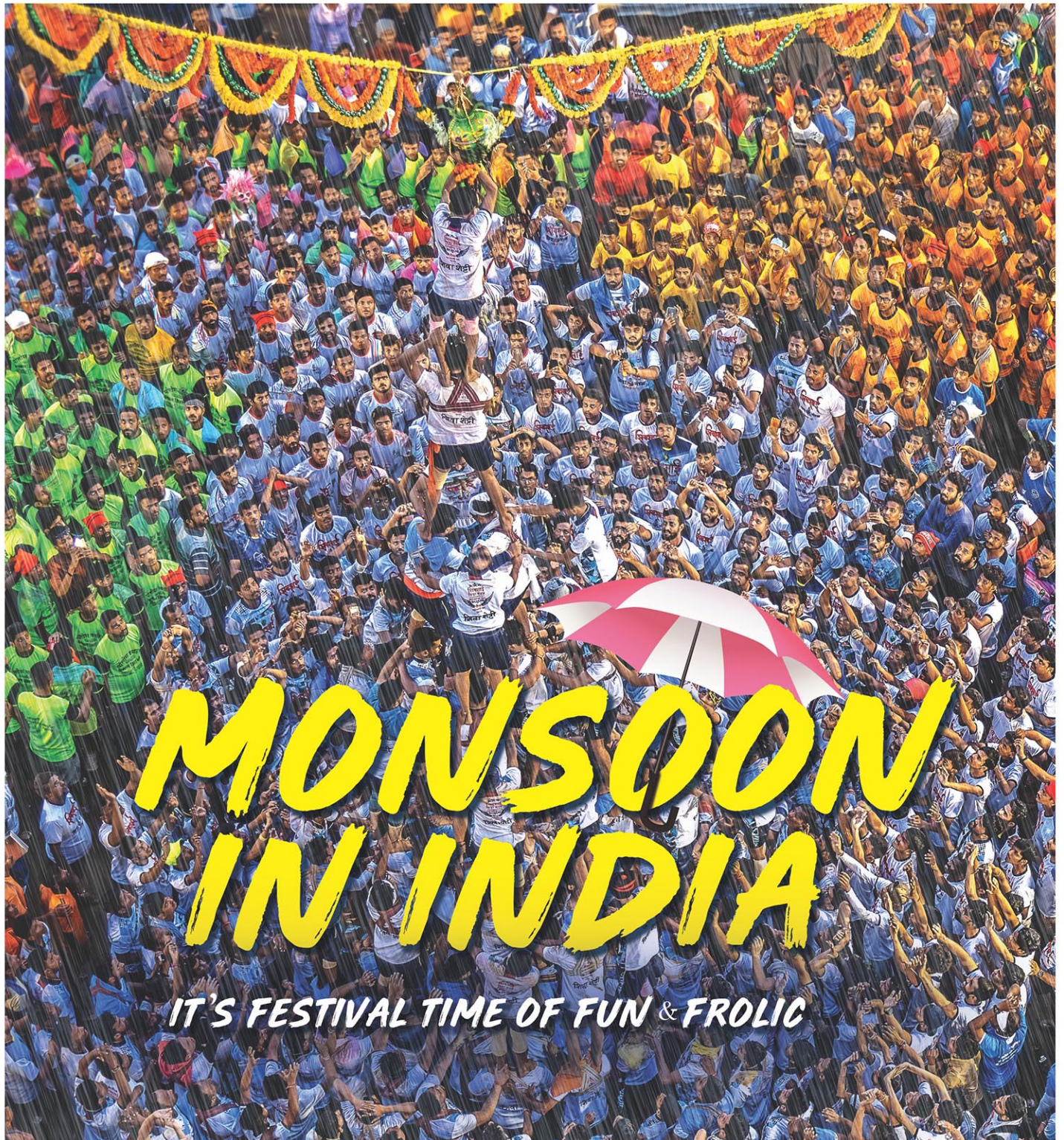


PRAVEG'S

AUGUST 2024 | ₹ 200

tourism one

A Trusted Friend for Travellers



MONSOON IN INDIA

IT'S FESTIVAL TIME OF FUN & FROLIC

Monsoon | Merriment | Maladies

The monsoon has finally set in India. Almost all parts of the country are receiving heavy to light showers. Passionate travellers find this the best season to explore the unexplored. There are fewer crowds, discounts pouring in, no rush at destinations, special offers, and countless other lures inviting people to leave their homes. With this idea in mind, we have prepared this issue around the monsoon.

From time immemorial, India has been a nation whose economy essentially relies on farming. This necessitates people celebrating all their festivals during the harvest season. Whether it's Raksha Bandhan or Janmashtami, Onam or Ganesh Chaturthi - monsoon is not only about torrential showers but also about great happiness that drenches the hearts of millions.

Our contributor Vijay Kurup compiles a list of festivals that occur during monsoon. This festive spirit is best celebrated when you visit those states where they originated centuries ago. Upon reading the article, you will miss something - Raksha Bandhan. Yes, this celebration of sibling bonds is given a unique space in the magazine. Hence, we have a separate article on Raksha Bandhan, not mentioned in the list of monsoon festivals.

Next comes the best monsoon destinations in India. The list includes travel-worthy places in every corner of India: North, East, West, and South. And the first one is at the heart of India - Madhya Pradesh.

Monsoon spirit continues with Umang's feelings for the season. He uses poetic expressions to empty his heart, which is full of vibrant emotions.

August marks an unforgettable memory for Indians. We celebrate our Independence Day on the 15th. This celebration of freedom takes a novel form in the magazine. Instead of writing about destinations, Mr Kurup writes about iconic structures built after independence. Check out the list and share your feedback.

While monsoons allow us to experience merriment, they also bring some maladies: uninviting roads, blurred vision while driving, fog, and whatnot. Fret not. Our road safety tips for car drivers are essential, although they are basic. You can avoid fatal accidents and other risky situations on and off roads. Moreover, Umang lists a few accessories. Why should rains bring down your style quotient? Don't dampen your excitement for stylish apparel you may like to wear during the moist months.

Read the magazine and share your feedback with us at tourismone@praveg.com. If you write poetry, send in your latest poem and get it published in Tourism One.

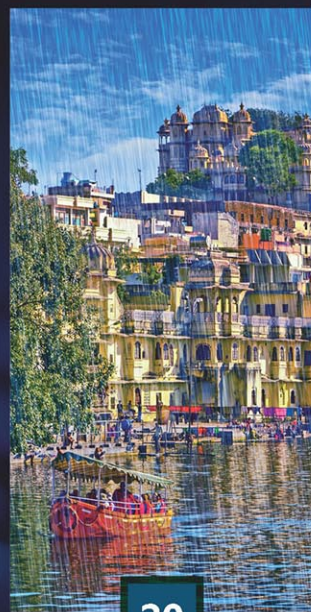
Happy Monsoon! 🌧️

CONTENTS



6

**Monsoon
in India**
It's Festival
Time of
Fun & Frolic



20

**Discover
the Best
Monsoon
Destinations
in India**



34

**Raksha
Bandhan**
When
Hearts
Bond



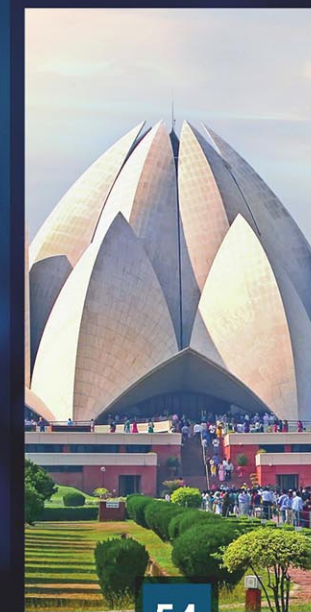
44

Poem
**The Vibrant
Colours of
the Monsoon**



46

**Monsoon
Road
Safety
Tips for
Car Drivers**



54

**Independent
India's
Iconic
Structures**



64

**Stay Stylish
and Prepared in
the Monsoon
with these
Helpful Accessories**



70

**Exploring the
Culinary
Delights of
Monsoon in India**



Praveg Communications (India) Limited
Westport 18th Floor, Sindhu Bhavan Road,
Off S.P. Ring Road, Ahmedabad - 380059, Gujarat
Contact No.: 78618 14696
e: tourismone@praveg.com
www.dizcoverpraveg.com

Printed, Published by PARASKUMAR M. PATEL on
Behalf of PRAVEG COMMUNICATIONS (INDIA) LIMITED and
Printed LE GRIFFE OFFSET PVT.LTD 3, Lower Ground Floor,
Popular House, Near Income Tax, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad and
Published from Westport 18th Floor, Sindhu Bhavan Road,
Off S.P. Ring Road, Ahmedabad - 380058, Gujarat
Editor: PARASKUMAR M. PATEL

Editorial Team
Jayesh Purohit
Umang Sharma

Design Team
Mahesh Patel
Yagnesh Bhavsar
Rakesh Bhavsar
Maunang Modi

DISCLAIMER: All information in Praveg's TOURISM ONE is
derived from reliable sources. It is passed on to our readers
without any responsibility on our part. All images are
copyrighted by their respective owners unless otherwise
stated. Opinions/views expressed by third parties are not
necessarily shared by us. Material published in the magazine
cannot be reproduced, whether in part(s) or whole, without
prior permission.

Be a part of Praveg's Tourism One:
Share with us some enthusiastic inputs like photographs, essays or
anything related to tourism.
Have some suggestions for us?
Go ahead and send us your ideas, valuable opinions or topics you
would like to see more coverage on.
FOR SUBSCRIPTION QUERIES, CONTACT: tourismone@praveg.com

Download an e-copy of Tourism One from
www.dizcoverpraveg.com

LEISURE PLEASURE BLEISURE IN EQUAL MEASURES



14+ Resorts

750+ Rooms

16 Well-appointed
Conference Halls

07 Multicuisine
Pure Veg Restaurants

20k Spacious
sq. m. Wedding Lawn

07 Swimming
Pools

PRAVEG LIMITED
Regd. Office: Westport, 18th Floor, Sindhu Bhavan Road,
Off S.P. Ring Road, Ahmedabad - 380058
Call: 9090899699 • (E) info@dizcoverpraveg.com
dizcoverpraveg.com

Our Upcoming Projects:

MONSOON IN INDIA

IT'S FESTIVAL TIME OF FUN & FROLIC

By VIJAY KURUP, Contributor

The advent of monsoon in India is an occasion for celebration. As it advances to the northern regions, dousing the parched Indo-Gangetic plains, there is profound relief all around. People turn to God in gratitude in the hopes of a bumper harvest. It is time for celebrations which manifest themselves in a multitude of festivals. Even though the festivals are boisterous and filled with fun and frolic, they are expressions of gratitude by the people for the timely arrival of the monsoons.



There was a collective gasp from the teeming, sweating people when the boy's leg slipped over the shoulder of one of the boys, forming the human pyramid. He was just a human length away from the Dahi Handi, strung high across the main road between the two rows of houses. But the lad's attention had not faltered. His eyes and mind were unwaveringly focused on the earthen pot that was tantalisingly just beyond his reach. With a stick in hand, he inched closer.

It was Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna. The city of Mumbai had turned into a cauldron of activity, coming alive with a series of festivities. However, the pièce de résistance of the Janmashtami celebrations was the Dahi Handi event. Inspired by the legend of the toddler Krishna stealing butter, groups of young men and boys, known as Govindas, form a human pyramid to reach and break a pot

filled with Lord Krishna's favourite food item - curd and butter. The earthen pot is suspended at least 10 to 15 meters above the ground. As the lad stepped onto the shoulders of the last boy, he swung the stick back and struck hard on the earthen pot, spilling the contents onto the milling crowd below. The people erupted in raucous shouts of joy.

Cultural programs and plays depicting episodes from Krishna's life are organised in various parts of the city. In Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna, the festivities are deeply rooted in tradition and devotion. Pilgrims from all over India and abroad head for this holy city. The city of Mathura is decorated with lights and flowers. Temples and homes are adorned with rangolis. The entire town has come together to celebrate the birthday of the God known for his compassion, tenderness, and love.

Janmashtami

Compassion Tenderness Love

Woman Applying Henna on Her Palms

Teej

A Delightful Spectacle of Indulgence

Teej, traditionally considered a monsoon festival, marks the arrival of the much-awaited monsoon season. The festival is conventionally celebrated by women folk, who wear colourful dresses. They apply henna on their hands and adorn themselves with jewellery. They undertake processions, sing Teej songs, and perform traditional folk dances. It is celebrated with zest across Northern India, particularly in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Punjab. Swings are hung from trees, and women take to swinging in this period. It is a delightful spectacle of indulgence.

What is the origin of this festival? According to legend, when Goddess Parvati learned about her impending marriage to Lord Shiva, she called out to her friends and started celebrating in anticipation of the occasion. During this time, women worship Goddess Parvati and seek her blessings for a harmonious married life.

There are three kinds of Teej festival. On Hariyali Teej, women pay obeisance to Lord Shiva. It is celebrated during the monsoon when the surroundings become green. Fifteen days later, during Kajari Teej, married women fast on this day and pray for the good health of their husbands. After another 15



women celebrating gangaur teej festival

days, on Hartalika Teej, women worship Shiva, Parvati, and Ganesha idols.

Rains are vital for agriculture and livelihoods. Teej is indeed a monsoon festival in India. It is celebrated with great brio by the women folks. It is a festival of joy and gaiety. After months of debilitating heat, it is time to step out and enjoy when the temperatures reach salubrious levels. It is a day to thank the Gods in the heavens to look forward to a bountiful season.



Teej Festival, Jaipur

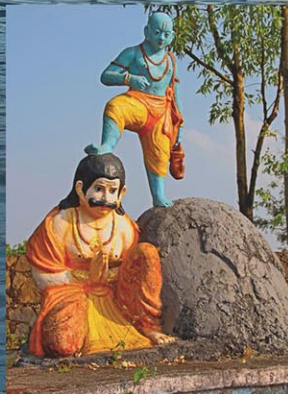
Nehru Trophy Snake Boat Race on The Backwaters, Kerala

Onam

A brief flash of light is followed by a clap of thunder so loud that even the birds are jolted out of their repose and fly out in a flutter. Soon, I will hear the pattering of the rain on the dense green canopy of vegetation, forewarning me of the approaching rain. I am in my hometown, Mararikulam, in the Alleppey district of Kerala. It is monsoon season, it's festival time, and it's Onam.

Legends associated with Onam go back to the Treta Yuga, an era in the cosmic cycle of time. Kerala was then ruled by the demon King Mahabali. However, the King was greatly respected in his kingdom as he was wise and incredibly generous with the people. But the King's popularity did not go down well with the Gods in heaven, who were jealous of the people's adulation for him. They feared that their dominance over the people would be diminished.

They approached Lord Vishnu and sought his help to stem the King's rising popularity. Lord Vishnu agreed. He decided to exploit the King's famed benevolence. He disguised himself as



a poor dwarf Brahmin called Vamana and approached the King.

Vamana asked the King, "I want a piece of land for myself." True to his magnanimity, the King replied, "You can take as much land as you need." But, to his surprise, Vamana said, "I want as much land as the length of my three footsteps."

"Granted," said the surprised king.

The dwarf immediately began to grow to cosmic proportions. In one step, he covered the earth, and in the second step, he covered the sky. There was no place for the third step, so Vamana asked the King, "Where should I place my third step?"

At this, the King bent his head and said, "You may place the third step on my head," With this, the king offered his head. Vamana placed his feet on the King's head and began pushing him to the nether world.

But before he could do it, the King asked Vamana, "Who are you? Can you reveal your identity?"

Vamana shed his image of a poor Brahmin and revealed his identity as Lord Vishnu.

"Lord, I have a request for you," said the King. "I should be allowed to visit my land once every year."

Lord Vishnu, pleased by the generous nature of the King, agreed, before pushing him down to the nether world. Onam is, therefore, the time when King Mahabali makes his yearly visit to Kerala.

The Dwarf (Vaman) Defeats the Demon (Mahabali)

The festival extends over 10 days in August. It is also the harvest season for the standing crops. The 10-day-long Onam festivities, also known as Thiruvonam, are celebrated with much fanfare across Kerala. Houses are cleaned, new dresses are worn, and the ladies wear traditional off-white or cream-coloured sarees with golden borders.

The front yard of the houses is decorated with floral carpets called Pookkalam sare. Most houses have this floral arrangement, believing it brings prosperity to the household.

Several folk dances are performed specifically for this festival by women. Kaikottikali is a clap dance in which they prance and move around in a circle, praising King Mahabali. Thiruvathira Kali is a women's dance performed in a circle around a lamp. The most popular folk dance is Kathakali, performed only by men. The faces of the dancers are vividly painted. They wear giant-size headgear, and their costumes are flamboyantly coloured. The dancers present a bewildering

spectacle while enacting famous legends and folktales.

On the third day of the festival, people invite their relatives and friends for a celebratory lunch, commonly known as Onam Sadya. Thirteen dishes are cooked, including rice, several vegetable curries, and a sweet dish called Payasam.

The piece de resistance of the festival is the Vallamkali or the Snake Boat Race. Spanning almost 120 feet and carrying about 120 paddlers, the snake boats speed through the waters at 50 kilometres per hour. The sight of 120 superbly synchronised paddlers paddling energetically to the drumbeat of the drummers is entrancing to watch.

On the tenth day, Thiruvonam is celebrated as the conclusion of the Onam festival. People prepare for King Mahabali's departure. The flowers are removed, and the clay statues are immersed in the sea as the King returns to the nether world.

Ganesh Chaturthi



Celebrate Prosperity, Wealth, and Knowledge

Nothing brings the persistently occupied Mumbaiers together more than the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi. Undoubtedly one of the most popular festivals, Ganesh Chaturthi is the birth anniversary of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed God and the son of Shiva and Parvathy. This year, the festival falls in September.

As the God of prosperity, wealth and knowledge, this child God is popular throughout India, particularly in Mumbai. Devotees invoke his blessings before starting any critical venture in their life, be it a marriage, a new job, a trip, or a new business venture.

How did this elephant God come to be created? According to legend, when Goddess Parvati was having a bath, she created a boy out of mud and gave it a life. The boy was instructed not to let anyone pass through the doorway and disturb her bath. When Lord Shiva came, he was stopped by this boy and was not allowed to cross the threshold of the house. Lord Shiva reasoned. But the boy stood his ground. Shiva's notorious temper came to the fore. He took out

a sword, beheaded the boy, and threw it away. When Goddess Parvati learned about the boy's fate, a showdown ensued.

Lord Brahma fortunately intervened. The crisis was averted when Brahma agreed to two conditions of Goddess Parvati. The first condition was that his head was to be recovered and restored. The second condition was that obeisance should be made to him before any other Gods. Both conditions were conceded to. But his head could not be recovered. Instead, they transplanted it with the head of an elephant. The concession to the second demand is the reason why, to this day, Lord Ganesha's blessings are sought before embarking on a new enterprise.

The festival lasts 10 days, at the end of which a grand farewell procession takes place to immerse the idol in the sea or river amid rallying cries of "Ganapati Bappa Moraya", dance, and drum beat. Everyone is fired up with devotion. Hundreds of thousands of people gather as the gigantic idol is pulled through the narrow streets of Mumbai for the immersion. The immersion of the idol in the water body signals the return to his heavenly abode.

Behdienkhlam Festival

Invoking God to Ward off Evil Spirits

People of Pnar Community Dance In Muddy Water

As the monsoon makes its way across the hills of Meghalaya, the Pnar tribe has its most significant celebration of the year—the Behdienkhlam festival. It is a famous and enthusiastically celebrated festival held at Jowai in the west Jaintia Hills district. The festival is one of Meghalaya's most well-known recreational festivals.

The festival is celebrated in July. It is a four-day festival. For the Pnar tribe, an offshoot of the Khasi tribe, the Behdienkhlam festival is celebrated after the sowing period. The festival holds much significance for the hill people; it is an appeal to God seeking his blessing for a bumper harvest. The young men beat the roofs of every house with a bamboo pole to drive away evil spirits that could harm the crops and the people.

The climax of the celebration is the fight for a large wooden beam by two groups of people. This entails getting a heavy beam across a muddy patch. It is a boisterous game where the participants smear mud on each other, much like the Holi festival in the north. On the last day of the festival, young and old congregate in a muddy pool to dance to the tune of the pipes and the beat of drums. The dancers get frenzied when tall, decorated structures called rots and wooden posts called khnongs are brought into the pool. The women do not participate in the dancing. It is a sign of good omen if it rains on the days of the festival.

The final phase of the festival is a football game played with a wooden ball. It is a fiercely competitive game. At stake is that the winning team will be assured of a bumper harvest.

Aadi Perukku

Arrival of Monsoon & Prosperity

Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku or the Aadi Monsoon Festival, is a Tamil cultural festival celebrated in July. The festival marks the arrival of the monsoon season in Tamil Nadu, a state perennially short of rainfall. It acknowledges the importance of water for a prosperous livelihood.

Offerings are made to rivers and other water sources, and people gather near water bodies for the celebrations. It is the month of sowing, rooting, and planting seeds and vegetation. On this day, devotees come to the Kaveri River for the ablutions. The women pray to Parvati, wife of Shiva, by offering different kinds of rice, like sweet pongal, coconut rice, curd rice, lemon rice, etc. Women create beautiful Kollam (Rangoli) designs at the entrance of their homes to welcome prosperity. Women create beautiful Kollam or designs on the floors at the entrance of their homes for good luck. Homes are cleaned and decorated with flowers and mango leaves.

Since the Eastern Ghats Mountain range partially blocks rain-bearing monsoon winds from reaching Tamil Nadu, the rainfall is substantially less than in many other Indian states. Tamil Nadu's average annual rainfall is around 998 mm, whereas Arunachal Pradesh receives about 2500 mm.

Aadi Perukku festival is an expression of gratitude to the Gods for the timely arrival of the monsoon. The people here do not take water for granted. They realise the paramount importance of this scarce commodity in their daily lives.

Monsoons are awaited with much anticipation. The Puranas have described the monsoon season as a time of renewal and fertility. The Mughal attitude towards the monsoons was a mix of reverence and practical concern. When the dark clouds gather over the horizon, the people turn to the rain Gods with gratitude and relief. They can look forward to another year of bounty and prosperity. ■

Experience

THE DIVINITY & CULTURAL ESSENCE

Step into the divine charm of Ayodhya at Tent City Saryu, where luxury and spirituality intertwine. Situated alongside the peaceful banks of the Saryu River and in close proximity to the lively Ram Katha Park, our resort offers an unforgettable experience brimming with comfort. Relax in one of our 39 beautifully furnished air-conditioned tents, each

equipped with modern amenities and offering a serene escape. Delight in delectable vegetarian Banarasi cuisine that will leave you yearning for more. Immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture with easy access to the renowned 'Ramleela' performances and other cultural festivities. Secure your tent today by contacting us.

— PRAVEG —
▲ **TENT CITY**
— **AYODHYA** —
SARYU

@ Ramkatha Park, Manza kala, Ayodhya-224123 (UP)
Call: **96 74 123 123** • info@tentcityayodhya.com
dizcoverpraveg.com



अलौकिक
अयोध्या



Discover The Best MONSOON Destinations in India

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

India's monsoon season transforms the country into a lush, verdant wonderland, offering travellers a chance to experience the nation in a whole new light. From the misty hills of the north to the serene backwaters of the south, there are countless places that come alive during the rainy months. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore some of the best destinations in India and provide you with all the information you need to plan an unforgettable trip.

Mandu

Madhya Pradesh



Jahaz Mahal or Ship Palace

Mandu, a historic fort city in Madhya Pradesh, is at its best during the monsoon season. The ancient remnants are a must-see for history buffs, but the scorching summer heat can detract from the experience. This period of year provides a fantastic opportunity to explore the area while revelling in the stunning lush greenery. The ideal time to visit is from October to March, when the weather is delightful, providing a comfortable setting for exploring the architectural marvels. These months are perfect for sightseeing and outdoor activities. Visitors can appreciate the grandeur of these historical sites without feeling uncomfortable on rainy days.

- **Activities** : Trekking and nature walks
- **Notable for** : Remarkable architecture, Jahaz Mahal, and Hindola Mahal
- **Nearest Airport** : Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport
- **Cultural Insights** : Home to the Malwa culture

Gavi

Kerala



Gavi is a breathtaking destination nestled in the lush greenery of the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala. This paradise truly comes alive during the monsoon season, from June to September, when the heavy rainfall blankets the region in exotic landscapes. Visitors can immerse themselves in the area's tranquillity, taking leisurely walks through dense forests and marvelling at the rich biodiversity surrounding them. This place includes various activities, such as birdwatching, boat rides on Periyar Lake, and visits to the Eco-Tourism Centre. Whether it's the panoramic greenery or the serene atmosphere, Gavi offers an unforgettable experience for all who visit.

- **Activities** : Spotting wildlife and hiking
- **Notable for** : Periyar Tiger Reserve
- **Nearest Airport** : Madurai Airport
- **Cultural Highlights** : Known for sustainable travel practices

Sahyadris

Maharashtra



Shivaji's Pratapgadh Fort, Mahabaleshwar

The Sahyadri mountain range, nestled in the Indian state of Maharashtra, is a truly enchanting destination that beckons adventurers seeking a unique experience, especially during the monsoon season. From the months of June to September, this region transforms into a verdant paradise adorned with dense foliage, meandering streams, and serene lakes, creating a picturesque haven for eco-activists. Amidst the lush forests, visitors can partake in invigorating treks, encounter diverse wildlife, and marvel at the breathtaking panoramic views from iconic locations like Rajmachi, Lohagad, and Kalsubai. It's an unparalleled opportunity to completely submerge oneself in the awe-inspiring marvels of the natural world.

- **Activities** : Trekking and nature walks
- **Notable for** : Rich green hills
- **Nearest Airport** : Belgaum Airport
- **Cultural Insights** : Well-known for the Marathi culture

Kodaikanal

Tamil Nadu



Kodaikanal

Escape the summer heat at Kodaikanal, a renowned hill station in Tamil Nadu. With the arrival of monsoon from June through September, this enchanting town undergoes a remarkable metamorphosis, as the gentle rain showers revive its lush surroundings. Immerse yourself in the allure of dense emerald forests, tranquil lakes reflecting the misty skies, and vibrant local markets bustling with the energy of the season. Don't miss the opportunity to wander along the iconic Kodaikanal Lake's serene shores and marvel at the grandeur of the Pillar Rocks standing tall against the horizon. Enthusiastic nature lovers will relish the chance to discover the diverse array of flora and fauna that inhabit this awe-inspiring setting, creating an unforgettable experience for all who venture here.

- **Activities** : Boating and trekking
- **Notable for** : Coaker's Walk and scenic views
- **Nearest Airport** : Madurai Airport
- **Cultural Insights** : Famous for its Tamil culture

Gangtok

Sikkim



The enchanting city of Gangtok, situated amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Sikkim, offers a tranquil respite from the chaotic urban life. During the monsoon season, which lasts from June to September, the entire region experiences a remarkable metamorphosis. Heavy rainfall replenishes the land, turning parched earth into lush green landscapes. The verdant green foliage provides a stark and beautiful contrast against the misty hills and the clear, open skies, making it a truly captivating sight. Make sure not to miss the opportunity to explore the mesmerizing Tsongmo Lake, a serene high-altitude lake surrounded by unspoiled peaks, and the awe-inspiring Nathula Pass, a historic mountain route offering pretty vistas of the snow-capped Himalayas.

- **Activities** : Monasteries and nature walks
- **Notable for** : Baba Mandir and scenic views
- **Nearest Airport** : Pakyong Airport
- **Cultural Insights** : Home to the Sikkimese culture

Landour

Uttarakhand



Landour, a picturesque destination nestled in the serene hills of Uttarakhand, offers a perfect sanctuary from the scorching summer heat with its charming monsoon season, which typically begins in June and lasts until September. During this time, the region is enveloped in gentle, rejuvenating rain showers that not only provide relief from the weather but also enhance the natural beauty of the surroundings. Visitors can embark on exhilarating treks through verdant forests, stumble upon tranquil lakes hidden in the landscape, and immerse themselves in the lively ambiance of the local markets, where they can experience the unique culture and flavours of the location.

- **Activities** : Trekking, nature walks, and cultural experiences
- **Notable for** : Lal Tibba, Char Dukan, and scenic views
- **Nearest Airport** : Jolly Grant Airport
- **Cultural Insights** : Well-known for its Garhwali traditions

Ghoom

West Bengal



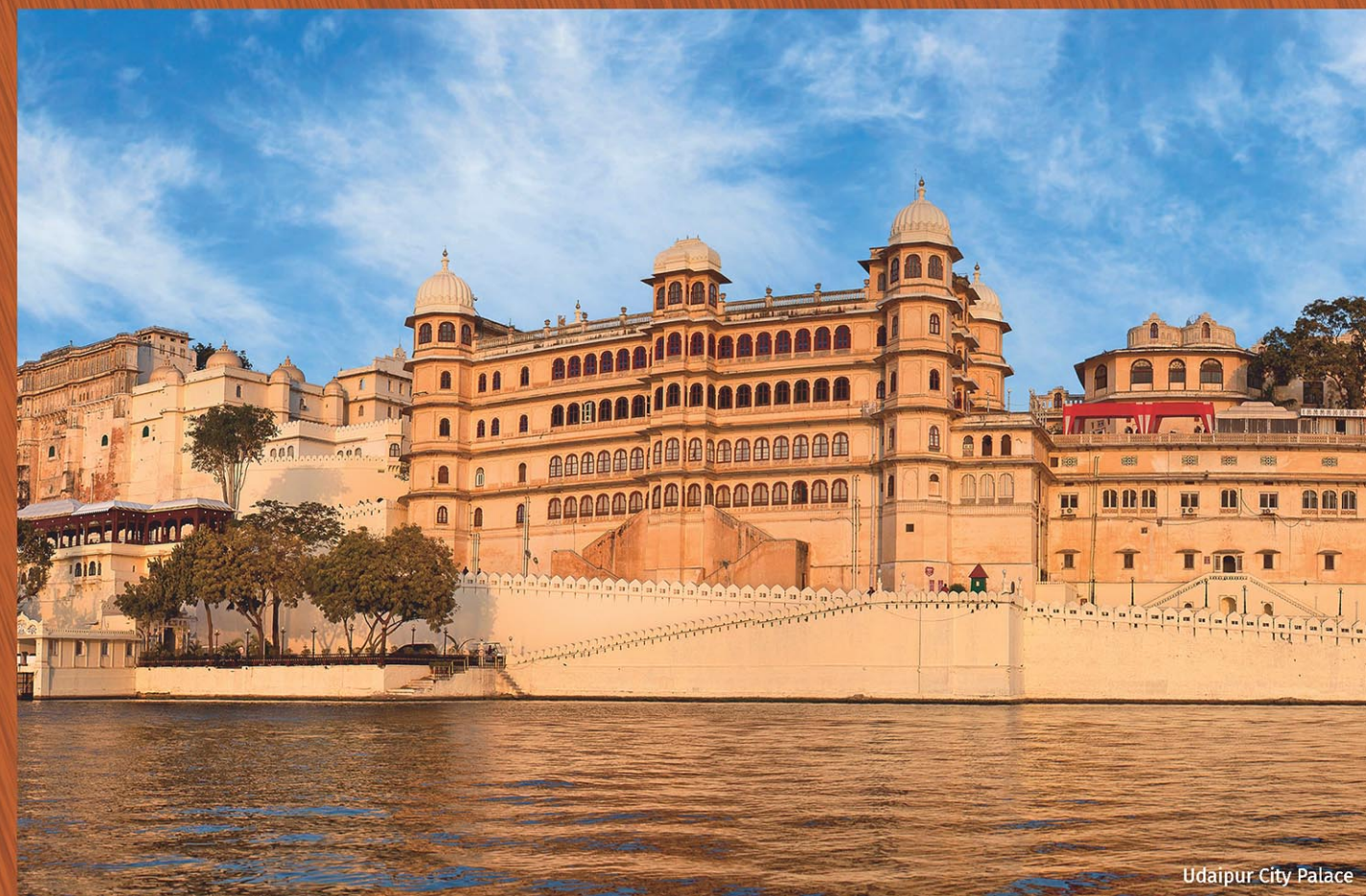
Old Monastery

Ghoom, a charming town in West Bengal, is a sanctuary for those seeking respite from the sweltering summer heat. The arrival of the monsoon, typically spanning from June to September, breathes new life into the region, adorning it with a breathtaking tapestry of vibrant green hues. The copious rainfall further enhances the natural beauty of the destination, creating an enchanting atmosphere that is sure to captivate all who visit. The area is famous for its diverse traditions, food, and stunning scenery, guaranteeing that every guest has a truly one-of-a-kind and memorable experience.

- **Activities** : Toy train rides, monasteries, and nature walks
- **Notable for** : Ghoom Monastery, Batasia Loop
- **Nearest Airport** : Bagdogra Airport
- **Cultural Insights** : Recognized for the Bengali culture

Udaipur

Rajasthan



Udaipur City Palace

Udaipur, nestled in the heart of Rajasthan, is a must-visit for travellers seeking a harmonious blend of a storied past and breathtaking natural beauty. As the monsoon sets in from July to September, the city undergoes a stunning transformation, adorned with lush greenery and captivating vistas. The gentle rain showers enhance the charm of the surroundings, painting a picturesque panorama for visitors to savour. Delight in leisurely explorations of the mesmerizing lakes, immerse yourself in the lively local bazaars and uncover the timeless tales within the opulent palaces. Furthermore, relish the region's renowned traditions and indulge in its diverse culinary offerings, promising each visitor an unforgettable and personalized journey.

- **Activities** : Boating
- **Notable for** : City Palace, Lake Palace, and scenic views
- **Nearest Airport** : Maharana Pratap Airport
- **Cultural Insights** : Known for its Rajasthani culture

Hampi

Karnataka



Vijaya Vittala Temple

Hampi, situated in Karnataka, is a mesmerizing destination that seamlessly blends the allure of bygone eras with the untamed beauty of nature. During the monsoon season, which stretches from the months of June to September, the landscape transforms into a captivating tapestry of lush greenery, as gentle rainfall enhances the charm of the surroundings. This time of year offers visitors a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the region's rich history while being enveloped by nature's resplendence. Hampi's crown jewels include the awe-inspiring Virupaksha Temple, the magnificent Vittala Temple, and the Elephant Stables, each a testament to the area's architectural and cultural legacy.

- **Activities** : Exploring ancient ruins, trekking
- **Notable for** : Virupaksha Temple and scenic views
- **Nearest Airport** : Jindal Vijaynagar Airpor
- **Cultural Insights** : Famous for its Kannada culture

Andaman & Nicobar

Islands



The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, an exquisite union territory of India, captivate and enthrall travellers seeking a tropical haven. When the monsoon season arrives from June to September, nature transforms the islands into a mesmerizing spectacle, enveloping them in lush greenery. The abundant rainfall during this time enhances the natural beauty, rendering it an irresistible destination for visitors. Here, people can indulge in the pristine beaches, delve into the clear waters while engaging in activities such as snorkelling, and deeply immerse themselves in the vibrant local markets. The region's colourful culture and cuisine further enrich the overall appeal, promising a truly distinctive and unforgettable experience for every traveller.

- **Activities** : Snorkelling, diving
- **Notable for** : Radhanagar Beach, Elephant Beach
- **Nearest Airport** : Veer Savarkar International Airport
- **Cultural Insights** : Known for its diverse marine life

Summing Up

The monsoon season in India is truly magical, as nature comes alive with vibrant colours and soothing showers that bring joy to all living beings. During this time, the country's breathtaking natural beauty shines through, offering travellers unforgettable experiences that capture the essence of the enchanting rainy weather. Whether it's the lush greenery, the glistening rain, or the rejuvenating atmosphere, these destinations serve as perfect showcases of diverse and stunning landscapes, inviting explorers to immerse themselves in the marvels of the monsoon. 🌧️

Revel in the Harmonious Melodies of the *waves*



Nestled along the pristine shores of Chakratirth Beach, Praveg Beach Resort offers an idyllic escape where the symphony of crashing waves and stunning sunsets create a mesmerizing backdrop. The thoughtfully designed sea-view cottages, adorned with lavish king-size beds, contemporary amenities, and panoramic views of the Arabian Sea, provide a tranquil retreat. Indulge in a delectable array of local and international delicacies with a complimentary breakfast and savour a refreshing welcome drink, setting the tone for an unforgettable stay. Impeccable service and a diverse range of activities to exhilarating water sports, ensure that Praveg Beach Resort is the quintessential destination for your monsoon getaway.

PRAVEG
BEACH RESORT
DIU

@ CHAKRATIRTH BEACH,
Next to INS Khukri Mamorial, Diu-362 520

For Booking:  +91 90906 90902
 booking@pravegbeachresortdiu.com

www.dizcoverpraveg.com

dizcoverpraveg.com



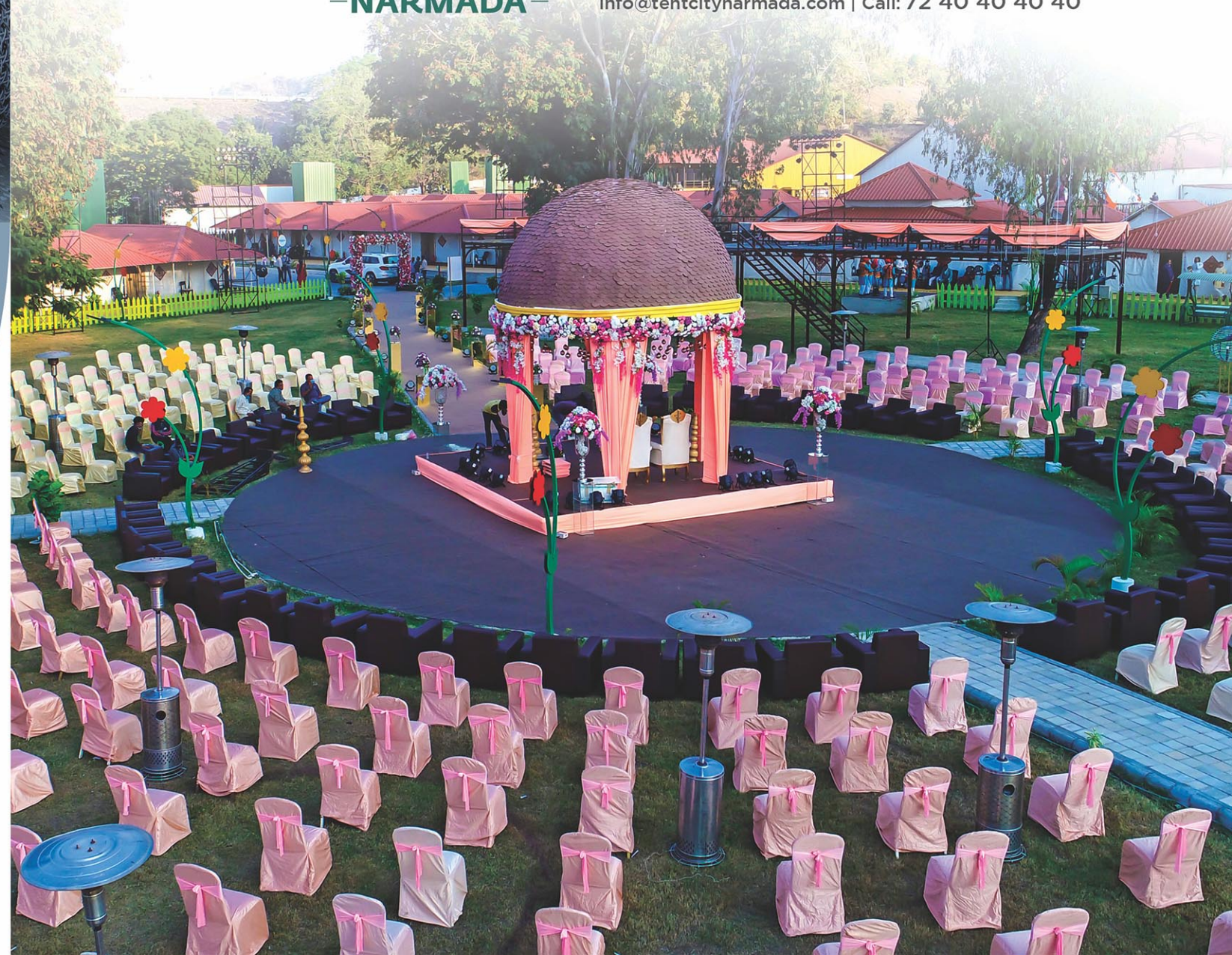
Tie the Knot IN YOUR DREAM WEDDING DESTINATION

Indulge the enchanting backdrop of Tent City Narmada, the ultimate wedding destination in Gujarat. With a sprawling 10,000 sq.m. green lawn, state-of-the-art amenities, accommodation in 200 luxurious AC tents, a dining hall for 400 guests, three banquet halls, personalized décor services, and professional event management, we offer an unforgettable outdoor celebration. Treat yourself to our hospitality with regional, Indian, and global cuisines, a VIP lounge, and entertainment options. Our tailored packages are designed to cater to your specific desires and budgetary considerations. Get in touch with us to embark on planning your perfect wedding at Tent City Narmada.

PRAVEG
TENT CITY
NARMADA

📍 Dyke-3, Sardar Sarovar Dam Site, Ekta Nagar-393151,
Dist. Narmada, Gujarat, India.

info@tentcitynarmada.com | Call: 72 40 40 40 40



Raksha Bandhan

When Hearts Bond

By VIJAY KURUP, Contributor

Festivals have significance. For most, it is a day to pay obeisance to the lord and a day of enjoyment. For many others, it is a day to do something different from their quotidian activities. It is a day to wear new clothes, make and eat delectable food, and enjoy camaraderie with friends and relatives. It also allows making amends, forgetting, and forgiving. The festival of Raksha Bandhan strengthens sibling bonds and opens the door for bygones to be bygones.

Bond of protection

Raksha Bandhan, which translates to "bond of protection", falls on the full moon in the Hindu month of Shravana (usually August). It is a ritual-based festival. The ritual involves a sister tying a Rakhi (a sacred thread) on her brother's wrist, seeking his protection, and strengthening sibling bonds. In return, the brothers traditionally offer gifts to their sisters. These can be in the form of clothing, jewellery, or money. It can also be something they know their sister desires.

Over the years, the festival has evolved to encompass a broader range of relationships. It is not uncommon for sisters to tie Rakhi on their brothers-in-law, cousins, close friends, or anyone considered a brotherly figure. On the day of Raksha Bandhan, there is a perceptible increase in traffic when sisters travel to meet their brothers to tie Rakhi on their hands. The tradition of Rakhi continues even after the sister is married off.

Raksha Bandhan & Bollywood

The Indian cinema industry has frequently used Raksha Bandhan as a theme for several decades, primarily because of its thematic poignancy, which has found a ready acceptance among discerning cinema aficionados. A similar festival only exists in countries with a significant Hindu population.

But with the change of times, the red string or Kalava has been replaced by fanciful strings and trinkets. It is typically decorated with vibrant colours and elaborate designs. Traditionally, however, the Rakhi is a non-sanforised cotton thread or Kalava. It symbolised long life and protection against enemies. The red-coloured Kalva holds significance in Hinduism for various reasons. A core belief is that Kalava acts as a protective charm. It is believed to ward off negative energy, evil forces, and illnesses. The red colour itself is considered auspicious and symbolic of strength and vitality.

Auspicious Colour | Good Luck | Fortune

Red is profoundly significant in Hinduism, symbolising a host of positive qualities and meanings. It is considered an auspicious colour, bringing good luck and fortune. The vibrant red colour represents life force, energy, and vitality. It is widely used in religious ceremonies, festivals, and weddings. The bridal saree is also red, symbolising love, marital bliss, and prosperity. The powder thrown during the festival Holi is also red. Finally, the red is associated with Shakti or strength, the divine feminine force representing power, creation, and energy. It is seen in the depictions of Goddesses like Durga, who embodies strength and protection.

The colour red is not without significance. Chinese culture also considers red a powerful symbol of good luck, happiness, and prosperity; it is deeply ingrained in their tradition.

Raksha Bandhan, in the way it is traditionally celebrated in North India, is less widespread in South India.

Origin of Raksha Bandhan

What is the origin of Raksha Bandhan? The exact origin remains to be determined, but references are found in epics and scriptures. There is plausible evidence that the practice of tying threads for protection could go back to the Indus Valley Civilization, which, if true, takes this ceremony back at least 6,000 years.

Artefacts unearthed at Indus Valley civilisation sites depict human figures with bands or threads on their wrists, plausibly indicating ritual practices involving thread or binding. But these are mere speculations. While some aspects of Raksha Bandhan may have ancient origins, the specific form and rituals of the festival may have changed with time and been influenced by various cultural and religious factors.

But what gives Raksha Bandhan its sanctity? Numerous narrations in mythology lend weight to the importance of this festival. The continuity of these cultural practices in South Asia suggests that some traditions have ancient roots. The concept of a priest tying protective amulets or threads is common in various ancient cultures.



Lothal

Mythological Connection

In mythology, Hindu epics and scriptures mention Raksha Bandhan-like ceremonies. In the Mahabharata, Draupadi, the wife of the Pandavas, tied a piece of her sari around Lord Krishna's wrist when he was injured in battle. In acknowledgement of her nursing, Krishna vowed to protect her. Later, when she was forced to disrobe in the Kaurava's court, Krishna's intervention saved her from dishonour.

Another legend involves Yama and his sister Yamuna. Yama and Yamuna are twins; one brings death, and the other brings life. According to the story, Yamuna tied a Rakhi on Yama's wrist, granting him immortality. Touched by her affection, Yama declared that any brother who receives a Rakhi from his sister and promises to protect her will be blessed with a long life and prosperity.

More references to thread-tying rituals and festivals emerged in the Vedic period, which spans 1500 to 500 BCE. The Vedas and other early texts describe various rituals involving the tying of threads for protection and blessing, which might be the forerunners of the Raksha Bandhan ceremony.



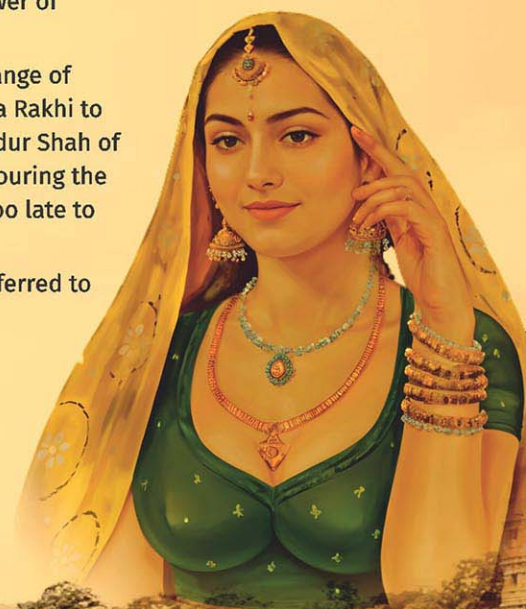
Krishna Temple, Keshi Ghat, Yamuna River, Vrindavan

Raksha Bandhan in History

In 326 BCE, Alexander's wife, Roxana, sent a sacred thread to King Porus, asking him not to harm her husband in battle. Porus refrained from killing Alexander when he had the chance; this is the power of a fragile thread of love and sanctity.

Many instances in the mediaeval period indicate the exchange of Rakhi threads between royalty. Rani Karnavati of Chittor sent a Rakhi to Mughal Emperor Humayun, seeking his protection when Bahadur Shah of Gujarat threatened her kingdom. Humayun responded by honouring the Rakhi and setting out to defend Chittor. However, he arrived too late to prevent its fall.

There are, however, no written records for the incidents referred to above, and they remain unsubstantiated.

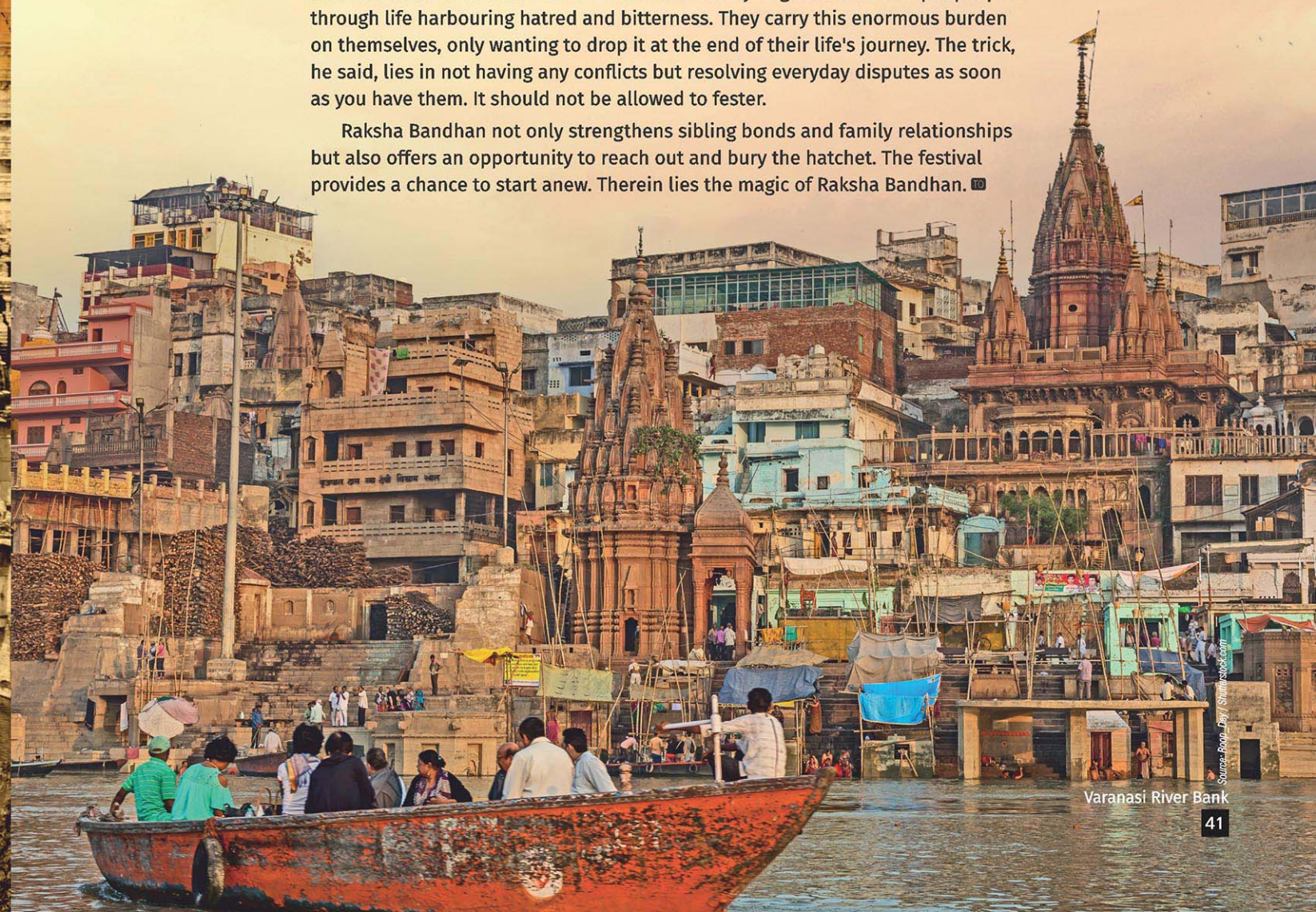


Science Behind Raksha Bandhan

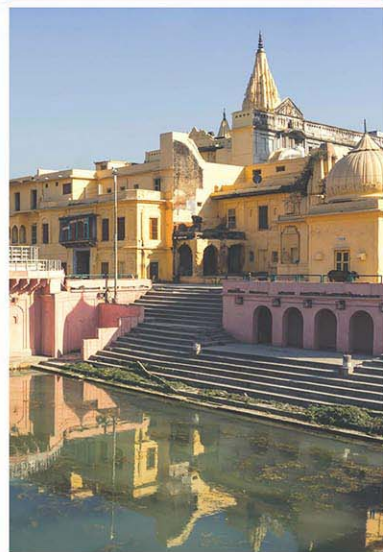
Is there a science behind Raksha Bandhan? It does seem plausible. Such rituals do create a sense of security and belonging. Studies suggest that rituals can promote social bonding, reduce stress, and foster positive emotions. Further, the belief that the Rakhi offers protection might have a placebo effect. The ritual of Raksha Bandhan makes one feel protected and cared for. It can also contribute to various health benefits, including lower blood pressure and an improved immune system. It can also be an easy way to reset your relations with friends or relatives. Studies have shown that carrying a grudge through life can have a deleterious effect on one's health. It is a burden that one can live without.

In Varanasi, there is a house called Kashi Labh Mukti Bhawan. Old people who are aware of their imminent demise come to this place to die because to die in Varanasi is to attain Liberation or Mukti. They knew that their days were numbered. The caretaker of this house, Bhairav Nath Shukla, had seen over 12,000 deaths. He was asked by an interviewer, Deepak Ramola, what life lessons he had learnt from the people who came to die here. Shukla listed 12 life lessons. And one of them was: Resolve all conflicts before you go. He said that people pass through life harbouring hatred and bitterness. They carry this enormous burden on themselves, only wanting to drop it at the end of their life's journey. The trick, he said, lies in not having any conflicts but resolving everyday disputes as soon as you have them. It should not be allowed to fester.

Raksha Bandhan not only strengthens sibling bonds and family relationships but also offers an opportunity to reach out and bury the hatchet. The festival provides a chance to start anew. Therein lies the magic of Raksha Bandhan.



अलौकिक अयोध्या



dizcoverpraveg.com

EMBRACE DIVINITY AND CREATE LIFETIME MEMORIES

Experience spirituality and luxury in Tent City Ayodhya, just steps away from the iconic Ram Lalla Temple. Our upscale resort offers 30 beautifully designed air-conditioned tents, each providing a serene and comfortable retreat. Enjoy modern amenities, including spacious interiors with elegant furnishings, a mini fridge, an electric kettle, and a safety locker. Indulge in mouth-watering vegetarian Banarasi cuisine and special Awadhi dishes at our delightful buffet. Immerse yourself in Ayodhya's rich cultural heritage with engaging evening performances. Choose from our tailored packages for a fulfilling spiritual journey. Our warm hospitality and dedicated staff are committed to making your stay memorable. Book your unforgettable stay today!

PRAVEG
TENT CITY
AYODHYA
BRAHMA KUND

@ B/h. Gurudwara, Ayodhya-224123 (UP)

Call: **96 74 123 123**

info@tentcityayodhya.com

BEHOLD A PLACE

Where the Sky Becomes an Artist



Lighthouse Beach, renowned for its stunning sunsets that paint the sky in a myriad of colours, creating a truly unforgettable sight, is the backdrop for the Praveg Beach Resort. At this resort, guests can enjoy a diverse range of activities, from beach volleyball and water sports to guided nature walks, ensuring that their stay is always full of excitement. Whether you prefer to unwind by the infinity pool or seek out a thrilling adventure, this destination caters to everyone's preferences. Join us for a monsoon holiday like no other, where every moment is filled with beauty and relaxation.

PRAVEG
BEACH RESORT
DAMAN



@ **LIGHTHOUSE BEACH**

Near Moti Daman Fort, Moti Daman - 396220, Daman

Call: **+91 9090 82 9090**

info@pravegbeachresortdaman.com

dizcoverpraveg.com



The Vibrant Colours of the Monsoon

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

A symphony of raindrops and a dance of the clouds,
Fills us with rejuvenation when so much fun is allowed.

A lullaby of the rain and a soothing sound,
Makes every moment magical nearly all around.

Let's embark on a journey, exploring the wonders of nature,
Where each drop has an impact on every living creature.

The monsoon season brilliantly draws a natural painting,
A masterpiece of beauty that will never be fading.

The season of rain offers a chance to be reborn again,
It sets us free to achieve the dreams that we desire to gain.

The rhythm of the drops makes your heart skip a beat,
Hold the hands of your lover and dance to this drumbeat.

The sweet scent of the earth creates a perfect harmony,
Let's forget all our worries for a while in this majestic symphony.

Let the monsoon season awaken the earth from its slumber,
Let its melody fill our hearts with joy and our souls with wonder. 🌧️



Monsoon Road Safety Tips for Car Drivers

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

Stay safe on the road during the monsoon season with these essential safety tips for car drivers. Follow these guidelines to reduce the risk of accidents and have a secure journey.

Before You Hit the Road

Check Your Vehicle

- A. Ensure your car is in good condition:
 - i. Monitor tire pressure and tread depth
 - ii. Examine brakes and suspension
 - iii. Inspect the proper functioning of lights, wipers, and horn
- B. Consider getting a complete inspection

Plan Your Route

- A. Sidestep underwater areas and low-lying streets
- B. Use GPS or maps to find alternative routes
- C. Check for track closures and construction

Preventing Fog Inside the Car Windshield

- A. Lower the temperature in your car
- B. Turn on the defrost vent with cool air
- C. Adjust the car's ventilation system

Driving in Monsoon Season

Slow Down

- A. Reduce speed to match the road state
- B. Leave extra space between vehicles
- C. Refrain from sudden braking or acceleration

Use Fog Lights

- A. Turn on your headlights to increase visibility
- B. Use yellow cellophane on the headlight if there are no front fog lights
- C. Do not use high beams, which can lower the sight

Maintain a Safe Distance

- A. Stick to an appropriate distance from other vehicles
- B. Keep away from tailgating and rapid stops.
- C. Use your mirrors and review your blind spots

Avoid Flooded Roads

- A. Never drive through still water
- B. Turn around and find an alternative route
- C. Abstain from driving through drowned areas, even if it seems shallow

Be Prepared

- A. Pack an emergency kit in your vehicle:
 - I. Flashlight, first aid kit, and jumper cables
 - II. Extra clothes, food, and water
 - III. Mobile charger and backup power source

Additional Tips



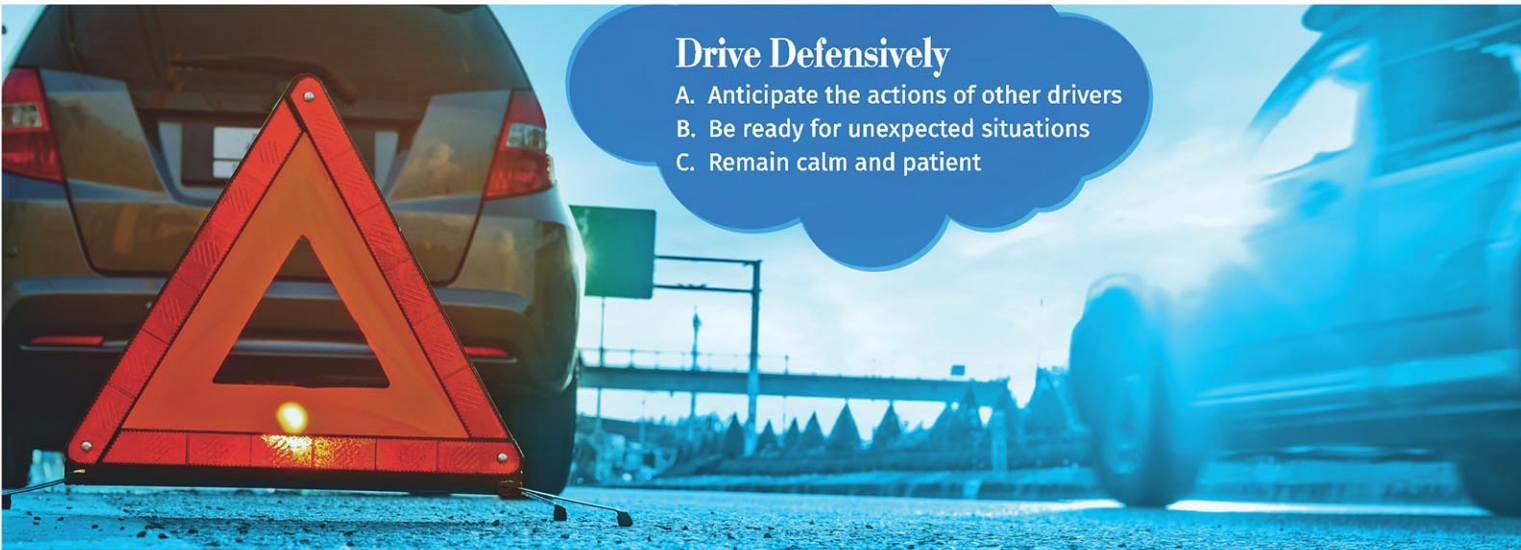
Keep Your Car Clean

- A. Regularly clean your car to prevent water accumulation
- B. Be certain for any leaks or damage



Be attentive

- A. Monitor weather updates and road status
- B. Sign up for traffic updates
- C. Remember to charge your phone




Drive Defensively

- A. Anticipate the actions of other drivers
- B. Be ready for unexpected situations
- C. Remain calm and patient

Remember

- A. Concentrate on the roads during the rainy season
- B. Be Prepared for unexpected situations
- C. Pay attention when you operate your car

Summing up

By following these safety guidelines, you can significantly reduce your risk of accidents and ensure a harmless journey during the monsoon season. Keep yourself and others protected by staying informed, focused, and alert. 

Unite with the Serenity of the Shore

Jampore Beach is a tranquil destination known for its calm waters and stunning views, offering a perfect escape during the monsoon season. At Praveg Beach Resort, guests can enjoy spacious rooms, a welcoming atmosphere, and a range of amenities designed to elevate their experience. Whether engaging in activities like snorkelling, volleyball, and leisurely walks along the shore, or simply relaxing to the sound of waves with a refreshing drink, visitors can make unforgettable memories with our tailored special offers and packages. Immerse yourself in the allure of Jampore Beach for an extraordinary coastal getaway.



JAMPORE BEACH

Bariyad Ground, Nr. Jampore Beach, Moti Daman - 396220, Daman

Call: **+91 9090 82 9090**

info@pravegbeachresortdaman.com

dizcoverpraveg.com

Immerse Yourself in a Blissful Atmosphere

Ghoghla Beach is a haven of unspoiled beauty waiting to be discovered. The alluring soft sands and crystal-clear waters make it an irresistible destination for those seeking an escape. Nestled within this paradise is the Praveg Beach Resort, offering spacious and comfortable accommodations designed for pure relaxation. Guests can indulge in the luxury of an outdoor pool and savour the tantalizing flavours of local cuisine. As the monsoon season embraces the region, a profound sense of tranquillity envelops the surroundings, providing the perfect opportunity to immerse oneself in nature and explore the nearby attractions with loved ones.



@ GHOGHLA BEACH, Diu - 362540

Call: **+91 90906 90902**

www.dizcoverpraveg.com



INDEPENDENT

IND

ICONIC STRUCTURES



IA'S

Iconic Structures of Modern India

By VIJAY KURUP, Contributor

This year, India will be celebrating 77 years of independence. Much has happened since India stepped out from the shadows of the British Raj. India has advanced exponentially in the areas of science and technology. Today, we are capable of exporting technology. The extent of technological advancement is evident in the post-independence iconic structures that have made it a Mecca for tourists. Here is a selection of iconic structures of modern India which hold their own against the ageless architecture of the past.

Lotus Temple

New Delhi

How can you think of Delhi without referring to the Qutub Minar of the Delhi Sultanate, Red Fort, Shahjahanabad, Chandani Chowk and Jama Masjid of the mighty Mughals, the ancient Ashoka Pillar or the Rashtrapati Bhawan and Old Parliament House of Central Delhi? These are must-visit places for any tourist. However, the Lotus Temple or The Bahá'í House of Worship, in South Delhi, is as much a place of tourist interest since its opening in

December 1986. It presents a spectacular aerial sight when you fly into the city from the eastern side.

The temple is open to all people regardless of religious background. It aims to promote the oneness of humanity and the acceptance of all religions. Bahá'í does not have a clergy. As the name suggests, the Lotus Temple's design is based on the flower itself. The lotus flower can grow in any environment; it can emerge beautiful, fresh, and pristine from a well-tended household pond or a squalid water body. The flower symbolises overcoming challenges in a harsh environment.

Its architecture is a unique blend of art and science. Iranian architect Fariborz Sahba designed it, and Larsen & Toubro Limited, an eminent Indian engineering and construction company, carried out the construction.



Lotus Temple

Cybertecture

Mumbai

Who would like to avoid visiting the Gothic, Indo-Saracenic and Victorian buildings of South Mumbai? Even functional buildings have a rich architectural facade making this a lovely area to walk around. However, in the same city in 2010, the Cybertecture, a 13-story commercial building focused on sustainability, emerged. This unique structure has been built in the shape of an egg. The oval shape distributes pressure evenly, making it strong against compression. It requires less building material

compared to the traditional ones with a rectangular format. This can translate to cost savings and a lighter environmental footprint. The reduced surface area will lead to less heat gain or loss.

Constructed in the Bandra Kurla complex, the building offers 33,000 square metres of office space. The building incorporates an elevated garden, providing a green space within the urban environment. It was designed with eco-friendly features to minimise environmental impact.

There is a novelty in an egg-shaped building. It's the kind of building that you see in science fiction movies, and it creates a sense of fun and amusement in people's minds when they see it. Along with the colonial architecture, this modern structure draws attention to India's progress as an economic superpower.



Cybertecture

St. John's Cathedral Tiruvalla, Kerala

Kerala is known as God's Own Country and has a staggering number of temples, churches, mosques and even synagogues. The legends and myths are shrouded in history and mythology. But drive down to Thiruvalla in Kerala, and from afar, standing against the bright blue sky, the structure looks like a temple. And then you do a double take. All similarities with a temple end there. This building in Thiruvalla in Kerala is St. John's Cathedral, designed by the renowned British-born Indian architect Laurie Baker.

Laurie Baker is known for his cost-effective, energy-efficient architecture and designs that maximise space, ventilation, and light. He uses traditional techniques that dramatically reduce the cost of construction. He used low-cost materials such as laterite stone, lime plaster, and locally sourced timber for doors and windows.

It was built in 1972 and has a capacity to hold 2000 people. The cathedral has a traditional temple-like exterior. It has a gopuram, a sizeable pyramidal tower seen in every Indian temple. But inside, it has all the conventional designs of a church; beautiful stained-glass windows depicting biblical themes, portraying stories like the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and the life of Jesus Christ. The altar has paintings of the 12 apostles. It is a perfect example of the amalgamation of two different styles of architecture. It typifies modern India, where old and new blend together and the different faiths in Kerala coexist in architectural syntax as much as in on-ground harmony.



Source: en.wikipedia.org

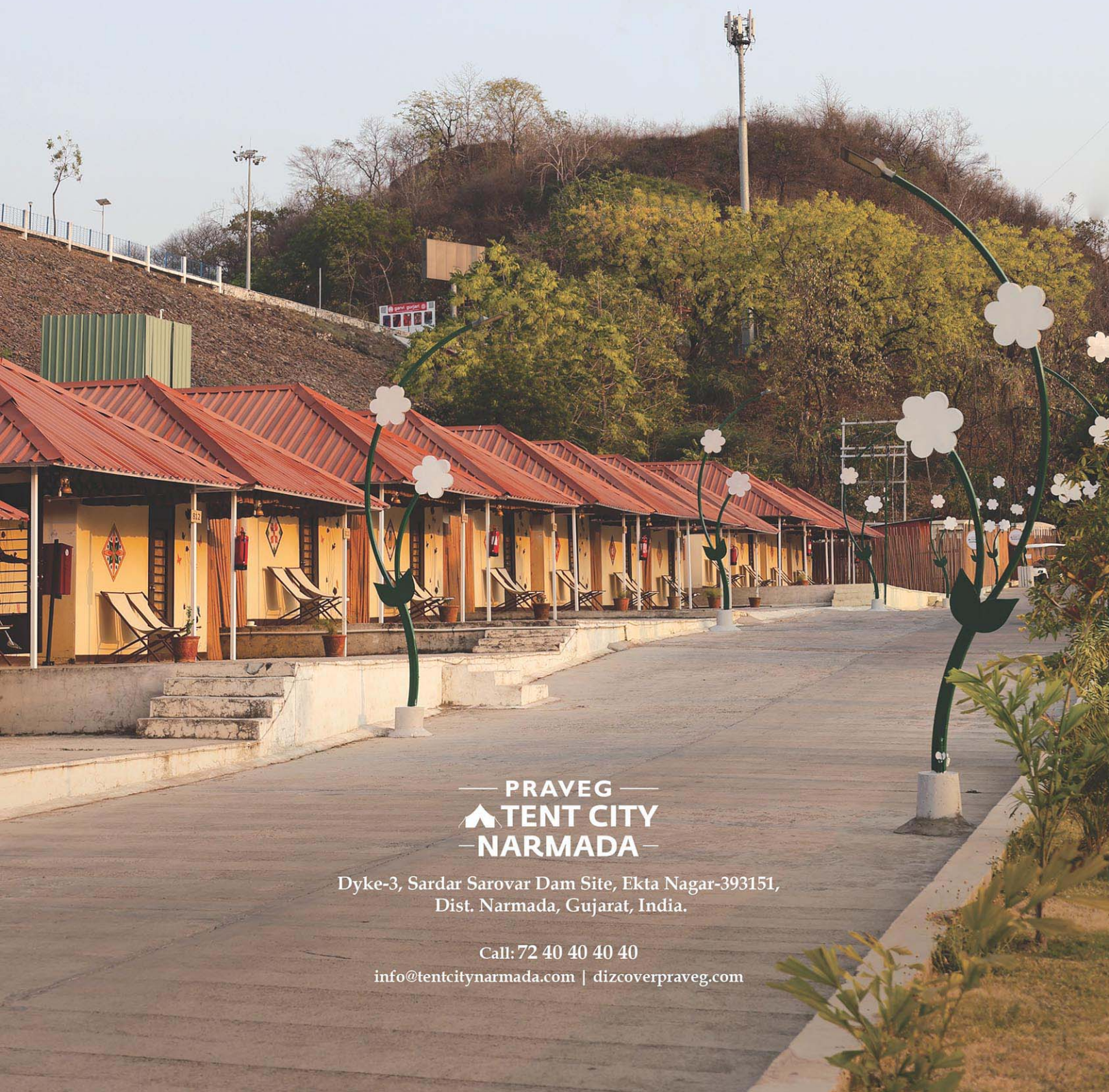
Handicraft Museums New Delhi

While architecture has the power to draw visitors, India's diverse handicraft museums, such as the textile museums in Ahmedabad and Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, and the Dilli Haat, where artisans from across the country come to temporary bazaars and sell their wares directly to consumers. Each artisan gets a limited time at the Haat to display and sell their wares. From award-winning artisans to the humble cooperatives, all jostle for space in the neatly laid out stalls. Backed with food kiosks from all over India and a regular flow of traditional and folk dances and the arts, it is a huge draw for domestic and foreign tourists to build or buy their own memories of India at hugely discounted rates.

Source: malisam / Shutterstock.com

TRANQUIL GLAMPING GETAWAY *for Everyone*

Immerse yourself in the tranquillity of Tent City Narmada, a luxurious nature resort located near the magnificent Statue of Unity. Our elegantly furnished tents offer a unique glamping experience with modern amenities, letting you embrace nature without sacrificing comfort. Indulge in delectable cuisines at our onsite restaurant and enjoy buffet-style dining, afternoon tea, and live entertainment in the midst of breathtaking natural beauty. Engage in guided tours and recreational activities, from exploring iconic attractions to relaxing by the outdoor pool. With complimentary parking, airport shuttle services, and exceptional hospitality, Tent City Narmada is the perfect nature retreat for couples, families, and friends. Book your unforgettable getaway today!



— PRAVEG —
▲ TENT CITY
— NARMADA —

Dyke-3, Sardar Sarovar Dam Site, Ekta Nagar-393151,
Dist. Narmada, Gujarat, India.

Call: 72 40 40 40 40
info@tentcitynarmada.com | dizcoverpraveg.com

The Statue of Unity Narmada, Gujarat

Many visitors to India come to Mahatma Gandhi's memorial—Rajghat—on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi. As the primary proponent of non-violent struggle, Mahatma Gandhi influenced and continues to inspire people worldwide. Many come to sit at this temple of peace and listen to Bapu's favourite bhajans, such as "Vaishnavajana to tene kahiye," and lose themselves in the peaceful surroundings. Others come to take their pledge to fight injustice peacefully to emerge victorious.

However, India also has many modern iconic structures that draw tourists. One such is the world's tallest statue – the Statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, in Kevadia, Gujarat. The Statue of Unity overlooks the Narmada River basin and the sprawling Sardar Sarovar dam. Seen from a distance, the gigantic Statue of Unity appears to dwarf the rolling Satpura and Vindhyachal hills around it. Much like the leader it is

dedicated to, who ruled the freedom movement and, in his role as a leader of newly independent India, who managed the amalgamation of princely states into the Indian union without bloodshed and divisiveness.

Standing 182 metres tall, it is two and a half times as tall as the Qutub Minar and as tall as 60 floors. It was built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T), a prominent Indian engineering and construction company. It is estimated to weigh about 67,000 tons. Taking the weight of a full-grown elephant at 4 metric tonnes, the Statue of Unity weighs as much as 16,750 elephants. The statue is visible from 7 km. However, there are reports that the statue is visible as far as 10 km on a clear day.

It is a fitting tribute to a man who was variously known as the "patron saint of India's civil servants", "the architect of independent India", and the "Iron Man of India".



Kashi Vishwanath Temple

Varanasi

Varanasi is a unique city of death; people come here to die and be cremated on the banks of the mighty Ganges. Recently, Varanasi has been given an unprecedented makeover, bringing tourists in droves to the city. The Kashi Vishwanath temple corridor allows access directly from the river. All the ghats of Varanasi can be traversed on foot. The corridor is replete with stores and food courts; it is maintained clean to afford the visiting populace a great experience. From the exquisite Banarsi saree to the paan and peda, Varanasi is a complete experience. But today, it is not the widows thrown out of society or the old who seek solace in the religious aura of the city alone who come here. Even the famed Ganga aarti has a new viewing gallery - from boats on the now substantially cleaned-up river. The

cremation activities are still present but now confined to select ghats and a new corridor has been created from the river to the Kashi Vishwanath temple, which has drawn in the young and exuberant and the rich and famous from around the world.

From temples to commercial buildings, statues, and museums, India is showing a new-found confidence in its blend of modernity and tradition. While the makers have pride enough in the past to pick up ancient themes and traditions, there is a modern spin to the Ganga Aarti, the centuries-old handloom weaves, leaders from over 75 years ago, and sarees, sweets, and just about anything. But the merging of the two draws domestic and foreign tourists to the new idiom, India.



India defies definitions. It is old and new, clean and dirty, secular and religious, ancient and modern, and, like the description by EM Foster in 'A Passage to India', chaotic and joyful, mysterious and real. Modern India beckons tourists in a similar way. The old remains beside the new and each delights the visitor differently. But beyond everything is the majesty of scale and beauty. ■



Stay Stylish & Prepared in Monsoon with Helpful Accessories

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

The monsoon season brings a sense of renewal as the earth is drenched in refreshing rain, creating a serene atmosphere with the sound of pitter-patter droplets, lush green landscapes, and cool breezes. This time of year revitalizes the environment, giving new life to plants and animals. It's a period of growth, vitality, and a heightened appreciation for the pure beauty of nature. Many people enjoy sipping hot drinks and snacks, while others venture outdoors to admire the mesmerizing sight of rainy showers. However, it's crucial to prioritize safety and remain dry when traveling in wet conditions. Therefore, selecting essential additions to protect yourself from the heavy shower can elevate your rainy setting ensembles, adding a touch of style and enabling you to fully engage in numerous activities regardless of the weather. Let's explore the indispensable accessories that can ensure your safety on such days.



Lowercase Caps

Lowercase Caps are prepared to provide exceptional protection against heavy rainfall, offering a stylish and comfy appearance. Crafted using premium waterproof fabrics, this headwear effectively repels water even during rainy days. The adjustable straps and closures guarantee a comfortable fit for any head size, keeping it in place in windy conditions. With a variety of trendy colours and patterns, these caps combine functionality with style, allowing you to find the perfect match for your personal taste. Built to withstand weather challenges, it is made with durable materials and reinforced stitching, guaranteeing it lasts through multiple monsoon seasons without compromising its qualities or structural integrity.

₹ 299

www.amazon.in/dp/B097YT1CTH



Solimo Backpack Cover

The Solimo Backpack Cover is a durable and reliable accessory created to protect your belongings from the elements. Crafted with 100% waterproof material, this piece effectively shields your luggage from water, dust, spills, and mud and keeps essentials safe. The elastic edges provide a tight fit on the bag, and the buckle holds it in place for optimal protection. For added convenience, the pack comes with a storable pouch, allowing you to easily carry and store it even when wet or soiled after use.

₹ 239

www.amazon.in/dp/B07FQMN9VN



Star Work Umbrellas

Star Work Umbrellas presents a trendy, top-notch design that blends sturdiness and practicality. Crafted with premium materials, these umbrellas are engineered to endure heavy downpours, powerful gusts, and harsh sunlight, rendering them ideal for all. This item guarantees secure storage when not in use, and its light and sleek style makes it effortless to carry in your bag while on the move. These products are adaptable accessories for various events, such as gatherings, weddings, and celebrations, enhancing your attire and shielding you from the weather.

₹ 716

www.amazon.in/dp/B0C3MDQYV1



Spigen Pouch Bag

The Spigen Pouch Bag is a comprehensive kit that consists of a water-resistant pack with a waistband and a mobile case with a neck strap. It also accommodates phone cases with adjustable and detachable straps, providing you with the freedom to move. Certified to IPX8 standards, the enclosed devices are safeguarded with top-notch seal technology, allowing them to endure water depths of up to 30 meters/100ft. The touch screen is constructed of soft TPU materials for a gentle feel and responsive performance.

₹ 1,201

www.amazon.in/dp/B09Y8ZG5XN



Shoerella Shoe Cover

Shoerella Shoe Cover is an improved model for 2024 and includes a complimentary pouch. The reusable, washable, and dust-resistant design shields your shoes from moisture, dirt, and blemishes, even during daily commutes or brief strolls. The stretchable sole-less patented structure offers a secure fit over all types of footwear, and the durable brass studs embedded on the flexible bands at the base provide stability while walking or running. This lightweight and user-friendly product can be easily packed into a compact size, allowing for convenient portability and quick application, enabling you to walk, run, or cycle in any climate year-round.

₹ 680

www.amazon.in/dp/B0D6LVKCXQ



Wildcraft Rain Suit

The Wildcraft Rain Suit is expertly crafted using 100% Nylon to provide exceptional durability and protection from the elements. The elasticated waistband not only offers a comfortable fit but also ensures that the suit stays securely in place. Additionally, the seams are sealed to prevent any water seepage, keeping you dry in harsh weather conditions. The double-flapped zippered pockets are designed to keep the zipper closure safe from rain, ensuring the security of your belongings. This high-quality product is ideal for adults seeking reliable and effective rain gear.

₹ 1,399

www.amazon.in/dp/B07SNWPJQY

Conclusion

Stay fashionable and prepared this monsoon with the essential accessories highlighted in this guide. From protective sleeves and caps to waterproof bags and ponchos, these versatile products will keep you dry, comfortable, and trendy, fully embracing the beauty of the rainy weather. Invest in these practical yet chic additions to elevate your rainy season experience and ensure a safe, enjoyable, and memorable time.

Disclaimer: The Monsoon accessories listed here are selected from the Amazon India website. The accessories were available on the Amazon India website when the article was written. The price of accessories may vary from time to time. Tourism One or its editorial staff are not responsible for any change in the price. 📄

Mesmerizing Monsoon @PRAVEG

A LUXURY RESORT
enveloped by nature

PRAVEG
TENT CITY
NARMADA

Double Occupancy
₹ 20,500/-
+ Tax

2 Nights /
3 Days Package

Book your dates: 72 40 40 40 40

अलौकिक अयोध्या

PRAVEG
TENT CITY
AYODHYA
BRAHMA KUND

₹ 24,500/-
+ Tax

2 Nights / 3 Days
of Spiritual सैर

Book your dates: 96 74 123 123

PRAVEG
BEACH RESORT
DAMAN
JAMPORE BEACH

(Weekday)
₹ 5,999/-
+ Tax

Valid till
14th Aug.
2024

(Weekend)
₹ 8,499/-
+ Tax

Book your dates: 9090 82 9090

PRAVEG
BEACH RESORT
DIU
CHAKRATIRTH BEACH

(Weekday)
₹ 5,999/-
+ Tax

Valid till
14th Aug.
2024

(Weekend)
₹ 8,499/-
+ Tax

Book your dates: 90906 90902

www.dizcoverpraveg.com

Exploring the Culinary Delights of Monsoon in India

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

During the monsoon in India, food enthusiasts can look forward to a delightful array of culinary delights. As the oppressive heat gives way to cooler, wetter conditions, a rich tapestry of sumptuous dishes emerges. These lovely treats not only excite the taste buds but also provide much-needed comfort. From crispy pakoras sizzling in hot oil to the aromatic essence of masala chai, cuisines from various regions of the country truly encapsulate the essence of the Monsoon.

Methi Na Gota and Dalwda

Discover the delightful Methi na Gota, also known as Methi Pakoda, a traditional Gujarati snack featuring a crispy exterior and a soft interior. Made with chickpea flour (besan) and fresh fenugreek leaves (methi), this savory treat offers a perfect blend of flavors and textures. Another popular choice is the Dalwada (Dal Vada), a savory snack primarily made from split lentils (dal). With its dense and flavorful profile, Dalwada is a must-try for snack enthusiasts.

Mysore Bhajjis

In South India, Mysore Bhajjis are a favourite delicacy. These delectable delicacies are crafted from a batter of gram flour mixed with a blend of aromatic spices. Once deep-fried to perfection, they boast a satisfyingly crispy texture that pairs perfectly with a steaming cup of flavourful masala tea.



Bhutta

A much-loved snack which is roasted corn on the cob, also known as Bhutta. Street vendors skilfully roast the corn over open flames, infusing it with a smoky flavour. The hot Bhutta is then generously slathered with butter, sprinkled with tangy lime juice, and a dash of spices, creating a mouth-watering treat that captures the essence of the rainy season.

Chai and Pakoras

In North India, enjoying chai and pakoras is a wonderful experience. It involves savouring the comforting aroma of masala chai and the satisfying sizzle of crispy pakoras. These fried treats, typically cooked from a mix of potatoes or onions, are a beloved tradition among locals as they gather to enjoy the rain.

Singhade ki Sabzi

A flavourful and nutritious dish from Delhi, Singhade ki Sabzi features water chestnuts seasoned with mustard seeds, cumin, turmeric, and dried mango powder. The combination of these spices offers a healthy and delicious culinary experience. 🍽️

UNCOVER A HAVEN WHERE THE HEART FINDS PEACE

Nagoa Beach is a serene escape surrounded by lush greenery and a tranquil atmosphere. At Praveg Beach Resort, guests can enjoy a variety of water sports or simply relax on the pristine beach with a good book. The resort offers comfortable lodging with all the amenities necessary for a pleasant stay. Embrace the magic of the monsoon with special packages that include discounts on food and beverages, adding to the delight of your holiday experience. Whether it's savouring delicious local cuisine or indulging in the swimming pool, Praveg Beach Resort provides the perfect setting for a memorable getaway.



@ NAGOA BEACH, NEAR DDH BEACH ROAD,
DIU - 362520

For Booking: ☎ +91 90906 90902

✉ booking@pravegbeachresortdiu.com

www.dizcoverpraveg.com





**A Rising Star Now Shines
with Five-star Brilliance**

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

**PRAVEG'S
GRAND
EULOGIA**

Opp. Monte Cristo Party Plot, Sindhu Bhavan Road,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat - 380058

Call: +91 72111 98891 • info@eulogiahotels.com

www.eulogiahotels.com