JetSetGo told me that I should rethink my decision of venturing into the aviation space as it would be difficult to continue once I get married and have kids. People told me a host of things girls do not become pilots and I shouldn't waste my time pursuing my dream coming from a traditional Marwari family.

How much investment did you make to launch your company? What is your staff strength, the number and type of aircraft and helicopters, turnover, business module, future plans, and targets?



I started my business with a modest investment of Rs 5,600 without owning any aircraft. Despite facing numerous obstacles in the early years, such as being ignored or dismissed in meetings where questions about my business were directed toward my male colleagues, my company has made significant strides. Today, we have expanded to employ around 200 people and have established offices in major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad with a total fleet of 28+ aircraft.

Any latest developments/ future plans?

We will continually evolve our business model with a focus on fleet development, model innovation &

the application of technology. We have plans to introduce eVTOLs (electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft) in the near future, with the aim of transforming urban air mobility by providing a novel mode of transportation for passengers & to be carbon neutral by 2025.

In the recent budget, the govt. has announced that it will promote domestic tourism. How do you think it will benefit your business?

As a leading private jet and charter company in India, we believe that the government's initiative to promote domestic tourism will definitely benefit our business. The increased focus on domestic travel is likely to create more demand for air travel, especially for those looking for a luxurious and hassle-free travel experience. JetSetGo of well places to address the premium and luxury end of this market.

The govt. has also announced 50 additional airports, aerodromes, helipads, and water routes will be built to spur greater connectivity across the country. What are your thoughts on this?

This would be a good move in tackling the increasing passenger traffic volume and at the same time decongest the main airports. This infrastructure improvement will also give further impetus to business travel and tourism. With the increasing disposable income at the middle-class level, execution of these plans would further boost the air travel potential for them.

However, the sector was expecting much more from the Budget especially on the fuel price. Bringing aviation fuel under GST would have been a major step forward in reducing costs for operators like us. But the Budget has not touched upon this issue at all, in fact there is an increase by 4 percent in the jet fuel price which will further increase the operational cost for us.

SAUDIA: Your Ticket Your Visa Service

SAUDIA, the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, has announced the launch of "Your Ticket Your Visa". The first-of-its-kind service provides guests with even easier access to the Kingdom through a digital integration system that links transit visas with flight tickets.



Your Ticket Your Visa" service is introduced in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, the Pilgrims Service Program, and the Saudi Tourism Authority.

The new service, which covers all international airports in the Kingdom, will allow guests to stay in the Kingdom for up to 96 hours, during which they can travel around the Kingdom and perform Umrah. The digital integration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitates the issuing of the transit visa and links it to the flight ticket within three minutes.

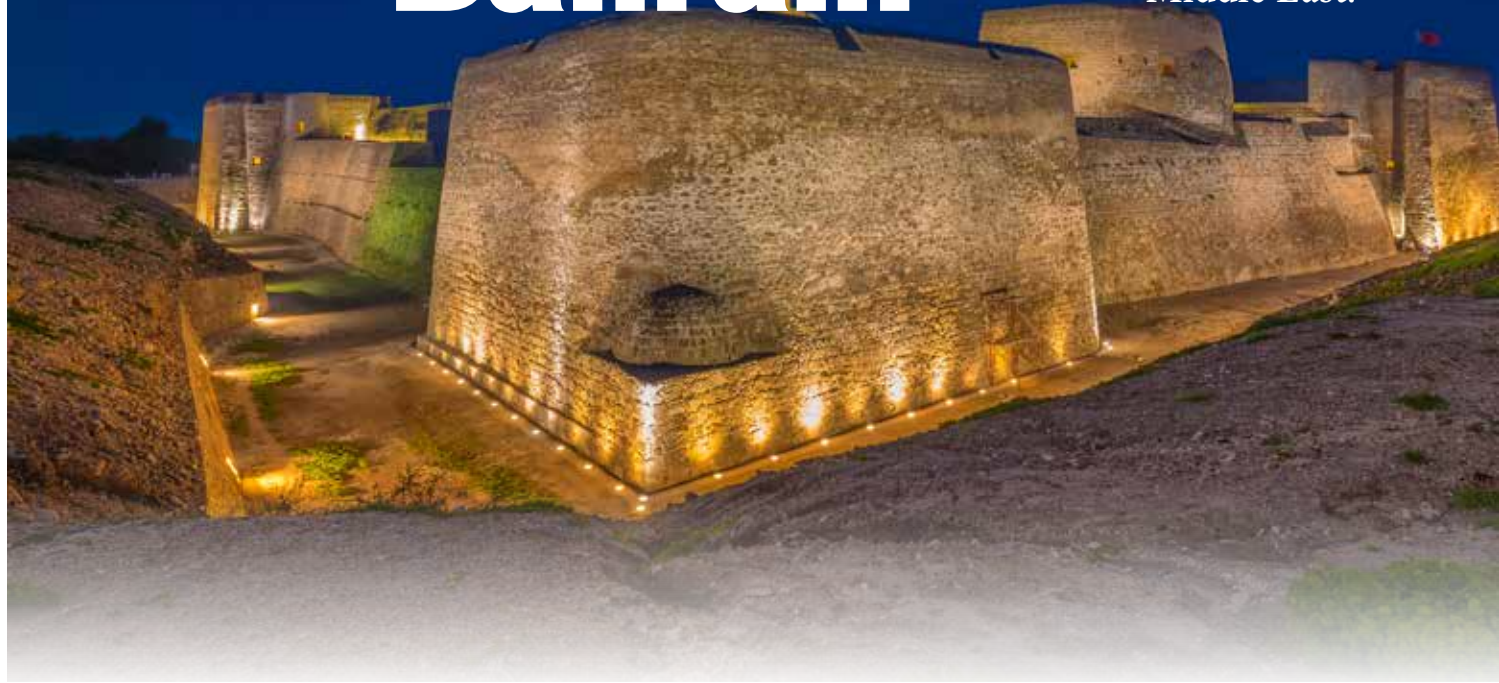
The launch of the new service comes in line with SAUDIA's

commitment to promote King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah and strengthen its role in the region by configuring SAUDIA's flights coming from the east and departing to the west, facilitating travel procedures by collaborating with the Jeddah Airports Company, and coordinating with the Saudi Tourism Authority to provide incentive packages for those wishing to benefit from "Your Ticket Your Visa" service.

The "Your Ticket Your Visa" service is part of the digital services provided by SAUDIA via its website and smart applications, which are constantly evolving to facilitate and simplify travel procedures and make a shift in the after-sales services.

Live the experience in Bahrain

The Kingdom of Bahrain is an island country in the Middle East.



• Vedika Sharma

This breath-taking island nation is ruled by an Arab royal family in the Arabian Gulf. With an area of approximately 780 square kilometres, it is Asia's third-smallest country after Singapore and the Maldives. Bahrain is one of the top cosmopolitan destinations in the region. Bahrain ought to be your upcoming vacation spot if you desire a location with beautiful landscapes, extravagant accommodations, and adventure activities to do.

Here are some suggestions:

Indoor Skydiving at Gravity

The first indoor skydiving experience in Bahrain offers a thrilling sense of freefall in one of the tallest wind tunnels in the world, with an overall height of 12 meters and tempered glass construction. Jump in as if you

were about to jump from a plane, but without the parachute and even without getting on the plane in the first place. Except for those unwilling to embark on a life-altering expedition, anyone can enjoy this body-flight experience. An exceptional and unforgettable experience is assured. Even if you are a first-time flyer, don't worry you will first have a specialized training session after arriving and checking in before getting ready to fly. Your instructor will teach you to fly your body during your flights. With other inexperienced fliers, you alternate taking turns at each manoeuvre. A jumpsuit, helmet, goggles, and earplugs are included in the kit. Gravity records every moment of your "flying" on camera or video so you can have a souvenir to take home. A framed photograph of you "flying" in the tunnel is also offered.

Karting Circuit

Bahrain International Karting Circuit is a world-class karting track that

was the first to accommodate a world championship-level race at night. It is more than just a racetrack for die-hard racers. It also serves as a location for those starting in racing at the local level, as well as those searching to get their first sensory characteristics of the fast-paced existence in motorsport. From championship games, and Mini Grands Prix, as well as track sessions to off-track operations and driving lessons, BIKC has it all, and a visit here will be remembered. This karting venue has over ten different track configurations. The circuit was built to the highest of international standards, permitting it to annex world championship events. Due to the cutting-edge floodlighting system, BIKC exists as the only operating location in the world that can accommodate international tournaments at night. This activity is open to all, adults, and children above the age of 7 years, making it the ideal attraction for millennials, family travelers, and even solo travelers.

Bahrain International Circuit

Bahrain is home to the Bahrain International Circuit, a venue for motorsports. It hired Woodroffe Bassett Design to develop a new, very effective visual design for the tower, with a focus on Bahrain's F1 race at night. the venue for the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix. This year the race is set to take place from 3rd to 5th March 2023 with international DJ snake to perform as well.

Al Fateh Grand Mosque

Al Fateh Grand Mosque is another magnificent attraction that you should add to your itinerary. It is the most famous mosque in the Kingdom, and one of the world's largest. It cannot be missed when you are in Juffair. The enormous dome atop the main prayer structure is built completely out of fiberglass. The building can comfortably hold 7,000 worshippers at any time and is also the site of Bahrain's National Library. The library houses over 50,000 volumes of books in English and Arabic.

Bahrain National Museum

The Bahrain National Museum is the largest and oldest public museum in Bahrain. It is situated in Manama, adjacent to the National Theatre of Bahrain. Considered one of the Kingdom's cultural landmarks, the Bahrain National Museum, was officially inaugurated by the late Amir H.H. Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa on 15th December 1988 and was considered one of the finest museums of its kind in the Gulf region. It is the crowning achievement of the Kingdom of Bahrain's ongoing efforts to preserve the nation's heritage and history. Visitors will be taken on a 6,000-year journey through time as they pass through the museum's halls.



Jarada Island

The disappearing island is famous for the fact that it floats to the surface during certain times of the day based on the tide schedules. As Jarada Island only appears at specific times of the day and then vanishes owing to tidal forces, it is known as a hidden or disappearing island.

The Island has become one of Bahrain's most popular hotspots, drawing both local and international visitors to take advantage of its natural beauty and its many water sports and activities. It is renowned for its clear seas, in which you may swim and dive, and its fine golden sand.

Boat Trip

Surrounded by water, Bahrain offers many sea and beach attractions – though one of the most impressive outings available must be a trip to Jarada Island.

Pearl diving and shucking

Opening the oyster and searching for pearls within is known as pearl shucking. You should try Pearl Shucking i.e. hunting for pearls in Oysters collected by the crew – you will be surprised at just how many pearls you can find! If you're a keen diver, you can also extend your trip and go pearl diving – there is no better place than Bahrain for this!

Al Areen Wildlife

Bahrain's Al Areen Wildlife Park is home to both a zoo and a wildlife reserve. It is one of five declared protected areas in the nation making it the sole protected area on land. The park was created in 1976 and has a total square footage of 7 km. The zoological park contains both plant and animal species that are local to Bahrain as well as species from Africa and south Asia.

In addition to the planted plants and trees, the park is home to various animal species, bird species, plant species as well as falconry. The Arabian oryx, which is extinct in the wild, as well as the South African cheetah, lion, Savannah monitor, African rock python, Persian gazelle, springbok, African wild dog, spotted hyena, Saluki dogs, impala, fallow deer, Chapman's zebra, Honey badger, and desert hares are among the animals that roam the nature reserve area of the park. The scimitar-horned oryx, addax, dama gazelle, giraffes, Nubian ibex, wild goat, barabary sheep, and Asiatic onager are among the Arabian and North African species that can be found there. Additionally, the park practices captive breeding of endangered species. Tour buses departing from the main entrance give visitors access to the park's animals. The park is close to Bahrain International Circuit and can be reached from Manama by car in about 40 minutes.

No Restrictions for Entry into Fiji

The Fijian Government announced, effective 14 February 2023, international travellers to Fiji will no longer be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and travel insurance.



One of the first countries to open its borders in December 2021, Fiji welcomed 636,312 visitors in 2022, a strong recovery surpassing its expected targets. This latest move comes following careful consideration of the global and national COVID-19 situation by the COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Taskforce (CRMT) and applies to both arrivals from air and sea. As the country evolved towards treating COVID-19 as an endemic, the last set of entry requirements were removed last

night (14 February 2023).

Previously, all travellers 16 years and above were required to produce proof of full vaccination and travel insurance covering COVID-19.

As reported by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), Fiji's hospitalisation is low, owed to our community-wide immunisation and in-country surveillance capacity. Notably, the focus remains on implementing COVID safe measures around those vulnerable to the severe effects of

COVID-19.

The MHMS also reports 95 percent of Fiji's estimated adult population are vaccinated, with booster shots continuing to be administered to eligible people across the islands.

Therefore, consistent with the experience in other countries with high vaccination rates, Fiji will no longer have any COVID-19 related border health measures.

Fiji's Border Authorities will continue

Brent Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Fiji

The industry welcomes the decision - no protocols, restrictions, vaccination requirements or COVID-19



tests and invites the world to come experience Fiji: where happiness comes naturally. We still strongly encourage travellers to have travel insurance and take the necessary precautions we all know well to stay healthy and maximize their fun in Fiji!

to review border health measures and maintain community surveillance for early warning of future threats while fostering socio-economic recovery.



Saudi receives more than 2 million visitors from India

As part of the delegation visit to India earlier this month, this mission program featured a range of meetings, industry round-tables and networking events including participation at the One World Travel Market in Mumbai (OTM) and the South Asian Travel and Tourism Exchange (SATTE) in Delhi. This was followed up with two roadshows in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Saudi Tourism Authority (STA) has also, commenced an official partnership with the world's preeminent Twenty 20 cricket league, the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) at an event held in Mumbai last week.

India is a key source market for Saudi. As part of Saudi's ambition to achieve 100 million visits annually by 2030, India represents immense potential as it is expected to be one of Saudi's largest tourism source markets by then. During the course of these engagements, STA held 3,000 plus meetings with leading trade partners and travel buyers to

promote Saudi as a holiday destination. They also shared insights around the growing trends of MICE tourism and budget travel.

On his recent visit to India, Alhasan Aldabbagh, APAC President at Saudi Tourism Authority, said, "We are delighted to showcase the beauty of Saudi and its diverse tourism offerings all across India. We have received an overwhelmingly positive response from our partners here and STA is committed to investing, learning and working closely with them to ensure our product offerings are attractive for the Indian market. These engagements are important in helping us achieve ambitious goals and drive visitation numbers from India to Saudi. Last year, we saw 1 million visitors, which has encouraged us to become ambitious about doubling the figures from this region this year. India, we believe, will be the number one tourism source market for us in 2030 as we aim to

welcome more than 12 million visitors by then."

"Saudi is a great holiday destination with rich cultural, historical and spiritual sites. It is home to 6 UNESCO world heritage sites and more than 10,000 archaeological sites that are unexplored and that we are waiting to be explored. This includes historical places like Al Balad in Jeddah and Turaif in Diriyah - the birthplace of Saudi.

We also offer a variety of tourism experiences such as the Boulevard World in Riyadh city, Bujairi Terrace home to over 20 retail and lifestyle brands including four Michelin-starred restaurants, Red Sea Project and much more. Apart from our tourism product offerings, we are also working on many exciting partnership and sponsorship opportunities like the IPL. We believe that the partnership with IPL is one of the first steps in strengthening a culture for the game of cricket in Saudi." Alhasan Aldabbagh added.



A Step into the DIVINE World

“As per our marketing strategies, we focus on showcasing unique qualities and highlighting the things that make Divine Resort and Spa special.” said Anil Gosain, Director of Sales and Marketing, Divine Resort and Spa.



Please share about your journey so far.

I have been working in the hospitality industry for over 20 years, with a focus on sales and marketing. I started my career as a sales representative for a hotel chain, and over time, I worked my way up the ranks to become a Director of Sales at one of the well-known resorts. During this time, I gained valuable experience in sales, marketing, and revenue management, which prepared me well for my current role as the Director of Sales and Marketing at Divine Resort and Spa.

What sets Divine Resort and Spa stand apart from other hotels and resorts, and what are your marketing strategies?

I think what sets Divine Resort and Spa stand apart is our commitment to delivering exceptional experiences for our guests. From our luxurious accommodations to our world-class amenities and activities, we strive to provide an unforgettable experience that keeps our guests coming back year after

year.

As per our marketing strategies, we focus on showcasing these unique qualities and highlighting the things that make Divine Resort and Spa special. Whether it's through social media, email campaigns, or targeted advertising, our goal is to create a strong brand identity that resonates with our target audience.

Can you describe the unique features and amenities that Divine Resort and Spa offers to its guests?

Divine Resort and Spa is a luxury resort that offers a wide range of unique features and amenities designed to provide our guests with an unforgettable experience. One of the things that set us apart is our location - we are situated on a beautiful, secluded beach that provides our guests with a sense of peace and tranquillity. Lying amidst the foothills of the Himalayas, Laxman Jhula Divine Resort in Rishikesh, India overlooks the holy Ganges thus presenting a completely mesmerizing spectacle to its visitors.

Giving the view of the screen,

Turquoise Ganga. The awesome beauty of breathtaking, sun-washed river complements the resort to provide you a real freshness cool and fresh air originating from mesmerizing Ganga refreshing your body and soul. Ravishing view of sunsets and an enchanting sound of water of the holy Ganga refresh the surroundings with its melody. Divine Resort and Spa is one of the most popular Resorts in Rishikesh. Divine Resort and Spa possess all the qualities and amenities that are required to cater to the needs of a worldwide client base. Amongst all the Hotels in Rishikesh, the standards set by Divine Resort and Spa can be compared to the standards set by any of the top Resorts in Uttarakhand.

Divine Resort and Spa is also surrounded by Sal Trees thus imparting a mystic feel in the environment around it. Rare species of birds, butterflies, and flowers inhabit the resort and hence complete the picture by creating God's own abode.



A Family-Friendly Resort for Fun and Adventure

Planning a long-awaited holiday getaway is no easy feat. Planning one for the entire family? A tad more complicated. As travel bounces back with a vengeance, travelers all over the world are seeking out the best destinations to venture out to.

If traveling with the little ones is on the cards, we've got you covered. Hilton Maldives Amingiri Resort & Spa features an array of thoughtful amenities, including well-designed offerings to cater to babies and older children - from a dedicated kids' club to a teenagers-only rooftop lounge - making it the perfect holiday for the family.

For the junior explorers: The cornerstone of Hilton Maldives kid-friendly amenities is the Krakengiri Kids' Club, one of the largest children's club in the Maldives. It is a purpose-built space equipped with modern multicultural toys, games and a crafts area with an interactive doodle wall. The club also has a spacious outdoor area that comprises a small sports ground, a swimming pool, a baby pool and a splash park that is great for children to enjoy some fun in the sun. Other amenities include a multimedia space, a separate toddler room and sleep rooms for your little ones to have a relaxing

snooze.

Something for the teens: Head up to the teens-only rooftop bar Re:Fuel a space exclusively dedicated to teenagers. The young ones are in for a real treat here with a milkshake barista on hand to serve up non-alcoholic drinks or help them make their own milkshakes. With all sorts of toppings like whipped cream, chocolate sauce, and sprinkles, teens can go wild with their creations. A cute seating area overlooks the sea where teens can lounge with their drinks and have a little me-time away from their parents (or vice versa).

For the water enthusiasts: There are many activities for kids who just love staying in the water. From swimming in the sea, kayaking, paddleboarding, snorkeling or just going parasailing and jet skiing. The private lagoon offers one of the best diving experiences for the kids too.

For the sports & art lovers: The club also has a tennis, a basketball

and football pitch to play on; join the staff in the evenings for a match, beach volleyball. For the artistic kids, we have an art studio dedicated to art classes. Throw in ecosystem activities in the kids club, a turtle talk by the resident marine biologist, kids' yoga, shell collecting and lots of fun and games and kids certainly won't run out of things to do!

Family vacations are the best time for quality bonding, and a kid-friendly resort can help facilitate this. What makes the Hilton Amingiri Resort and Spa a great option is the scrupulous attention to detail that the staff put into making your stay a memorable one. From personalized guest experience manager's recommendations on excursions and dining options, to the endless possibilities of grabbing some much-needed rest and relaxation, be it at the spa or simply lounging about your private villa's deck. Or perhaps, having a picnic on the resort's white sanded beach, the sky's the limit here!

The Set Collection



THRS (Travel and Hospitality Representation Services) has been appointed as the PR and sales representative for The Set Collection to promote their collection of iconic independent luxury hotels in Europe to the Indian market.

The Set Collection is a carefully curated luxury hotel group, comprising some of the world's most immersive independent hotels located in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Jerusalem, Beijing, Hong Kong, Chengdu,

and Shanghai.

As part of its strategic plan to build awareness in the emerging Indian luxury travel market, it has joined hands with India's leading representation company

for luxury hospitality and tourism brands, THRS. The cooperation is chiefly concerned with the Group's European hotels, Hotel Café Royal in London, Conservatorium in Amsterdam and Lutetia in Paris, as well as Mamilla in Jerusalem.





Cheval Collection: Incredible Growth from Indian Tourist Market

Cheval Collection, the award-winning luxury hospitality brand, is celebrating 40th Anniversary of providing high-quality serviced apartments worldwide. The collection includes the Cheval Residences, Cheval Maison and MY Locanda brands.

Leading luxury apartment and hospitality brand, Cheval Collection, recently exhibited at SATTE Expo event and can reveal how interest from the Indian traveller market has gone from strength to strength post pandemic.

Using SATTE 2023 to celebrate this buoyant travel market, Cheval Collection has confirmed India as one of its top five markets in terms of room nights and revenue in 2022.

Further to this, the award-winning brand has experienced a 30% increase in enquiries for short stay apartments from Indian travellers and revenue data reports a 40% increase for London city locations compared to 2019.

Cheval Collection is well known for its properties in London, Edinburgh UK

and is now expanding its portfolio to the Middle East with a brand new Cheval Maison opening in April, 2023 in Dubai.

Cheval Collection has extensive expertise and resource available to take on new projects, from inception to opening alongside support functions across the business, from technical services, operations and facilities management to revenue and reservations, human resources and sales and marketing.

40th Anniversary Celebrations

In October 2022 Cheval Collection celebrated 40 years since the doors opened at its first property in London's Knightsbridge district. Since those early days back in 1982, the collection has grown to include 12 properties in London and Edinburgh, with locations in Glasgow and

Dubai also coming soon.

Every year the team welcomes around 30,000 guests from every corner of the globe; many of whom are familiar faces, as most patrons choose to return again and again to their favourite properties.

Introducing Cheval Maison - The Palm Dubai - Opening 1st April, 2023.

Cheval is bringing the new year 2023 with major new developments and all set to expand its portfolio to the Middle East with a brand new Cheval Maison due to open on the 1st of April, 2023 in Dubai.

Cheval Maison, The Palm Dubai is an all-apartment boutique property providing the ideal base from which to explore all that Dubai has to offer.

Relish the beauty of wonderful Gujarat

Gujarat, a state located in the western part of India, is known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse wildlife, and beautiful beaches.

Wildlife

• Vedika Sharma

Gir National Park

Gir National Park, a place located in Gir Somnath district of Gujarat at a distance of 347 km from Ahmedabad. It is a unique park and one of its kind. The forest covers total of 1412 km of area. The park was used as a hunting ground of lions by the Britishers during their reign and by the Nawabs of Junagadh until 1960 when the Government of India had to put a ban on hunting due to huge decrease in the number of Asiatic Lions. However, the park is not only known for its Asiatic lions, but also for its plentiful avifauna population which has more than 310 species of birds. Most of which are resident birds and others migrating from many parts of the world. You can find birds from Malabar whistling thrush to painted storks. Famous ornithologist Lt. Dr. Salim Ali once said that if there were no lions here. Gir would be well-



known as one of the best bird sanctuaries in western India.

Gir is home to birds like crested serpent eagle, endangered Bonelli's eagle, crested hawk-eagle, brown fish owl, Indian eagle-owl, rock bush-quail, Indian peafowl, brown-capped pygmy woodpecker, black-headed oriole, crested treeswift, Indian pitta and many more.

How to get there

By Road: Junagadh (60 km) and Veraval (45 km) have bus connectivity to national park.

By Train: Junagadh (71km) and Veraval (42 km) are the major rail heads from the national park. Sasan Railway Station(Meter Gauge Train) on Junagadh to Delvada Route

By Air: The closest airport to Gir National Park is Keshod, nearly 54 km away.

Velavadar Blackbuck National Park

This beautiful, 34-sq-km park that is an hour's drive north of Bhavnagar,



encompasses large areas of pale, custard-coloured grassland stretching between two seasonal rivers and is famous for its blackbucks – beautiful, fast antelope that sport elegant spiraling horns as long as 65cm in mature males. Some 1800 inhabit the park, alongside blue bulls (India's largest antelope) and birds such as wintering harriers from Siberia (about 2000 of them most years). There are over 120 species of birds that can be found in the park and around. If you're lucky, you may even spot wolves!



The best time to visit the sanctuary is early in the morning when chances of seeing the wolves are a lot more. In the day, the blackbucks are easy to spot but the wolves are elusive. The pale gold grassland is dotted with clusters of blackbucks. They move around in gendered groups – the males together, and the females and fawns in their own groups. It is good that hiring a guide is mandatory as anecdotes about the animals and life in the village are always fun to know more about.

How to get there

By Road: Velavadar Blackbuck National Park

is located 47km from Bhavnagar.

By Train: Velavadar Blackbuck National Park is located 47km from Bhavnagar which is nearest railway station.

By Air: Velavadar Blackbuck National Park is located 47km from Bhavnagar airport.

Marine National Park

The tide is high. Your boat sets off from the jetty and you are moved across the salt water that covers seventy percent of the planet. Your stars align, and in the crossing, you see a pod of dolphins surface for air. If you come during winter, above you spreads a V of impossible length, several thousand

migratory birds. Out of the corner of your eye you see something drop out of the sky, a kingfisher swooping down on breakfast. As you near the islands, you see a curious tree, with roots that stick out of the water, mangroves. There are birds wading among the roots, and more packed in the branches.

Later, as the water recedes, revealing a vibrant and unique, but terribly fragile eco-system, you step tenderly towards it, finding a veritable underwater forest with creatures of fantastic colors and patterns

and textures that you used to want to draw as a child. As the tide turns, the beach floods with more birds than you've seen for months, feeding on the bodies of creatures left behind by the waters.

The ocean invites you to meet its family. Go, make friends. Ferry to the islands

Just the ride from Jamnagar to the islands, even before exploring them on foot, is spectacular. Be sure to look out for different kinds of birds in each habitat, as described in the general information section. You might also be able to tour some of the other islands by boat if you inquire.

You must ask permission to enter the islands, and we suggest you request a guide, both for the richness of your own experience and for the protection of the sanctuary, since the impact of visitors can be heavy.

How to Get There

By Road: Narala is best reached from Jamnagar, which is 56 km away; hiring a car to get you there and back is a good option.



Beaches

Boasting a 1600 km stretch, Gujarat's shoreline is the longest among India's nine seaside states' shores. If you have only been a witness to the intricate and historic landmarks of Gujarat, you are yet to explore the best through the expanse of Arabian Sea in the state.

The ideal time to visit them is between November to February. Not to miss are the yellow and white shades of sand by these beaches, and the adventurous experiences of Water Scooting, Para Sailing that stays with you long after you visit these.

Shivrajpur Beach

Shivrajpur Beach, which just received Blue Flag beach accreditation, is situated 12 kilometers from Dwarka (Gujarat) along the Dwarka-Okha Highway Shivrajpur Beach, one of Gujarat's most well-known beaches, is the ideal place to spend the weekend with family and children. You might be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of dolphins or other lovely birds. Immerse yourself in a variety of adventure activities with friends and family like snorkeling, scuba diving, island tours, sea bathing, or sit by the silent sea and watch the sun bid adieu to the day!

How to get there

By Road: The Shivrajpur Beach is well

connected with major cities of Gujarat state such as Jamnagar (142 Km), Rajkot (236 Km) and Ahmedabad (462 Km) through road network.

By Train: The nearest Railway station is Dwarka, which is around 14 km from Shivrajpur Beach and it takes about 25 Minutes to reach.

By Air: The nearest Airport is at Jamnagar, which is well connected to the major cities of the countries like Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad . Jamnagar Airport is located at a distance of approximately 138 km from Shivrajpur Beach and it takes about 2.75 hours to reach.

Madhavpur Beach

One of Gujarat's most well-known beaches, Madhavpur Beach, is only 58 kilometers from Porbandar. When travelling from Porbandar to Somnath by car, Madhavpur, known for its extensive coastal route, offers beautiful views. On Gujarat's Arabian Sea coast, Madhavpur Beach is a fantastic beach. The ocean is crystal pure, and the shoreline is lined with coconut trees.

How to get there

By Road: The Madhavpur Beach is well connected with major cities of Gujarat state such as Porbandar (55 Km), Somnath (73 Km) and Rajkot (191 Km) through road network.

By Train: The nearest major Railway station is Porbandar, which is around 55 km from Madhavpur Beach and it takes about 1 Hour

to reach.

By Air: The nearest Airport is at Porbandar, which has reasonable connectivity to cities in India. Porbandar Airport is located at a distance of approximately 58 km from Madhavpur Beach and it takes about 1 hour to reach.

Tithal Beach

4 kilometers to the west of Valsad town is the beach along the Arabian Sea known as Tithal Beach. The black sand on this beach is well-known. It is a well-liked tourist spot in Valsad. In addition to the beach, Tithal is home to two significant temples: the Shri Sai Baba temple, which is 1.5 km south of the main beach, and the Shri Swami Narayan temple, which is 1.6 km north of the main beach.

How to get there

By Road: The Tithal Beach is well connected with major cities such as Surat (95 Km), Mumbai (196 Km) and Ahmedabad (336 Km) through road network.

By Train: The nearest Railway station is Valsad, which is around 5 km from Tithal Beach and it takes about 12 Minutes to reach.

By Air: The nearest Airport is at Surat, which is well connected to the rest of the country by regular flights. Surat Airport is located at a distance of approximately 93 km from Tithal Beach and it takes about 2.5 hours to reach.

Mandvi beach

The Mandvi beach is a stretch of golden-brown sand located at the southernmost point of Gujarat's Kutch district. It is located south of the main intersection, Bhuj. The beach is located in the same town as its name, which historically had a busy port serving India. The historic part of the town still has the fort wall from the former trading centre. The serene beach is a welcome addition for visitors to the area. Evenings are especially wonderful because of the sunset and all the activity from snack vendors to balloon vendors.

How to get there

By Road: 58 kilometres to the southwest of Bhuj is Mandvi. Public and private buses connect the city with all the main Gujarati cities.

By Train: Bhuj is well linked by train. The railroad station is a part of the western railroad system.

By Air: Bhuj is well linked by air. There are numerous domestic flights from popular Indian cities from the Bhuj airport, which is located 4 km from the city.

Pingleswar Beach

Near to Mandvi Kutch, Pingleswar Beach is a fantastic tourist destination. This Kutch beach's golden sands are worth visiting, to fully savour special times with your loved ones. It is located close to the Nalia bird sanctuary, around 17 kilometres from the coastal NH 8A. The beach is well known for being a wetland that welcomes migratory birds every year and for featuring stunning wind farms.

How to get there

By Road: Driving time from Bhuj to Ahmedabad is approximately 7 hours. Bhuj is located about 85 kilometres from Rann of

Kutch.

By Train: At 85 kilometres, Bhuj is the nearest aviation and train hub to Rann of Kutch.

By Air: Mumbai and Bhuj are connected by the small but bustling Rudra Mata airport in Bhuj.

Dumas Beach

The Dumas Beach is in Gujarat, a state in Western India, 13 miles southwest of Surat, along the Arabian Sea. It is without a doubt one of the most picturesque and gorgeous beaches, with black sand all around it.

Main attraction: The beautiful black sand that covers the beach makes it one of the unique destinations for a visit.

How to get there

By Road: Surat lies 234 km from Ahmedabad, 154 km from Vadodara and 297 km from Mumbai. Bus stations, both ST and private, are on the eastern edge of the city.

By Train: The nearest Railway station is Surat Junction, which is around (22.6) km from dumas beach and it takes about 39 Minutes to reach.

By Air: The nearest Airport is at Surat, Surat Airport is located at a distance of

approximately (6.9 km) from dumas beach and it takes about 12 Minutes to reach.

Suvali Beach

A tranquil and serene beach, Suvali Beach, is located 20 kilometres from Surat. The beach, which is primarily frequented by loners seekers of solitude, is steadily becoming a popular tourist destination. The spotless beach, which is outside the city centre, provides city dwellers and other tourists with the ideal escape from the shrill noise and hectic pace of the metropolis.

How to get there

By Road: Surat lies 234 km from Ahmedabad, 154 km from Vadodara and 297 km from Mumbai. Bus stations, both ST and private, are on the eastern edge of the city.

By Train: The nearest Railway station is Surat Junction, which is around (28.7 km) from Suvali beach and it takes about 54 Minutes to reach.

By Air: The nearest Airport is at Surat, which is well connected to the major cities of the country such as Ahmedabad and Mumbai by regular flights. Surat Airport is located at



a distance of approximately (22.6 km) from Suvali beach and it takes about 36 Minutes to reach.

Dandi Beach

Dandi in Surat is a stunning beach destination and is well renowned for its significant historical role in India struggle for independence from British rule. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi



started the Dandi March, also known as the Salt March, which was an act of civil disobedience in colonial India. You can take a seat and unwind in the arms of nature, or you can investigate the surroundings and feed your inner historian some ideas. When in Surat, make sure to visit the Dandi beach, which is great for a relaxing weekend break!

How to get there

By Road: Surat lies 234 km from Ahmedabad, 154 km from Vadodara and 297 km from Mumbai. Bus stations, both ST and private, are on the eastern edge of the city.

By Train: The nearest Railway station is Navsari Junction, which is around (16.9 km) from Dandi beach and it takes about 27 Minutes to reach.

By Air: The nearest Airport is at Surat, which is well connected to the major cities of the country such as Ahmedabad and Mumbai by regular flights. Surat Airport is located at a distance of approximately (55.9 km) from Dandi beach and it takes about 1 hr 21 Minutes to reach.

Okha-Madhi Beach

Okha-Madhi Beach is a popular destination for holiday retreat vacation

tours and water sports in Gujarat and along its shorelines. Okha-Madhi Beach is the best destination because of the beautiful sunrise and sunset views and the clean sand there. Okha-Madhi Beach, which has a beautiful shoreline, takes the top spot. With crystal- clear waters that are perfect for snorkelling, the spotless beach stretches out for miles in a warm sun.

How to get there

By Road: The city is also well connected by a robust state-run buses.

By Train: The nearest Railway station is Dwarka Junction, which is around (23.9 km) from Okhamadhi beach and it takes about 24 Minutes to reach.

By Air: The nearest Airport is at Porbandar ,which is well connected to the major cities of the country such as Ahmedabad and Mumbai by regular flights. Porbandar Airport is located at a distance of approximately (83.5 km) from Okha mandi beach and it takes about 1 hr 12 Minutes to reach.

Mahuva Beach

Mahuva is frequently referred to as the Kashmir of Saurashtra because of its temperate climate and verdant environs.

The towns beach is where most visitors are drawn. The calm seas and stunning scenery of Mahuva Beach are well known. Because of the historic Bhavani Mata Temple that is perched atop a dune in its sandy borders, the beach is also known as Bhavani Beach. The region surrounding the village and the beach is extraordinarily lush, and the landscape is studded with coconut and palm trees, providing guests with the ideal environment for relaxation. To completely revive oneself, one can take a dip in the cool Arabian Sea and take a stroll down the shore.

How to get there

By Road: Bhavnagar is 100 kilometres away from Mahuva. You can get there via several public or private buses.

By Train: The nearest Railway station is Mahuva Junction, which is around (1.8 km) from Mahuva beach and it takes about 8 Minutes to reach.

By Air: The nearest Airport is at Bhavnagar, Airport is located at a distance of approximately (100.0 km) from Mahuva beach and it takes about 2 hr 9 Minutes to reach.

Visit Gandhi Sagar

The pinnacle of offbeat destinations in 'Heart of Incredible India'

Nature and Adventure lovers can now summon themselves in the Mandsaur District to embrace Asia's first floating festival and explore the unique GandhiSagar Wildlife Sanctuary.



Madhya Pradesh; The 'Heart of Incredible India' is a state of immense untapped tourism potential. The Gandhisagar Dam is one of the 4 major dams which are built around the famous Chambal River which houses one of the most undiscovered Wild Life Sanctuaries of Central India, the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.

In addition to that, The Gandhi Sagar dam also hosts the newly emerged, and Asia's first floating festival, the Gandhi Sagar floating festival.



Gandhi Sagar Floating Festival

For the lovers of adventure, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has introduced Asia's first ever floating festival in Mandsaur. A unique and first of its kind floating festival which will have land, air and water-based adventure activities.

The Floating Festival is a great opportunity for nature lovers and adventurers, allowing them to get away from all the noise of cities. The festival includes a floating stage, floating market, boat spa, boat safari and live music. Apart from these, many exciting adventure activities will be organized alongside the Gandhi Sagar reservoir.

• The festival was organized for 5 days from 1st till 5th February 2023

• The tent city for tourists will continue till 30th April 2023

• Adventure activities will continue till 30th July 2023



Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

Gandhi Sagar has a wildlife sanctuary situated on the northern boundary of Mandsaur and Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh. The wildlife sanctuary is spread over an area of more than 300 square kilometres adjoining Rajasthan. The Chambal River passes through the sanctuary dividing it into two parts; The western part, which is in the Neemuch district and eastern part is in the Mandsaur district.

The Sanctuary is open to visit throughout the year except monsoon months, and offers a varied terrain of wooded hills – the forest being dry, mixed and deciduous- and flat grasslands around Gandhi Sagar dam submergence, it offers abundant opportunities of sighting a variety of wildlife. The range of tree species found in the Sanctuary are Salai, Kardhai, Dhawda, Tendu, Khair, Palash etc. The predominant species of animals which inhabit the sanctuary are the deer, of which the most easily sighted are the chinkara or Indian Gazelle, Nilgai and Sambar. In addition, the Indian leopard, Langur,

Indian wild dog, Peacock, Otter, and Mugger crocodile are also present in the forests of central India.



Point of Interest

Gandhisagar has many places of historical, archaeological and religious importance including Chaurasigarh, Chaturbhujnath temple, Bhadrakaji rock paintings, Narsinghji, Hinglajgarh Fort, Taxakeshwar temple etc.

• Chaturbhujnath temple, which is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, is situated around 8 km from GandhiSagar dam site.

• Hinglajgarh or Hinglaj Fort is an ancient fort situated near Navali village of Bhanpura tehsil in the Mandsaur district in Madhya Pradesh. It is a symbol Paramara period and it was established in the 18th century AD.

• Taxakeshwar temple or Takhaji is a place of significant religious and historical importance in Mandsaur

• Bhanpura Museum is located in Bhanpura, about 30.0 km from Gandhi Sagar dam and around 120kms from Mandsaur in north-east direction. The museum depicts the popular art forms of Mandsaur

• Dharmrajeshwar is an ancient Buddhist and Hindu cave temple site of Mandsaur which was established in the 4th-5th Century. Dharmrajeshwar Temple signifies brilliant example of Indian rock-cut architecture.



Dharmrajeshwar Temple

Hinglaj Fort

Connectivity

Roadways- Regular buses run to Mandsaur from all the major cities including Neemuch, Ratlam, Ujjain, Indore and Bhopal.

Railways- One can reach Mandsaur very easily as the town has a railway station (Ajmer- Ratlam line and Bhawani Mandi) States like Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Gujrat are also very well connected by train.

Airways- The nearest airports to Mandsaur are in Indore and Udaipur.

For more details, visit : www.gandhisagarfest.com



Indian Spectrum Round the Globe

HOLI

Holi is a Hindu festival that is primarily celebrated in India and Nepal. However, due to migration and globalization, the festival is now celebrated in many other parts of the world as well.

Holi is celebrated in India and other parts of the world, typically in late February or early March. It is also known as the "festival of colors" or the "festival of love". The festival is celebrated over two days and is a celebration of the arrival of spring, the victory of good over evil, and the

strengthening of relationships.

During Holi, people throw colored powder and water at each other, sing and dance to traditional music, and indulge in festive foods. It is a time when people come together, forget their differences, and celebrate life.

The origins of Holi can be traced back to Hindu mythology. According to one legend, the festival commemorates the victory of the god Vishnu over the demon Holika. Another legend tells the story of the love between the god Krishna and the goddess Radha, and how they used to play with colored powder and water during the



spring season.

Today, Holi is celebrated by people of all religions and backgrounds in India and around the world. It is a time of joy, happiness, and renewal, and is enjoyed by millions of people each year.

Here are some examples of how Holi is celebrated in different parts of the globe:

Holi is celebrated with great enthusiasm and energy across the country. On the first day of Holi, people light bonfires to symbolize the burning of the demon Holika. This day is known as Holika Dahan or Chhoti Holi. People gather around the fire, sing and dance, and

perform prayers to ward off evil.

On the second day of Holi, known as Rangwali Holi or Dhulandi, people play with colored powder and water. They smear each other with vibrant colored powders, dance to music, and enjoy festive foods. In some parts of the country, people also use water guns and balloons filled with colored water to play with each other.

Holi is a time when people come together, forget their differences, and celebrate life. It is a festival of love and friendship, and people use this occasion to strengthen their relationships and make new friends. It is also a time for forgiveness and letting

go of past grievances.

Different regions in India have their unique way of celebrating Holi. For example, in Mathura and Vrindavan, the birthplace of Lord Krishna, Holi is celebrated in a traditional and colorful way with music and dance performances. In the state of Punjab, people celebrate Holi with a unique tradition called "Holla Mohalla", which involves martial arts displays, mock battles, and other cultural performances.

Overall, Holi is a vibrant and colorful festival that brings people together in a spirit of joy and celebration.



Nepal

Holi is a popular festival in Nepal, where it is known as "Fagu Purnima" or the festival of colors. The festival is celebrated by people of all religions and backgrounds, but it holds special significance for the Hindu community.

In Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, the festivities of Holi usually begin a week before the actual festival. The streets and squares of the city are decorated with colorful flags and lights, and people gather to sing and dance to traditional music.

Apart from the colorful celebrations, Holi is also a time for forgiveness and reconciliation. People use this occasion to mend their broken relationships and forgive past grievances. Overall, Holi is a festival that brings people together and is enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds in Nepal.

United States of America



Holi is celebrated by the Indian and South Asian communities in the United States of America, and the festival has gained popularity among people of other backgrounds as well. The festival is typically celebrated in cities with large Indian communities, such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Houston.

In the United States, Holi celebrations are similar to those in India, with people playing with colored powder and water, singing and dancing to music, and enjoying festive foods. The celebrations also include cultural performances, such as dance and music shows, and other activities such as rangoli

competitions, and henna art.

In recent years, Holi celebrations in the United States have become more mainstream, with many non-Indians participating in the festivities. Universities and colleges often hold Holi events on their campuses, and public parks in major cities host Holi festivals, which are open to the general public.

The Holi festival in the United States has also become an occasion for community building and social engagement. Many Indian and South Asian organizations, as well as community groups, hold Holi events to promote cultural exchange and understanding among different communities.

United Kingdom



Holi is celebrated in several cities across the UK, including London, Birmingham, and Manchester. Celebrations typically include music, dance, and the throwing of colored powder. Hindus settled in UK do not miss out

the excitement of Holi celebrations and enjoy to the hilt. Zeal for the festival is particularly marked in this country as Indians constitute the second largest ethnic minority. Celebrating festivals help them to feel close to their families

and cultural roots.

The celebration of Holi is noticeable at places that witness a large congregation of Indians. The British city of Leicester is particularly known for its love for celebrating Indian festivals. Excitement reaches its peak when the occasion is that of celebrating a joyous festival like Holi.

Children love to use their spray cans and colour each other. Holi parades are also carried and in the evening people visit their friends and relatives to exchange greetings and sweets. They hug each other and also apply the tilak as the meet Holi in a traditional manner.



Australia

Holi is celebrated in several cities across Australia, including Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane. Festivities include the throwing of colored powder, music performances, and Indian food stalls. Several events are organized all over in Australia where people play with non-toxic colours. Most of the people on this day dress themselves up in white traditional clothes and attend the party or events where they hurl colours on each other. Melbourne specifically organizes for the Holi

festival event which is the best way for the Indians to quench their desire to be drenched in multi colours. The festival here in Australia is an opportunity for the people of Australia to deepen their understanding of the Hindu religion which is a way of giving a warm welcome to the season of spring and saying good bye to the darkness of the winters. The festival is an opportunity for Australians to promise to themselves to always be successful over the evil with their own good.



Mauritius

Holi is a national holiday in Mauritius, and is celebrated by both the Hindu and non-Hindu communities. Just as the many other major Hindu festivals, the large Indian majority, (about 63 per cent) celebrate Holi with a lot of enthusiasm in the island of Mauritius.

People get all the time to make merry and drench themselves in the spirit of Holi and of course, colour water.

Hindus, here duly perform the tradition of Holika Dahan or

lighting of bonfire on the eve of Holi and celebrate the victory of good over evil. Next day people revel and play with colours and drench everybody with water jets called pichkaris. While in the evening they greet each other with tilak and exchange sweets.

These are just a few examples of how Holi is celebrated in different parts of the world. The festival is a celebration of love, friendship, and the arrival of spring, and is enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds.



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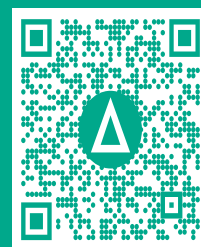


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