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May 2023

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THE REFRESHING LOOK OF DAMAN



*Lansdowne
A Hill Station
in Uttarakhand*

**Hamamatsu
Festival**
Japan's Cultural Extravaganza
Takes Aerial Route

*beautiful yet unexplored
hill stations
of india*

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Fun in The Sun

With summer in full swing, many people are eagerly planning their beach vacations. There's nothing quite like soaking up the sun, feeling the sand between your toes, and listening to the waves crashing on the shore.

Daman is undoubtedly one of the most popular beach destinations in India. Known for its pristine beaches and Portuguese culture, Daman attracts tourists from all over the world. During summer, the crowds are smaller, and the beaches are less crowded, making it the perfect time to relax and unwind. So, pack your bags, grab your sunscreen, and head to Daman for a memorable summer vacation.

If hills, valleys and clouds are your thing, how about escaping to the quaint little hill town located in Uttarakhand? Beautifully covered with oak and pine forest, Lansdowne is perfect to catch the scenic views of Himalayas from your window.

Read on!



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Hill Stations of India

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LANSDOWNE A HILL STATION IN UTTARAKHAND

If Uttarakhand brings up images of its spiritual richness in your mind, think twice. The land can surprise you with one of its lesser known hill stations - Lansdowne. See it to believe it.

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Reporter



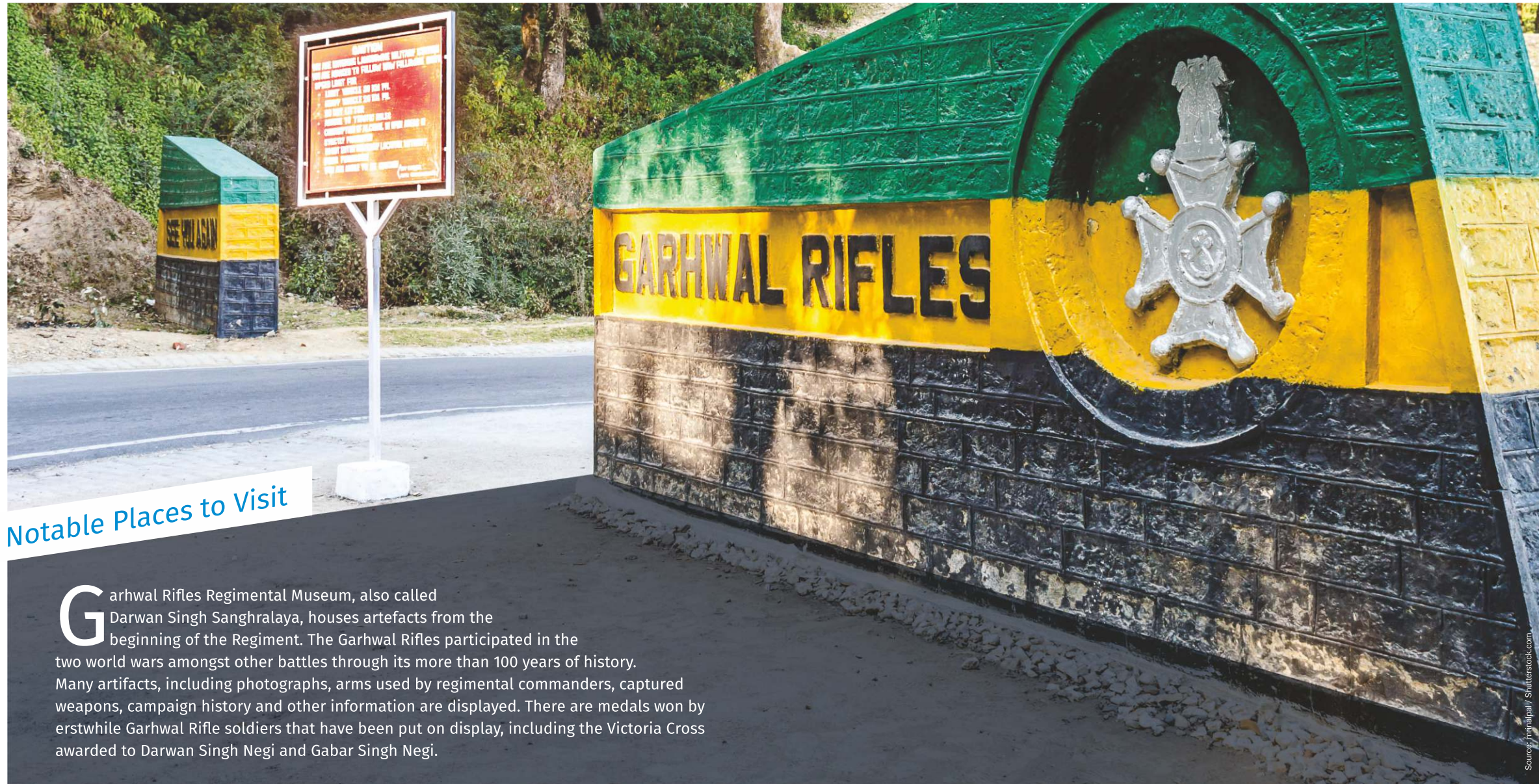
Lansdowne Hills - View from Tip N Top Point

In 2022, Lansdowne, a lesser known hill station of Uttarakhand, grabbed media attention not for its physical beauty or colonial connection. The defence ministry proposed changing names of roads, schools, towns, and other establishments built post independence and named after the top brass of British defence services and administration. However, nothing of the sort happened and this potential tourist trap is still known as Lansdowne.

Travellers across the world are enthralled by Uttarakhand for its natural and spiritual wealth, which are till date dominated by a few names, viz. Mussoorie, Dhanaulti, Auli, Nainital, Chakrata, Munsiyari, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. However, people have now got another reason to visit this land of Gods. With thick oak and blue pine forests, the town can surprise even the most jaded traveller.

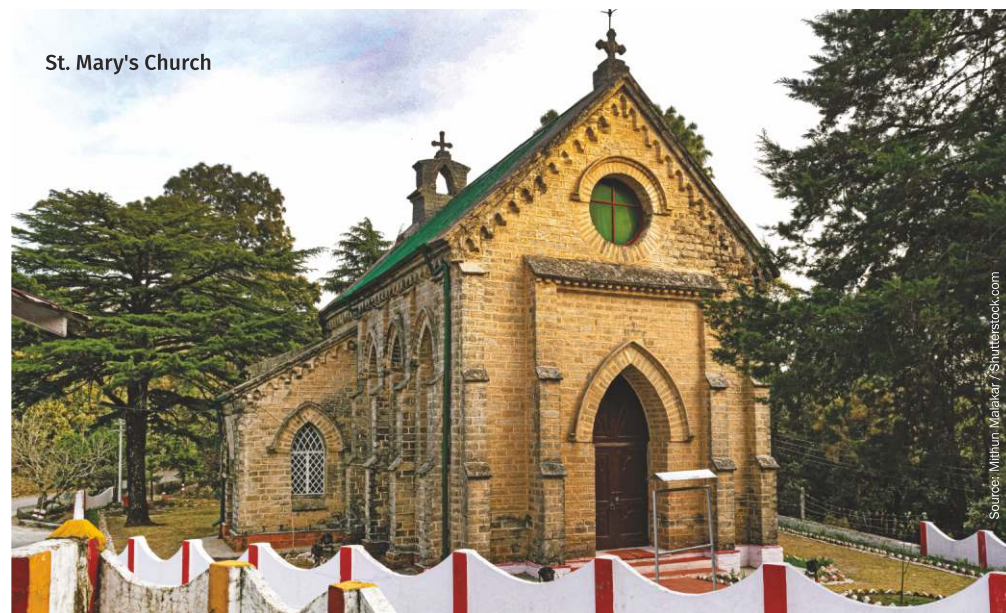
Lansdowne is situated at an altitude of 1,700 metres above sea level, and is known for its natural beauty, tranquil atmosphere, and pleasant climate. It was originally established as a cantonment town by the British in 1887, and was named after then Viceroy of India, Lord Lansdowne.

History lovers would be fascinated to know that Lansdowne was developed as the training centre of Garhwal Rifles, an infantry regiment of the Indian army. The town was home to activities of freedom fighters; today, the town is one of the quietest hill stations of India. Unlike other hill stations in India, Lansdowne is connected with other cities of Uttarakhand with motorable roads. For students of architecture, Lansdowne offers buildings and churches built during the British era.



Notable Places to Visit

Garhwal Rifles Regimental Museum, also called Darwan Singh Sanghralaya, houses artefacts from the beginning of the Regiment. The Garhwal Rifles participated in the two world wars amongst other battles through its more than 100 years of history. Many artifacts, including photographs, arms used by regimental commanders, captured weapons, campaign history and other information are displayed. There are medals won by erstwhile Garhwal Rifle soldiers that have been put on display, including the Victoria Cross awarded to Darwan Singh Negi and Gabar Singh Negi.



St. Mary's Church

Parade Ground at the Garhwal Rifles Center boasts a War Memorial, which is a major attraction for visitors. Before you go there, prior permission must be obtained from the military authority. Among other places of interest are Tip n Top View Point, Kaleshwar Mahadev Temple (the most visited Temple in Lansdowne and attracts thousands of devotees during monsoon), Santoshi Mata Temple, Regimental Museum (also called the Darwan Singh Sanghralaya), Bhullatal Lake, St. Mary's Church, and Lover's lane.

Almost all the popular destinations in India are associated with gods and goddesses. Shiv, the supreme power, is present everywhere. Lansdowne couldn't remain untouched from the omnipresence of the Supreme God.



Tarkeshwar Mahadev Temple

Tarkeshwar Mahadev Temple is an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and located in the midst of a dense forest. The temple is known for its beautiful architecture, intricate carvings, and peaceful surroundings. Visitors can also go on a trek to reach the temple. Legend goes that Tarkasur was a demon who worshipped Lord Shiva at this location for a boon. Pleased by his devotion, Lord Shiva gave him a boon of immortality as per Tarkasur request except from Lord Shiva's son. Tarkasur began to abuse this boon and started killing saints and threatening gods. Sages asked for help from Lord Shiva. Disturbed by wrongdoings of Tarkasur, Lord Shiva married Parvati and Kartikeya was born. Kartikeya soon killed Tarkasur but at the time of death Tarkasur made a prayer to Lord Shiva and asked for pardon. Mahadev then attached his name to the temple where Tarkasur meditated once. Hence the place is named Tarkeshwar Mahadev.

Tarkeshwar Mahadev is a village 36 km from Lansdowne and at a height of 1,800 m. The temple committee provides a dharamshala for accommodation. At Lansdowne, you will find many hotels for stay. It is a good place for a family trip for 1-2 days.

Other Places of Interest

Bhullatal, a manmade lake dedicated to the Garhwali youth of the Garhwal Rifles who helped in construction of the lake, located at just 1 km from Lansdowne, India. Bhulla in Garhwali language means younger brother. Bhullatal is also known as Bhulla Lake.

Bhairav Garhi Temple is dedicated to Lord Bhairav, who is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Shiva. The temple is located on a hilltop and offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape. Visitors can also enjoy a picnic or a hike in the nearby forests.

Bhim Pakora is a unique natural formation consisting of two large stones that are balanced on top of each other. Legend has it that Bhim, one of the Pandavas from the Hindu epic Mahabharata, placed these stones here with his superhuman strength. Visitors can also enjoy a scenic hike to reach this spot.

Sharadotsava is an annual festival celebrated in Lansdowne during the autumn season (usually in October). The festival is a celebration of the harvest season and features cultural programs, music, dance, and food stalls.

Old Cemetery is a historic cemetery located in Kitchner Lines and is the final resting place of many British soldiers who died during the colonial period. The graves date back to the mid-1850s and offer a glimpse into the town's rich history.

Gauri Kund is a Hindu pilgrimage site and base camp for trekking to Kedarnath Temple, in Uttarakhand, India. It is situated at an altitude of 6502 feet above mean sea level in the Garhwal Himalayas.

Summing up, Lansdowne is a great place to relax, unwind, and enjoy the natural beauty of the Himalayan region and cultural heritage of Uttarakhand.



Bhulla Lake



How to reach Lansdowne?

- Kotdwar railway station: 44 kms
- Jolly Grant Airport, near Dehradun: 152 kms via Kotdwar-Haridwar road
- Road from Delhi via Meerut, Bijnore, Najibabad, Kotdwar and to Lansdowne

Things to do: Visitors can also enjoy nature walks, bird watching, and trekking in the nearby forests. Adventure sports such as camping, rock climbing, and rappelling.

Where to Stay?

The town has a number of resorts and hotels that offer comfortable accommodation and delicious local cuisine.

Must-eat

Bhangak khatai: A local chutney made of bhang (cannabis) seeds, mixed with cumin, red chillies and lemon juice.

Did you know?

There is a road situated between Jaiharikhal and Lansdowne which is called cool road ठन्डी सड़क where Indians were not allowed during the British times, it was only meant for Europeans. For the movement of Indians, a parallel road situated below this road was used. ¹⁰

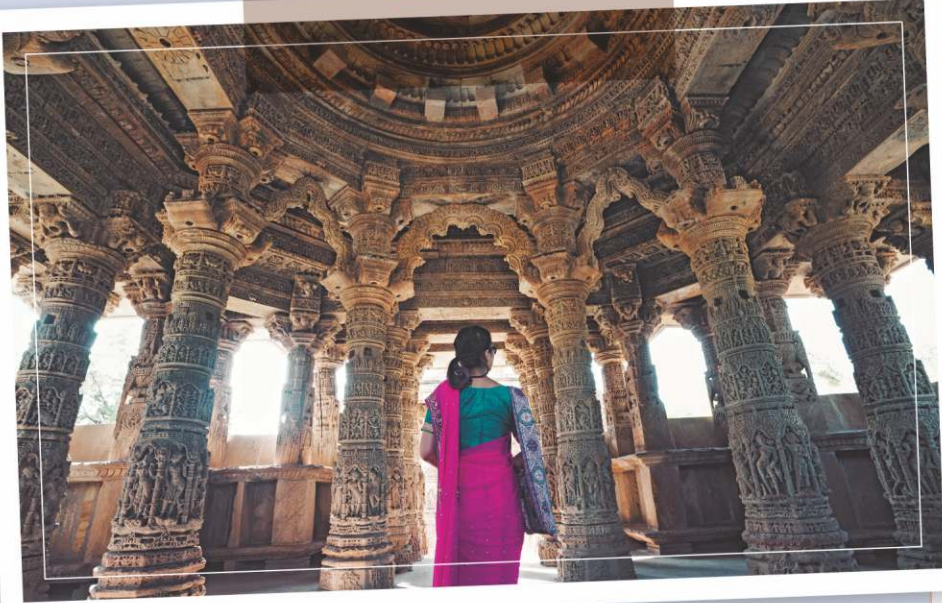
Photogenic Places of Gujarat

Gujarat is a land of diverse and photogenic places that offer stunning views and great backdrops for photography. From the deserts of Kutch to the hills of Saputara, Gujarat is blessed with an abundance of photogenic places that offer breathtaking vistas and stunning backdrops for photography enthusiasts. So pack your camera, hit the road, and explore the photogenic places of Gujarat.

By PRIYANKA DESAI, Staff Reporter

Rann of Kutch: Nestled comfortably between the endless Thar Desert and the mighty Arabian Sea, Rann of Kutch is a mesmerising wonder of sand and salt. World's second-largest salt desert, White Rann is no less than a magical place to discover the surreal landscapes, from infinite white expanse to the full moon night view that makes you feel as if thousands of sparkling stars are scattered on the land as far as your eyes can see.

The destination comes alive during the winter months when the festival of Rann Utsav is celebrated with great zeal. The white salt desert, dotted with colourful handicraft stalls, soulful cultural performances, delicious kutchi food as well as tented and traditional stay at White Rann Resort offers a surreal and mesmerising view that is perfect for photography.



Modhera Sun Temple: The Modhera Sun Temple, located in the Mehsana district of Gujarat, is a stunning example of ancient Indian architecture and a UNESCO world heritage site. The temple is dedicated to the Hindu sun god and features intricate carvings, sculptures, and a reflecting pool that makes for a great photography spot. The Modhera Dance Festival is scheduled every year in January to celebrate classical dance forms. Early morning and later afternoon are preferable times to click those perfect selfies with an antique background to make your friends go green with envy.

Saputara: Saputara, a hill station in the Dang district of Gujarat, is a popular tourist destination and also a great place for photography. The only hill station of Gujarat is popular for the weekend travellers for pleasant weather, wide and scenic roads to drive on and sightseeing. There are many places to visit in Saputara, including a handful of ancient historical buildings. The hill station offers stunning views of the Sahyadri Range, the lush green forests, and the gushing waterfalls that are a treat for photography enthusiasts.



Gir Forest National Park: The Gir Forest National Park, located in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, is the only natural habitat of the Asiatic Lion. The park is also home to several other species of wildlife and offers breathtaking landscapes that are perfect for wildlife and landscape photography. From the wildlife perspective, Sasan Gir National Park holds a significant place in the list of the favourite wildlife destinations for passionate wildlife explorers. The forest provides ample opportunity to photograph birds, landscapes and mammals, even portraits of the local tribal people. Devalia Safari Park, approximately 13km away from Gir National Park, is another attraction in the vicinity to click the best photos with the rich flora and fauna in the backdrop.



Dwarka: Dwarka, an ancient city on the western coast of Gujarat, is a popular pilgrimage destination and also a photographer's paradise. The backdrop of the city is scenic and spiritual, with the Gomti River and Arabian Sea. The Dwarkadhish Temple, the Nageshwar Jyotirlinga Temple, and the Gomti Ghat are some of the popular spots in Dwarka that offer stunning views and great photo opportunities. Nestled just 10-15 km away from the enchanting city of Dwarka, the blue flag beach of Shivrajpur captivates visitors with its crystal-clear azure waters, stunning vistas, and pristine white sands.

Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park: The Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site located in the Panchmahal district of Gujarat, is a photogenic destination that showcases the region's rich history and architecture. Nestled at the foot of Pavagadh hills, this 15th century capital of Gujarat is all about striking locations, from Vada Talav, Amir Manzil to Champaner Fort. The picturesque locations and pre-islamic architecture can offer a dreamy backdrop to your photos. 10



THE REFRESHING LOOK OF DAMAN

Daman, a small coastal city on the western Indian coast in vicinity of Gujarat, is a popular tourist destination known for its pristine beaches, rich history, and Portuguese architecture. If you're planning a trip to Daman, here are the top things to do that you shouldn't miss.


By PRIYANKA DESAI, Staff Reporter





VISIT THE LIGHTHOUSE

The lighthouse of Daman, located near the Moti Daman Fort, offers panoramic views of the city and the sea. The lighthouse is open to visitors, and climbing to the top offers a thrilling experience.



RELAX ON THE BEACHES

Daman is known for its beautiful beaches, including the Jampore Beach and Moti Daman Beach. These beaches offer a serene and relaxing environment for sunbathing, swimming, and enjoying water sports.

VISIT THE FORT OF ST. JEROME

The Fort of St. Jerome, also known as the Daman Fort, is a 16th-century fort built by the Portuguese. The fort offers stunning views of the sea and the city and is a great spot for photography.

THE REFRESHING LOOK OF DAMAN

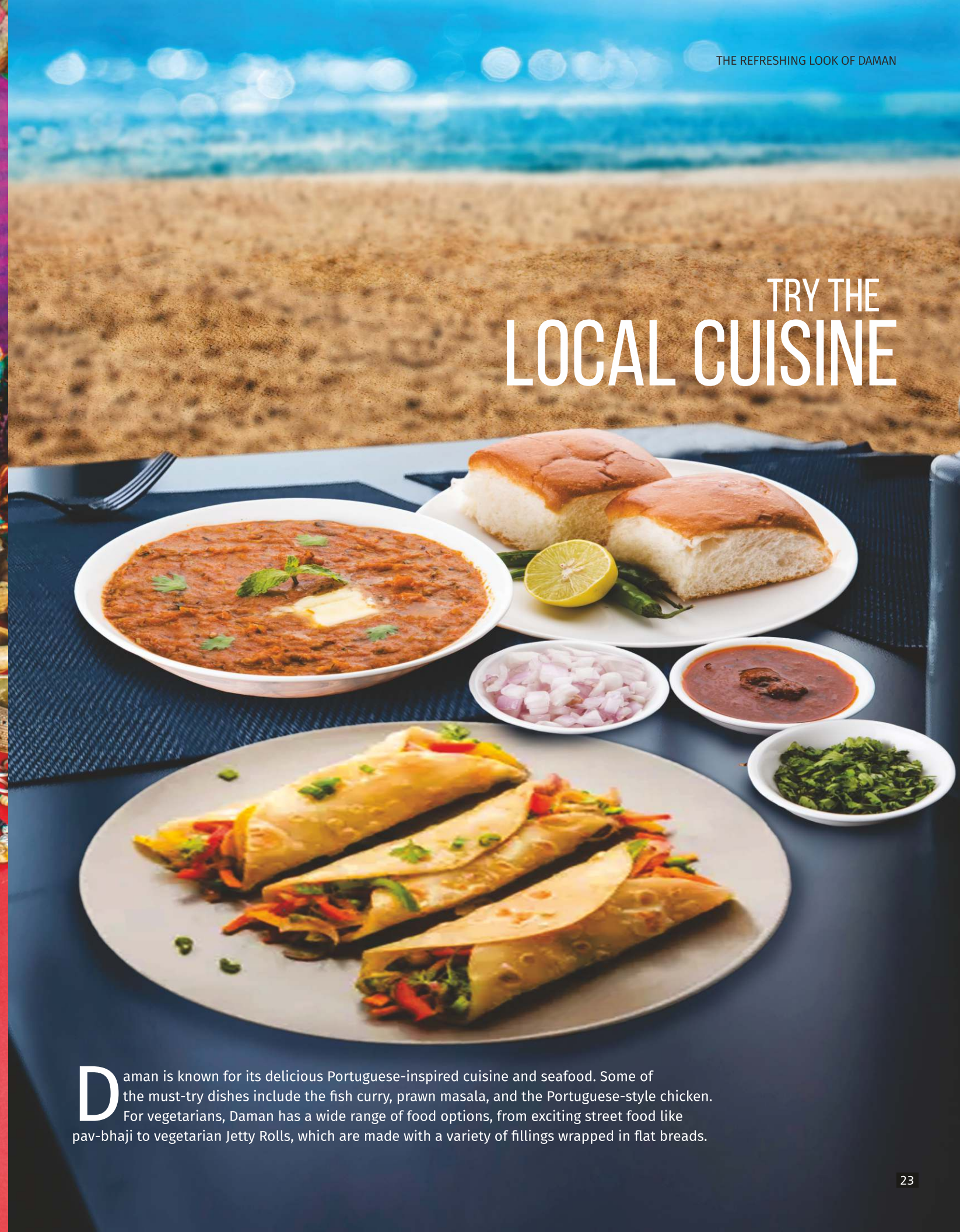
EXPLORE THE HISTORIC CHURCHES

Daman has several historic churches that are worth visiting, including the Church of Our Lady of the Sea, the Church of Bom Jesus, and the Church of Our Lady of Remedies. These churches showcase the Portuguese architecture and religious influence on the city.



GO SHOPPING

Daman has several markets and shopping areas where you can find handicrafts, textiles, and other souvenirs. The Moti Daman Market and the Nani Daman Market are popular shopping destinations in the city.



TRY THE
LOCAL CUISINE

Daman is known for its delicious Portuguese-inspired cuisine and seafood. Some of the must-try dishes include the fish curry, prawn masala, and the Portuguese-style chicken. For vegetarians, Daman has a wide range of food options, from exciting street food like pav-bhaji to vegetarian Jetty Rolls, which are made with a variety of fillings wrapped in flat breads.



ATTEND THE DAMAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Daman Music Festival, held every year in February, is a popular music festival that features both Indian and international artists. The festival attracts music enthusiasts from all over the country.



EXPLORE THE JETTY GARDEN

The Jetty Garden, located near the Daman Jetty, is a beautiful park with lush greenery and a stunning view of the sea. The park is a popular spot for picnics and evening walks.

EXPLORE THE REVAMPED SEAFRONT AT DEVKA BEACH

Visit Devka Beach, which has been recently dedicated to the nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with transformed world-class tourist facilities including smart lighting, parking facilities, gardens, food stalls as well as leisure and recreational areas.



EXPERIENCE A SEA-FACING STAY

Imagine waking up to the views of the beautiful Arabian Sea from the window. Praveg Beach Resort on the Lighthouse and Jampore Beach offers royal cottages and machan stay with splendid sea views and top-notch amenities like Rooftop Bar-cum-Café, Multi-cuisine Restaurant, a Swimming Pool, a Pool-side Bar, among many others.



HOW TO REACH?

By Air

The nearest airports to Daman are Mumbai (170 km) and Surat (90 km). Flights are easily available for Mumbai from all the major airports of the country. Surat is connected by flight from Delhi. The nearest international airport is in Mumbai.

By Train

The nearest railhead for getting to Daman is at Vapi, located around 12 km away. It lies on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route of the Western railway and is about 170 km from Mumbai and 90 km from Surat. Major Delhi-Mumbai and Mumbai-Ahmedabad bound trains halt at this station. People travelling to Daman by train can get down at Vapi and then reach Daman by local buses or taxis.

By Road

Daman is easily accessible by road and is connected to some of the major cities nearby with a well-maintained system of roadways. Vapi, at a distance of 12 km, lies on the Mumbai – Ahmedabad National Highway No. 8 and is easily connected to Daman by road. The town is 170 km from Mumbai, 360 km from Ahmedabad, 768 km from Diu, 110 km from Surat and 300 km from Vadodara. 📍



Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary

Nature's Way to Croon Melodies

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Reporter

Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is bird watchers' heaven. Spread across 605 hectares of land, this bird reserve offers shelter to more than 220 species of migratory and resident birds.

Each morning, the rising sun is greeted with the grand open-air concert held by more than 220 species of birds; the melodies are sweet seductions to which you would happily sacrifice your early morning nap. The natural singers continue their

mellifluous singing during winters. If you wonder where such a miracle happens, visit Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary in Gujarat.

I know a dubious mind would like to challenge my claims; well, they can travel to this sanctuary in Jamnagar,

a coastal district belonging to the Saurashtra region of the state. This sanctuary is a must-go destination for bird watchers and lovers as it is home to myriad, colourful birds like pelicans, flamingos, spoonbills, ducks, egrets, and herons.

Location

The biggest bird sanctuary in Gujarat, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is located 12 kms away from Jamnagar. The area was conferred the status of sanctuary on November 6, 1982. Salt waters and fresh waters are two major parts that divide the sanctuary.

About the Land

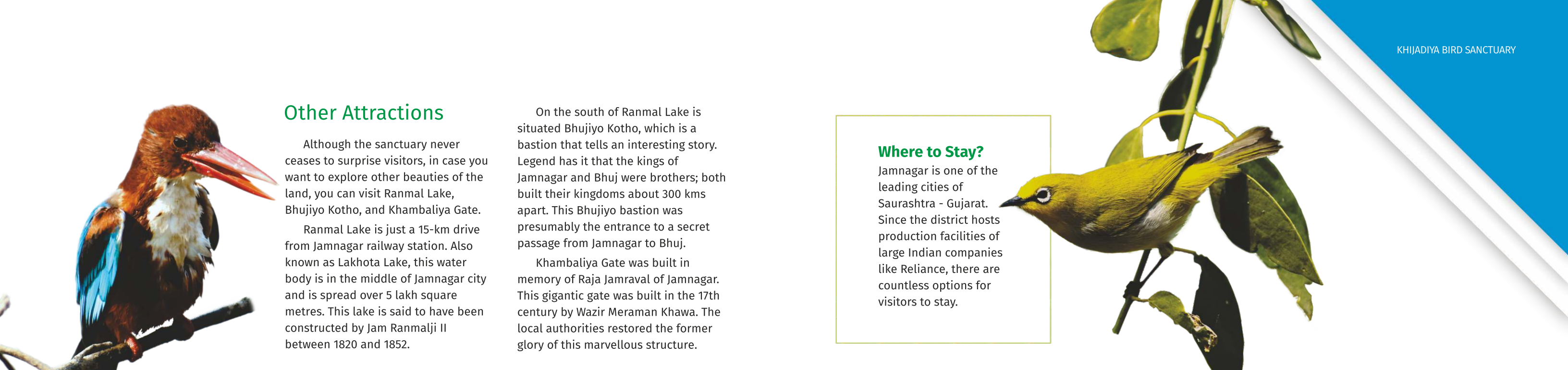
Khijadiya is India's 49th Ramsar site; the sanctuary gained status of a wetland of International Importance on February 02, 2022. Now an eco-tourist village, the destination hosted the International Bird Watcher's Conference during winter of 2010.

Species of Birds

Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary attracts a number of migratory birds along with resident birds. Black-necked stork deserves a special mention as these ducks are not found easily anywhere in India, and found in abundance in the sanctuary.

The sanctuary sees migratory and resident birds like Grey hypocolius, Forest wagtail, Grey-necked bunting, Black-headed bunting, Greylag goose, European roller, black-necked stork, Great white pelican, Dalmatian pelican, Lesser flamingo, Greater flamingo, great crested grebe,

shikra, Indian spotted eagle, black ibis, Blue-cheeked bee-eater, Barn swallow, Crested lark, Isabelline shrike, black-winged kite, brahminy kite, pheasant-tailed jacana, great thick-knee, common greenshank, grey francolin, imperial eagle, little tern, black-tailed godwit, knob-billed duck, common crane, common teal, dunlin, garganey, Gadwall, marsh harrier, northern pintail, shoveler, Whistling ducks, Eurasian wigeon, pale harrier, demoiselle, cormorants and darters.



Other Attractions

Although the sanctuary never ceases to surprise visitors, in case you want to explore other beauties of the land, you can visit Ranmal Lake, Bhujiyo Kotho, and Khambaliya Gate.

Ranmal Lake is just a 15-km drive from Jamnagar railway station. Also known as Lakhota Lake, this water body is in the middle of Jamnagar city and is spread over 5 lakh square metres. This lake is said to have been constructed by Jam Ranmalji II between 1820 and 1852.

On the south of Ranmal Lake is situated Bhujiyo Kotho, which is a bastion that tells an interesting story. Legend has it that the kings of Jamnagar and Bhuj were brothers; both built their kingdoms about 300 kms apart. This Bhujiyo bastion was presumably the entrance to a secret passage from Jamnagar to Bhuj.

Khambaliya Gate was built in memory of Raja Jamraval of Jamnagar. This gigantic gate was built in the 17th century by Wazir Meraman Khawa. The local authorities restored the former glory of this marvellous structure.

Where to Stay?

Jamnagar is one of the leading cities of Saurashtra - Gujarat. Since the district hosts production facilities of large Indian companies like Reliance, there are countless options for visitors to stay.



How to get there?

By Road

The sanctuary is connected with major cities of Gujarat state such as Jamnagar (14 kms), Rajkot (75.9 kms) and Ahmedabad (268 kms) through a road network.

By Train

The nearest railway station is Jamnagar junction, which is around 16.9 kms from the Sanctuary and it takes about 30 minutes to reach.

By Air

The nearest airport is at Jamnagar, from where visitors can catch regular flights to travel to the rest of the country. Jamnagar airport is located at a distance of approximately 24.2 kms from the sanctuary and it takes about 26 minutes to reach.

Things to do

Bird watching
Visit to historical places

Time to Visit

November to February

Did you know?

Renowned Indian ornithologist, Salim Ali visited the sanctuary in 1984, and reportedly sighted 104 species on a single day. Varieties of ducks make floating nests on water. 🦆



Maa Kamakhya Corridor

A Spiritual and Cultural Landmark in Northeast India

An ambitious initiative of the Assam State Government, the Maa Kamakhya Corridor Project, aims to provide better connectivity and infrastructure to the Kamakhya Temple.

By PRIYANKA DESAI, Staff Reporter

India is a land of diverse religions and cultures with a rich history and heritage that has attracted tourists from all over the world for centuries. One of the major reasons for this is the country's religious sites, which are not only significant for Indian tourists but also for foreign tourists with a fascination for the cultural and historical value they hold.

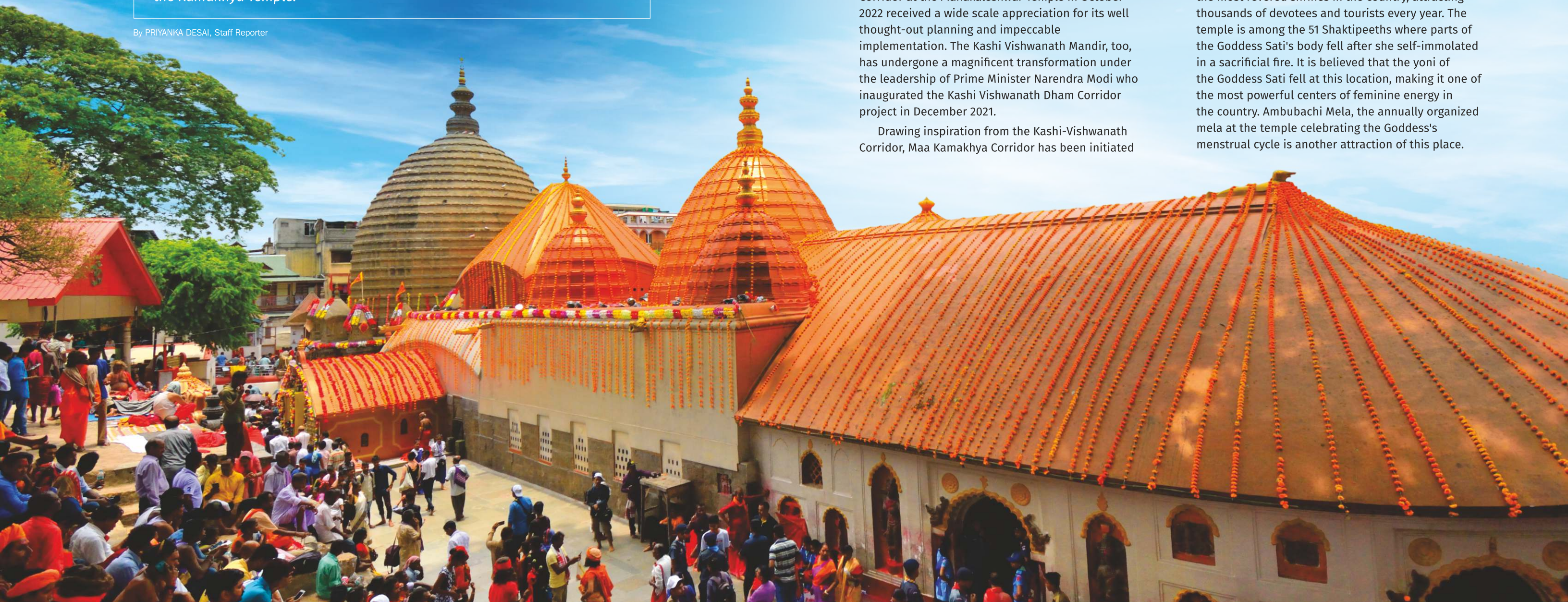
Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, a follower of Sanatan Dharma, is relentlessly working towards reviving the revered Hindu pilgrimage sites. The development works at Ayodhya, Kashi, Ujjain, and various religious circuits are examples of his commitment. The inauguration of Mahakal Lok Corridor at the Mahakaleshwar Temple in October 2022 received a wide scale appreciation for its well thought-out planning and impeccable implementation. The Kashi Vishwanath Mandir, too, has undergone a magnificent transformation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor project in December 2021.

Drawing inspiration from the Kashi-Vishwanath Corridor, Maa Kamakhya Corridor has been initiated

by the Assam State Government. Taking to Twitter on April 18, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma shared a glimpse of how the renovated Maa Kamakhya corridor would look like in the near future.

Responding to Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Shri Narendra Modi shared on Twitter, "I am sure Maa Kamakhya corridor will be a landmark initiative. Kashi Vishwanath Dham and Shree Mahakal Mahalok have been transformative as far as the spiritual experience is concerned. Equally important is the fact that tourism is enhanced and the local economy gets a boost."

Located in Assam, the Kamakhya Temple is one of the most revered shrines in the country, attracting thousands of devotees and tourists every year. The temple is among the 51 Shaktipeeths where parts of the Goddess Sati's body fell after she self-immolated in a sacrificial fire. It is believed that the yoni of the Goddess Sati fell at this location, making it one of the most powerful centers of feminine energy in the country. Ambubachi Mela, the annually organized mela at the temple celebrating the Goddess's menstrual cycle is another attraction of this place.





Maa Kamakhya Corridor Project - Developments

An ambitious initiative of the Assam State Government, the Maa Kamakhya Corridor project, aims to provide better connectivity and infrastructure to the Kamakhya Temple. The project will expand the temple's surrounding area from 3,000 sq ft to about 100,000 sq ft across three levels. Six major temples in the complex, which are currently hidden from the larger public view, will be restored to their original glory.

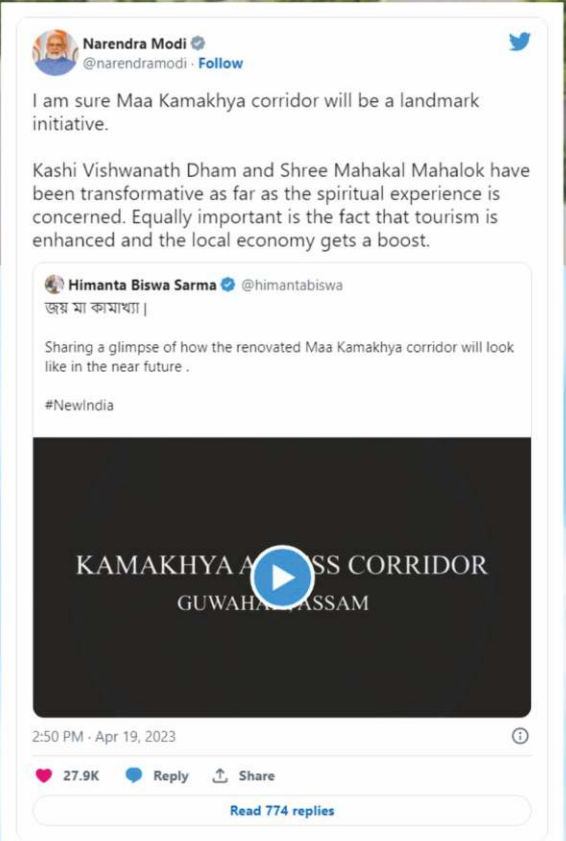
To ease the crowd during major festivals like Ambubachi Mela, the project will create space for 8,000-10,000 pilgrims.

It will provide ease of access for divyang and elderly pilgrims. The access corridor will widen from about 8-10 ft to about 27-30 ft.

The Maa Kamakhya Corridor project is expected to boost tourism and provide economic opportunities for the people of the region. Along with promoting the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Northeast India, the project will create awareness about the importance of preserving and promoting such heritage.

Tourism Policy 2022

The Assam Government has been constantly working towards strengthening tourism support with its noteworthy initiatives. Recently, Tourism Policy 2022 was released by the Department of Tourism, Government of Assam with the objective of driving sustainable development in the state. "Our goal with this new policy is to enable the world to view it from the point of view of attraction. The presence of pristine water, forests, mountains and rivers provides the state with limitless possibilities in the field of tourism. The new tourism policy reflects the same goal. Assam is sure to enchant the travellers with what it has to offer at every nook and corner. For investors, we have also come up with special packages," Assam Tourism Minister Shri Jayanta Malla Baruah was quoted as saying during the launch event in November 2022.



Hamamatsu Festival

Japan's Cultural Extravaganza Takes Aerial Route

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Reporter

Japan, an otherwise quiet country, ruffles into a boisterous pageantry during the first week of May. Welcome to Hamamatsu Festival - Japan's kite flying carnival celebrated by more than two million people.

Like India, Japan also celebrates Children's Day. However, this land of rising sun has a different reason to get together for the party. Hamamatsu Kite Festival is a five-century old revelry when the Japanese, along with their first child, fly kites on this day.

Nakatajima Sand Dunes

What is common between Makar Sankranti in India and Hamamatsu Festival in Japan? Sounds incredible, right? Well, there is a strong connection between the two festivals as both are citizen festivals and both involve kite flying. Every year, during the first week of May, people of Japan celebrate Hamamatsu Kite Festival. The largest festival in Japan, Hamamatsu attracts more than two million people to celebrate this kite flying jamboree.

Nearly five centuries old gala is celebrated following a legend. Lord of Hikuma Castle, who ruled Hamamatsu and the surrounding area, first flew kites on the birth of his first son. Since then, people flock the Nakatajima sand dunes to fly kites along with their children. During May, the climate is conducive to flying kites because of strong wind known as "Enshu Karakaze".

The kite flying fever touches sky during May in Japan every year. A riot of colours dominates the sky as nearly two million kite fliers come together to celebrate this public gala in the first week of the month.

Kite Flying

Japan celebrates May 5th as Children's Day; festivities that start from May 3rd, end with a cavalry warrior procession. The entire week is called Golden Week (Ōgon Shūkan) in the country. From 10 am in the morning to 3 pm in the afternoon, people engage themselves in kite battles (Takogassen) with their neighbours. The festival reaches its crescendo with the shouting of 'Oisho, oisho' by participants.

On receiving signals of the sound of fireworks, fliers begin to fly kites with their firstborn child, dressed in festival costume, in their arms. Participants fly more than 170 Kenka Tako, i.e. kites and take pleasure in cutting other kites' string through friction.

Night Parade

A procession with decorative floats brightens up the night as merry-makers take part in this ostentatious parade in the evening. The parade gets a touch of music as children play traditional musical instruments (flutes and drums) and adults carry lanterns and flags. This entire scene becomes a mesmerising spectacle as everybody makes noise, cheering and chanting slogans.

The largest festival in Japan showcases its culture through food and other items on display on floats. Since festivities take place at two different places, local authorities run shuttle buses for revellers to commute from one place to another.

HAMAMATSU FESTIVAL: JAPAN'S CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA TAKES AERIAL ROUTE

Schedule

May 3 to 5 (10:00–15:00): Kite-flying

May 3 to 5 (17:10–21:00): Float procession

May 5 (14:00–16:00): Ieyasu's cavalry warrior procession

Venue

Kite Flying: Nakatajima sand dunes

Float Procession: Downtown area

Did you Know?

The kites are decorated with the characters of the names of kids from each town, along with marks or designs of each town. 🏮

カラオケ
JOYSOUND

鴨北組

The Wonderful Floating Lander Parade



*beautiful yet unexplored
hill stations
of india*

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Reporter

Retro Bollywood had completely surrendered itself to the irresistible charm of India's gorgeous hill stations as producers and directors churned out picturesque romances, one after another, with famous locations as essential part of storylines. However, the camera certainly missed a few destinations, which could add a little vibrancy to the gripping plot. Never mind; this list of beautiful yet unexplored hill stations of India will fulfil your desire to fill the empty blocks on a celluloid jigsaw puzzle.

VALPARAI

Hill Station, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu

Everyone needs pollution-free air to strengthen their Corona-stricken lungs. Life in post-Corona months has not yet fully recovered its previous energy and robustness, especially immunity. A natural way to boost immunity is to transfer yourself to a neat and clean environment. Valparai Hill Station in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu is a pollution-free heaven for vacationers.

How to Reach

Air

Nearest Airport for Valparai Hill station is Coimbatore Airport which is of 102 km distance.

Train

Pollachi railway station and Coimbatore junction are the nearest to Valparai hill station at a distance of 64 km and 102 km respectively.

Road

Buses are available from Coimbatore, Pollachi, Palani, Challakudi and Athirapalli.

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Hill Station, Karnataka

Breathe in fresh oxygen and feast your eyes on lush greenery. This is Chikkamagaluru for you. The destination is known as 'Coffee Land of Karnataka'; a bit of a weird name to pronounce, Chikkamagaluru means 'Young Daughter's Town' in English.

How to Reach

Road

Chikmagalur is connected by road and regular buses; cab services are available to and from Bangalore.

Air

Nearest airport to Chikkamagaluru is Mangalore, which is 113 km away.

Train

Kudur is the nearest railway station (40 km) from Chikkamagaluru

KOLLI

Hill Station, Namakkal

Looking for Ayurveda or herbal tourism in India? Plan your next trip to Kollimalai Hills on Eastern Ghats. Situated at an altitude of 1200 metres in Namakkal district, the hills are known for their medicinal herbs and plants that grow in abundance on hill slopes.

The destination is not connected to any air or train routes.

How to Reach

1. Namakkal to Kolli Hills via Sendamangalam
2. Rasipuram to Kolli Hills via Kalappanaickenpatti
3. Salem to Kolli Hills via Mettala, Mullukurichi, Nariankadu

ZIRO

Arunachal Pradesh

One of the charming seven sisters of India, Arunachal boasts oodles of natural beauty. Ziro is one of the hidden gems, which attracts tourists with its immeasurable rusticity. Apart from your natural romance, Ziro can satiate your hunger for adventures. With trekking, jungle safari, and wildlife exploration, you can chase your wildest dreams.

How to Reach

Road:

Government buses or private taxis
(4-5 hours' drive)

Air:

Nearest airport in Tezpur in Assam

Train:

North Lakhimpur railway station
in Assam

YERCAUD

Hill Station, Salem, Tamilnadu

Popularly known as 'Poor man's Ooty', Yercaud is a hill station with many attractions nearby. Once you get there, you will be overwhelmed by a repertoire of attractions like Anna Park, Bear's cave, Botanical Survey of India, Killiyur falls, the Big Lake, Pagoda point, Sri Raja Rajeswari Temple, Silk Farm and rose garden, and Shevarayan Temple.

How to Reach


Air

Nearest Airports are Bangalore (250km) and Coimbatore (190km).

Road

Regular buses between Yercaud and Salem.

Train

Salem Junction is the nearest railway station (35 km) 

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