

# TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, LUXURY & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE COLLECTOR'S ISSUE 2025

## SUCCESS PLAYBOOK

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The background of the image is a vibrant, abstract pattern of red and white. It resembles liquid or a highly viscous substance that is flowing and stretching, creating a dynamic and energetic feel. The red color is a deep, saturated shade, while the white is a bright, almost glowing color that highlights the curves and ridges of the liquid.

# SUCCESS PLAYBOOK

# TABLE *Of* CONTENTS

► From The Editor's Desk	12
► Nine Destinations, One Inspiring Telangana Story	14
► Cotton Dhurries: India's Handwoven Heritage	16
► A National Celebration of India's Unity, Culture & Heritage	18
► Lacquerware: Powering India's Glorious Legacy	20
► Why Abu Dhabi Is The Smart Choice For India's MICE Market	22
► Discover Los Angeles: A Five-Day Adventure	26

## ICONS

► EVs, Empathy, and Energy	30
► A Legacy Rewired	34
► The Power Of Purpose	38
► Rising Higher, Rooted Deeper	42
► A Life Beyond The Spotlight	46
► Framing The Future	50
► The Power Of Being Human	54
► The Green Heart Of Fashion	58





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# TABLE *Of* CONTENTS

▷ From Grand Slam Glory to Boardroom Brilliance	62
▷ Notes Across The World	66
▷ Hollywood Royalty, Earth's Defender	70
▷ Racing Beyond The Finish Line	74
▷ A Cinematic Journey of Impact	78
▷ Disruption Meets Purpose	82

## LUXE

▷ Travel Farther, Earn Smarter with Wyndham	86
▷ The Palace That Breathes Rajasthan	88
▷ Living the Andaz Way	90
▷ Tangra's Timeless Flavours at Westin Sohna	92
▷ Luxury Living in Mindspace	94
▷ The Garden City's Signature of Style	96
▷ Stillness by the Bengaluru Lakeside	98





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# TABLE *Of* CONTENTS

## SIGNATURE

▷ The Palace That Celebrates Eternal Bonds	102
▷ Designed for Grandeur, Inspired by Assam	104
▷ The Crown Jewel in the City of Pearls: Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre & HICC	106
▷ Soulful Stays Beneath Coastal Skies	108
▷ Himalayan Tranquillity, Hyatt Style Luxury	110
▷ Chennai's Modern Landmark of Luxury	112
▷ A Royal Retreat Beside the Waves	114
▷ Offbeat, and Ahead of the Curve	116
▷ BWH Hotels Unlocks a World of Refined Stays	118
▷ The Poetry of Hospitality, The Sahara Way	120
▷ Diu Tides and Three Coastal Stays	122
▷ Where Modern Elegance Finds Its Home	126
▷ Big Ideas Begin Beside These Hills	128
▷ Soulful Journeys Begin at Hatgad	130
▷ Hyderabad's Contemporary Address for Comfort	132
▷ Treehouse Hotels & Resorts: Delivering Hospitality 'Dil Se' Across India	134





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# TABLE Of CONTENTS

► The Heart Behind Treat's Growing Legacy	136
► The Calm Canvas Amid Delhi's Vibrance	138
► 20 Years Strong: BLS International Accelerates into an AI-Led Future	140
► Seamless Service Shaped by Indian Warmth	142
► PATA Gold Awards For Editorial Excellence	144
► Portraits of Taste	146



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Twenty-eight years on, Today's Traveller remains both witness and participant in shaping India's tourism story.

# EDITOR'S DESK

**A**s I sit down to introduce this Collector's Issue, I find myself reflecting on how much our world has transformed in recent years. The theme "Success Playbook" could not be more timely – it feels like a conversation we all need at this moment.

Hospitality and tourism, both in India and globally, have weathered some of their most challenging cycles. We have watched demand shift, traveller expectations evolve almost overnight, and sustainability rise from a choice to an absolute imperative.

And yet, the pulse of this industry has never felt stronger. Hotels are welcoming guests with renewed imagination, aviation is pushing for smoother and greener journeys, and tourism boards are curating experiences that honour culture, community, and heritage in ways that feel purposeful and fresh.

Across India, this momentum is not simply visible – it is unmistakable.

Investment is flowing into the sector with a confidence we have not seen in years. New lifestyle products are redefining what 'hospitality' can mean. Boutique retreats, branded residences, theme-based resorts, experiential homestays, eco-lodges, and hybrid stays are opening across metros, coasts, hills, deserts, and even wildlife corridors.

A new generation of theme parks, adventure trails, culinary destinations, and wellness sanctuaries is changing how travellers plan their holidays.

India is presenting not merely places to visit, but ways of living that resonate deeply with the modern traveller.

And then there is wedding tourism – perhaps the most compelling chapter in the current playbook. With thousands of weddings each year, India's palaces, forts, luxury resorts, islands, vineyards, and heritage mansions are turning into global celebration hubs.

These weddings are no longer events, they are economic engines – opening up destinations, enabling restoration of heritage properties, boosting local artisans, and creating employment across more than 40 ancillary sectors.

The scale, sentiment, and storytelling of Indian weddings are shaping a whole new landscape of tourism-

led development.

Meanwhile, domestic travel continues to soar. Travellers are exploring not only iconic cities but also small towns, rural crafts clusters, border districts, tribal regions, and once-quiet hill hamlets.

MICE travel is filling hotel ballrooms and convention centres again. Spiritual and wellness tourism is emerging as a major driver of demand, as people search for balance, connection, and renewal.

But the Success Playbook is about more than numbers and growth charts. It is about people – the leaders and visionaries in these pages who are raising the right questions, making brave decisions, and showing us what responsible leadership looks like in a rapidly shifting world.

## The Success Playbook is both a celebration and a call to action for a bold new future.

Across continents, corporate icons are proving that true business success now depends on how much we give back. Their commitment to CSR, sustainability, and community upliftment underlines one truth:

purpose is no longer optional, it is central to every winning strategy.

As I sit with these thoughts a little longer, what stands out most is how naturally India's cultural heritage is finding its way back into the heart of travel and hospitality.

What once lived quietly in workshops, looms, courtyards and ancestral ateliers is now finding renewed purpose in contemporary spaces. Hoteliers are weaving regional identity into architecture and interiors, not as décor but as narrative, and destinations.

You see it in the return of lime plaster and jaali screens, in textiles inspired by Mashru, Himroo and Kanjeevaram, and in art forms like Pichwai, Gond and Madhubani, lending warmth to contemporary spaces. This reclamation goes beyond aesthetic homage.

As Today's Traveller celebrates 28 years, I am deeply grateful to our readers, partners, and friends for being part of this remarkable journey.

Together, we have built not only a magazine but a living chronicle of India's tourism story. My hope is that this issue inspires you to explore boldly, build fearlessly, and continue writing your own playbook for success.

# NINE DESTINATIONS, ONE INSPIRING TELANGANA STORY

Heritage, innovation, and wellness shape Telangana Tourism's dynamic roadmap for future-ready and responsible tourism

TT BUREAU

Telangana Tourism is laying the groundwork for a new era of purposeful travel. Guided by a clear five-year roadmap, it is combining innovation with cultural preservation and building infrastructure for steady, balanced growth. The strategy promotes opportunity while safeguarding the values, traditions, and natural wealth that define the state.

## NINE DESTINATIONS, ONE VISION

At the core of Telangana Tourism's blueprint are nine Special Tourism Areas, each presenting a distinct facet of place and culture.

Vikarabad pairs sacred calm at Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple with nature trails and an upcoming Taj Safari experience. Somasila-Alampur blends serene backwaters with ancient Shakti Peethas. Waran-

gal-Ramappa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcases Kakatiya-era craftsmanship.

In the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Medchal cluster, Golconda Fort, Charminar, and Chowmahalla Palace stand alongside new eco parks and lakefront promenades. Yadagirigutta-Pochampally unites devotion with living weaving traditions. Bhadrachalam and Nagarjuna Sagar carry river stories, temple towns, and Buddhist heritage. The Nallamala Circuit and the Tribal Cluster open windows to tiger reserves, waterfalls, and community culture. Together, they create a cohesive canvas for heritage, nature, worship, wildlife, and outdoor adventure.

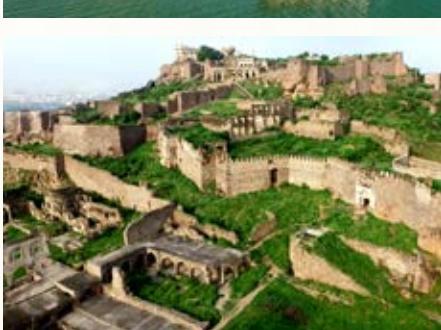
## CUSTOMISED AND CONNECTED TOURISM

Telangana Tourism is prioritising choice and convenience. A Custom

Tours Portal will let visitors design thematic itineraries across heritage, rural, nature, and spiritual circuits. A Tourism Digital Card will streamline entries to monuments, guided tours, and transport, encouraging cashless, queue-free movement.

Heli Tourism will link Hyderabad with scenic and remote sites such as Somasila and Srisailam. Caravan Tourism will give road-trippers mobile comfort across eco and adventure zones. An MoU with IRCTC supports integrated rail itineraries and seamless packaging.

Public transport upgrades keep the experience smooth. The Hyderabad Metro, airport links, expanding highways, and last-mile roads improve access across the state. A partnership with Rapido will create Heritage Captains who



share stories of sites and routes, adding a human touch to everyday travel.

### FILM, CULINARY, AND CULTURE

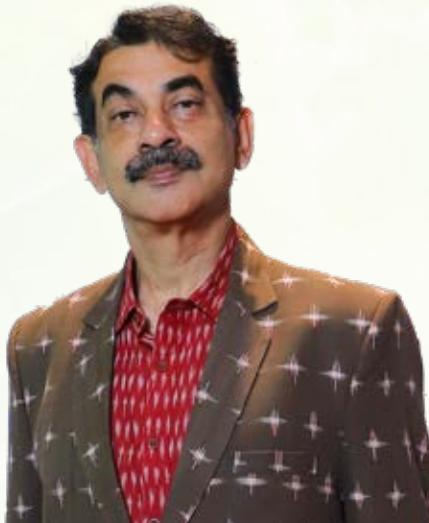
The Film-in-Telangana Portal is a single digital window for filming permissions and location discovery, supported by artificial intelligence. With Ramoji Film City, varied landscapes, and film-friendly processes, Telangana Tourism is positioning the state as India's most welcoming production base. This directly supports film tourism, destination weddings, and creative events.

Culinary tourism is being advanced through a state-led programme that nurtures local food entrepreneurs and maps regional specialities. The Culinary Tourism Accelerator and a Culinary Map of Telangana will carry village recipes to national and international audiences, building livelihoods across rural communities.

Education and culture initiatives round out the vision. Responsive Tourism comics for students promote sustainability, inclusivity, and respect for local traditions, encouraging responsible behaviour among hosts and guests.

### SAFETY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND SMART LEISURE

Safety sits at the core of the visitor promise. A Tourism Police task force



Mr Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Youth Advancement & Sports Department, Government of Telangana, and Special Chief Secretary, Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Special Projects (SPEED), Investment & Industry (I&I) Cell.

will operate at key hotspots to manage crowds, guide visitors, and support women travellers. Smart surveillance, trained personnel, and clear response protocols build confidence.

Eco-tourism advances through low-impact design and community partnerships. Nallamala and Kawal Tiger Reserve circuits are being curated for responsible wildlife experiences.

Urban leisure gains new energy through the double-deck Muchukunda cruise boat on Hussain Sagar, e-kiosks for boating ticketing, and guided waterfront tours that combine convenience with scenic pleasure.

"Telangana Tourism has built a strong foundation where innovation,

sustainability, and inclusivity converge," said Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana, at the Today's Traveller Awards 2025. "Our focus is on tourism that balances economic growth with cultural preservation and empowers local communities."

### PARTNERSHIPS, INVESTMENT, AND MOMENTUM

Tourism growth is supported by strong public and private investment. Around 30 projects worth approximately ₹15,000 crore are in the pipeline across hospitality, wellness, film, eco experiences, and MICE. These initiatives are expected to create more than 50,000 jobs and build capabilities across the state.

International hotel brands, including InterContinental, St. Regis, Oberoi, Hyatt, Hilton, and Citadel, are expanding their footprints, while new convention infrastructure will strengthen Hyderabad's standing in business events. An MoU with BookMyShow will programme large live events and festivals, adding cultural vibrancy and year-round reasons to visit.

### A STATE READY FOR THE WORLD

Telangana Tourism's plan delivers breadth and depth. Nine distinctive destinations provide the canvas. Custom tours, film and culinary initiatives add creativity.



# COTTON DHURRIES: INDIA'S HANDWOVEN HERITAGE

A timeless weave of artistry, culture and handcrafted tradition

TT BUREAU

Indian cotton dhurries form an important chapter in India's handwoven heritage, valued for their versatility, vibrant colours, cultural depth and timeless craftsmanship. These flat-woven textiles are known for their distinctive visual identity, with every piece carrying patterns and colour stories shaped by the community that creates it. The word itself appears in many forms, including dhurri, durrie, durry and dari, yet each variation points to the same enduring tradition of handwoven floor coverings that have graced Indian homes for centuries.

Traditionally, dhurrie weaving held immense economic and social importance, especially in rural communities where it sustained families and preserved ancestral knowledge. Over time, the practice evolved into a cherished craft that continues to reflect India's artistic legacy. The process is intimate and deeply cultural, with skills passed from one generation to the next. Families often safeguard their motifs and weaving styles, and these designs carry layers of meaning. Many households create dhurries as part of matrimonial customs, where patterns symbolise hope, continuity and the blessings of elders.

Dhurries have long served as more than functional floor coverings. Historically, they were used as bedding, wall hangings and seats for rituals and gatherings. Lightweight yet strong, they could be rolled, packed and carried with ease. Their uses gradually expanded, and they soon became essential household textiles appreciated for both beauty and durability.

The history of dhurrie weaving stretches back several

centuries. While cotton remains the most popular fibre for its comfort and breathability, artisans also work with wool, silk and other natural materials to achieve distinctive textures. Some dhurries offer a cool, smooth finish suitable for warm climates, while others are thicker and warmer, ideal for cosier interiors. The choice of fibre influences everything from weight to sheen, giving each dhurrie its own tactile personality.

Today, Indian cotton dhurries continue to hold a special place in contemporary décor, admired for their craftsmanship and cultural resonance. Every dhurrie carries the imprint of human hands, turning a simple weave into a meaningful expression of India's enduring artistic tradition.



Dhurries Mat, Image Courtesy: Metaphor Racha



Woman Weaving Dhurries, Image Courtesy: Ciceroni



Weaving Dhurries, Image Courtesy: Annie Spratt, Unsplash



# TELANGANA

THERE'S MUCH MORE TO TELANGANA THAN THE GRANDEUR OF HYDERABAD.

## HANDICRAFTS



BIDRI



PEMBARTHY METAL CRAFT



CHERIYAL PAINTINGS



NIRMAL TOYS



SILVER FILIGREE





# Bharat Parv

## A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF INDIA'S UNITY, CULTURE & HERITAGE

At the Statue of Unity,  
Ekta Nagar

### A TRIBUTE TO THE IRON MAN OF INDIA

As the morning sun rose over the Narmada, casting a golden glow upon the world's tallest statue, the atmosphere around the Statue of Unity transformed into one of reverence and national pride. The soft radiance of dawn reflected upon the towering figure of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, reminding every visitor of the man whose resolve stitched together a nation once fragmented.

On this historic morning, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, inaugurated Bharat Parv 2025 by lighting the ceremonial diya, a glowing symbol of India's eternal unity. The flame

embodied not just tribute, but a reaffirmation of the values Sardar Patel lived for: strength, solidarity, and national integrity.

In his inspiring address, the Honourable Chief Minister paid heartfelt homage to the Iron Man of India and articulated how Patel's vision continues to illuminate the path of a united nation.

Today, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Bharat Parv stands as a living expression of the initiative "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" celebrating India's unity through its immense diversity.



### A PAN-INDIA CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, CRAFT & CUISINE



Bharat Parv is more than a festival. It is a national emotion.

By bringing together India's cultural soul, it becomes a collective expression of who we are: diverse in form, yet one in identity.

Each edition of Bharat Parv carries a purpose to celebrate India's traditions through music, dance, and artistic expression; to promote domestic tourism under the Dekho

Apna Desh initiative; to encourage cultural exchange among States and Union Territories; and to strengthen national pride in the shared memory of India's civilisational heritage.

At the Statue of Unity, this experience becomes even more profound. With Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's towering legacy watching over the festivities, every visitor becomes part of a story that spans cultures, communities, and centuries.

### WHERE INDIA COMES TOGETHER

At the foot of the monument, Bharat Parv 2025 unfolds like a living tapestry where every colour, rhythm and fragrance carries the story of its land.

A few steps through the venue reveal the energy of Garba, echoing Gujarat's spirit; the grace of Bihu, carrying Assam's festive heartbeat; the artistic whispers of Madhubani, narrating tales from Bihar; and the intricate strokes of Pattachitra, preserving Odisha's timeless narratives. Every state and union territory becomes a storyteller.

Visitors journey across India in minutes; from the Himalayan rhythms of the Northeast to the coastal aromas of the South, from the golden deserts of Rajasthan to the lush greens of the Western Ghats.

Here, unity is visible in colours, audible in rhythms, and deeply felt in the shared experience of a nation celebrating itself.

## GUJARAT: THE LAND THAT EMBODIES UNITY

It is symbolic and deeply meaningful that Bharat Parv 2025 finds its home in Gujarat, the land where Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was born and where his legacy continues to guide future generations. Today, Gujarat stands as a powerful example of how heritage and progress can exist in perfect harmony. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the stewardship of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, the state has preserved its

cultural heritage while empowering artisans and cultural practitioners, promoting tourism, and strengthening global engagement. In every initiative, Gujarat continues to build an environment where unity is not merely an ideal but an everyday value. From the historic Pools of Ahmedabad to the vast Rann of Kutch, and from the architectural splendour of Adalaj ni Vav to the serene shores of Shivrajpur Beach, Gujarat stands as a living reflection of India's unity in diversity.



### BEYOND CELEBRATION: A NATIONAL EMOTION

**Bharat Parv 2025 goes far beyond the boundaries of an event; it becomes a shared memory for families,**

a canvas of creativity for artists, a learning ground for children and a moment of pride for every Indian. It reminds us that unity is not merely a slogan but an emotion that binds us, empowers us and strengthens the fabric of our nation. As the diya of unity continues to burn at the Statue of Unity, it illuminates the path envisioned by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and carried forward by the nation's leadership, a path that leads toward Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat an India united in spirit, diverse in expression and timeless in pride.



# A FEAST FOR EVERY SENSE

Bharat Parv invites people to not just witness culture, but experience it.



#### Cultural Arena

The open-air stage pulsates daily with paired performances by Indian states - blending classical, tribal and folk expressions. The special performance on 15th November in honour of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jayanti stands out as a tribute to India's tribal heritage and resilience.



#### Regional Food Festival

With 45 regional food stalls, visitors savour India's extraordinary culinary geography; from the rich flavours of Lucknow to the coastal aromas of Kerala, from North-Eastern delicacies to traditional Gujarati thali. The Studio Kitchen enhances the experience with live demonstrations of paired-state specialties.



#### Handicrafts Stalls

Over 55 craft stalls transform the space into a celebration of India's artistry showcasing handloom textiles, terracotta & pottery, woodcraft, bamboo art and contemporary handicraft innovations. Artisans from across India interact with visitors, sharing not just products but stories, techniques and traditions.



#### Bharat Pavilion

A beautifully curated experience where states showcase their iconic tourist destinations, cultural icons and heritage. Each pavilion becomes a window into the identity of its land.



#### Light & Sound Show

As dusk settles, the Statue of Unity lights up in spectacular hues. Through a powerful light and sound presentation, visitors witness the journey of Sardar Patel from a national leader to the architect of modern India's unity.

## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS AT STATUE OF UNITY

**Jungle Safari • Cactus Garden • Butterfly Garden  
Arogya Van • Children's Nutrition Park • Vishwa Van**

Visitors can experience arts, crafts, cuisines, cultural performances and major attractions all in one place, making Bharat Parv 2025 a spectacular national celebration.

# LACQUERWARE: POWERING INDIA'S GLORIOUS LEGACY

## India's Lacquer Art Legacy

TT BUREAU

Lacquerware, with its glossy finish and vivid colours, stands among India's most enduring artistic traditions. The word "lacquer" comes from the Portuguese term lac, referring to a resin secreted by the tiny insect *Tachardia lacca*. This natural resin has shaped centuries of craft, beauty and cultural symbolism across the country.

At its core, lacquerware is any object coated with lacquer for durability and decorative brilliance. Before the varnish is applied, artisans often paint the surface with detailed motifs, inlay shells, carve patterns or dust it with gold and silver for added radiance. The results range across delicate containers, jewellery, toys, tableware, furniture and ceremonial objects.

India's lacquer tradition stretches deep into early history. References to lac appear in the Atharva Veda, describing the ruby coloured insect and its environment. In the Mahabharata, the famous Lac Palace becomes a pivotal point in the narrative and reflects the material's prominence in ancient life. Classical poet Kalidasa also mentions women tinting their lips and feet with lac-based cosmetics, highlighting its early role in personal adornment.

Across India, this craft has flourished through diverse schools of technique and expression. Artisans often work with softwood turned on hand or machine-operated lathes, applying coloured lac sticks to the spinning surface with practised precision. Their creations include toys, cradles, bangles, tableware, kitchen articles and hand-finished



Illustration of a Man & a Woman Making Lacquerware

home décor, each piece known for its polish, vibrancy and careful detailing.

Today, lacquerware continues to evolve while retaining its traditional charm. With contemporary India embracing sustainable materials and handcrafted artistry, this ancient craft stands as a glowing symbol of design, heritage and timeless craftsmanship.

In recent years, there has been a renewed appreciation for handmade objects that carry emotional depth and cultural memory. Lacquerware fits beautifully into this movement because every piece holds the imprint of human touch and long practiced skill. As collectors, designers and conscious consumers look for authentic creations that feel meaningful and refined, lacquerware has entered a new orbit of relevance.



Vibrant Wooden Lacquered Toys, Image Courtesy: Handicrafts of India

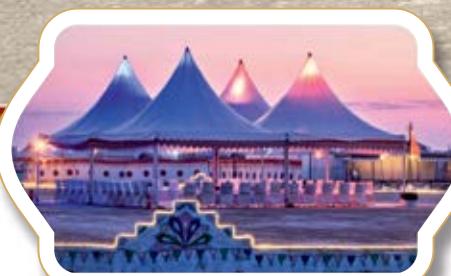


Vibrant Lac Toys with Age Old Precision & Charm, Image Courtesy: manjulikapramod.com

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# WHY ABU DHABI IS THE SMART CHOICE FOR INDIA'S MICE MARKET

Conduct business in a world-class destination, with top hotels, global flavours and endless experiences for every type of traveller

TT BUREAU

For MICE planners across India, Abu Dhabi stands out as a seamless, top-of-mind choice—an exceptional destination that combines business efficiency with experiences worth staying longer for. Just a short flight away from 17 Indian cities, the UAE capital offers unmatched connectivity, legendary hospitality, cultural depth, and state-of-the-art infrastructure. Be it a large-scale corporate gathering or an intimate incentive retreat, Abu Dhabi ensures every business event is both productive and unforgettable.

## A STRATEGIC, INSPIRING, AND SEAMLESS CHOICE

As a global hub for business tourism, Abu Dhabi strikes a rare balance between modernity and heritage. Its exceptional value, world-class infrastructure, and effortless logistics give it a distinct advantage in an increasingly competitive MICE landscape. For Indian corporates seeking fresh destinations that inspire, Abu Dhabi presents a compelling proposition: direct air links, streamlined visa processes, and premier venues that rival the best in the world.

At the heart of this success is the Abu Dhabi Convention and Exhibition Bureau (ADCEB), which acts as a dedicated partner for planners and organisers. As a one-stop hub for MICE support, ADCEB provides local expertise, venue recommendations, introductions with key stakeholders, government liaison, site inspections, and tailored pre- and post-event experiences. With ADCEB as a guiding hand, every event benefits from both global standards and authentic local insight.

## EVENTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND ENDLESS EXPERIENCES

Abu Dhabi's dynamic calendar makes it a natural fit for Indian MICE travellers. ADNEC (Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre), one of the region's largest and most advanced venues, has hosted marquee Indian events such as Ultratech, Havells, Maruti, and the star-studded SIIMA Awards (South Indian International Movie Awards). Its flexible halls and cutting-edge facilities make it a trusted stage for global and Indian brands alike.

Yet Abu Dhabi is not all business. Groups can recharge and bond at Yas Island, home to some of the world's

# abu dhabí

## Convention & Exhibition Bureau

[visitabudhabi.ae](http://visitabudhabi.ae)

 Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque



most thrilling attractions, including Ferrari World, Warner Bros. World, Yas Waterworld, and the newly opened SeaWorld Yas Island.

For a more grounded Arabian flavour, desert safaris, heritage village tours, or dhow cruises immerse guests in authentic experiences that linger in memory.

Culture provides an added layer of richness to every itinerary. Delegates can marvel at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, explore the historic Qasr Al Hosn fort, or wander the world-renowned Saadiyat Cultural District, home to Louvre Abu Dhabi and teamLab Phenomena Abu Dhabi. Saadiyat's pristine beaches and luxury resorts offer a serene balance between business and leisure, ensuring a restorative retreat after demanding schedules.

For Indian travellers, shopping is an essential element, and Abu Dhabi delivers. High-end malls such as The Galleria Al Maryah Island, Marina Mall, and Yas Mall showcase luxury labels and global brands, while souks and heritage markets add a traditional touch. From designer fashion to handcrafted souvenirs, every delegate leaves with something meaningful.

## STAY, DINE, AND DISCOVER

Accommodation in Abu Dhabi is as diverse as it is sophisticated, with upscale properties perfectly equipped for meetings and incentives of every size. Popular with Indian MICE groups are:

- **Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers:** A luxury icon in the heart of the city, with sweeping sea views, premium meeting spaces, and personalised service.
- **Dusit Thani Abu Dhabi:** Renowned for its Thai hospitality, extensive event facilities, and prime location.
- **Rotana Hotels:** Multiple properties across the city blend Arabian warmth with modern convenience, making them ideal for corporate gatherings.

Dining is equally diverse, reflecting Abu Dhabi's status as a global culinary capital. Delegates can enjoy everything from fine Indian dining to Middle Eastern mezze and Michelin-starred creations. Highlights include innovative menus at Hakkasan and atmospheric group dinners in the desert under a canopy of stars. Every meal becomes an occasion in itself.

## GETTING HERE, GETTING STARTED

Abu Dhabi has never been closer to India. With over 415 flights per week offering 77,050 seats, the city is connected to 17 Indian gateways, including Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kochi. Add to that a streamlined visa process—Indian passport holders can typically secure a UAE visa within 2–3 days—and it becomes the ideal destination for quick turnarounds and last-minute event planning.

Abu Dhabi offers more than venues: it delivers value, vision, and vibrancy at every stage of the journey. Whether it's a high-level boardroom at Etihad Towers or a spirited teambuilding day in the desert, the emirate transforms business events into meaningful, lasting experiences.





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## DAY ONE – DOWNTOWN DELIGHTS

Begin your journey at Grand Central Market, a vibrant culinary hall that sets the tone for LA's global flavours. Ride the historic Angels Flight railway to Grand Avenue and explore LA's art treasures such as MOCA, The Broad, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. End your day with rooftop views and cocktails at Perch LA, La Lo La, or Level 8 Concepts.

## DAY TWO – ARTS AND EATS

Take an LA Walking Tour or hop on the Big Bus Tour to see the city in motion. Savour tacos at Avenue 26 or pizza at Zinc Café before heading to the Arts District. Sample craft brews at Angel City Brewery and wrap up with modern Indian flavours at Baar Baar.

## DAY THREE – MID-CITY MAGIC

Explore LA's creative soul at the Petersen Automotive Museum, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, and Urban Light at LACMA. Lunch at Du-par's in the Original Farmers Market, then shop and stroll through The Grove and Rodeo Drive. Dine in Koreatown at BCD Tofu House or Monty's Good Burger.

## DAY FOUR – HOLLYWOOD ICONS

Walk in the footsteps of stars at the Hollywood Walk of Fame, TCL Chinese Theatre, and Madame Tussauds. Grab a burger at In-N-Out, unwind at Mama Shelter's rooftop, or dine amid vintage glamour at Grandmaster Recorders.

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# ICONS

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TT BUREAU

Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra Group, remains one of the most compelling forces in India's business landscape. Charismatic, visionary, and unwavering in his pursuit of purpose-led growth, he continues to push boundaries—turning industrial scale into an instrument for sustainability, innovation, and social change. Under his leadership, the Mahindra Group has evolved into a truly global powerhouse, rooted in Indian values yet sharply future-focused.





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Anand Mahindra meets Buji from Kalki 2898 AD

## LEADING THE GREEN REVOLUTION

In 2024–2025, the Mahindra Group's commitment to reshaping the sustainability narrative reached new heights. Through Mahindra Susten, its renewable energy arm, the Group is spearheading a ₹35,000 crore solar-wind hybrid project in Maharashtra, set to deliver over 5 GW of clean energy.

The initiative is designed to support Mahindra's own manufacturing ecosystem while offsetting around 420,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually. A bold move, and one that underscores Mahindra's ethos of industrial decarbonisation.

Equally ambitious is a ₹40,000 crore investment blueprint in Karnataka. This multifaceted project spans solar and hybrid infrastructure, electric vehicle manufacturing, and eco-tourism development in heritage destinations like Gokarna and Hampi.

With over 8,000 green jobs projected by 2030, it exemplifies Mahindra's conviction that sustainable growth is both urgent and non-negotiable.

## ACCELERATING ELECTRIC MOBILITY

In electric mobility, Mahindra Auto continues to

lead with both innovation and scale. The anticipated launch of the XUV 3XO EV in 2025—a compact SUV with a 400-km range—is aimed squarely at India's growing demand for sustainable urban transport. It will go head-to-head with Tata's Nexon EV, offering a blend of performance and style.

Meanwhile, Mahindra is ramping up production of its BE 6E and XEV 9E models, targeting a combined monthly output of 10,000 EVs by 2026. For Mahindra, electric mobility is the pulse of tomorrow's cities.

## AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND INNOVATION

The Group's venture into aerospace and defense marks a strategic expansion into high-tech manufacturing. A ₹500 crore R&D investment in Karnataka is powering advancements in UAVs and aircraft components, strengthening India's indigenous capabilities and diversifying Mahindra's business with precision and foresight.

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

At the core of Mahindra's philosophy lies a deep commitment to inclusive development. Project Nanhi Kali, the Group's flagship CSR initiative, supports the education of over 22,000 underprivileged girls annually. Learning outcomes in cities like Mumbai have improved by up to 78%, reflecting the programme's tangible, long-term impact.

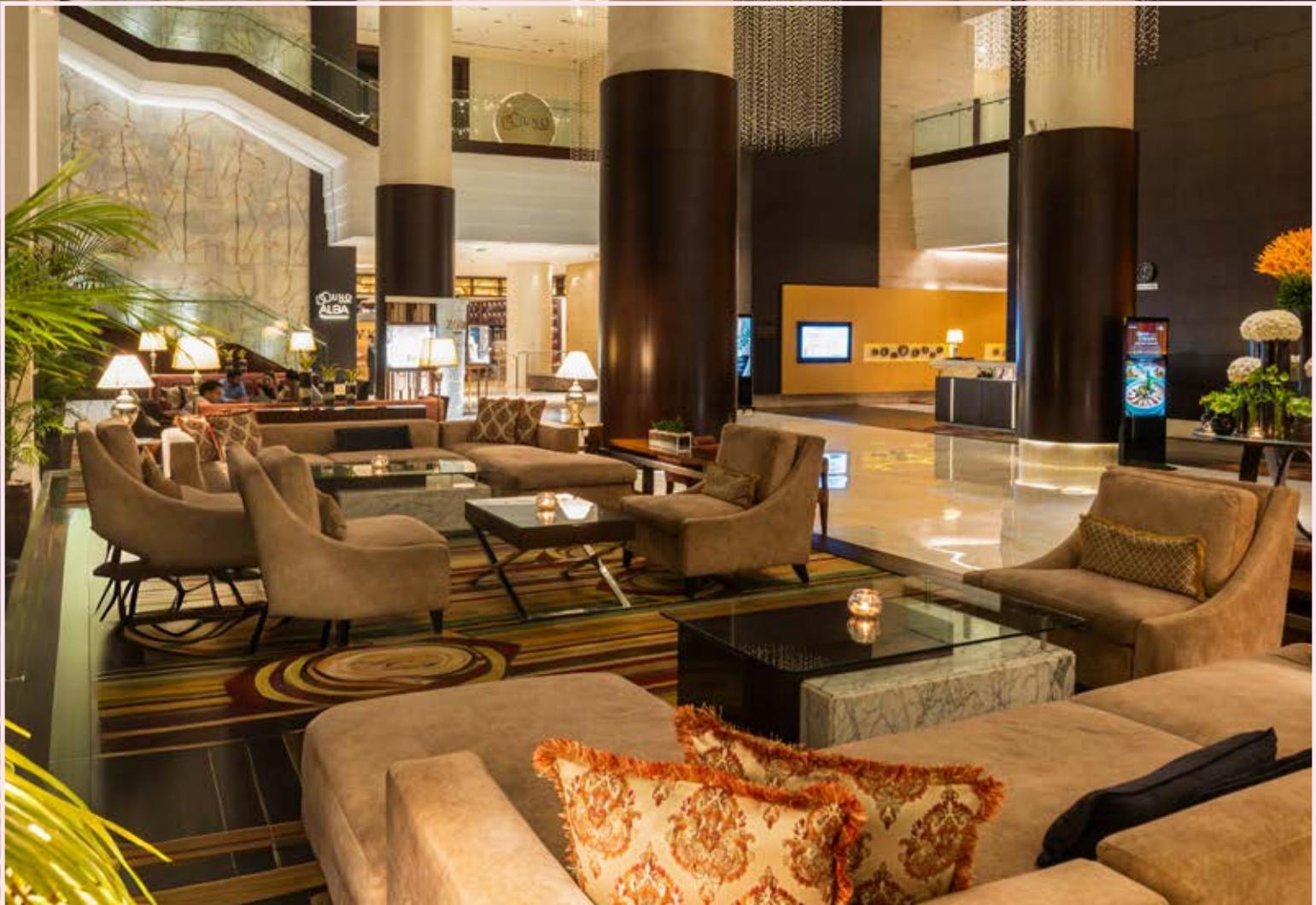
The Naandi Foundation, chaired by Mahindra, runs 6,300 education centres and 2,200 skilling hubs across India, reaching over one million youth with programmes in education, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. Simultaneously, the Group is on track to meet its goal of 60% renewable energy usage by FY26, aligned with its RE100 commitment.

Within Tech Mahindra, social responsibility is hardwired into culture. Over 60,000 employees contribute 10% of their work hours to community development—a model of corporate citizenship in action.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Anand Mahindra continues to steer the Group with disciplined, future-facing intent. Sustainability, innovation, and social impact are not add-ons—they are central to the mission.

His vision is clear: to create a world that is cleaner, smarter, and more inclusive. One renewable plant. One electric vehicle. One empowered child at a time.



  
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# A LEGACY REWIRED

Natarajan Chandrasekaran is leading the Tata Group into a future defined by innovation and responsibility

TT BUREAU





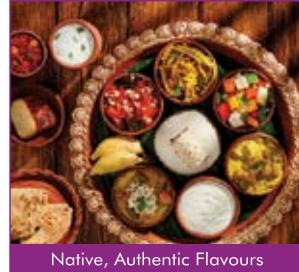
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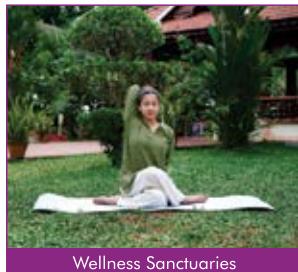
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Natarajan Chandrasekaran, often referred to as "Chandra," stands among India's most dynamic business leaders. Since taking over as Chairman of Tata Sons in 2017, he has ushered in a new era for the 156-year-old Tata Group. With a sharp focus on operational agility, digital leadership, and long-term sustainability, Chandrasekaran continues to shape a future-ready organisation rooted in purpose.

### A TRAILBLAZER'S JOURNEY

Born in 1963 in Tamil Nadu, Chandrasekaran's journey reflects excellence through merit. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Applied Sciences and a Master's in Computer Applications from NIT Trichy, he joined Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in 1987 as a young programmer. Over time, he rose through the ranks, eventually becoming CEO in 2009. Under his leadership, TCS grew into one of the world's largest IT services firms.

In 2017, he made history as the first non-Parsi professional executive to be appointed Chairman of Tata Sons. His leadership has earned international acclaim: the Padma Bhushan in 2022, France's Légion d'Honneur in 2023, and a UK Knighthood in 2025.

### A UNIFIED VISION

Chandrasekaran's "One Tata" philosophy drives integration across group companies to unlock scale, synergy, and efficiency. TCS continues to lead in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and digital transformation. Tata Digital and Tata Neu are building a powerful consumer ecosystem by combining retail, technology, and services.

Strategic leadership reshuffles within key group companies signal a focus on renewal, innovation, and customer experience.

### AIR INDIA: A REVIVAL IN PROGRESS

One of Chandrasekaran's most defining achievements has been the return of Air India to the Tata fold in 2022. Acquired through Talace Pvt Ltd, the deal included Air India, low-cost carrier Air India Express, and a 50% stake in AISATS.

Since the acquisition, Air India has undergone a bold transformation. A new brand identity was revealed in 2023, and the airline's integration with Vistara and AirAsia India is underway. With modern fleet upgrades, service redesign, and expanded global routes, Tata is rebuilding Air India into a national asset with world-class standards.

### LEADING WITH SUSTAINABILITY

Tata Group's "Aalingana" sustainability roadmap signals bold commitments across energy, materials, and operations. Tata Power is leading renewable energy expansion, including a 5 GW hydro project in Bhutan. Tata Steel is investing £1.25 billion in decarbonised steel production in South Wales.

The group's ambition includes a 25% reduction in absolute carbon emissions by 2030 and doubling recycled or renewable content in products by 2025.



### INNOVATION IN MOBILITY AND TECHNOLOGY

Tata Motors leads India's electric vehicle movement through Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, which is preparing for an IPO in 2025. The company is investing in EV technology, predictive range systems, and charging infrastructure.

Tata's entry into semiconductors, electronics, and battery giga-factories underscores its strategy to secure self-sufficiency and future readiness.

Six IPOs are lined up for 2025, including BigBasket and Tata Advanced Systems, expanding the group's reach in aerospace, defence, and digital services. With more than 70,000 employees in the UK, Tata strengthens its global presence through strategic collaborations and cross-border investments.

### BUSINESS WITH A SOUL

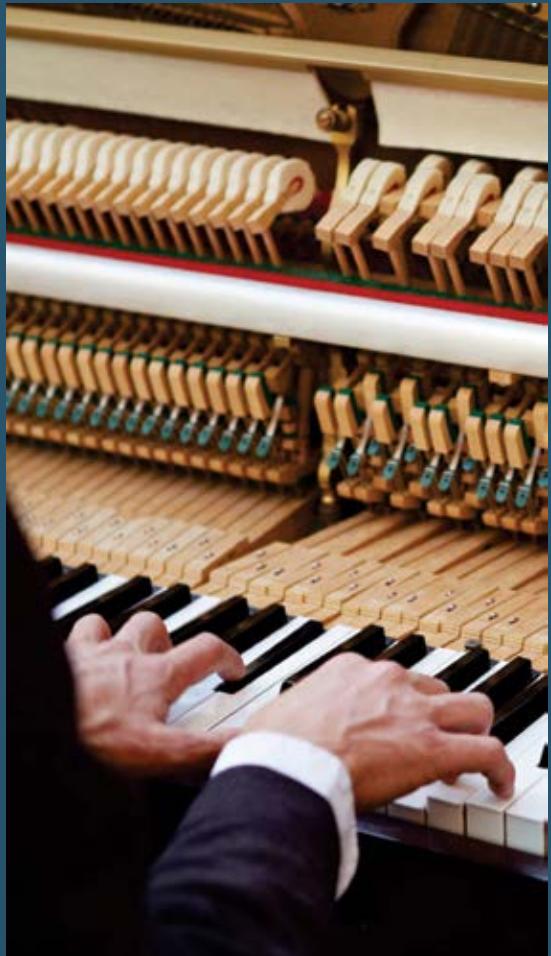
Two-thirds of Tata Sons is held by philanthropic trusts, ensuring wealth creation benefits society at scale. CSR efforts span education, health, sanitation, women's empowerment, and disaster response.

Tata Trusts play a pivotal role in rural upliftment and scholarships. Partnerships with NGOs, government, and academia maximise impact across sectors.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Under Chandrasekaran's stewardship, Tata Group stands as a beacon of ethical enterprise, technological excellence, and inclusive growth. With strong roots and global ambition, the group continues to deliver performance with purpose.

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# THE POWER OF PURPOSE

Championing women, children, art, and wellness, Nita Ambani reshapes India's future through powerful philanthropic leadership

TT BUREAU



In a world shaped by influence, Nita Ambani stands apart for her ability to transform visibility into purpose. A businesswoman, philanthropist, cultural ambassador, and educationist, she has devoted decades to building institutions that place service at the centre of impact.

Born in 1963, Nita Ambani began her journey as a trained Bharatnatyam dancer before emerging as a leader whose initiatives now reach across the nation and far beyond. As founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation and former director of Reliance Industries, she has focused on issues that improve lives and inspire change.

## DRIVING IMPACT ACROSS COMMUNITIES

Since its creation in 2010, Reliance Foundation has supported over 56 million people through a wide network of programmes. Nita Ambani's approach emphasises lasting development through healthcare, rural upliftment, disaster relief, education, sports, cultural heritage, and women's empowerment.

In healthcare, she led the transformation of Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital into one of the country's most trusted medical institutions. During the COVID-19 crisis, she coordinated rapid emergency support across India, enabling frontline efforts to reach those in need.

She also believes deeply in the power of learning. Through the Dhirubhai Ambani International School, she offers young students a strong academic foundation while nurturing empathy and creativity. The school has gained global recognition for excellence in education.

## HONOURING TRADITION THROUGH CULTURE

In 2023, the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre opened in Mumbai as a dedicated space for Indian art. The centre celebrates heritage and innovation through performances,



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**Poonam Nair**  
(General Manager)

#### A Place for Purpose & Connection

Wellness retreats, family escapes, and business offsites alike find grounding here. Conscious operations — from eco-friendly housekeeping and mindful water use to community craft workshops — ensure every stay supports both guests and the region. What sets the resort apart isn't spectacle but feeling: lighter, calmer, more connected. Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara is where wellness breathes, flavours stay pure, and nature feels like home.



*A retreat where memories linger and every chapter is Simply Delightful.*

exhibitions, and artistic collaborations. Its aim is to strengthen the role of Indian culture on the world stage.

As a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Nita Ambani promotes Indian art internationally. Her advocacy for artists and artisans has brought long-overdue attention to India's creative traditions.

#### **A CATALYST FOR SPORT AND YOUTH**

Nita Ambani's leadership in sport has changed the lives of young athletes across India. As the owner of the Mumbai Indians, she fosters talent, discipline, and team spirit. The Reliance Foundation Jr. NBA programme has introduced structured training to millions of schoolchildren, helping them grow through sport.

Her selection as the first Indian woman on the International Olympic Committee highlights her global standing in this field.

#### **INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE LIVING**

In Jamnagar, she played a key role in developing a modern township for Reliance employees. Designed to reflect environmental responsibility and community care, the project offers a model for future-ready living.

Her commitment to nature also led to the creation of Vantara, a centre for wildlife rescue. The initiative ensures a safe and nurturing space for animals, while also raising awareness about biodiversity.

Women remain a core focus in her efforts. Her programmes support entrepreneurs, improve financial literacy, and offer healthcare access in rural and urban communities.

#### **A VISION THAT INSPIRES**

Nita Ambani's work stands as a testament to how influence can lead to transformation. Her achievements reflect clarity, consistency, and compassion across every initiative she leads. Each project strengthens the foundation of a more inclusive, thoughtful, and empowered India.

Her legacy continues to grow through action, not acclaim. In every sphere, education, culture, health, environment, and sport, she leads through a vision shaped by empathy and a commitment to uplift others.



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# RISING HIGHER, ROOTED DEEPER

From stellar performances to eco-friendly ventures, Alia Bhatt proves purpose and popularity can go hand in hand

TT BUREAU

In the ever-evolving landscape of Indian cinema, few names command attention with the consistency and finesse of Alia Bhatt. Her much-anticipated debut at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival was more than a career milestone—it became a defining global fashion moment.

Alia graced the Croisette in a series of standout ensembles: an ethereal ivory Schiaparelli gown, a bejewelled midnight blue Armani Privé, and a striking closing ceremony appearance in a custom Gucci saree-inspired drape—the Italian brand's first interpretation of the Indian silhouette.

Her composure amid backstage setbacks, including a four-hour power outage before her red carpet walk, added to the moment's gravity. She credited Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as her inspiration, calling her Cannes debut a tribute to Indian grace on the global stage.





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**THE WESTIN**

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Born in Mumbai to filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and actress Soni Razdan, Alia's cinematic lineage is well known. Yet her journey has been defined not by legacy, but by an unwavering desire to evolve—as an actor, entrepreneur, and advocate for change.

#### **BOLD ROLES AND BIG MOVES**

Alia's film career took flight with *Student of the Year* in 2012, but it was her bold, emotionally nuanced choices that solidified her reputation. Roles in *Highway*, *Udta Punjab*, *Raazi*, and *Gully Boy* brought her acclaim, multiple Filmfare Awards, and a National Film Award.

Her portrayal of Gangubai in *Gangubai Kathiawadi* marked a turning point, earning praise across audiences and critics. More recently, she headlined big-budget successes including *Brahmāstra* and *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*.

In 2021, Alia launched Eternal Sunshine Productions, backing thoughtful, engaging content. Its debut, *Darlings*, in which she also starred, became a global Netflix hit, followed by the widely praised series *Poacher* and the upcoming film *Jigra*.

Her business interests reflect a similar ethos. In 2022, she founded Ed-a-Mamma, a sustainable label focused on children's and maternity wear, earning PETA India's Vegan Fashion Award and securing investment by Reliance Retail. Her portfolio also includes stakes in Nykaa, Phool.co, and StyleCracker, a handbag collaboration with VIP Industries, and the 2024 release of her children's book *Ed Finds a Home*.

#### **ADVOCACY THAT INSPIRES**

Alia's commitment to advocacy is wide-ranging and

impactful. Named PETA India's Person of the Year in 2021, she has championed animal welfare, sustainable fashion, and the humane treatment of strays.

Ed-a-Mamma reflects her desire to nurture compassion in children, while her investment in Phool, which converts discarded temple flowers into plant-based leather, aligns with her belief in eco-conscious innovation.

Her platform CoExist, launched in 2017, blends urban environmental awareness with animal rights. Initiatives under CoExist include upcycling denim into pet collars and educational partnerships with organisations like Facebook and Paani Foundation.

Through "Mi Wardrobe is Su Wardrobe," Alia auctions her clothes to raise funds for solar electrification and women's health in rural areas. During the COVID-19 crisis, she partnered with ActionAid India, helping supply essentials to marginalised communities.

She continues to support the Cuddles Foundation, which aids children fighting cancer, and the Salaam Bombay Foundation, which promotes adolescent education and well-being. Her philanthropic ethos is not performative—it is participative and consistent.

#### **A MODERN ICON**

Named in Time's 100 most influential people of 2024 and recipient of a Time100 Impact Award, Alia Bhatt embodies a modern, multidimensional celebrity.

Balancing cinematic brilliance with social impact and sharp entrepreneurial acumen, she is a role model for a new era—rooted in artistry, driven by values, and unapologetically progressive. Her influence, on-screen and off, signals a future shaped not only by fame, but by conscience.

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# A LIFE BEYOND THE SPOTLIGHT



Angelina Jolie carries stories the world must hear, uniting power, purpose, and presence across borders and crises

TT BUREAU

In an industry where celebrity often outshines substance, Angelina Jolie stands apart. She is one of Hollywood's most acclaimed actresses, yet her influence extends far beyond film sets and red carpets.

Jolie's journey from Oscar-winning performer to one of the world's most respected humanitarian voices is as compelling as any story she has brought to life.

Her legacy today is shaped not only by artistic brilliance, but also by decades of tireless advocacy for refugees and the displaced.

## HOW FAME LED TO GLOBAL ADVOCACY

Jolie's rise to global fame was swift and dazzling. She earned critical acclaim with performances in *Girl, Interrupted*, *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, *Maleficent*, and numerous other films. Known for her intensity, range, and presence, she became a dominant figure in the entertainment world.

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Yet, it was during filming in Cambodia in the early 2000s that Jolie encountered a reality that changed her life.

Witnessing the scars of conflict and the struggles of displaced families, she felt moved to take action. In 2001, Jolie became a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Unlike many celebrity ambassadors, she committed herself fully.

Over the years, she undertook more than 60 field missions to some of the most challenging regions in the world—Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Ukraine among them.

She travelled at her own expense, often staying under the same conditions as UN staff, building credibility with aid workers and those they served.

### CHAMPIONING REFUGEE RIGHTS

Jolie's work with refugees has been both visible and transformative. She has met with world leaders, urged stronger protections for asylum seekers, and supported education in refugee communities. Her advocacy has helped place overlooked crises in the global spotlight. In 2012, she was appointed Special Envoy of the UNHCR, a role that acknowledged her deep involvement and growing expertise.

In December 2022, Jolie stepped away from her official UNHCR duties, sharing her intention to collaborate more closely with communities and organisations led by people directly affected by conflict. "I want to listen to and work with refugees and local organisations," she explained, signalling a move towards more grounded and participatory engagement.

### FIGHTING FOR THE FORGOTTEN

Jolie's humanitarian focus extends well beyond refugee concerns. In 2012, she co-founded the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative. This programme addresses the use of rape as a weapon of war and calls for justice for survivors. Her work has influenced policy and raised awareness across international forums.

In 2003, Jolie launched the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation, which promotes conservation and community development in Cambodia. The country holds a special place in her heart, both professionally and personally, as the birthplace of her first child and her humanitarian awakening. Through this foundation, she supports reforestation, clean water initiatives, and health programmes.

Jolie also co-chairs the Education Partnership for Children of Conflict, which supports education for young people affected by war. Her work here combines personal involvement with strategic investment. In 2021, she lent her support to the Women for Bees initiative, which empowers women through sustainable beekeeping and ecological education, linking gender equity with environmental resilience.



### SPEAKING TRUTH WITH COURAGE

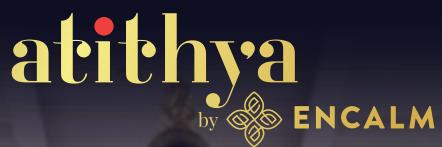
Jolie has not hesitated to challenge global institutions when needed. She has spoken critically about the United Nations' failures in addressing violence against women and has called out the misuse of veto power within the Security Council. Her voice blends empathy with accountability, urging leaders and policymakers to act with courage and urgency.

### IMPACT BEYOND APPLAUSE

Angelina Jolie's humanitarian legacy rests on direct engagement and long-term impact. She has donated millions to organisations such as UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, and Médecins Sans Frontières. Her book, *Notes from My Travels*, captures her experiences in conflict zones and continues to raise awareness and funds for refugee causes.

As she begins a new phase of her advocacy, focused on collaboration with local and grassroots leaders, Jolie remains a powerful example of how fame can serve a higher purpose. Her work reshapes how the world views humanitarianism, blending influence with empathy and action.

In the story of Angelina Jolie, the true heroine is not the character on screen, but the woman who refuses to stay silent. Her voice belongs not to cinema alone, but to those whose stories are often unheard—stories she carries forward with courage, compassion, and conviction.



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# FRAMING THE FUTURE

Beyond the boardroom, Azim Premji's empire is one of minds inspired, systems strengthened, and lives uplifted

TT BUREAU



Azim Premji's name carries the weight of wisdom, vision, and unwavering service. Recognised across India and the world for his towering achievements in both business and philanthropy, Premji has become a symbol of ethical leadership and generous purpose. His life tells a story not only of wealth built with discipline, but of wealth given away with intent.

## A VISIONARY'S RISE

Born in 1945, Premji inherited a modest vegetable oil business following the sudden passing of his father. He had been studying at Stanford University but returned to take charge of Wipro, then a small, family-run enterprise.

Over the decades that followed, he transformed the company's scope, first diversifying into soaps and hydraulic components, and later steering it towards information technology.

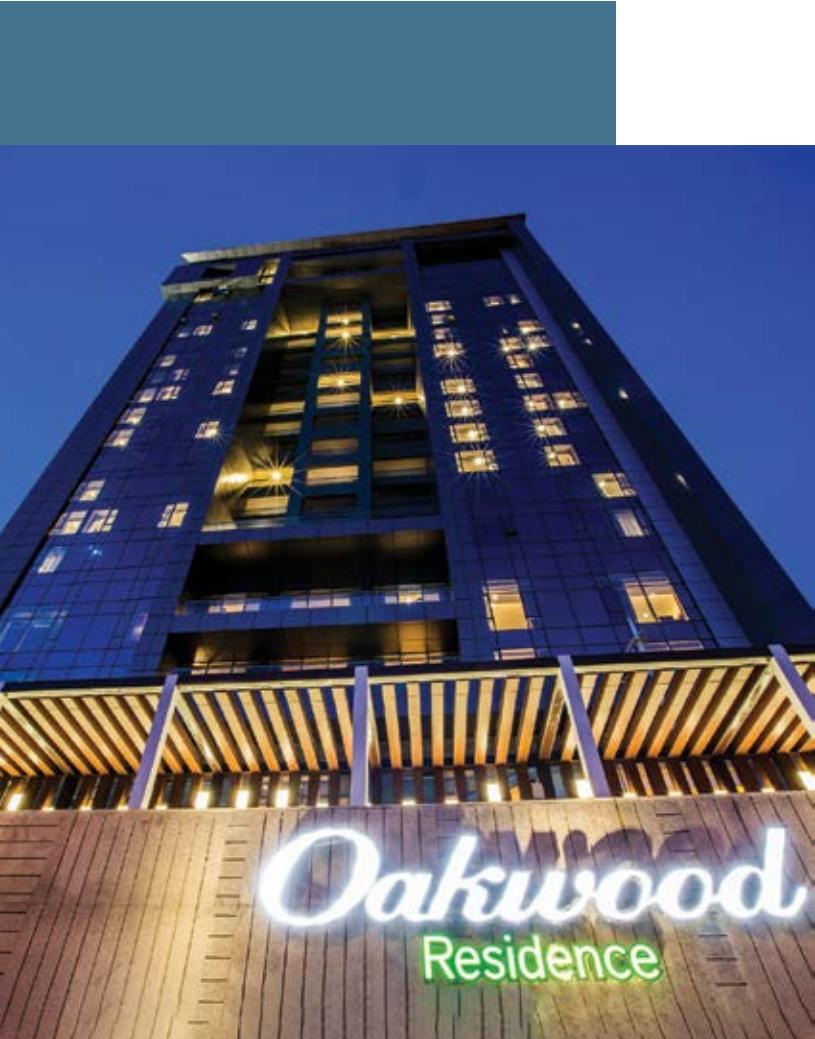
During the 1980s, Premji recognised the growing potential of the IT sector and led Wipro's entry into technology and consulting services. Under his leadership, Wipro evolved into a multinational organisation, serving clients across banking, retail, and healthcare. Today, Wipro employs more than 250,000 people and holds a key place in the global technology landscape. Known as the "Czar of the Indian IT Industry," Premji's vision changed the course of Indian business.

## A COMMITMENT TO GIVING

In 2001, Premji established the Azim Premji Foundation, a not-for-profit institution focused on transforming public education in India. The Foundation works with more than 350,000 government schools across seven states.

It also runs the Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, which specialises in education, development, and public policy, nurturing professionals committed to equity and social justice.

Beyond education, Premji's philanthropic efforts extend through the Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives. These support work in nutrition, governance,



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and community well-being. His strategy focuses on lasting structural change, not temporary relief. By strengthening systems, his initiatives aim to bring sustainable impact to India's most underserved populations.

#### A HISTORIC SCALE OF PHILANTHROPY

Premji's philanthropic giving ranks among the largest in the world. He has donated more than 21 billion dollars to his foundation, including 67 percent of his Wipro shares. This makes it one of the biggest charitable endowments globally.

His dedication placed him at the top of the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List and secured repeated recognition on TIME's list of the 100 most influential people in global philanthropy, including in 2025.

In 2013, Premji became the first Indian to sign The Giving Pledge, a public commitment by billionaires to donate at least half of their wealth to causes that matter. His foundation's programmes have since helped improve education quality, strengthened teacher training, and supported grassroots groups working in nutrition and rights-based development.

#### ETHICS AND INFLUENCE

Premji's principles shape not only his philanthropic work but

also Wipro's business practices. He has insisted on ethical conduct, transparency, and ecological responsibility across the company. Wipro is now seen as a global leader in sustainability and ethical governance. The company has also invested in emerging technologies while maintaining its commitment to community and environmental well-being.

Though he stepped down as chairman of Wipro in 2019, Premji remains its founder chairman and continues to influence its direction as a non-executive board member. As Chancellor of Azim Premji University, he continues to guide its mission of inclusive and ethical education.

#### A LEGACY OF PURPOSE

In 2025, Premji's net worth is estimated between 11.8 and 35.9 billion dollars, depending on the source. Despite his financial standing, Premji is known for his modest lifestyle and his preference for quiet action over public display. He often avoids publicity, letting his work speak for itself.

Azim Premji's legacy is grounded in the belief that wealth carries a responsibility to uplift. His decades of purposeful action have helped shape India's education sector, strengthened civic institutions, and inspired a generation of business leaders to think beyond profit.

His life stands as a profound example of what can be achieved through clarity, discipline, and service.



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# THE POWER OF BEING HUMAN

More than a superstar, Salman Khan leads with heart, proving kindness and action can redefine celebrity.

TT BUREAU

When the name Salman Khan is mentioned, most people think of blockbuster films, chart-topping songs, and high-energy dance numbers. Yet beyond the bright lights and box office figures lies another side of India's beloved "Bhai." A side defined by compassion, responsibility, and a relentless drive to help others.

Over more than three decades, Salman Khan has not only ruled the silver screen in hits such as *Maine Pyar Kiya*, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, and *Sultan*, he has also redefined what it means to be a celebrity with a conscience.

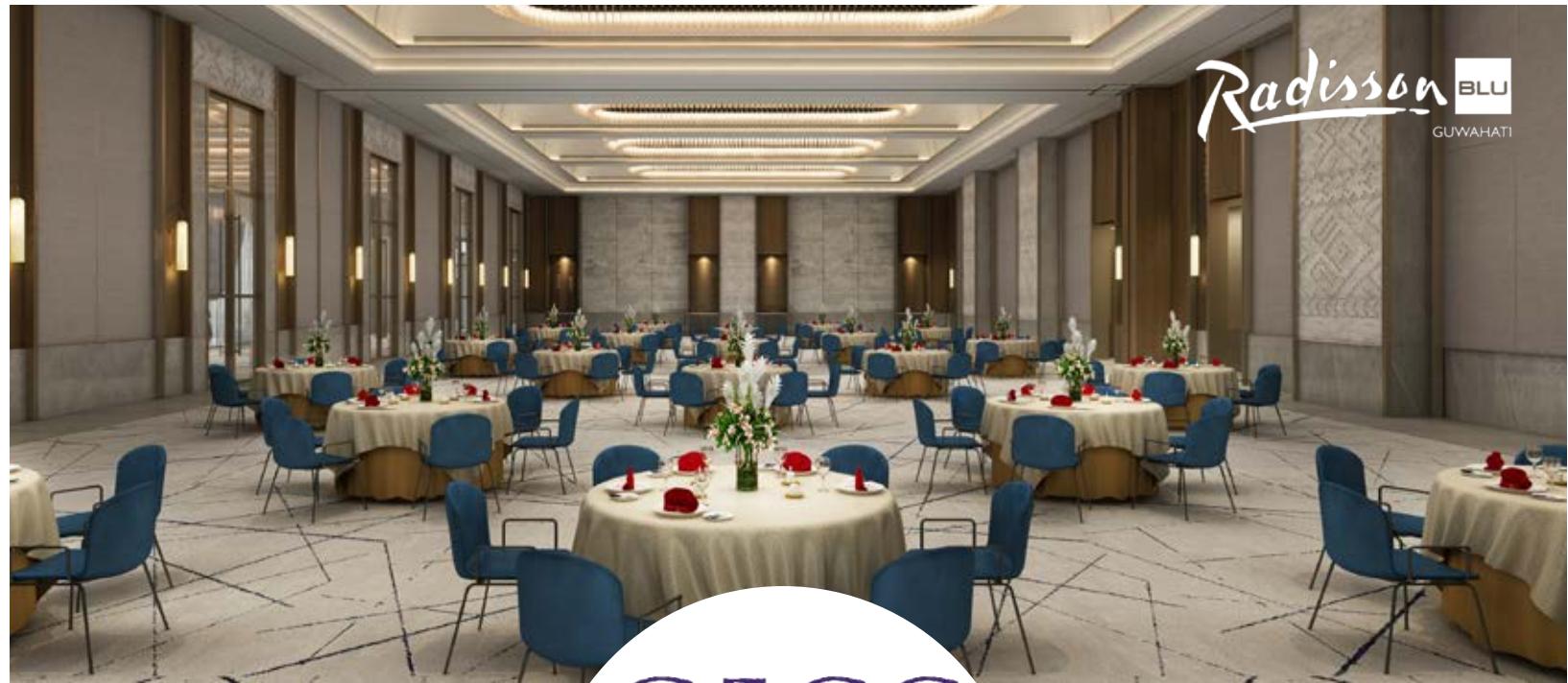
## THE GENESIS OF BEING HUMAN

In 2007, Salman Khan founded the Being Human Foundation in Mumbai, rooted in a clear mission: to support access to education and healthcare, and to offer aid in times of crisis. What sets the foundation apart is its self-sustaining model. Rather than relying only on donations, it generates revenue through Being Human-branded clothing and accessories. This model allows the brand's message of kindness and inclusion to travel far beyond billboards or television screens. Fans wear the Being Human logo not as a fashion statement, but as a symbol of solidarity and shared humanity.

## TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH ACTION

### Education

At the heart of Being Human's work is a belief in the transformative power of education. The foundation supports thousands of underprivileged children through scholarships, school supplies, and vocational training. It



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Salman Khan, Image Courtesy: Yash Raj Films

has also invested in infrastructure, funding schools in areas with limited resources. These efforts help children not only access learning but also build aspirations, self-worth, and long-term opportunity.

#### **Healthcare**

Salman Khan's commitment to health support has touched lives across the country. The foundation regularly organises free medical camps and check-ups and has funded life-saving surgeries for those in need. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Being Human extended support across the board—including medical aid, equipment, and supplies to industry workers, daily wage earners, and communities in distress.

#### **Disaster Relief**

During natural disasters and national emergencies, Salman Khan's foundation has been among the first to act. Whether facing floods, earthquakes, or the pandemic, Being Human has distributed food, masks, clothing, and other essential supplies to vulnerable communities. Salman's presence on the ground, personally overseeing efforts, lends authenticity and urgency to the cause.

#### **Community Upliftment and Artistic Contribution**

The foundation's outreach continues through projects aimed at long-term community upliftment. This includes distributing bicycles to children, painting homes in rural villages, gifting sarees and essentials to women, and adopting entire communities. Salman also contributes through his artwork,

auctioning original paintings and donating the proceeds to fund these initiatives.

#### **A NEW MODEL OF CELEBRITY-DRIVEN CSR**

Salman Khan's philanthropy stands apart for one simple reason: he shows up. Whether visiting a school or a hospital, his approach is personal and hands-on. His celebrity status is not merely a platform for visibility—it's a tool for mobilisation. Through Being Human merchandise, every fan becomes a participant in the effort to create change.

This approach has helped bridge the gap between stardom and service, creating a powerful example for other public figures. By integrating his brand, his time, and his creativity into every aspect of the foundation's work, Salman Khan has created a model where fame fuels social good rather than overshadowing it.

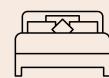
#### **THE LEGACY OF A SUPERSTAR**

Being Human now stands as a key player in India's philanthropic ecosystem. Through it, Salman Khan has channelled his influence into causes that matter and delivered impact with scale and sincerity. While he remains one of India's most bankable stars, his legacy is being defined by the lives he has helped uplift and the conversations he has started about responsibility in the spotlight.

Salman Khan's story proves that fame can do more than entertain—it can serve. In a world often captivated by celebrity, he reminds us that the truest stars are those who carry others in their light.



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# THE GREEN HEART OF FASHION

A supermodel who plants trees, Giselle Bündchen funds shelters, feeds families, and inspires sustainable fashion worldwide.

TT BUREAU

**G**isele Bündchen remains one of the world's most iconic models, but her lasting legacy is being shaped through tireless work in philanthropy and environmental activism. In 2025, her influence extends far beyond the fashion world, creating a tangible impact for communities and ecosystems.

## MODELLING, MOTHERHOOD, AND MEANINGFUL ACTION

Bündchen returned to the spotlight in 2025 as the face of Marc O'Polo's Spring/Summer campaign. Her presence brought attention to sustainable fashion, a cause she holds close. "Nature is a huge part of my life every day," she said, championing ethical production and natural materials. Her





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message was clear—style can coexist with responsibility.

Early in the year, Bündchen welcomed her third child. Motherhood remains central to her identity, yet it strengthens, rather than slows, her global efforts. Her ability to balance both has inspired many, proving that family and activism can support each other.

### CREATING COMMUNITIES WITH CARE

Bündchen donated \$1 million in 2024 to Lotus House Children's Village in Miami, the largest women's and children's shelter in the United States. Her contribution supported a new playground and youth programmes, providing children with safe spaces for physical activity and emotional growth. "Building a solid

community for children is so important," she noted, highlighting her belief in strong foundations for lasting change.

After floods devastated her home state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, Bündchen acted swiftly. Through her Luz Alliance Fund, she mobilised relief efforts, offering shelter, food, and essential supplies to displaced families. Her deep connection with Brazil continues to guide her most urgent efforts.

### ECO EFFORTS THAT HEAL THE EARTH

Bündchen's environmental work began in 2004, after witnessing damage to rivers and forests in the Xingu region of Brazil. This experience led her to create Projeto Água Limpa (Clean Water Project) in her hometown of Horizontina. The project has restored riparian forests, improved water sources, and brought wildlife back to the area. Over one million trees have since been planted in her name across Brazil's Amazon and Atlantic Forests.

As a United Nations Environment Programme Goodwill Ambassador since 2009, she has played a leading role in campaigns for biodiversity, climate action, and sustainability. Her voice adds both passion and credibility to global discussions on environmental policy.

### ACTION AGAINST HUNGER AND HARDSHIP

Through her Luz Foundation, Bündchen has focused on health, education, and humanitarian support. During the COVID-19 crisis, her Luz Alliance Fund provided hygiene kits, food supplies, and financial assistance to vulnerable families in Brazil. She also partnered with Wheels Up's "Meals Up" campaign, contributing to 10 million meals distributed through Feeding America and food banks in Boston and Tampa Bay.

Her support for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, donations to children's hospitals, and \$1.5 million contribution to the Red Cross for Haiti earthquake recovery reflect her broad, ongoing commitment to care.

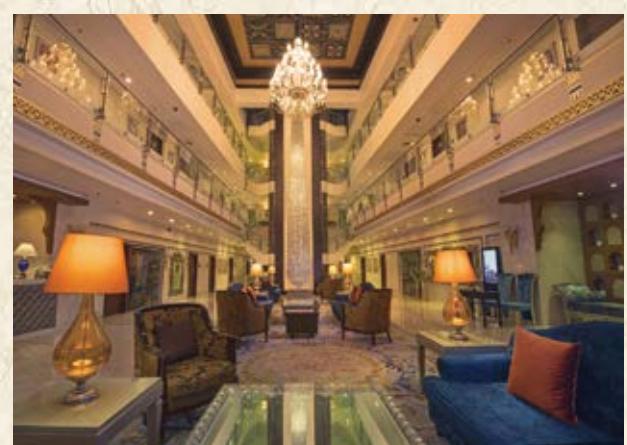
### MERGING ETHICS WITH ENTERPRISE

Bündchen's values are also reflected in her business decisions. Proceeds from her Ipanema sandal line support environmental charities, and her role on the sustainability committee at Ambipar positions her at the intersection of commerce and conservation. Her efforts also include work on HIV/AIDS awareness and safe water access through various global partnerships.

### THE POWER OF DOING GOOD

Gisele Bündchen's evolution from model to changemaker is not built on visibility alone, but on consistent, committed action. Her legacy is written through every tree planted, every community uplifted, and every child given a chance at a better future.

In 2025, she stands as a rare figure in global celebrity—one whose fame supports missions that matter, whose words are matched by action, and whose journey proves that influence, when used wisely, can leave the world better than it was found.



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# FROM GRAND SLAM GLORY TO BOARDROOM BRILLIANCE

Serena Williams blends fierce ambition with impact, building ventures that amplify equity, resilience, and global opportunity

TT BUREAU

When Serena Williams left the court at the 2022 US Open, the world applauded a once-in-a-generation athlete. That moment didn't close a chapter, it signalled a pivot. In 2025, Serena Williams stands not only as a Grand Slam legend but as a transformative force in business, fashion, philanthropy, and social impact. She now shapes industries with the same grit and vision that brought her 23 Grand Slam singles titles.

## THE NEXT SET: BUILDING AN EMPIRE

Serena's journey into entrepreneurship started long before retirement. At 17, she secured a \$13 million deal with Puma. By 22, she had signed a \$55 million partnership with Nike. These milestones, guided by her father's business instincts, sparked a dual career, athlete and entrepreneur. Boardroom roles at SurveyMonkey and Poshmark soon followed, laying the foundation for the empire she builds today.

Launched in 2017, Serena Ventures embodies her post-tennis ambition. With \$111 million raised in its first fund and more than 85 companies in its portfolio, including 14 unicorns, it is now one of venture capital's most inclusive engines. Her focus is clear: close the funding gap for underrepresented founders. Currently, 79% of Serena Ventures' portfolio companies are led by diverse founders, and 54% by women.



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## THE BUSINESS OF INFLUENCE

Serena's business interests span wellness, tech, beauty, and food. She has invested in household names such as MasterClass, Impossible Foods, Partake Foods, and Fenty Beauty. She also leads her own ventures, including S by Serena, a fashion line promoting strength and identity, and Wyn Beauty, a vegan cosmetics brand built on clean, inclusive principles.

Her business reach extends into sport ownership. She holds stakes in both Angel City FC and the Miami Dolphins, promoting leadership roles for women in professional sport. With her empire now valued at an estimated \$340 million, Serena continues to build wealth anchored in purpose and authenticity.

## VOICE, VISION, AND GLOBAL REACH

Serena's impact flows far beyond finance. As a producer, author, and speaker, she uses media to highlight stories around women's rights, sport, and equality. Her appearances at global leadership summits, alongside her digital presence, offer audiences a rare mix of candour, clarity, and conviction.

Her ability to share real moments as a mother, founder, and change agent has earned her a loyal following that transcends tennis.

## CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Her athletic legacy remains unparalleled: 23 Grand Slam

singles titles, 73 WTA singles titles, four Olympic gold medals, and 319 weeks as world No. 1. She is the only player in history—male or female—to achieve a Career Golden Slam in both singles and doubles. With more majors won after the age of 30 than any other player, her resilience continues to inspire.

## PURPOSE AND PHILANTHROPY

Serena's impact on society is equally powerful. The Serena Williams Fund supports education, social justice, and community programmes. As a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, she champions children's rights and education access. Her advocacy spans maternal health, financial literacy, and racial equality.

Through Serena Ventures, she backs businesses that prioritise purpose alongside profit. Mentorship, scholarships, and disaster relief remain pillars of her philanthropy. Her initiatives build equity not through speeches, but through action.

## A LEGACY STILL UNFOLDING

Serena Williams redefines greatness. She has moved beyond the court into a realm where influence builds change and success lifts others. Her story isn't only about wins—it's about impact, intention, and leadership with heart. As she continues lifting athletes, founders, and future leaders, she proves once more that excellence has no single stage.





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ED SHEERAN

# NOTES ACROSS THE WORLD

A storyteller in song, Ed Sheeran unites the world with honesty, harmony, and generous purpose.

TT BUREAU





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Wanderlust, wonder, and world-beating melodies. Ed Sheeran has never followed the conventional playbook of fame. Instead, he's carved a path that blends emotion, experimentation, and authenticity. Today, he stands not only as a singer-songwriter but as a global storyteller — building cultural bridges through song and spirit.

### ROOTS AND RISE

Born in Halifax, West Yorkshire, in 1991, Sheeran grew up in Suffolk, writing songs from the age of eleven. A move to London during his teens saw him performing relentlessly — in parks, pubs, and wherever an audience gathered. His 2011 debut album, +, featuring The A Team, became an instant sensation, launching him into the global spotlight.

### NEW SOUNDS, NEW STORIES

Sheeran's 2023 release, Autumn Variations, offered a quiet shift. Less commercial, more introspective, it captured life's emotional seasons with gentle honesty. But 2025 marked a turning point. His eighth album, Play, was shaped by travel and global influences — weaving Indian beats, Persian melodies, and other cultural textures into his music. Collaborating with legends such as Googoosh, Sheeran opened his songwriting to new languages and perspectives.

"This record came out of listening," he said. "Travelling made me hear music — and people — in new ways."

### REINVENTING THE RHYTHM

Sheeran has moved away from the standard album cycle. Rather than waiting years between releases, he now shares new songs frequently — feeding the momentum of the streaming generation and keeping the creative spark alive.

### A PUB AT COACHELLA

While his Mathematics World Tour continued to sell out arenas, it was his 2025 Coachella performance that truly stood out. Instead of a typical set, he constructed a British-style pub at the festival, pouring drinks and playing intimate acoustic sets. It was quirky, heartfelt, and undeniably Sheeran.

### ART AND EXPRESSION

Beyond music, Sheeran has developed a passion for painting. His abstract works, shared occasionally on social media, reveal another outlet for his creativity — bold, instinctive, and emotionally raw.

### THE HEART BEHIND THE SPOTLIGHT

For all his chart-topping success, Sheeran's legacy is equally defined by what he gives. Through the Ed Sheeran

Suffolk Music Foundation, he supports young, under-resourced musicians with grants for instruments, lessons, and education. His goal is clear — to ensure that no talented young artist is held back by financial barriers.

But his giving doesn't end there. Sheeran has quietly donated millions to schools, children's hospitals, mental health organisations, and homelessness charities across the UK. During the pandemic, he helped provide meals and equipment to struggling families and health workers. He also makes regular visits to local projects in Suffolk, staying involved in community upliftment without seeking publicity.

"It's not about being seen," he once shared. "It's about remembering where you came from — and lifting others as you move forward."

His efforts reflect a belief that success holds greater meaning when shared. Whether it's supporting music education or funding community spaces, Sheeran's philanthropy echoes the same sincerity as his songs.

### A TRUE MODERN TROUBADOUR

Ed Sheeran continues to evolve, both artistically and personally. Each album explores fresh terrain, yet his essence remains unchanged — a commitment to connect, to feel deeply, and to give generously.

Through music, painting, or philanthropy, Sheeran is charting new territories not only across countries but also across hearts, reminding the world that greatness and goodness can travel hand in hand.



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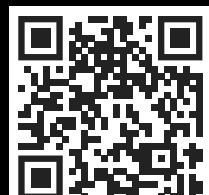
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# HOLLYWOOD ROYALTY, EARTH'S DEFENDER

Leonardo DiCaprio's journey unites Hollywood stardom and urgent climate action, redefining what lasting influence truly means today

TT BUREAU

**L**eonardo DiCaprio stands as a rare figure in modern culture—an actor whose name evokes both cinematic brilliance and an unyielding dedication to environmental protection. Born on 11 November 1974 in Los Angeles, California, DiCaprio's path began in modest circumstances. Raised by his mother in a working-class neighbourhood after his parents separated, his early years were shaped by resilience and an unmistakable passion for storytelling. By 14, he was already appearing in commercials and television series, quietly laying the foundation for a remarkable career.

## METEORIC RISE TO STARDOM

DiCaprio's rise through Hollywood was swift and striking. He gained early attention with *This Boy's Life* and *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* in 1993, the latter earning him his first Oscar nomination at 19. Recognition grew with Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet* in 1996, but it was *Titanic* in 1997 that made him a global sensation. As Jack Dawson, DiCaprio became the face of a cultural landmark, while the film shattered box office records worldwide.

His career has since reflected both range and depth. Films such as *Catch Me If You Can*, *The Aviator*, *Blood Diamond*, *Shutter Island*, and *Inception* showcased his versatility. Collaborations with Martin Scorsese, *Gangs of New York*, *The Departed*, and *The Wolf of Wall Street*, have produced some of his finest work. In 2016, he won his long-



Leonardo DiCaprio, Image Courtesy: John Russo



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Leonardo DiCaprio, Image Courtesy: Just Jared

awaited Oscar for *The Revenant*, a performance noted for its raw intensity. Recent roles in *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* and *Don't Look Up* further cemented his place as both a box office draw and a critical powerhouse.

Financially, DiCaprio's success mirrors his talent, with blockbuster deals and backend profits boosting his net worth to \$300 million.

#### A FORCE FOR THE PLANET

DiCaprio's influence, however, extends far beyond the screen. In 1998, he established the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (LDF), dedicated to preserving biodiversity and supporting climate action. Over two decades, LDF has supported over 200 projects across more than 50 countries, funding efforts ranging from habitat restoration and ocean conservation to indigenous land protection and clean energy innovation.

In 2019, he co-founded Earth Alliance, merging LDF's efforts with other global groups to amplify their collective reach. Earth Alliance has since led responses to critical threats, including deforestation in the Amazon, wildfire devastation, and plastic pollution in the oceans. DiCaprio's impact is not limited to philanthropy; he has helped bring urgent environmental messages to global audiences through documentaries such as *Before the Flood*, *Ice on Fire*, *Virunga*, and *The Ivory Game*.

#### RECENT INITIATIVES AND GLOBAL IMPACT

Between 2023 and 2025, DiCaprio's focus has intensified. He has funded emergency wildfire relief in California and Australia, supported ocean protection projects tackling overfishing, and backed indigenous communities preserving vital ecosystems. At global climate summits and United Nations forums, he has emerged as a leading voice advocating for sustainable policies and transformative action. His recent work in regenerative agriculture and ethical food systems reflects a deeper, more holistic approach to planetary health.

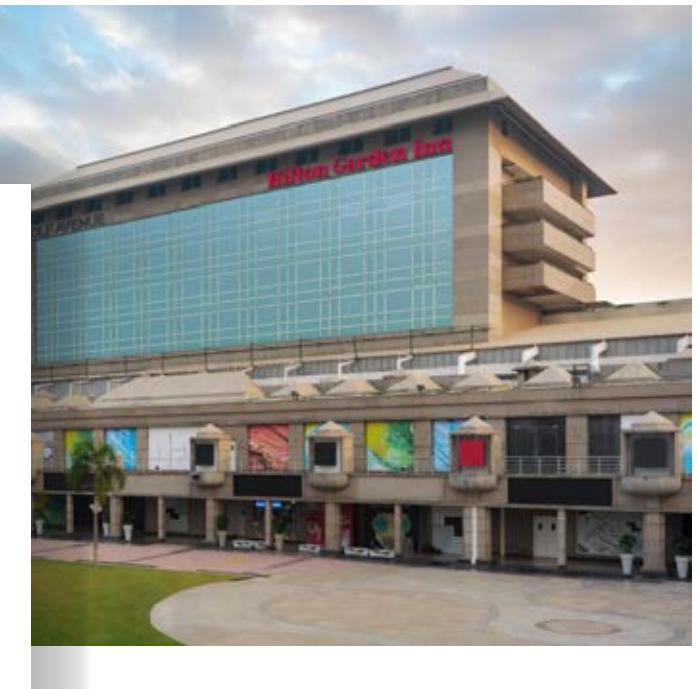
In recognition of his advocacy, DiCaprio was named United Nations Messenger of Peace for Climate Change and continues to be ranked among the world's most influential environmental philanthropists.

#### LEGACY OF INFLUENCE

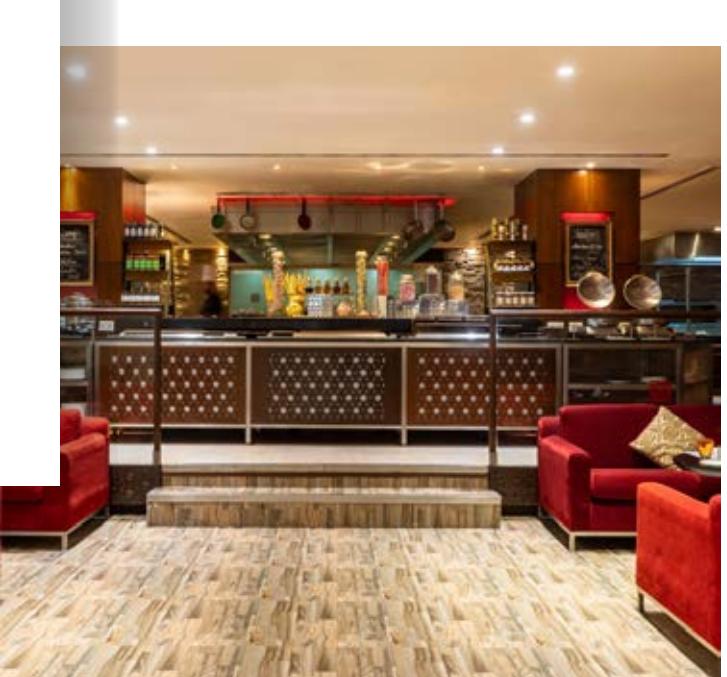
Leonardo DiCaprio's journey reflects the powerful intersection of fame and purpose. Through talent, discipline, and vision, he has achieved a level of cinematic excellence few attain. Yet it is his unwavering commitment to the Earth's wellbeing that truly defines his legacy. In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges, DiCaprio's example serves as a reminder that one person, armed with passion, resources, and resolve, can drive lasting, global impact. On screen and in action, he remains a force for good.



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# RACING BEYOND THE FINISH LINE

Lewis Hamilton's journey redefines legacy: speed on track, empowerment off it, and impact felt across generations

TT BUREAU

In the high-stakes world of Formula One, few names carry the power of Lewis Hamilton. With seven world championships, more wins and pole positions than any other driver, his legacy on the racetrack is legendary. As the 2025 season unfolds and Hamilton dons Ferrari red, his most enduring impact may lie beyond the podium, in the lives he's lifting through bold advocacy and purposeful action.

## RACING PAST LIMITS

Born in Stevenage in 1985, Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton's

journey began when he was six, behind the wheel of a second-hand go-kart gifted by his father, Anthony. Despite financial constraints and racial prejudice, Hamilton's brilliance saw him rise swiftly. By 13, he had joined the McLaren-Mercedes Young Driver Programme. In 2007, he became Formula One's first Black driver. One year later, he claimed his first World Championship title.

Hamilton's career has been about more than titles. "He's always been about more than just racing," recalls a former McLaren engineer. "He wants to change the sport—and the world—for the better."

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## THE HAMILTON COMMISSION: DRIVING DIVERSITY

In 2021, Hamilton launched The Hamilton Commission, created to examine the lack of Black representation in UK motorsport and STEM fields. Produced in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering, its landmark report identified barriers and proposed practical solutions. Several have since been implemented by Formula One, including the sport's first Diversity & Inclusion Charter.

Hamilton's investment is personal. After races, he regularly meets young Black engineering students, mentoring with empathy and insight. "He followed up with me after our first meeting," shares a scholarship recipient now working in F1. "He wanted to know how I was doing, what obstacles I was facing. That meant everything."

## MISSION 44: EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

Hamilton committed £20 million to launch Mission 44, a foundation supporting youth from underrepresented communities. Its focus spans education, mentorship, and career pathways in STEM, motorsport, and creative industries. In 2025, Mission 44 expanded its collaboration with HP, bringing digital tools and learning programmes to more UK schools.

The stories are powerful. One young woman, now in F1, credits Hamilton's words for changing her life. "He told me, 'You deserve to be here. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.' That changed my life," she says.

## IGNITE INITIATIVE: CHANGING THE INDUSTRY

Through his alliance with Mercedes-AMG F1, Hamilton co-founded the Ignite Initiative to increase diversity and inclusion within motorsport. The programme funds curriculum development, supports diverse educators, and offers financial support to students from underserved backgrounds.

## ACTIVISM AT FULL THROTTLE

Hamilton's influence extends well beyond the paddock. He is a leading advocate for environmental responsibility, urging F1 and its fans toward sustainable choices. His stance on racial equity, mental health, and animal rights continues to resonate.

During the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, Hamilton brought change to the heart of the sport. He persuaded Formula One to permit drivers to take a knee and wore a "Black Lives Matter" T-shirt on the podium. That moment sparked reflection across the racing world.

## HAMILTON'S ENDURING RACE

As Hamilton faces new challenges with Ferrari, his ambition is firmly rooted in legacy-building. Through The Hamilton Commission, Mission 44, and Ignite, he is paving the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future. "Records can be broken," Hamilton has said, "but the real victory is changing lives." In the story of Lewis Hamilton, speed was only the beginning.



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# A CINEMATIC JOURNEY OF IMPACT

Between scripts and surgeries funded, Mahesh Babu leads a movement rooted in dignity, access, and real outcomes.

TT BUREAU

In the world of Telugu cinema, few names carry the weight and admiration that Mahesh Babu commands. Born into the illustrious family of veteran actor Krishna, Mahesh entered the spotlight at an early age, debuting as a child artist in the late 1970s. His official transition into lead roles began with Rajakumarudu (1999), and since then, he has delivered some of the biggest blockbusters in the South Indian film industry.

Mahesh's performances are known for their effortless charisma and emotional depth, a combination that has kept audiences loyal across decades. His 2024 release, Guntur Kaaram, marked a reunion with director Trivikram Srinivas. The star's screen presence and nuanced performance stood out, drawing praise from fans and critics alike.

In 2022, Mahesh stepped into the producer's chair for Major, a bilingual film that achieved both critical acclaim and box office success. His decision to back such a powerful story further established him as a tastemaker in Indian cinema. In another creative twist, he voiced the character of Mufasa in the Telugu version of The Lion King (2024), introducing a beloved global narrative to regional audiences.

Mahesh Babu's consistent inclusion in Forbes India's Celebrity 100 list since 2012, along with business ventures such as AMB Cinemas, reflect his evolution as both an actor and entrepreneur.



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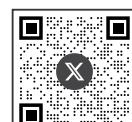
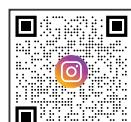


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### **BEHIND THE CHARITY WORK**

Away from the cameras, Mahesh Babu's real-life heroism lies in his humanitarian efforts. At the centre of this mission is his long-standing association with the Heal-a-Child Charitable Trust. Focused on providing critical medical care for children in need, the trust ensures that families without means receive the support required to save their young ones. Mahesh has been deeply involved—donating, fundraising, and personally visiting hospitals. His presence offers encouragement and raises awareness for the children's causes he champions.

### **CHANGING FUTURES**

In a move to expand his outreach, Mahesh launched the Mahesh Babu Foundation. The organisation primarily funds congenital heart surgeries for children, working alongside top hospitals and doctors across the country. Thousands of young lives have already been saved, offering families a second chance and a brighter future.

Mahesh's role as goodwill ambassador for Rainbow Hospitals highlights his dedication to healthcare. He remains actively involved in campaigns and supports hospital upgrades to improve access for underprivileged patients.

### **GRASSROOTS IMPACT**

Mahesh Babu's social responsibility extends far beyond hospitals. He has adopted Burripalem in Andhra Pradesh and Siddhapuram in Telangana, turning them into models of rural development. These projects focus

on strengthening local education systems, improving sanitation, upgrading healthcare access, and building robust infrastructure.

Mahesh plays an active role in monitoring the progress of these villages, often making personal visits and ensuring that real change takes root.

### **LEADING BY EXAMPLE DURING CRISIS**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mahesh responded swiftly and with purpose. He donated ₹1 crore each to the Chief Minister's Relief Funds of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. His support extended further through the provision of medical supplies, backing treatment centres, and raising public awareness about safety measures. His leadership inspired fans and peers alike to contribute and stay involved during a critical time.

### **THE BIGGER PICTURE**

Through his foundation and work with Heal-a-Child, Mahesh Babu has helped reshape the lives of thousands. His dedication to child health, early diagnosis of congenital conditions, and consistent support for vulnerable communities positions him as a beacon of celebrity-led philanthropy in India.

While his on-screen achievements continue to draw admiration, it is Mahesh's compassionate commitment to real-world impact that cements his legacy. His story speaks to a rare blend of talent, humility, and purpose—qualities that make him not only a superstar, but also a source of hope for many.



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# DISRUPTION MEETS PURPOSE



Nikhil Kamath is reshaping India's business landscape while elevating grassroots impact through smart philanthropy.

TT BUREAU

**N**ikhil Kamath's journey is marked by unconventional decisions, sharp intellect, and a deepening commitment to public good. A school-leaver who became one of India's youngest billionaires, he has not only reshaped the financial sector but is also becoming a key figure in philanthropy. His story reflects a blend of bold entrepreneurship and growing social responsibility.

## BUILDING A FINANCIAL EMPIRE

Born in 1986 in Udupi, Karnataka, Kamath developed a natural interest in numbers and trading at a young age. He left school after the tenth standard and began working at a call centre while pursuing equity trading on the side. His growing understanding of market behaviour soon led him and his brother Nithin to launch Kamath & Associates in 2006, managing portfolios for high-net-worth individuals.

In 2010, the Kamath brothers launched Zerodha,

introducing a disruptive discount brokerage model. This approach significantly lowered trading costs and made investing more accessible for a broader population. Zerodha quickly grew into India's largest retail brokerage. Under Kamath's leadership, it has transformed stock market participation in the country.

His achievements have earned him a place among India's 100 Richest and on the 2024 Forbes World Billionaires List, with a net worth estimated between 2.6 and 3.1 billion dollars. He later co-founded True Beacon in 2020, aimed at ultra-high-net-worth individuals, and launched Gruhas in 2021, a platform for real estate and proptech investments.

## A PURPOSE-DRIVEN PIVOT

In 2023, Kamath signed The Giving Pledge, committing at least half of his wealth to social causes. This move aligned him with a select group of philanthropists who seek long-term systemic impact rather than short-term charity.

Kamath's philanthropic focus centres on three core areas. In climate action, he supports sustainable technologies and community-led solutions for environmental resilience. In education, he invests in access and quality for underserved communities, aiming to build equitable learning systems. In healthcare, his support goes towards scalable, affordable models that improve outcomes for those in need.

His approach is structured and evidence-based. He works through partnerships and collaborative models that prioritise effectiveness over visibility. This reflects the same clarity and innovation that define his business ventures.

### **INFLUENCE AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

Beyond corporate boardrooms, Kamath has become a strong voice for financial literacy and ethical entrepreneurship. Through his podcast, "WTF is", he hosts thought-provoking discussions with leaders in business, politics, and the creative industries. These conversations promote meaningful engagement with the challenges and opportunities facing India and the wider world.

On social media, Kamath has built a wide following. He shares perspectives on policy, economic trends, sustainability, and the startup ecosystem. His thoughtful commentary reaches millions and serves as a valuable resource for aspiring entrepreneurs, young professionals, and investors.

### **SHAPING A NEW LEGACY**

Nikhil Kamath represents a new kind of leadership in India—one that views business as a vehicle for broader societal good. His success does not end at financial growth. It is reflected in his commitment to inclusion, sustainability, and responsible innovation.

By combining strategic enterprise with a sense of duty, he is redefining what it means to be a leader in the twenty-first century. His work serves as a model for those who believe that influence should be used not only for profit, but for progress. As his journey continues, Kamath's focus on purpose, partnership, and people marks him as a key architect of India's evolving future.



# LUXE





# TRAVEL FARTHER, EARN SMARTER WITH WYNDHAM

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**W**hen travel inspires you to go further, the right rewards programme makes every journey more meaningful. For travellers who value both comfort and experience, Wyndham Rewards by Wyndham Hotels & Resorts is redefining what it means to be rewarded. With over 120 million enrolled members, it stands among the world's most generous and fastest-growing loyalty programmes, designed around simplicity, attainability and true generosity.

"Wyndham Rewards is built on one powerful idea: rewarding our guests every time they stay with us, anywhere in the world," says Rahool Macarius, Market Managing Director Eurasia, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts. "We want our guests in India and beyond to experience how easy and exciting it is to earn and redeem rewards, whether they are travelling for work, leisure or celebration."

## REWARDS THAT GO THE DISTANCE

Wyndham Rewards keeps things effortless. Members earn 10 points per US dollar or a guaranteed 1,000 points per qualified stay, whichever is more, and can redeem at three simple tiers: 7,500, 15,000 or 30,000 points. For even greater flexibility, members can choose Discounted Nights with Points + Cash starting at 750 points plus cash, perfect for last-minute plans or smart business travel.

With more than 60,000 hotels, vacation club resorts and rentals across 100 countries, Wyndham offers the largest and most diverse redemption portfolio of any major hotel programme.

Shoreline escapes, central-city comfort, and extended-stay ease thrive across Wyndham destinations.



## TRAVEL MADE SIMPLE, REWARDS MADE RICH

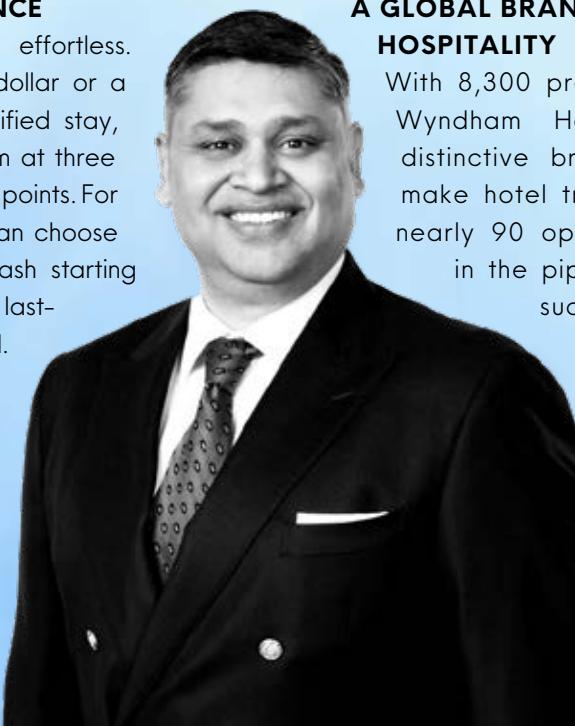
Member levels begin after just five nights, unlocking perks such as late checkout, preferred rooms and suite upgrades. With more than 100 global accolades, including multiple independent rankings and industry honours across loyalty and co-brand credit card categories, Wyndham Rewards is consistently recognised for real-world value by travellers worldwide.

In less than five years, it has nearly doubled in scale, earning the trust of travellers who seek value without compromise.

## A GLOBAL BRAND, ROOTED IN INDIAN HOSPITALITY

With 8,300 properties across 100 countries, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts unites 25 distinctive brands under one purpose: to make hotel travel possible for all. In India, nearly 90 operational hotels and 50 more in the pipeline showcase trusted names such as Ramada by Wyndham, Howard Johnson, Hawthorn Suites and Wyndham Garden, with Wyndham Grand and Registry Collection Hotels expanding luxury choices across key destinations.

Every stay earns, every destination delights. With Wyndham Rewards, every journey feels like coming home.



Rahool Macarius, Market Managing Director, Eurasia  
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts



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REWARDS  
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The Company's award-winning Wyndham Rewards loyalty program offers approximately 120 million enrolled members the opportunity to redeem points at thousands of hotels, vacation club resorts and vacation rentals globally.

### HOW TO EARN

Earn 10 points per dollar or 1,000 points, whichever is more, on every qualified stay?

### HOW TO REDEEM

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Bride Shoot, Taj Lalit Bagh, Udaipur

# THE PALACE THAT BREATHES RAJASTHAN

In a city of lakes and palaces, Taj Lalit Bagh, Udaipur introduces a refreshing heritage-inspired perspective

TT BUREAU

There are destinations that draw you in quietly and then stay with you long after the visit. Taj Lalit Bagh, Udaipur, belongs to that rare category. It is shaped by heritage-inspired architecture, serene gardens and the gentle rhythm of Rajasthan. As the city's newest heritage-inspired estate, it offers an elevated setting for celebrations, retreats and stays that deserve intention and beauty.

## A GRAND ARRIVAL

The experience begins the moment you enter the gates. Curved pathways lead through landscaped gardens, shimmering water features and façades detailed with arches and stonework. The sense of arrival is immediate and effortless. The estate establishes its charm immediately, offering an environment that feels immersive without ever asking for attention.

Inspired by Udaipur's royal lineage, the architectural language combines classical silhouettes with contemporary refinement. Across 155 rooms and suites, light plays an important role. Jharoka-style windows overlook gardens and courtyards, anchoring each space in its surroundings. Interiors use warm tones, textured finishes and thoughtful comfort, creating a modern retreat that honours history without being confined by it.

## FLAVOURS OF UDAIPUR

Dining at the property reflects the estate's balance of tradition and modernity. The all-day restaurant curates menus that bring together Rajasthani favourites and global classics with Taj's refined approach.

Mornings unfold slowly in natural light, often stretching into late breakfasts. Evenings feel atmospheric with open-air dining and a culinary style shaped by seasonal

ingredients and local produce. The experience feels rooted yet contemporary.

### CELEBRATIONS THAT SHINE

The wide expanse of landscaped outdoor spaces sets the estate apart in a city known for its palaces and lakes. Gardens, lawns and open areas bring a resort-like scale to the property and make it a natural choice for celebrations. Sunset weddings glow softly across the lawns, musical evenings come alive in the courtyards, and multi-day events flow seamlessly across the estate. Each venue carries its own character, ensuring celebrations feel intimate and elevated.

At the heart of the estate lies a beautifully preserved stepwell. It stands as one of the most poetic features of Taj Lalit Bagh. Beyond its architectural significance, it creates a quiet moment of reflection and offers guests a serene corner that feels timeless. Many describe it as the place they return to the most during their stay.

### DESIGNED FOR CLARITY

For business travellers, the hotel offers an environment shaped for focus. Meeting spaces prioritise privacy and purpose, supported by the smooth efficiency of Taj service. Leadership retreats, product showcases and strategy discussions find a clear and calm setting here. Its location near Maharana Pratap Airport adds convenience while preserving the tranquil atmosphere of the estate.

Leisure travellers discover their own rhythm within the property. Morning walks in the gardens begin the day gently. Afternoons often unfold in Udaipur's historic sites, artisan districts and lakeside landmarks before guests return to evenings marked by warm lighting, soft music and the peacefulness of the surroundings. The poolside becomes a quiet escape framed by greenery and open sky.

### THOUGHTFUL EXPERIENCES

The concierge team curates immersive experiences that deepen the connection with Rajasthan. Heritage walks, craft interactions, cultural sessions and culinary trails allow guests to explore the region with insight and intimacy. Even with Udaipur offering so much, the estate often pulls guests



Lobby, Taj Lalit Bagh, Udaipur

back into its calming spaces, creating a balance between exploration and stillness.

Design across the property remains intentional. Gardens are shaped with care, courtyards create pockets of quiet, and interiors weave regional artistry with modern elegance. The subtle nods to Mewar craftsmanship create continuity without excess.

### THE TAJ TOUCH

Service at Taj Lalit Bagh carries the warmth, intuition and sincerity associated with the Taj legacy. Weddings are handled with meticulous attention, milestone celebrations are managed with sensitivity and business gatherings are overseen with clarity and ease. Family holidays unfold with a sense of comfort that feels natural rather than curated. Guests often speak of feeling understood, which is what transforms a stay into a memory.

### A NEW PERSPECTIVE

As Udaipur continues its rise as one of India's most admired luxury destinations, Taj Lalit Bagh introduces a refreshing dimension. Green, serene and rich in heritage, it expands the city's narrative beyond lakes and palaces. It becomes a place where celebrations feel more significant, everyday moments feel more special, and every visit tells its own story.

Taj Lalit Bagh, Udaipur stands as a true heritage address for grand moments. It is shaped by legacy, designed for today and prepared for tomorrow's most meaningful occasions.

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# LIVING THE ANDAZ WAY

Andaz Delhi, by Hyatt captures the city's creative energy through spaces that think, feel, and inspire

TT BUREAU

**S**leek, sophisticated, and unmistakably cosmopolitan, Andaz Delhi, by Hyatt anchors Aerocity with its blend of luxury and authenticity. Perfectly located between Delhi's political heart and Gurgaon's business hub, it offers travellers

the comfort of convenience and the pleasure of discovery. Surrounded by designer stores, lively cafés, and culinary hotspots, the hotel redefines urban hospitality for the global traveller.

As Hyatt's first luxury lifestyle and business hotel in India,



Exploring Delhi in the signature Purple Lady

Andaz Delhi celebrates individuality through intelligent design and effortless hospitality. Its 401 room capacity, including 45 suites, bring together sleek architecture, soft light, and thoughtful detail to create a mood of easy elegance.

### CRAFTED FOR THINKERS

For the modern corporate traveller, Andaz Delhi delivers efficiency without compromise. The hotel's streamlined check-in ensures time is never lost, while business-ready amenities transform productivity into an art form. With over 37,000 square feet of meeting and event space, including eight Business Studios, it offers environments designed to inspire rather than merely accommodate.

The open-plan studios feature natural light, private conference rooms, and fully equipped audio-visual systems. Each setting is crafted with Hyatt's signature attention to detail, spaces that foster creative exchange as much as they host formal discussions. Complemented by high-speed connectivity and intuitive service, the Andaz meeting experience is both dynamic and efficient, setting a new benchmark for corporate hospitality.

The World of Hyatt membership brings greater rewards to frequent travellers. Members enjoy access to exclusive benefits, bonus points, and curated experiences that extend far beyond a single stay, an ecosystem of privileges designed for the discerning global citizen.

### MINDFUL, MODERN, DELICIOUS

Every Hyatt property tells its story through its food, and Andaz Delhi speaks fluently in flavour. Its vibrant AnnaMaya Food Hall celebrates mindful eating through dishes made with locally sourced, ethically produced ingredients. Inspired by European food halls yet deeply rooted in Indian sensibilities, AnnaMaya transforms dining into a community experience, lively, warm, and authentic.

Soul Pantry offers a health-forward pause with their wholesome flatbreads, organic salads, and wellness-inspired smoothies in a calm, sunlit setting, ideal for working lunches or strategy sessions.



*Curated walk to Old Delhi with Andaz Delhi*

Evenings at Juniper Bar, India's first dedicated Gin Bar, are another revelation. Here, conversations flow as smoothly as the in-house gin infusions.

Adding to its evolving calendar, the hotel frequently hosts global culinary pop-ups that merge gastronomy with storytelling. Collaboration with Motley Brew refines the beverage experience, introducing guests to artisanal teas and slow-crafted brews that elevate every moment.

### CULTURE IN EVERY CORNER

Andaz Delhi deepens its connection to the city through curated heritage walks with India City Walks, inviting guests into Delhi's art and culture. Within the hotel, wellness anchors the experience through its spa, pool, and 24-hour gym. Eco-focused initiatives, including on-site bottling and composting, support its LEED Gold certification.

### SHAPED BY THE CITY

Andaz Delhi grows as a creative hub through its new quarterly Andaz Magazine, showcasing design, art, and community stories that deepen its bond with the city. Blending luxury with cultural expression, the hotel transforms every visit into an experience, reflecting a confident, contemporary India where ideas flourish and moments find calm.



*Serene poolside at Andaz Delhi, by Hyatt*

# TANGRA'S TIMELESS FLAVOURS AT WESTIN SOHNA



Tangra - Tales of Chinatown at Westin Sohna Resort &amp; Spa

Tangra – Tales of Chinatown at The Westin Sohna Resort and Spa celebrates heritage through soulful Hakka-style cuisine.

TT BUREAU

There are dining spaces that nourish the palate, and there are those that nourish the soul. Tangra – Tales of Chinatown, the newest experiential restaurant at The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa, belongs to the latter.

A tribute to Kolkata's historic Chinatown, Tangra reimagines a culinary legacy shaped by migration, community, and creativity. It celebrates a cuisine born when Chinese traditions met Indian warmth, giving the world the signature Hakka-style Chinese experience.

## STORIES SERVED ON EVERY PLATE

Long before Tangra became known for sizzling woks and comforting broths, it was a neighbourhood defined by craftsmanship and resilience. Generations of Chinese families built their lives there, blending ancient recipes with local flavours. Spices met soy sauce, vinegar mingled with green chilli, and a new culinary identity took shape in India's food culture.

This is the story Tangra – Tales of Chinatown brings to life. Designed as a bridge between nostalgia and refinement, the restaurant captures the heartbeat of a

community through taste, design, and storytelling. Each dish is a memory reinterpreted for the modern diner, every detail a reflection of heritage and emotion.

Here, dining becomes an act of remembrance, an invitation to rediscover the warmth of family tables and the charm of Chinatown's glowing evenings.

## CLASSICS REBORN WITH FLAIR

The menu unfolds as a sensory map of Chinatown's kitchens, bold and aromatic. Signature creations such as Tangra-style Chilli Chicken or Paneer, Chimney Soup, and Braised Wontons evoke the comfort of family dining, while Golden Garlic Lobster, Mandarin Chilean Seabass, and Prawn and Pok Choi in Oyster Sauce showcase refinement and balance.

Vegetarian favourites like Seven Treasure Vegetables, Claypot Vegetables in Chilli Bean Sauce, and Shao Mai Dumplings bring colour and texture to the table. Stir-fried classics such as Blackened Soy Honey Chicken and Tai Po Chicken add lively contrast, while Yam Mein Noodles and Crispy Chilli Garlic Baby Potatoes capture the joy of shared meals.

Desserts such as Fried Ice Cream and Darsaan close the meal on a nostalgic note. Signature cocktails add another layer of artistry, each designed to reflect Tangra's spirited essence.

### TRADITION REFINED IN FORM

Tangra's design merges memory with modernity. Guests arrive through a koi pond and timber-panelled entryway that leads from Sohna's calm landscapes into the bustle of Chinatown.

Inside, lantern-inspired lighting sets a warm mood. Stone guardian sculptures greet guests, while a parasol-shaped chandelier crowns the pavilion. Mahjong tile-inlaid tables spark conversation, and the coin-detailed bar hints at prosperity and cultural exchange.

Textures of jade-green marble, dark granite, and polished timber interact with soft light, creating a space both elegant and grounded. At its centre, an open kitchen crackles with rhythm and aroma, transforming dining into quiet theatre. Tangra feels intimate and contemporary, a tribute to heritage retold through design.

### A TABLE OF TOGETHERNESS

At Tangra, service is an extension of the experience. Inspired by family-style dining, hospitality feels personal and genuine. Servers act as storytellers, sharing anecdotes that connect guests to the roots behind each dish.

The pace encourages conversation and lingering. It is hospitality that transforms a meal into memory and reminds diners that the finest experiences are remembered not for their complexity but for their warmth.

### THE SCENIC ROUTE TO FLAVOUR

Aligned with The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa's wellness philosophy, Tangra embraces mindful luxury. Fresh produce from the resort's gardens pairs with heritage sauces sourced from family-run factories in Kolkata's Chinatown, many preserving recipes since the 1950s.



Tangra - Tales of Chinatown at Westin Sohna Resort & Spa



Tangra - Tales of Chinatown at Westin Sohna Resort & Spa

This devotion to authenticity ensures every ingredient carries integrity and story. Even the tableware reflects thoughtfulness: handcrafted ceramics, soft lighting reminiscent of Chinatown evenings, and décor that values harmony over excess. The open kitchen hums with vitality, yet the atmosphere remains calm. Tangra's true luxury lies in awareness, creating a dining experience that feels sincere and memorable.

Set within 60 acres of Westin Sohna's tranquil greenery, Tangra – Tales of Chinatown is the perfect drive-away dining retreat. Barely 40 minutes from Gurgaon, it offers an escape that feels far removed from the everyday yet remains easy to reach. With 32 indoor and 24 outdoor seats, the restaurant combines the intimacy of a hidden gem with the elegance of a destination venue. It is ideal for family gatherings, romantic dinners, or quiet celebrations surrounded by nature.

Every element, from the scent of lemongrass to the glow of lantern light, reminds guests that great dining is not about indulgence alone but about connection. At Tangra – Tales of Chinatown, the meals turn into a story that begins the moment the road turns toward Sohna and lingers long after the last bite.



Tangra - Tales of Chinatown at Westin Sohna Resort & Spa

# LUXURY LIVING IN MINDSPACE

Well-being takes centre stage with spa therapies, wellness cuisine, and rejuvenating spaces

TT BUREAU

In Hyderabad's thriving IT hub, **The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace** stands as a luxurious urban retreat where contemporary design meets timeless hospitality. Designed for both business and leisure, it offers a sanctuary of balance, comfort, and sophistication. Its enviable location places it within easy reach of multinational offices, cultural attractions, and shopping districts, making it a preferred address for discerning travellers. With architecture that inspires, interiors that soothe, and services crafted around well-being, the hotel embodies Westin's promise of leaving guests feeling refreshed and restored.

## SANCTUARIES OF STYLE

The hotel offers 427 elegantly designed rooms and suites, each combining modern comforts with Westin's signature wellness philosophy. Guests are welcomed by the **Westin Heavenly Bed**, rainfall showers, plush workspaces, and thoughtful extras such as pillow menus and designer amenities. Families appreciate practical touches including mini fridges and infant beds, while business travellers value high-speed connectivity and ergonomic layouts. Larger suites feature fireplaces and curated entertainment systems, creating a home-like atmosphere. With

categories tailored for solo travellers, executives, and families, the accommodation reflects both scale and individuality.

## CELEBRATIONS SHAPED WITH DISTINCTION

Renowned as one of the city's leading venues, The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace offers **over 30,000 square feet of event space**. The striking **Westin Ballroom**, with its soaring 21-foot ceiling and 8,200 square feet, serves as a dramatic setting for grand occasions, while 13 meeting rooms provide flexibility for conferences and exhibitions. A dedicated 5,400-square-foot indoor exhibition space ensures the hotel is equipped for large conventions. Outdoors, the **Westin Lawns** spread across 10,000 square feet of landscaped greenery, perfect for evening galas and open-air celebrations under Hyderabad's starlit skies.

## WHERE DREAMS MEET CELEBRATION

The hotel has become a sought-after wedding destination, blending grandeur with personal detail. Couples may host lavish receptions in the ballroom, intimate gatherings in function rooms, or romantic ceremonies on the lawns. A dedicated team of planners coordinates décor, lighting, and entertainment, while the culinary experts curate bespoke menus to suit every



FACADE



Casbah

theme. Each celebration is designed to be distinctive, reflecting the personalities of the hosts while retaining the hotel's trademark elegance.

### FLAVOURS ACROSS THE WORLD

Dining is a cornerstone of the Westin experience. **Prego** offers authentic Italian specialities, **Casbah** transports diners to the Mediterranean, and **Seasonal Tastes** serves expansive buffets featuring Asian and international favourites. **Kangan**, the award-winning Indian restaurant, is famed for its Hyderabadi and Peshawari dishes, while **Mix** provides handcrafted cocktails and light bites in a chic setting. **Daily Treats** serves fresh coffee and bakery indulgences, with 24-hour in-room dining available for complete flexibility. For weddings and events, the culinary team specialises in themed menus that are as memorable as the occasion itself.

### HONOURS THAT DEFINE DISTINCTION

The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace has earned consistent recognition in Indian and international hospitality circles. It has been celebrated as **Best Hotel for Conventions**, **Best 5 Star Hotel**, and has received multiple nominations at the **World Travel Awards**. In 2025, it was awarded **Best Bleisure Hotel** by Travel + Leisure India, reflecting its dual strength in business and leisure. Sustainability has also been central to its ethos, with the hotel winning **Best Sustainability Hotel in India** at the Hospitality India Travel and Tourism Awards. These accolades underscore its commitment to excellence, innovation, and responsibility.

### REJUVENATION IN EVERY DETAIL

Wellness is woven into the guest experience. The hotel offers three pools, including an outdoor pool, a children's pool, and one with a swim-up bar. The **Westin WORKOUT Fitness Studio** is equipped with advanced training systems, while the award-winning **Heavenly Spa by Westin** provides therapies inspired by global traditions—aromatherapy, detox rituals, scrubs,

and rejuvenating wraps. These facilities reflect the Westin philosophy of balance, ensuring every stay is restorative and uplifting.

### CONNECTIONS MADE EFFORTLESS

Located just five kilometres from Hyderabad International Convention Centre and a half-hour from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, the hotel offers both limousine and shuttle transfers. Complimentary parking, electric charging stations, and express check-in cater to modern needs, while multilingual staff ensure seamless communication. Such thoughtful services reflect a design philosophy that values both international standards and local sensitivity.

### SETTING NEW STANDARDS

The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace has carved a niche as one of the city's most prestigious hotels, offering scale without sacrificing intimacy. Its combination of prime location, versatile venues, refined dining, and a dedication to wellness makes it a standout choice for corporate travellers, families, and wedding parties alike. More than accommodation, it offers a lifestyle—an elevated experience where business, leisure, and celebration coexist in harmony. In redefining the benchmarks of hospitality, it has secured its place as a true icon of luxury in the City of Pearls.



Guestroom

# THE GARDEN CITY'S SIGNATURE OF STYLE

Nestled beside Cubbon Park, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru embodies Bengaluru's signature blend of sophistication and soul

TT BUREAU



Spa by JW, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru

There are city hotels, and then there are city signatures. JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru belongs to the second kind. Set by the 300-acre Cubbon Park, it looks over a sweep of treetops that soften the skyline and frame the hotel in green. Inside, the mood is one of contemporary, crafted luxury, the kind that favours detail over drama and experience over excess.

## SERENITY IN THE CITY

The hotel's location is its first luxury. UB City, Vittal Mallya Road and MG Road sit a short stroll away, yet the property feels quietly removed, thanks to its park-facing perch. Rooms and suites are designed as calm, refined retreats, many with views that open straight onto Cubbon Park's canopy.

Soft, layered lighting, plush bedding and marble bathrooms create a residential feel, while thoughtful technology and the signature JW Treatment keep

business travellers firmly in their comfort zone. It is the rare address where deals are closed in boardrooms by day and evenings begin with sunset over a sea of green.

## GASTRONOMY IN STYLE

If Bengaluru has a taste for high-style dining, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru is one of the reasons why. The hotel's food and beverage philosophy is immersive and quietly ambitious, attracting in-house guests and discerning locals in equal measure.

JW Kitchen, the all-day dining restaurant, has become a byword in the city for abundant breakfasts, elegant buffets and a legendary Sunday brunch that invites families to linger. An interactive kitchen, residential-style seating and al fresco spaces keep the mood relaxed yet polished, while children's activities lend a weekend resort feel in the heart of the city.

ALBA, the signature Italian restaurant, is crafted as an

amphitheatre of marble, arches and pearl chandeliers, creating a setting that feels both sculptural and softly luminous. The menu draws deeply from the north and west coasts of the Mediterranean, offering dishes that strike a thoughtful balance between familiar comfort and fine-dining finesse.

UNO Izakaya, a Japanese bar and restaurant adds a playful, nocturnal energy. A live sushi counter and Robata grill anchor the space, sending out delicate nigiri, skewers kissed by charcoal and small plates that pair beautifully with crafted cocktails. By the poolside, Spice Terrace and The Merak Brewhouse form the hotel's most atmospheric corner. Here, the North Indian grills and regional signatures are poured under the open sky and framed by tropical foliage. It is one of those places where business conversations soften into friendships and evenings are rarely hurried.

### DESIGNED FOR DISTINCTION

With approximately 24,000 square feet of meeting and banqueting space, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru has become a preferred stage for high-profile events, corporate gatherings and weddings. Grand ballrooms with soaring ceilings, smaller salons washed in natural light and carefully designed pre-function areas allow events to scale up or stay intimate without losing their sense of occasion.

The in-house team, backed by the hotel's culinary strength, curates experiences that are as strong on flavour as they are on logistics, thoughtfully plated menus, seamless timing and service that anticipates needs before they are voiced. Many gatherings return year after year, building their own traditions within these walls.

### BALANCE AND BEYOND

On the dedicated Wellness Floor, the pace changes again. Spa by JW draws on Indian, Western and Asian



UNO Izakaya Interior Shot, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru



JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru

therapies, with six treatment rooms that feel cocooned from the city outside. Bespoke massages, indulgent rituals and short, targeted therapies are designed to restore balance for travellers who live in transit.

A state-of-the-art techno fitness centre, a cross-fit studio and an outdoor temperature-controlled swimming pool keep wellness anchored in both movement and rest, while sauna and steam rooms offer the final exhale.

### BENGALURU, REFINED

Perhaps the greatest luxury at JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru is the way it distils the city's contradictions into a single, cohesive experience. It is plugged into Bengaluru's corporate and cultural life, yet it leans into stillness with that Cubbon Park view. It is confident in its design and dining, yet its service carries an ease that feels sincerely warm.

Here, amid the hum of progress and the hush of green, Bengaluru unveils its most authentic side, a world of sophistication, serenity, and service that transforms travel into something intimate and enduring.



Weekend Bliss, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru

# STILLNESS BY THE BENGALURU LAKESIDE

Conrad Bengaluru stages milestones beautifully, then returns guests to rooms where Lake Ulsoor's quiet gathers momentum

TT BUREAU



**B**engaluru seldom slows. Office towers glow after dusk, cafés hum, and the city keeps time to its own quick beat. Then the road bends beside Ulsoor Lake and the tempo changes. Conrad Bengaluru rises here with glass that catches the water's light. Inside, a sunlit lobby, a sparkling chandelier, and Karnataka art create an atmosphere that is polished without noise. The mood is unhurried. The views are the point. The hotel climbs 24 storeys and all 285 rooms and suites face the lake, so mornings begin with silver ripples and evenings close in quiet gold. You are in the centre, yet the outlook reads like a private retreat.

### GATHERINGS AND WELLBEING

Conrad Bengaluru is where the city gathers when scale matters. The hotel holds the largest banquet footprint in the city centre at more than 7,500 square feet. High ceilings, broad foyers, and modern production systems support everything from boardroom strategy sessions to weddings and milestone galas, with capacity for up to 1,200 guests. The service choreography is smooth, and the tone remains personal, even when the room is full.

Balance is part of the design. The fitness centre runs 24 hours and spans 3,000 square feet, the largest among city centre hotels in Bengaluru. Natural light and serious equipment give it the feel of a training studio rather than a token gym. The Conrad Spa brings the volume down with global therapies and Indian botanicals, from deep tissue massages to restorative facials. Outside, the infinity pool leans toward Ulsoor Lake. Swim a length, pause at the edge, and the city becomes a gentle murmur.

### PLATES WITH PROVENANCE

Dining follows a simple idea. Good food tastes better when it tells a story. Caraway Kitchen anchors the hotel with an expansive global buffet that invites discovery. Mikusu looks east with confidence, serving Asian plates that balance comfort and brightness. By the pool, Tiamo settles into a Mediterranean rhythm with fresh seafood, crisp salads, and cocktails that find their best moment at sunset.

Indian Durbar is the jewel of the set. The room carries a sense of occasion while still feeling like a warm welcome home. Aromatic biryanis lift their lids in clouds of spice, curries are layered rather than loud, and tandoor breads arrive puffed and blistered. At the bar, the spirit of Punjab appears in the laughter, the toasts, and a playlist that keeps the mood easy. Across venues, menus lean on seasonal produce, heirloom recipes, and relationships with local farmers. The result is indulgence that sits comfortably with responsibility.

### PURPOSEFUL LUXURY

The numbers tell the most persuasive part of the story. In line with Hilton's Travel with Purpose 2024 goals, the hotel sources 85 percent of its electricity from an off-site solar plant. Since 2018, smart energy systems and that solar supply have saved more than 20,000 megawatt hours and cut 4,808 metric tons of



*Tiamo Dining, Conrad Bengaluru*



*Presidential Dining, Conrad Bengaluru*

carbon dioxide, a change comparable to taking 71 cars off the road. Occupancy sensors do quiet work behind the scenes.

Water stewardship is strong. Recycled water is used for flushing and cooling towers. An in-house bottling plant has replaced plastic bottles, part of a programme that has saved 46,360 kilolitres of water, close to 19 Olympic pools. An organic waste converter manages food waste. Single-use plastics have been removed from restaurants and rooms. Bulk amenities have replaced miniatures.

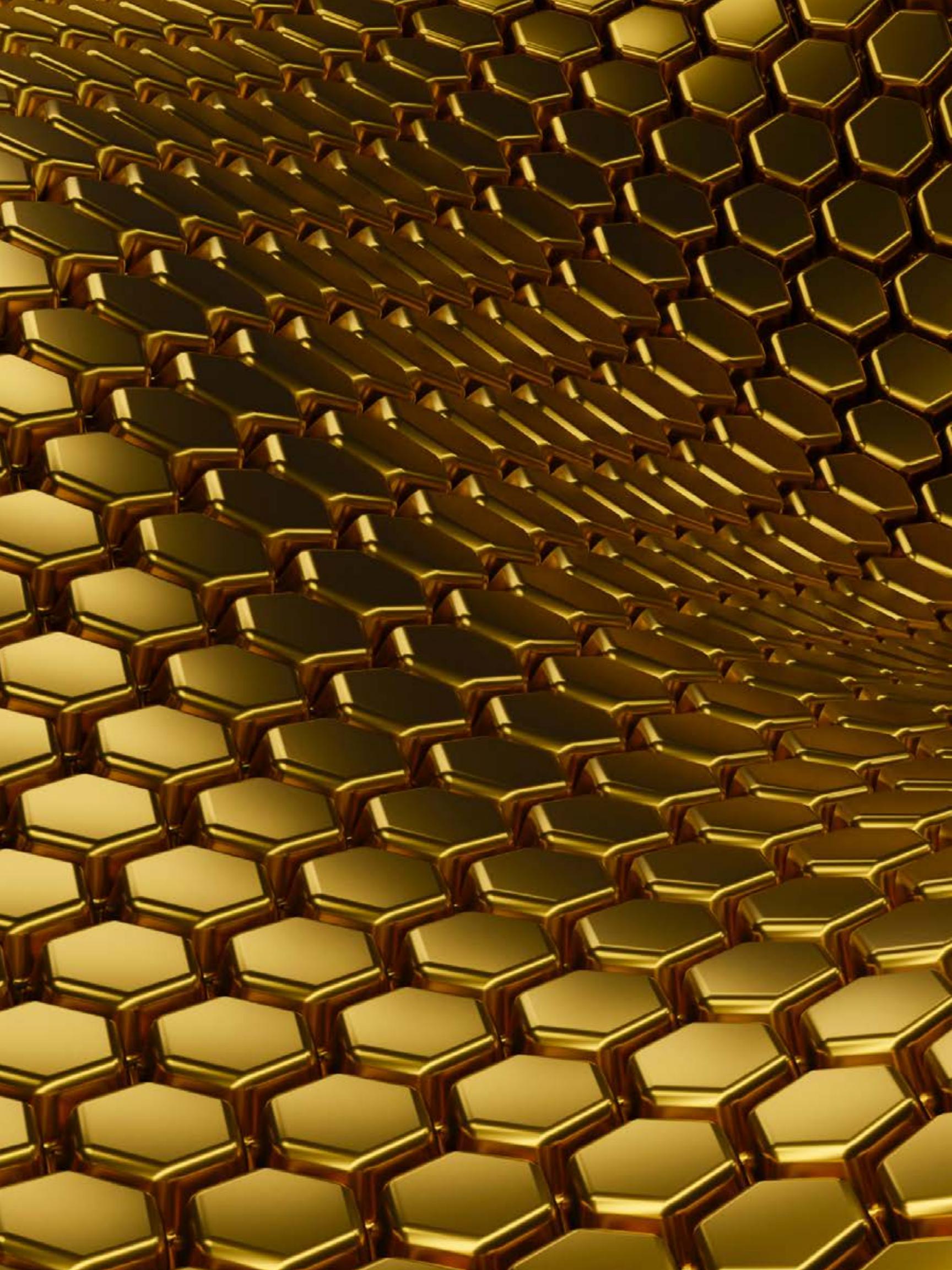
The property holds ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certifications for environmental and energy management. Social commitments appear in hiring more youth and people with disabilities, while EV charging points make greener arrivals simple.

### THE ULSOOR EFFECT

Lake Ulsoor is the hotel's quiet signature. Meetings feel less mechanical with a silvered horizon beyond the glass. Breakfast lingers when boats drift past. The pool mirrors the sky and the water below, and the line between architecture and landscape softens. The lake steadies the mood, offering stillness to match the city's energy.

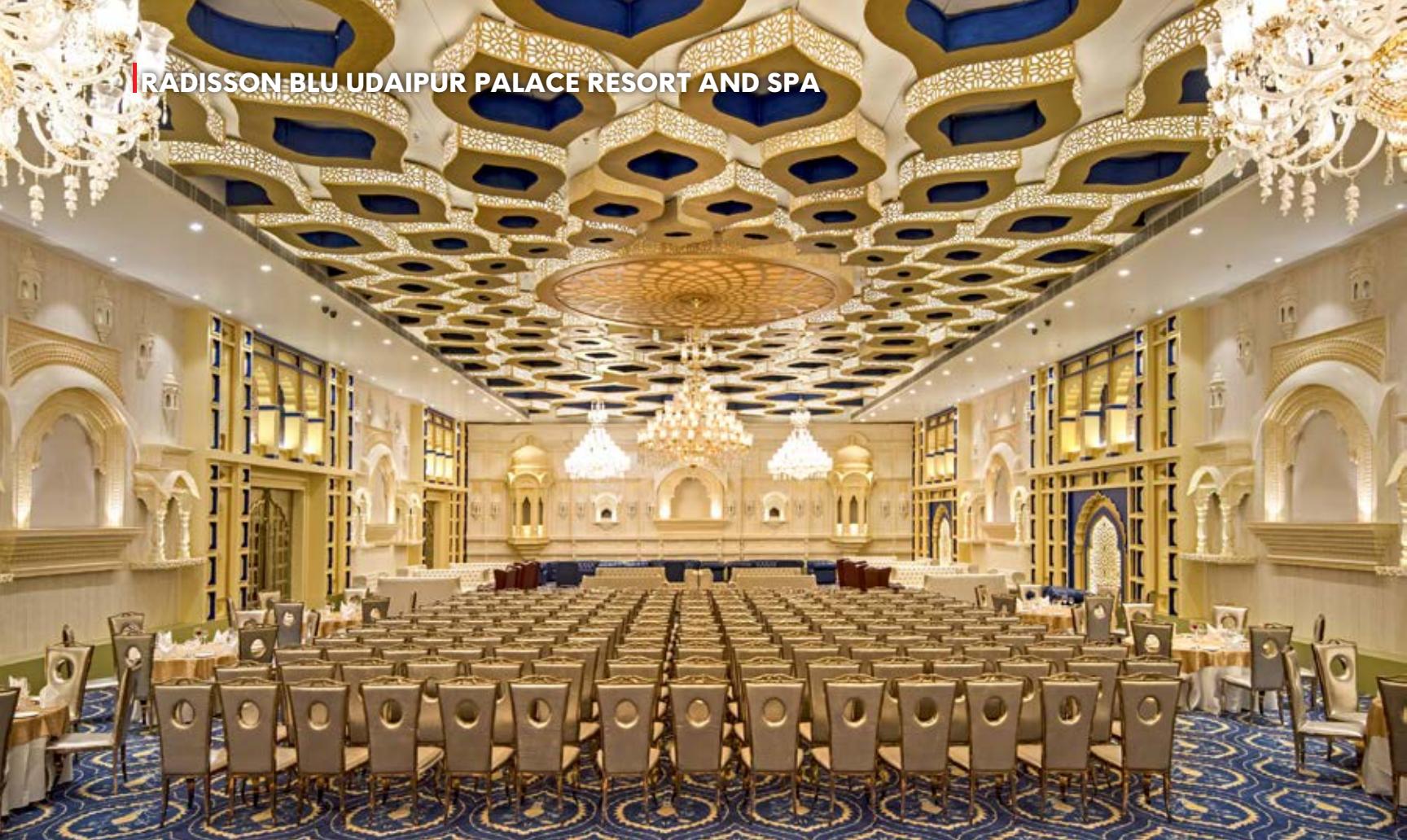
That balance is the Conrad promise. It hosts the city at scale, then hands guests back their quiet. It serves plates that please, then shows the care behind them. It speaks the language of modern luxury while protecting the resources that make the setting special.

If you are a business traveller seeking clarity, a couple planning a celebration, or a guest who values comfort with conscience, Conrad Bengaluru reads as a benchmark. Lakeside, central, and confidently calm, it leaves its mark by slowing the world to a more generous pace.





# SIGNATURE



The Grand Ball Room

# THE PALACE THAT CELEBRATES ETERNAL BONDS

At Radisson Blu Udaipur Palace Resort and Spa, love shines brighter beside Fateh Sagar's tranquil waters

TT BUREAU

**L**ove seeks places that feel like destiny. Places where horizons shimmer with promise and every moment breathes magic. In the heart of Udaipur, wrapped in the romance of Fateh Sagar Lake and the regal spirit of Rajasthan, Radisson Blu Udaipur Palace Resort and Spa welcomes you to celebrate love as it was meant to be celebrated.

With a backdrop steeped in heritage and a hospitality experience designed for dreams that become lifelong stories, this is where a wedding transforms into a legacy.

Couples arrive with hope in their eyes, families gather with joy flowing through every heartbeat, and friends step in ready to dance through nights lit by starlight. The palace-style grandeur of the resort embraces each celebration with warmth and wonder. Marble pillars, ornate details,

and sweeping lake views create an ambience of romance and reverence. Steps through the grand driveway heightens anticipation for what lies ahead, the promise of unforgettable days wrapped in the grace of Udaipur.

## A PALACE WOVEN WITH DREAMS

Every wedding at Radisson Blu Udaipur Palace Resort and Spa becomes a royal chapter of its own. The setting is majestic yet serene, with the lake's glimmering waters offering their blessings and the Aravalli hills standing guard in the distance. Each venue provides an elegant canvas for rituals and revelry.

For couples who wish to take their vows beneath open skies, the Dome Terrace rises like a dream from a regal romance. Panoramic views sweep across the lake and

the city, while a golden sunset becomes the most exquisite décor of all. The Udaichowk Terrace and Lawn are ideal for lively celebrations such as joyful baraats, colourful haldi rituals, and sangeets filled with laughter and dance. Graceful architecture meets gentle breezes, creating a stage where tradition and joy blend seamlessly.

The Fatehsagar Ballroom comes alive when celebration takes centre stage. Chandeliers shimmer like constellations suspended above a sea of laughter, while mirrored walls amplify the sense of grandeur. Dinners and receptions unfold with effortless grace, turning every gathering into a memory wrapped in splendour.

### CRAFTED WITH HEART AND HARMONY

Every couple has a vision, and every family brings cherished traditions. The resort's dedicated wedding specialists and planners treat these dreams with devotion and detail. Décor, entertainment, and logistics flow with precision so that hosts can experience their celebration as honoured guests. From the first sketch of an idea to the final farewell, every moment unfolds seamlessly under expert care.

Culinary artistry completes the celebration. The chefs draw inspiration from Rajasthani heritage and global cuisine to craft menus that feel indulgent yet heartfelt.

Lavish thalis, live counters, and fusion delicacies coexist beautifully, ensuring every plate tells its own story. Traditional flavours carry the warmth of home while international dishes lend sophistication. Meals become a memory that lingers long after the final toast.

### RETREATS OF REFINED ELEGANCE

Between ceremonies, guests retreat to rooms that offer both comfort and quiet grandeur. Each accommodation opens to mesmerising views of the lake or the city, with interiors designed for rest and renewal.

Rooftops glow with the city's lights, mornings begin with reflections on still waters, and every pause feels celebratory in its own way.

The resort's pool, spa, and wellness spaces create restful interludes amid festivities. Families unwind with rejuvenating therapies or enjoy tranquil moments before stepping back into the rhythm of celebration.

Guests looking for an adventure beyond the hotel, Udaipur offers treasures such as the City Palace, Sajjangarh Fort, and lakeside markets lie only minutes away. Every stay becomes an immersion into the culture and charisma of Rajasthan.

### A CELEBRATION ETCHED IN TIME

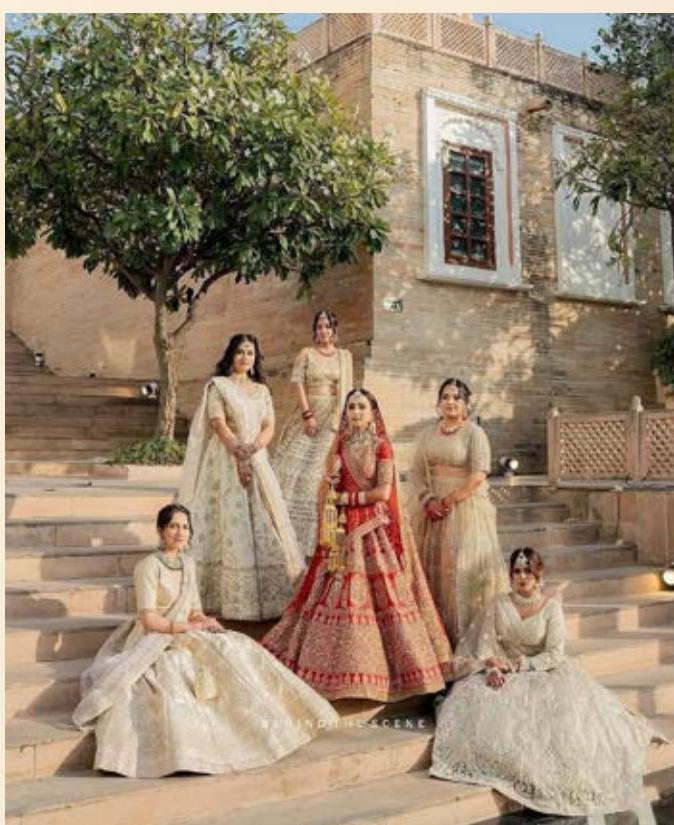
As the final ceremony unfolds, emotions find their crescendo. Mandaps bloom in vivid hues, music rises, and loved ones encircle the couple with blessings. The lake mirrors the sacred fire, capturing a reflection of their new beginning.



*Wedding Photoshoot*

Photographers find their muse in this tapestry of light and colour, while videographers record what words cannot capture, the essence of love itself.

The night continues with a reception where laughter, rhythm, and joy ripple through the air. Every frame glows with emotion. At Radisson Blu Udaipur Palace Resort and Spa, a wedding is never simply an event. It is a tribute to tradition, an embrace of elegance, and a celebration of togetherness. Here, culture and romance dance in perfect harmony. Here, love reigns supreme, and happily ever after begins with grace.



*Wedding Photoshoot*

# DESIGNED FOR GRANDEUR, INSPIRED BY ASSAM



Pool, Radisson Blu Guwahati

Experience the finest of Northeast India through Radisson Blu Guwahati's elegance, comfort, and spectacular convention spaces

TT BUREAU

**N**estled in the vibrant capital of Assam, Radisson Blu Guwahati stands as a beacon of contemporary luxury and regional charm. It stands beyond conventional hospitality, weaving together elegance, cultural richness, and intuitive modern comfort.

At its heart stands the Guwahati Exhibition and Convention Centre (GECC), a spectacular addition that positions the property as Northeast India's premier destination for events, celebrations, and conventions.

## GUWAHATI EXHIBITION & CONVENTION CENTRE (GECC)

The GECC represents a defining chapter in Radisson Blu Guwahati's vision of hospitality meeting world-class infrastructure. Built to host everything from high-profile summits to glittering social gatherings, this magnificent venue covers 25,000 square feet of pillarless indoor space, capable of accommodating over 2,000 guests. Complementing it is an expansive 48,000 square foot

lawn, designed for outdoor celebrations under the open Assamese sky.

The architecture of GECC is both majestic and functional. Crystal chandeliers, intelligent lighting, and refined acoustics create an atmosphere that transforms every occasion into a spectacle of sophistication. Occasions finds its rhythm here, shaped by the scale of the dream, not the size of the room. The adjoining lawns and pre-function areas offer flexibility for cocktail evenings, receptions, or décor setups that bring each vision to life.

Attention to detail defines every corner. A dedicated entryway ensures smooth logistics and guest movement, while Radisson Blu's experienced event specialists oversee each aspect with precision. Supported by the hotel's acclaimed catering and operations team, the GECC has become a one-stop destination for those who wish to host with scale and substance. Each event benefits from Radisson's hallmark service philosophy, blending efficiency with genuine warmth that reflects the spirit of Assam's hospitality.

## INSPIRED URBAN LIVING

Beyond its world-class convention centre, Radisson Blu Guwahati remains the most sought-after address for travellers in Assam. Conveniently located along National Highway 37, the hotel is only 20 minutes from Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, providing quick access to both city and countryside. Iconic attractions such as the Kamakhya Temple, Deepor Beel Bird Sanctuary, Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, Umananda Temple on Peacock Island, and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary are within easy reach, making it an ideal base for exploration.

Inside, the design reflects understated elegance, blending contemporary lines with Assamese warmth. Rooms and suites overlook beautifully landscaped gardens, offering a tranquil escape. Plush interiors, high-end amenities, and Radisson's signature hospitality make every stay memorable. Business travellers benefit from cutting-edge boardrooms and high-speed connectivity. Leisure guests can unwind at the spa, infinity pool, or fitness centre, spaces that are designed to rejuvenate mind and body.

Guests yearning for a richer sense of place find guidance in the concierge, who designs immersive journeys, from Brahmaputra voyages and craft village encounters to culinary paths that echo Assam's heritage.

## FLAVOURS OF LOCAL AND GLOBAL

Dining at Radisson Blu Guwahati is a journey through regional authenticity and global excellence. The hotel's five distinct culinary venues cater to every palate with style and imagination.

Café B-You, the all-day dining restaurant, sets the tone with an expansive buffet and an à la carte selection that spans Assamese favourites and international classics. The ambience is warm and lively, making it ideal for family brunches or corporate lunches.

Nestasia, the elegant Pan-Asian restaurant, brings together flavours from across the Far East, with delicate presentation and meticulous technique. The

Great Kabab Factory remains a legend for lovers of Indian cuisine, serving a rotating menu of succulent kebabs, aromatic curries, and freshly baked breads that celebrate the heritage of the subcontinent.

At Reign, the hotel's signature bar and lounge, evenings unfold in an atmosphere of quiet sophistication. Expertly crafted cocktails and premium selections make it perfect for both business networking and leisurely gatherings. Dolce, the chic patisserie, completes the ensemble with artisanal desserts, handcrafted chocolates, and freshly baked breads, turning every bite into a moment of joy.

## LEADING WITH GRANDEUR

With the unveiling of the GECC, Radisson Blu Guwahati has transformed the concept of large-scale hospitality in the Northeast. It has become a landmark that symbolises both progress and prestige, where meticulous planning meets heartfelt service. The hotel's ability to host everything from intimate soirées to international conventions underscores its position as a regional powerhouse for business and celebration alike.

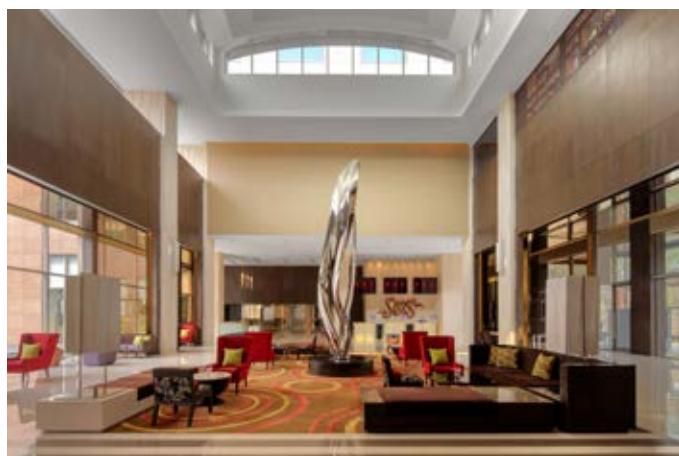
Guests come here not only for a stay but for an experience shaped by attention, grace, and grandeur. For the traveller, it offers comfort and connectivity; for the host, it delivers scale and excellence; and for the connoisseur, it represents a standard of hospitality that continues to redefine the gateway to the Northeast.



Café B-You, Radisson Blu Guwahati



Presidential Suite, Radisson Blu Guwahati



Lobby, Radisson Blu Guwahati

# THE CROWN JEWEL IN THE CITY OF PEARLS: NOVOTEL HYDERABAD CONVENTION CENTRE & HICC

NOVOTEL



NHCC Facade

A landmark campus uniting world-class infrastructure, culinary mastery, and sustainable hospitality in Hyderabad's vibrant HITEC City

TT BUREAU

In the heart of Hyderabad's thriving IT corridor stands a destination that seamlessly unites business excellence with refined hospitality. Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre (NHCC) and Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) together form South India's most comprehensive integrated events campus, a place where grand ideas take shape and every guest experience feels effortlessly elevated.

For nearly two decades, this landmark property has redefined the standards of large-scale gatherings, hosting global conventions, corporate summits, international exhibitions, weddings, and social celebrations that reflect both precision and warmth.

## SCALE AND SOPHISTICATION IN PERFECT BALANCE

At its centre lies Hyderabad International Convention Centre, South Asia's first purpose-built convention venue and still one of its most advanced. The facility offers over 66,000 square feet of pillar-free space, capable of seating up to 6,000 delegates in a single hall. Its modular design allows effortless reconfiguration for plenary sessions, trade shows, or gala banquets.

Complementing this scale are multiple breakout rooms, expansive pre-function areas, and cutting-edge rigging and lighting systems that support even the most complex productions. Every detail, from seamless logistics to technical

precision, is managed with practised expertise, enabling flawless execution for international summits, product launches, and association congresses alike.

Adjacent to the convention hall, Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre provides the hospitality counterpart that completes this ecosystem. Spread across 15 acres of landscaped gardens, the hotel blends the efficiency of a business property with the serenity of a resort. Its 287 contemporary rooms and suites combine understated luxury with functionality, featuring high-speed connectivity, modern amenities, and calming views of lawns or the shimmering pool. On-site accommodation creates a cohesive event experience, ensuring convenience for organisers and comfort for delegates who can move effortlessly between sessions and relaxation.

## CULINARY EXCELLENCE THAT DEFINES THE EXPERIENCE

At Novotel, cuisine is integral to the story of every gathering. Permit to Grill, the hotel's signature restaurant, offers an inventive dining experience that celebrates world flavours with modern flair. Le Café serves as a chic patisserie and social hub, ideal for light bites and coffee conversations through the day, while The Bar sets the tone for elegant evenings with curated cocktails and a relaxed ambience.

For banquets and celebrations, the culinary team designs menus that range across regional Indian classics and international fine dining, tailored precisely to each event's theme and scale. Every dish reflects the property's hallmark of quality and innovation. Whether it is a thousand-guest buffet or an intimate plated dinner, the attention to flavour, presentation, and service ensures that food becomes a highlight remembered long after the event concludes.

### A STAGE FOR EVERY OCCASION

Novotel HICC campus is built on the principle of versatility. Over the years, it has welcomed delegates from more than a hundred countries for global conventions, AGMs, leadership summits, and industry exhibitions. It has also become a preferred address for destination weddings, where accommodation, banqueting, and décor coexist under one roof. Beyond formal events, the lawns, gardens, and poolside venues have hosted musical performances, cultural festivals, and family celebrations, giving organisers the freedom to design experiences that are distinct and memorable.

The location within HITEC City adds yet another layer of convenience. Close to corporate headquarters, tech parks, and major transport links, it allows seamless access for business travellers and delegates. Yet the ambience remains refreshingly calm, surrounded by greenery that invites moments of pause between demanding schedules. The result is a rare equilibrium, an environment that encourages productivity while offering ample space to unwind.

### SUSTAINING A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Sustainability lies at the heart of the property's operations. Both NHCC and HICC are eco-certified, employing energy-efficient systems, water conservation practices, and responsible waste management. The approach goes beyond compliance, reflecting a long-term commitment to mindful growth and reduced environmental impact. This ethos aligns perfectly with Accor's global philosophy of sustainable hospitality, under whose management the complex continues to flourish.



HICC Entrance

Over the years, Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre and HICC have hosted landmark gatherings, including United Nations assemblies, global IT summits, and leading industry exhibitions. Their consistent ability to deliver excellence has made them trusted partners for event organisers across continents. Managed with precision and driven by a spirit of Indian warmth, the campus exemplifies how world-class infrastructure and heartfelt service can coexist effortlessly.

As Hyderabad continues its rise as a hub of innovation, enterprise, and culture, Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre and HICC remain its defining stage for global collaboration. They embody a vision where scale meets sophistication, sustainability meets success, and every event becomes a story worth telling.

### NOVOTEL HYDERABAD CONVENTION CENTRE

Novotel & HICC Complex (Adjacent to HITEC City), P O Bag 1101 Cyberabad Post Office, 500081 Hyderabad, India

**Tel:** +91-40-66067000

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**NOVOTEL**  
HYDERABAD CONVENTION CENTRE

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HYDERABAD INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION CENTRE  
Managed by ACCOR



Poolside Restaurant

# SOULFUL STAYS BENEATH COASTAL SKIES

Serenity finds new meaning at The Bheemili Resort – Managed by Accor, surrounded by sea, sky and stillness

TT BUREAU



*Wedding Lawn*

**A**long the tranquil coastline of Bheemunipatnam, 25 kilometres north of Visakhapatnam, lies The Bheemili Resort Managed by Accor, a serene seaside escape that redefines wellness through balance, beauty and belonging. Here, the day's rhythm is set not by schedules but by the sea itself.

This is where Andhra's coastal heritage meets nature-led healing traditions, blending culture, comfort and calm in an experience designed for renewal. As the sun rises over the Bay of Bengal, the gentle sound of waves ushers in a sense of peace that stays with guests long after they leave.

## INTIMATE ESCAPES AWAIT

Set across five acres of unspoilt beachfront, The Bheemili Resort occupies a stretch of land steeped in history. Once a bustling Dutch trading outpost, Bheemili still carries traces of its colonial past and the spiritual hush of its Buddhist heritage. This legacy gently shapes the resort's architecture, which is understated, elegant and harmoniously rooted in its surroundings.

Intimate by design, The Bheemili Resort houses 28 sea-facing rooms, each framing a cinematic expanse of ocean through private balconies. Interiors draw upon the simplicity of coastal living with light-soaked spaces, soothing palettes and textures inspired by sand, sky and surf. The experience is defined by quiet luxury rather than ostentation. Every interaction carries a personal touch that

feels intuitive, unobtrusive and deeply human, making each stay feel tailor-made rather than templated. Guests often describe it as a home by the sea, where hospitality flows as naturally as the tides.

The journey to Bheemili is a visual overture with winding roads flanked by verdant countryside and the shimmering Bay of Bengal. Connectivity is effortless as Visakhapatnam Airport is a smooth 42 kilometres away, and the railway station lies within 33 kilometres. Yet the resort feels delightfully removed from the everyday rush of the city.

## TASTES BORN OF TIDE

Dining at The Bheemili Resort is as evocative as its setting. At The Square, guests are treated to global flavours with



*Deluxe Room*

local flair, while Infinity serves alfresco delights by the pool overlooking the horizon. Water Bar transforms evenings into leisurely affairs with sunset cocktails, sea breeze and mellow conversation.

For culinary theatre, Teppanyaki brings Japanese grill artistry to the eastern shore, and The Full Moon offers bespoke candlelit dinners by the sea that are intimate, elemental and unforgettable. Many dishes feature ingredients grown in the resort's own organic garden, underscoring a philosophy that luxury and sustainability can, and should, coexist.

### WHISPERS OF HEALING CALM

The resort's Ayurvedic wellness centre draws upon India's ancient healing wisdom, offering therapies that restore equilibrium between mind, body and spirit. Guests can choose from signature massages and holistic treatments or soak in the horizon from the rooftop infinity pool, among the first of its kind on India's east coast.

A well-equipped gym caters to fitness enthusiasts, while families find comfort in thoughtfully curated experiences, including the region's largest kids' play zone, beachside games and guided heritage trails that turn leisure into memory-making. Sunset yoga sessions on the terrace and moonlight meditation circles add a spiritual dimension to the resort's holistic lifestyle.

### CONSCIOUS LIVING, LASTING LEGACY

Under the leadership of General Manager Lakshmi Sridhar and Operations Manager Atul Singh, The Bheemili Resort embodies excellence through empathy and expertise. Their collective vision has shaped a haven recognised



Wellness Room

across the region, receiving multiple accolades. Sustainability remains central to the resort's philosophy. Eco-friendly practices, beach clean-ups and resource-conscious operations are part of daily life, not token gestures.

With the forthcoming Bogapuram International Airport enhancing access, the resort stands poised to become Andhra Pradesh's most desirable beachside destination. The future holds expanded wellness journeys and digital experiences, yet the essence will remain unchanged, a rare harmony of intimacy, heritage and horizon.

### STORIES OF THE SHORELINE

At The Bheemili Resort, time slows to the rhythm of the waves. Dawn brings golden light across the sea and twilight paints the sky in soft blush tones. Between those moments lies an experience shaped by nature, culture and care, a quiet celebration of life by the water's edge.

The Bheemili Resort Managed by Accor invites travellers into a story shaped by sea and silence. It is a story that begins and beautifully lingers along the shores, an enduring ode to the art of coastal living.



Play Area

# HIMALAYAN TRANQUILLITY, HYATT STYLE LUXURY



Hyatt Regency Facade

Hyatt Regency Dehradun Resort and Spa invites you to unwind amid timeless mountain beauty

TT BUREAU

**C**radled between the Malsi Reserved Forest and the mist-soft folds of Mussoorie, Hyatt Regency Dehradun Resort and Spa is designed for unhurried living. Spread across 4.25 acres on the Dehradun–Mussoorie Road, this 263-key resort puts nature at the window and warm hospitality at the centre. Jolly Grant Airport is about forty kilometres away, while day trips to Mussoorie, Rishikesh and Haridwar slot easily into relaxed itineraries. Close enough for spontaneous escapes yet removed enough to feel private, the setting frames stay with ridgelines, river valleys and wooded walks.

Check in, and the hills become a constant companion. Oversized windows usher in birdsong and early light; private balconies in many rooms set the scene for slow breakfasts and golden-hour pauses. With crisp monsoons, cool winters and open-sky summers, the resort suits families,

couples and solo travellers who like their leisure served with mountain air.

## SPACES THAT WELCOME CONNECTION

Accommodation scales smoothly for together time and quiet time. Of the 263 guestrooms, twenty-four are suites and twenty-four inter-connecting, ideal for multigenerational stays. Regency Club categories add lounge access and elevated perspectives, while a glass-lined Presidential Suite turns the landscape into a living artwork. Natural wood, textured stone and panoramic glazing keep the hills in view. Practical comforts—smart televisions, high-speed Wi-Fi and plush bath amenities—pair with instinctive, unobtrusive service.

Life flows easily beyond the rooms. The lobby's residential warmth encourages lingering; sunlit nooks invite a book and tea. Concierges steer guests to forest-edge strolls,

sunrise viewpoints, and artisan finds, while valet and ample parking keep arrivals and departures simple. Babysitting and seamless laundry make longer stays effortless.

## FLAVOURS OF THE HILLS

Culinary exploration anchors the experience. Range – Cosmopolitan Food Gallery is the sociable heart, where international favourites meet Uttarakhand produce. Breakfast is generous and detail-driven, with viennoiserie, millet specials and regional flavours. Lunch and dinner balance comfort and discovery.

As the light turns gold, Beyul, the rooftop bar and lounge, lifts evenings with crafted cocktails, shareable plates and live performances.

By day, the Sky Pool Bar and Deck keeps the pace relaxed. The Malt Bar curates world whiskies and a considered cigar list, while The Market, open around the clock, stocks artisanal treats. In-room dining means balcony brunches and late-night cravings are always within reach.

## A PERFECTLY PLACED MOUNTAIN ESCAPE

Positioned between city convenience and hillside calm, the resort sits on the scenic corridor to Mussoorie, insulated from traffic and noise. Day trips to Rishikesh and Haridwar weave river rituals and temple walks into a stay; shorter outings reveal wooded trails, cafés and neighbourhood markets. Road transfers are smooth for flyers, and generous parking with valet makes self-drive arrivals easy. It's a serene base that preserves spontaneity.

Beyond the city limits, days can be stitched with Rajaji National Park safaris, heritage strolls through Landour, quiet hours at Mindrolling Monastery, and the evening Ganga aarti at Triveni Ghat. Short climbs to viewpoints like George Everest pair easily with slow, fragrant tea breaks at hillside cafés.

Back at the resort, twilight tastings and stargazing walks round off itineraries with easy, memory-rich detail. Seasonal highlights enrich the calendar: spring rhododendron trails and café crawls, summer river picnics and rafting day trips,



Sky Pool

monsoon mist walks that turn forests emerald, and winter's clear skies perfect for bonfires, night-sky sessions and candlelit dinners with panoramic views.

## WELLNESS, PLAY, AND CELEBRATIONS

Wellness here is a pace, not a programme. The temperature-controlled rooftop infinity pool, with companion hot tub, appears to dissolve into the valley. Mornings begin with yoga by the water; guided forest-edge strolls restore attention to small joys. The Spa by Hyatt layers Himalayan inspiration over modern technique, while the StayFit Studio and a luxury salon complete the retreat.

Younger guests find their rhythm at Camp Hyatt with crafts, nature time and story-led play, freeing parents for a treatment, a quiet walk or an unhurried cup of tea. When it's time to gather, more than three thousand square metres of flexible venues, crowned by the soaring Regency Ballroom with pre-function foyer and adjoining lawns, host weddings, milestones and MICE with polish. Vista and Range lawns frame vows in mountain air; versatile studios and a boardroom round out the brief. Complimentary valet and extensive parking keep focus on the moments that matter.

What distinguishes Hyatt Regency Dehradun is the way contemporary comfort meets local sensibility. The materials, the views and assured service align to make the hills the hero. It's a resort that invites you to slow down without losing sophistication, celebrate without losing intimacy, and return to daily life with shoulders eased and memories that linger among Peaks and Pines.



Camp Hyatt



Trekking in Dehradun

# CHENNAI'S MODERN LANDMARK OF LUXURY

The charm of Accord Metropolitan Chennai lies in its seamless blend of modern indulgence and personal warmth

TT BUREAU

In Chennai's ever-evolving landscape, one address continues to set the benchmark for five-star living. Accord Metropolitan, situated in the bustling district of T. Nagar, is more than a hotel; it is a sanctuary where luxury accommodation, world-class dining and genuine hospitality meet in harmony.

## CITY LUXURY, REDEFINED

With 162 beautifully designed rooms and suites, Accord Metropolitan redefines the art of city-centre luxury. Each space balances functionality with indulgence, offering comfort that feels refined and effortless.

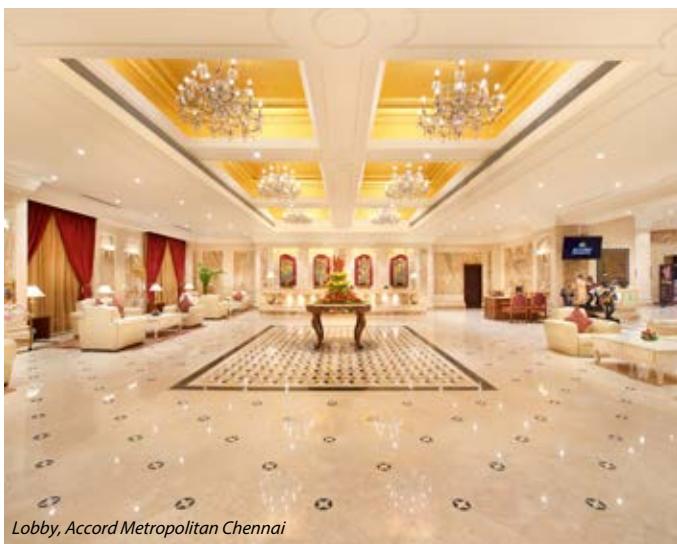
Beyond its plush interiors, the hotel's prime location makes it a strategic hub. Minutes away lie consulates, shopping districts and cultural landmarks, allowing guests to remain connected with the rhythm of Chennai while retreating into an oasis of calm when the day ends.

## THE FLAVOUR OF CHENNAI'S SOUL

The flavour of Chennai's soul reveals itself most vividly at Accord Metropolitan, where cuisine becomes an art form shaped by the vision of Mr Venkatesh Bhat, celebrated chef, hospitality leader, and CEO of Accord Hotels & Resorts and Kaldan Samudhra Palace. Guided by his philosophy of Service from the Heart, each dining experience across the hotel's acclaimed restaurants captures warmth, authenticity, and innovation in equal measure.

Royal Indiana stands as a jewel in Chennai's dining crown, paying tribute to South Indian vegetarian cuisine. Signature dishes such as murungakkai paya, beetroot thoran, and kumbakonam kadappa share the spotlight with inventive creations like rasmalai parfait with rose petals. Each dish honours the region's culinary traditions while showcasing finesse and imagination that elevate vegetarian dining to fine art.





Lobby, Accord Metropolitan Chennai



Studio Apartment Suite, Accord Metropolitan Chennai

For round-the-clock comfort, The Brick Oven serves lavish buffets blending global favourites with local flair, earning accolades as one of the city's most loved dining spots. Completing the ensemble, Zodiac Bar provides an elegant lounge with premium cocktails and fine spirits, a stylish retreat for relaxed evenings.

Together, these venues make Accord Metropolitan one of Chennai's finest culinary landmarks.

#### EVERY DETAIL, THOUGHTFULLY CONSIDERED

Every aspect of Accord Metropolitan enhances the guest experience.

**Banqueting Excellence:** With more than 20,000 square feet of versatile indoor and outdoor space, the hotel ranks among Chennai's top venues for weddings, conferences and celebrations. Modern technology and attentive planning ensure every event unfolds flawlessly.

**Wellness and Recreation:** A fully equipped spa, gym and health club provide rejuvenation for body and mind, creating balance and renewal throughout each stay.

#### SERVICE FROM THE HEART

Rooted in the ethos of "Service from the Heart," Accord Metropolitan, under Mr Venkatesh Bhat's leadership, transforms hospitality into an art of genuine warmth, thoughtful gestures and meaningful connection.

It is not limited to five-star refinement but extends to building genuine connections that turn first-time visitors into loyal guests. Every gesture feels personal, every detail considered, making hospitality itself the defining art of the Accord experience.

#### A LEGACY OF DISTINCTION

Accord Metropolitan continues to evolve with Chennai itself, embracing modern expectations while honouring timeless hospitality. Recent enhancements include refreshed suites with contemporary interiors, upgraded wellness facilities and advanced event technology designed for seamless

gatherings. The hotel has also deepened its focus on sustainability, introducing energy-efficient systems and locally inspired culinary sourcing across all dining outlets.

Through these ongoing innovations, Accord Metropolitan remains a benchmark for thoughtful luxury in the heart of the city. It reflects Chennai's dynamic spirit, progressive, warm and rooted in genuine service, making every visit an experience defined by comfort, connection and quiet sophistication.

#### THE ULTIMATE CHENNAI ADDRESS

Guests can savour a vegetarian masterpiece at Royal Indiana, watch the sunset at OPM 2.0, enjoy an abundant buffet at The Brick Oven, or conduct business in one of the hotel's elegant venues.

Every experience, from dining to relaxation, carries a sense of ease and refinement. Accord Metropolitan here feels effortless, comfort feels intentional, and Chennai's rhythm hums softly through every thoughtful detail, creating moments that linger long after the stay ends.



Celebrity Chef Venkatesh Bhat – Chief Executive Officer, Accord Hotels & Resorts & Kaldan Samudhra Palace

# A ROYAL RETREAT BESIDE THE WAVES

A majestic blend of Rajasthani art and ocean calm, Kaldan Samudhra Palace redefines coastal luxury living

TT BUREAU



*Facade, Kaldan Samudhra Palace*

**O**n the sunlit shores of Tamil Nadu rises a palace that seems to belong to another time. Kaldan Samudhra Palace, spread across a ten acre estate along the Bay of Bengal, is not a mere luxury resort. It is a living monument to India's royal heritage, where architecture, culture, and hospitality converge to create a timeless retreat.

Celebrated as the Immortal Palace, Kaldan Samudhra brings together the splendour of the Golden Triangle: the eternal romance evoked by its replica of the Taj Mahal, the majesty of Rajasthani palatial design, and the tranquil beauty of the sea. Together, these elements offer guests not a stay but an experience steeped in cultural grandeur.

The palace is the vision of Dr. S. Jagathrakshan, who dreamt of creating a landmark that honoured India's heritage while delivering world class hospitality. Master artisans, sculptors, and craftsmen from across the country brought this dream to life. From marble corridors and soaring domes to intricate carvings and courtyards, every corner radiates handcrafted detail. Kaldan Samudhra reinterprets the splendour of history while embracing modern comfort, placing guests within a story of royalty reimagined for the present day.

## A DESTINATION FOR GRAND WEDDINGS

Few places in India capture the spirit of royal romance as vividly as Kaldan Samudhra Palace. With the ocean as backdrop and architecture as stage, it has swiftly emerged as one of the country's most sought-after wedding destinations. The palace's vast courtyards, sweeping stairways, and sea-facing lawns create cinematic settings for celebrations that merge grandeur with intimacy.

Every celebration at Kaldan Samudhra is crafted with care and artistry, transforming moments into timeless memories. Guided by a team devoted to perfection, each wedding unfolds like a royal chapter — an ode to seaside splendour and luxury redefined. The resort offers a collection of enchanting venues, including the Grand Durbar Hall for regal receptions, Rang Mahal Courtyard for haldi and mehendi festivities, and sprawling beachfront lawns where vows meet the horizon. Professional wedding planners, floral designers, and culinary experts collaborate seamlessly to curate themed décor, bespoke menus, and multi-day celebrations that flow effortlessly between rituals and revelry.

## RAJASTHAN'S MAJESTY, TAMIL NADU'S SERENITY

At the heart of Kaldan Samudhra lies a Rajasthani soul. Its architecture draws on the palaces of Jaipur and Udaipur,

with arched gateways, jali windows, fresco-inspired interiors, and open courtyards. The result is authentic and enchanting — a fragment of Rajasthan set against the calm shores of the South.

This influence extends beyond design into cultural experiences. Guests encounter traditional performances of folk music and dance that echo royal courts, turning evenings into living theatre. The palace also hosts craft showcases and curated heritage walks that highlight India's artistic traditions.

The signature restaurant, Dhani, continues this storytelling through cuisine, serving recipes drawn from the royal kitchens of Rajasthan. Dining becomes a cultural encounter where flavours narrate history. By blending Rajasthani opulence with coastal tranquillity, Kaldan Samudhra creates a destination that feels deeply Indian and universally timeless.

### THE CULINARY VISION OF VENKATESH BHAT

The palace's dining philosophy and service ethos carry the imprint of Venkatesh Bhat, one of India's most respected celebrity chefs and hoteliers. With training at Cornell University and the National University of Singapore, and decades of global experience, he brings mastery and innovation to the table.

His guiding belief, Service from the Heart, is felt in every detail. Mr Bhat ensures that dining at Kaldan Samudhra is not only about flavour but also about narrative. The beachfront Chill with Grills invites guests to savour freshly prepared grills to the rhythm of the waves, while Dhani preserves the essence of regal kitchens with royal thalis and traditional fare.

The signature experience, Panch Mahal, elevates this journey — guests dine in floating gazebos by candlelight with live classical performances, indulging in curated thalis inspired by five princely cuisines: Awadhi, Punjabi, Hyderabadi, Rajasthani, and Kashmiri. Under the stars and beside the sea, dining becomes a sensory celebration of India's culinary diversity.



Celebrity Chef Venkatesh Bhat – Chief Executive Officer, Accor Hotels & Resorts & Kaldan Samudhra Palace

### AN IMMORTAL EXPERIENCE

Kaldan Samudhra Palace is more than a resort. It is a stage where history and hospitality meet, where weddings become legends, and where architecture and cuisine tell the story of India's magnificence. For travellers, it offers not mere indulgence but immersion in a living heritage.

As the sun sets over its domes and the sea whispers beyond its walls, the palace reveals its truest character — a timeless sanctuary by the water. An Immortal Palace, where every guest becomes part of an enduring story.



# OFFBEAT, AND AHEAD OF THE CURVE

How Sterling Is Re-Shaping India's New-Age Travel Story

TT BUREAU



*Sterling Hibis Vellore*

**A** young marketing manager from Bengaluru flies into Nagpur with three friends, drives into Kanha, and spends three days chasing the thrill of a tiger sighting and the quiet hush of a sal forest at dawn. Six months later, she is in Kasauli, laptop open on a verandah table, turning a "work-from-anywhere" week into long walks under pines and slow, contemplative evenings. When the monsoon arrives, she escapes to Sakleshpur, trading city restlessness for the scent of coffee blossoms and the calm of plantation rooftops.

One traveller. Three journeys. Yet to her, they are chapters of the same evolving narrative, a narrative shaped by how she wants to live. This is Indian leisure today: fluid movement between safari and spa, pilgrimage and plantation, city conference and countryside retreat. Sterling has been shaping its portfolio around this new rhythm by listening closely to the modern Indian traveller.

## WHERE HOLIDAYS EVOLVE

Sterling's destination philosophy is anchored in a belief that India's most fulfilling holidays often lie outside saturated corridors. The brand's footprint today leans into emerging,

nature-led, less-commercial locations chosen for intention rather than novelty. These are places that feel close enough to access easily yet distinct enough to offer a genuine, restorative break.

Sakleshpur, Anaikatti, Malampuzha, Wayanad, Vythiri, Tipeshwar, Rudraprayag, Godavari, Puri and Kodai Lake all serve different moods but echo one rising sentiment: "I need a getaway, not a vacation."

This clarity is shaped by Vikram Lalvani, Managing Director & CEO, Sterling Holiday Resorts, who said:

"Sometimes going off the beaten track helps discover new perspectives. Sterling doesn't view these resorts in isolation. We believe it's bigger, evolving as circuits, connecting a nation with a curious traveller."

## CIRCUITS, NOT SPOTS

With 69 resorts across 59 destinations, Sterling has built interconnected routes that carry travellers through forests, hills, rivers, wildlife belts, heritage towns and spiritual paths. This circuit-driven philosophy allows flexibility, a two-night detox, a multi-resort trail, or a week-long flow across varied terrains.

To bring this alive effortlessly, Sterling introduced What-A-Trip, a seamless, ready-to-book product bundling stays, transfers, curated experiences and trails into coherent journeys.

#### **Popular guest flows include:**

- Ooty–Anaikatti–Wayanad for a nature reset
- Alleppey–Athirappilly for riverside leisure
- Puri for an art–culture–and–coast blend
- Sakleshpur – Coorg for an unplugged escape
- Wildlife combinations such as Ranthambore–Sariska, Pench–Tipeshwar and Corbett–Kalagarh–Lansdowne

The routes work because they reflect how India's diverse terrains connect in real life, not on paper.

#### **THE TIER-2 SHIFT**

Sterling's grid strengthens a growing lifestyle trend: high-value short breaks within 4–6 hours of major cities. This convenience is energising the rise of bleisure travel — professionals extending work trips, remote workers seeking nature-led settings, and families designing quick restorative getaways.

For travellers from Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Delhi or Mumbai, resorts in Madurai, Vellore, Tipeshwar, Ranthambore, Puri, Vythiri, Haridwar and Rudraprayag act as easy yet rewarding micro-holidays.

Vikram Lalvani added, "The most powerful aspect of Sterling's offbeat strategy is how it helps explore the country. India's next wave of leisure demand will flow between Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities, and the brands that seamlessly connect these corridors will define the category."

This metro-to-tier-2 movement is becoming a defining force in Indian leisure.

#### **EXPERIENCES ROOTED IN PLACE**

Across Sterling's network, the destination is always the protagonist. Guests can trek rainforests around Munnar,



*Vikram Lalvani, Managing Director & CEO, Sterling Holiday Resorts*

explore riverside trails in Malampuzha, wander coffee slopes in Sakleshpur, study birdlife in Anaikatti, meet tribal communities in Kodaikanal and Ooty, or follow heritage paths in Puri and Ayodhya. Nothing here functions like a tourist checklist. Each encounter draws its meaning from the destination itself, its ecology, its craft, its communities and the sense of place that lingers long after the traveller has left.

Meanwhile, digital fatigue has accelerated the desire for nature-immersive wellness. Silence, greenery, unhurried rhythms and clean food create a self-guided detox that enhances Sterling's focus on wellness and rejuvenation.

#### **TRAVELLING IN INDIA**

As one of India's largest leisure hospitality brands, Sterling understands that its role extends far beyond offering an escape from the city. It is about taking travellers deeper into India, to serene river ghats, misty coffee slopes, forest fringes, small-town marketplaces and the many gentle spaces where work, rest, solitude and family life can sit comfortably side by side.

For curated itineraries, circuits and bleisure routes, visit [whatatrip.sterlingholidays.com](http://whatatrip.sterlingholidays.com).



*Sterling Tipeshwar*

# BWH HOTELS UNLOCKS A WORLD OF REFINED STAYS



Zion Wildflower Resort, USA

BWH Hotels transforms heritage into global luxury, with WorldHotels set to debut its first Indian gem

TT BUREAU

**F**or over 75 years, travellers around the world have found comfort and connection with Best Western Hotels & Resorts. What began as a single trusted brand has transformed into something far greater: BWH Hotels, a global network reshaping the way the world travels.

This journey is not merely one of growth but of reinvention, taking the brand from a legacy of dependable hospitality into the arena of sophisticated lifestyle experiences.

## A HERITAGE REIMAGINED

Built on the foundation of Best Western, BWH Hotels made a bold leap forward with the addition of WorldHotels™, a curated portfolio of luxury and upper-upscale properties. This move brought new depth and sophistication to the brand family, appealing to travellers seeking experiences that go beyond comfort and deliver immersion in the world's most desirable destinations.

Today, the group spans more than 4,300 hotels across over 100 countries and territories, bringing together three powerful identities: WorldHotels™, Best Western® Hotels & Resorts, and SureStay Hotels®. Together, they offer a spectrum of experiences under one trusted umbrella, from dependable stays to bespoke luxury escapes.

WorldHotels, with its heritage spanning more than five decades, was built by visionary hoteliers who redefined exceptional hospitality. The brand interprets luxury through a modern lens, blending timeless elegance with contemporary sensibilities that resonate with today's discerning travellers. "India's diversity and cultural richness align beautifully with the WorldHotels philosophy," says Atul Jain, COO, BWH Hotels India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. "While WorldHotels has yet to make its debut here, we are excited to soon unveil our first property in India – one that will embody the soul of its destination while delivering world-class luxury."

## CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE AND INDIVIDUALITY

Founded in 1970, WorldHotels was created to champion the independent spirit. Today, it represents a carefully curated portfolio of over 160 distinctive hotels across the globe, each independently owned yet united by a passion for excellence. This ethos has positioned WorldHotels as a partner for hotels that wish to retain their identity while gaining global exposure and support.

"As the Indian traveller becomes more aspirational, we see immense potential in independent hotels that showcase their own character," Jain observes. "Our role is to empower them with worldwide reach and resources, while keeping their individuality intact."

The brand's four distinctive tiers – Luxury, Elite, Crafted and Distinctive – provide a framework that matches each property with its ideal audience, allowing travellers to select stays that speak to their style, whether that means iconic heritage hotels, creative boutique escapes, or welcoming properties brimming with local charm.

## RESPONSIBLE LUXURY FOR A NEW ERA

WorldHotels' approach to luxury is inseparable from its commitment to responsibility. Across the portfolio, properties are encouraged to embrace sustainable practices, from energy-efficient operations and local sourcing to innovative

renewable energy initiatives. "In India, sustainability is no longer an option – it's a necessity," Jain emphasises. "We are committed to building hospitality experiences that are not only luxurious but also responsible, ensuring that future generations inherit a world worth travelling."

This balance of indulgence and accountability resonates strongly with today's traveller, who seeks not only exceptional service and experiences but also alignment with values that protect the planet. By putting responsible luxury at its core, WorldHotels is creating an offering that feels as forward-thinking as it is refined.

## ENRICHING EVERY STAY

Loyalty sits at the heart of the guest experience through WorldHotels Rewards, which ensures members are recognised and rewarded at every step of their journey. At the same time, the brand supports its independent hoteliers with programmes, technology, and partnerships designed to help them deliver exceptional, personalised service while preserving their own unique identity.

"For today's Indian guest, travel is about self-expression and discovery," Jain concludes. "With the upcoming launch of WorldHotels in India, we are poised to open doors to experiences that inspire, connect and enrich lives – both for travellers exploring India and for Indians discovering the world."



Zion Wildflower Resort, USA

# THE POETRY OF HOSPITALITY, THE SAHARA WAY

Sahara's hospitality world unites nature, luxury, and learning through experiences of warmth and timeless elegance

TT BUREAU

In the evolving landscape of Indian hospitality, one name continues to redefine what it means to create a truly human experience. The world envisioned by Sahara is built on care, imagination and the belief that genuine warmth lies in how one makes people feel. Through Aamby Valley City, Hotel Sahara Star and A-Star Academy, Sahara has shaped a universe where every element, from architecture to emotion, reflects its enduring ethos of welcome and belonging.

As Romie Dutt, Executive Director of Aamby Valley City and Hotel Sahara Star, shares, "We welcome our guests with love, care and excitement. At the heart of our offering lies our most cherished value, hospitality. Every day, we ensure our guests experience the pinnacle of Indian hospitality, benchmarked by global standards."

## AAMBY VALLEY CITY: WHERE NATURE MEETS LIVING LUXURY

Cradled in the Sahyadri ranges near Lonavala, Aamby Valley City is India's first planned lifestyle city and one of Sahara's proudest expressions of hospitality. Spread across 10,600 acres, it embodies a world where nature and luxury exist in harmony.

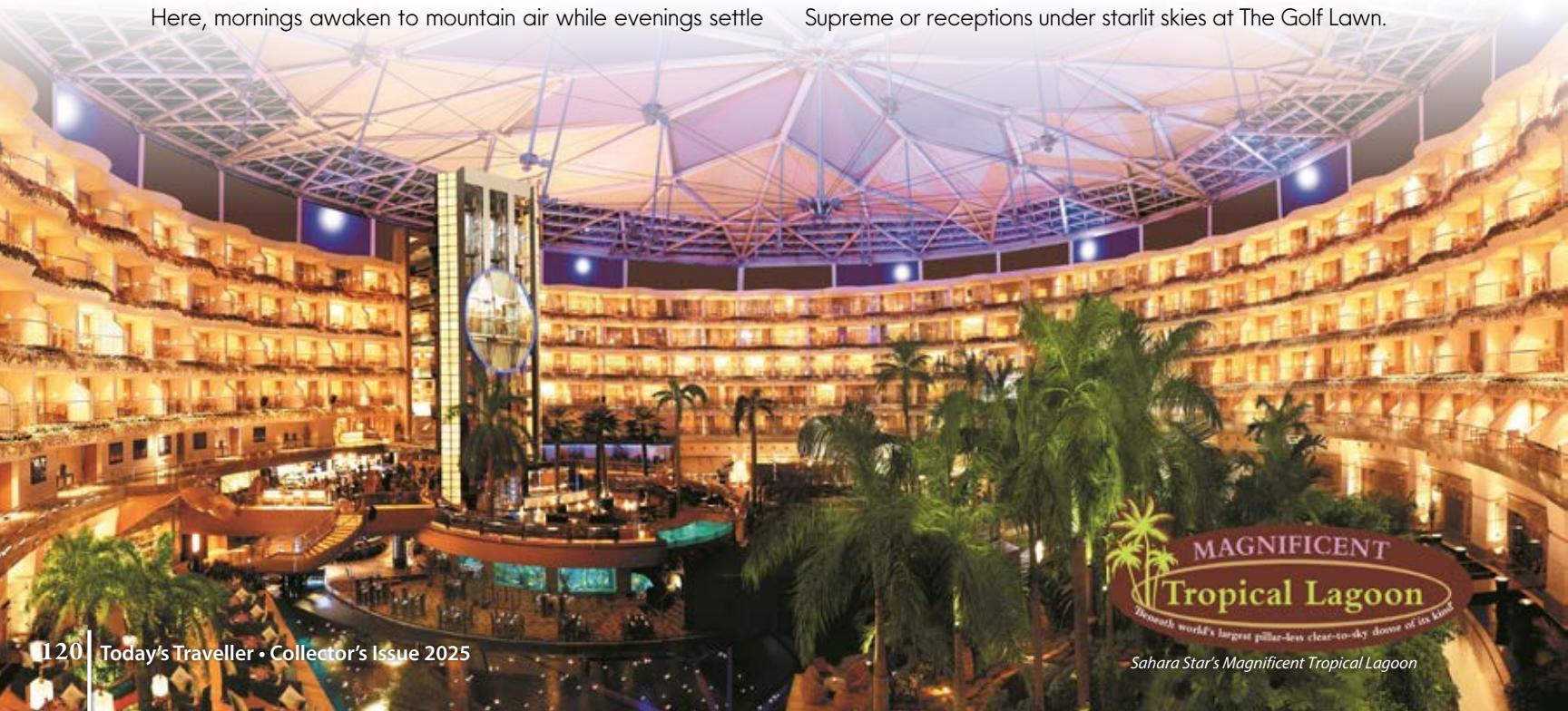
Here, mornings awaken to mountain air while evenings settle



Romie Dutt, Executive Director, Aamby Valley City & Hotel Sahara Star

by lakes shimmering under the stars. Aamby Valley offers a private airport, championship golf course, adventure zones and fine dining, creating an ecosystem of experiences.

It is a venue for conferences, leadership retreats and weddings that reveal its most enchanting side. With more than 15 venues, every celebration feels like a dream, with vows by the island-like Naga Village, mehendi by the fountain at The Supreme or receptions under starlit skies at The Golf Lawn.



**MAGNIFICENT**  
**Tropical Lagoon**  
Denmark's world's largest pillar-less clear-to-sky dome of its kind

*Sahara Star's Magnificent Tropical Lagoon*



Aamby Valley City

What distinguishes Aamby Valley is its soul. It brings people close to nature while surrounding them with thoughtful luxury, allowing guests to feel both grounded and inspired.

### HOTEL SAHARA STAR: THE HEARTBEAT OF URBAN HOSPITALITY

In Mumbai, Hotel Sahara Star brings Sahara's philosophy to life in an urban setting. Located across from the domestic airport, the hotel stands as an architectural icon that blends contemporary design with genuine warmth.

With 354 rooms and suites and expansive banqueting spaces, the hotel is a landmark for travellers and hosts alike. The Sapphire Ballroom sets the stage for grand conventions and celebrations, while Ruby and Jade offer intimate spaces for private gatherings and weddings.

Culinary excellence defines its spirit. Namak celebrates Indian flavours, Mabruk offers acclaimed Lebanese cuisine, and FUMI highlights Pan-Asian artistry. Dining here becomes storytelling, each course shaped with creativity and care.

Beyond its celebrated restaurants and grand venues, Sahara Star is a sanctuary of wellness and recreation. The hotel's serene spa, 7,500 sq. ft. fully equipped gymnasium, one of the largest 5-star hotel gyms in the city, and sparkling outdoor pool invite guests to unwind and rejuvenate. A dedicated wellness centre and recreational space ensure there's something for everyone, from fitness enthusiasts to families. The hotel also features pickleball and a professional paddle court, offering fresh and energetic ways to stay active. And for moments of leisure, the private pre-theatre offers an exclusive cinematic experience within the comforts of the hotel. Within its glowing interiors, hospitality feels warm, intuitive, and genuinely heartfelt.

### A-STAR ACADEMY: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HOSPITALITY

Completing Sahara's world of hospitality is A-Star Academy, a pioneering institution nurturing the next generation of hospitality leaders. Conceived under the vision of Romie Dutt,

it reflects Sahara's long-term commitment to the industry's future.

Located within Hotel Sahara Star in Mumbai and Aamby Valley City near Lonavala, the campuses serve as living classrooms where students learn through real-world experience. The hum of kitchens, precision of banquet setups and grace of guest relations form part of their daily learning.

In Academic Collaboration with Savitribai Phule Pune University, the academy blends core hospitality with newer disciplines such as artificial intelligence, digital marketing and revenue management.

### A TIMELESS EXPERIENCE

Together, Aamby Valley City, Hotel Sahara Star and A-Star Academy form the three pillars of Sahara's hospitality universe, each a facet of one vision to create experiences that connect people through warmth, beauty and purpose.

In Aamby Valley, hospitality takes the form of nature's embrace. At Sahara Star, it shines through human warmth and artistry. Within A-Star Academy, it becomes wisdom that will shape the industry's future.

This is the world of hospitality by Sahara, built on care, guided by innovation and defined by the promise that every guest will always feel at home.

**Website:** [www.aambyvalley.com](http://www.aambyvalley.com) | [www.saharastar.com](http://www.saharastar.com) | [www.astaracademy.in](http://www.astaracademy.in)



A Star Academy, Mumbai Campus

# DIU TIDES AND THREE COASTAL STAYS



Ginger Diu, Jalandhar Beach

Walk forts, wander caves, watch sunsets and return to IHCL stays that honour Diu's front row beauty

TT BUREAU

**D**iu greets you with salt in the air and light that lingers. Mornings arrive softly as the Arabian Sea turns silver, afternoons drift across pale stone, and evenings settle into copper sky and a hush that slows every conversation. Curiosity works best at walking speed, with the sea never far out of sight.

Tracing the parapets of Diu Fort, waves strike the walls that once guarded this harbour town. The cool glow of Naida Caves waits nearby, where sun shafts slice through old rock. Tide and worship share the same ledge at Ganeswar Mahadev Temple, where the sea lays its rhythm over shrines. Jalandhar and Chakratirath keep an easy curve of sand for sunrise walkers and sunset wanderers.

And when the day begins to fade, the island's three IHCL stays fold the horizon into their own frame, turning the island's light into a way of life. In this mood, the right hotel holds the view in front and quietly smooths the day.

## GATEWAY DIU: LIFE AT AN EASIER PACE

On Jalandhar's soft arc, Gateway Diu rises as a coastal retreat that feels generous the moment you arrive. Overlooking the Arabian Sea, the resort holds 97 rooms and 6 suites, many with windows that draw

water or gardens into the frame. Interiors stay light and contemporary, with clean lines and a palette that borrows its calm from sand, water and sky. Balconies lean toward the horizon so you wake to wind and light instead of alarms.

Days here follow a relaxed resort rhythm. The outdoor pool catches early sun and late glow, while the lawn and deck give families room to spread out. A fitness centre and spa keep familiar rituals intact. Two halls and a sea breeze lawn hold celebrations and off-sites without stealing attention from the coast itself.

Dining at Gateway shapes the mood. Earth



Standard City View, Gateway Diu



Lobby, Fort House Diu

Pavilion, the all-day restaurant, moves between coastal plates, Indian staples and global comfort, ideal for long breakfasts or slow dinners. High Tide, the bar, adds a gentle buzz as glasses rise with the last light. Out by the water, the pool bar keeps the pool company with cool drinks and small plates. Together they send the resort in a clear direction: polished, relaxed and quietly indulgent.

Gateway feels right for travellers who value open horizons and an easy, unhurried pace. Families appreciate stroller-friendly paths and lifts that line up with rooms and the pool. Work travellers enjoy Wi Fi that behaves and seating that understands long calls. Set beside Jalandhar Beach and a short drive out of Diu Fort and Naida Caves, the hotel places you inside the landscape that first drew you to the island.

#### **GINGER DIU, JALANDHAR BEACH: STAY SMART, STAY COASTAL**

Follow the same shoreline and the mood quickens at Ginger Diu, a lean, lively stay placed almost at beach level. The hotel lines up 45 thoughtfully planned rooms, including Executive Queen and sea view



Presidential Suite, Gateway Diu

categories, each with high speed Wi Fi, HD screens and exactly the storage a traveller in motion needs. Design leans into movement: luggage lands in its own nook, a compact work surface invites a quick session, and the bed feels like a soft reward after salt on skin and long swims.

Step outside and the island gathers close. Jalandhar Beach stretches in front in a shallow curve ideal for barefoot walks. A short ride carries you to Diu Fort, Naida Caves and St Paul's, so heritage stops can sit neatly between two swims instead of owning the day.

The pool hugs a sea deck that keeps you looping between towel, tide and chair in an easy orbit. A small fitness space answers early morning resolve, while compact meeting areas tuck huddles into the day.

Qmin, the hotel's all day diner, reads bright, casual and coastal. Menus lean into Diu's appetite for fresh catch and warm spice, while still holding salads, fast favourites and familiar bowls for quick refuels. Set near the shore, it suits both a quick bite and an unhurried evening meal. The result is simple: less time



The Hub Bar, Fort House Diu



Executive Queen Room with Sea View, Ginger Diu, Jalandhar Beach

in transit, more time in the water or on the promenade, a balance that suits couples on long weekends, solo sunrise swimmers and small teams that divide hours between brainstorm and beach.

#### THE FORT HOUSE, DIU IHCL SELEQTIONS: INTIMACY BESIDE THE RAMPARTS

At the quieter end of Fort Road, The Fort House, Diu IHCL SeleQtions draws closer to history and scale shifts in your favour. Only 33 keys sit in this coastal residence, with 29 rooms and 4 suites arranged so that views hold either the ancient walls of Diu Fort or the Arabian Sea, and sometimes both in one long sweep. Stone, wood and soft fabrics combine in a style that feels contemporary yet rooted, more like a lived-in island home than a classic hotel.



Corridor, Fort House Diu

Here, shared spaces invite lingering. Terraces and balconies watch light move across the bastions. A small garden catches shade at noon and the sound of distant surf. Palette, the all day restaurant, lets local flavours lead while global favourites keep every palate comfortable; its room stays intimate enough for voices to stay low. The Hub bar, with indoor seating and an outdoor edge, becomes the natural place for a sundowner, fort and sky sharing the same frame as glasses rise.

The Fort House suits travellers who measure trips in pages read, stories told and views held a little longer than necessary. Couples seeking a private celebration, solo guests who collect quiet corners and pet parents looking at a pawcation room all find the scale just right. Facilities for business exist yet stay discreet, leaving the mood firmly in the hands of sea breeze and stone.

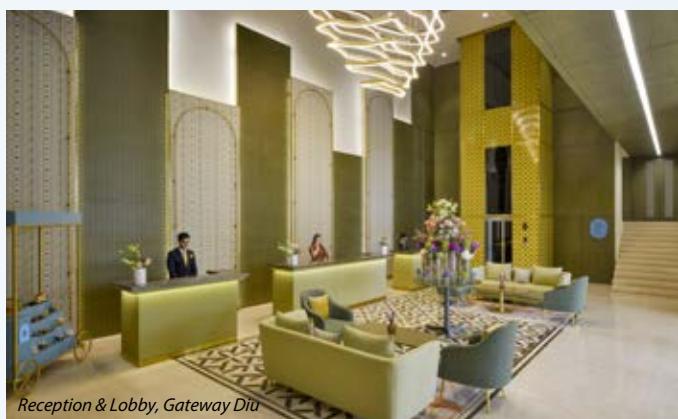
#### DAYS THAT BELONG TO DIU

On a good Diu day, purpose finds an easy rhythm with the sea. At Gateway Diu, morning might open with a swim under pale light, coffee by the pool and a long breakfast at Earth Pavilion while plans sprawl across the table. Children drift between lawn and water, elders find a chair near the edge, and a mid-morning start for Naida or the fort still feels unhurried.

Ginger sets a different clock. Early dawn belongs to runners and sunrise swimmers who like the beach almost empty. Coffee travels across the deck, snacks out of Qmin slip into a day bag, and the short hop to Diu's main sights keeps energy high.

At The Fort House, mornings often stay slower. Light lands at once on stone and sea outside your balcony. Breakfast stretches in Palette because the view keeps rewriting your plan. You may count bastions before steps or watch boats slide across the channel, letting the island set the tempo instead of the clock.

By afternoon, sun grows bright and all three hotels



Reception & Lobby, Gateway Diu



Qmin, Ginger Diu, Jalandhar Beach

lean into shelter. Gateway holds shaded verandahs, a quiet spa and indoor corners for board games, emails or a simple doze. Ginger keeps turnarounds crisp, so you can shower, recharge and step back out while the day still feels open. The Fort House leans into siesta culture, its garden and balconies made for chapters and catnaps as the fort basks just beyond the trees.

Evenings in Diu arrive with little effort. The fort warms to copper, the sea turns conversational and promenades collect unambitious plans: a stroll along the waterline, a pause at a viewpoint, a bench that appears just when legs slow.

Gateway responds with dinners that keep pace with the island, flavours of place and staff who sense when to appear and when to leave table talk alone. Ginger holds a livelier note, good for shared plates, a last swim and a cheerful drink that still leaves the next morning clear. At The Fort House, twilight deepens into soft conversation on the terrace, Palette glows with inward warmth, and rooms receive you with the hush that belongs to small sea towns after dark.

### A GENTLE BELONGING BY WATER

Diu stays constant. Tide, fort, caves, and sky wait in much the same arrangement whenever you arrive. The question is which key suits your day. Gateway Diu offers breadth: a large pool, spa, fitness centre, two bars and an all-day restaurant, plus event spaces generous enough for weddings and off-sites. It feels ideal for families, multi-generational trips and travellers who like every option in place yet still want the coast to lead.

Ginger Diu serves guests who travel light and enjoy momentum. Rooms resemble well-designed



*High Tide Bar, Gateway Diu*

luggage in spirit, the sea deck keeps you close to the water, Qmin respects appetite by hour, and the hotel's compact size makes arrivals, departures and quick changes pleasantly uncomplicated.

The Fort House, Diu IHCL SeleQtions stands ready for those who feel most alive when history and horizon share the same window. Fewer keys, fort and sea views, Palette and The Hub for intimate meals and drinks, and a setting on Fort Road that keeps the island's story just outside the gate.

Mixed groups become easy to please in this triangle. Parents with young children drift naturally toward Gateway, runners and restless explorers feel seen at Ginger, and couples or solo guests who collect sunsets gravitate to The Fort House. Meeting points stay simple because geography is kind and the shoreline is shared. You leave with sand still clinging to your shoes, sea air tucked into clothes and the sense that Diu allowed you to spend your hours well.



*Dining Experience, Fort House Diu*

# WHERE MODERN ELEGANCE FINDS ITS HOME

In the bustling heart of Madhya Pradesh's commercial capital, a new symbol of sophistication has taken shape. Wow Crest, Indore IHCL SeleQtions captures the spirit of modern Indore vibrant, dynamic, and rooted in tradition while offering guests a world of refined comfort and curated experiences.

This stunning new destination brings together artful design, warm service, and heartfelt hospitality, making every stay a beautiful balance of contemporary living and soulful warmth.



## ◆ DISTINCTLY SELEQTIONS

Every IHCL SeleQtions property tells a unique story and WOW Crest's narrative celebrates individuality and understated luxury.

The design blends global aesthetics with local nuances think clean lines, rich textures, and subtle hints of Indore's cultural artistry. Each corner of the hotel exudes personality, creating an ambience that feels both intimate and inspiring.



#### ◆ STAY IN STYLE

WOW Crest offers thoughtfully appointed rooms and suites that redefine comfort through design and detail. Floor-to-ceiling windows flood each room with natural light, while plush furnishings, curated art, and warm hues create a haven of relaxation. Whether guests are here for business or leisure, every stay promises intuitive service and a sense of calm sophistication.

#### ◆ FLAVOURS OF REFINEMENT

Dining at Wow Crest, Indore is a sensory journey an exploration of flavours that blend global inspirations with local favourites. From hearty breakfasts to elegant dinners, each dish is crafted with precision and passion. Whether guests prefer a quiet coffee in a serene corner or a vibrant dining experience with friends, the hotel's culinary team ensures every bite is memorable.

#### ◆ CELEBRATE EVERY OCCASION

Wow Crest, Indore's versatile event spaces make it a preferred address for both corporate gatherings and social celebrations. From intimate soirées to large-scale receptions, each occasion is infused with creativity, warmth, and meticulous attention to detail. Expert planners, customized menus, and seamless service transform every moment into a lasting memory.

#### ◆ WELLNESS, LEISURE & BEYOND

At Wow Crest, Indore leisure takes centre stage. Guests can unwind by the rooftop pool, take in panoramic city views, or rejuvenate at the fitness studio. Every space is designed to encourage balance of energy, relaxation, and inspiration. As the sun sets over Indore's skyline, the hotel transforms into a haven of quiet sophistication perfect for reflection or celebration.

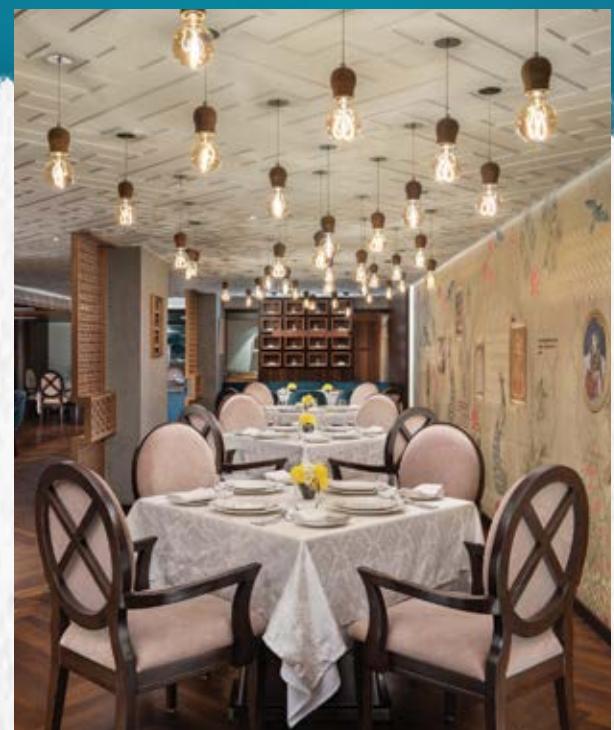
#### ◆ THE SPIRIT OF INDORE

Strategically located in Vijay Nagar the city's bustling lifestyle district Wow Crest, Indore offers easy access to Indore's business hubs, shopping arcades, and cultural attractions. It's a gateway to exploring the best of both worlds: the modern momentum of the city and its timeless traditions.

#### ◆ A SELEQTIONS EXPERIENCE

As part of the IHCL SeleQtions portfolio, Wow Crest, Indore is a tribute to individuality and excellence. Each SeleQtions hotel is handpicked for its distinct personality and Wow Crest, Indore beautifully embodies that vision through design, detail, and dedication to heartfelt hospitality.

Every experience here from check-in to farewell reflects the warmth and poise that define exceptional stays.



# BIG IDEAS BEGIN BESIDE THESE HILLS

Open lawns under stars at Radisson Resort Khopoli elevate awards nights, cocktails, and celebrations beautifully

TT BUREAU

**T**ucked between Mumbai, Pune, and the gentle folds of the Sahyadri hills, Radisson Resort Khopoli offers a contemporary answer to how we meet, plan, and pause. It is a resort with boardroom discipline and weekend ease, where a morning review can sit comfortably beside an evening by the pool, and where the city's tempo gives way to softer, greener horizons.

A short drive along the Mumbai–Pune Expressway delivers you to a setting that feels considered, with nature close at hand and convenience built into every hour.

## PURPOSE AND PAUSE

Rooms and suites are designed for travellers who want the efficiencies of a city hotel without losing the restorative feel of a getaway. Private balconies frame fresh air and views, while calm interiors and plush bedding encourage unhurried downtime. High-speed connectivity and intuitive service make work feel seamless, so you can share a deck or jump on a call without breaking the spell of a break.

At approximately 80 kilometres from Mumbai and 70 kilometres from Pune, the location suits focused offsites and quick family



escapes. Close by, Imagicaa Theme Park adds high-spirited fun, while Lonavala and Khandala remain easy detours for scenic drives and café stops.

### BLUEPRINTED FOR MEETINGS

Radisson Resort Khopoli turns functionality into finesse with venues that shift from strategy to celebration with ease. For large formats, Imperial Hall and Zenith Hall provide expansive, elegant backdrops for conferences, multi-track workshops, and plenaries. Movement through generous pre-function areas and smart signage remains smooth.

Opulence I and II frame high-stakes decisions with comfort and control, pairing ergonomic seating with built-in presentation systems, precise acoustics, and dependable bandwidth. Confluence is the creative counterpoint, a flexible, contemporary venue for brainstorming and training that keeps momentum high.

When the sun dips, the 12,000 square foot open lawn comes into its own, a natural stage for cocktails, award nights, and starlit team dinners. Across formats, the Meetings and Events team manages the choreography with quiet precision, while in-house AV support and curated menus keep momentum steady. The venue set behaves like a partner, not just a backdrop.

### PLAYTIME, POOLTIME, ME-TIME

Once the agenda wraps, the resort encourages a different rhythm. Imagicaa sits minutes away for a day of rides, water splashes, and shared laughter that doubles as team bonding or a family plan. Back on the property, the swimming pool offers instant relief on warm afternoons, and Nilaya Spa helps you press reset with therapies aimed at deep relaxation and recovery.

A fitness centre keeps morning routines steady. Indoor games and a dedicated kids' play area make it easy to fill the spaces between meals, check-outs, and drives home. The pace is unhurried and well timed, respectful of how people prefer to spend limited hours together.

### PLATES WITH CHARACTER

Dining at Radisson Resort Khopoli favours clarity of flavour and smooth service. Charlotte, the signature restaurant, sets the tone with an elegant menu that marries global technique and regional favourites, suiting celebratory dinners and working lunches alike. The multi-cuisine restaurant handles hearty buffets and relaxed bites, ideal for groups that need speed, variety, and reliability without giving up quality.

Evenings gather at the Speakeasy Bar, where conversation flows and cocktails arrive with the right measure of polish. Menus are generous, timing is tight, and teams can dine together without adding friction to the schedule.



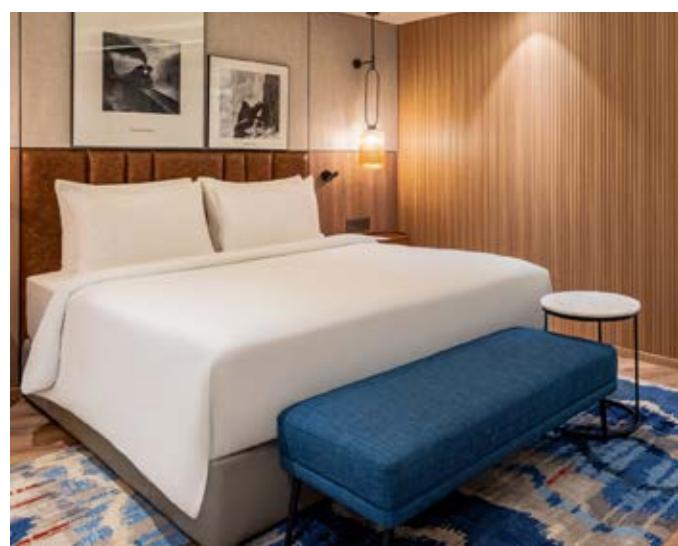
Restaurant & Bar, Radisson Resort Khopoli

### THE KHOPOLI ADVANTAGE

What distinguishes the resort is how cleanly it answers modern travel briefs. It is purpose-built for meetings, events, and offsites, yet it reads like a leisure property the moment the projector powers down. The address between Mumbai and Pune removes logistical drag. Proximity to Imagicaa and the hill stations adds colour to itineraries without adding commute.

Venues scale from confidential boardrooms to grand halls and an expansive lawn, supported by a team attuned to timing, technology, and taste. Rooms deliver the comfort and connectivity business travellers expect, while balconies and views provide a hillside sensibility that feels restorative rather than staged. Wellness and recreation sit within the core experience, which is why the word workcation feels earned here.

In practice, that might mean a leadership summit ending under open skies, a product launch flowing into a family weekend, or a training day bookended by a swim and a quiet hour at the spa. Radisson Resort Khopoli connects business goals with leisure value in a way that feels natural, current, and well considered. It is where productivity and pleasure meet in the middle, and both come away better for the encounter.



Presidential Suite, Radisson Resort Khopoli

# SOULFUL JOURNEYS BEGIN AT HATGAD



Morning Bliss at Saptara Greens, Finding Your Perfect Balance

Luxury takes a slower, soulful shape at Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara amid the Sahyadri hills

TT BUREAU

**T**he definition of luxury is changing. For today's travellers, it is about experiences that restore balance and meaning. Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara reflects this evolution, offering a space where comfort and consciousness exist in harmony. It is a sanctuary for those who wish to slow down, reconnect with nature, and rediscover the joy of simply being.

Across India, a cultural shift is taking shape. Young professionals, creators, and families are choosing stillness over speed and purpose over possessions. They seek mindful journeys that nourish the mind as much as they please the senses. In Hatgad Saputara, this new rhythm finds its ideal setting among the green hills, fresh air, and wide skies that seem to pause time itself.

As General Manager, Poonam Nair says, "We don't sell rooms, we curate breathing space." The statement captures the heart of a philosophy where travel is not about transaction but about transformation.

## DESIGNING FOR STILLNESS

Every aspect of the resort invites guests to slow their pace. The day begins with guided forest walks at sunrise, followed by leisurely teas in the open air. Guests are encouraged to unplug, enjoy device-light hours, and follow the quiet rhythm of the natural surroundings.

There is an emphasis on the joy of doing rather than watching. Guests can paint at the art and craft corner, join the chef for hands-on cooking sessions, or simply take in the mountain breeze. Evenings come alive with the gentle sound of acoustic music, karaoke, and stargazing, where shared laughter becomes a common language. The atmosphere is unhurried and genuine, turning every stay into an invitation to reconnect with life's slower pleasures.

## FOOD THAT HEALS

Dining at Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara is an experience built around nourishment. The menus offer vegetarian and "light yet satisfying" dishes inspired by Indian, South Indian,

Continental, Chinese, and Italian traditions. The focus is on wellness and flavour in equal measure.

The kitchen follows a local-first approach, sourcing fresh ingredients from nearby farmers and artisans. Each meal supports the community and reduces food miles. A private dinner on a balcony at sunset or a candlelit meal under the stars adds to the sense of intimacy and calm. Every plate celebrates simplicity, freshness, and mindful enjoyment.

### **SANCTUARY FOR THE SOUL**

Nature is the resort's greatest luxury. The green valleys and clear mountain air create a natural meditation space where the mind grows quiet. Within hours of arrival, the tension of daily life begins to lift.

Wellness rituals flow naturally into this environment. Spa therapies relax the body, yoga and breathwork sessions are arranged on request, and calming herbal teas bring closure to the evening.

Young travellers are finding meaning in this balance of comfort and purpose. Mornings begin with sunrise intentions and mindful breakfasts. Guests may plant trees, learn local crafts, or take part in community-based activities that blend relaxation with a sense of contribution. Storytelling trails weave together local folklore and ecology, creating a deeper connection between guests and the land they explore.

### **SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY AT THE CORE**

At Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara, sustainability is part of daily life. The resort practices mindful water use, waste segregation, and minimal reliance on single-use plastics. Eco-sensitive housekeeping ensures that comfort never comes at the expense of responsibility.

Partnerships with local vendors help preserve traditional crafts and generate livelihood opportunities. Landscaping respects native species, while lighting protects nocturnal life. Even programming follows the rhythm of the monsoon season, keeping the resort in tune with the natural world.

Community is also central to the resort's identity. Student groups, entrepreneurs, and wellness teams use the property



*Poonam Nair, General Manager, Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara*

for offsites that blend productivity with presence. Meeting rooms open to hill views, and walking breaks replace routine coffee breaks. Festivals, wellness pop-ups, and craft fairs bring travellers and locals together in shared celebration. Guests leave with something lasting: mental rest, genuine friendships, and the satisfaction of having chosen a place that reflects their values.

### **A NEW PACE FOR HOSPITALITY**

The rise of mindful travel marks an important moment for hospitality in India. The modern traveller no longer seeks speed or excess but renewal and authenticity. Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara stands at the forefront of this movement, showing how luxury can be quiet, restorative, and deeply human.

In this calm corner of the Sahyadris, the resort reminds us that travel was never meant to be an escape. It was meant to be a return to ourselves, to nature, and to the slower rhythm of life that we so often forget.

Come, breathe at Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara. Your slower life begins here.



*Tea, Talks and Tranquillity - The Perfect Sundowner Trio at Amphitheatre Lawns*



*Love Served Under The Stars - A Magical Evening at Coracana*



Facade

# HYDERABAD'S CONTEMPORARY ADDRESS FOR COMFORT

Oakwood Residence Kapil Hyderabad's thoughtfully designed residences, modern dining, and wellness spaces create a balanced stay in the City of Pearls

TT BUREAU

**H**yderabad is a city of contrasts where ancient citadels stand quietly alongside modern glass towers, and heritage cuisine mingles with global flavours. In the midst of this cultural and commercial hum, Oakwood Residence Kapil Hyderabad creates a space that feels both current and considered.

It offers travellers the kind of stay where the lines between hotel, home and private retreat blur, allowing them to settle in with ease and experience the city at their own rhythm.

## THE ADDRESS THAT CONNECTS IT ALL

Location is a luxury, and Oakwood makes it feel effortless. Set within Gachibowli's Financial District, it is positioned with intention. Corporate parks, start-up hubs and prestigious institutions such as the Indian School of Business sit a short drive away, while Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is close enough to take the stress out of early morning flights. The neighbourhood itself feels calm and deliberate, a welcome contrast to the crowded chaos of the city centre, with tree-lined streets that make evening strolls surprisingly peaceful.

Exploration is encouraged here. Guests can spend

a morning tracing the history of Golconda Fort, shop for handcrafted bangles beneath the arches of Charminar, or experience the buzzing new-age energy of HITEC City. Those with extra time can dedicate a full day to Ramoji Film City, where film sets, rides and live shows keep every age group engaged. Having a base that keeps these landmarks within reach gives every itinerary a sense of flow and spontaneity.

### RESIDENCES THAT INVITE YOU IN

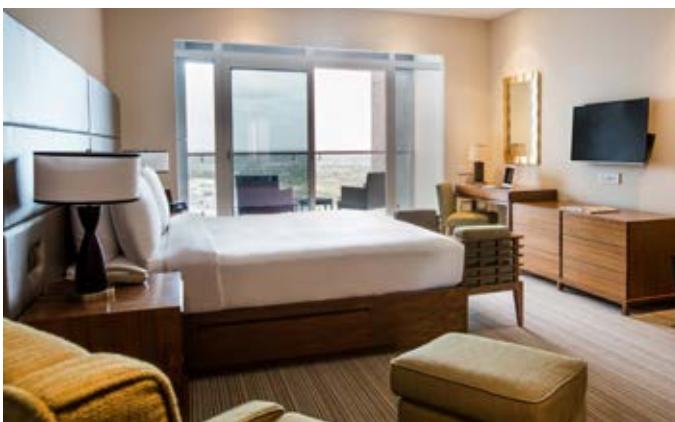
Instead of the standard hotel room, Oakwood offers 158 residences that feel like thoughtfully curated living spaces. Studios suit the solo business traveller, while one- and two-bedroom apartments give families space to spread out and find their own rhythm. For those staying longer, duplex apartments add height, light and a touch of indulgence that turns a work posting into a comfortable lifestyle rather than a temporary assignment.

Interiors are modern yet warm, with soothing colours and clean lines. Fully equipped kitchens invite simple cooking or late-night tea, and separate living areas allow work and relaxation to coexist without compromise. High-speed internet keeps business guests connected, and generous storage along with weekly housekeeping keep long stays organised and uncluttered. Even small touches, like thoughtful lighting and ergonomic furniture, contribute to the feeling of a home carefully designed for real life.

### LIFE BEYOND THE APARTMENT

A good residence should encourage guests to live well beyond the front door. Oakwood's facilities make that possible. The indoor pool is temperature controlled and designed for unhurried laps or quiet moments by the water. The fitness centre is modern and functional, a place where guests can maintain routines even while travelling, with cardio and strength training options that rival many private clubs.

Dining is centred at Oakleaf, the property's signature restaurant, where chefs prepare everything from regional staples to international classics. Power breakfasts, quick mid-week lunches and unhurried weekend dinners all find a place on the menu. Guests who prefer to stay in can still



Executive Bedroom

expect high-quality meals delivered with the same care.

Event spaces are discreet yet versatile. They work as effectively for a boardroom strategy session as they do for intimate family gatherings. The professional support team ensures that layouts, technical details and service run smoothly so hosts can focus on their guests.

### A STAY THAT FEELS EFFORTLESS

What sets Oakwood Residence Kapil Hyderabad apart is the sense of ease it brings to every type of stay. Business travellers find themselves close to where decisions are made, with work-ready facilities and quiet spaces to regroup. Families appreciate the security and generous layouts that allow children to settle comfortably. Long-stay visitors enjoy a setting where routines can continue without the impersonal atmosphere of a conventional hotel.

Hyderabad rewards those who take time to discover it. Returning each evening to an address that restores balance completes the experience. A swim under a high ceiling, a plate of seasonal food, a quiet apartment where the city hum softens into the background — these moments give each day a satisfying close and prepare guests for the next one.

Oakwood Residence Kapil Hyderabad is not simply a place in the city. It is a place of the city, connected with its commerce, mindful of its heritage, and tuned to how today's travellers live. For those seeking space, attentive service and a true sense of belonging in one of India's most dynamic destinations, it offers a stay that feels personal, polished and perfectly placed.



Gym



The Oak Banquet



Sheesh Mahal, TreeHouse Velis Sonipat NCR

# TREEHOUSE HOTELS & RESORTS: DELIVERING HOSPITALITY 'DIL SE' ACROSS INDIA

Driven by People, Defined by Heart

TT BUREAU



**A**s India enters a new age of travel defined by aspiration, affordability and authenticity, TreeHouse Hotels & Resorts emerges as a frontrunner in offering heartfelt, value-driven hospitality. Rooted in the mid-scale segment, the brand has evolved into a versatile platform that caters to the growing domestic market with sincerity and vision.

The TreeHouse journey is a story of relevance, resilience and reinvention. Guided by the philosophy of "Quality with Value" and the spirit of "Dil Se" service, TreeHouse is creating a trusted name known for warmth, energy and reliability.

The brand is not expanding for the sake of growth; it is cultivating a culture where each property becomes a home for travellers who seek genuine comfort and care.

## RIDING THE WAVE OF INDIA'S TRAVEL BOOM

India is travelling more than ever before. Domestic tourism is thriving as weekend escapes, leisure-seeking millennials and Gen Z explorers shape new patterns of movement. The expanding economy has brought a rise in business travel, while weddings in hotels have created new opportunities

for the hospitality industry.

Tier two and Tier three cities have become the new frontiers of growth. These markets are eager for branded accommodation that offers consistency, design-led spaces and experiences aligned with modern aspirations.

TreeHouse has prepared itself to meet this growing demand with a clear plan to double its portfolio within two years through new partnerships, franchises and innovative brand formats.

## ONE BRAND, MANY AVATARS

Understanding that every traveller seeks something unique, TreeHouse has designed a portfolio that responds to diverse preferences and budgets. Each format is united by one foundation, hospitality from the heart, known fondly as "Dil Se".

## TREEHOUSE HOTELS – THE CORE MIDSCALE HEART

TreeHouse Hotels form the foundation of the group and cater to the value-seeking traveller. They are ideal for professionals, families and independent explorers who appreciate reliable comfort and a welcoming atmosphere.

Located across business hubs and leisure destinations, these hotels combine clean comfort, modern design and local flavour, providing memorable stays that balance function with warmth. Each property reflects individuality while maintaining the brand's commitment to quality and care.

### **TREEHOUSE EXOTIC – ELEVATED ESCAPES FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER**

TreeHouse Exotic represents the brand's expansion into the upscale category. These design-forward resorts and boutique properties provide immersive experiences in beautiful yet accessible destinations.

Guests enjoy curated culinary journeys, personalised excursions, sustainable luxury and attentive service. TreeHouse Exotic brings together refinement and heartfelt hospitality, offering indulgence that feels authentic and sincere.

### **NEST BY TREEHOUSE – AFFORDABLE, FUNCTIONAL, FRIENDLY**

Nest by TreeHouse extends the brand's inclusiveness to the economy segment. These compact and cheerful properties suit budget-conscious travellers who value safety, cleanliness and convenience.

The brand's "Dil Se" ethos ensures that every guest is treated with care, regardless of price point.

### **HI-WAY MOTELS – HOSPITALITY ON THE MOVE**

With the rapid development of highway infrastructure, road travel has become one of the most exciting chapters of India's hospitality story. TreeHouse has introduced hi-way Motels, created for those on the road, including transit travellers, logistics professionals, families and bikers.

These motels offer clean rooms, dependable amenities and quick service, ensuring comfort and rest along India's growing expressways. As connectivity expands, hi-way Motels are ready to become the preferred stopovers across the nation.

### **TREEHOUSE-LINKD – THE FRANCHISE HOTEL COLLECTION**

TreeHouse-LinkD enables independent hotel owners to align themselves with the TreeHouse brand.

Through this franchise model, partners gain access to expertise in revenue management, marketing, distribution and operations, while preserving their unique character.

This asset-light approach supports rapid and sustainable expansion across the country, helping more hotels deliver experiences defined by consistency and warmth.

### **PEOPLE WITH PURPOSE, VALUES WITH HEART**

At the core of TreeHouse lies a people-first philosophy that defines its "Dil Se" culture. It is not a slogan but a



*TreeHouse Vedanta Pride Hubballi*

lived value that shapes every guest experience. Across all departments, the team embodies empathy, attentiveness and genuine care, creating a sense of belonging that extends beyond service.

Each interaction is guided by sincerity and warmth, making guests feel valued and at home. For TreeHouse, hospitality is not a profession; it is a way of life rooted in purpose and compassion.

### **FUTURE READY, NATION PROUD**

TreeHouse is shaping the hotels of tomorrow through innovation, sustainability and vision. The brand is investing in artificial intelligence based technology, customer relationship management systems and eco-conscious infrastructure that reduces energy use and supports local sourcing.

Every initiative reflects responsible growth and environmental awareness. With over thirty operational and signed properties and a strong pipeline, TreeHouse is set to double its footprint across northern, central and southern India.

Each new destination carries the promise of aspirational experiences delivered with integrity and heart. Representing a confident and connected India, TreeHouse continues to embody hospitality that is genuine, inclusive and proudly "Dil Se."



*Poee & Co. Restaurant, Panjim Goa*



Saya Grand By Treat, Thane (Total - 277 Rooms)

# THE HEART BEHIND TREAT'S GROWING LEGACY

Alok Mundra reveals how Treat Hotels & Resorts crafts emotional experiences that linger beyond the stay

TT BUREAU

Over the years, Treat Hotels & Resorts has emerged as one of India's most admired homegrown luxury hospitality brands. With destinations across Silvassa, Daman, Ghovad, Nashik, and Thane, plus upcoming Kumbhalgarh and Sambhajinagar, the brand has become synonymous with luxury, celebration, and experiences blending Indian warmth with modern sophistication.

Speaking about Treat's evolution, Alok Mundra, Chief Managing Director, said the foundation rests on more than hospitality; it is about emotion and memory. "At Treat Hotels & Resorts, our ethos is to create experiences, not just stays," he said. "Hospitality goes beyond rooms and restaurants. It is about celebrating moments, crafting escapes, and delivering experiences that linger for life."

He explained that Treat's guiding philosophy rests on three promises: Celebrations, Escapes, and Experiences. "Be it a destination wedding, a family holiday, or a corporate offsite, we build around warmth, comfort, and

personalisation. Every property is unique yet tied together by our Indianised hospitality blended with modern luxury," he noted.

## JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND HEART

Recalling the beginnings, Alok Mundra said, "We started with a vision to make Treat Hotels & Resorts synonymous with celebration and leisure. Today, we operate across some of India's most vibrant destinations."

He highlighted Treat Resort, Silvassa, as the flagship and one of Western India's largest. "With vast lawns, multiple banquets, and premium accommodation, it has become a preferred choice for weddings, MICE, and family retreats," he said.

Alok Mundra also pointed to the resort's Adventure Park, with ziplining and bungee jumping, stating, "It is the perfect mix of thrill and relaxation for families".

From Silvassa, Treat expanded into Daman, Ghovad, Nashik, and Thane, each adding its own character. "Now,

with Kumbhalgarh and Sambhajinagar, we are stepping into new markets while staying true to our core," he affirmed.

### NEW ICONS ON THE HORIZON

Alok Mundra spoke about upcoming properties. "Treat Aranya Resort, Kumbhalgarh, lies amid the Aravalli Hills near the UNESCO-listed Kumbhalgarh Fort and blends heritage with luxury. It will feature rooms and cottages with balconies, suites with bathtubs, a Zaika restaurant, rooftop bar, and swimming pools. Ideal for weddings and leisure stays," he said.

He added that Treat Imperial, Sambhajinagar, is being developed as a royal banqueting and events destination. "With its regal architecture, vast banquet facilities, and gourmet dining, it will host large celebrations and corporate gatherings," he explained.

Both properties, he noted, align with Treat's strategy to grow in culturally rich and economically significant destinations. "We want our properties to reflect local stories and offer experiences that feel authentic and celebratory," he said.

### THE HEARTBEAT OF INDIAN WEDDINGS

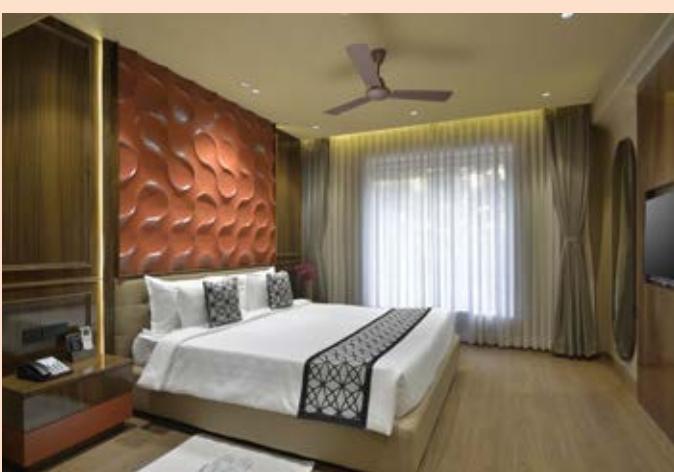
Discussing the brand's connection with weddings and events, he said, "Weddings are at the heart of Indian hospitality. Our success comes from combining scale, service, and heart."

He added, "Our venues range from sprawling lawns hosting thousands to intimate banquets. We work with trusted décor partners, while our chefs curate menus that celebrate Indian flavours with contemporary flair."

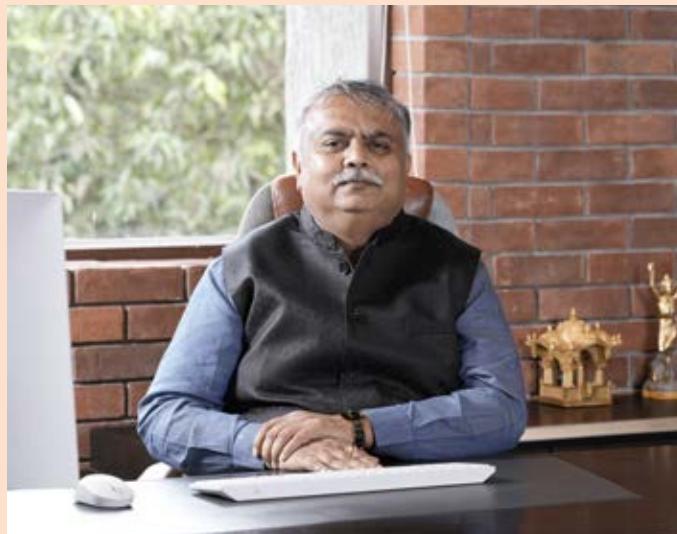
What distinguishes Treat, Alok Mundra added, is its ability to turn every celebration into a memory. "Guests do not simply attend a wedding; they live it. They enjoy adventure activities, exceptional cuisine, and our signature Indian warmth. That is why families trust us with life's biggest moments," he said.

### THE ROAD AHEAD

Looking ahead, Alok Mundra revealed an ambitious



Family Signature Suite, Treat Resort, Silvassa. (Total - 193 rooms)



Alok Mundra, Founder & Chief Managing Director, Treat Hotels & Resorts

expansion plan. "We are preparing to launch new properties in Udaipur, Jim Corbett, Navi Mumbai, Rajkot, and Ayodhya," he said. "Each destination was chosen for its unique charm—the cultural richness of Udaipur, the wilderness of Jim Corbett, the urban demand of Navi Mumbai, and the spiritual significance of Ayodhya."

He described this as part of Treat's vision to combine celebration with escape. "We aim to be present at key leisure and cultural hubs across India, offering world-class hospitality anchored in Indian values," he said.

### VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As Treat Hotels & Resorts continues to expand, its core philosophy remains unchanged. "Our vision is to become India's most loved homegrown hospitality brand," Mundra emphasised. "We are focusing on destinations that hold cultural, historical, spiritual, or lifestyle significance, such as Udaipur, Ayodhya, Jim Corbett, Navi Mumbai, and Rajkot."

He added that the group is investing in sustainability, digital guest engagement, and new-age experiences such as wellness retreats and lifestyle destinations.

"What keeps us strong is that we are proudly Indian," he concluded. "We understand our guests, their celebrations, and their aspirations. For us, every stay should be more than a trip. It should be a cherished memory for life."



Harmony Ballroom, Treat Hotel Nashik (Total - 100 rooms)

# THE CALM CANVAS AMID DELHI'S VIBRANCE

A South Delhi gem, Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket curates experiences infused with warmth and urban grace

**TT BUREAU**

In the lively heart of South Delhi stands a hotel that captures the city's cosmopolitan rhythm while offering an oasis of calm and sophistication. Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket is the kind of address that understands modern travellers, those who seek effortless service, stylish comfort and a location that puts everything within reach. Every visit, business or leisure, becomes an experience of quiet indulgence, curated detail and gracious hospitality.

## HEART OF SOUTH DELHI

Few hotels can claim a location as enviable as this. Set within the vibrant DLF Avenue Mall, Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket brings together the city's best shopping, dining and entertainment experiences under one roof. The surrounding Saket District Centre, Nehru Place and Okhla make it a prime choice for business travellers, while Qutub Minar, Mehrauli's heritage walks, and Hauz Khas Village add depth for those exploring Delhi's cultural mosaic. The hotel's proximity to Indira Gandhi International Airport, a comfortable 35-minute drive, ensures convenience that suits today's global guest.

Guests can step out for world-class retail therapy or enjoy fine dining within the same complex, making it one of the few hotels in Delhi that blend connectivity, culture and lifestyle so seamlessly. It is the perfect base for both first-time visitors and seasoned travellers who value easy access without compromising on exclusivity.

## CALM WITHIN THE CITY

Step inside, and the bustle of the city gives way to a sense of ease. The lobby, with its modern design softened by Indian accents, glows with understated elegance. Comfortable seating, warm lighting and attentive staff create an inviting atmosphere that feels personal rather than procedural. Guests often remark that the hotel strikes a perfect balance between sophistication and familiarity, a hallmark of the Hilton Garden Inn experience.

The 115 well-appointed rooms and suites continue this sense of harmony. Plush bedding, ergonomic workstations and high-speed internet connectivity make them ideal for both rest and routine.

Thoughtful touches such as 55-inch LED televisions, tea





*India Grill, Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket*

and coffee setups and ample wardrobes enhance the feeling of home, while the suites provide added space for families or extended stays. Every element, from design to functionality, has been curated with guest comfort in mind, ensuring that each stay feels restful and refined.

### DINING THAT DELIGHTS

Dining at Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket celebrates choice, freshness and flair. The all-day restaurant, India Grill, is where global cuisine meets local inspiration. Morning breakfasts flow into leisurely lunches and elegant dinners, with menus designed to suit every palate. The ambience strikes the right note between casual and chic, ideal for relaxed meals, family gatherings or conversations over fine coffee.

High Spirits, the hotel's lively bar, is a favourite for unwinding, offering handcrafted cocktails, premium spirits and light bites in an atmosphere that blends energy with comfort. For those preferring privacy, 24-hour in-room dining turns every meal into a personal moment, while the Pavilion Pantry, open around the clock, caters to spontaneous cravings and late-night essentials. The dining experience reflects a rare combination of international quality and heartfelt Indian warmth.

### WORK, WELLNESS AND WELL-BEING

For business travellers, the hotel delivers beyond expectations. Its meeting spaces, equipped with advanced technology and flexible layouts, are ideal for conferences, board meetings and workshops. The dedicated business centre provides professional support, allowing corporate guests to focus entirely on productivity. Every space has been planned to ensure that work feels seamless and success feels effortless.

When it is time to unwind, guests can find balance at the fitness centre, which features modern equipment for a complete workout. Yet the true highlight of the property is its rooftop swimming pool, offering panoramic views of

Delhi's skyline. A morning dip or a quiet sunset here brings a sense of pause that lingers long after.

### THE HUMAN TOUCH

What truly distinguishes Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket is the warmth of its people. Every interaction feels intuitive and every gesture sincere. Every request, big or small, is handled with the same attention and care. The team's focus on small details and natural warmth gives the place its unmistakable character.

In a city where pace and culture converge, Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket stands as a benchmark for contemporary hospitality, refined yet approachable, practical yet personal. It offers the traveller an experience that connects comfort with convenience and service with soul. Amid the energy of South Delhi, the hotel offers a rare balance of ease and connection, a stay that feels as welcoming as it is polished.



*High Spirits, Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket*



*Guest Room - Twin, Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket*

# 20 YEARS STRONG: BLS INTERNATIONAL ACCELERATES INTO AN AI-LED FUTURE

From India to 70 countries, BLS defines 20 years of impact and innovation

TT BUREAU

**B**LS International Services Ltd. enters FY26 celebrating 20 years of operations with its strongest-ever financial performance, a wider global footprint, and a renewed focus on cutting-edge technologies that are reshaping government-to-citizen services. At the centre of this evolution is a story of consistent growth, financial discipline, and a clear roadmap for the future.

## TWO DECADES OF TRANSFORMATION

Established in 2005, BLS International has grown into India's leading global service delivery partner. From its early beginnings with a focus on trusted, citizen-centric services, the company today works with over 46 client governments and operates in more than 70 countries. Its portfolio has expanded beyond visas to consular, citizenship, residency, and a range of other citizen services.

The past two decades have been defined by adaptability. The company has embraced new technologies, entered high-growth markets, and

consistently expanded its service mix. What has remained constant is a mission of simplifying and securing services at scale.

## 5-YEAR GROWTH TRAJECTORY

The financial year 2025 was a turning point. Revenue reached ₹2,193 crore, compared with ₹478 crore in FY21, representing a 4.6x increase. Operating profit grew from ₹41 crore to ₹629 crore over the same period, marking a 15.3x rise, while operating margins improved from 8.5% to 28.7%.

This performance was driven by multiple factors. The company secured marquee contracts with governments in Spain, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, the US, Brazil, Portugal, and Hungary. It diversified its services to capture value-added, technology-driven opportunities. Strategic acquisitions, including iDATA, Citizenship Invest, Aadifidelis Solutions, Zero Mass, and Starfin India, enhanced both capabilities and reach. At the core was operational excellence, reinforced by AI, automation, and a focus on customer experience.



## SUSTAINING MOMENTUM IN FY26

The strong trajectory has continued into FY26. In Q2, BLS reported its highest-ever quarterly results with revenue of ₹736.6 crore, up 48.8% year-on-year. EBITDA rose 29.4% YoY to ₹212.8 crore, while net profit increased 27.4% YoY to ₹185.7 crore.

These figures underscore the resilience of the company's asset-light, scalable model. Robust demand across markets, acquisition-led capabilities, and efficiency improvements have all contributed to this performance. The pipeline ahead suggests that the growth momentum will remain intact through the year.

## TECHNOLOGY AT THE CORE

Technology has become central to the company's competitive advantage. AI-powered chatbots now streamline customer interactions, facial biometrics provide stronger identity verification, and intelligent automation reduces processing times.

The transformation of digital call centres has improved query resolution times, while AI-driven data analytics is increasingly used to anticipate demand trends and optimise operations. Secure, scalable, and user-friendly platforms are being built to reinforce service delivery. Technology is set to remain a cornerstone as BLS expands its role in global citizen services.

## MAJOR WINS IN FY26

FY26 brought strategic global wins as BLS International secured key contracts in China, Kazakhstan, and Slovakia. These mandates expand its presence across Asia and Europe while reinforcing its reputation for trusted, secure, and tech-enabled service delivery.

## POSITIONED FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The global visa outsourcing industry is expected to grow at a 14% CAGR. With scale, longstanding government relationships, proven service delivery across geographies, and a strong technology stack, BLS International is well-positioned to lead this growth.

At the same time, diversification into adjacent areas such as digital citizen services and value-added offerings is creating additional growth engines. The long-term vision is to be the first Indian-origin company to lead at scale in this sector globally.

## FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE WITH EXPANSION

Balancing profitability with rapid expansion has been central to the company's strategy. Operating margins have improved significantly—from 8.5% in FY21 to 28.7% in FY25. This achievement reflects disciplined



*Second Quarter Result of FY2026*

cost management, selective entry into high-quality markets, and an asset-light model that enables scaling without excessive risk.

## A MILESTONE AND THE ROAD AHEAD

The 20-year milestone is both a moment of pride and a platform for the future. For BLS International, it validates the company's vision, its people, and its culture, while reinforcing the importance of resilience and disciplined execution in building a global business.

Looking ahead, the company has set clear priorities. Technology leadership will remain central to service delivery. Innovation will continue to be driven by people-focused solutions that keep the customer at the core. Expansion will remain value-accretive, ensuring long-term growth and shareholder returns.

As FY26 progresses, BLS International stands poised to continue its transformation. With strong financial foundations, a global footprint, and a culture of innovation, the company is confident that the next five years will be even more transformative than the last twenty.



*Shikhar Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director, BLS International*

# SEAMLESS SERVICE SHAPED BY INDIAN WARMTH

Atithya by Encalm perfects the art of effortless travel with composed service and cultural authenticity.

TT BUREAU

Travel now begins the moment a traveller steps into the terminal. Airports are no longer pauses between places; they are the first chapter of a journey. Encalm Hospitality leads this shift in India with a blend of precision, warmth, and cultural grace. Guided by Atithi Devo Bhava, the guest is divine, Encalm turns movement through busy halls into a calm, curated experience that feels personal, efficient, and welcoming.

## THE SPIRIT OF ATITHYA

At the heart of Encalm is Atithya, a bespoke Meet and Assist service that reimagines the path from curb to gate. Rooted in the Sanskrit word *Atithi*, meaning guest, Atithya treats every traveller with dignity and quiet care.

The experience begins at the terminal entrance, where a dedicated associate greets the guest and assumes responsibility for what follows. Baggage is handled with ease, check-in is overseen with clarity, and security and immigration are navigated with discreet guidance, so time is used well and stress stays at bay. The aim is steady reassurance that returns ease to a space that often feels transactional.

## SEAMLESS JOURNEYS

Atithya is more than escorting. It is a holistic envelope of support that anticipates needs rather than reacts to them. Associates coordinate airport pick-ups and drop-offs, arrange porter services, and secure swift buggy transfers between terminals when required.



Duty-free shopping becomes a relaxed interlude, with an associate helping guests browse, select, and manage purchases with care. When time allows, travellers retreat to Encalm lounges, Domestic and International where contemporary design, attentive service, and gourmet menus create a peaceful pre-flight haven.

Atithya operates at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, and Goa's Manohar International Airport. The associate remains a constant point of contact, joining the dots between processes so the journey feels like a single smooth line. Consistency is the hallmark. The same respectful greeting, careful handover, and clear communication define the service in every location, morning or night.

### HUMANISING THE AIRPORT

Airports are engineered for scale, timing, and security, yet travellers crave recognition and ease. Atithya restores that human layer. It softens the machinery of travel with small but meaningful gestures, unhurried pacing through checks, clear guidance when forms grow complex, and a sense that someone is looking out for every detail.

The result is composure. A space that often feels transactional becomes one of connection, where hospitality is not an add-on but the core of the experience. Precision remains, balanced by poise and kindness. Guests feel informed without being overwhelmed, assisted without being hurried, and free to focus on their journey rather than on administrative steps.

### TAILORED FOR EVERY TRAVELLER

The audience for Atithya is broad yet exacting. Business leaders value seamless transitions and documents handled correctly the first time, with minimal waiting and reliable coordination with drivers and meetings. Frequent flyers appreciate predictability amid the variables of travel, along with a standard that feels the same at dawn or late at night. Families discover calm as luggage and logistics are handled so parents can focus on children and boarding feels composed.

Senior citizens receive attentive support and comfortable solutions that preserve independence and dignity. Diplomats and high-profile guests value discretion and professionalism, where privacy and protocol are respected without fuss.

For expatriates and inbound visitors, Atithya offers a graceful first impression of India, blending cultural warmth with international outlook sensibilities that meet global expectations.



Encalm Concierge Services and Airport Assistance



Encalm Concierge Services and Airport Assistance

### FUTURE READY, CULTURE ROOTED

Service excellence rests on thoughtful innovation, digital coordination and rigorous training work behind the scenes so the experience feels effortless. Lounge access integrates with facilitation, shopping aligns with hand baggage limits, and transfers run to the minute. The design stays invisible, yielding smooth steps, clear cues, and time returned.

India's aviation network is expanding with new infrastructure and connectivity, and airport time is now part of the journey. Encalm meets this moment with technology, process discipline, and training, while India's tradition of welcome shapes the experience. Atithya is not a product; it is a promise. Every element, from first greeting to final handover at the gate, returns time and peace of mind.

Atithya transforms the airport from errands to experience. With formalities and timings in capable hands, the traveller gains room to pause: a comfortable lounge chair, a proper meal, a call home. The rhythm stays even, and the path stays clear. What endures is seamless movement, sustained comfort, and the calm certainty of attentive care.

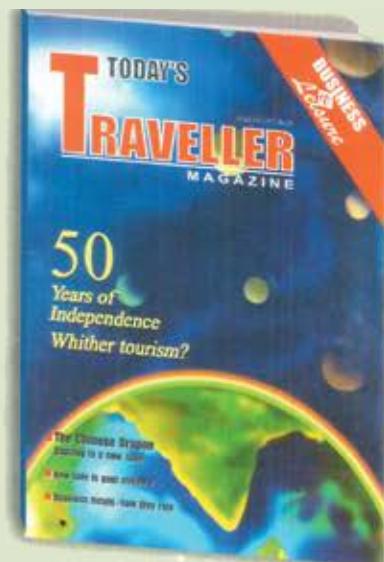
# PATA GOLD AWARDS FOR EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE

## **Magazine: Today's Traveller**

### **Article: 50 years of Independence: Whither Tourism?**

With its very first issue in August 1997, Today's Traveller, a business and leisure travel monthly, was honoured with a PATA Gold Award at the 47th Annual Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) conference held in Manila in the first week of April 1998.

The award recognised the cover story written by Kamal Gill, Executive Editor, Today's Traveller. Joseph A McInerney, the then CEO of PATA, said, "PATA Gold Awards recognise the very best in travel journalism. We honour the award winner's ability to set new standards for excellence and innovation."



1998

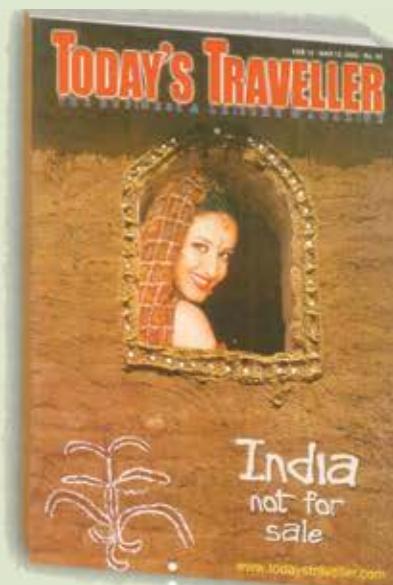
## **Magazine: Today's Traveller**

### **Article: Serving Up India ... The Right Way**

PATA's panel of judges selected Today's Traveller once again. The winning entry was selected from more than 200 gold award entries by a panel of international experts.

## **THE JUDGES' COMMENT**

"Ms Gill takes a tough-love approach to the challenges India is facing in terms of tourism development and promotion. In her interviews with key industry figures, she reveals frank criticism as well as constructive suggestions. Far from being a 'doom and gloom' piece, this article examines the negative, but points out opportunities for a positive outlook."



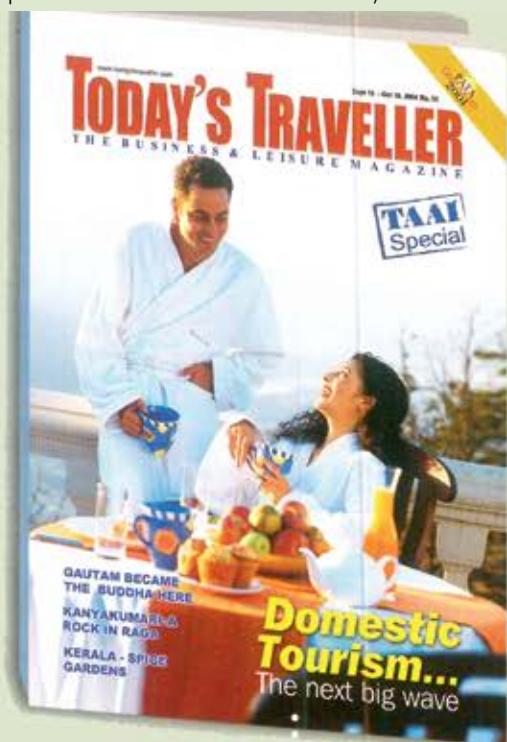
2001

#### Magazine: Today's Traveller

**Article: Domestic Tourism ... The Next Big Wave In 2005,**  
Today's Traveller was once again selected for the PATA Gold Award. Among the contenders were magazines like Conde Nast Traveler, Travel & Leisure and National Geographic.

#### THE JUDGES' COMMENT

"In 'Domestic Tourism ... The Next Big Wave,' Kamal Gill explains why it has taken the Indian travel industry so long to wake up to the fact of 300 million domestic tourism trips each year. By using incisive quotes from industry and government tourism leaders, the author shows how a change in the mindset and perspective is finally unleashing a domestic revolution that is influenced by social, economic and political changes. The picture that emerges is of an impossibly diverse destination, which is only now starting to reap the benefits of a multi-faceted, mid-market boom."



2005

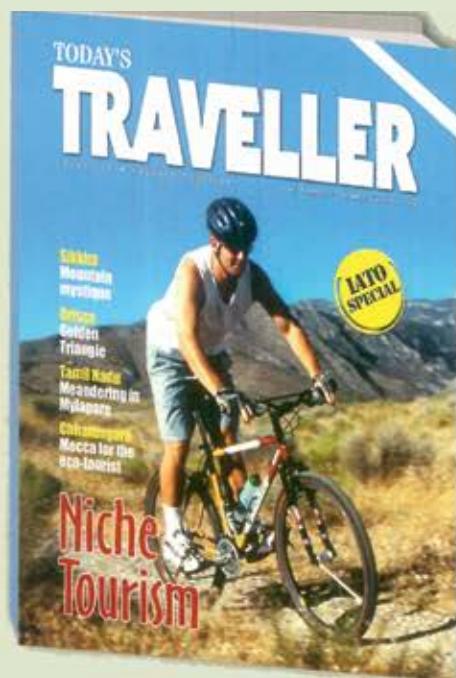
#### Magazine: Today's Traveller

**Article: Niche Tourism-Small is Beautiful**

In 2006, Today's Traveller won the PATA Gold Award from amongst a large number of contenders.

#### THE JUDGES' COMMENT

"Kamal Gill delivers a well-researched, highly informative and ultimately inspirational study of the massive potential of niche tourism in India. Kamal draws out insightful comments from India's travel trade leaders, who were not afraid to voice their opinions. She outlines the problems of the current approach, which she calls the 'herd instinct,' and then focusses on solutions substantiated by expert points of view. Her 'Niche Tourism' piece in Today's Traveller is propelled by a heady wind of ideas that will help consumers and the travel trade discover the immense potential of the inbound travel sector in India."



2006

# PORTRAITS OF TASTE

A visual celebration of food's power to unite, delight, and tell stories across cultures.

TT BUREAU



A quiet street corner in Sichuan. Five elderly women gather beneath swaying prayer flags and a soft wash of morning light. Their faces glow with the warmth of shared stories. In their hands, crisp spring rolls disappear between smiles and laughter. This unassuming moment, steeped in tradition and tenderness, has taken centre stage at the world's most celebrated food photography awards.

Chinese photographer Xiaoling Li has been declared the Overall Winner of the World Food Photography Awards sponsored by Bimi®. Her evocative image, titled The Elderly Having Delicious Food, was captured in Shuangliu Ancient Town in Sichuan Province. It first triumphed in the Food for the Family category, supported by The Felix Project, before claiming the top prize across the entire competition. Xiaoling Li describes the scene as "setting up a Dragon Gate formation"—a Chinese expression referring to neighbours gathering for gossip, companionship, and comfort over a shared meal. In this case, the culinary stars were Sichuan's beloved spring rolls.

"Food makes these people happy," says Xiaoling. "They enjoy a beautiful and joyful life."

The photograph has been awarded the coveted prize of £5,000 (GBP), alongside global recognition for its poignant celebration of togetherness. "What a perfect winning image for our times," notes Caroline Kenyon, Founder of the World Food Photography Awards. "The joy they have in each other's company is palpable. This shot, rich in colour and character, reminds us that in an often divided world, food continues to unite us."

Each expression in the photograph tells its own story. One woman, utterly engrossed in her meal, mirrors the universal



pleasure of good food in good company. The composition, balance, and cultural storytelling make it a standout moment in this year's record-breaking competition.

#### INDIA'S PHOTOGRAPHERS RISE TO THE OCCASION

This year, the competition received close to 10,000 entries spanning 70 countries. Amid this formidable global talent pool, Indian photographers carved out their place with remarkable success—securing two category wins and four finalist selections.







Leading the charge, Debdatta Chakraborty claimed victory in the Street Food category. His image, a captivating glimpse into the preparation of giant paranthas during the Ramadan months in Kolkata, draws viewers into a vibrant culinary scene. "After noon, huge ovens are lit and giant paranthas are prepared for iftar," Debdatta explains. "People across communities gather at these food stalls. It becomes a culinary haven." The photo captures not only the heat and hustle of Kolkata's street food culture, but also the

spirit of unity that thrives through shared meals.

Equally compelling is the work of Indigo Larmour, winner of the Jamie Oliver Youth Prize (13–17). Her award-winning photograph features the preparation of pooris in the twisting lanes of Old Delhi. Indigo, a young photographer based in India, also took third place in the same category with a second striking submission. Her win includes an invitation to the London headquarters of Jamie Oliver—an unforgettable opportunity for a rising star.

Arun Saha brought home third place in the unearthened® Food For Sale category with a powerful shot of fishmongers at work in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. The image reveals a railway-side marketplace alive with movement, as vendors slice and display fresh fish against the dramatic backdrop of passing trains. It offers a raw and rhythmic portrait of life and trade.

#### CULINARY NARRATIVES THAT TRANSCEND BORDERS

The awards evening was held at London's Mall Galleries on Tuesday, 20 May, where renowned chef and food writer Yotam Ottolenghi unveiled the winners across 25 categories. It was an evening that celebrated more than visual art; it celebrated the universal language of food.

"These Awards showcase the power of photography in telling incredible food stories," said Dave Samuels, Brand Director of Tenderstem® Bimi®, the headline sponsor. "As the world shifts, food remains a constant—connecting communities through cultivation, cooking, celebration, and resilience."



The judging panel, chaired by legendary food photographer David Loftus, featured a who's who of the culinary and visual worlds. Members included Claire Reichenbach, CEO of the James Beard Foundation; chef and author Ian Kittichai; Tom Atron, CEO of Fortnum & Mason; photography curator Dr Deb Willis; digital creator Max La Manna; senior photographer Rein Skulderud of the World Food Programme; and chef Mogau Seshoene, also known as The Lazy Makoti.

Together, they brought vision and depth to the selection process, ensuring that each winning image resonated with heart, authenticity, and technical mastery.

### FOOD, FRAMED AND CELEBRATED

More than a competition, the World Food Photography Awards reflect how people across the globe continue to express identity, culture, and love through what they eat. This year's winners capture an astonishing range of emotions and traditions. Yet, a shared theme remains: joy lives in the act of eating together.

The triumphs of Xiaoling Li, Debdatta Chakraborty, Indigo Larmour, and Arun Saha prove that food photography is no longer confined to aesthetics alone. It is storytelling through sustenance. It is a feast for the senses that speaks across languages, cultures, and time zones. And in this year's compelling crop of images, it serves up hope, heritage, and the simple, enduring delight of a meal shared.





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