

# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

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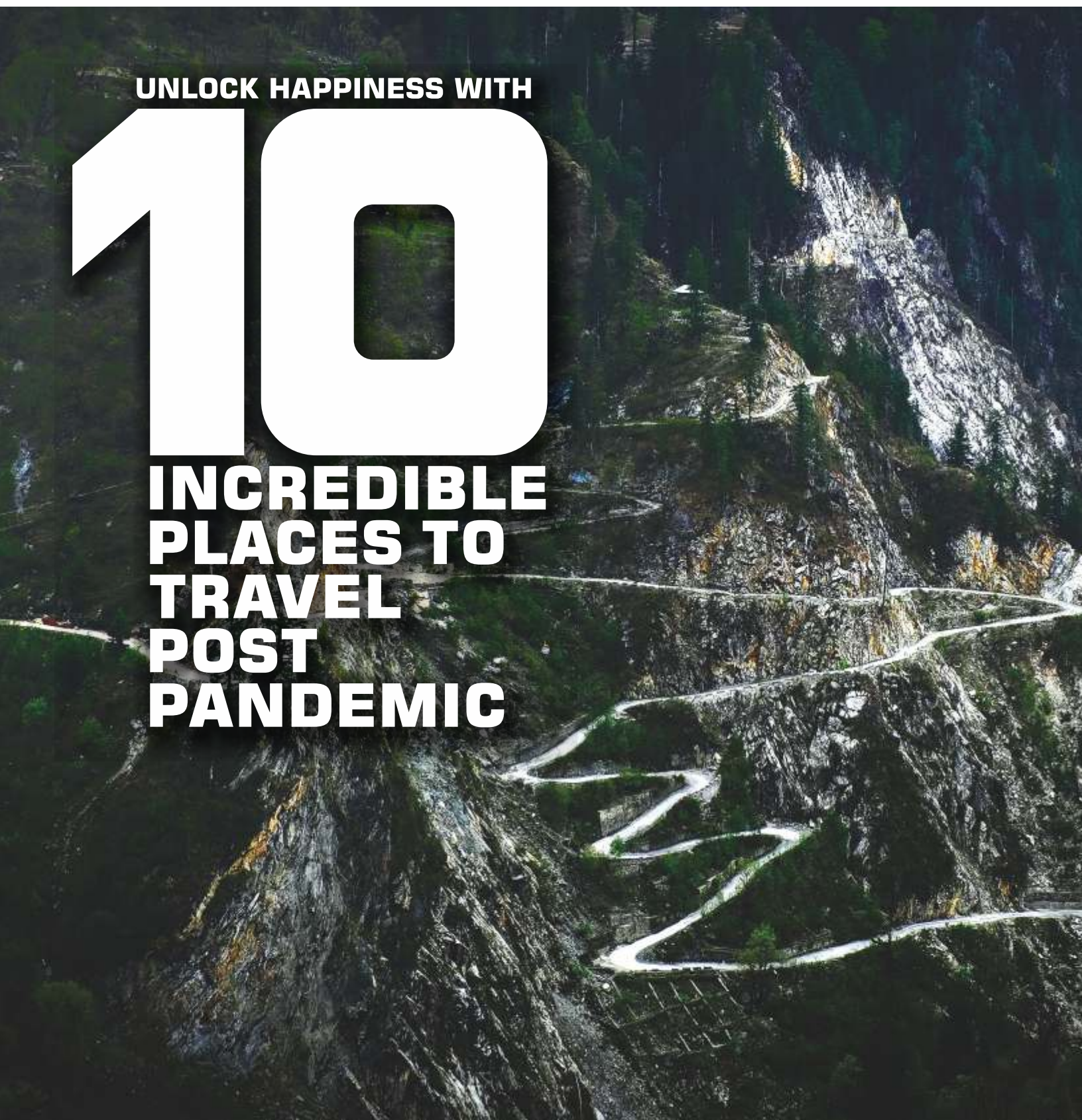
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*A high-end monthly magazine*

**UNLOCK HAPPINESS WITH**

# 10

**INCREDIBLE  
PLACES TO  
TRAVEL  
POST  
PANDEMIC**





# TORAN HOTELS

AHMEDABAD | Mt. ABU | SAPUTARA | DWARKA | NARAYAN SAROVAR



## TORAN GANDHI ASHRAM - AHMEDABAD



### KEY ATTRACTIONS

- Comfortable Stay Options
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- Authentic Gujarati Food
- Reasonable Rates

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- Food Safety Protocols



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**[booking.gujarattourism.com](http://booking.gujarattourism.com) 📞 1800 200 5080**

## TIME WILL TALE

**N**ow that we have got enough time on our hands to think about our next vacation, which destination would you choose? Maybe the one covered with greenery or the one that offers you the melody of cascading water. Oh, you are longing for a breath of fresh air in the hilly areas! No matter what your preferences are, we are here to help you with our curated list of incredible destinations designed for all types of tourists.

So let's redefine uniqueness in the evergreen hills and dense bamboo jungles of Northeast India's Mizoram, or explore the pristine ancient history of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang. If mythological figurines and sculptures are your things, we take you to Rani Ki Vav, UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Read on!



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Share with us some enthusiastic inputs like photographs, essays or anything related to tourism.

## Have some suggestions for us?

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## FOR SUBSCRIPTION QUERIES, CONTACT:

[tourismone@praveg.com](mailto:tourismone@praveg.com)







## **10 INCREDIBLE PLACES TO TRAVEL POST PANDEMIC**

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UNLOCK HAPPINESS WITH

10

INCREDIBLE  
PLACES TO  
TRAVEL POST  
PANDEMIC





It never hurts to dream a little. And as the international trips have become all about a lot of restrictions, why not look inward and visit the gorgeous locations of our country instead, of course once it is safe again. Therefore, we thought of compiling a list of 10 Incredible Indian Destinations that you can visit once this pandemic is over. And if you're wondering why now? We want to ask, why not now? Let's take proper time in finalizing your list of destinations, so that once you decide to go, all you have to do is pack your bags and leave.

# MALANA

## A Quaint Trip

Beautifully set amidst the snowbound mountains of the Parvati Valley at a height of 9500 ft above the sea level, Malana is famed to be the oldest democracy in the world. The scenic village is a little hub of a hundred houses, the kind of village that can be found all over the valleys. Yet there is something special about this cluster of stone roofs. Apart from its natural beauty, Malana is also known for its unique lifestyle and social structure that the locals essentially follow. Their dressing sense, the kind of food they eat, the festivals they celebrate and more reflect the vibrant culture and tradition that is quite unique to the place.





MALANA IS ALSO KNOWN FOR ITS  
UNIQUE LIFESTYLE AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE  
THAT THE LOCALS ESSENTIALLY FOLLOW.



## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:

- Weichin Valley
- Malana Village
- The Shrine of Renuka Devi
- The Jamdagni Temple and more

## THINGS TO DO

Trek up till the Baralacha Pass towards Manali-Leh Road, Trek through the Chanderkhani Pass and Rashol Pass and more.

## HOW TO REACH

### BY AIR:

Manali is well-connected by road to Malana, 90 km away.

### BY RAIL:

Shimla is the closest railway station to Malana.

### BY ROAD:

Manali is well-connected by road to Malana, 90 km away.





MALANA TREK TO KASOL

Source: Mazur Travel/Shutterstock

Source: Indo Gallery/Shutterstock

VILLAGE PEOPLE AND LIFE CELEBRATIONS

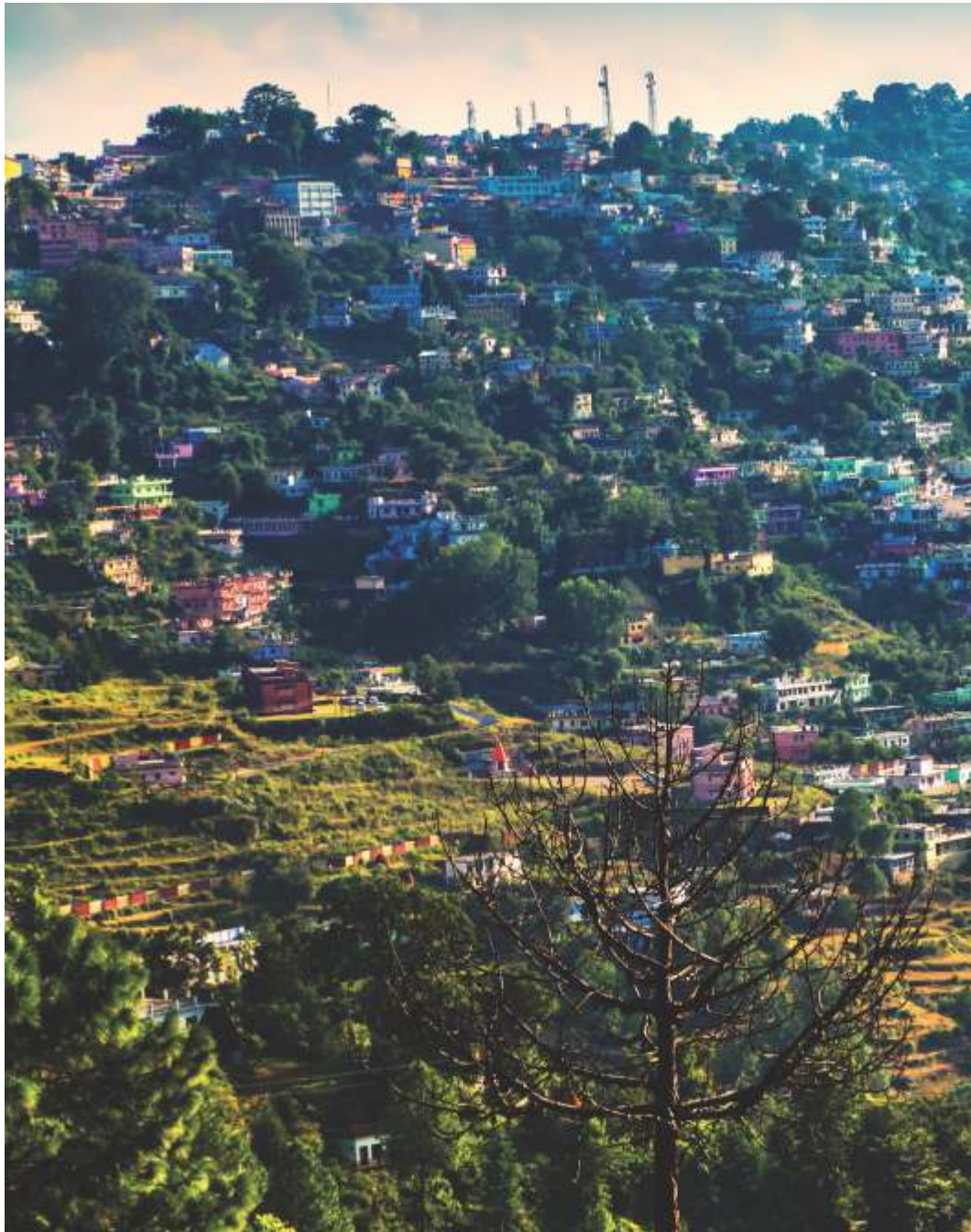
Source: Wirestock Creators/Shutterstock



# ALMORA

## The Heritage Town

Located on a ridge in the Great Himalayas, Almora is a beautiful Indian city in Uttarakhand that plays host to thousands of tourists every year. Its scenic hill terraces, surrounding streams and lush forests covering the towering hills house some of the best Almora tourism places. If you are planning to visit a hill station on your next vacation, consider visiting Almora. The existence of Almora can be traced back to the days of epic Mahabharata. Also known as the town of temples, the place offers a wide range of finger-licking food and shopping experience.





ALMORA IS A BEAUTIFUL INDIAN CITY  
IN UTTARAKHAND THAT PLAYS HOST TO  
THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS EVERY YEAR.





### MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:

- Kasar Devi Temple
- Golu Devta Temple
- Jageshwar Temple

### THINGS TO DO

Trekking,  
shopping, views

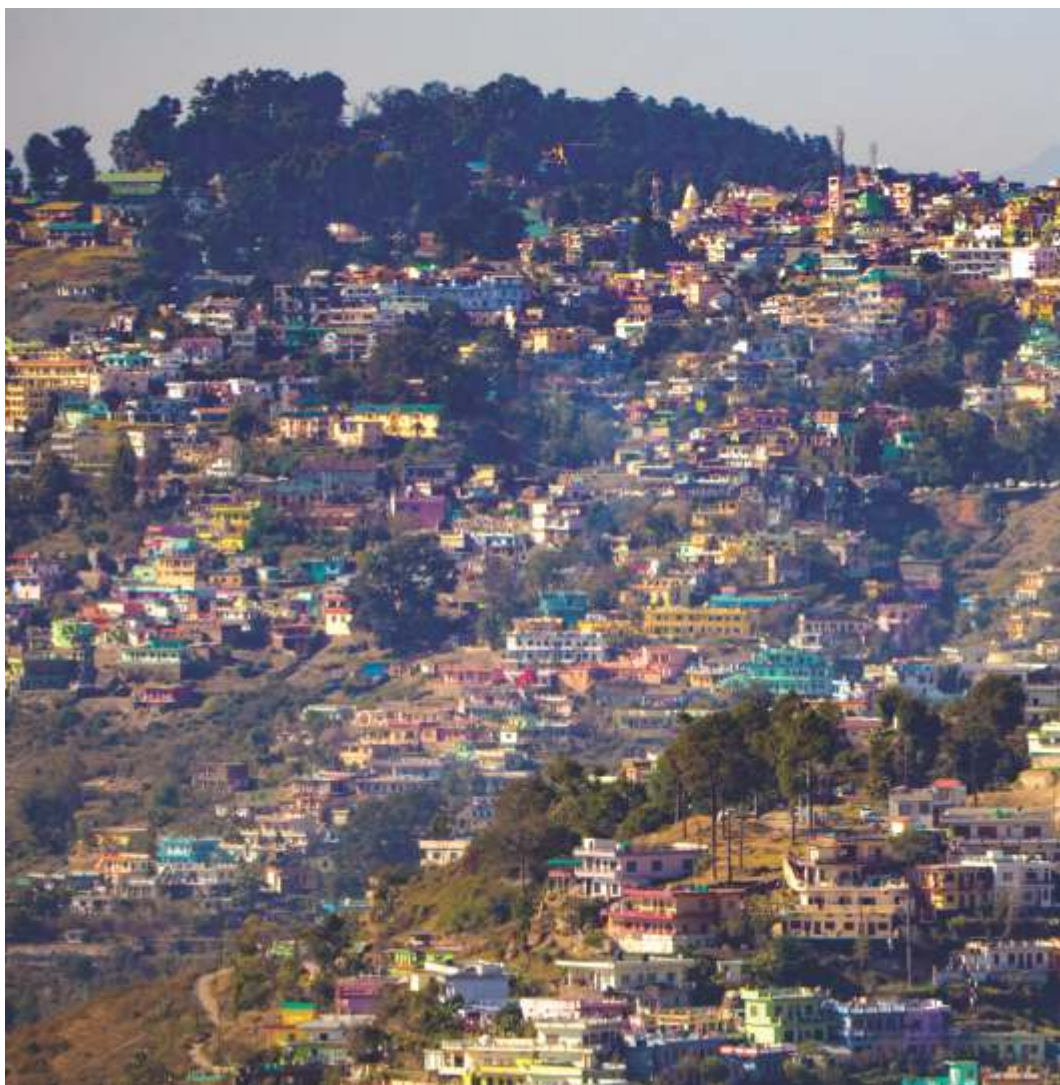
### HOW TO REACH

#### BY AIR:

Pantnagar is the  
nearest airport,  
125 km away.

#### BY RAIL:

Kathgodam is  
the nearest  
railway station,  
81 km away.



BAL MITHAI - A BROWN CHOCOLATE-LIKE FUDGE

Source: Anil/Shutterstock





AERIAL VIEW OF ALMORA

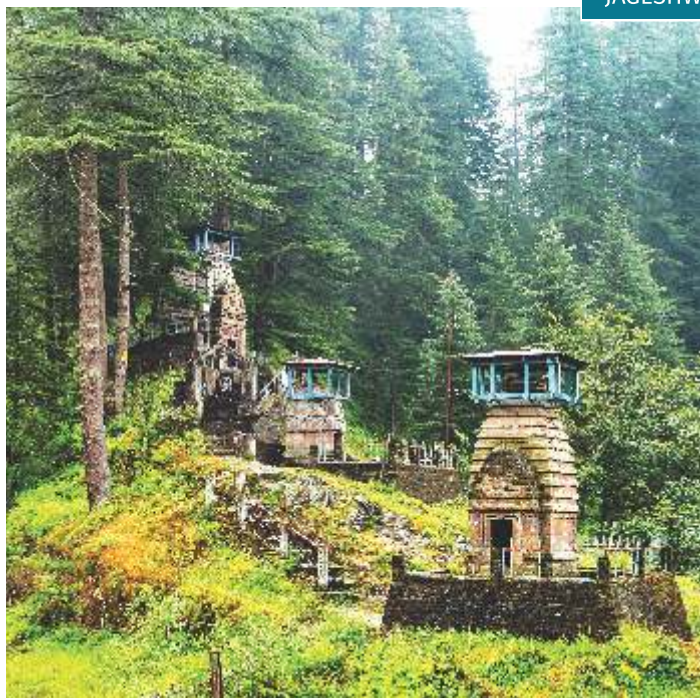


TERRACE FIELDS





JAGESHWAR TEMPLE







KASAR DEVI TEMPLE



Source: inda\_gallery/Shutterstock



# SHIVRAJPUR

## A Beach Affair

**S**hivrajpur, near Dwarka in Gujarat, makes for an ideal holiday destination for travelers with its picturesque view, blue water and fine white sands. The beach is awarded with the 'Blue Flag Beach' status. One of the exclusive features of the beach is, it is disabled-friendly. From Shivrajpur Beach, Dwarka is only 13 km away, while Okha of the lighthouse fame is situated around 23 km away. The serene lapping sound of waves rolling in from the Arabian sea, sand that caresses the feet when walked upon; leaving footprints that are maps to a destination in mantled in solitude, suggest that it is more in the realm of reality than myth that Lord Krishna chose these shores to build his glittering city.





THE BEACH IS AWARDED WITH THE 'BLUE FLAG BEACH' STATUS. ONE OF THE EXCLUSIVE FEATURES OF THE BEACH IS, IT IS DISABLED-FRIENDLY.



SHIVRAJPUR BEACH



### MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:

- Dwarka
- Porbandar
- Somnath
- Sasan Gir

### THINGS TO DO

Beach,  
Water Sports Activities,  
Sightseeing

### HOW TO REACH

#### BY AIR:

Dwarka is connected by train from various parts of the country.

#### BY RAIL:

Dwarka is connected by train from various parts of the country.

#### BY ROAD:

Dwarka is on the state highway from Jamnagar to Dwarka. Direct buses available from Jamnagar and Dwarka.

### WHERE TO STAY

#### Hotel Toran, Dwarka

Near Government Circuit  
House, Dwarka

Visit [www.GujaratTourism.com](http://www.GujaratTourism.com)  
or Call 02892-234013



SHIVRAJPUR BEACH







SOMNATH BEACH



ARABIAN SEA - PORBANDAR





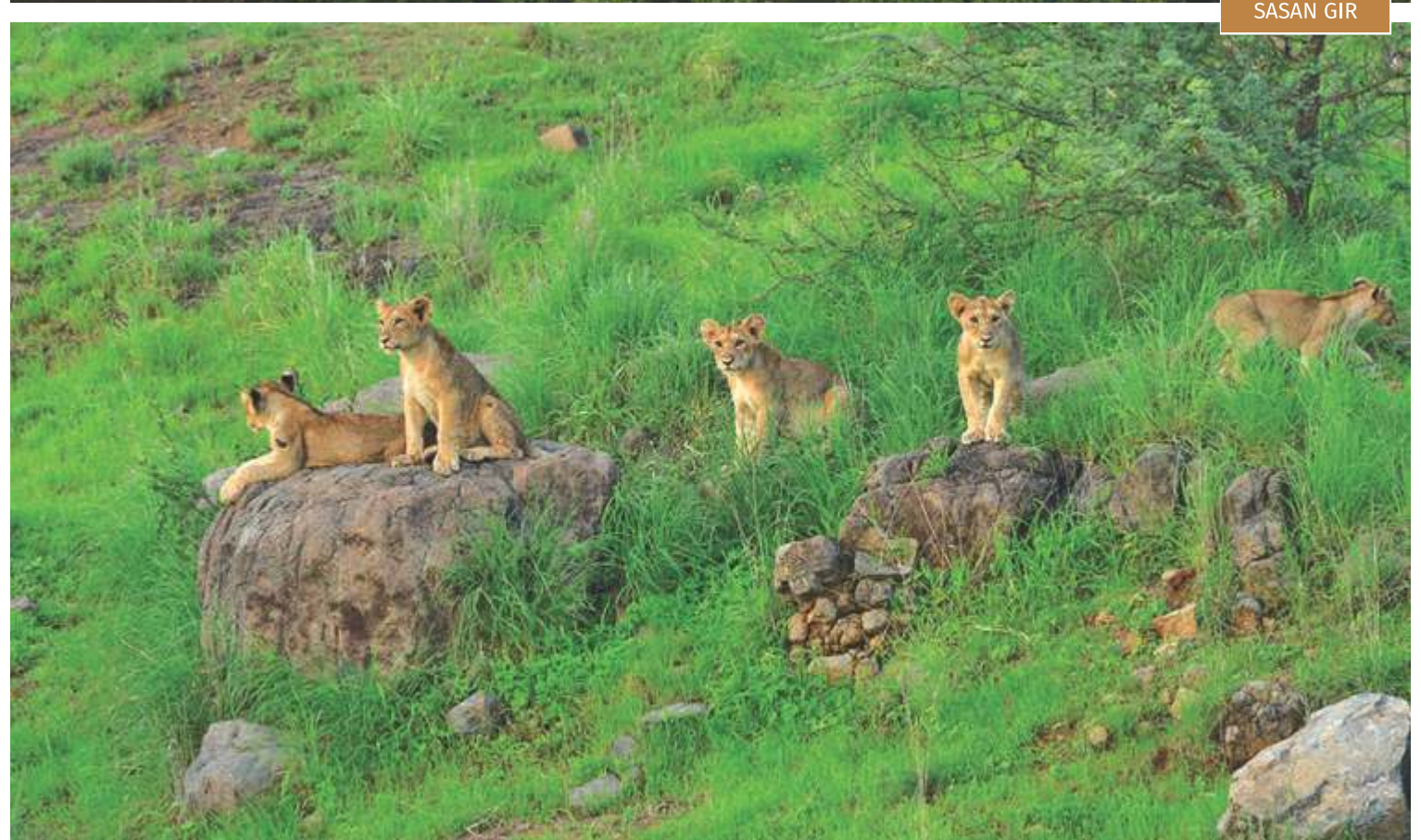
DWARKA







SASAN GIR



# TAWANG

## Adventure Trip

A paradise of tranquil lakes, snowcapped peaks, congenial climate, magical Gompas and remote hamlets, Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh is a beautiful hill station bookmarked by adventurers, backpackers, history lovers and even families. From its glorious legends and mishmash religion to its pristine ancient history and mesmerizing mountain views – a trip in Tawang makes you fall in love instantly.





TAWANG IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH IS A BEAUTIFUL HILL STATION BOOKMARKED BY ADVENTURISTS, BACKPACKERS, HISTORY LOVERS AND EVEN FAMILIES.



### MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:

- Tawang Monastery
- Bap Teng Kang
- Tawang War Memorial
- Sela Pass, Gorichen Peak and Madhuri Lake

### THINGS TO DO

Skiing in Pankang Teng Tso Lake, A Day Toru to Bum La Pass and opt for bird-watching at Bhajagan Lake

### HOW TO REACH

#### BY AIR:

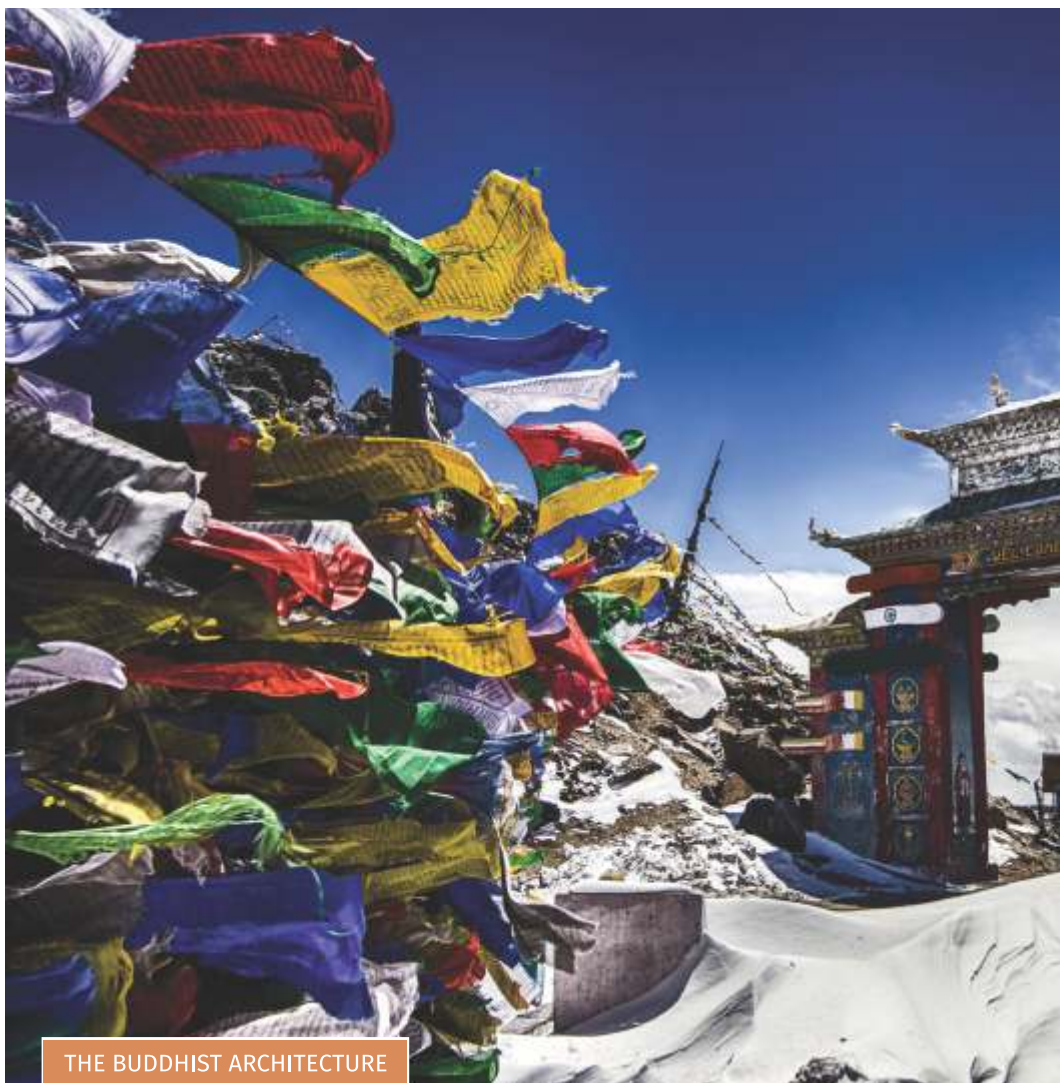
Tezpur Airport in Assam is the nearest airport, 143 km away from Tawang.

#### BY RAIL:

The nearest railway station is Tezpur.

#### BY ROAD:

Bus services are available from Tezpur and Bomdila.



THE BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE



FESTIVAL CELEBRATION IN TAWANG MONASTERY

Source: Nomad1988/Shutterstock





TAWANG MONASTERY



NURANANG FALLS

# CHAKRATA

## An Offbeat Experience

Chakrata is a pleasant getaway tucked amidst coniferous, oak and rhododendron trees and away, most importantly, from pollution. Around 2 hours from Dehradun, this place is perfect for a decent amount of adventure. Trekking to the 312 ft tall Tiger Falls is a must do, along with cave exploring at the Budher caves. Places such as Deobaand and Ram Tal Horticultural Garden are for observing the bountiful flora and fauna of this area, catering specifically to birdwatchers.





CHAKRATA IS A PLEASANT GETAWAY  
TUCKED AMIDST CONIFEROUS, OAK AND  
RHODODENDRON TREES AND AWAY,  
MOST IMPORTANTLY, FROM POLLUTION.



VIEW OF HIMALAYAN RANGE FROM CHIRMIRI PEAK

### **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:**

- **Tiger Falls**
- **Chilmiri Neck**
- **Kimona Falls**
- **Yamuna Adventure Park**

### **THINGS TO DO**

Sightseeing,  
Camping, River Rafting,  
Birdwatching, Trekking

### **HOW TO REACH**

#### **BY AIR:**

Grant Airport,  
Dehradun is at a  
distance of 118 km.

#### **BY RAIL:**

Dehradun is the  
nearest railway  
station, 88 km away.

#### **BY ROAD:**

A roadtrip to Chakrata  
is a great way to  
explore the views  
along the scenic roads.



SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS



LANDMARK ON THE WAY TO TIGER FALLS





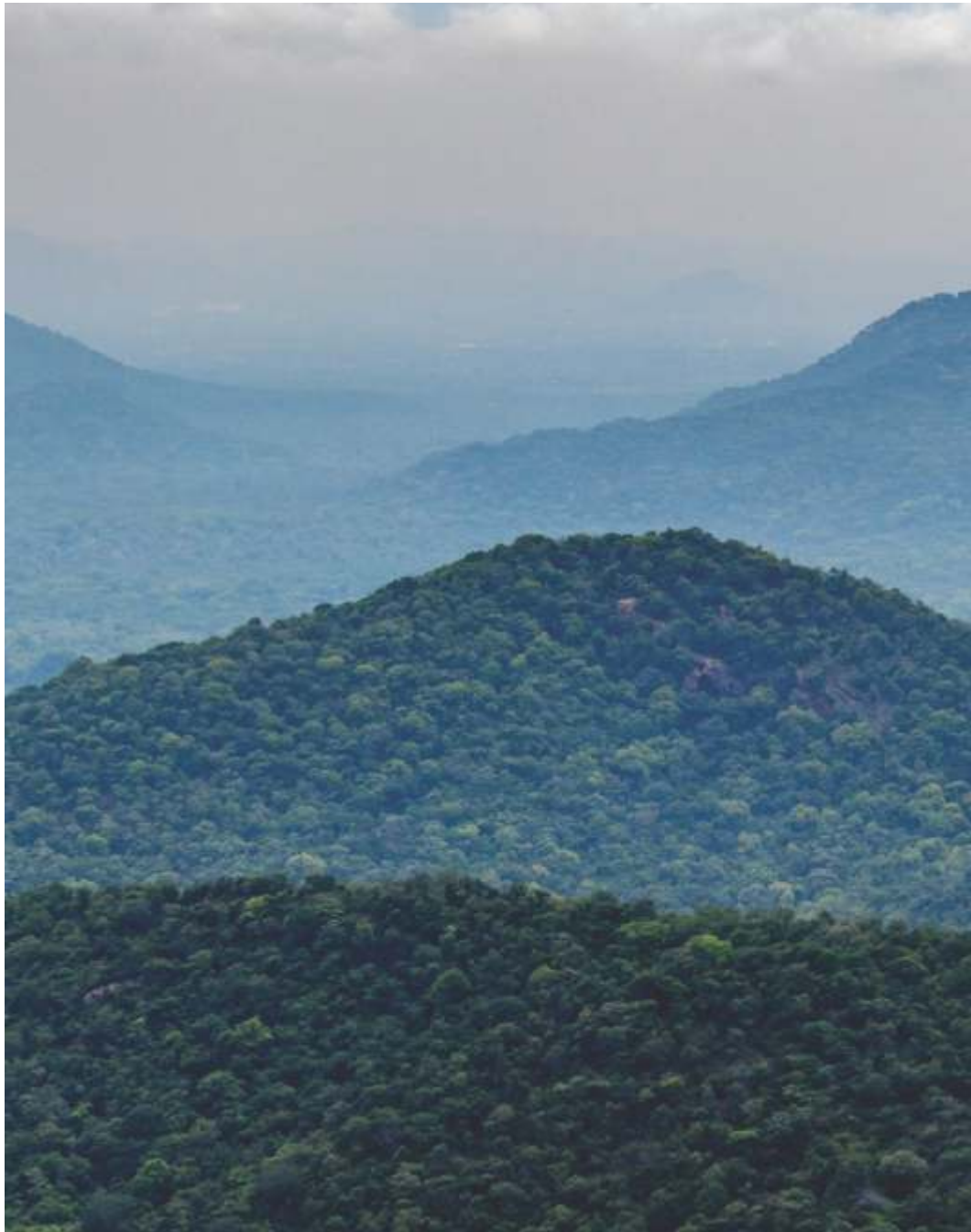
TIGER FALLS



# YERCAUD

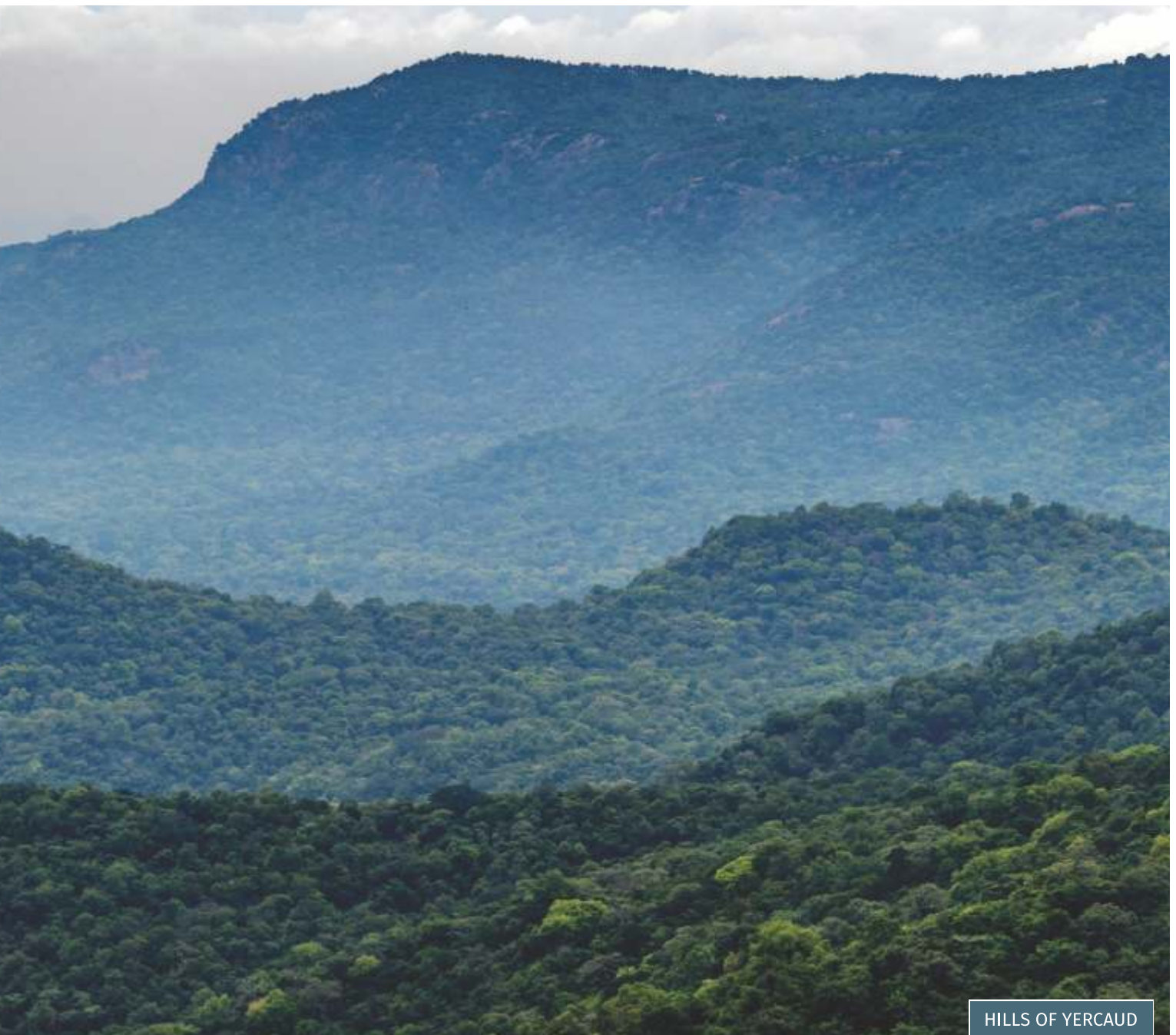
## For Mountain Lovers

Yercaud in Tamil Nadu is a popular tourist destination and hill station and there are a number of things to be done here and quite a few places to be visited. Beyond the clichéd images of South India, there is a stunning world of Yercaud awaiting you in its calm and cozy unspoiled surroundings. The entire region is like a paradise, with its picaresque locals, dreamy walkways, blue hills and great weather.





YERCAUD IN TAMIL NADU IS A POPULAR  
TOURIST DESTINATION AND HILL STATION AND  
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS TO BE DONE  
HERE AND QUITE A FEW PLACES TO BE VISITED.



HILLS OF YERCAUD

### MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:

- The Burma Bucket
- The Sweet Bear Cave
- Vantawng Waterfalls

### THINGS TO DO

Sightseeing, Camping,  
Local Cuisine,  
Trekking

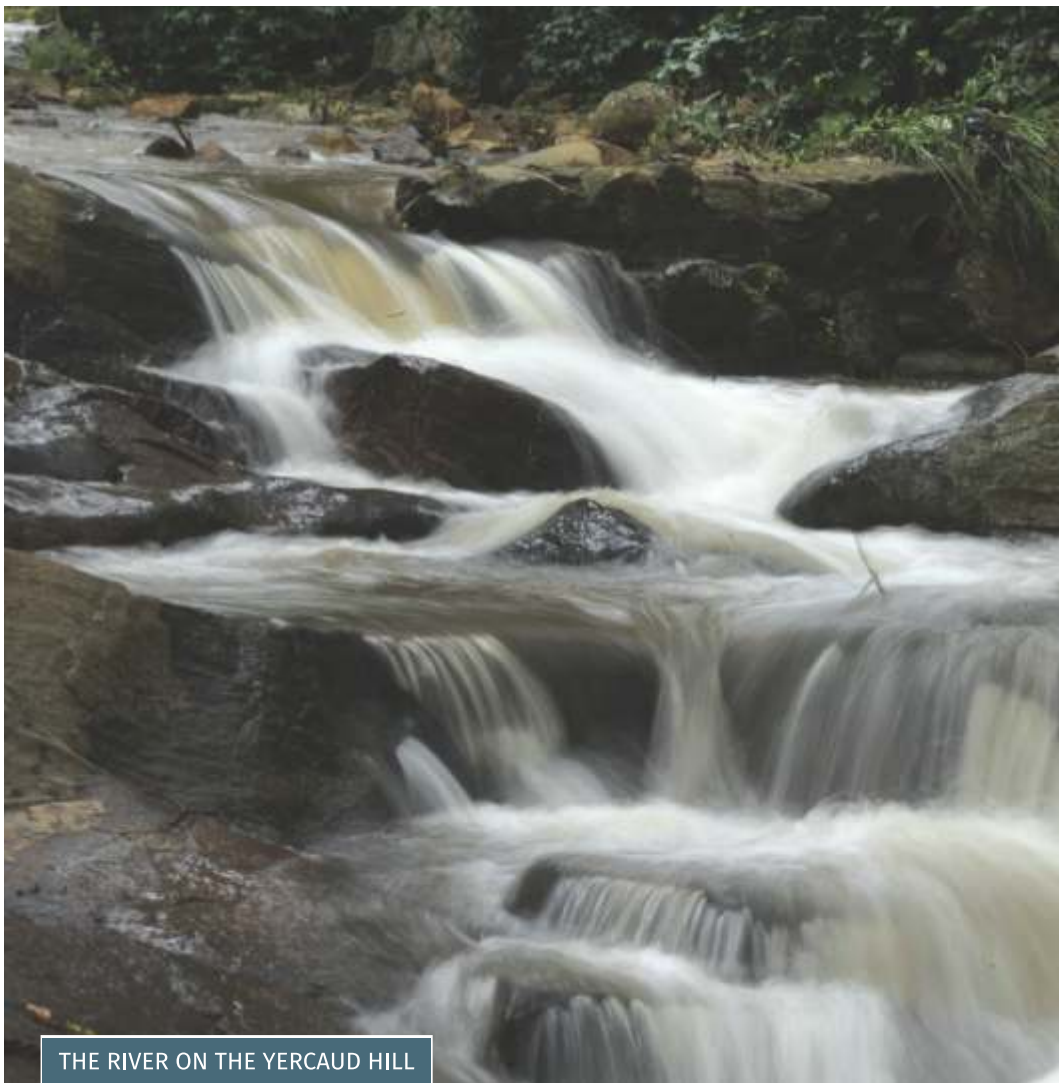
### HOW TO REACH

#### BY AIR:

Salem Airport is  
the nearest airport,  
48 km away.

#### BY RAIL:

The nearest railway station  
is the Salem Junction at  
a distance of 33 km.



THE RIVER ON THE YERCAUD HILL



YERCAUD LAKE





HILLS



SILVER OAK TREE LANDSCAPE



# KANATAL

## For Peace-seekers

**K**anatal is a serene and picturesque suburb of Mussoorie, snuggled on the Chamba-Mussoorie road. Though not so popular, Kanatal is picture perfect and boasts of heavenly scenery, luxuriant vegetation, and bountiful adventure activities. If you are looking for a holiday with solemn peace but are disturbed with a bit of fun & thrill at times, take a trip to Kanatal, away from urban hassles.





KANATAL IS PICTURE PERFECT AND BOASTS  
OF HEAVENLY SCENERY, LUXURIANT VEGETATION,  
AND BOUNTIFUL ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES.



ON THE WAY TO KANATAL FROM DHANAULTI



## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

- Surkanda Devi Temple
- Kodia Jungle
- New Tehri
- Kodia Forest and Chamba

## THINGS TO DO

Burma bridge crossing, Commando Walking, Natural Rock Climbing, Flying Fox and Rappelling at Dhanaulti-Tehri Road, Valley Crossing and Overnight Camping in Kanatal and much more.

## HOW TO REACH

### BY AIR:

Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun is the nearest airport.

### BY RAIL:

Dehradun Railway Station is the nearest railway station.



SURROUNDING OF SURKANDA DEVI TEMPLE



KANATAL SPORTS CAMP





PINE FORESTS, ECO PARK



TEHRI DAM



SURKUNDA DEVI TEMPLE

# TIRTHAN

## Camp, Bonfire & Chill

One of the most serene and beautiful place in Himachal Pradesh, Tirthan Valley draws its name from Tirthan River originating from glaciers of Himalaya. Situated at an altitude of 1600 meters, Tirthan Valley is a place where you will find many nature-walks following one trail or the other, into the woods or beside the river. There are also quite a few treks ranging from 4 to 15 days, as high as 4000 meters. This is the best place for camping, bonfires, eating out or simply relaxing among much more.





# VALLEY

SITUATED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1600 METERS, TIRTHAN VALLEY IS A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL FIND MANY NATURE-WALKS FOLLOWING ONE TRAIL OR THE OTHER, INTO THE WOODS OR BESIDE THE RIVER.



EARLY MORNING HIKE TO JALORI PASS

## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

- Great Himalayan National Park
- Jalori Pass
- Seloskar Lake and more

## THINGS TO DO

River Crossing, Trout Fishing, Trek to Great Himalayn National Park, Trek to Jalori Pass, Bird Watching, Camping and Rock Climbing

## HOW TO REACH

### BY AIR:

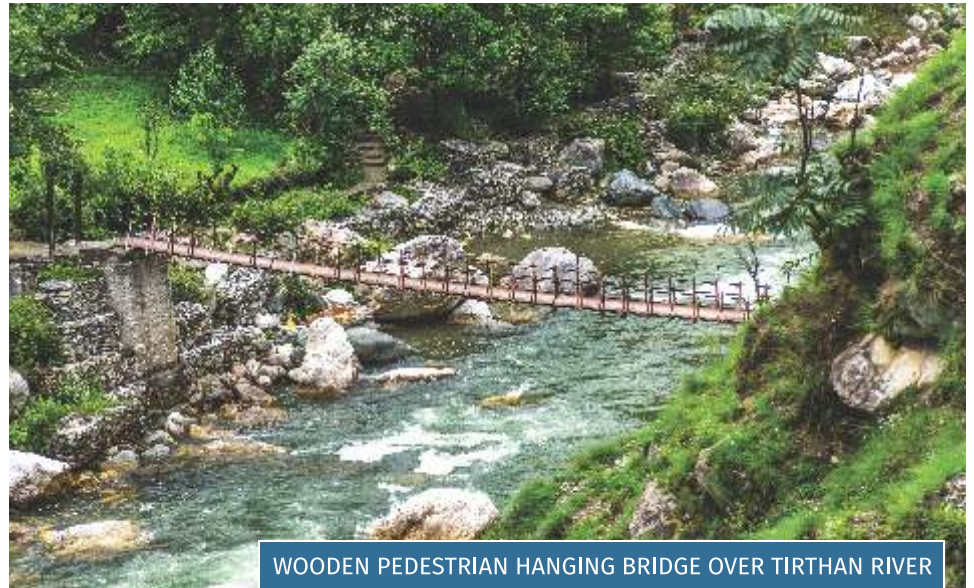
Kullu is the nearest airport, around 50 km away.

### BY RAIL:

Kalka is the nearest railway station at a distance of 240 km.







WOODEN PEDESTRIAN HANGING BRIDGE OVER TIRTHAN RIVER



THE NATURE WALK LEADING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE JIBHI FALLS



SEROLSAR LAKE - JALORI PASS



TUNNEL, GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK



# MIZORAM

## Uniqueness Redefined

**K**nown for its evergreen hills and dense bamboo jungles, Mizoram lies in the southern-most tip of northeast India. Called the Land of Blue Mountains, the hills are crisscrossed by gushing rivers and high sparkling waterfalls. With a wide array of festivals, dances, handicrafts, flora and fauna, natural scenic beauty and pleasant climate, Mizoram has much to offer to its visitors.





KNOWN FOR ITS EVERGREEN HILLS AND DENSE BAMBOO JUNGLES, MIZORAM LIES IN THE SOUTHERN-MOST TIP OF NORTHEAST INDIA.



AIZAWL CITYSCAPE



### MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:

- Aizawl
- Mamit
- Reiek
- Vantawng Waterfalls

### THINGS TO DO

Sightseeing,  
Camping,  
Local Cuisine, Trekking

### HOW TO REACH

#### BY AIR:

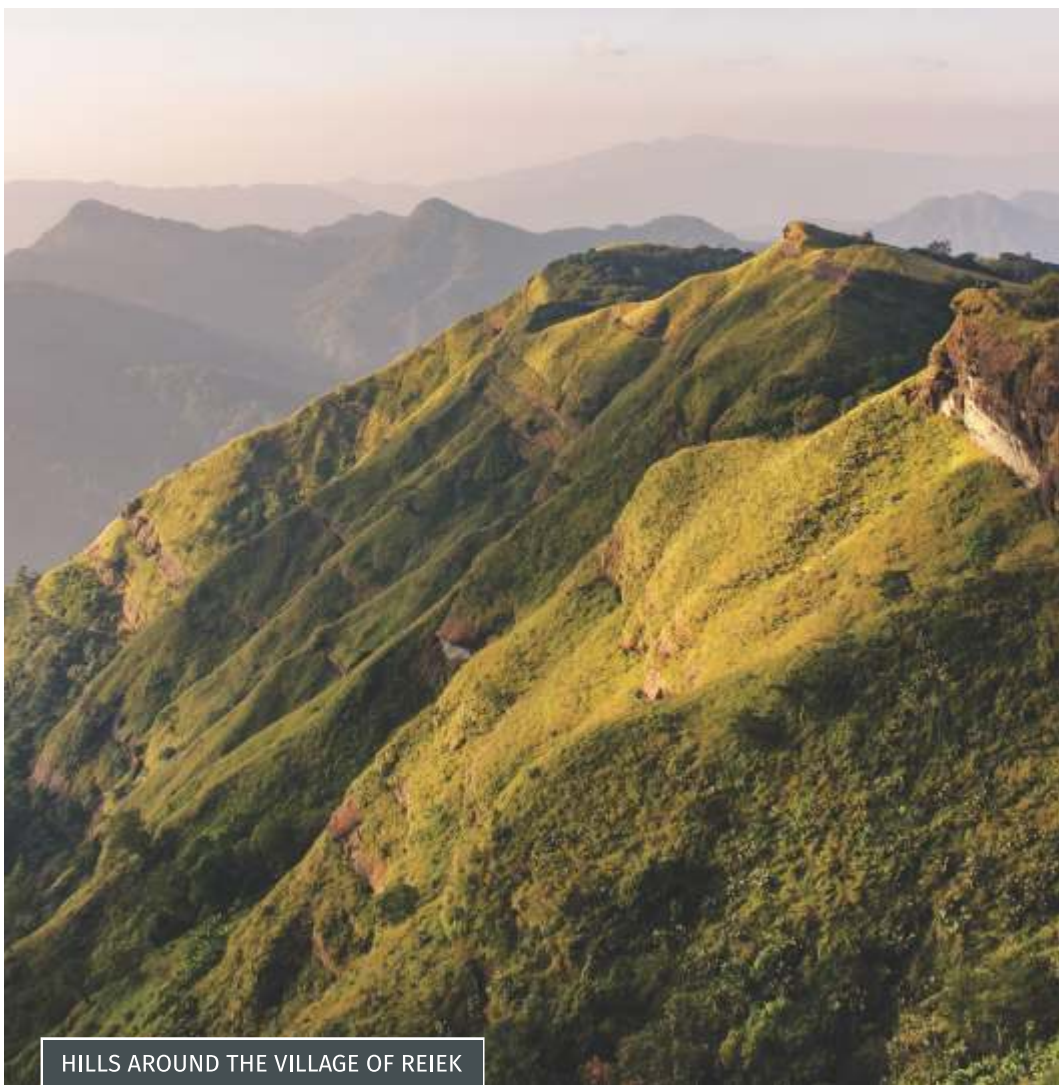
Lengpui Airport  
is the main airport  
in Mizoram.

#### BY RAIL:

Silchar has the  
nearest railway  
station.

#### BY ROAD:

Bus services are  
available from  
Tezpur and Bomdila.



HILLS AROUND THE VILLAGE OF REIEK



TUIRIAHU WATERFALLS





VANTWANG WATERFALLS



TRADITIONAL DANCE OF MIZO TRIBE



MIZO HANDLOOM WORKS



# RANI KI VAV

## UNESCO World Heritage Site

**T**ranslated to 'Queen's Stepwell', this is one of the most unique places to visit in Gujarat. Created in 1063, this majestic structure is in the shape of an inverted temple. The structure was excavated by ASI in the 1980s as it lay submerged in River Saraswati. It is divided into seven levels, the walls of which are engraved with hundreds of mythological figurines, motifs and sculptures that depict 3 levels of Hindu cosmology i.e. heaven, earth and the patal lok.





CREATED IN 1063, THIS MAJESTIC STRUCTURE IS IN THE SHAPE OF AN INVERTED TEMPLE. THE STRUCTURE WAS EXCAVATED BY ASI IN 1980S AS IT LAY SUBMERGED IN RIVER SARASWATI.



RANI KI VAV



### THINGS TO DO

Sightseeing,  
Local Cuisine,  
Shopping

### WHERE TO STAY

1. **Dowlat Villas Palace,**  
Himmatnagar

A Royal hotel and  
Homestay approved by  
Gujarat Tourism

Mobile: 9825500306

For booking, visit:  
[www.GujaratTourism.com](http://www.GujaratTourism.com)

2. **Dowlat Villas Palace -**

The Heritage,  
Himmatnagar,

A Royal hotel and  
Homestay approved by  
Gujarat Tourism

Mobile: 9824301049,  
9426402609

For booking, visit:  
[www.GujaratTourism.com](http://www.GujaratTourism.com)









### MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:

- Sahastralinga Talav
- Patan Patola Heritage Museum
- Modhera Sun Temple
- Shri Panchasara Parshwanath Mandir
- Patan City Museum
- Bindu Sarovar
- Shankeshwar Parshwanath Jain Mandir
- Khan Sarovar

### HOW TO REACH

#### BY AIR:

The nearest airport is in Ahmedabad.

#### BY RAIL:

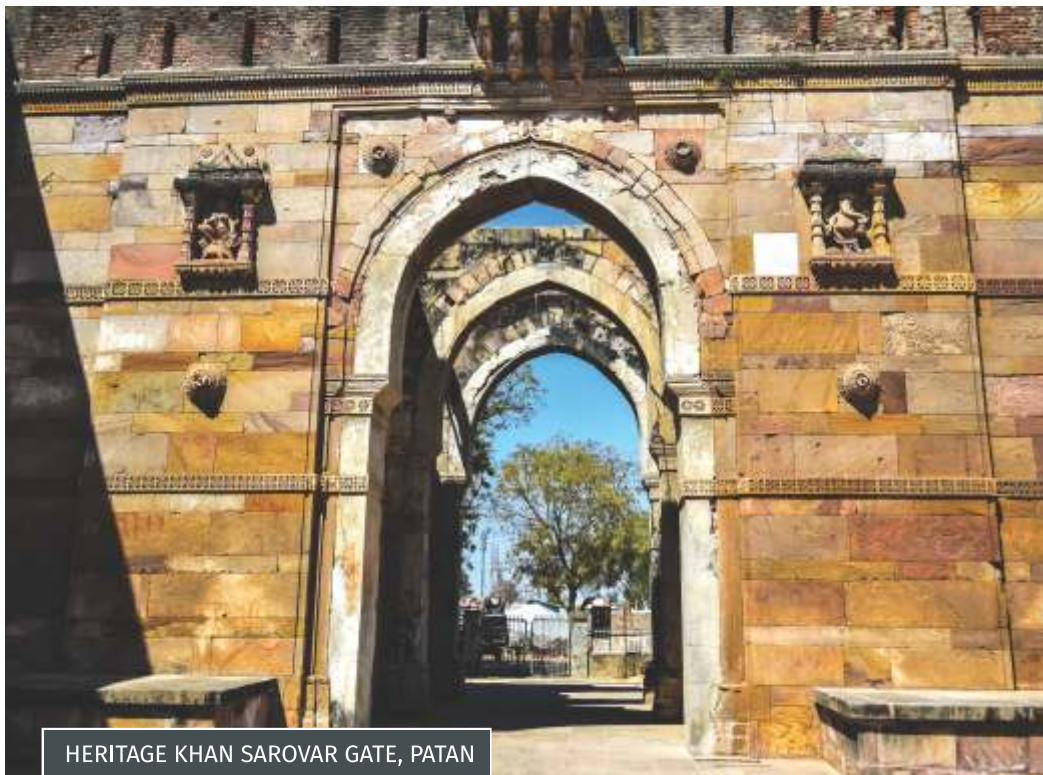
The train takes you as far as Mehsana.

#### BY ROAD:

Intercity buses from Ahmedabad to Patan take 3.5 hours, and 1 hour from Mehsana. 🚌



SAHASRALINGA TALAV



HERITAGE KHAN SAROVAR GATE, PATAN



PATODA OF PATAN





SAHASRALINGA TALAV



MODHERA SUN TEMPLE





## IN CADID CONVERSATION WITH

**CAPTAIN AJAY CHAUHAN**  
CEO, Gujarat State Aviation  
Infrastructure Company Limited  
(GUJSAIL)

### 1. In line with GUJSAIL's goal of developing robust aviation infrastructure, how successful has the company been in achieving them?

With its limited role, GUJSAIL has been committed to transform Indian skies and has been well-poised to play its part in heralding unparalleled development of aviation sector in the country, be it world-class MRO development, modernization and upgradation of airports and airstrips or development of innovative seaplane service and water aerodrome in record time. GUJSAIL's vision has been to ensure state-of-the-art civil aviation infrastructure in Gujarat, in turn, making a key contribution in the success of the state. Over the years, GUJSAIL has been successful in enabling the growth of the air hub and aviation industry, in overseeing and promoting safety in the industry, providing services, and developing Gujarat as a centre of excellence for aviation development, aviation knowledge and human resource development.

### 2. Please share with us about the recent initiatives and projects undertaken by GUJSAIL aimed at comprehensive development of the aviation sector.

The Civil Aviation Department of Government of Gujarat and GUJSAIL have taken path breaking steps in launching India's first seaplane service since the Ministry of Civil Aviation has included seaplane operations from water aerodromes under UDAN. The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has awarded seaplane routes connecting 12 water aerodromes, three of them are in Gujarat – Sardar Sarovar Dam (Statue of Unity), Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad

and Shatrunjay Dam. The first-ever Seaplane Operations under the UDAN scheme is operational between Sabarmati Riverfront and Statue of Unity, Kevadia, both operational water aerodromes. Shatrunjay Dam will also have a water aerodrome soon. Other water aerodromes will also be planned in future.

We are also working to develop new airstrips at Ankleshwar, Rajpipla, Morbi and Ambaji, and later also at Dwarka and Palitana. GUJSAIL is also working on the development of permanent heliports. The Aviation Park at Rajkot will also be one of our major initiatives. Though the Pandemic has slowed down the work on the plans, we expect to start the process of planning the Aviation Park soon. The park will have a museum, airstrip, training school and helipad among other aviation-related facilities. It will raise awareness among students, professionals, policymakers and business entities about the potential of growth in the aviation sector. An Aviation Park can develop into a one-stop destination for aerospace training, research, recreation and manufacturing as well as leasing. We also expect to have more flying schools in Gujarat.

Also, the Government of India has identified 'GIFT-City' near Gujarat's state capital of Gandhinagar, as a 'Special Economic Zone' (SEZ) for the promotion of air-finance and leasing business. In line with the central government policies, the Government of Gujarat also intends to set up the Drone academy, which is aiming to align itself with the best international practices to establish India as a technological hub for the usage of UAS and drones in varied applications.



“ REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY CAN  
PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN  
MAKING AIR TRAVEL ACCESSIBLE  
AND AFFORDABLE, AND ALSO  
IN BOOSTING THE ECONOMY OF  
SMALLER CITIES AND TOWNS. ”

GUJSAIL plans to develop land close to the proposed Ankleshwar airport for MRO and other aviation-related facilities to encourage the local entrepreneurs and companies to start such aviation-related ventures. This is in keeping with the 'Make In India' and 'Vocal for Local' initiatives of the Government.

**3. The State of Gujarat has immense potential for growth in aviation activities like aero-sports, aero modeling and Heli-tourism. What are the initiatives of GUJSAIL in these areas?**

We understood that at the beginning of any activity, it is important to build up interest, and awareness in the consumer end-users associated with such a field of activity. For this reason, GUJSAIL has introduced aero-sports activity in the curriculum of some local schools in which students are imparted training on an aircraft model build-up, aerodynamics, aero model flying, etc. Apart from these, we have also undertaken an aero sport event with huge success at Mehsana, Amreli, Ahmedabad, Rajkot with path-breaking responses from the people of the State. We are also trying to build up a plan for the NCC Air Wing to be able to attract youth who will be part of the future aviation industry.

**4. Under the UDAN scheme, what are GUJSAIL's efforts in creating regional connectivity in Gujarat?**

For any developing nation, aviation is its backbone. And apart from Defense, it is a regional sector that acts as its spine.

Regional connectivity can play an important role in making

air travel accessible and affordable, and also in boosting the economy of smaller cities and towns. In India, air connectivity was largely limited to metropolitan cities and some big cities or state capitals. In July 2016, the Civil Aviation Ministry of the Government of India announced National Civil Aviation Policy 2016, which encompasses UDAN-RCS. UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is an effort towards regional airport development and the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) that aims to make air travel widespread.

The Civil Aviation Department, Government of Gujarat, and GUJSAIL have been successfully executing the mandate given to the State Government for the process of building new airports, including giving or acquiring land for the new airfields, providing trained security and fire safety personnel, creating multimodal hinterland connectivity where needed, reducing taxes where applicable, coordinating with companies to create fuelling facilities and providing water, electricity and other utilities at a reduced rate with future in mind and being conscious of upcoming needs.

**5. Can you share with us about the Seaplane Service that was launched last year and its expansion plans, if any?**

In December 2017, the seaplane service was used by PM Shri Narendra Modi, who boarded the flight from Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to Dharoi. Under his guidance and the leadership of Shri Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister, Gujarat signed a tripartite MoU in 2020 with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India and Airports Authority of India to start the first-ever 'Seaplane





GUJARAT STATE AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANY LIMITED

[www.gujsail.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.gujsail.gujarat.gov.in)



Services in Gujarat' to provide seamless and affordable air connectivity from Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity, Kevadia. The Scheme is being implemented by the terms and conditions of a tripartite agreement between the State Government, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India and the Airports Authority of India.

On the occasion of the 146th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st October 2020, India's first seaplane service was inaugurated by Hon'ble PM in Gujarat. The Seaplane is operating from Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to Kevadia where the Statue of Unity is located. The seaplane is operated by SpiceJet, subsidiary of Spice Shuttle, which is planned to operate multiple flights daily. Thus, tourists are able to get to the destination within 45 minutes instead of surface transport, which would have taken them a driving time of about five to six hours between Ahmedabad and Kevadia, depending on traffic.

Also, AAI has awarded three RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme) routes by seaplane at Sardar Sarovar Dam (Statue of Unity), Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad and Shatrunjay Dam in Gujarat. The Gujarat Government is developing Water Aerodromes at the selected sites.

**6. How has sustainability initiatives been a focus area for GUJSAIL while developing infrastructure?**

Over the years, our country has made huge strides to ensure access to clean and affordable energy. The

Government of India's push towards increasing the share of energy in the economy is promising for the overall growth of the society and economy. GUJSAIL understands the impending climate change risks and the transformation required to address the issue, and continues to push for supporting the Government's commitments. As a part of this, GUJSAIL has already been in the process of having a solar power plant at its headquarters for making the building self-sustainable. Also, GUJSAIL has made the provision to encourage renewable energy in terms of Solar Power Plant, Rain Harvesting, Solid Waste Management at its existing infrastructure and future project development.

**7. What are your views on participation of private industry in the aviation sector?**

GUJSAIL understands that private sector participation is a must for the industry to reach its best potential. For this, it has always focused on the upgradation and modernization of its airports and aviation infrastructure. GUJSAIL has made different schemes i.e. VGF, PPP, BOOT, etc. For any of its projects, GUJSAIL undertakes techno-commercial feasibility by a reputed consultant with a clear aim to encourage more private participation in accordance with the scheme document.

**8. Please share with us about the activities directed towards development of support aviation infrastructure.**

Developing Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) in India is essential towards the growth of the





Aviation Industry. The industry could provide monetary gain. However, in case of India, the funds are diverted to the neighbouring country, which means loss of business and employment opportunities in India and outflow of foreign exchange. GUJSAIL understands the reasons for such outflow and has made a plan for revising this trend. At present, the MRO at Ahmedabad has seen 60 inspections uptill now in a short span of time. This facility performs inspections, airframe, maintenance and repair of Aircraft.

Further, Ankleshwar in Bharuch District has been earmarked as MRO Airstrip by GUJSAIL. Ankleshwar's vantage point location with proximity to Mumbai and Ahmedabad airports places it in an advantageous position to reap in the benefits of catering to high demand. Ankleshwar being close to the shipping port and DMIC Corridor also gains greater advantage as compared to other MROs. Once operational, the Ankleshwar MRO will be able to serve Baroda, Surat, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Indore airports.

With all of the above plans, GUJSAIL understands that Human Resources is important for this. GUJSAIL has also planned to set up an Aviation Training Institute at Mehsana, Amreli Airfield equipped with world-class training facilities and the latest aviation equipment.

The state-of-the-art Aviation Park at Rajkot will also be one of our major initiatives. Though the Pandemic has slowed down the work on the plans, we expect to start the

process of planning the Aviation Park soon. The park will have features like 4D cinema, flight simulators, cargo center, aero sports, airstrip, training school, and leasing centre helipad among others. It will raise awareness among students, professionals, policymakers and business entities about the potential of growth in the aviation sector. An Aviation Park can develop into a one-stop destination for aerospace training, research, recreation and manufacturing.

#### **9. What is the way forward for GUJSAIL? What are the anticipated challenges to achieve the objectives?**

Aviation, being a central subject, has to face more challenges at the State level as compared to other sectors like Energy, Health, etc. For this, we visualize that there is now an absolute need for a Civil Aviation Policy at the State level. For this, GUJSAIL has already brought out a comprehensive tender. The Policy will address all the segments of aviation like MRO, Regional Connectivity, Aviation Training, Aero Sports, Manufacturing with the clear outlined outcome. It will also give a transparent, fair and level playing field to all those in the manufacturing of aviation products in line with the benefits being provided to other industries in the State. The other area is the unavailability of trained & skilled resources in Aviation. It is not because there is no interest from students, but because of a lack of guidance to the individual. GUJSAIL plans to encourage awareness so that such resources are absorbed in aviation and not lost to other sectors like Tourism. ■



# THE TEMPLE TOWN OF AMBANJI

Picturesquely situated in the Aravalli hills of Northern Gujarat, Ambaji Temple is a major Shakti Peeth of India where the Goddess Amba is worshipped. The original seat of Ambaji Mata is on the summit of Gabbar hill. According to the Mahapitha-purana, there are 51 sites where the body of Sati fell across the Indian subcontinent, and it is believed that the Heart of Sati Devi has fallen at Ambaji. Made of white marble with gold cones, the temple was originally built by Nagar Brahmins. The temple is surrounded by an open square called chachar chowk, where ceremonial sacrifices called havans are performed. The inner sanctum of the temple has silver-plated doors. There is a gokh, or niche, in the wall on which is fixed an old-plated marble inscription of the Viso Yantra, a Vedic text on sacred geometry, which is the main focus of worship. Apart from the Amba Mata Temple, the Gabbar hill is part of the Ambaji pilgrim circuit. About 1,600 feet above sea level, the hill has a shrine reached by about 999 steps.





AMBAJI TEMPLE



A large number of devotees visit the temple and the Gabbar summit every year, especially on Purnima (full moon) days. The mela on the day of the full moon night of Bhadarvi Poornima is especially auspicious. Navratri is also hugely celebrated. With places like Gabbar Hills, which is associated with legends of Devi Sati and Kailash Hill sunset in its proximity, Danta Ambaji ensures to give all its visitors a once in a lifetime experience. The place is not only associated with beautiful places of worship with beliefs as old as the origin of mankind but also depicts the beautiful connection between the gods and nature in the most enthralling way possible. 📍

## HOW TO GET THERE

### BY AIR:

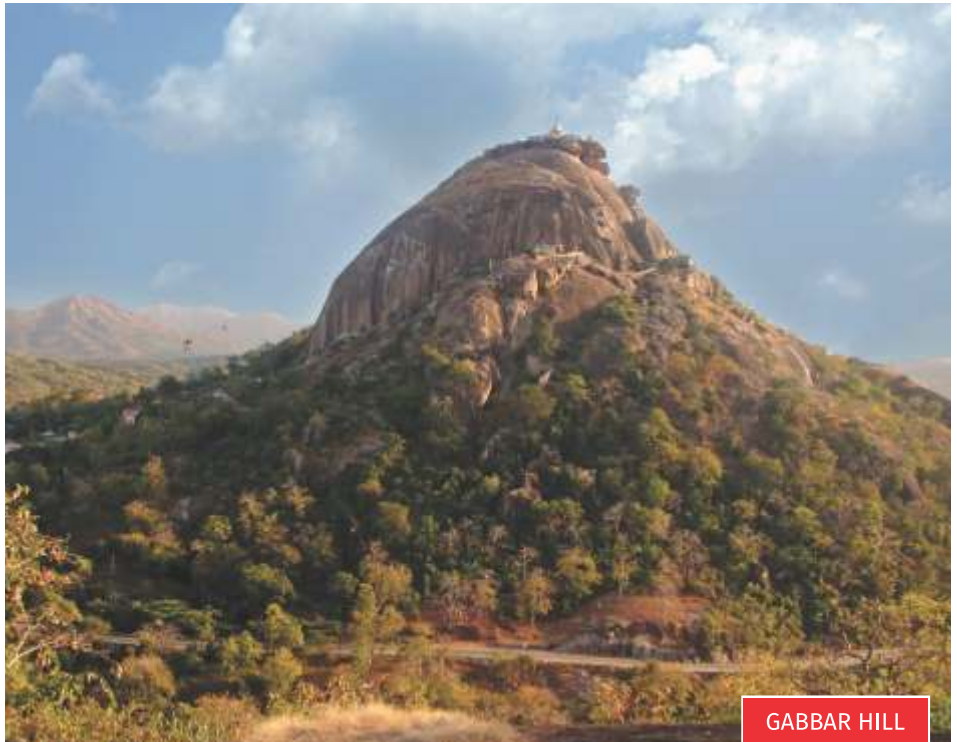
Nearest airport is SVP Ahmedabad.

### BY RAIL:

Palanpur, at 65 km, is the nearest railway station.

### BY ROAD:

Ambaji is in Danta Taluka of Banaskantha district, near the Gujarat-Rajasthan border. Direct buses are available from many places, including Mount Abu, 45 km away, Palanpur, 65 km away, Ahmedabad 195 km, and Idar 115 km.



GABBAR HILL



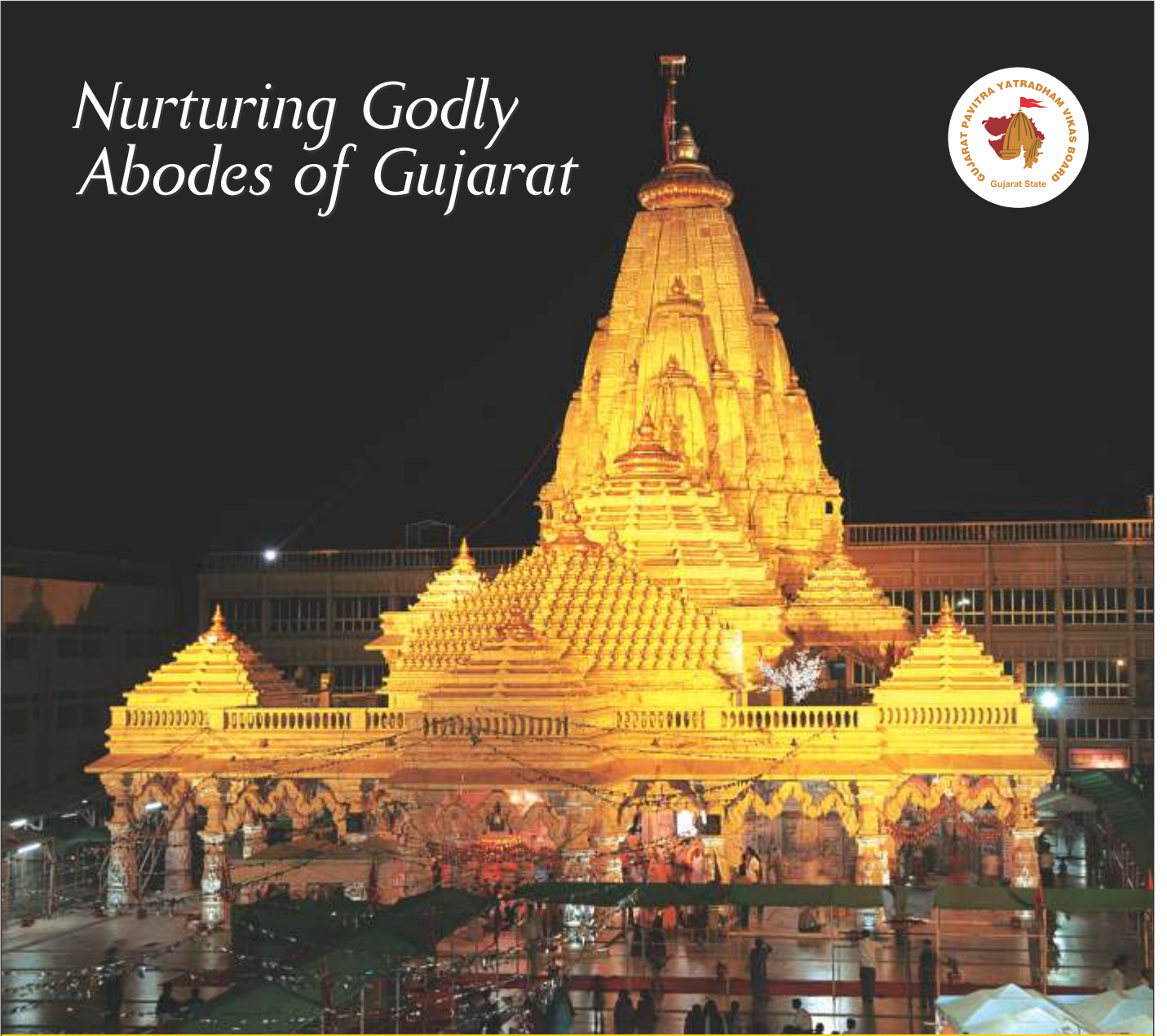
SHAKTI PEETH

## ABOUT GUJARAT PAVITRA YATRADHAM VIKAS BOARD



Gujarat Pavitra Yatra Dham Vikas Board works towards promotion of pilgrimage destinations of Gujarat. The Board carries out activities for the development of basic infrastructure and tourist facility at the godly destinations of Gujarat.

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# GUJSAIL

## Gateway to Aviation in Gujarat



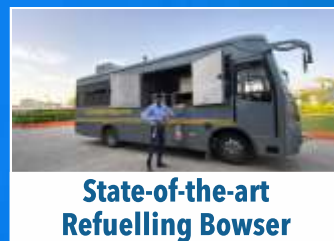
### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



**Flying Institute at Mehsana**



**Airstrip Development at Palitana, Ankleshwar, Morbi, Rajpipla**



**State-of-the-art Refuelling Bowser**



**MRO Development**



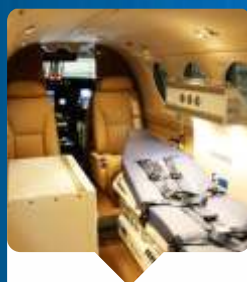
**Affordable Regional Air Connectivity in Gujarat**



**Seaplane Services & Water Aerodrome**



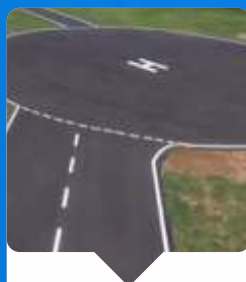
### FUTURE PROJECTS



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**Aviation Park**



**Heliports Development**



**Air Cargo Complex**



**Aviation SEZ**



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■ Conference

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