

tourism one

A Trusted Friend for Travellers

Best Early
SUMMER
DESTINATIONS
IN INDIA

Alibaug Beach
Maharashtra

Naini Lake
Nainital

Suraj Taal Lake
Himachal Pradesh

Road to Heaven
Kutch

Raja Seat Garden
Coorg

Tulip Gardens
Srinagar

Travel Light, Travel Now

March reminds us that life does not always need long breaks to feel refreshed. Sometimes, a short journey is enough to clear the mind and reconnect with ourselves. This issue beautifully captures that spirit of quick and meaningful travel.

I encourage all our readers to make the most of this early summer season. Step out, even if only for a weekend. Explore nearby places, travel light, and travel often.

India offers countless experiences just a few hours away. All we need is the intent to begin.

Let us not wait for the perfect time. Let us create it through travel.

Dr. Vishnukumar Patel
Chairman – PRAVEG LIMITED

Not Far, Just Meaningful *The Joy of Quick Escapes*

March always arrives with a quiet shift. The chaos of winter weddings settles, festivals begin to fade, and somewhere between routine and restlessness, we all feel the need to step out. Not for a long vacation, but for something quicker, lighter, and more personal. This issue of Tourism One is built around that exact feeling.

Our central theme, nearest and quickest staycations, is not just about travel. It is about reclaiming time. A backpack, a free weekend, and a destination a few hours away can do more than a long planned holiday. As we explore in our cover story, India is full of such quick escapes, whether it is a peaceful drive from Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity or a coastal break near Chennai. These journeys are simple, but they stay with you.

To make these trips smoother, we have also curated a practical list of backpacking essentials. Travel today is not about carrying more, but carrying smart. From functional backpacks to compact organisers, the right choices can make even a two-day trip feel effortless and comfortable.

March is also a beautiful time to travel across India. As we move from spring to early summer, the country opens up in a different way. Destinations are calmer, landscapes are blooming, and there is a certain ease in the air. Whether it is the quiet charm of Coorg, the freshness of Gangtok, or the stillness of Kutch, this is a season that rewards those who travel without rush.

But travel is not always about destinations. Sometimes, it is about what you carry within. A good book during a train journey or the right music on a long drive can change the way you experience a place. In this issue, we explore how stories and songs become silent companions, helping travellers reflect, pause, and reconnect with themselves.

And then comes Holi. A festival that does not just bring colour to our surroundings, but also to our journeys. Across India, Holi transforms places into experiences. From the spiritual energy of Mathura to the artistic calm of Shantiniketan, it invites travellers to become participants, not just observers. It is perhaps the perfect reminder that travel, like festivals, is about connection.

No journey is complete without food, and this issue brings you flavours that match the mood of the season. From the richness of Gujiya to the cooling comfort of Thandai and the simplicity of a Chikoo milkshake, these recipes carry the taste of celebration and nostalgia.

This March, we invite you to travel differently. Not far, not long, but meaningfully. Because sometimes, the shortest journeys bring the deepest experiences.

Keep travelling differently! 📌

C O N T E N T S



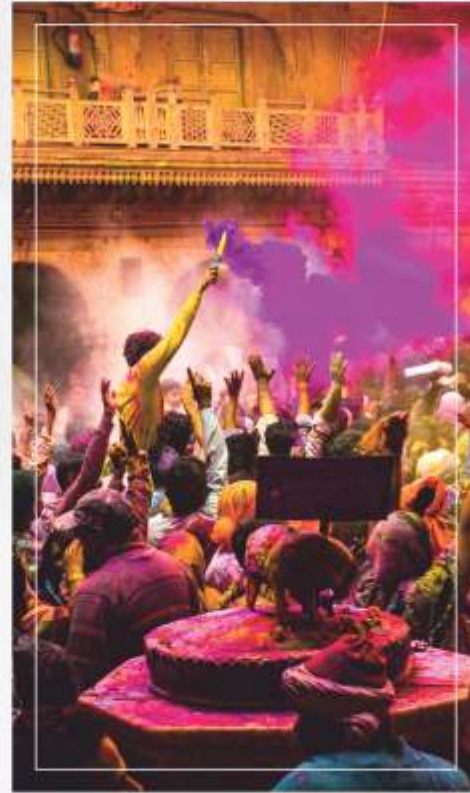
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THE TURQUOISE ESCAPE

As the first whispers of summer touch the horizon, find yourself on a secluded sliver of paradise where the water is a thousand shades of blue. Wake up to the gentle lap of waves against your doorstep and spend your afternoons snorkeling through vibrant coral gardens in total solitude. It is the ultimate early-season sanctuary for those who crave pristine white sands and the quiet luxury of an island untouched by time.



Best Early SUMMER

Destinations in India

Spring transition brings calm, uncrowded travel

India's vast landscape—from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Kutch to Kohima—ensures that seasons unfold differently across regions. While we broadly speak of winter, summer, and monsoon, March and April bring a gentle transition—spring blending into early summer. With school exams keeping families occupied, this period sees fewer crowds and calmer destinations. Blooming landscapes, pleasant weather, and attractive prices make it an ideal time for couples and solo travellers to explore India.

Srinagar

In March and April, Srinagar awakens with blooming tulip gardens and melting snow, creating a dreamy landscape. Temperatures range between 10–20°C, offering crisp yet comfortable weather. A shikara ride on Dal Lake becomes even more enchanting during this time. Local delicacies like Rogan Josh and Kahwa add warmth to the experience. The blend of Mughal gardens, serene lakes, and snow-clad peaks makes Srinagar a perfect early summer retreat.



Tulip Gardens, Srinagar

Suraj Taal Lake, Himachal Pradesh



Manali

Manali in early summer offers the rare charm of lingering snow and fresh greenery. With temperatures hovering between 10–18°C, the weather is ideal for exploration. Solang Valley still holds snow, making it great for light adventure. Local Himachali cuisine and hot momos are perfect for the cool climate. Surrounded by the Beas River and towering mountains, Manali offers both thrill and tranquillity in equal measure.

Shillong

Known as the 'Scotland of the East,' Shillong remains pleasantly cool at 15–23°C. Waterfalls are lively, and the hills are lush before monsoon intensifies. Local Khasi cuisine and street food add flavour to the journey. Umiam Lake and scenic drives define the experience. Shillong's music culture, misty mornings, and rolling landscapes make it an ideal destination for slow, soulful travel.



Udaipur

Udaipur experiences moderate warmth, with temperatures between 20–32°C—still manageable before peak summer. The city's lakes, including Lake Pichola, offer refreshing views. Rajasthani cuisine like dal baati churma enriches the visit. Palaces, boat rides, and sunset points create a royal ambience. With fewer tourists than winter, Udaipur allows a more relaxed exploration of its heritage and romance.

Munnar

Munnar's tea gardens flourish in early summer, with temperatures ranging from 15–25°C. Misty hills, fresh air, and lush plantations create a calming environment. Local Kerala cuisine and fresh tea experiences stand out. Attractions like Eravikulam National Park and scenic viewpoints make it a nature lover's paradise. Munnar's tranquillity and greenery are at their best before the monsoon arrives.



Road to Heaven, Kutch

Kutch

Kutch begins warming up, with temperatures around 22–35°C, but mornings and evenings remain pleasant. The vast white desert offers surreal landscapes, especially during sunrise and sunset. Kutchi cuisine and local handicrafts enhance the cultural experience. While the Rann Utsav winds down, the region becomes quieter and more authentic. It's ideal for travellers seeking solitude and raw beauty.

Coorg

Coorg enjoys mild temperatures between 15–28°C, with coffee plantations in full bloom. The region's misty mornings and green landscapes create a soothing retreat. Local Kodava cuisine and fresh coffee elevate the stay. Waterfalls and forest trails offer immersive nature experiences. Coorg is perfect for travellers seeking peace, aroma, and a slower pace of life.

Raja Seat Garden, Coorg

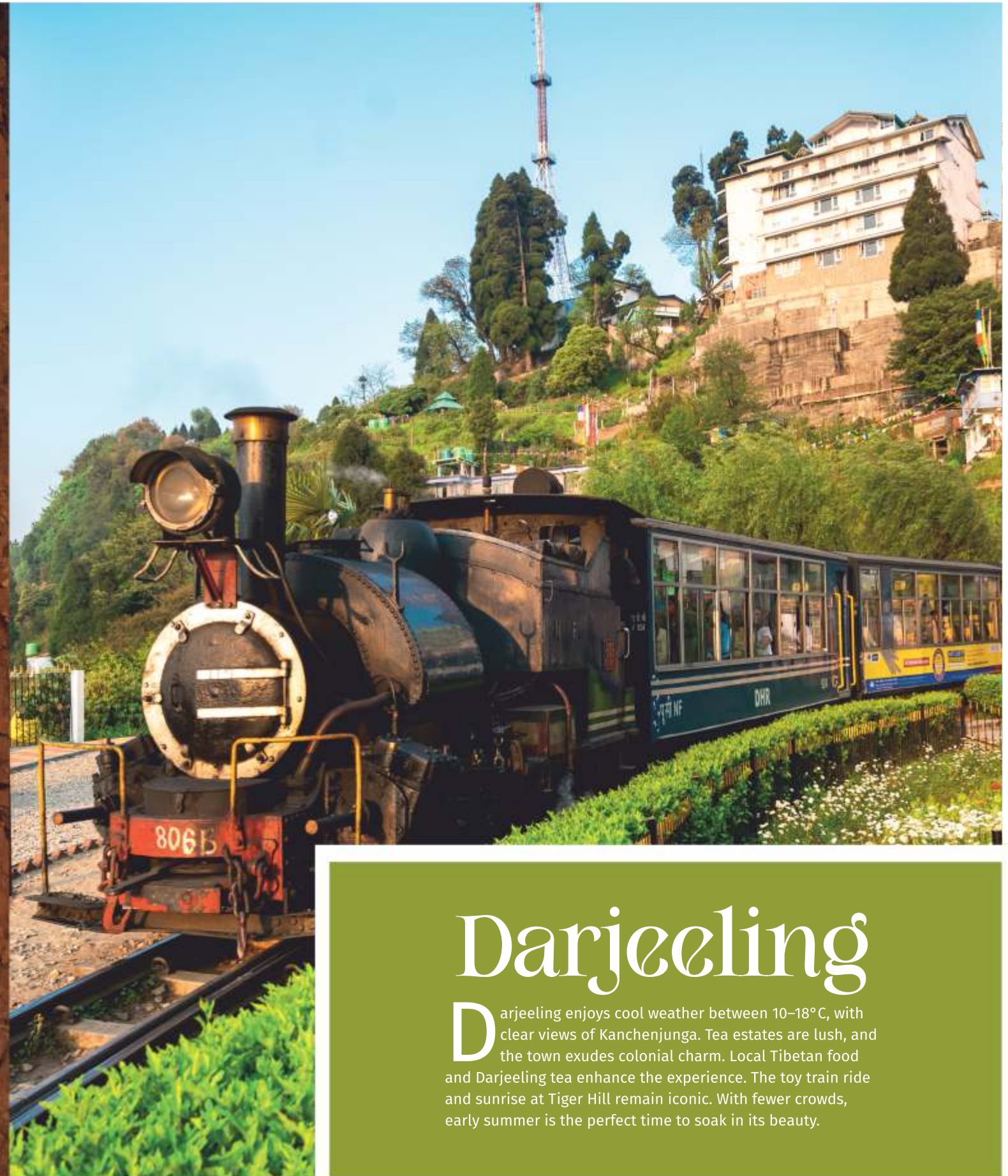
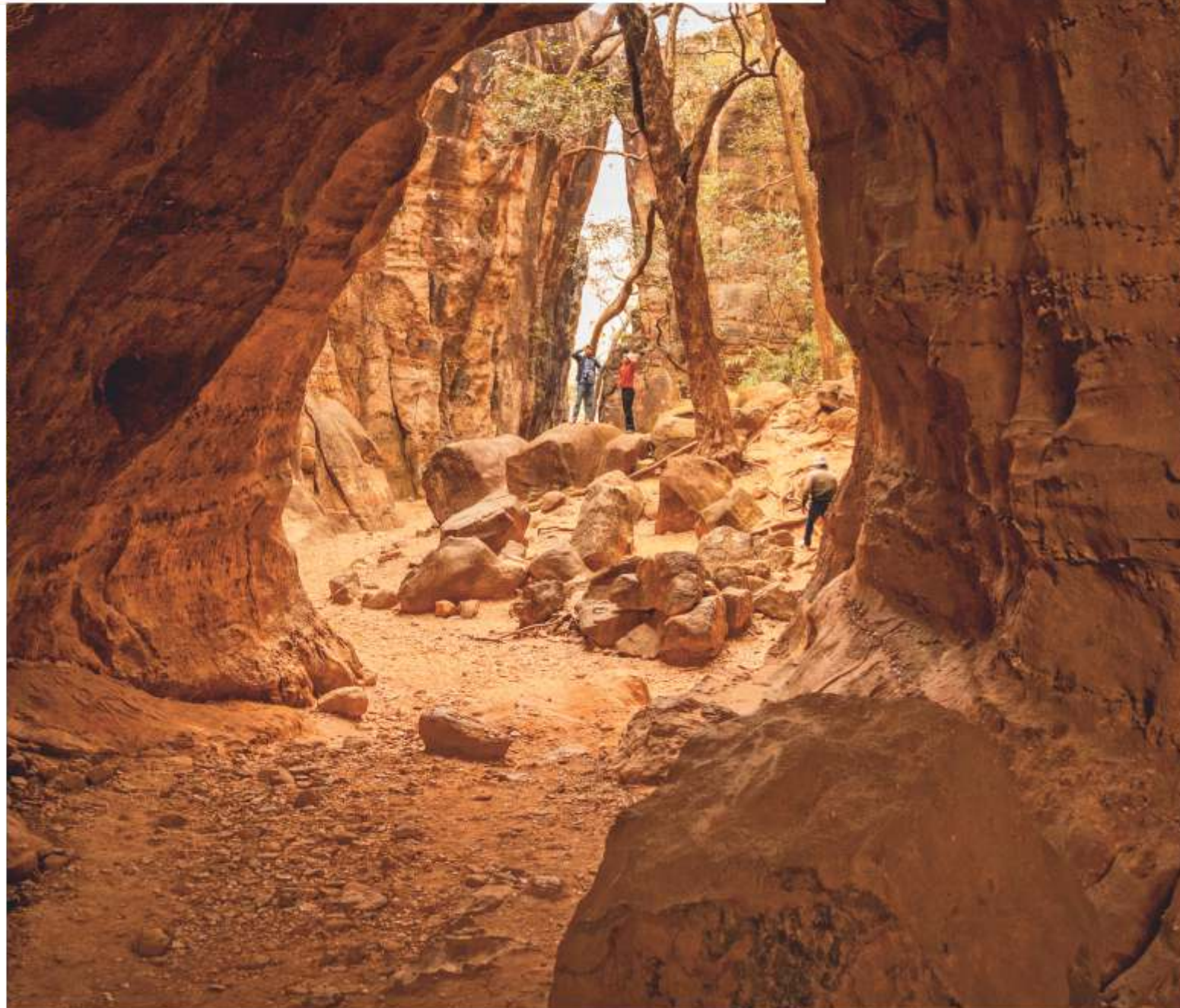


Ooty

Ooty remains comfortably cool at 12–22°C, making it a classic early summer escape. Botanical gardens bloom with vibrant flowers, and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway offers scenic rides. Homemade chocolates and South Indian delicacies add to the experience. Surrounded by rolling hills and eucalyptus forests, Ooty's charm lies in its simplicity and refreshing climate.

Pachmarhi

Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh's only hill station, offers temperatures between 18–30°C, making it comfortable for exploration. Caves, waterfalls, and forest trails define its charm. Local tribal influences and simple cuisine add authenticity. Less crowded than popular hill stations, Pachmarhi provides a quiet escape amidst Satpura's greenery and heritage.

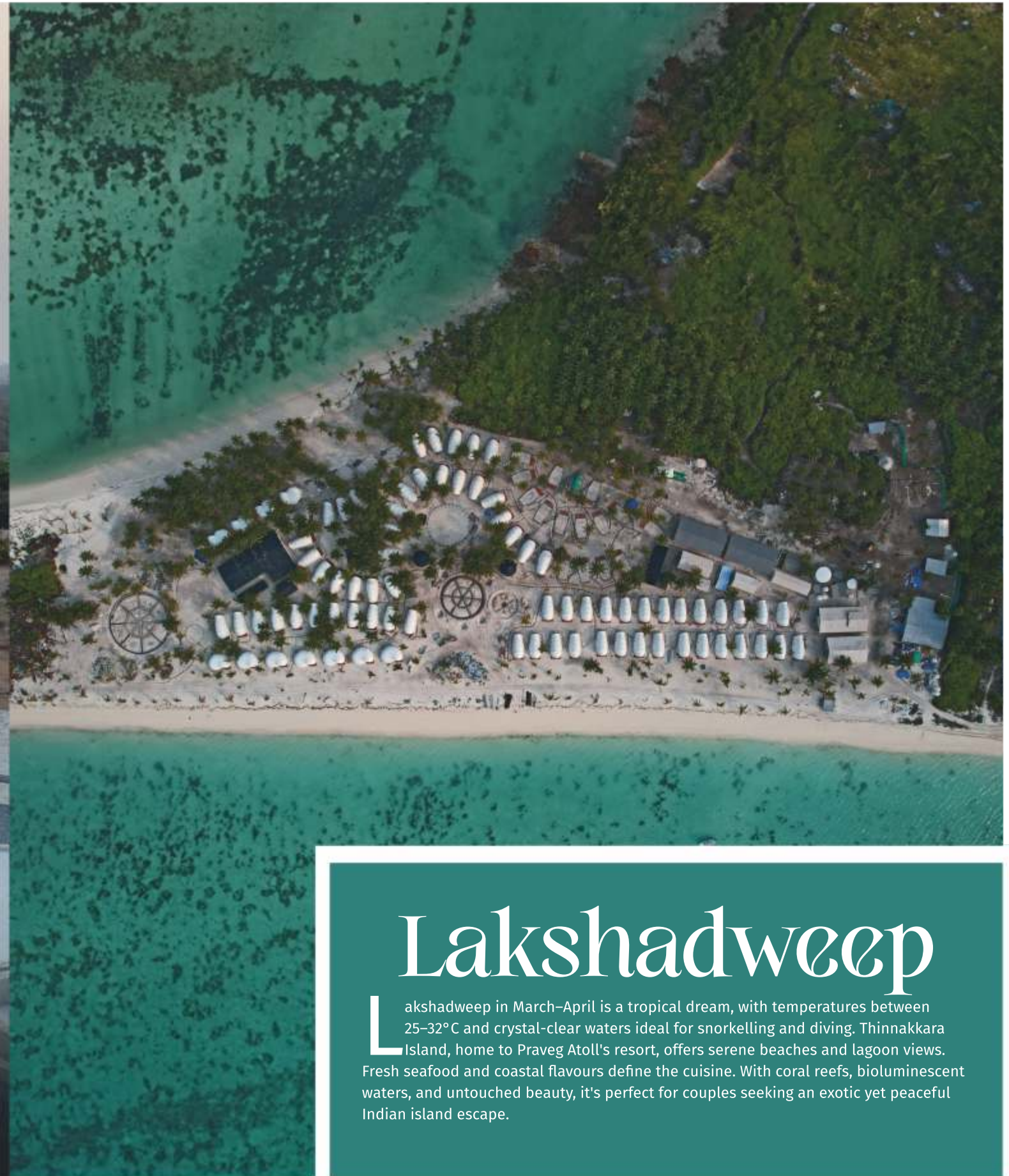


Darjeeling

Darjeeling enjoys cool weather between 10–18°C, with clear views of Kanchenjunga. Tea estates are lush, and the town exudes colonial charm. Local Tibetan food and Darjeeling tea enhance the experience. The toy train ride and sunrise at Tiger Hill remain iconic. With fewer crowds, early summer is the perfect time to soak in its beauty.

Jawai

Jawai, Rajasthan, offers a unique early summer experience with temperatures around 20–33°C—warm yet comfortable. Known for its leopard safaris amidst dramatic granite hills, it blends wilderness with culture. The region's Rabari cuisine and rural life add authenticity. Praveg's Jawai resort enhances the stay with immersive luxury. It's ideal for travellers seeking wildlife, raw landscapes, and a quieter alternative to crowded destinations.



Lakshadweep

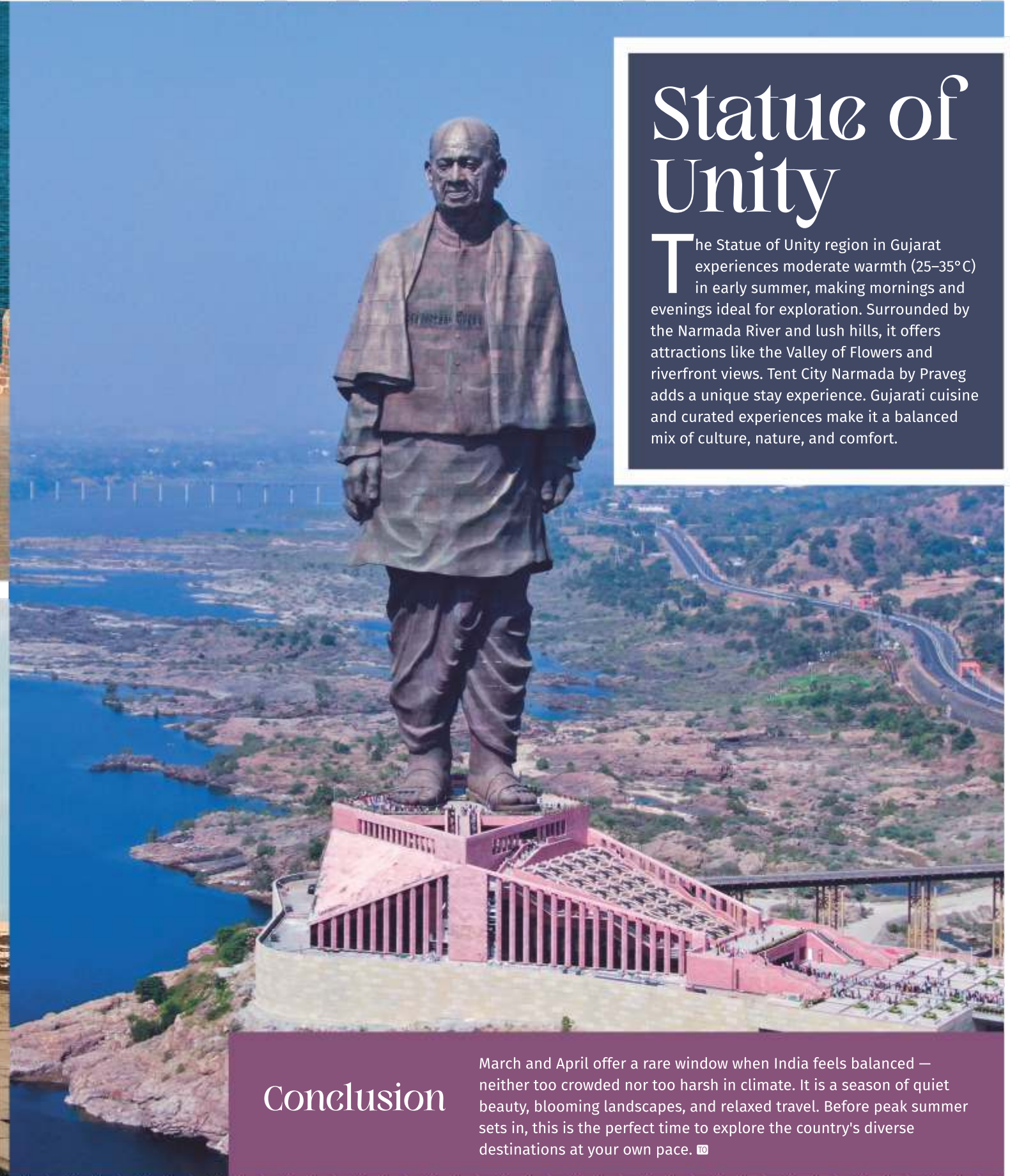
Lakshadweep in March–April is a tropical dream, with temperatures between 25–32°C and crystal-clear waters ideal for snorkelling and diving. Thinnakkara Island, home to Praveg Atoll's resort, offers serene beaches and lagoon views. Fresh seafood and coastal flavours define the cuisine. With coral reefs, bioluminescent waters, and untouched beauty, it's perfect for couples seeking an exotic yet peaceful Indian island escape.



Diu

Diu & Daman

Diu and Daman offer relaxed coastal escapes with temperatures between 24–32°C, before humidity peaks. Clean beaches like Ghoghla and Devka invite slow travel, while Portuguese heritage adds character. Fresh seafood and coastal cuisine enrich the experience. Praveg Beach Resorts in Diu and Daman provide comfortable seaside stays. With fewer crowds than Goa, these destinations are perfect for peaceful beach holidays.



Statue of Unity

The Statue of Unity region in Gujarat experiences moderate warmth (25–35°C) in early summer, making mornings and evenings ideal for exploration. Surrounded by the Narmada River and lush hills, it offers attractions like the Valley of Flowers and riverfront views. Tent City Narmada by Praveg adds a unique stay experience. Gujarati cuisine and curated experiences make it a balanced mix of culture, nature, and comfort.

Conclusion

March and April offer a rare window when India feels balanced — neither too crowded nor too harsh in climate. It is a season of quiet beauty, blooming landscapes, and relaxed travel. Before peak summer sets in, this is the perfect time to explore the country's diverse destinations at your own pace. 📍

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Ram Navami Celebration

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Found Its Rhythm

Ram Navami at Praveg Adalaj turned into a soulful celebration of music, faith, and shared energy. Praveg celebrated Ram Navami in a distinctive style at Adalaj Theme Park, curating an evening of Bhajan Jamming that blended devotion with live musical energy. With Bhajman Beats from Jaipur setting the tone, the space transformed into a vibrant confluence of rhythm, faith, and collective spirit—offering visitors not just an event, but an immersive, soulful experience. 🎵



PRAVEG Adalaj Theme Park, Ahmedabad

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Your Nearest and Quickest Staycations

A Backpacker's Guide to Quick Escapes in India



Your Quick & Nearby Escapes from Metros and Tier-2 Cities

Winter weddings are done. Festivals have faded. And suddenly, your weekends feel... empty. This is exactly when a backpacker should act. No long plans, no heavy itineraries—just pack and go. This list gives you quick, nearby escapes from metro and tier-2 cities—perfect for one-day picnics or spontaneous two-day trips.

Quick Escapes from Indian Cities



Kolkata Sundarbans

(110 km + boat)

A unique mangrove delta famous for Royal Bengal Tigers, boat safaris, and serene waterways, offering raw nature close to Kolkata.

Travel Time : 4–5 hrs

Activities : Mangrove safari, birdwatching, boat rides

Food : Bengali fish curry, bhapa ilish

Known for : Royal Bengal Tigers, unique delta ecosystem



Chennai Pondicherry (150 km) Mahabalipuram (60 km)

Blend of ancient temples and French colonial charm, with beaches, cafés, and relaxed vibes ideal for short coastal getaways.

Travel Time : 1–3 hrs

Activities : Beach hopping, heritage temples, cafés

Food : Seafood, French-inspired cuisine

Known for : Coastal charm, UNESCO sites, colonial vibe

Delhi Agra (230 km)

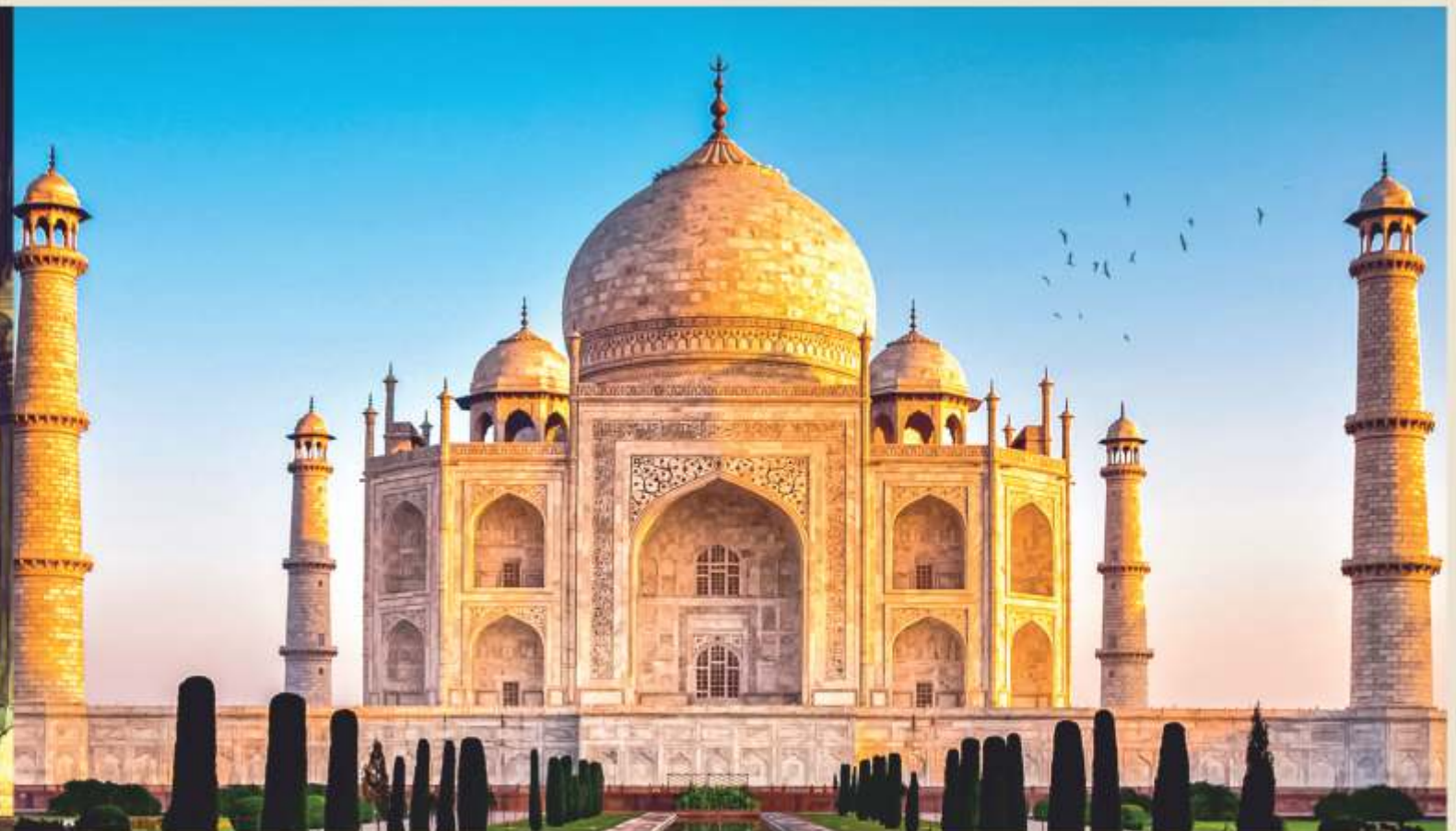
Home to the Taj Mahal, Agra offers Mughal architecture, bustling bazaars, and rich history—perfect for a quick cultural escape.

Travel Time : 3–4 hrs

Activities : Taj Mahal sunrise, Agra Fort walk, street shopping

Food : Petha, Mughlai cuisine

Known for : Mughal heritage, iconic architecture



Lucknow Ayodhya & Prayagraj

(135–200 km)

Spiritual centres known for Ram Mandir and Sangam, offering temple visits, cultural depth, and peaceful religious experiences.

Travel Time : 3–5 hrs

Activities : Temple visits, ghats, spiritual walks

Food : Awadhi cuisine, kachori-sabzi

Known for : Religious heritage, Ram Mandir, Sangam

Stay Option : Praveg Tent City Ayodhya



Alibaug Beach, Maharashtra



Mumbai Lonavala (85 km) & Alibaug (95 km)

Popular weekend escapes with lush hills, forts, and beaches—ideal for trekking, relaxing, and enjoying monsoon or coastal charm.

Travel Time : 2–3 hrs

Activities : Trekking, beach cycling, fort visits

Food : Chikki, Konkani seafood

Known for : Monsoon landscapes, quick beach escapes

Bangalore Kochi Lakshadweep

(~400 km by sea/air)

India's most pristine island destination with turquoise lagoons, coral reefs, and water sports—perfect for an exotic short getaway.

Travel Time : 4–6 hrs

Activities : Kayaking, beach camping, marine exploration

Food : Malabari flavours, seafood

Known for : India's most pristine islands

Stay Option : Praveg Atoll's Lakshadweep





Vadodara Statue of Unity

(90 km)

Travel Time : 2 hrs

Activities : Laser show, riverfront walk, eco-tourism

Food : Gujarati farsan

Known for : Iconic national monument

Stay Option : Tent City Narmada

Ahmedabad Statue of Unity

(200 km)

World's tallest statue surrounded by scenic landscapes, offering museums, safari parks, and activities for quick family-friendly trips.

Travel Time : 3-4 hrs

Activities : Viewing gallery, jungle safari, cycling

Food : Gujarati thali, local snacks

Known for : World's tallest statue

Stay Option : Tent City Narmada by Praveg



EXPERIENCE SERENITY AMID NATURE

Witness the majestic Statue of Unity bathed in the soft glow of early summer light from the comfort of a luxurious riverside tent. Spend your days exploring the wonders of the valley and your evenings enjoying cultural performances under a clear, starry sky.

This is where monumental engineering meets natural splendor, creating an unforgettable start to your summer adventures.

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

Book Your Dates: **72 40 40 40 40**

Bhubaneswar Puri (60 km) & Konark (65 km)

Famous for Jagannath Temple and Sun Temple, combining spiritual significance with coastal beauty and rich Odia culture.

Travel Time : 1–2 hrs

Activities : Temple visits, beach relaxation, heritage tours

Food : Mahaprasad, seafood

Known for : Jagannath Temple, Sun Temple architecture



Siliguri Darjeeling (70 km) & Kalimpong (65 km)

Hill stations known for tea gardens, toy trains, and Himalayan views, offering cool weather and peaceful mountain retreats.

Travel Time : 2–3 hrs

Activities : Toy train, tea garden walks, viewpoints

Food : Momos, thukpa

Known for : Himalayan views, tea estates

Udaipur

Mount Abu (165 km)

Kumbhalgarh (85 km)

Aravalli hill escapes featuring forts, temples, and nature—perfect for history lovers and those seeking cooler climates.

Travel Time : 2–4 hrs

Activities : Fort exploration, trekking, boating

Food : Rajasthani thali

Known for : Aravalli hills, historic forts



Coimbatore

Ooty (85 km)

Coonoor (70 km)

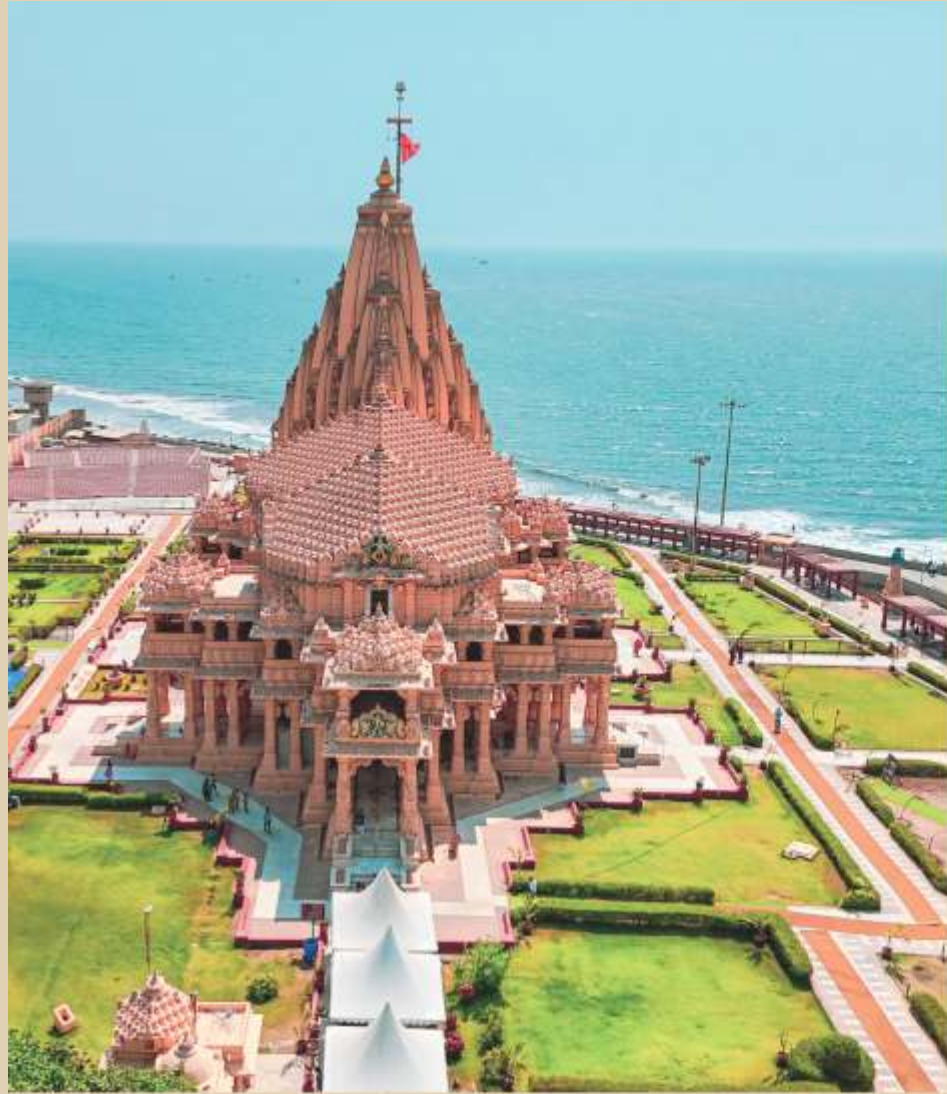
Charming hill stations with tea plantations, toy trains, and colonial-era charm, offering refreshing weather and scenic landscapes.

Travel Time : 2–3 hrs

Activities : Toy train, tea tasting, nature walks

Food : South Indian meals, homemade chocolates

Known for : Nilgiri hills, colonial charm



Rajkot

Diu (220 km)

Somnath (190 km)

Coastal serenity meets spirituality with beaches and Somnath temple, ideal for relaxed trips with cultural and seaside experiences.

Travel Time : 4–5 hrs

Activities : Beach leisure, temple darshan, water sports

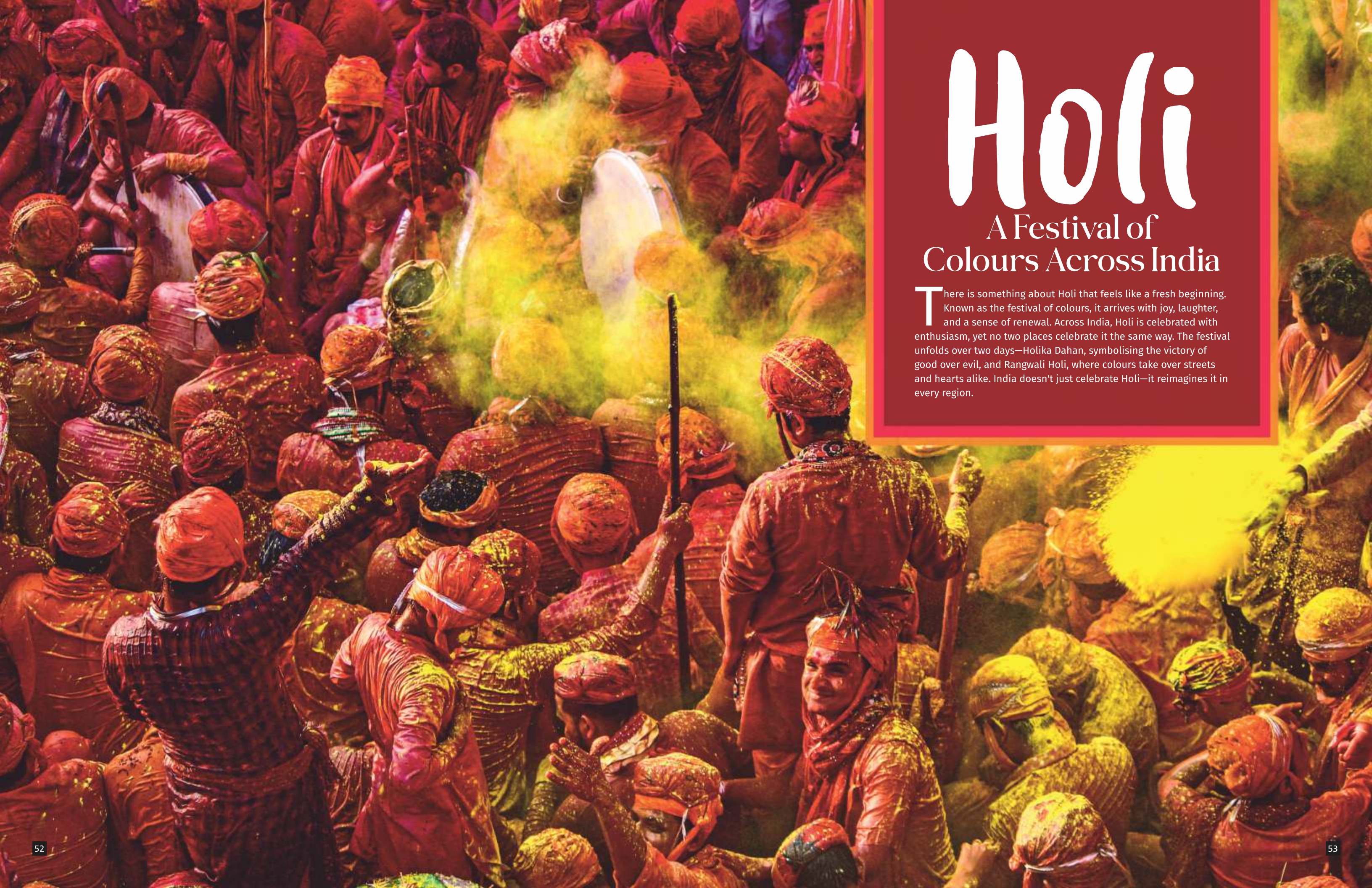
Food : Kathiyawadi cuisine, seafood

Known for : Coastal calm, Jyotirlinga temple

Stay Option : Praveg Beach Resort, Diu

Conclusion

You don't need a long vacation to feel alive again. Sometimes, all it takes is a backpack, a free weekend, and a destination just a few hours away. These quick escapes are your excuse - no planning, no overthinking. Just go. 📍



Holi

A Festival of Colours Across India

There is something about Holi that feels like a fresh beginning. Known as the festival of colours, it arrives with joy, laughter, and a sense of renewal. Across India, Holi is celebrated with enthusiasm, yet no two places celebrate it the same way. The festival unfolds over two days—Holika Dahan, symbolising the victory of good over evil, and Rangwali Holi, where colours take over streets and hearts alike. India doesn't just celebrate Holi—it reimagines it in every region.



Mythological Significance

At the heart of Holi lies the timeless story of Prahlada and Holika. Prahlada, a devoted follower of Lord Vishnu, stood firm in his faith despite his father's opposition. Holika, believed to be immune to fire, attempted to burn him, but it was she who perished while Prahlada emerged unharmed.

This story is not merely mythology—it is a reminder that faith and righteousness ultimately triumph over arrogance and evil. The ritual of Holika Dahan reflects this belief. Bonfires lit on the eve of Holi symbolise the burning away of negativity, grudges, and past burdens.

There is also a seasonal symbolism woven into the festival. Holi marks the end of winter and the arrival of spring—a time when nature begins to bloom again. Just as the earth renews itself, Holi invites people to renew relationships, forgive, and begin afresh.



Holi as a Travel Experience

Over the years, Holi has evolved into more than a cultural festival—it has become a compelling travel experience. Travellers today are not just looking to witness Holi; they want to be part of it. They seek authentic local celebrations, moments of community bonding, and regional traditions that give each destination its unique character.

March, with its pleasant weather across much of India, makes for an ideal time to travel. The air is neither too cold nor unbearably hot, allowing visitors to explore comfortably. Interestingly, this period also sees fewer family travellers due to school examinations, making destinations less crowded and more relaxed.

From domestic tourists to international visitors, Holi is increasingly becoming a reason to travel. It offers something rare—a chance to immerse oneself in India's living culture, not as a spectator but as a participant.



Top Destinations to Experience Holi in India

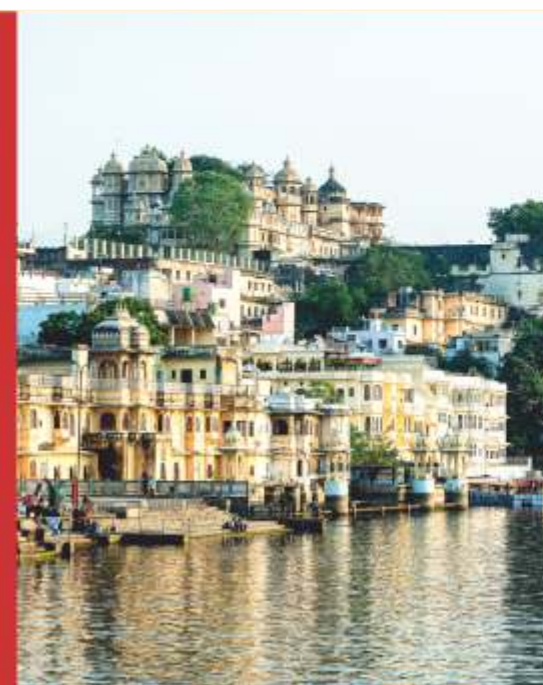
North India
Where Tradition Meets Celebration



Jaipur & Udaipur

In Rajasthan, Holi takes on a royal hue. Cities like Jaipur and Udaipur celebrate with grandeur—palace courtyards come alive with folk performances, traditional music, and ceremonial rituals.

The Holika Dahan in Udaipur, especially near the City Palace, is a spectacle of heritage and tradition. As flames rise against the backdrop of historic architecture, the experience feels both cultural and regal. Holi here is less chaotic and more curated, offering a refined yet festive atmosphere.



Mathura & Vrindavan

If Holi had a spiritual home, it would be Mathura and Vrindavan—the land of Krishna. Celebrations here are not confined to a single day; they stretch over a week, each day carrying a unique flavour.

The famous Lathmar Holi of Barsana sees women playfully striking men with sticks, while Phoolon wali Holi replaces colours with flowers. Temples resonate with chants, music, and devotion. Here, Holi is not just played—it is experienced as a divine celebration of love and mischief.



West India

Where Tradition Meets Modern Energy

Mumbai

Mumbai celebrates Holi with a contemporary twist. Alongside traditional rituals, the city hosts vibrant Holi parties featuring music, rain dances, and high-energy gatherings.

From beachside celebrations to gated community events, Mumbai's Holi is a blend of Bollywood glamour and urban enthusiasm. It reflects the city's spirit—fast-paced, inclusive, and always ready to celebrate.



South India

Where Simplicity Meets Spirit



Food & Festive Flavours of Holi

No Indian festival is complete without food, and Holi is no exception. Kitchens across the country come alive with festive preparations that are as colourful as the celebrations themselves. Sweets like Gujiya and Malpua are prepared in abundance, filling homes with irresistible aromas. These delicacies are not just treats—they are symbols of warmth and sharing.

The iconic Thandai, often infused with bhang, adds a celebratory twist to the festivities. Alongside, regional snacks and traditional meals reflect the diversity of Indian cuisine.

Food during Holi is more than indulgence—it is an invitation to come together, to share, and to celebrate life.



East India

Where Holi Becomes Art

Shantiniketan

In Shantiniketan, Holi transforms into Basanta Utsav, a celebration introduced by Rabindranath Tagore. Unlike the exuberant celebrations of the north, Holi here is graceful and artistic.

Students dressed in yellow sing, dance, and celebrate the arrival of spring with dry colours. Poetry, music, and culture blend seamlessly, making Holi in Shantiniketan a soulful and aesthetic experience.



Hampi

Holi in South India is generally more subdued, but Hampi stands out as an emerging hotspot. Set against the backdrop of ancient ruins and rocky landscapes, the celebrations here attract both locals and international travellers.

People gather near temples and along the riverbanks, playing with colours in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Hampi offers a unique blend of heritage, spirituality, and global camaraderie.



Regional Diversity of Holi

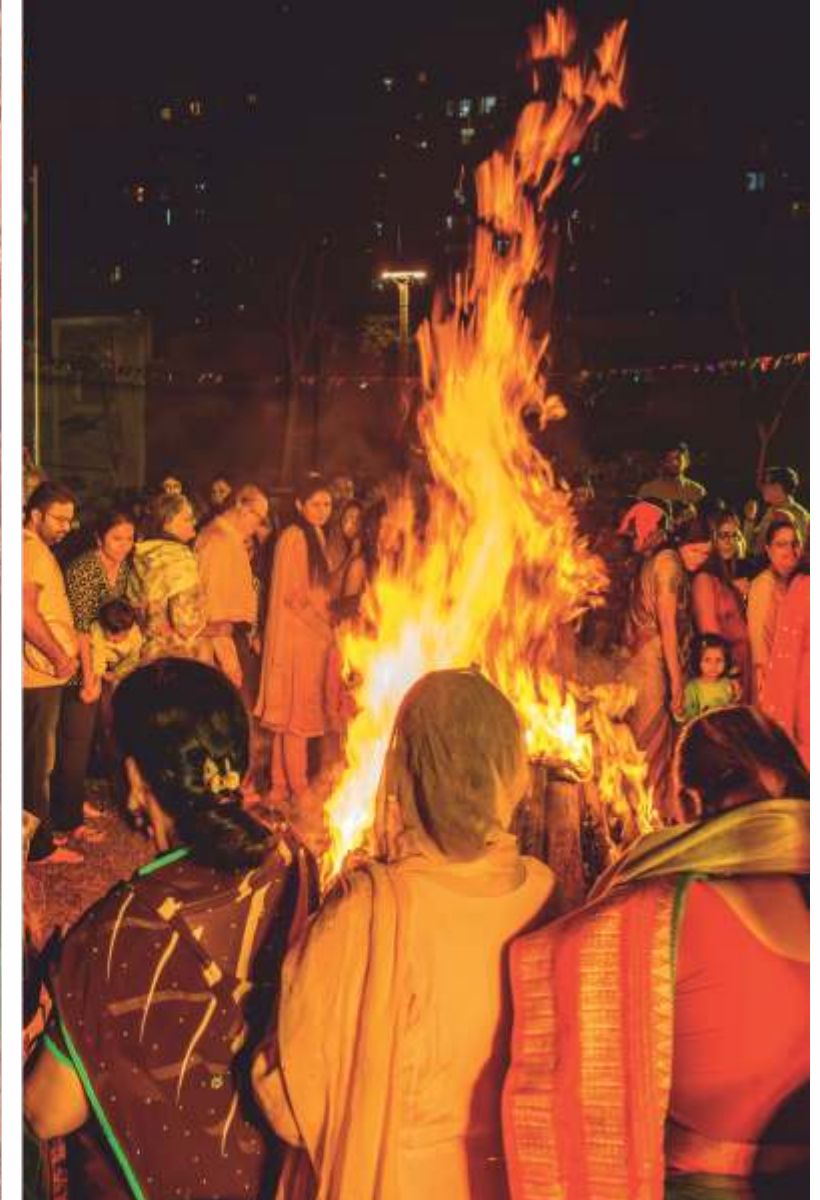
What makes Holi truly fascinating is its diversity. In North India, it is loud, vibrant, and full of playful energy. In the West, it blends tradition with modern celebration. The East embraces a more artistic and cultural expression, while the South celebrates with subtlety and spiritual undertones.

Each region adds its own rhythm, colour, and meaning to the festival, making Holi a reflection of India's rich cultural tapestry.

Conclusion

Holi is more than a festival it is a celebration of India's spirit of unity in diversity. One festival, yet countless expressions. From temple towns to urban cities, from royal courtyards to quiet riverbanks, Holi unfolds differently everywhere.

Perhaps the true essence of Holi lies in experiencing it beyond one's own surroundings—travelling, exploring, and discovering how India colours its celebrations in its own unique ways. 📸



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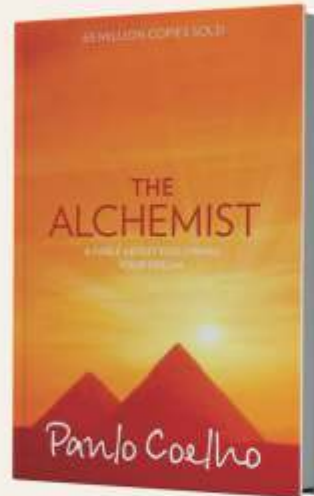
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A person is shown from the side, wearing a light-colored jacket, holding an open book. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water with mountains in the distance. The scene is overlaid with colorful, artistic musical notes and treble clefs. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Book & Music Companions for the Perfect Quick Escape

A quick escape is not just about changing locations—it is about shifting perspectives. For young Indian solo travellers, a two-day trip often becomes a quiet conversation with oneself. Books become companions during long train journeys or peaceful sunsets, while music sets the rhythm of exploration. Whether you are chasing mountains, forests, or coastlines, the right book and playlist can transform your journey into something deeply personal and unforgettable.

Book References for Solo Travellers



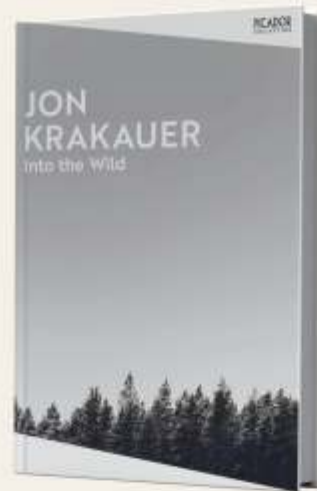
The Alchemist

Paulo Coelho (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

A timeless favourite among Indian travellers, *The Alchemist* resonates deeply with those seeking purpose beyond routine. Santiago's journey mirrors the emotional landscape of solo travel—uncertainty, courage, and discovery. Its simple storytelling and philosophical undertones make it perfect for short trips, especially when you are travelling alone and reflecting on life decisions.

Kindle : ₹199.50
Paperback : ₹264
Hardcover : ₹1480

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/8172234988/>



Into the Wild

Jon Krakauer (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

This gripping true story of Christopher McCandless appeals to adventure-loving Indian travellers who dream of breaking free from societal norms. It speaks to those who feel drawn to forests, mountains, and raw nature. While cautionary, it inspires introspection about freedom, risk, and the meaning of a life lived authentically.

Kindle : ₹ 280.39
Paperback : ₹ 423
Hardcover : ₹ 2086

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/1035038579/>



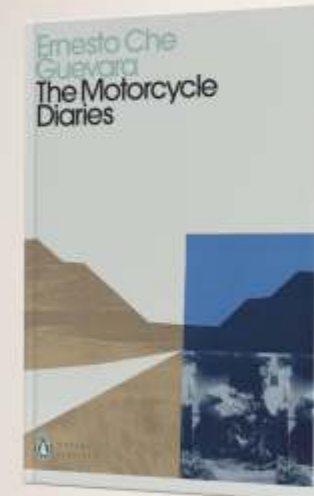
Eat Pray Love

Elizabeth Gilbert (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

Popular among Indian solo travellers, especially young professionals, this book explores self-discovery through travel. Its themes of emotional healing, spirituality, and indulgence resonate with readers seeking balance between career pressures and personal fulfilment. It pairs beautifully with slow travel experiences like beach stays or quiet retreats.

Kindle : ₹279.30
Paperback : ₹491
Hardcover : ₹1671.11

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/1408844486/>



The Motorcycle Diaries

Ernesto Che Guevara (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

This memoir captures the spirit of youthful exploration and political awakening. Indian travellers relate to its raw, unfiltered journey across landscapes and cultures. It is ideal for those who love road trips and seek meaning beyond sightseeing, encouraging readers to observe people, inequality, and humanity more deeply.

Kindle : ₹247.18
Paperback : ₹323

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/0241465109/>



Wild

Cheryl Strayed (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

A powerful story of solo hiking and personal healing, *Wild* resonates with travellers who view journeys as emotional resets. Indian readers, especially those navigating career or personal transitions, find strength in Strayed's resilience. It is an excellent companion for mountain trips or introspective solo escapes.

Kindle : ₹ 360.05
Paperback : ₹ 379
Hardcover : ₹ 2064.25

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/1838959548/>



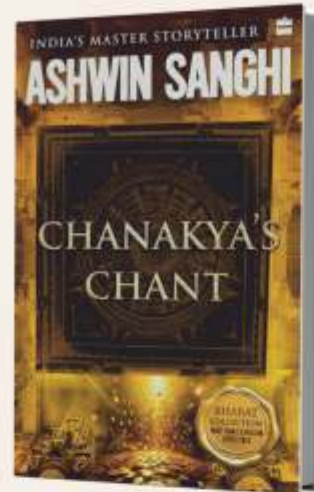
Ikigai

Hector Garcia & Francesc Miralles (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

Highly popular among Indian working professionals, *Ikigai* blends philosophy and practicality. It encourages readers to find purpose in small joys—something travellers often rediscover during short getaways. Its concise format makes it ideal for quick trips, offering meaningful insights without demanding long reading hours.

Kindle : ₹ 299.25
Hardcover : ₹ 320

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/178633089X/>



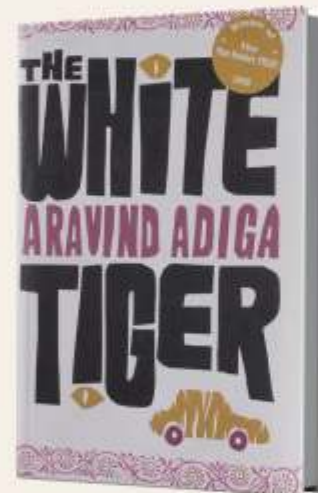
Chanakya's Chant

Ashwin Sanghi (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

For Indian readers who enjoy fast-paced narratives with historical depth, this book blends ancient wisdom with modern ambition. Travellers appreciate its engaging storytelling during transit. It adds intellectual stimulation to leisure, especially for those who enjoy thinking about power, strategy, and India's rich historical context.

Kindle : ₹ 171.09
Paperback : ₹ 320

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/9356292272/>



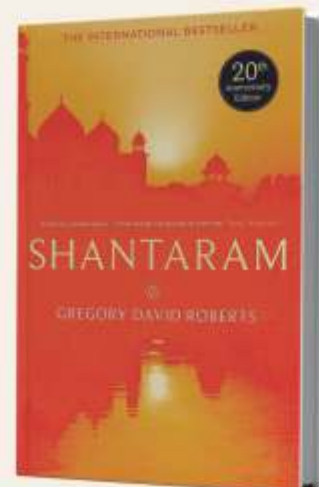
The White Tiger

Aravind Adiga (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

This Booker Prize-winning novel offers a sharp look at modern India, making it relatable for urban travellers. It provides contrast—reading about social realities while exploring new places. Indian solo travellers often find it thought-provoking, especially when travelling across different socio-economic landscapes within the country.

Kindle : ₹ 196
Paperback : ₹ 291
Hardcover : ₹ 299

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/8172237456/>



Shantaram

Gregory David Roberts (Kindle & Paperback, Amazon India)

Set in Mumbai, this novel is particularly loved by Indian travellers for its immersive storytelling. It blends crime, philosophy, and culture, making it ideal for long train journeys or flights. Travellers appreciate its vivid depiction of India through a foreign lens, offering both familiarity and novelty.

Kindle : ₹ 277.30
Paperback : ₹ 384
Hardcover : ₹ 819

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/0349117543/>

Music Albums for the Journey (Spotify Picks)



Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani

(Soundtrack) – Pritam

A cult favourite among Indian travellers, this album captures friendship, wanderlust, and freedom. Songs like Ilahi and Safarnama perfectly complement mountain drives and spontaneous journeys.



Rockstar

(Soundtrack) – A.R. Rahman

Deep, intense, and emotional, this album resonates with solo travellers navigating inner journeys. Its raw energy pairs well with long drives and introspective travel moments.



Tamasha

(Soundtrack) – A.R. Rahman

Exploring identity and self-discovery, this album connects strongly with young professionals. It is ideal for reflective travel, especially when questioning routine life and seeking change.



Divide (÷)

Ed Sheeran

A global favourite, this album blends upbeat tracks and soulful melodies. Indian travellers enjoy its versatility, making it suitable for road trips, beach stays, and relaxed evenings.



Coldplay

A Head Full of Dreams – Coldplay

Uplifting and expansive, this album complements scenic landscapes. Its vibrant sound makes it a favourite for travellers exploring mountains, oceans, and open roads.



Kabir Café (Best of)

Kabir Café

Blending Kabir's poetry with contemporary music, this album appeals to spiritually inclined Indian travellers. It pairs beautifully with nature, especially riversides and forest stays.



Barfi!

(Soundtrack) – Pritam

Light, playful, and nostalgic, this album enhances slow travel experiences. It works well for peaceful hill station trips and quiet café moments.



Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara

(Soundtrack) – Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy

A definitive travel album for Indians, it celebrates friendship, adventure, and living in the moment—perfect for road trips and coastal drives.



When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?

Billie Eilish

Popular among younger travellers, this album offers a moody, introspective vibe. Ideal for solo night journeys or reflective downtime during trips.



Coke Studio India

Known for its fusion of classical and contemporary sounds, it resonates with culturally curious travellers. It enhances experiences in diverse landscapes across India. 🎵

Masala Popcorn

Spicy Twist to Popcorn

By JAYESH PUROHIT

Masala Popcorn is a quick and flavourful snack that adds an Indian twist to regular popcorn. Light, crunchy, and coated with aromatic spices, it is perfect for movie nights, evening snacks, or casual gatherings. This recipe uses simple kitchen ingredients and takes very little time to prepare. The mix of chilli, fennel, and coriander creates a balanced taste that is both spicy and slightly sweet, making it a favourite for all age groups.

Ingredients

- 4 cups popcorn kernels
- 2 tsp coriander seeds
- 2 tsp Kashmiri red chilli powder
- A pinch of asafoetida (Hing)
- Salt to taste
- 2 tbsp refined oil
- 2 tsp fennel seeds
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- ¼ tsp sugar



Pro-tips

- Use of a heavy-bottom pan prevents the kernels from burning and helps them pop evenly.
- If using a pan, keep shaking it gently to avoid unpopped or burnt kernels.
- Remove any unpopped kernels before adding spices for a better eating experience.
- Always add powdered spices on low flame to prevent them from burning and turning bitter.

Method

- Heat the popcorn kernels in a pan with a lid or microwave them until all the kernels pop. Transfer to a large bowl and keep aside.
- Heat oil in a pan on medium flame. Add coriander seeds and fennel seeds and sauté until they start to splutter and release aroma.
- Add the prepared popcorn to the pan and mix well.
- Sprinkle red chilli powder, turmeric, sugar, asafoetida, and salt over the popcorn.
- Toss everything gently so that the spices coat the popcorn evenly.
- Switch off the flame and serve hot and fresh.
- This spicy popcorn is a perfect companion for tea-time or movie evenings.

Recipe by www.recipes.timesofindia.com

Chikoo Milkshake

Sweet & Creamy Summer Drink

By JAYESH PUROHIT

Chikoo Milkshake is a simple, refreshing and filling drink, perfect for Indian summers. Made with ripe chikoo (sapota), milk and a little sugar, it has a naturally sweet and creamy taste. This milkshake is ideal for breakfast, brunch or as an evening drink. Since chikoo is a seasonal fruit, it tastes best when fresh and ripe. The drink is easy to prepare and can be enjoyed by both children and adults.

Introduction

- 2 to 2½ cups chopped chikoo (peeled and deseeded)
- 2½ to 3 cups milk (chilled or at room temperature)
- Sugar or jaggery, as required
- Ice cubes (optional)



Pro-tips

- Always use ripe chikoo for natural sweetness and better flavour.
- Adjust sugar based on the sweetness of the fruit.
- Use chilled milk for a more refreshing drink.
- Best enjoyed fresh; avoid storing for long.

Method

- Peel the chikoo, remove the seeds and chop into small pieces.
- Add the chopped chikoo to a blender.
- Pour in the milk.
- Add sugar or jaggery depending on the sweetness of the fruit.
- Blend everything until smooth and creamy.
- Add ice cubes if desired and blend again briefly.
- Serve immediately for the best taste.

Recipes by www.vegrecipesofindia.com

Gujiya

Festive Sweet Delight

By JAYESH PUROHIT

Gujiya is a traditional Indian sweet prepared during festivals like Holi and Diwali. These crispy, flaky pastries are filled with a rich mixture of khoya, nuts and aromatic spices. Homemade gujiya has a fresh taste and better texture compared to store-bought ones. The outer layer is crunchy, while the filling is soft and flavourful. They can be deep-fried or air-fried, depending on preference, and make a perfect festive treat to share with family and guests.

Ingredients For the Outer Covering

- 200 g khoya (mawa), crumbled
- 1½ tbsp ghee
- ¼ cup chopped nuts (almonds, cashews, pistachios)
- 1½ tbsp sooji (semolina)
- ¼ cup dry coconut (optional)
- ⅓ cup sugar (adjust to taste)
- ½–1 tsp cardamom powder
- A pinch of nutmeg (optional)

For the Outer Covering

- 2 cups maida
- A pinch of salt
- ¼ cup ghee
- About ⅓ cup water (as needed)



For the Filling

- 200 g khoya (mawa), crumbled
- 1½ tbsp ghee
- ¼ cup chopped nuts (almonds, cashews, pistachios)
- 1½ tbsp sooji (semolina)
- ¼ cup dry coconut (optional)
- ⅓ cup sugar (adjust to taste)
- ½–1 tsp cardamom powder
- A pinch of nutmeg (optional)

Pro-tips

- Use of a heavy-bottom pan prevents the kernels from burning and helps them pop evenly.
- If using a pan, keep shaking it gently to avoid unpopped or burnt kernels.
- Remove any unpopped kernels before adding spices for a better eating experience.
- Always add powdered spices on low flame to prevent them from burning and turning bitter.

Method

Make the Filling

- Heat ½ tbsp ghee in a pan and lightly cook the khoya for a few minutes. Let it cool.
- In the same pan, heat remaining ghee and fry nuts till light golden. Add sooji and coconut, and roast until slightly crisp.
- Mix everything together. Add powdered sugar, cardamom and nutmeg. Combine well and keep aside.

Make the Dough

- In a bowl, mix maida, salt and ghee until it resembles breadcrumbs.
- Add water gradually and knead into a slightly stiff dough. Cover and rest for 15–20 minutes.

Shape the Gujiya

- Divide the dough into small balls and roll into small puris.
- Place 2–3 teaspoons of filling in the centre.
- Fold into a half-moon shape and seal the edges properly using fingers or a fork.

Fry the Gujiya

- Heat oil in a kadai on low to medium heat.
- Add the gujiyas and fry slowly until they turn golden and crisp.
- Remove and cool before serving.

Recipe by www.indianhealthyrecipes.com

Thandai

Cooling Festive Milk Drink

By JAYESH PUROHIT

Thandai is a traditional North Indian drink, popular during Holi and Maha Shivratri. Made with milk, nuts, seeds, and aromatic spices, it is known for its cooling effect on the body. Freshly prepared Thandai is rich in flavour and far better than packaged versions.

Introduction (Serves 4-5)

- 1 litre + ½ cup milk
- 20 almonds
- 10 cashews
- 15 pistachios
- 1½ tbsp melon seeds (magaz)
- 1½ tbsp poppy seeds
- 1½ tbsp fennel seeds
- 10–12 green cardamoms
- 1-inch cinnamon stick
- 4–8 black peppercorns
- 5–6 tbsp sugar (as per taste)
- A pinch of saffron (optional)
- 20 dried rose petals or 4–6 tsp gulkand
- 2 tbsp sliced nuts (for garnish)
- Ice cubes (optional)



Pro-tips

- For a smoother texture, grind soaked seeds separately if your blender is not very powerful.

Method

- Soak almonds, cashews, and pistachios in water for 4 hours (or 1 hour in hot water). Soak poppy seeds and melon seeds separately.
- Peel almonds. Add all soaked nuts and seeds to a blender along with fennel seeds, cardamom, cinnamon, black pepper, rose petals, and saffron. Grind to a coarse paste. Add ½ cup milk and blend again into a smooth paste.
- Boil 1 litre milk gently. Add sugar and the prepared paste. Mix well and simmer for 2–3 minutes.
- Switch off the flame. Let it cool, then refrigerate for at least 4 hours (overnight for best flavour).
- Strain the mixture and press well to extract all the liquid.
- Add a little gulkand to glasses (optional). Pour chilled Thandai, add ice cubes if desired, and garnish with sliced nuts. 📌

Recipes by www.indianhealthyrecipes.com

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