

PRAVEG'S

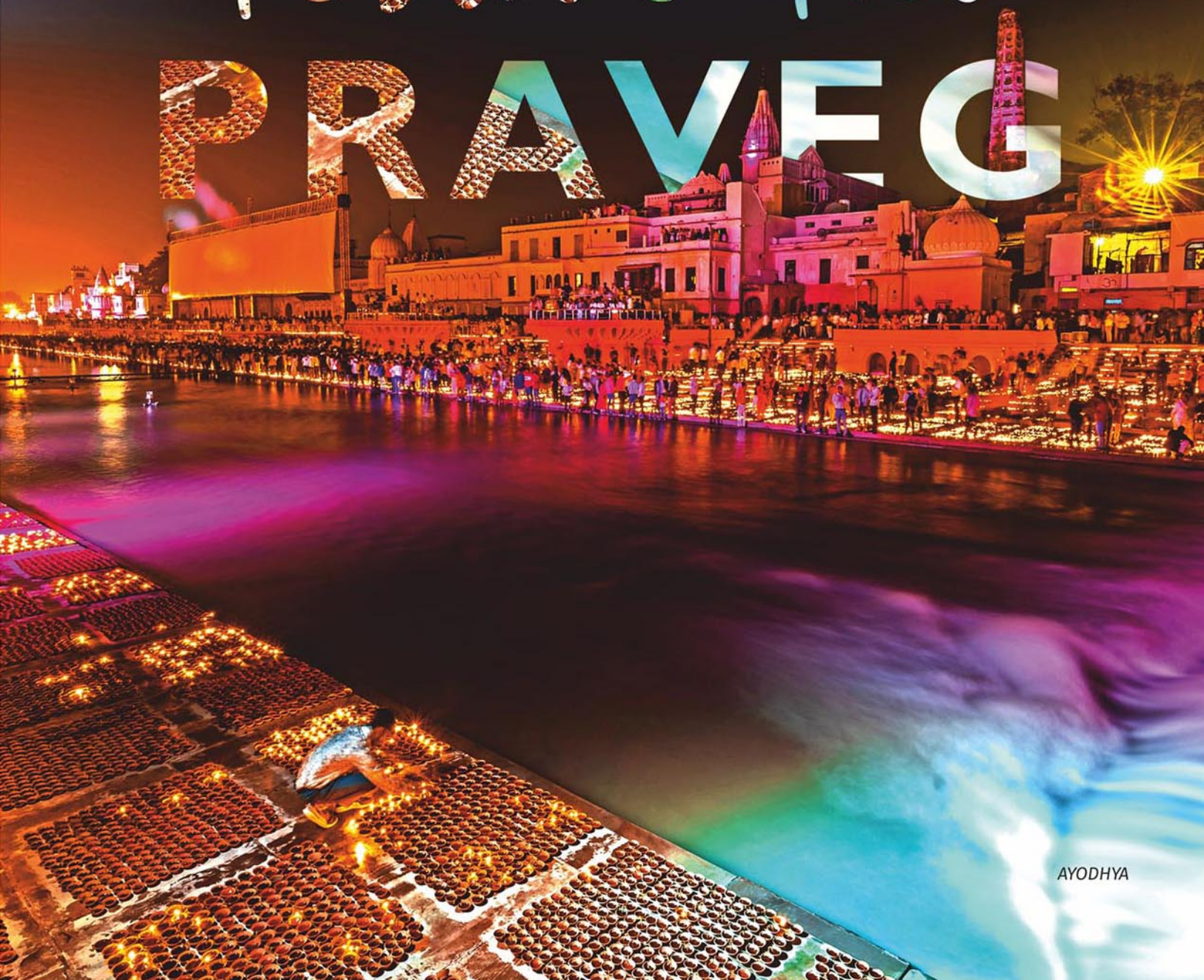
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tourism one

A Trusted Friend for Travellers

'Festive' Ful

PRAVEG



AYODHYA

Travel, Togetherness, and Timeless Memories

Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh

**Destinations
that inspire,
experiences that stay,
journeys that touch
the heart and uplift
the spirit.**

Every journey begins with a breath of fresh air, curiosity, and wonder. In this issue of Tourism One, we invite you to travel not just across destinations, but through experiences that touch both heart and spirit.

We begin with "In Search of Air That Changes You", where Aparna Pathak takes us to India's pristine corners — from the tea-scented mornings of Munnar to the pine-kissed breezes of Tawang — reminding us that sometimes, travel is as simple as breathing differently.

From nature's freshness, we step into Dholavira, explored by Madhu Menon as a living cradle of civilisation. Here, 5,000-year-old stories of the Indus Valley blend with the resilience of Kutch's culture, landscapes, and people.

The contrasts of modern travel come alive in "Gen-Z Vs Millennial Travel Trends" by Mahek Siddiqui, where slow, soulful escapes and adrenaline-filled adventures highlight how different generations see the same world through different eyes — yet meet at the comforting aroma of coffee.

Reflection takes centre stage in "The Light at the End Was Never a Tunnel", another soulful piece by Aparna. Through the lighthouses of Puducherry, she discovers metaphors of endurance, grace, and purpose: a gentle reminder that travel doesn't always offer answers, but it does offer clarity.

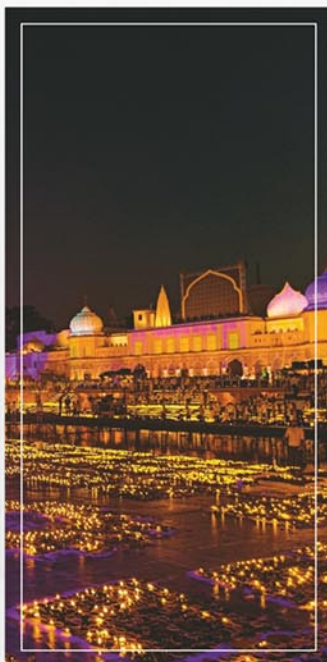
Closer to home, "Festiveful Praveg – Where Every Occasion Becomes a Story" celebrates the art of togetherness. From Diwali in Diu to weddings in Lakshadweep and family reunions in Kutch, Praveg transforms occasions into timeless memories where hospitality meets heritage.

And because no journey is complete without a touch of taste, our recipe section brings you three delights: Green Apple Jalebi, American Corn Bhel, and Doodh Poha. Simple yet inventive dishes to recreate the joy of travel at home.

As the monsoon rains wash our streets and skies, may they also refresh our spirit of exploration. Wherever you travel - into history, into culture, or simply into yourself - may you find a story worth keeping.

Happy reading, and happier travels.

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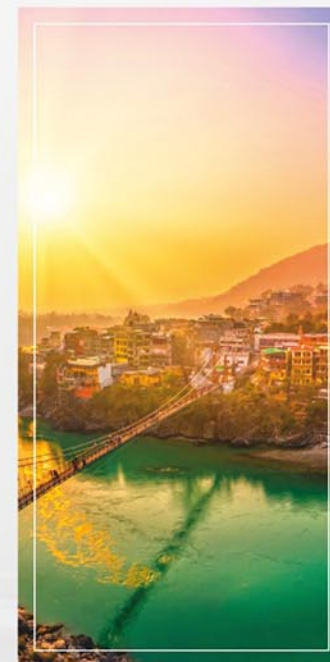
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Tasty Treasures

PRAVEG

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'Festive' Ful PRAVEG

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

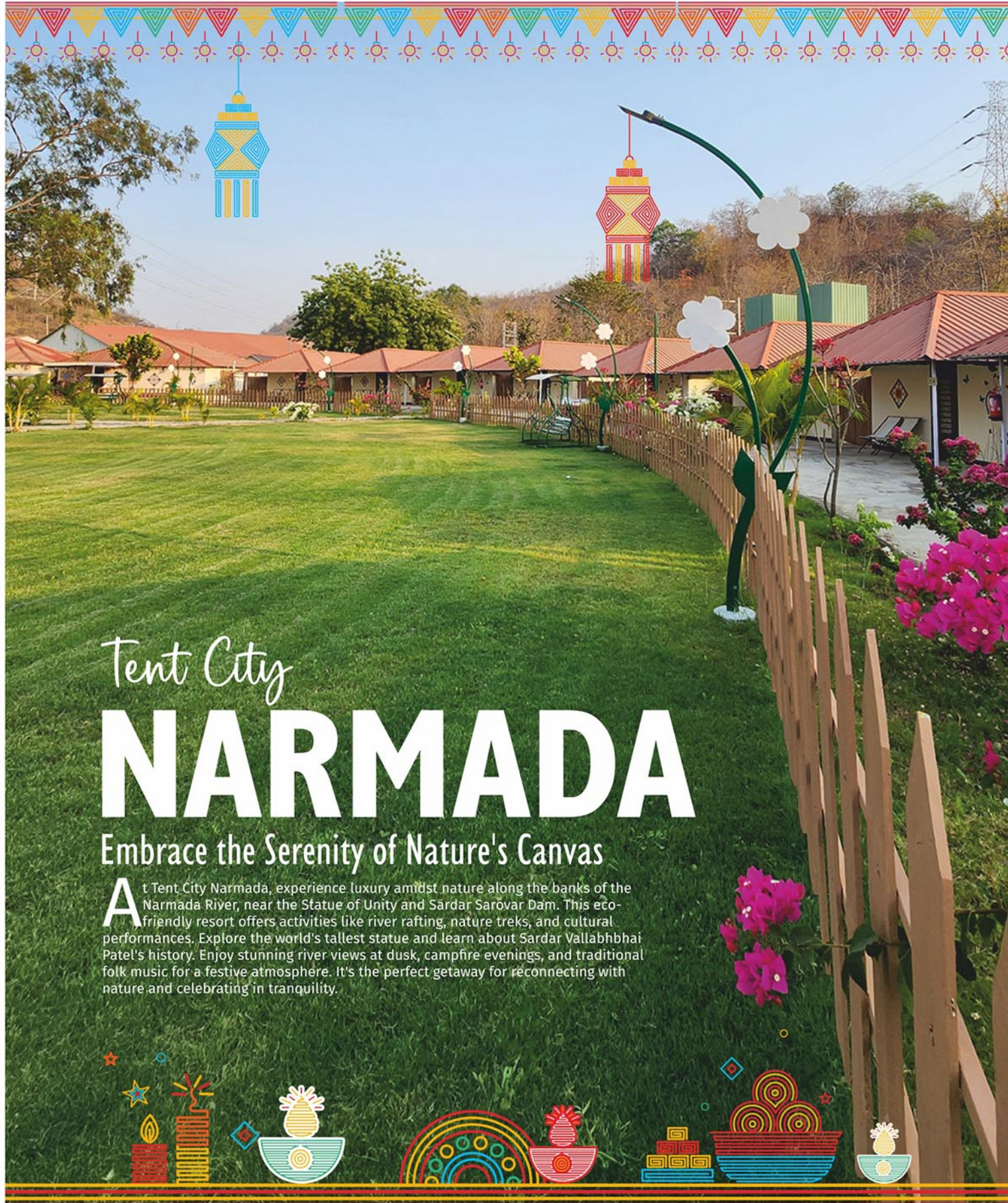
Destinations for Every Mood

Festivals invite us to step beyond the ordinary, offering vibrant opportunities for joy, discovery, and celebration. With Praveg, every mood is catered to, whether you're seeking the peaceful embrace of coastal beaches, the allure of ancient heritage ruins, the pulse of untamed wilderness, or the tranquility of sacred ghats. Each destination is a carefully chosen blend of luxury and authentic experience, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the beauty and culture of your surroundings. The exotic charm of islands adds an extra layer of excitement, ensuring that your time away is both enriching and unforgettable. At Praveg, we believe that each festive occasion should unfold like a story, creating memorable moments that linger long after the celebrations have ended.

Our properties are designed to provide not just a place to stay, but a backdrop for unforgettable experiences that connect you with the essence of the locale. Join us in crafting a tapestry of joyous moments, from delightful local cuisine to engaging cultural encounters, ensuring that this festive season will become a cherished chapter in your life, filled with meaningful connections and lasting memories.



Ayodhya Deepotsav Diwali Event



Tent City NARMADA

Embrace the Serenity of Nature's Canvas

At Tent City Narmada, experience luxury amidst nature along the banks of the Narmada River, near the Statue of Unity and Sardar Sarovar Dam. This eco-friendly resort offers activities like river rafting, nature treks, and cultural performances. Explore the world's tallest statue and learn about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's history. Enjoy stunning river views at dusk, campfire evenings, and traditional folk music for a festive atmosphere. It's the perfect getaway for reconnecting with nature and celebrating in tranquility.



WHITE RANN

Resort

Immerse Yourself in
the Cultural Tapestry of Kutch

At White Rann Resort, every festival becomes a vibrant tapestry woven from the rich cultural heritage of the region. Nestled amidst the expansive salt flats of the Rann of Kutch, this resort offers guests an immersive experience steeped in tradition and artistry. Visitors can explore local craftsmanship through workshops on block printing and pottery, while cultural evenings feature captivating performances of traditional music and dance that echo the spirit of the land. Surrounded by stunning landscapes and the serene beauty of the salt desert, guests can celebrate festivals with unforgettable bonfires, stargazing under clear skies, and the warm hospitality of the local community, making every moment a cherished story.

Praveg Beach Resorts

DIU

Chakratirth

A Sunset Symphony by the Sea

At Praveg Beach Resort, Chakratirth Beach, you step into a world of soulful calm defined by endless ocean views and sunsets that paint the skies golden. Surrounded by attractions like Diu Fort, Naida Caves, and the Diu Museum, it offers a mix of cultural discovery and coastal relaxation. Guests can spend mornings in meditation on the sands, delight in candlelit dinners on the beach, and enjoy cultural storytelling nights. It is perfect for those seeking serenity during festivals, where celebrations are draped in the soothing sounds of waves.

Ghoghla

Here Waves Meet Adventure

For adventure seekers, Praveg Beach Resort, Ghoghla Beach transforms festivities into thrilling memories. Famous for its pristine sands and sparkling waters, the beach draws travelers for parasailing, jet skiing, and other water sports. Attractions like the INS Khukri Memorial and St. Paul's Church add historical depth to your holiday. Bonfires, seafood feasts, and adrenaline-filled days make this resort ideal for anyone who loves blending celebration with excitement.

Nagoa

The Beach of Festive Rhythms

At Praveg Beach Resort, Nagoa Beach, festivals come alive with vibrancy, dance, and cultural energy. Known for its horseshoe-shaped coastline and unique Hokka trees, this beach buzzes with activity, complemented by nearby attractions like Diu Fort. During your stay, celebrate with beach volleyball, boat rides, and traditional folk performances under the stars. It is the choice for travelers who want their festive days infused with lively rhythms, laughter, and community celebrations.



Praveg Beach Resorts

DAMAN

Lighthouse

A Lighthouse of Celebration

For those enchanted by seafront vibrancies, Praveg Beach Resort, Lighthouse Beach (Daman) offers festivals against breathtaking sunsets framed by its iconic lighthouse. Devka Beach and the Dominican Monastery are close by, adding more dimension to your trip. Festivities here include seafood galas, romantic sunset walks, and evenings filled with music. It is an ideal destination to amplify the festive spirit with dramatic natural beauty and serene coastal joy.

Jampore

Breezes of Family Joy

At Praveg Beach Resort, Jampore Beach (Daman), festivals carry the sound of music and laughter across calm waters. This family-friendly coastline is perfect for relaxing celebrations with visits to Moti Daman Fort and Bom Jesus Church steeped in history. Kite flying, evening picnics, and collective family feasts capture the spirit of community. For families and groups, this resort creates festivals marked by joy, togetherness, and harmony.







Praveg Rezort

KACHIGAM

A Riverside Song of Serenity

Praveg Rezort Kachigam offers riverside serenity away from crowds. Its nearby landmarks such as Mirasol Lake Garden and pristine Daman beaches are perfect for escapades. Guests can cycle along the river, gather around bonfires, and enjoy quiet nature walks. This is a retreat for those who want personal, slow, and tranquil celebrations, closer to nature than noise.







Praveg Rezort

DHOLAVIRA

A Journey Through Eternity

Praveg Rezort Dholavira offers a festive journey back in time. With the Harappan ruins of Dholavira—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—surrounding you, every celebration feels eternal. Guests can enjoy guided walks into ancient civilizations, storytelling nights by campfires, and stargazing in the desert skies. Attractions like the Fossil Park and White Rann of Kutch add heritage depth to your holiday. Perfect for history lovers, this property blends the magic of cultural discovery with the grandeur of celebration.

Praveg Rezort

SILVASSA

A Riverside Retreat of Calm

If riverside charm draws you, then Praveg Rezort Silvassa is the perfect festive getaway. Nestled on the banks of the Daman Ganga River, it blends nature with cultural richness. Attractions like Dudhani Lake, Lion Safari Wildlife Park, and the Tribal Museum provide unique experiences. Guests can enjoy river walks, cultural evenings that showcase tribal stories, and yoga in lush greenery. This property is ideal for those who prefer rustic charm and closeness to untouched landscapes during their celebrations.





Praveg Safari VELAVADAR

The Dance of the Grasslands

In contrast, Praveg Safari Velavadar transforms festive celebrations into peaceful communion with nature. Famous for its sweeping grasslands and blackbuck sanctuary, the property offers jeep safaris, birdwatching tours, and eco-camping under wide open skies. With views of the Gulf of Khambhat nearby, it creates a natural festive canvas. Festivals here aren't celebrated with firecrackers—they unfold through leaps of blackbucks, songs of birds, and the whisper of grasslands under starlit skies.

Praveg Caves JAWAI

The Call of the Leopards

At Praveg Caves Jawai, festivals merge with wilderness and raw adventure. Known for its leopard territory and mysterious caves, it makes the festive season an untamed celebration. Guided leopard safaris, cave treks, and wildlife photography define the stay, while attractions like Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ranakpur Temples enrich the cultural experience. It is designed for adventurous travelers who see festivals as an opportunity for exploration, thrill, and discovery.



Tent City AYODHYA

BRAHMAKUND

A Sacred Glow by the River

Tent City Ayodhya, Brahmakund is the heart of devotional retreat during festivals. Situated by the riverfront, it offers proximity to spiritual landmarks like Ram Janmabhoomi Temple and Hanuman Garhi. Guests can participate in evening aartis filled with glowing diyas, devotional music that carries into the night, and festive rituals conducted by priests. This property is an invitation to experience blessings and joy intertwined with divine energy, perfect for families seeking spiritual depth in their celebrations.

SARYU

Here Harmony Meets Devotion

At Tent City Ayodhya, Saryu, festivals are infused with sacred harmony. Imagined on the hallowed banks of River Saryu, this property connects travelers to heritage sites like Kanak Bhawan and Treta Ke Thakur Temple. Guests can relish in rituals performed at the ghats, dazzling cultural dances, and evenings where rivers shine under rows of festive lamps. It is for those who see festivals not just as celebrations but as pathways to greater purpose and calm.



Praveg Atoll's

LAKSHADWEEP

BANGARAM

Islands of Bliss and Blue Waters

Praveg Atoll's Lakshadweep, Bangaram unwraps a tropical festive paradise. Known for its crystal-clear lagoons, vibrant coral reefs, and palm-fringed sands, the property is unmatched in its natural beauty. Diving at Andrott Island, snorkeling, barefoot island walks, and intimate festive feasts illuminated by lanterns create the mood for an extraordinary holiday. It is for couples, families, and dreamers who want their festivals filled with luxury, seclusion, and natural brilliance.

THINNAKARA

Island Escape on a Secret Shore

On the other hand, Praveg Atoll's Lakshadweep, Thinnakara offers ultimate adventure in exclusivity. Being one of the most untouched, uninhabited islands in Lakshadweep, it invites travelers to discover beauty that feels eternal. Visitors can kayak across pristine lagoons, engage with marine life in snorkeling tours, and spend nights stargazing by the ocean. With nearby Agatti Island, the journey comes alive with adventure and calm in equal measure. Celebrating festivals here is about connecting deeply with nature while savoring rare peace and exclusivity.

The PRAVEG TOUCH

What transforms a gathering into a soulful celebration at Praveg is not just the property, but a combination of crafted elements that add the "Praveg Touch."

- **Lavish Ambience** – From the lavish ambience of pristine beaches in Diu and Daman, to the coral-rich Lakshadweep Atolls, and the grandeur of Kevadiya near the Statue of Unity, every venue feels as festive as the occasion itself.
- **Fine Dining** – Guests are treated to fine dining with menus crafted by skilled chefs who blend regional authenticity with world-inspired flavours, turning meals into sensory journeys, whether it's a Diwali thali at Ayodhya or coastal seafood at Diu.
- **Personalised Service** – Personalized service is at the core of Praveg's philosophy, as staff anticipate needs, celebrate traditions, and transform moments into emotions.
- **Cultural Soul** – Each venue also reflects its cultural soul with elements like folk art in Kutch, devotional music in Ayodhya, coastal traditions in Daman, and archaeological wonders at Dholavira.

At the heart of it all, Praveg believes every festival, wedding, and gathering is a story waiting to be told. When guests walk into a Praveg celebration, they are not merely attending an event; they are entering an experience that is personal, cultural, warm, and timeless. Moments at Praveg aim to create lasting memories— "Remember Diwali at that lawn?" or "Remember how the colours lit up Holi there?"—that become emotional anchors in the years to come.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Every festive moment deserves a backdrop that enhances the experience, and Praveg's diverse offerings provide just that. Whether you are looking for the tranquil embrace of coastal shores, the cultural richness of heritage sites, or the thrill of wildlife adventures, there is a perfect setting waiting for you.

Each property is designed to create unforgettable memories, allowing you to celebrate not just the occasion, but also the beauty of connection with nature, culture, and your loved ones.

This festive season, let Praveg be your canvas for creating timeless stories that will linger in your heart long after the celebrations have ended.

At the end of the day, Praveg stands for one belief:

Your Festival. Your Celebration. Our Hospitality.

अलौकिक AYODHYA

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GEN-Z vs MILLENNIAL TRAVEL TRENDS

By MAHEK SIDDIQUI, Contributor

There has been a constant clash of perspectives between Millennials and Gen Z; so much so that even their travel choices differ when it comes to picking the perfect destination. Mahek Siddiqui deftly explores this fascinating generational divide.

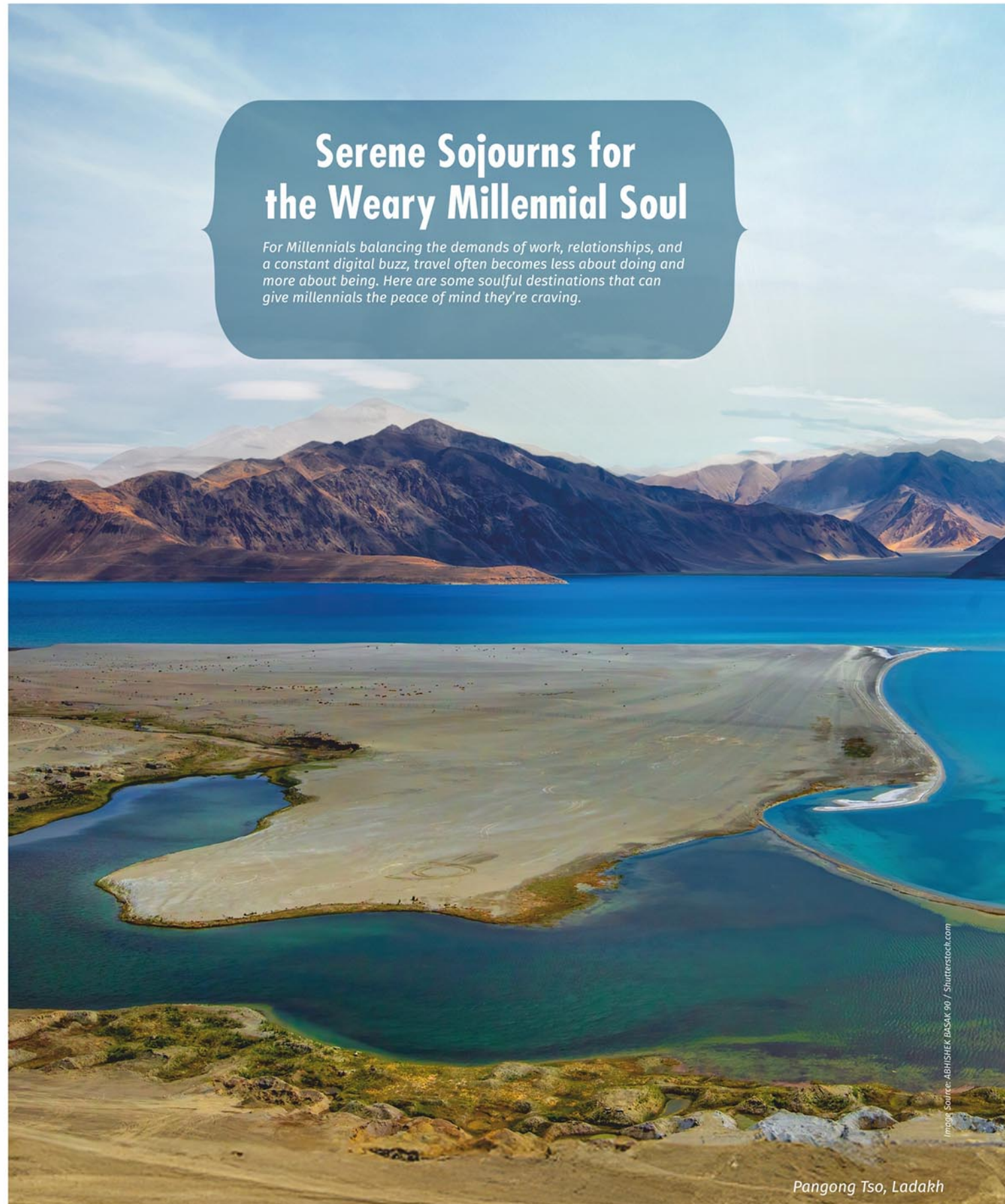
Travel offers a way for people of all ages to step outside routine, discover new places, and reconnect with themselves. For Millennials and Gen Z, two generations often seen through the lens of their differences, travel serves as a shared passion that bridges the gap. Both groups are drawn to experiences that inspire, yet the way they seek them out reveals fascinating contrasts.

On the one hand, millennials - now in their thirties and forties - lean toward serene escapes that soothe the soul, while the younger Gen Z gravitate toward adrenaline-fueled adventures that spark excitement. Somewhere in between, they meet over a steaming cup of coffee, united by a culture of cafés and brews that resonates across ages. In this article, let's look at some amazing Indian destinations that satisfy the travel trends of both generations, bringing them together for unforgettable journeys.

Beauty Arambol Beach Landscape, Goa

Serene Sojourns for the Weary Millennial Soul

For Millennials balancing the demands of work, relationships, and a constant digital buzz, travel often becomes less about doing and more about being. Here are some soulful destinations that can give millennials the peace of mind they're craving.



Pangong Tso, Ladakh

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RANIKHET

Uttarakhand



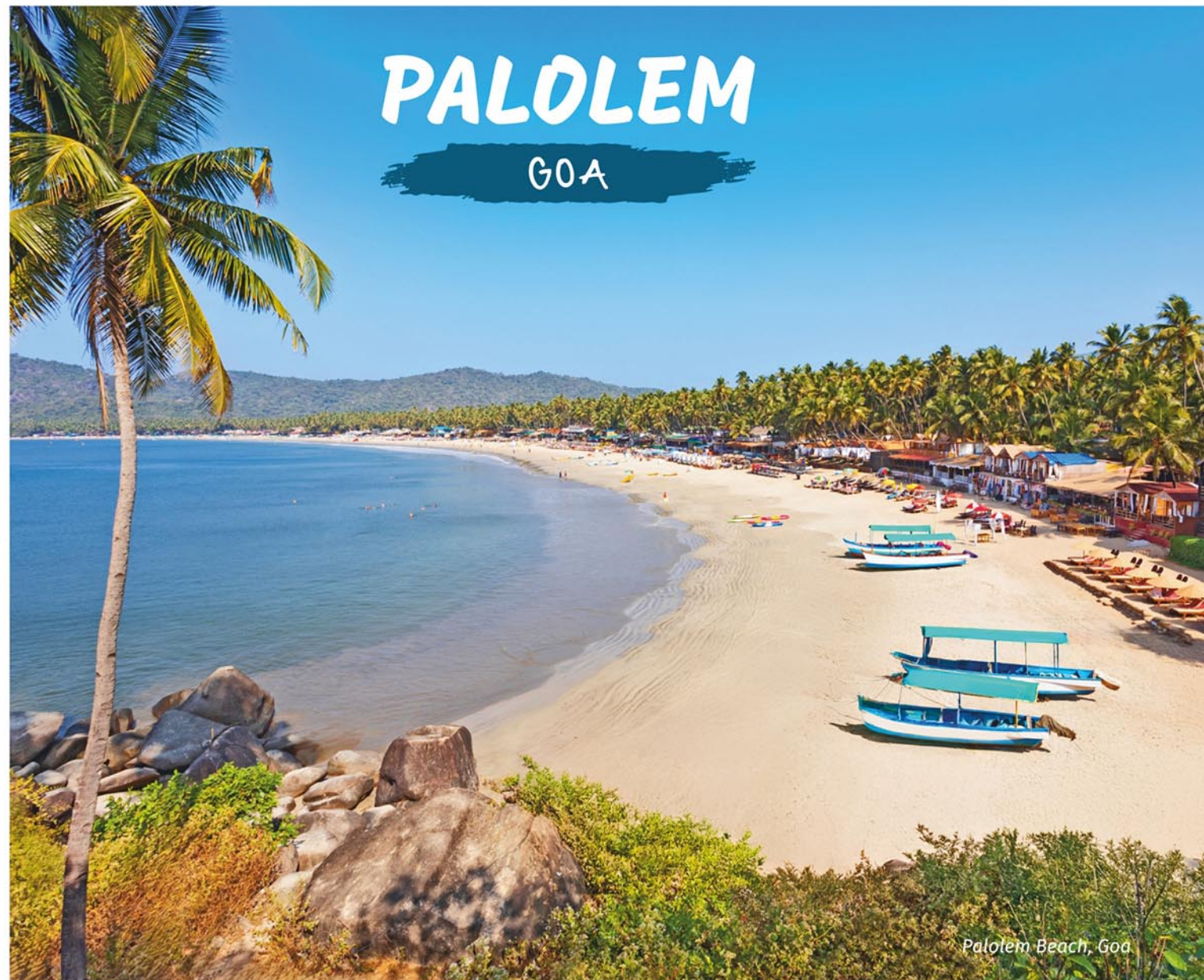
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Nestled in the Kumaon hills, Ranikhet is a quiet escape where pine forests, apple orchards, and colonial-era charm set the tone for slow travel. Unlike more crowded Himalayan towns, it's a place where you can truly detach and unwind. Enjoy beautiful mornings with stunning views of the Himalayan foothills and breathe the crisp mountain air for some much-needed rest and rejuvenation.

Evenings can be spent soul-searching through long walks on the quiet winding roads, perhaps stopping at a cosy café to satisfy your cravings. This laid-back town will make you want to return again and again to escape the hustle of Indian cities. It's also a great choice for remote work if you find a place with stable internet connectivity. Remember to sample the abundance of the Kumaon cuisine and take back locally-made jams and chutneys.



Chaubatia Garden, Ranikhet



PALOLEM

GOA

Palolem Beach, Goa



Far removed from the frenetic energy of Goa's party beaches, Palolem is a crescent-shaped stretch of sand where the vibe is mellow, barefoot, and serene. Beach huts tucked under swaying palms invite slow mornings with yoga or meditation, followed by sumptuous meals overlooking calm waters. You can go on dolphin-spotting cruises, visit Butterfly Island, or just stay on the shore to be serenaded by the Arabian Sea.

While the best time to visit is the peak season months of November to February, you can also go during the monsoon to experience an even more tranquil atmosphere. For Millennials, Palolem feels like a return to a simpler kind of beach holiday that's less about all-night parties and more about sunsets, conversations, and letting the rhythm of the waves set the pace of the day.



KALIMPONG

West Bengal

Gumbadara Monastery (GUMBA), Kalimpong

Often overshadowed by its famous neighbour, Darjeeling, Kalimpong is an underrated hill station that's ideal for millennials who prefer peace over popularity. The town offers sweeping views of the Kanchenjunga range, best enjoyed from Deolo Hill at sunrise or sunset, when the mountains glow in soft hues. It's also known for its monasteries, such as Zang Dhok Palri Phodang, which houses rare Buddhist scriptures and provides a contemplative atmosphere.

Flower lovers can explore the region's famous orchid nurseries, while history enthusiasts will enjoy the colonial-era churches and heritage schools that add a nostalgic layer to the town. For those who like to wander, the bustling local markets are filled with traditional handicrafts and Tibetan woolens. Millennials, especially those seeking balance between work pressures and leisure, will appreciate Kalimpong's rhythm: not too sleepy, yet never overwhelming. Evenings are best spent in small cafés sipping local tea, journaling, or simply watching the mist roll over the hills. It's the kind of unhurried travel experience that restores both mind and soul.



Deolo Hill and Paragliding

Adventure Overload for Thrill-Seeking Gen-Z

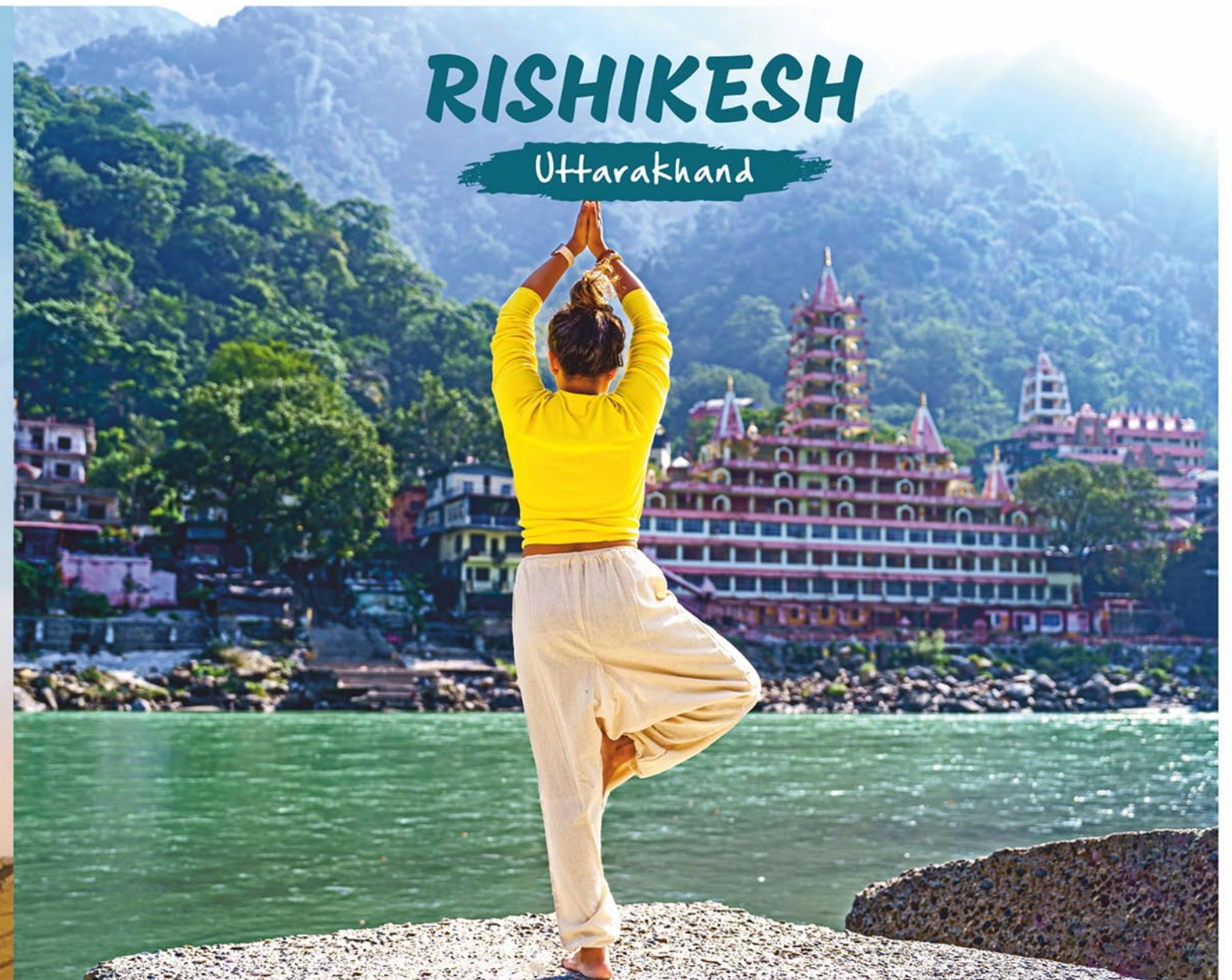
For Gen Z, who are predominantly in their 20s, travel is all about experiencing as much as possible. They value travel that's both adrenaline-charged and Instagram-worthy. So here are some destinations that are perfect for chasing thrills, pushing boundaries, and making memories that'll last way beyond the photos and reels posted online.



Safari in Desert, Jaisalmer

RISHIKESH

Uttarakhand



Rishikesh has long had a dual identity as yoga capital and adventure hotspot. Perhaps every generation has flocked to this iconic Himalayan city as a rite of passage of sorts, and Gen-Z is no different. What sets this younger generation apart, however, is how they embrace both sides of Rishikesh in a way that blends mindfulness with adrenaline. By day, thrill-seekers take on the Ganges through white-water rafting, cliff jumping, or kayaking, while others test their nerves on India's highest bungee jump at Mohan Chatti. Trekking trails around the city, like the one to Neer Garh Waterfall, offer equally adventurous and Instagram-worthy rewards. Yet, once the adrenaline settles, many young travelers also gravitate to the city's calmer rhythms: practising yoga on the ghats, attending evening aarti at Triveni Ghat, or unwinding in riverside cafés with live music and community vibes.

This mix of extremes is exactly what appeals to Gen Z. Rishikesh isn't just about adventure sports or spirituality — it's about being able to do both in the same trip, capturing the highs and the stillness, the reels of cliff dives and the quiet glow of an oil lamp on the river. In that balance, the city reflects a generation eager to explore all dimensions of travel at once.



Rafting, Ganges River

JAISALMER

Rajasthan



Desert Safari

VARKALA

Kerala



Varkala Beach



Desert Safari

Move over, Dubai, for India has its own desert safari experience at a fraction of the price. Yes, the Golden City of Rajasthan, Jaisalmer, is about more than its sandstone fort and labyrinthine streets. Adventurers can set out on desert safaris that include dune bashing in 4x4s, quad biking across vast stretches of sand, and sandboarding down the slopes at sunset. Overnight camping beneath star-filled skies is another highlight, where music, dance, and bonfires bring the desert alive. For Gen Z travellers, these experiences are as much about the rush of the moment as they are about capturing surreal visuals for reels and stories.

The annual Desert Festival, usually held in February, brings an extravaganza of folk performances and cultural competitions, perfect for those who crave immersive, high-energy experiences. With adrenaline-packed adventures by day, and a vibrant cultural immersion by night, Jaisalmer is a place where every corner feels like a set piece, offering the perfect blend of thrill, tradition, and aesthetic appeal to Gen-Z travel buffs.

For Gen-Z who love the beach and water activities, Varkala is a must-visit. The star attraction here is surfing, with a growing number of surf schools and instructors, Varkala has become a hotspot for beginners, eager to ride their first wave, as well as seasoned surfers chasing the perfect break. For those seeking aerial thrills, paragliding from the cliffs offers a bird's-eye view of the coast, while kayaking in the calmer backwaters nearby gives a more grounded but equally engaging experience. Yoga retreats and beachside classes provide the perfect counterbalance, allowing travellers to recharge between adventures.

Beyond activities, Varkala has cultivated a vibrant community that appeals strongly to Gen Z's sense of connection and discovery. The cliff-side promenade is lined with cafés, smoothie bars, and boutique shops selling everything from handicrafts to handmade jewellery. Evenings often spill into live music sessions or fire shows on the beach, creating a social, free-spirited atmosphere. The striking red cliffs that plunge into turquoise waters offer incredible views for the eyes and the camera.



Surfing Skills, West Coast Waters

BREW & VIEWS Coffee Culture That's Uniting Generations

If there's one thing that unites Millennials and Gen-Z, it has to be their love for coffee, more specifically, iced coffee. While India is often associated with tea, it now has a booming coffee culture too, spread across both big cities and smaller towns. Here are the must-visit coffee destinations that'll appeal to both generations of travellers.

Coffee Plantation, Coorg

CHIKMAGLUR

Karnataka

Baba Budangiri Hills

Often called the birthplace of coffee in India, Chikmagalur is where beans meet breathtaking landscapes. Plantation stays here, let travellers wake up to misty hills and freshly brewed filter coffee straight from the source. For Millennials, it's about reconnecting with tradition and indulging in slow mornings, while Gen Z gravitates toward immersive tours and the photo-worthy charm of rustic cafés tucked into the hills. Chikmagalur remains timeless yet trending, uniting travellers across ages.

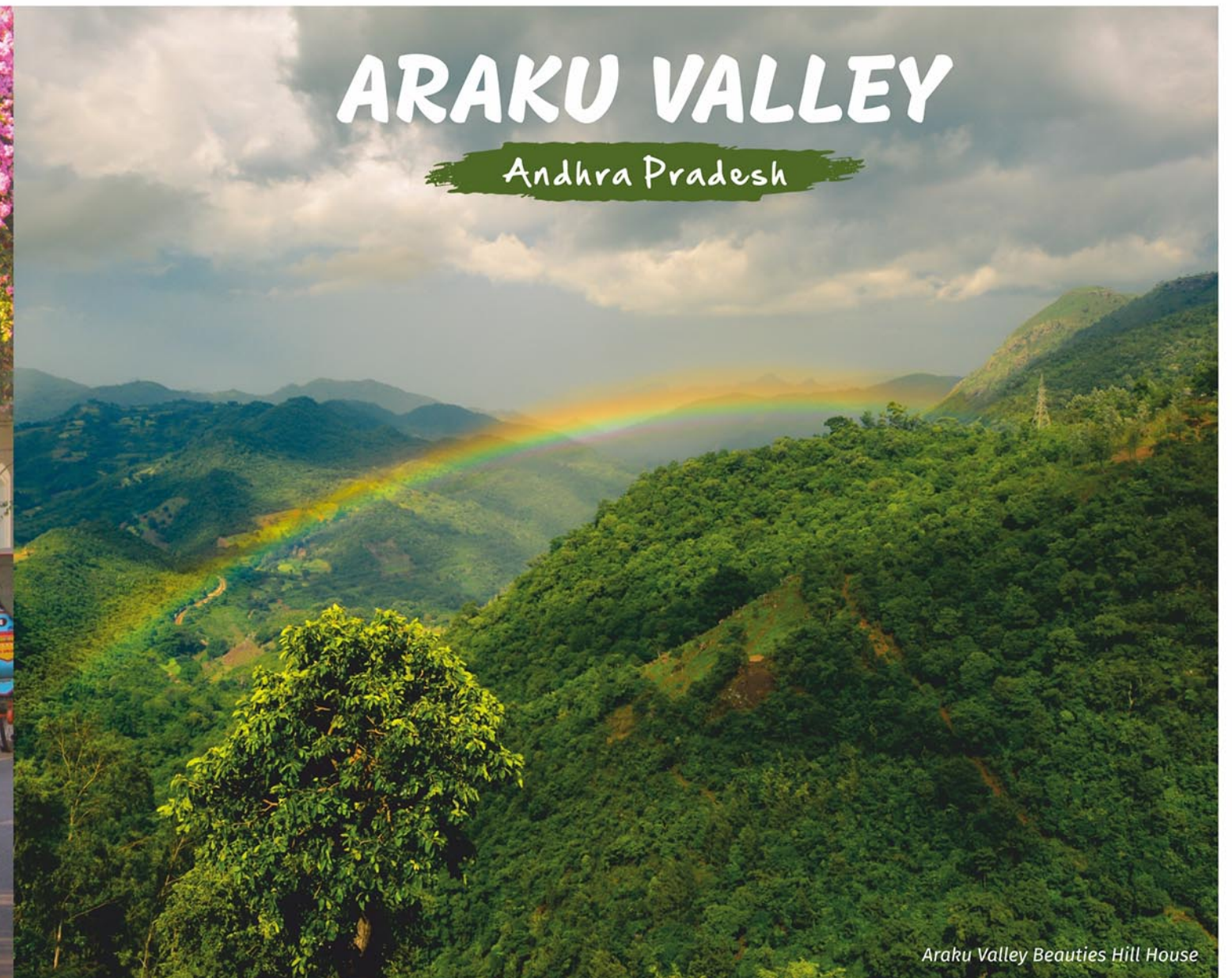
Coffe Beans



PONDICHERRY

Rajasthan

Vintage Tricycle Carts



ARAKU VALLEY

Andhra Pradesh

Araku Valley Beauties Hill House



Beautiful French Architecture

Pondicherry's café culture blends French colonial heritage with a vibrant, youthful buzz. Streets lined with pastel-hued houses give way to artisanal roasteries (places where coffee beans are roasted and ground), where both generations find their vibe. Millennials will enjoy the languid charm of courtyard cafés, while Gen Z will appreciate the experimental brews and views that feel like Europe on a budget. Here, every cup feels like a conversation between cultures and generations, steeped in history yet very much of the moment.

Set against lush Eastern Ghats scenery, Araku Valley is home to India's first tribal-grown organic coffee. Its uniqueness lies in both the bean and the story behind it. Travellers can visit the Coffee Museum, sample brews at eco-friendly farms, or simply enjoy the serenity of the valley. Millennials will appreciate its sustainability and authenticity, while Gen Z will connect with the offbeat, lesser-known vibe that feels like a discovery. Either way, Araku turns a coffee break into an experience.



Coffee Museum



SHILLONG

MEGHALAYA

Lady Hydari Park



Plateau end bluntly into a cliff at Shillong

Shillong has quietly emerged as the Northeast's coffee capital, with indie cafés doubling as creative hubs for music, art, and culture. Spots like Dylan's Café or ML05 Café embody the city's youthful energy. Gen Z will love the energy of live gigs, quirky decor, and cosy hangouts, while Millennials can embrace Shillong's balance of urban buzz and hill-station calm. With serene walking trails, lush nature views, and rich cultural history, Shillong is already a bucket list destination that becomes all the more attractive for coffee lovers.

Travel: the great unifier

While Millennials may seek solace in tranquil places and Gen Z may chase thrills across all terrain, both generations are

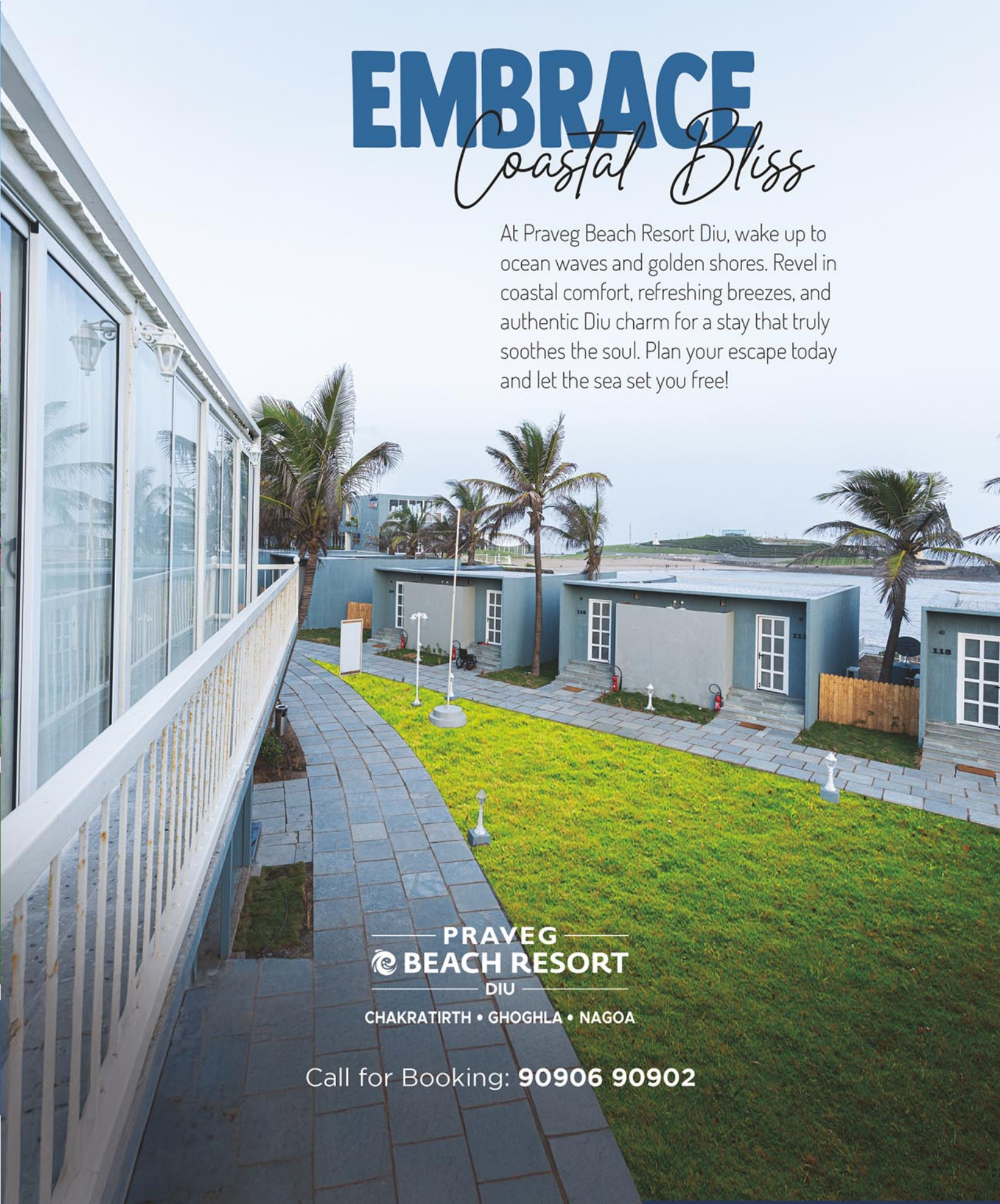
united in their shared desire to experience the country in ways that feel meaningful and memorable. India, with its kaleidoscope of landscapes and cultures, provides endless opportunities for soul-searching, adrenaline-pumping, and everything in between.

As destinations and travel trends evolve, wanderlust endures and continues to inspire each generation to step out of their comfort zone and discover not just new places, but also new ways of seeing themselves and the world around them.

EMBRACE

Coastal Bliss

At Praveg Beach Resort Diu, wake up to ocean waves and golden shores. Revel in coastal comfort, refreshing breezes, and authentic Diu charm for a stay that truly soothes the soul. Plan your escape today and let the sea set you free!



PRAVEG
BEACH RESORT
DIU

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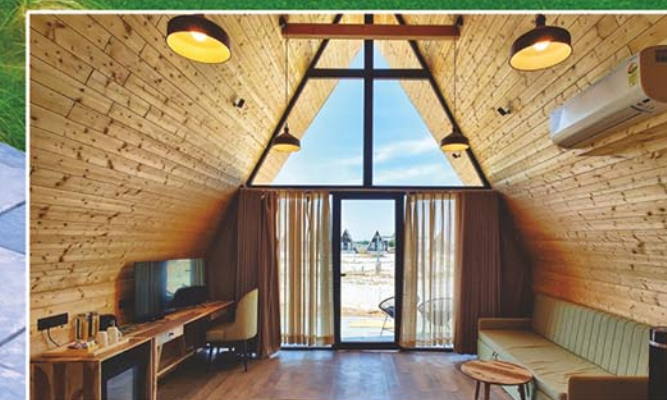
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The Light at the End Was Never a Tunnel

By APARNA PATHAK, Contributor

An Ode to Lighthouses

There's something about lighthouses.
They're not like temples or cathedrals, demanding reverence.
Nor are they like beach resorts, curated for delight.
They just stand. Quietly. Alone. Facing the sea.
They endure and lead like a soldier.

The Beginning of Something

Two months ago, I took my first solo trip to Puducherry, and I didn't go there looking for lighthouses. I went because I was exhausted. It had been one of those Fridays in Bengaluru, a city where you can't even cry in peace without Teams notifications chasing you. After a week of unspoken tension, unread emails, and unreasonable demands from colleagues, I broke down. And then I booked a bus.

At 5 AM, I arrived at the newly inaugurated Rajiv Gandhi Bus Terminus, sleep-deprived but strangely alert. With nothing to do and no hotel check-in, I started walking, half out of instinct, half out of refusal to sit still with myself.

That's how I met the ocean.

And shortly after, the lighthouse.



Puducherry

Where the Light Begins

Promenade Beach was barely awake. A low, grey light hovered over the sea. The town was hushed, and I sat by the rocks facing the water, watching for the sun. I didn't have answers. I didn't even have questions. I just had a desire to be elsewhere.

The sun rose slowly, shy behind the clouds, but gradually casting warm light on Goubert Avenue. That's when I noticed it, the old lighthouse, right behind me. Not glowing, not functioning, just there. A relic. A witness. I turned toward it and stared for a long time.

This quiet tower, colonial, cylindrical, dignified, felt like it had something to say.

The 1836 Lighthouse

The old Puducherry lighthouse, Phare de Pondichéry, was inaugurated in 1836 under the French Governor Saint Simon. Before it existed, ships approaching the Coromandel coast had only the flickering firelight of Red Hills to guide them, too faint to be useful. So merchants and ship captains lobbied for a proper lighthouse.

The French engineer Louis Guerre designed it: a 29-metre-tall round tower with a base, stabilised by 9-metre-deep masonry wells. Its light, 6 oil lamps amplified by two reflectors, could be seen up to 14 nautical miles (26 kilometres) away. In the early 1900s, it got electric lighting. In 1931, it was upgraded again. For years, the lighthouse not only guided ships but also allowed residents to climb to the top for a small fee and witness the coastline from above.

It stopped functioning in the late 20th century. But it hasn't stopped holding space.

Now, the tower is closed to the public, preserved as a heritage monument. You can't go inside, but its presence is enough. It doesn't do anything anymore, except stand tall. Which, if I'm being honest, is all I've been trying to do lately.

Old french Lighthouse, Puducherry

Why We're Drawn to Lighthouses

Lighthouses aren't the stuff of tourist brochures. Most people don't seek them out unless they appear in a cinema, dramatic, weather-beaten, and often haunted. But that's the thing: they stay in your subconscious. They represent something deeper.

In films like *Shutter Island* (2010), the lighthouse is a symbol of truth and unravelling. A place where illusions are broken. Where the fog, both literal and psychological, is pierced. Leonardo DiCaprio's character believes it to be the site of sinister experiments. In reality, it's where his own mind is laid bare. It is the axis of reality, the painful clarity after a long delusion.

Maybe that's why I couldn't take my eyes off the old lighthouse in Pondicherry. It felt familiar. I've been living in a fog too, of burnout, self-doubt, and emotional fatigue. And here it was: a symbol that stood through storms. Even in obsolescence, it held grace.

Another Beacon

Later that day, I saw another lighthouse in the distance. It was taller, sharper, almost too modern in comparison. Curious, I asked a local policeman for directions and made my way to it.

This was the new Puducherry Lighthouse & DGPS Station, built in 1979 by the Government of India. It stands 49 metres high and originally housed a 1.5KW incandescent lamp, later upgraded to a 400W metal halide lamp. Its beam is visible up to 25 nautical miles (46 kilometres) and remains an active part of India's maritime network. Unlike the older one, it's not romantic. You can't go near it. It's fenced off, its purpose purely functional.

But there was something calming in that too. Not all light needs to be poetic. Some lights are there to work. To carry the load. Like us, perhaps, when we show up at our desks, exhausted, but functioning, existing not for applause, but because someone, somewhere, might still need us.

Lighthouse, Pondicherry Marina

A Day to Remember the Light

I later learned that the United States observes National Lighthouse Day on August 7th. A day to celebrate these enduring structures. That small fact brought me back to my trip. To the morning on the rocks. To the rising sun. To the silent towers that stood watch as I unravelled quietly on the inside.

People often ask what I found in Puducherry. I say: nothing. And everything. I didn't leave with answers, but I returned with a quieter mind.

That's what a good trip does: it doesn't fix you. It reflects you. The lighthouses didn't speak, but they told me everything I needed to hear.

Let the Light Fall On You

From the Lighthouse of Alexandria in 280 BCE, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, to India's colonial coastal towers, these structures have always straddled the line between the functional and the symbolic.

They are not just architectural feats. They are metaphors that symbolise hope, direction, truth, and sometimes, solitude. They remind us that even when no one is watching, we can still emit light.

And that was the quiet epiphany I returned with.

I still don't know what I'm supposed to be. Whether I should "slave it out" to pay bills, or chase a less predictable life that might give me peace. But I do know now that there's strength in standing still. In being present. In not knowing.

One day, I'll go back to Puducherry. I'll sit by the sea again. I'll look up at the lighthouse, both of us a little older, maybe a little more worn out.

And I'll wait, not for answers, but for the light to return. 



Auroville Beach, Puducherry



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Dholavira

Cradle of Indus Valley Civilisation

By Madhu Menon, Contributor

“Dholavira may seem barren and remote, cut off from the mainland by miles of salt and silence. Yet, for those with an eye for the unseen, this desert island holds stories and wonders beyond imagination.”



Togetherness, and Timeless Memories

Every time I tell my friends I'm going to Dholavira, they give me the same look, "You're crazy," and ask me the same question, "What is there in Dholavira, such a hopeless place?" Of course, for a typical tourist, there's nothing at Khadir, the desert island where Dholavira is located. This place is cut off from the mainland, except for an eight-kilometre-long straight road that connects it to the outside world.

The distance from Ahmedabad to Khadir is nearly 350 km. The

weather here is very harsh, with the highest evaporation rates—probably the highest in the world. Dehydration will follow you constantly, even if you keep drinking plenty of liquids, but if you have an eye for the less-seen things, it's the place for you.

The journey from Rapar, the nearest town, to Khadir reveals what loneliness truly is; it is almost a straight road. You can see as far as your eyes permit, and you'll feel fortunate if you spot a vehicle or two passing by. As you near Khadir, the road stays straight with shining

crystals and slow-moving waves on both sides. Yes, it's the moment to realise that you are crossing the Great Rann of Kutch. The shining crystals represent the salt of life; the slow waves symbolise continuity in life.

Dholavira is one of the five major sites of the Harappan civilisation. If you're ready to hop into a time machine and travel back 5,000 years, you'll find exceptional examples of town planning, watershed management, drainage systems, and cultural progress. Located between two rivers, the township revealed, through excavation, offers valuable lessons for modern urban planners. Visiting this site, ideally with a guide, will deepen your interest in history and foster pride in belonging to the longest-lasting civilisation in the world—the Indus Valley Civilisation. The discoveries at this site are a testament to the ingenuity and advancement of early Indian civilisation.





Rann of Kutch isn't a desert if you go by the first images your mind associates with the word "desert." You won't see the typical sand dunes or mirages, but the vastness and emptiness of Kutch will definitely catch your attention. With cracked mud lands and thorny bushes around, most of Kutch looks like an unwelcoming landscape.



But this unique ecosystem is very rich in biodiversity and deserves careful study. Kutch shows the resilience of humanity and highlights practical approaches to Natural Resource Management. Village water storage includes rainwater harvesting, sustainable farming practices, and architecture that blends with the environment. There are many examples.

When the surroundings turn dull and grey, the people become vibrant; it seems that the people of Kutch have adapted to their land and environment over a long period. The colourful embroidery of the interior villages and the striking colours that women wear will surprise you. This can be seen as their way of bringing colour into their lives in a place where brown is the only colour nearby.



A walk to the Sangavaari Mata Temple through the interiors of villages and a trek through a terrain full of thorny bushes dominated by the Ganda Baval (*Prosopis juliflora*) towards Bokadgad, the highest spot on this island, would be worthwhile, with the fantastic view of the Greater Rann, the white desert. This is the place where you can spot a few of the critically endangered white-backed vultures; this is an incredible sight against the dramatic backdrop of the Greater Rann.





You can visit this otherwise "inhospitable" terrain by engaging with the people living in the last village, Dungarani Vand, the village closest to the border with Pakistan. Interestingly, a settlement of people migrated from the other side long before the partition. All the villagers, numbering around 150, are descendants of a single ancestor, and they still share their dinner.

If you travel further from this village, you will find another wonderful spot, the Fossil Park. Now closed off by the Forest Department, it offers a chance to step back in time to the Jurassic Era. The two kilometres of road from the main road to the Fossil Park can be an off-road driver's dream ride. The life-sized replicas of dinosaurs along the rugged roadside will remind you that, long ago, this entire area was a playground for massive reptiles that still fascinate people today.



Once you descend from the hillside, you'll be greeted by a mesmerising landscape of massive brown boulders. This area was once home to giant trees where dinosaurs could rub against their branches or rest in their shade. However, what you now see are the fossilised remains of these trees. If you're with children, this is the perfect place to share stories about the past.

While returning, consider stopping near the Dattathreya and Karni Mata temples, the perfect spot to watch the sunset.

Note: A road between Khavda and Dholavira connects Khadir Island to the other side of Kutch. This road is called the "Road to Heaven." Khadir Island and its surroundings appear uniquely different during various seasons. 

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In Search of Air That Changes You Indian Destinations to Restore the Lungs and the Mind

By By Aparna Pathak, Contributor

You're sitting by the window, laptop open, half-focused on work as traffic hums below and a grey haze hangs in the air. Then, out of the corner of your eye, you notice a rose blooming on your neighbour's balcony. For a moment, you wish you could lean out and catch its scent. In your mind, the fragrance is real, and suddenly you're elsewhere, deep in a forest where green surrounds you and each breath feels like a reminder of how precious life is. It's the kind of feeling travellers have sought for centuries, chasing air that does more than fill the lungs.

Rabindranath Tagore once described travelling by boat along Bengal's rivers, where the "clean wind of the open river" refreshed both body and mind, air so open and clear it seemed to carry away more than just heat. Years later, in *Tiger of the Snows*, Tenzing Norgay recalled the "thin, pure air" of the high Himalayas, where every breath at altitude was harder won but strangely exhilarating.

Different as they are, both moments reveal the same truth: the air we breathe shapes how we feel. While India's cities often struggle with dust and smog, the country is also home to pockets where the AQI dips into the green or pale yellow, where mornings are crisp and horizons are clear, and where breathing itself feels restorative. From the rain-soaked forests of the Western Ghats to the quiet valleys of the Northeast, from Kerala's tea gardens to riverside retreats in the north, in these places, inhaling isn't routine; it's part of the reason you've come. Let's explore a few of them.

Parvati Valley, Himachal Pradesh

Among the Tea Slopes of Munnar

es and eucalyptus groves. The mornings here are misty but not oppressive; the kind of mist that feels cleansing rather than heavy. At around 1,600 metres above sea level, the air tends to be cooler and carries fewer suspended particles than in the plains. Recent AQI readings hover in the Moderate range, good enough that early walks through the tea gardens feel restorative.

You might wander along the terraced slopes while women pluck tender leaves in a rhythm that matches the gentle breeze. The scent of eucalyptus drifts over from a nearby stand of trees, mingling with the earthy freshness of the tea. After a walk, an Ayurvedic retreat might offer you a steam bath scented with herbs, a different kind of breathing space, where warmth and aroma seem to sink into the lungs.



Munnar, Kerala



Coorg

Coffee Country Calm in Coorg

Coorg, or Kodagu, is often compared to Scotland for its rolling hills, but the air here is scented with coffee blossoms and wild ginger, not heather. Plantation trails wind between silver oaks and pepper vines, and the mornings carry a quiet coolness that invites long walks. AQI levels in Madikeri generally stay in the Moderate to Fair range, a relief for anyone arriving from the hotter, dustier plains.

The pace is dictated not by the hour but by the work in the fields. A stroll might take you past drying beans spread out in the sun, or into a shaded grove where the air smells faintly of vanilla from the orchids clinging to the trees. The breathing here comes easily, as if the land has decided to lend you some of its unhurried rhythm.

The Forest Breath of Wayanad

A few hours north, Wayanad's air is heavier with moisture, rich with the smell of cardamom, pepper, and rain-damp leaves. This is shola-grassland country, where rainforest meets meadow, and walking here can feel like slipping quietly into another ecosystem. The Japanese call this kind of slow, mindful immersion 'shinrin-yoku', or forest bathing, and it's an apt description for the way Wayanad's protected landscapes invite you to simply be among the trees.

Here, it's not unusual to find AQI numbers dipping into the Good range after rain, when the air is scrubbed clean and the spices seem to release their oils into the atmosphere. Guided walks often pause for long minutes of stillness, to hear the wingbeats of a hornbill, to notice the slow unfurling of a fern, and you find yourself breathing differently without even trying. In some village homes, a little 'nasyam' therapy, which includes a few drops of herbal oil in the nostrils, is offered as naturally as a cup of tea.



Sravan Karavil / Shutterstock.com

Wayanad, Kerala



Agumbe fort

Agumbe's Rain-Soaked Clarity

If Coorg's air is fragrant and gently cool, Agumbe's is almost liquid. Known as the "Cherrapunji of the South," this small village in Karnataka's Western Ghats is soaked in rain for much of the year. Even outside the monsoon, the ground stays damp and the air carries the deep, mineral scent of wet earth.

While the AQI hovers in the Moderate zone, the constant rinsing effect of the rain keeps the air feeling remarkably fresh. A walk here is less about covering distance and more about being immersed, pausing to listen to the Malabar whistling thrush, watching mist curl through the undergrowth, breathing in something that feels as ancient as the forest itself. The experience lingers in your lungs long after you leave.

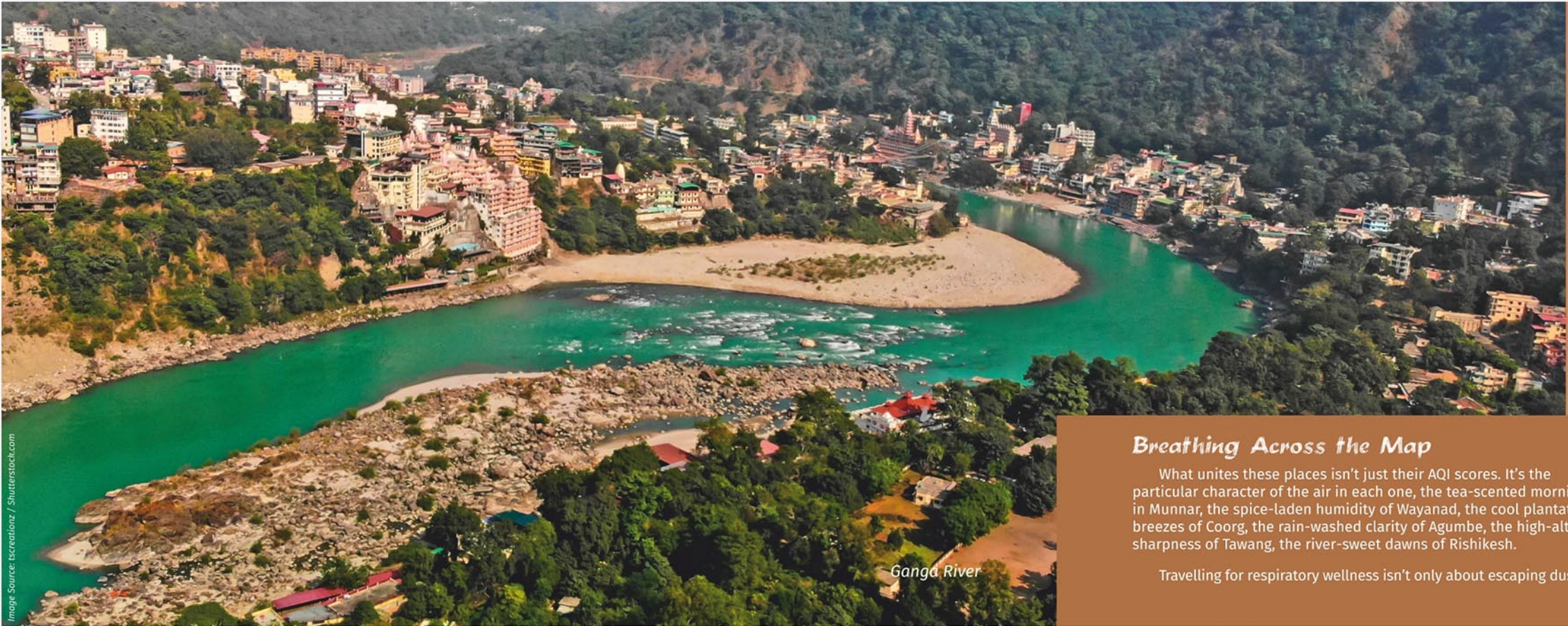
Tawang's High-Altitude Lightness

In the far northeast, Tawang's air is a different kind of gift. At over 3,000 metres in Arunachal Pradesh, it is thin and sharp, the kind of air that smells of pine and sometimes snow even in summer. AQI readings here sit comfortably in the Good category, with particle counts low enough to make an urban dweller envious.

The monasteries are at the heart of life, and their courtyards are perfect places to sit quietly, prayer flags snapping above you, letting the altitude guide your breath into something slower, more deliberate. The thinner air makes you move carefully, but also makes every inhalation feel precious, a physical reminder of why you came.



Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh



Ganga River

The Breath of the Ganges in Rishikesh

Rishikesh, at the foothills of the Himalayas, has long been a place where people come to breathe on purpose. The early mornings bring a breeze down the Ganges valley that carries the scent of forested hills. AQI readings often hover between Good and Moderate, a difference you can feel during pranayama by the riverbank.

It's easy to imagine why so many musicians, writers, and seekers have found creative breath here. In the late 1960s, the Beatles spent weeks in the town, immersing themselves in meditation and yogic breathing, and the image of them in white kurtas strumming guitars by the river still lingers in the cultural memory. Whether you're in a small ashram or simply sitting on the ghats watching the water move, the air feels like part of the practice.

Breathing Across the Map

What unites these places isn't just their AQI scores. It's the particular character of the air in each one, the tea-scented mornings in Munnar, the spice-laden humidity of Wayanad, the cool plantation breezes of Coorg, the rain-washed clarity of Agumbe, the high-altitude sharpness of Tawang, the river-sweet dawns of Rishikesh.

Travelling for respiratory wellness isn't only about escaping dust and

smog; it's about seeking air that transforms you. Air that slows your heartbeat, clears your mind, and makes you want to fill your lungs to the brim. In these pockets of India, the act of breathing becomes a destination in itself. And when you return to your everyday window, traffic below, maybe a haze in the distance, you might catch the scent of a flower or the cool drift of a breeze, and remember that somewhere out there, the air is still waiting to change you. 

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Chess in India

*Where Legends Began and
a New Golden Era Dawns*

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

If chess is the ultimate battle of minds, then India's romance with the game has been nothing short of epic—spanning millennia, cultures, and dynasties. Get ready as we traverse a creative journey through the chessboard's 64 squares, savouring the vibrant saga from ancient chaturanga to today's dazzling beacons of talent.

The Ancient Game

Chaturanga and Chess's Indian Roots

Step into the 6th-century subcontinent, and you might glimpse scholars, kings, and courtiers huddled over an intricately carved game board. This is chaturanga, the strategic precursor to chess, reflecting the sophisticated art of warfare in ancient India. The game deployed infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots (now pawns, knights, bishops, and rooks) in a contest where wits mattered more than weapons.

Chaturanga was not simply a pastime but a mirror for real-life military tactics—and a source of inspiration for the greatest Indian epics. The Mahabharata and the Ramayana subtly allude to board games of strategy, while ancient temple carvings immortalize players deep in contemplation.

As merchants and travellers carried chaturanga westward, it transformed: Persia adapted it as shatranj, then the Islamic world embraced it, and finally, it blossomed in medieval Europe as chess. Every move played on a modern board owes something to that Indian genesis—a timeless testament to the country's intellect and imagination.

Chess

*Mind Sport and
Timeless Entertainment*

So, what gives chess its enduring magic, particularly in India? Unlike games where athleticism reigns, chess is the grand celebration of the mind. It trains memory, nurtures creativity, and rewards patience. Indian parents encourage children to learn chess not just as a hobby, but as a means of building critical thinking. The game becomes meditation in motion, where quiet tension can match a cricket stadium's roar.

The mystique only grows in modern India. Village squares still see elders analyse games under banyan trees, but now, millions of young players compete in online tournaments, streaming their victories to global audiences. The game's digital revolution means you're just a tap away from a master, a friend, or a lively blitz brawl with a stranger. Chess is entertainment, education, and elegant challenge all at once—a bonding ritual across families and generations.

India’s Influence on World Chess

Past and Present

India’s influence on world chess is profound and multi-layered, marked by both ancient legacy and modern triumph. Historically, India stands as the cradle of chess, gifting the iconic 8x8 board and foundational strategies. Indian rule makers, scholars, and travellers shepherded the game’s early evolution.

During the colonial era, Indian visionaries like Mahesh Chandra Bannerjee and Pandit Trivengadacharya Shastri grasped the intricacies of Western chess and rapidly achieved mastery, becoming early champions who inspired a legacy of learning.

Indian women also broke glass ceilings: Rohini Khadilkar, in the late 1970s, forced open the gates of men’s chess tournaments for women, setting the tone for India’s inclusive chess community.

Fast forward to today: India is a global chess juggernaut, consistently producing grandmasters, medalling at international Olympiads, and hosting world-class tournaments. The All India Chess Federation stands as a model for nurturing mass talent, and Indian chess is now both a revered tradition and a new-age sport.

Abhimanyu Mishra

World’s Youngest Ever Chess Player

American chess prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra, born February 5, 2009, in New Jersey, became the world’s youngest Grandmaster. Coached by grandmasters Arun Prasad

Subramanian and Magesh Chandran, he made history again by defeating reigning world champion Gukesh Dommaraju at the 2025 FIDE Grand Swiss in Samarkand, becoming the youngest ever to beat a reigning champion in classical chess.

Indian Legends on the World Stage

Past and Present

No discussion of Indian chess is complete without the icons who have made the world sit up and take notice:

- **Viswanathan Anand:** The pioneer who put India on the world chess map—our first Grandmaster, a gracious ambassador, and a five-time World Chess Champion. Anand’s fearless style and humility have inspired millions to take up the game.
- **Koneru Humpy:** India’s queen of chess, dazzling with world rapid titles and breaking into the top tier of women’s chess, all while collecting accolades like the Arjuna and Padma Shri awards.
- **Pentala Harikrishna:** Consistent and resilient, he climbed the ranks to join the elite 2700+ rating club and has been a pillar of India’s Olympiad squads.
- **Dronavalli Harika:** With her calm nerve and balanced play, Harika has repeatedly reached the Women’s World Championship semi-finals, proving India’s strength at the highest levels.
- **R Praggnanandhaa:** Bursting onto the scene as a prodigy, Praggnanandhaa shattered records for young talent—and famously toppled reigning World Champion Magnus Carlsen himself.
- **Arjun Erigaisi, Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani:** All teenage grandmasters with international medals and fearless attacking

games, forming the vanguard of India’s chess revolution.

- **Gukesh D:** The youngest to surpass a 2750 Elo world rating, and crowned World Champion in 2024. Gukesh’s journey has inspired India’s new generation.
- **Abhimanyu Mishra:** A 16-year-old boy shocked the chess world by defeating Grandmaster Gukesh at the 2025 FIDE Grand Swiss tournament in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. His victory showcased his potential as one of the brightest young talents in chess.

Each grandmaster is a flagbearer for Indian ingenuity, discipline, and sporting spirit.No discussion of Indian chess is complete without the icons who have made the world sit up and take notice:

Summing Up

From ancient chaturanga to triumphant world champions, India’s journey with chess is a saga of vision, valour, and victory. With each move, Indian chess players push the boundaries of imagination, reminding us that, sometimes, the greatest battles take place on a simple, chequered board. And as a new generation rises, the world can be sure—India’s best moves are yet to come. 🏆



Doodh Poha

A Gujarati Delight of Sharad Poornima

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Writer

Doodh Poha is a simple yet indulgent Gujarati dessert made with flattened rice (Poha) and milk. Traditionally prepared on Sharad Poornima night, this sweet dish is often enjoyed as part of festive feasts. Ready in just 15 minutes, it can be made in its classic form or with a touch of flavor — such as cassata-style — to add a refreshing twist.

Ingredients:

For Doodh Poha

- 1 litre of full-fat milk
- 1 cup thick Poha
- 1 tsp ghee
- 5 tbsp sugar (or to taste)
- 7-8 almonds, sliced
- 7-8 pistachios, sliced
- ¼ cup milk powder (4 tbsp)
- ¼ tsp cardamom powder

For Cassata Doodh Poha

- 1 tsp rose sherbet (or any essence of choice)
- 2 tbsp tutti-frutti

The key to creamy Doodh Poha at home

- Always use a heavy-bottomed or non-stick pan to prevent the milk from sticking or burning.
- Medium-thick Poha works best — thin Poha dissolves too quickly, losing texture.
- To achieve creaminess, add milk powder; cashew paste or condensed milk can also be used.
- Chill for at least 1 hour before serving for optimal results.



Image Source: Love Laugh, Mirth

Method

In a heavy-bottomed pan, bring milk to a boil and simmer for 5 minutes on medium flame. Meanwhile, heat the ghee in another pan, roast the dry fruits lightly, and set aside. In the same pan, roast the Poha for a minute before adding it to the milk. Cook for about 10 minutes, until the Poha softens. Stir in sugar and mix well. Separately, combine milk powder with a little milk to make a smooth mixture, then add it to the Poha, stirring until the dessert turns thick and creamy. Add cardamom and roasted dry fruits, then remove from the heat and allow to cool. For cassata Doodh Poha, transfer a portion into a bowl, mix in rose sherbet and tutti-frutti, and serve. Doodh Poha can be enjoyed warm or chilled.

Recipes by www.nehascookbook.com

Apple Jalebi

Jalebi with a Twist

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Writer

A fusion twist on the classic jalebi - crisp apple rings dipped in sugar syrup and served hot.

Ingredients:

- 2 apples, peeled and sliced into thin rings
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour (maida)
- ½ tsp dry yeast
- ½ tsp sugar
- 1 tsp oil
- Oil for frying
- 1¼ cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- ¼ tsp lemon juice
- ¼ tsp cardamom powder
- 1 tsp sliced pistachios

Batter

Dissolve yeast and sugar in ¼ cup warm water, rest 5 minutes. Next, mix flour and oil, add yeast solution, and enough water to make a smooth, pancake-like batter. Finally, set aside in a warm place for 30 minutes to ferment.

Syrup:

Boil sugar and water until ½-thread consistency. Add lemon juice and cardamom. Keep warm.



Image Source: Slurp

Method

Heat oil about 1 inch deep. Test with a drop of batter; it should sizzle. Then dip apple rings in batter and fry until golden, 4-5 minutes. Now, transfer to warm syrup for a few seconds, then drain on a rack. Before you serve, garnish with pistachios.

Variation: Sprinkle cinnamon or drizzle melted chocolate for a creative touch.

Recipes by www.manjulaskitchen.com/apple-jalebi-apple-fritters/

Corn Bhel

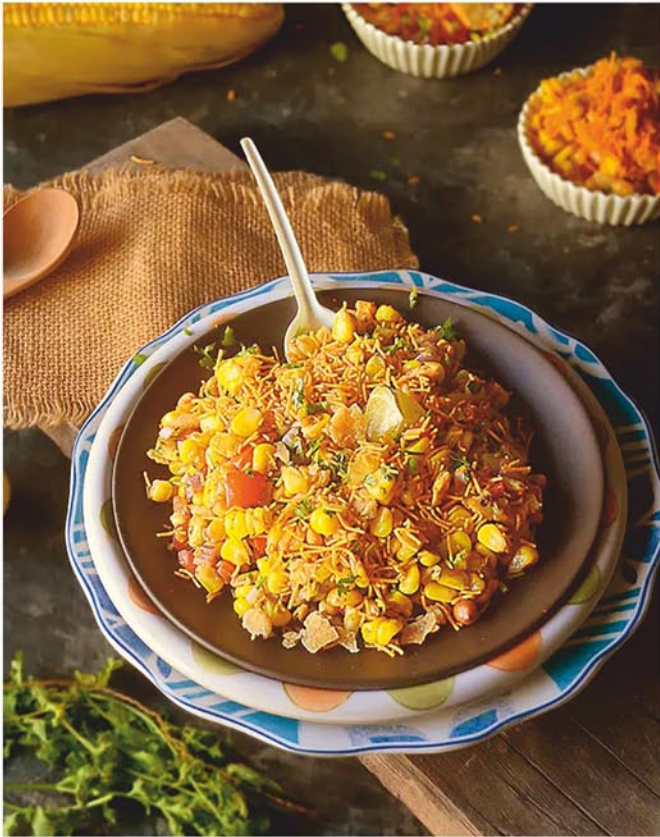
A perfect recipe for your 5 p.m. hunger pangs

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Writer

Corn Bhel (Corn Chaat) is a quick, healthy, and flavorful snack made with boiled sweet corn, onions, tomatoes, cucumber, chutneys, and spices, topped with crunchy sev. The sweetness of corn pairs beautifully with the crisp veggies and tangy chutneys, while sev, peanuts, and papdi add the perfect crunch. A simple yet delicious twist to regular bhel — ideal for those 5 pm hunger pangs!

A few points to note while making Corn Bhel

- The ingredient quantities are just a reference — adjust them to your taste.
- You can also add extras like boiled potatoes, pomegranate, capsicum, or grated carrot.
- Fresh or frozen corn works fine.
- Mint and sweet chutney are optional.
- Serve fresh; avoid storing for long.



Ingredients:

- 2 cups boiled corn
- 1/2 Cup Onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 Cup Tomato, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup Cucumber, finely chopped
- 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder
- 1/2 tsp Jeera Powder / Cumin Powder
- 1/4 tsp Kala namak / Black Salt
- 1/4 tsp Chaat masala

Salt to taste

- 1 tsp Sweet chutney (optional)
- 1 tsp Green chutney / Mint Chutney

Lemon

- 3-4 Papdi / nipattu (crushed)
- 1/2 cup Spicy peanut / Congress Kadle kai
- Sev as required to garnish
- Coriander leaves to garnish

Method

Cook the corn in a microwave (10 minutes) or pressure cooker (1–2 whistles). Once cooled, de-seed and transfer to a bowl. Add diced onion, cucumber, carrot, and tomato. Mix in salt, kala namak, red chilli powder, jeera powder, chaat masala, green chutney, and sweet chutney. Add chopped coriander and a squeeze of lime. For extra flavour, toss in pomegranate seeds or boiled potatoes. Just before serving, add crushed papdi and spicy peanuts. Garnish with sev and serve fresh. 🍴

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