

# TRAVELJINGLES

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**H.E. MR. GUILLERMO RUBIO FUNES,**  
The Ambassador of the Republic  
of El Salvador to India

## *Land of Volcanoes - El Salvador*



**H.E. MRS. HARISOA LALATIANA ACCOUCHE,**  
High Commissioner of Seychelles to India

**BLISSFUL**  
*Mauritius*

*The Only Granite  
Islands - Seychelles*



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# F O R E W O R D



**Hitasha Mehra Sharma**  
Founder & Editor  
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## Ringing in 24!!

**2**024 is predicted to be the best year for significant moments and discovering new travel destinations. We couldn't be happier; as the weather gets warmer, and we shed the winter blues. The year starts with one of the most significant moments in Indian history, namely the inauguration of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya. This heralds a new age in the Indian context and will go deep down in the annals of Indian history.

Recognize the importance of exploring India's hidden gem – Lakshadweep, which calls for responsible exploration and preservation.

Riding on this optimism, TravelJingles in this edition, brings a bouquet of 24 things to do in India, in 2024. Notably, our list girls in - visiting the famous perfume capital of India, as also witnessing the auspicious Ganga aarti at the ghats of Varanasi, and a lot more.

Being a surfer's paradise, El Salvador is a Mecca for surfers that grace most of its 307 kms coastline, offering the longest waves in the Pacific Ocean. **H.E. Mr. Guillermo Rubio Funes, Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador to India**, shares that the country is also called the 'Land of Volcanoes' with more than 100 volcanoes, of which around twenty volcanoes are potentially active. It is also a coffee lover's paradise.

Explore the 'only granite islands in the world' – Seychelles. Interestingly, the world's largest seed or double coconut, which weighs over 44 pounds, is grown here. **H.E. Mrs. Harisoa Lalatiana Accouche, High Commissioner of Seychelles to India**, urges you to explore the diverse marine life and various water activities. Not only this, be ready to explore the true flavours of Seychellois Creole cuisine which combines the exoticism of Indian and Asian dishes, amalgamating the piquant flavours of the Orient, as well as some subtleties of European culinary culture.

In this calendar year, visit the charming 'yellow town' of Hoi An. Watch the floating lanterns which are lit every night at the Hoai River. Dragon bridge and the Linh Ung Pagoda at Danang, in Viet Nam will entice you with its mesmerising tranquility.

Make your vacations special with the boundless beauty and soul enriching charm of Mauritius, with its sandy beaches and aquamarine waters. Its 'look-book' caters to luxe accommodations to choose from; the swim away rooms, or the 'adult only' concept, at this glorious island, with a serene African setting, that pulsates with an array of luxury for those looking for a romantic get-away.

We share with you about the bilateral trading one can do with Panama, a country of Central America and an East African country, Ethiopia.

Besides the above, in this edition we strive to provide you with captivating travel experiences, flavourful cuisines, and memories that linger.

*Hitasha*

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# Ten reasons to stay at Intercontinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort

A luxurious getaway towards alluring views

-By TJ Bureau



**W**hen we stayed at Intercontinental Danang, we were over thrilled with the luxurious stay with its vernacular architecture, high-contrast décor, white washed walls all across the resort and quirky historic accents, designed by Architect Bill Bensley. The resort offers a perfect getaway to celebrate the sunshine, nestled in the pristine rain forest stay, at Intercontinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort, located 20 km from Danang International Airport.

We share with you ten reasons to stay at the Intercontinental Danang Resort.

## EXPLORE IN STYLE!

Skip the stress of airport taxis and shared shuttles and hop into a private

luxury car by the Intercontinental resort, including wheelchair-accessibility and specialized infant seats, to ensure a comfortable and stress-free experience. Arrive in utmost comfort and style with the range of luxurious transportation options being offered by the resort, with ease. The chauffeurs and guides help you with custom-based itineraries, to enjoy historical, natural or cultural attractions nearby, with their comfortable services..

## ROOMS-THE CLASSY COMFORT

Rejoice in chic opulence with the accommodations, that offer an array of alternates ranging from classic rooms with contemporary decor influenced by traditional Vietnamese hospitality to spacious suites with panoramic ocean views. The resort also provides

penthouses or residential villas to help you plan the perfect visit, with poolside or on your private terrace, surrounded by nature and calmed by fresh breezes. The resort's private beach is just a stone's throw from all rooms.

## CITRON-THE CONICAL RESTAURANT

Citron, an all-day restaurant, is a veritable culinary map of Vietnam, serving traditional dishes from North, Central, and South Vietnam. A must-try is the exquisite Hanoi-style pho. On the resort's highest level, the spacious area soars 100 meters above the landscape mixing Vietnamese patterns with brilliant, colourful embellishments. Experience the Citron's outdoor dining booths that are shaped like an inverted 'nón-lá', the iconic Vietnamese conical hat, for the ultimate Vietnamese style.

**LONG POOL- SPLASH AND SWIM**

Sit back and relax at the tranquil oasis in the Long Pool, surrounded by greenery. The infinity pool is located on the first floor, over the large bar that is 50 metres long, offering a panoramic and picture-perfect view. All you can see from up there are the tops of neighbouring trees and the mountains beyond them. The visual effect is breathtaking, as if you're swimming in the middle of the mountains.

**THE NAM TRAM**

Have you ever wondered how to reach the floor of heaven? Interestingly, 'heaven' is the top floor, named by the resort. The Nam Tram spans 130 meters across four floors - Heaven, Sky, Earth, Sea. The tram is created in the shape of a traditional Vietnamese basket boat with its roof shaped like a grain of rice. The unique design of the boat-shaped cable car has made the Intercontinental resort the only resort in Vietnam with its own cable car.



**LONG BAR- A CASUAL DINING DELIGHT**

Intercontinental Danang invites you to savour the continental cuisine served at the Long Bar, suspended with large daybeds, basket chairs, and a hanging surfboard table to relax and chill, with your beloved ones or family. It features an elegant black and white colonial design, with traditional electric-powered 'punkah' fans cooling you from above.

**MI SOL SPA- REJUVENATE WITH ITS MUSICAL TONES**

Delve into the world of sound therapy at Mi Sol Spa that uses musical scale tones to enhance natural energy flow and helps you achieve relaxation and rejuvenation. The spa offers a range of sound-inspired treatments, rooted in rituals, including ceremonies, to guide the mind and inspire positive intentions.





#### **NATURE'S WALK**

The resort is nestled in the heart of its lush, green surroundings where every moment you're here, you'll feel embraced by its gorgeous greenery. Have an exhilarating walk to explore the terrain and soak in the beauty of the natural reserve of forests, that is also a home to varied species of plants and animals.

#### **THE TRADITIONAL BREW**

Fall in love with the secrets of traditional Vietnamese brews. This resort will curate an exclusive coffee-tasting session for you if you are a resident here. The coffee curation will include Hanoi's egg coffee, southern Vietnamese coconut coffee, and Central Vietnamese salt coffee, with oodles of ice cubes and delicious condensed milk for a flavourful coffee experience. This could be enjoyed as a hot or a cold coffee!

#### **EXPLORE DANANG**

The resort's central location in

Vietnam offers easy access to a variety of captivating attractions, including cultural, gastronomic, heritage, and entertainment sites. Danang, a 20-minute drive away, is renowned for its vibrant shopping scene, cultural attractions, excellent food and drink along the beach and the weekly fire-breathing show at the Dragon Bridge. Another nearby popular attraction is the 67-meter statue of the Goddess of Mercy, a part of a spiritual site, including the Linh Ung Bai But Pagoda which you can witness from far, perched at the top of the hill.





# Off Historical Significance

## A symbol of victory and faith

-By TJ Bureau

The historic opening ceremony of the most awaited Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, after a long wait of 500 years finally arrived on January 22, 2024, at 12:05 PM in Indian history. Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India, along with Yogi Adityanath, Honourable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, performed the rituals of 'Prana Prathishtha'. The phrase 'Prana Prathishtha' is a ritual that means 'bringing life to the temple'. In Hinduism, 'Prana Prathishtha' is a sacred ceremony where the divine essence, referred to as 'prana', is invoked and transferred into an idol or image of a deity in a temple, or at home.

Arun Yogiraj, a well-known sculptor from Mysuru, sculpted the stunning statue from the black stone known to be 60 million years old, called 'Shaligram'. These rocks hold greater significance in Hindu mythology and are found in western Nepal's Kali Gandaki river bed. The 51-inch idol depicts Lord Ram as a five-



year-old child. The right hand of the idol depicts him giving 'aashirwad' (blessings) and is designed to grasp an arrow, whilst the left hand is designed to hold a bow.

The devotees, along with significant faces, were seen seeking blessings at the Ram Mandir. The Ram Mandir is significant not only for its magnificent construction, but also for its spiritual

essence, which portrays for all, a symbol of togetherness, faith, and cultural legacy. The temple complex will serve as both a place of worship and a cultural centre, fostering Lord Ram's teachings and promoting the principles of righteousness, truth, and compassion, for future generations.

"Ayodhya is coming up as a world tourist destination in a big way. There will be more than 150 guest houses, hotels, resorts and heritage hotels coming soon. This will bring in an influx of tourism to Ayodhya from around the world. Uttar Pradesh will be a religious spiritual hub having many important religious circuits which will include Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Naimisharanya, Gorakhpur, Mathura and other religious places", expressed **Mukesh Kumar Meshram, IAS, Director General of Uttar Pradesh Tourism.**

Apart from its magnificent construction, the temple represents a convergence of feelings. Today, it represents victory and faith as a bridge linking peace and harmony.



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# 24 THINGS TO DO IN INDIA IN 2024

Unbox the must-do things this year!

-By TJ Bureau

It's time to warmly welcome another year of transition and explore India in 24 different ways. Paint the blank canvas with vivid strokes of moments to create and make the most out of them. Here we share with you 24 engaging experiences that promise you unforgettable moments to cherish in 2024.



## THE LIGHT AND SOUND SHOW

Cellular Jail in Andaman offers a historical experience at the Light and Sound Show which takes place in the evening. The show is narrated by a legendary Bollywood actor, Late Om Puri. It gives a glimpse of India's struggle for freedom and is a must-watch when you are in Port Blair.

**Where: Cellular Jail, Port Blair, Andaman Island**



### HIDDEN BASE OF UFOS

Kongka La Pass, in Ladakh, at 16,970 feet offers stunning views, high-altitude lakes, and beautiful valleys. It is a low-access location in India, and home to numerous UFOs and humanoids. This has led locals to believe that it is inhabited by aliens, with various unusual suspects being found.

**Where: Kongka La Pass, Ladakh**



### THE ARTISTIC VILLAGE

Raghurajpur Arts and Crafts Village is located near the temple town of Puri, in Odisha, and is a living gallery maintained by local chitrakaars (folk artists). The village showcases the traditional art of Pattachitra painting, Tussar silk paintings, Papier Mache toys, and Tala Patra Chitra (Palm Leaf engravings), Gotipua semi-classical dance, Odissi classical dance, Sahijata, paying tribute to the triad deities from the Puri Jagannath Temple.

**Where: Raghurajpur Arts and Crafts Village, Odisha**

## THE RAREST SPOT IN INDIA

Lake Lonar in Maharashtra, India, is a unique saline crater lake formed by a meteorite impact 50,000 years ago. Its water, seven times saltier than the sea, hosts microorganisms that give it a pink hue. This will surely leave you in an awe.

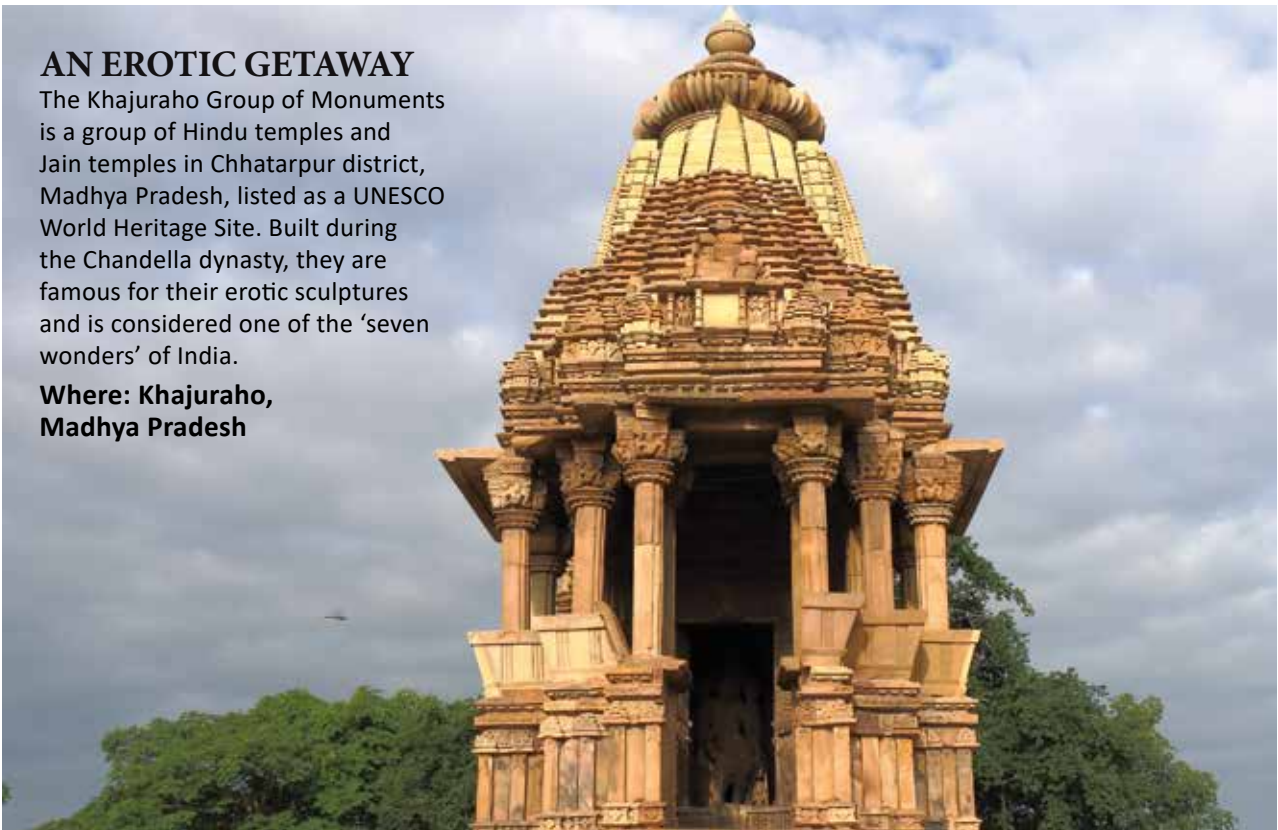
**Where: Lonar Lake, Maharashtra**



## AN EROTIC GETAWAY

The Khajuraho Group of Monuments is a group of Hindu temples and Jain temples in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built during the Chandella dynasty, they are famous for their erotic sculptures and is considered one of the 'seven wonders' of India.

**Where: Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**





### RED ANT CHUTNEY

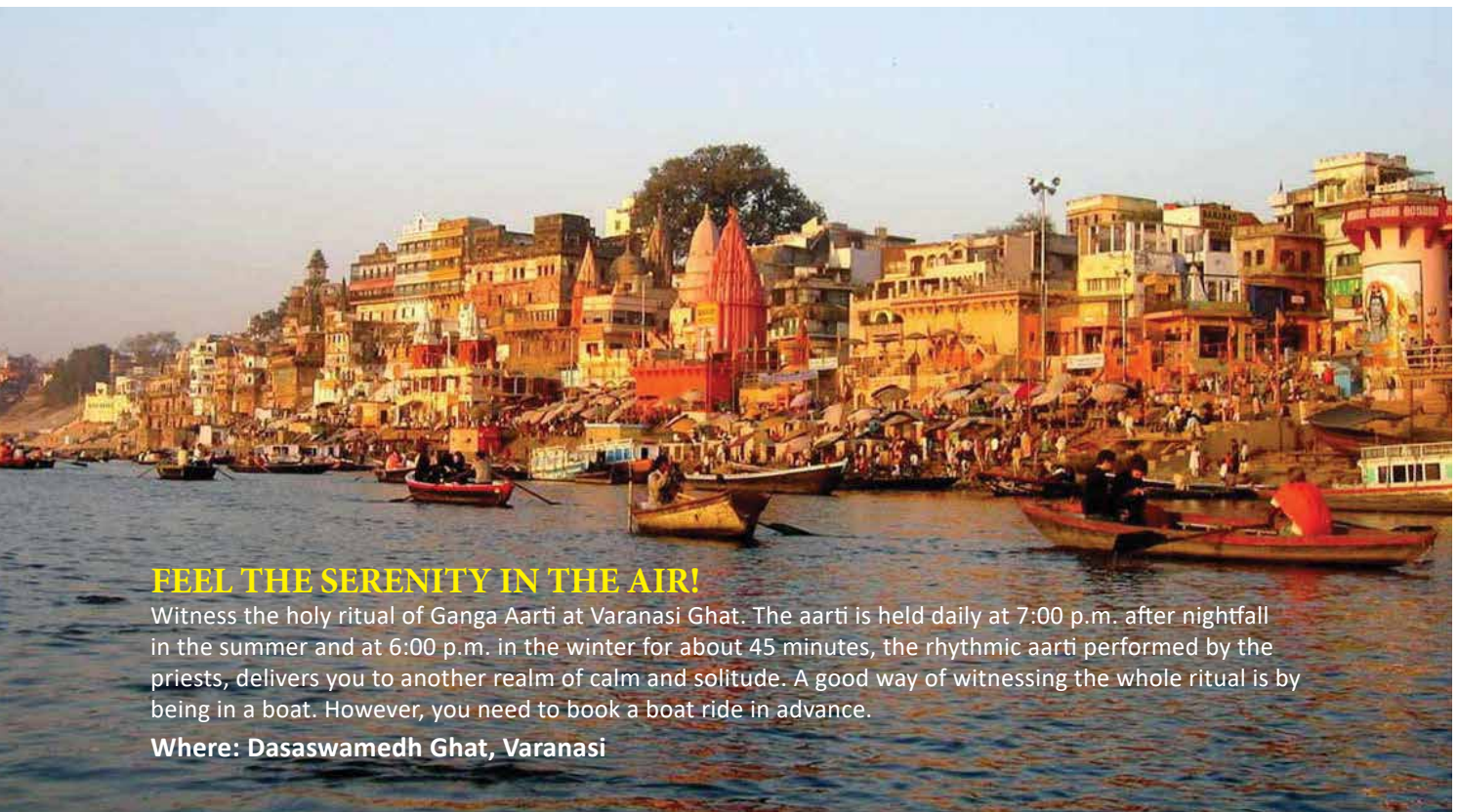
In Chhattisgarh, the red ant preparation is called 'Chapda' chutney. It is traditionally prepared using a stone grinder, and tastes sour. The ants, along with their eggs, are thoroughly ground and mixed with a variety of local spices, mainly hot chillies and salt. The consumption of this chutney is believed to enhance immunity and improve vision. It is available in other parts of India too.

**Where: Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand**

### THE MYSTERY OF TWINS

Imagine a tiny little town with innumerable twins! Kodinhi is an Indian village that will blow your mind with the sheer number of twins living in this village. There are at least 400 pairs of twins in a settlement of around 2000 families. This is definitely the strangest village to visit.

**Where: Kodinhi, Kerala**



### FEEL THE SERENITY IN THE AIR!

Witness the holy ritual of Ganga Aarti at Varanasi Ghat. The aarti is held daily at 7:00 p.m. after nightfall in the summer and at 6:00 p.m. in the winter for about 45 minutes, the rhythmic aarti performed by the priests, delivers you to another realm of calm and solitude. A good way of witnessing the whole ritual is by being in a boat. However, you need to book a boat ride in advance.

**Where: Dasaswamedh Ghat, Varanasi**



## THE SWAYAMWAR

The Tarnetar Mela is held annually, celebrating Draupadi and Arjuna's marriage at the Trineteshwar Temple. Young bachelors seek brides by wearing traditional clothes matched with magnificent umbrellas, known as the 'Tarnetar chhattri'. Women's marital status is often indicated by their clothing choices, with married women wearing black skirts and those seeking a husband wearing red dresses.

**Where: Trineteshwar Temple, Gujarat**



## NO GRAVITY ZONE

Magnetic Hill will arouse your curiosity to no end, lying on the Leh-Kargil-Srinagar National Highway in the Trans-Himalayan region. Experience the hill, where when a vehicle is parked at the indicated spot, will accelerate at a speed of almost 20km/h.

**Where: Magnetic Hill, Ladakh**



### SOAR LIKE A BIRD!

Experience the thrill of indoor flying high and simulated free fall, without plane and parachute at India's first indoor arena with a wind tunnel creating a smooth column of air. It is suitable for thrill seekers of various ages and physical abilities. For an adrenaline rush, a heart-pounding experience of diving 10,000 feet from the sky, flying indoors can be real.

**Where: Gravity Zip, Hyderabad**



### THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Experience the colourful festival of Gujarat, Garba. A Hindu festival which is dedicated to worshipping feminine energy during the nine days of Navratri, the devotees sing, clap and dance around the image of Goddess Amba. Interestingly, the Garba of Gujarat has been enlisted as an Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**Where: Gujarat**



### LITTLE TIBET

Majnu Ka Tilla, an old Tibetan colony is famous for its history, delicious food and peaceful aura, coming with the essence of Incense stick. Famous for its authentic Tibetan food, which includes thukpa, butter tea, mutton momos and much more. Shopping here, is hip, trendy and really easy on the pocket.

**Where: Majnu ka Tilla, New Delhi**



## EXPERIENCE MESMERIZING FREE FALL!

Aamby Valley in Maharashtra, offers skydiving packages to year-round memberships, with 10,000 feet tandem jumps. Experienced instructors guide through a 45–60-minute training session. The instructor deploys a parachute after a 20–30 second free fall to experience a scenic view of Aamby Valley.

**Where: Aamby Valley, Maharashtra**



## THE RAT TEMPLE

The Karni Mata Mandir is popular not for its location or architecture, but for being home to over 25,000 rats that inhabit and freely meander around the temple. Here, consuming food items that have been nibbled by rats are regarded as a holy practice.

**Where: Karni Mata Temple, Bikaner in Rajasthan**



## FOOD CRAWL IN OLD DELHI

The bustling, winding, and historic streets of Old Delhi's Chandni Chowk market, is a food lover's paradise. The narrow lanes of Old Delhi narrate stories through its overwhelming street food options, which are a must-try, from Natraj Dahi Bhalle, Daulat ki Chaat, famous jalebis serving since 1884, delicious parathas from the famous street of *Paranthe Wali Gali*, leaving you craving for more.

**Where: Chandni Chowk, New Delhi**



### THE VERY OLD TRADITION OF BANGLE-MAKING

The ancient bangle-making industry in Firozabad will leave you in surprise with their art of making glass bangles. It is the centre of India's hand made glass-blowing industry, in operation since the past 200 years, and known to be the world's biggest manufacturer of glass bangles. Firozabad town's Gali Bohran Bangle Market is lined with colourful stores selling shimmering, beautifully handcrafted, glass bangles.

**Where: Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh**



### ASIA'S LARGEST SPICE MARKET

Khari Baoli is a bustling commercial district in North India, renowned for its significant spice industry, attracting traders and consumers from states like Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. Here, the street is not only busy and chaotic but the air is filled with the scent of spices too! You can buy some, to stock up Turmeric, cumin, coriander, cardamom, black pepper, and other spices are widely available to elevate your taste buds.

**Where: Khari Baoli Road, Delhi**



## WOMEN POWER

Witness the rich culture and history of Asia's largest women's market, selling fruits, textiles, spices, bamboo crafts and religious objects. This fact will definitely astonish every shopper. The market is wholly managed and run by a women's union. Cheers to women power!

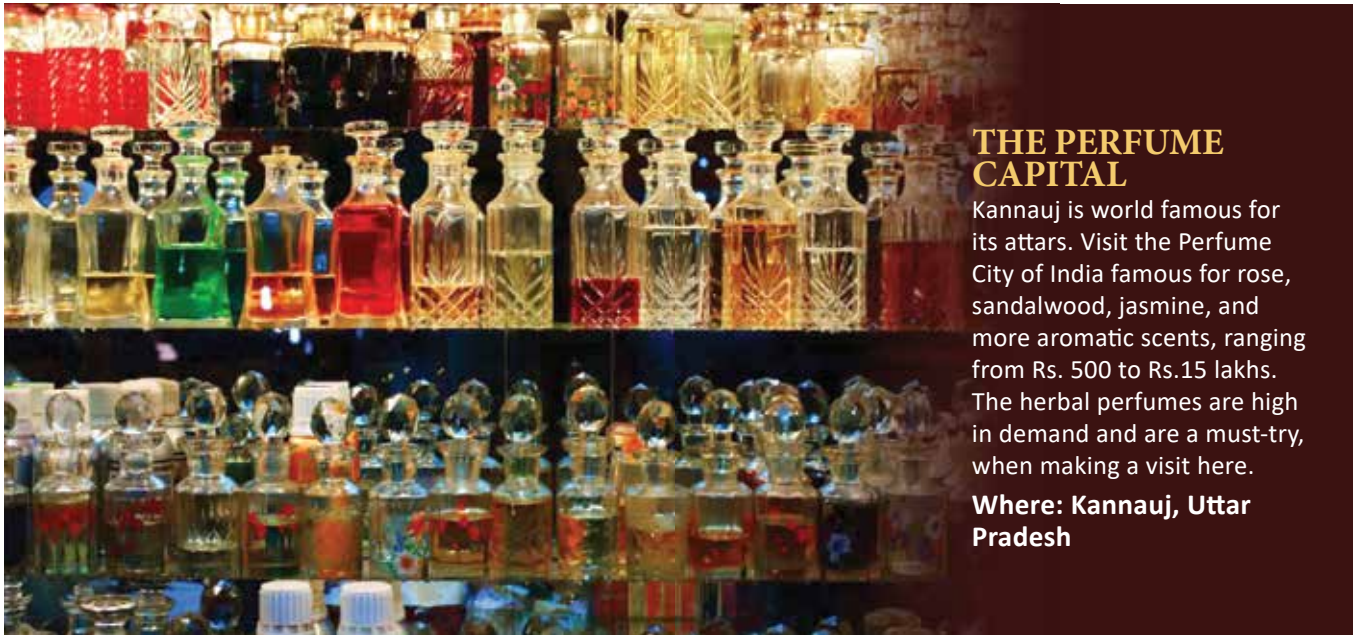
**Where:** Ima Keithel Market, Manipur



## SIP IN PINK BREW!

Have you ever wondered about the daily cup of tea in a pink hue? Well, you can try the dusty pink hue, laced with a crushed nut garnish, of Kashmiri chai, made after being steeped with green tea leaves and baking soda to give it its distinctive hue.

**Where:** Budgam District, Kashmir



## THE PERFUME CAPITAL

Kannauj is world famous for its attars. Visit the Perfume City of India famous for rose, sandalwood, jasmine, and more aromatic scents, ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs.15 lakhs. The herbal perfumes are high in demand and are a must-try, when making a visit here.

**Where: Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh**



## DIAMONDS ALL THE WAY

Going through the crowded lanes of Surat will surely blow your mind out of surprise, amazement, and pride. Surat being the central hub of the diamond industry, is known for manufacturing as well as the import and export of diamonds. Interestingly, you will discover authentic diamonds selling on the roadside, instead of foods and clothes!

**Where: Mahidharpura Diamond Market, Surat**



## TASTE THE TRADITION

Indulge in the local flavours of wherever you travel. Don't miss out on trying out the local favourite, buckwheat roti, when in Uttarakhand. Indulge in the Himalayan delight and savour its nutritional buckwheat or 'kuttu ki roti'. This ancient pseudo millet, with simplicity as its trademark, will steal your heart.

**Where: Uttarakhand**

## INDIA'S PRIDE

Kanjivaram Silk, also known as Kanchipuram silk, hailing from the town of Kanchipuram in the state of Tamil Nadu, India, is a type of pure silk. They are considered to be some of the finest silk saris in the world, and are highly prized for their beauty and craftsmanship. A pure Kanjivaram saree has 90% mulberry silk, along with pure gold and silver zari threads throughout the body of the saree, or only along the border

**Where: Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu**



# Central America's Most Vibrant Country

Land of Volcanoes

-by Hitasha Mehra Sharma

**E**l Salvador, the smallest and most densely populated Central American country, is known for its beaches and rich history. Its breathtaking landscapes and welcoming

culture make it a popular destination. Let's get to know this country better. **Travel Jingles in a conversation with H.E. Mr. Guillermo Rubio Funes, Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador to India.**





**H.E. Mr. Guillermo Rubio Funes,**  
The Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador to India

The places to move in this area are quite comfortable and there are a variety of restaurants and hostels to stay in and enjoy the weather with temperatures ranging between 10° and below.

There is so much to do in El Salvador even though it is a small country, and you can enjoy the beach, mountains and city, on the same day. And, in each place, you have tourist attractions, places to eat and enjoy with the family. In addition, tourists feel at home because Salvadorans are very hospitable, warm and friendly.

**El Salvador is also known as a 'surfer's paradise'; home to some of the largest swells and longest waves in the Pacific Ocean.**

**Comment**

Surf City is a circuit in the coastal area that offers Surf Lifestyle, recreational surfing, international surfing championships, surf schools, summer camps and clinics; there are also nice hotels and places to grab a bite.

This development project follows the vision of President Nayib Bukele and aims to position our country as a specialized surfing centre. In fact, we have hosted international surfing competitions like ISA World Surfing Games 2023. Also, this place is key for the generation of investment opportunities in the hotel sector, business tourism and conventions, as well as theme parks, such as the Adventure Park 'Walter Thilo Deninger' and Sunset Park Amusement Park, located in the Port of La Libertad.

**The highest peak in El Salvador is Cerro El Pital. Tell us about three things to do in the country.**

Cerro El Pital is the highest point in the country at 2,730 meters above sea level. To visit this destination in the north of the country you need a 4x4 vehicle. Nearby is the town of La Palma, cradle of the Palmeño style handicrafts, which were crafted by our national artist Fernando Llort.





**El Salvador is known for its world-famous coffee growing in the western part of the country. What makes it so special?**

El Salvador has optimal characteristics for the cultivation of coffee. The cool climate, altitude, flavourful varieties, and volcanic soil in this specialty coffee industry, make it a highly valued product. Our beans have fruity notes, a pleasant level of acidity, a balanced body and a special aroma. The production process is highly perfected, especially the drying process. We obtain very clean, homogeneous coffees, free of defects and with an adequate degree of fermentation, which does not harm, but rather enhances its flavour and brings out its full potential.

**The edible flower, Izote, is the national flower of El Salvador and is widely used in Salvadoran cuisine. Tell us about the country's gastronomy.**

The scientific name is *Yucca Guatemalensis* Baker, and has white flowers clustered at the



apex of the tree. It is a plant that our ancestors have used extensively and that is why it is thought that the Mayan migrants introduced it to our territory. The word 'izote' derived from the Nahuatl word 'itzut'.

The Izote is recognized as a sign of fertility, prosperity, and abundance of biodiversity in the country. The flowers and young

shoots are widely consumed in various Salvadoran dishes.

The pupusa, a popular and accessible dish filled with cheese, kidney beans, meat, and other vegetarian varieties, is a prime example of our culinary culture. Tourists can try this dish in different parts of the country, since there are several establishments where it is sold.





populations, the main ones being the Mayans, Nahuas and Lencas. We have several national archaeological sites located in many departments. Cihuatán Archaeological Park was occupied between 900 and 1200 A.D., during the Early Postclassic period. It has two ball game courts, several ceremonial constructions.

There is also the Tazumal Archaeological Park, formally registered in 1940, by the North American archaeologist Stanley Boggs, who identified a total of 13 structures, the most prominent being a mound 24 meters high. El Salvador is the gateway to the Mayan World. It guards one of the most significant patrimonies of humanity: Joya de Cerén, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993, is known as the Pompeii of America for being a village of Mayan origin that was buried in 650 A.D., after the explosion of the

archaeologist Payson Sheets, who identified it as pre-Hispanic.

### **What is your favourite tourist destination in the world and why?**

Each country has its own charm and a few attractions. In the case of India, my favourite place, which I have visited several times, is the Taj Mahal, for its majesty, its design and history, it represents the laborious hands of the artisans of India. When you enter through the Darwaza-i-Rauza and see the mausoleum it is an image that stays in your mind forever.

### **Are there similarities between El Salvador and India?**

#### **Comment**

Although they are geographically distant, El Salvador and India share very similar customs and cultural activities in the



### **Tell us about the archaeological sites of El Salvador.**

In the Pre-Columbian period of the current territory of El Salvador there were various indigenous

Loma Caldera volcano.

The site was discovered accidentally in 1976 and investigations began in 1978 under the supervision of American

social environment, in addition to having a committed labour force and promoting social programmes they facilitate social and economic development.

## WATCHES



### FRANK MULLER

The Lady Curvex CX collection features a classic, elegant design with a thin bezel, sapphire crystal dial and integrated wrist strap adorned with round brilliant diamonds.

### BREITLING

The Breitling Midnight watch features a 36mm diameter, stainless-steel Rouleaux bracelet with a butterfly clasp, glare-proofed on both sides, and is water-resistant.



### BLANCPAIN

Blancpain 34.9 mm case is crafted from white gold and features hand-set diamonds on the bezel and lugs.

# The Luxe Statement



### OMEGA

The Omega Apollo 8 features a Moon relief design, black ceramic case, yellow chronograph seconds hand, and a perforated black rubber strap with yellow interior.

### SEIKO

Seiko Purple Sunset cocktail features a captivating gradation of changing colours, mirroring the Tokyo sunset's hues and a wavy pattern, capturing the texture of clouds.



### PANERAI

Panerai's 40mm brushed steel is the see-through sapphire crystal caseback with matte black finish featuring a power reserve for three days, and is water resistant.



# Marvel the Beauty of Hoi An

## Home to the charming lantern-lit streets

-By TJ Bureau



**A**n historic town ideal for shopping, and dining, located in the heart of Vietnam along the South China Sea coast. Hoi An, is known for its lovely lantern-lit streets that run along the river. You may walk around to admire the beauty of its unique blend of Japanese, Chinese, French, indigenous architecture and historical structures.

The heart of Hoi An is incredible where you will get to explore rice paddies, cave temples, delicious food, ancient ruins, market places, and much more.

Hoi An's Old Town is the highlight, where you can capture the colourful houses and shimmering lanterns at night, creating a charming atmosphere as you make your way to the sixteenth-century covered Japanese bridge. Stroll down the river and choose the perfect souvenir for yourself from one of the local shops. The beautiful Japanese Bridge that spans the river is a must-see in Hoi An, erected during the Japanese immigration in the late 16th century.

Explore the Quan Cong Pagoda Temple in Hoi An, which is decked in gold and red, typical of Chinese temples. It stands out against the yellow buildings and exemplifies cultural influences where you can absorb in the tranquillity and admire religious statuary. Immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture with the Hoi An Market where you can find multicoloured lanterns adorning the Hoi An Night Market, and vendors selling clothes and other products.

Hoi An is also known for its traditional boats. Thung Chai, a traditional Vietnamese spherical bamboo basket-style boat, that adds a pleasant view of the city from its waterways. A challenging aspect is that even if you try to navigate on your own, it would be practically impossible to spin in circles.

Afterwards, don't miss out on tasting the traditional Vietnamese sandwich, Banh Mi, which is made with meat, coriander, cucumber, pathé or cheese, chili, and mayonnaise.

Explore to get the sense of the place and start feeling its vibe and atmosphere.

# An Idyllic Paradise

Dive in the Azure Ocean!

-by Hitasha Mehra Sharma



**S**eychelles, a tropical paradise in the Indian Ocean, boasts stunning blue waters, white sandy beaches, and lush green forests, making it a popular destination for travelers seeking tranquility and natural beauty. Let us know more about this beautiful island country. **TravelJingles in conversation with H.E. Mrs. Harisoa Lalatiana Accouche, High Commissioner of Seychelles to India.**

**Seychelles is home to excellent marine life. Tell us about the three must-visit places in the country.**

Perfectly said! Seychelles is renowned for its stunning marine life and picturesque beaches, offering numerous must-visit places to experience its rich marine biodiversity. Sainte Anne Marine National Park, comprising six small islands and located just

off the coast of Mahé, is the main island of Seychelles. It is renowned for its crystal-clear waters, vibrant coral reefs, and diverse marine life, offering snorkelling, diving and glass-bottom boat tours to explore colourful coral gardens and sea turtles. Another one is Aldabra Atoll, the world's second-largest coral atoll and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located in the Outer Islands of Seychelles. It is renowned for its pristine, diverse

ecosystem, home to giant tortoises, bird species, distinctive landscapes, mangrove forests, and stunning coral reefs, making it an ideal destination for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. Not to forget Cousin Island Special Reserve, a small granitic island situated near Praslin, the second-largest island of Seychelles, renowned for its sea bird populations, coral reefs, snorkelling, and diving opportunities and surrounded by healthy marine life.

**Bouyan Blan is considered as one of the traditional dishes of Seychelles. Tell us about the gastronomy of the country.**

Certainly! Seychellois cuisine is a delightful fusion of African, French, Indian, Chinese, and Creole influences, reflecting our diverse cultural heritage. The Bouyon Blan is a traditional Seychellois fish soup made with a variety of local fish, vegetables, herbs, and spices. It is typically simmered slowly to develop rich flavours and served with rice. Fresh fish, such as tuna, kingfish, and red snapper are commonly used in dishes like grilled fish, fish curries, and fish stews. Other popular seafood includes octopus, crab, and shellfish. Rice is a staple in Seychellois meals, along with breadfruit, cassava, and sweet potatoes.



**H.E. Mrs. Harisoa Lalatiana Accouche,**  
High Commissioner of Seychelles to India



waters, lush tropical forests, granite rock formations, and vibrant coral reefs. These picturesque settings provide a stunning backdrop for filming, offering filmmakers a wide range of visually captivating locations to choose from. Seychelles offers untouched, secluded locations for filmmakers to capture pristine natural environments, making it an ideal filming destination for remote and idyllic projects.

The desserts are enriched with tropical fruits like mangoes, papayas, pineapples, bananas, and coconuts commonly used in fresh desserts and beverages. Seychellois gastronomy showcases the country's culinary heritage with Ladob, a comforting sweet treat made from plantains and breadfruit, and locally produced rum, a popular choice among locals and tourists.

**The famous Bollywood movie 'Pyar toh hona hi tha' was shot in Seychelles. What makes the country a popular filming destination?**

Seychelles appeals as a filming destination for several reasons among others, for its scenic beauty as the island is renowned for its breathtaking natural landscapes including pristine beaches with turquoise





**The country is vastly spread with natural reserves and parks with 250 bird species. What makes it unique?**

Seychelles has a rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystems, with 30% of its land and marine areas protected for wildlife conservation. Key reserves include Vallee de Mai and Aldabra, a special reserve on Cousin Island, which serve as essential habitats for bird species. In addition to these prominent reserves, Seychelles offers numerous bird watching opportunities across its islands. Visitors can explore various habitats, including mangroves,

wetlands, and coastal areas, to observe a wide range of bird species. Some notable birdwatching sites include Morne Seychellois National Park on Mahé, the wetlands of Port Launay on Mahé, and the Aride Island Nature Reserve.

**The world's largest seed Coco De Mer, is found in Seychelles weighing over 20kg. Comment.**

Yes, the Coco de Mer, also known as the double coconut or *Lodoicea maldivica*, is native to the Seychelles islands, which is renowned for producing the world's largest

seed that can vary significantly, with some seeds reaching extraordinary sizes, often over 20 kilograms (44 pounds) or more.

The giant seeds are among the heaviest in the plant kingdom, which are enclosed in a hard, woody shell that is often shaped like a double coconut, with two lobes fused together. This unique characteristic, along with its impressive size, makes the Coco de Mer seed a fascinating botanical curiosity and a symbol of Seychelles' rich natural heritage, and it is protected by law to ensure their conservation.



**Tell us about the water activities the country offers.**

Seychelles boasts turquoise waters, abundant marine life, and pristine beaches, with vibrant coral reefs. Visitors

can enjoy water activities, relaxation, adventure, and nature connection. Snorkeling spots include Anse Lazio on Praslin, Beau Vallon on Mahé, and Sainte Anne Marine National Park. Seychelles offers a variety of water activities, including diving, boating, fishing, windsurfing, kiteboarding, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and jet skiing. The islands are home to a variety of marine species, including reef sharks, rays, moray eels, and coral formations. Visitors can explore the islands by boat, including catamaran cruises, glass-bottom boat tours, and sailing excursions. Fishing opportunities are abundant, with a variety of species including marlin, tuna, sailfish, and barracuda. Island hopping, with over 100 islands, offers day trips or multi-day excursions to explore the region's unique landscapes, beaches, and attractions.

**Do we have any similarities between India and Seychelles?**

India and Seychelles share several similarities despite their geographical and cultural differences. Both have a shared history dating back to colonial times. We are culturally diverse nations with a rich tapestry of ethnicities, languages, religions, and traditions. Seychellois cuisine features Indian spices, ingredients, and cooking techniques, with a



unique fusion of flavours. Both have vibrant tourism industries, attracting visitors from around the world to their stunning natural beauty, cultural heritage, and warm hospitality.

**Which is your favourite travel destination in the world and why barring Seychelles.**

This is my first stay in India, but since my arrival, I have had the opportunity to discover many places which have impressed me for their own respective and unique characteristics coupled with the warm hospitality. By the end of my tenure, India will surely have significant impacts in my destination choices as it provides everything one wants to see in many destinations meaning all in one go.

# An Escape To An African Beat!

Attune your senses to an ultimate getaway

-By TJ Bureau



Nestled in the sun-drenched southern coast of Mauritius, the Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort stands as a testament to luxury, comfort, and the vibrant spirit of the island. With its African-inspired décor, the resort promises an all-inclusive experience that caters to both the body and soul.

Upon arrival, the warm embrace of the resort's ambiance is palpable. The air-conditioned rooms, adorned

with flat-screen satellite TVs and minibars, offer a sanctuary of relaxation, each boasting either a terrace or balcony that opens up to the lush beauty of the tropical garden, or the serene expanse of the sea.

The culinary journey at Heritage Awali is nothing short of extraordinary. With meals and beverages included, guests can indulge in an array of dining experiences across five restaurants.

The Zafarani, an adults-only establishment, serves up exquisite Indian cuisine, while the unlimited sparkling wines ensure that every meal is a celebration of flavours.

For those seeking rejuvenation, the Seven Colours Spa is a haven of tranquility. Book yourself at the spa to unwind and immerse in a world of well-being. The spa village, coupled with the Umuzi Fitness Centre, offers



evident in its plethora of nautical and land-based activities. The Heritage Golf Club, an 18-hole championship golf course, provides breathtaking ocean views, while the Foot golf course offers a quirky twist to traditional golf. Three swimming pools, including an adults-only pool, cater to every preference, ensuring that relaxation is always within reach.



tropical winter to the certified 'Green Key' eco-label, reflects its dedication to providing a sustainable and unforgettable experience.

The resort's commitment to entertainment and leisure is



a comprehensive approach to health and fitness, ensuring that every guest leaves feeling revitalized.

Families will find a welcoming atmosphere at Heritage Awali, with a complimentary baby corner for toddlers, a kids' club, and a teenagers programme that promises fun and adventure for all ages. The neighbouring Heritage Nature Reserve beckons the more adventurous with activities like quad biking and trekking, offering a unique opportunity to explore the natural wonders of Mauritius. Heritage Awali's accolades, such as being named the well-known All-Inclusive 5-star hotel in Mauritius, is well-deserved. The resort's attention to detail, from the heated pool during the



Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort is more than just a destination; it's a journey into the heart of Mauritian hospitality. Whether it's the allure of the ocean, the charm of the accommodations, or the promise of an all-encompassing retreat, Heritage Awali ensures that every moment is imbued with the magic of Mauritius.



**LIFESTYLE**



**LENSKART**

Stay in style on your next trip with an exclusive dynamic Lenskart Hustler pair of an electric green goodness eyewear.



**CARAT CRUSH**

Carat Crush carved a niche in the world of fine jewellery with its 18-karat everyday wear diamonds.



**RAS LUXURY SKIN CARE**

For a chic look indulge your lips in Lumiere Satin Matte Lipstick, which contains soothing botanical oils.



**MOM'S THERAPY**

Discover the secret to radiant hair through Mom's Therapy Herbal Hair oil, a cherished generational blend infused with the love and goodness of rosemary.



**DIAM**

Diam Beauty's Cheeky Affair Liquid Blush redefines the beauty for Indian skin tones providing a stunning flush of colour and nourishment.



**AQUALOGICA**

Aqualogica's Watermelon Slice and Peach Vanilla Plump + Pouty Li-pH Glosses, adapts according to the user's lip pH levels.



**PRIMAL GRAY**

This pouch is made of repurposed sheep skin leather which is ideal for teaming for a chic look and packing your travel needs.



# Simplify the cross-mobility

Boost Your Travel Experiences

-By TJ Bureau

**V**FS is the world's largest visa outsourcing and technology services specialists for governments and diplomatic missions, with 3300 application centres and operations in 149 countries across five continents. Let us know more about **VFS Global from Mr. Prabuddha Sen, COO, South Asia in conversation with TravelJingles.**

**VFS has its presence in five continents already. Tell us about the expansion plans of the group for 2024?**  
In 2023, VFS Global signed a total of

eight global contracts. We would like to highlight a few key ones here

First, The Swedish Ministry of Justice has awarded VFS Global a global tender to provide visa services in 37 countries worldwide. Under this new agreement, VFS Global will continue to operate on behalf of the Government of Sweden in eight regions worldwide – South Asia, the Americas, Southeast Asia, China, the Middle East & North Africa, Africa, Europe, and Russia. Second, The Department of Home Affairs, Australia, has awarded the global biometric collection service across seven regions to VFS Global.

The agreement spanning Australian biometric collection centres (ABCC) at 165 locations worldwide include new geographies in addition to existing locations operated by VFS Global. Third, VFS Global becomes the service provider for all UK Visa and Citizenship Application Centres overseas – operating across 142 countries. Estimated to manage 3.8million applicants every year, VFS Global is now opening UK application centres in 84 new countries during 2024. In India, we will open temporary centres in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities to expand. Fourth, The



**Mr. Prabuddha Sen,**  
COO-South Asia, VFS Global

Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark and many more, as a part of the first phase of this project's implementation.

**Which is your favourite international travel destination?**  
Prague in the Czech Republic.

**What are the sustainability steps taken by VFS Global?**

More than 200,000 trees have been planted across the globe, as part of our contributions to reforestation and nature regeneration initiatives, providing 10,000 tonnes CO2e in VCS carbon credits. This has also resulted in addressing social issues like poverty alleviation while contributing to women's empowerment. Over 70% of the planting staff are women who now have a steady source of income for the everyday needs of their families.

Marked a reduction in carbon emissions of 40 percent in 2022, compared to the base year of 2019, due to the greater usage of renewable energy, energy efficiency initiatives as well as the use of carbon credits. We have certified eco-friendly paper used for more than 90% of our marketing material. Continued our commitment to responsible e-waste disposal in accordance with local regulations, which resulted in 10,035 kg of waste being treated, in India alone.

Target for 2024 is to reduce our carbon footprint intensity by 10%.

We undertook over 80 community initiatives, touching the lives of more than 59,000 individuals across 35 countries in partnership with more than 40 charitable, social and community organisations.

Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has awarded VFS Global the global tender to provide visa and residence permit services in 52 countries across the globe.

We plan to expand our centres based on the specific needs of our client governments.

**VFS has launched a Sign Language contact centre as part of the journey of providing equal opportunities in India. Comment.**

In India, VFS Global launched its first sign language contact centre on the International Day of Persons

with Disabilities for people of determination. VFS Global hopes to overcome the communication gap for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community with this effort, allowing them to obtain visa service information faster and independently.

VFS Global's Diversity Equity and Inclusion programme, part of its Sustainability Strategy, aims to ensure equal access to services for all customers. The sign language contact centre provides information for visa services to various countries that includes

# A GUIDE TO EXPLORE LAKSHADWEEP

## A Tropical Paradise of India

-By TJ Bureau

A peaceful beach getaway, Lakshadweep is located near India's Malabar coast surrounded by miles of exquisite beaches, stunning lagoons and vibrant marine life. Lakshadweep

comprises 36 islands, including twelve atolls, three coral reefs, five submerged banks, and ten populated islands. The northern islands include the Agatti, Bangaram, Thinnakara and Kalpati and the southern islands include

Kavaratti, Minicoy and Kalpeni. The breathtaking view of the islands are sure to leave you gasping.

We share with you a perfect guide for a getaway to Lakshadweep.



### HOW TO REACH

Lakshadweep is accessible from the Agatti Aerodrome, the sole airport, that serves as the gateway to the island via direct flights from Kochi and Bangalore, and further offers boat access to nearby islands. Cruises are another alternative to travel that might take up to 14-20 hours. All Indian citizens and foreign tourists,

except native Lakshadweep residents and government officials, require a permit to enter the pristine islands.

One can apply for a Lakshadweep permit online or offline. You can create an account on the ePermit portal, fill out the form and upload the required documents. The permit should be emailed 15 days prior to the trip. The other option is downloading

the application form from the Lakshadweep Administration website or obtain it from the District Collector's office in Kavaratti, and submit it with all the required documents

Permit fees vary by nationality and stay duration and are usually for 30 days, with extensions available under specific circumstances.



#### BEST TIME TO VISIT

Lakshadweep's climate is relatively constant throughout the year, yet it is humid and tropical. You can visit Lakshadweep at any time of year, but the finest months are September to May. The cool and fresh winter air will make your experience more pleasant.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

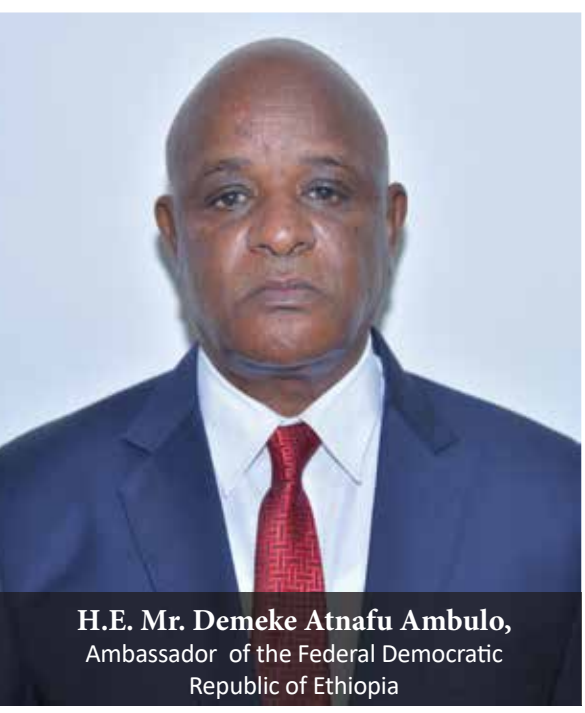
The accommodations at the Lakshadweep islands include

options from five-star luxury to the stay for bag packers. To experience the luxurious stay with the panoramic views. The island consists of properties like Taj Exotica Resort and Spa, Lalit Resort and Spa, Bangaram Island Resort and Spa, Seashells Beach Resort, and more. For all the bag packers, the island also offers the cottages to stay, including breakfast and panoramic views to enjoy.

#### ACTIVITIES TO DO IN LAKSHADWEEP

The island is popular for water sports, with infrastructure and facilities developed to accommodate adventure seekers. Non-intrusive water sports like water scooters and speed boats are discouraged to safeguard the environment. Lakshadweep offers many exciting water-activities, like swimming, scuba diving, snorkelling, surfing and more.





H.E. Mr. Demeke Atnafu Ambulo,  
Ambassador of the Federal Democratic  
Republic of Ethiopia



# Ethiopia and India Trade Relations

Historical linkages between Ethiopia and India go back to more than two thousand years of history. Ethiopian traders in the 1st century AD via the ancient port of Adulis traded with Indians. They imported silk and spices from India and sold gold and ivory. In recent years, with the opening up of the economy, business ties between the two countries have grown significantly, especially in the areas of trade, investment, agriculture and infrastructure projects.

The bilateral trade between Ethiopia and India reached USD 2.8 billion in 2022, with Ethiopia's exports totaling around USD 80 million. This marked an increase from the 2021 figures, where the bilateral trade stood at USD 1.8 billion, and Ethiopia's exports were approximately USD 75.13 million, as reported by the National Bank of Ethiopia. Notably, India stands as Ethiopia's second-largest trading partner, constituting 10.2% of Ethiopia's global trade. The trade dynamics encompass a variety of goods, with Ethiopia's major exports being pulses, precious and semi-precious stones, vegetables and seeds, leather, oilseeds and spices, while major exports consist of, primary and semi-finished iron and steel products, drugs and

pharmaceuticals, machinery and instruments, Consumer products, and manufactures of metal.

There are diverse opportunities for fostering bilateral trade with Ethiopia across various sectors, presenting avenues for mutual economic growth. These opportunities span agricultural commodities, including cereals,

legumes, and rice, as well as finished items and food preparations. Additionally, the beverage and marine product sectors offer promising prospects. The potential for expansion and development within these categories signifies a broad range of opportunities for businesses and industries engaged in these fields.



# Bilateral ties between Panama and India



H.E. Mrs. Yasiel Alines Burillo Rivera,  
Ambassador of Panama to India.

**T**he relationship between Panama and India is the oldest in the Central American Region, also we were the first country in Central America where India established a resident Mission. The Panamanian population comprises four and a half million inhabitants, of which about 20,000 people are of Indian origin. On the other hand, bilateral ties have been reaffirmed by the foreign ministers of both nations, who in 2023 marked a historic event, two official visits in the same year.

During the official visit of January 2023, key objectives were achieved such as the signing of a cooperation agreement in the training of diplomats and exploring opportunities in the pharmaceutical

sector and the filming industry. In March 2023, we received the visit of H.E. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Foreign Minister of India. During this official visit to Panama, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of India and his delegation were received by His Excellency Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, President of the Republic of Panama in the company of Her Excellency Janaina Tewaney Mencomo, Minister of Foreign Affairs. During the bilateral meeting they highlighted that in the past 10 years, the commercial movement has multiplied four times more, to deepen commercial ties that facilitates logistical movements and full quality connectivity. Both countries are aligned and committed to addressing issues of common interest: foreign trade, culture,

education, and the challenge of growth on the global agenda.

Trade relations between Panama and India have been strengthened through meetings and bilateral agreements that have allowed businessmen to interact and explore a path for commercial exchange. Panama is a unique country with the benefit of constant economic growth thanks to its strategic geographical position, which has led to a positive trade balance. We have experienced an increase in copper exports to India in the last year, and we also export other products, such as wood, leather, aluminum, and iron scrap. On the other hand, India exports to Panama automobile spare parts, medicines, machinery, insecticides, fertilizers, hardware items, tires, and much more.



# A Gem in the Indian Ocean

An exquisite tropical bliss

-By TJ Bureau

**N**estled around the vibrant Indian Ocean, a tropical paradise beckons. Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels are Mauritius' longest running and most luxurious hotel chain. Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels has been one of the pioneers in Mauritius' tourism industry. The collection of eight resorts offers a diverse range of accommodation choices, from rooms and apartments to suites and villas. Each hotel has a distinct history and exemplifies the Beachcomber commitment to 'The Art of Beautiful'.

Out of all the luxurious properties of Beachcomber, Victoria Beachcomber Resort & Spa, located on the popular north-west coast is easily accessible amid the tourist hub of Grand Baie and the capital city, Port Louis. The resort is one of Mauritius' most popular family resorts, with stunning sunset views.

Combining luxury and elegance the property outshines its beauty and is no less than a perfect holiday experience. Surrounded by a refreshing and lively ambiance, the resort provides a variety of rooms, ranging from superior, deluxe, and ocean view rooms, each with its own contemporary style and breathtaking views. Apart from the rooms, the property also offers a range of spacious suites and family apartments with soft neutral decor which complements the sleek, light wooden furniture, fostering a serene and relaxed experience.

Enjoy the delight of the resort's restaurants, where comfort is the ultimate word to describe it. The restaurant Le Superbe, offers comprehensive buffets with enticing international cuisines. We were lucky to taste the Indian buffet which was delicious. The Italian restaurant La Casa features an array of Mediterranean cuisines, including risottos, pastas, salads, anti-pasti and much more.



The beach restaurant L'Horizon serves seafood specialities typically set under a large thatched roof with fishing nets hung at the restaurant, or one may even choose a small table set on the sand to

savour the meal. The Morris Beef is a steak house exclusively for adults, offering a stunning view of the island's western coast and an unforgettable sunset.

If you are looking for a romantic

dinner, the hotel can set up an exclusive one for you, at the beach side. Here, the gusting of the wind will play magic adding colours to your dinner date! Raising a toast will have its own charm here.

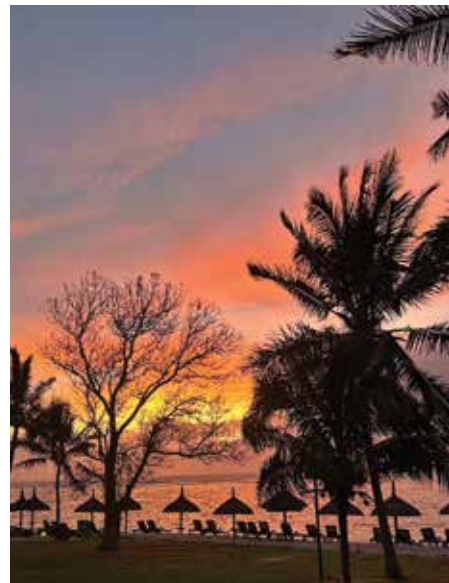




The property offers activities ranging from land sports to the water sports which includes beach volley, yoga, and much more. Victoria's lagoon, set on the edge of the Balaclava Marine Park sheltered from the trade winds, is ideal for water sports, including pedal boats, kayaks, skiing, surfing, diving and much more.

Pamper yourself at the resort's art of wellness with a steam bath, spa, massage cabin and much more.

Victoria Beach also offers fitness centres, kids and teens clubs. There is something for each age group at the resort.



# An Insight into a Multi-Faceted Industry

Embrace the natural heritage of Mauritius

-By TJ Bureau



to produce gourmet wholegrain sugar and 5-star rums that are exported worldwide, but beyond that the cane generates several by-products that are used for different purposes. In cultivating sugarcane, nothing is lost; everything has its own use. It also plays an important role in agriculture, the environment, and other sectors.

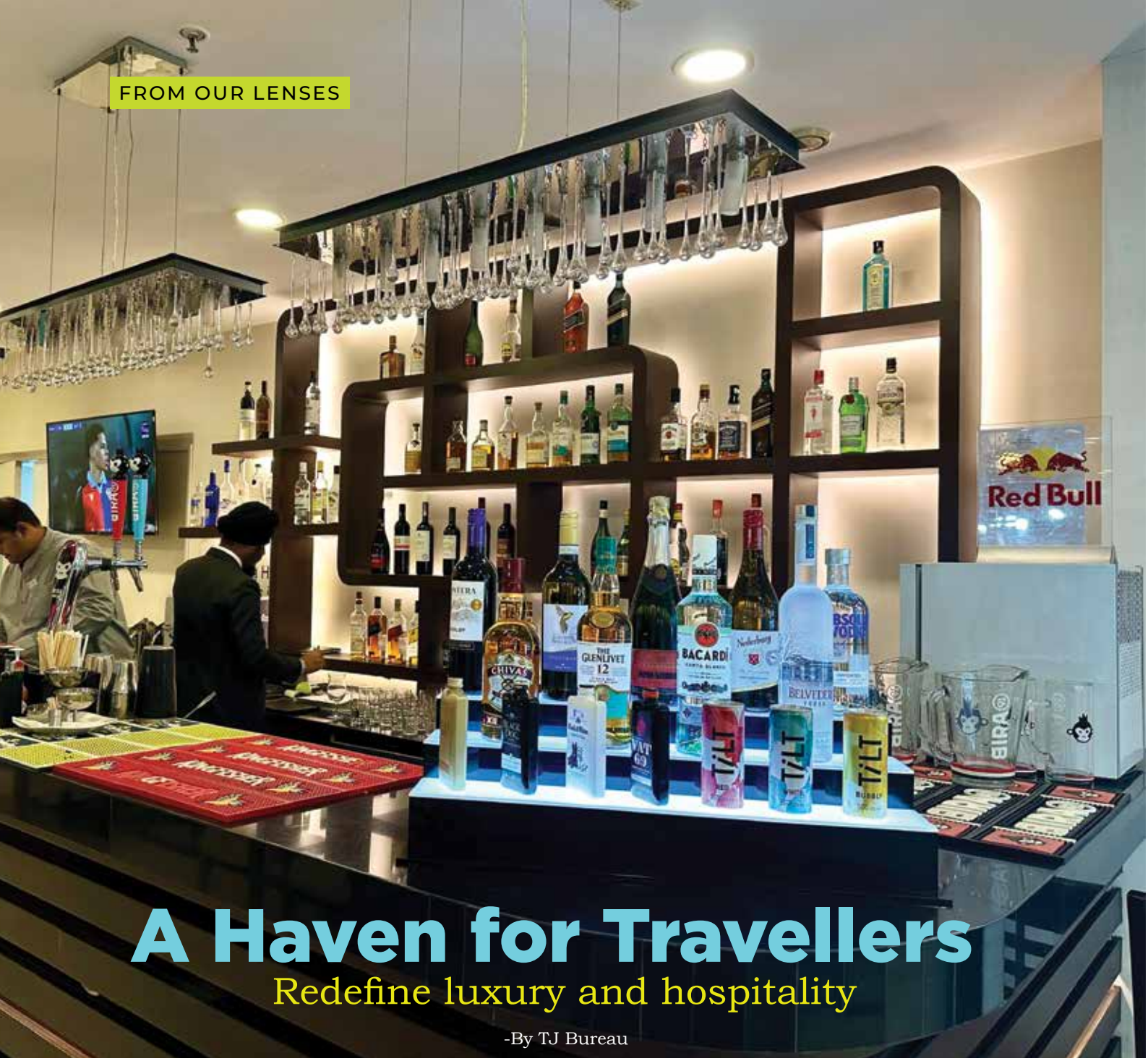
Experience an educational journey through a historic sugar mill, with history spanning over 280 years, and witness the various steps of the sugar-making process in action. There are also opportunities to go on cane-cutting tours, taste over 30 sugarcane products, and use the sugarcane juice to make a drink or two!

Visit the enormous factory, and witness its decade-old machines decked with a thousand lights, and explore the historic trail of Mauritius.

**R**elive the history of Mauritius' sugar industry through 'Trail of the Sugar' and visit the Sugar Museum. Thrive on the fascinating insight of the Mauritius sugarcane industry linked to its history and prosperity. Steeped in history, L' Aventure du Sucre in Pamplemousses has been the fundamental pillar of the Mauritian economy for two centuries, and lies at the heart of a circular economic model. The Museum offers a comprehensive history of the country through artefacts and key sites on the sugar trail that produces sugar, rum, bio-fertilizers, green energy, and animal feed.

The museum showcases the manufacturing secrets of Mauritius' famous sugars, showcasing the island's rich cultural and historical heritage. Sugarcane, a plant with multiple properties, allows Mauritius





# A Haven for Travellers

## Redefine luxury and hospitality

-By TJ Bureau

**T**he Fern Residency, situated in the vibrant Chembur neighbourhood of Mumbai, provides a comfortable and convenient accommodation for travellers. The detailed design of space across the hotel, sets new standards in comfort, service, and ambiance. Our stay with the Fern Residency Chembur was a complete blend of luxury and comfort.

The lobby entrance offers a warm, inviting atmosphere with modern design and elegant decor, prioritizing attention to detail and efficient service.

The hotel offers a range of accommodation options in luxurious suites and standard rooms. The Winter Green Room, Fern Club, Acres Club, Hazel Suite rooms all feature contemporary furnishing, and modern amenities perfect for business travellers with a designated workspace.

Savour the tempting flavours of food at 'The Art House', the global cuisine restaurant with an attached bar serving buffet meals and a la carte. The Acres club offers three restaurants: a lounge bar, a coffee shop and a global cuisine restaurant with a widespread aroma of tempting flavours.





An array of activities is being offered for all the age groups from the designated court- games area, swimming pool and the gym.

The hotel provides an unparalleled experience for travellers seeking a perfect blend of luxury, convenience, and personalized service. It is not just a place to stay but a destination that leaves a lasting impression on every guest.

“Nestled in the city of Mumbai 15 minutes away from BKC, the hotel exudes contemporary elegance and personalized service. With meticulously designed rooms, state-of-the-art amenities, and a commitment to guest satisfaction, the place offers a luxurious escape. Whether for business or leisure or events like weddings, experience unparalleled comfort and convenience at The Fern Residency Chembur”, **expressed Rajesh Shetty, General Manager of The Fern Residency, Chembur, Mumbai.**

The close connectivity to major city business hubs, such as BKC and Jio Convection Centre, as well as the Eastern Express Flyover crossing the gap between South Mumbai and Chembur, attracts not just corporate travellers but also leisure guests searching for an elegant hotel in close proximity.

# THE SOFT CORAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

**Bula Fiji!**

-By TJ Bureau



**Mr. Sunil Menon,**  
Country Manager, Tourism of  
Fiji in India.

**F**iji offers a vibrant blend of boozy customs, delicious seafood, breathtaking scenery, and warm hospitality, beyond its stunning islands and beaches. **TravelJingles shares more details with you, in conversation with Sunil Menon, Country Manager, Tourism of Fiji in India.**

**The Rewa river located on the island of Viti Levu is considered as the longest and widest river in Fiji. Tell us about the three must-visit places in the country.**

Fiji boasts an array of awe-inspiring tourist destinations, promising an unforgettable holiday for wanderlust travellers. From the picturesque Yasawa Islands to the stunning Mamanuca Islands, and from the lush Bouma National Heritage Park to the captivating Beqa Lagoon, Fiji offers landscapes that are nothing short of breathtaking. The Great Astrolabe Reef, Sawa-i-Lau Caves, Castaway Island, Fiji Museum, Navala Village, and many more destinations await exploration.

In the islands of Fiji there are endless opportunities to marvel at nature's beauty. Additionally, visitors can embark on a journey through Fiji's rich history by exploring age-old museums, places of worship, heritage sites, and bustling marketplaces that offer glimpses into the past.

**From crafting coral gardens to preserving native iguanas Fiji is promoting eco-tourism. What are the sustainability steps taken by Fiji?**

Sustainable growth lies at the heart of our vision for Fiji's tourism industry. The efforts span various initiatives, including the installation of renewable energy sources like solar power, initiatives to reduce plastic usage, efficient waste and wastewater management systems, establishment of organic gardens, and carbon offsetting through mangrove planting projects. Moreover, many are actively involved in preserving Fiji's unique biodiversity, including endangered species, such as iguanas and turtles, as well as conservation of reefs, forests, and islands within protected areas. The resorts and tour operators are actively engaged in building a sustainable tourism industry by adopting environmentally friendly practices.

All responsible actions count, whether it's using reef-safe sunblock, opting for local products, or choosing eco-conscious resorts and tours. By making mindful choices, you're not just enjoying Fiji's beauty, but actively contributing to its long-term sustainability. We invite you to join us on this sustainable journey.

**Kava is the traditional national drink of Fiji. Tell us about the gastronomy of Fiji.**

Fiji's cuisine is a blend of traditional rituals, cultural diversity, and natural

produce, offering a variety of delicious dishes that are a must-try. Lovo which means 'a feast cooked in earth' made with meat, fish and vegetables wrapped in banana leaves and slowly cooked in an underground furnace, something you'll find on plenty of menus around Fiji is 'Kokoda'. This raw salad dish is served in a coconut shell or kava bowl marinated in lime juice and coconut cream. Cassava and Taro are Fiji's favourite vegetables.



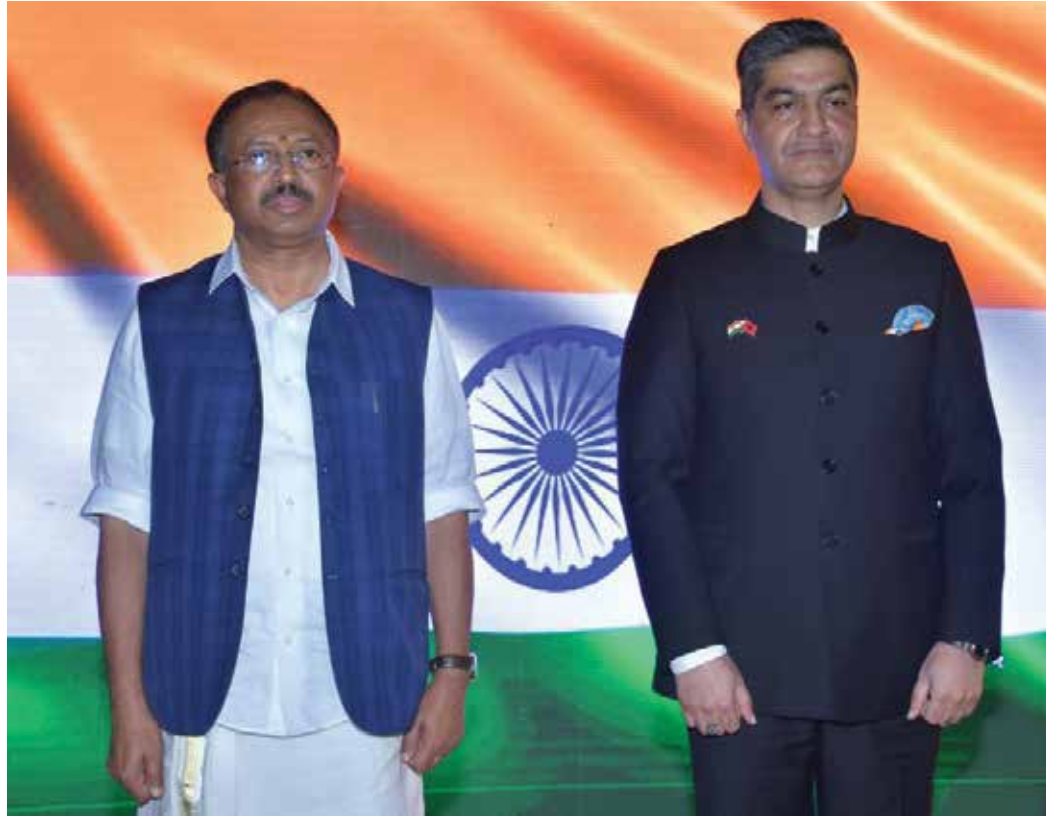
# National Day Celebration of the Republic of Cuba in India

On, 16th January 2024, the Republic of Cuba in New Delhi celebrated its 65th anniversary of the Indo-Cuban friendship and to bid goodbye to the Ambassador of Cuba as he finished his work tenure in India. The Chief Guest of the event was Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Culture. Many diplomats and other VIPs were seen attending the event. The event was followed up with Cuban music performance to entertain the audience.



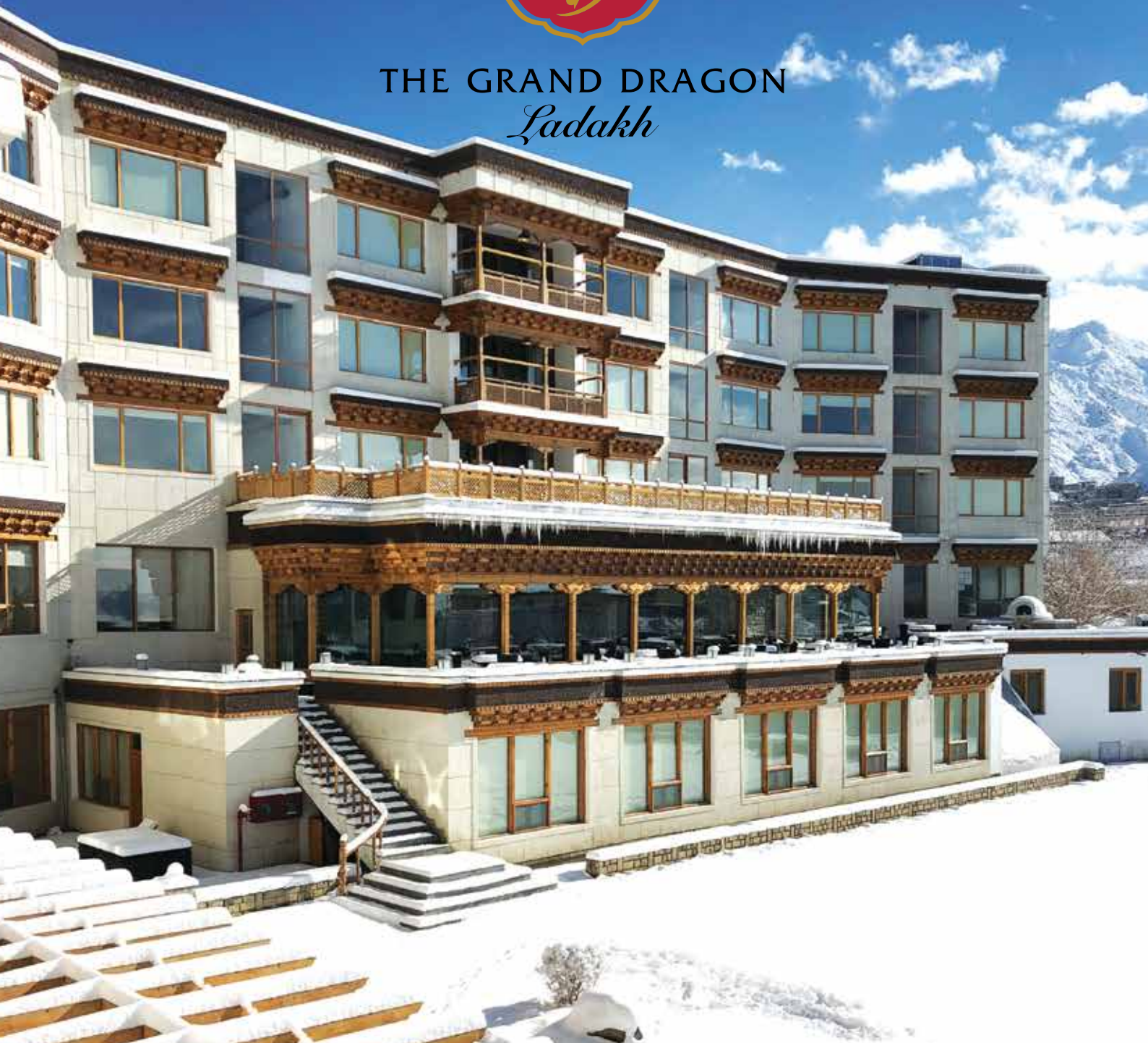
# National Day Celebration of the Republic of Albania in India

On 14th December 2023, the Republic of Albania in New Delhi celebrated its 111 years of Independence. The event was commemorated by Mr. Dikshu Kukreja, the Honorary Consul General of Albania to India. The Chief Guest of the event was Shri V Muraleedharan, the Hon'ble Minister of State for External and Parliamentary Affairs. Many diplomats and other VIPs were seen attending the event.





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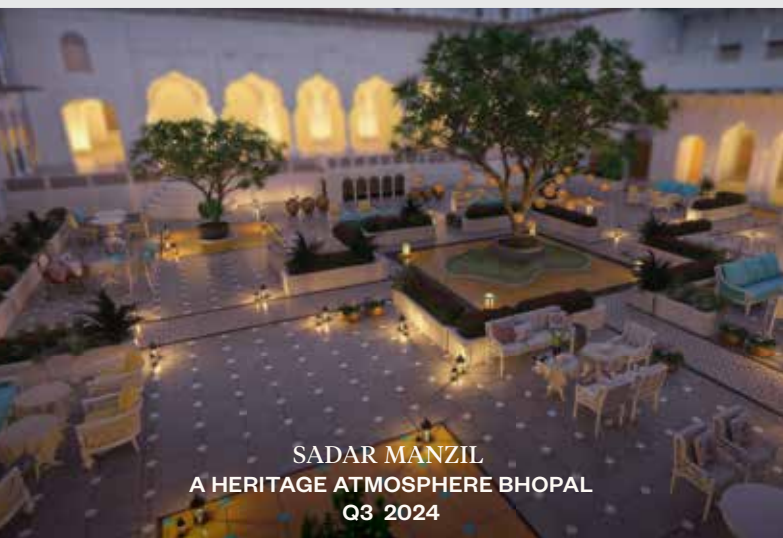
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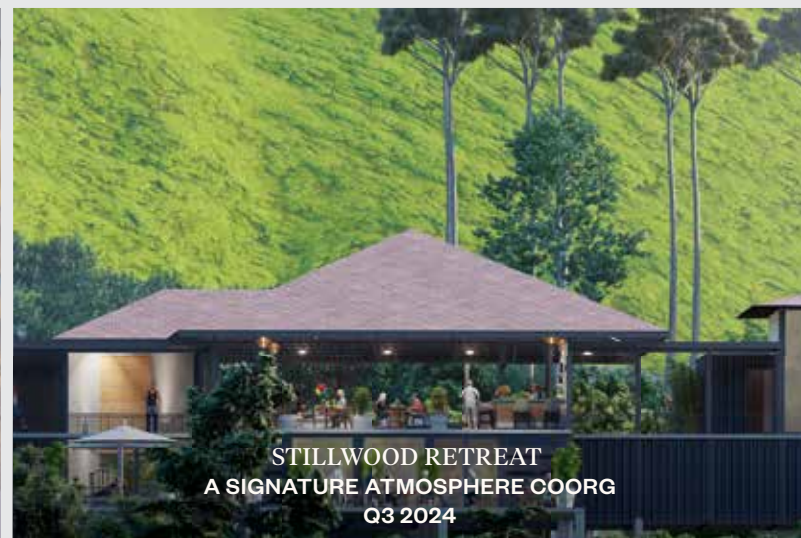
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