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MESSAGE

I extend my congratulations to the Indian Frontliners (IFL) on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

I am pleased to see how the association has continued to play an essential role in promoting the interests of its members and the Indian community in Kuwait, through various cultural and social activities as well as community services.

I appreciate that this year's souvenir is focused on promotion of tourism to India. On this special occasion, I extend my best wishes to the IFL community.

Kuwait
9 May, 2023


(Dr. Adarsh Swaika)

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Hyderabad

Pearl City / City of Nizams

- Asad Khan

Hyderabad, the capital of the southern Indian state of Telangana, is a popular tourist destination known for its rich history, culture and cuisine. It is renowned for its natural attractions, temples, palaces, forts and other heritage sites. Here's a glimpse of what tourist life in Hyderabad can be like:



Visit historical landmarks: Hyderabad has a rich history and there are many historical landmarks to visit. The most famous of these is the Charminar, a 16th - century mosque and monument that is one of the city's most recognizable symbols. Other popular historical sites include the Golconda Fort, the Qutub Shahi Tombs and the Chowmahalla Palace. Village of Pochampally is the best tourist spot to visit which has many attractions, including the world famous traditionally hand-woven IKAT products or the various attractions of pilgrimage, ecotourism, local cultural heritage, performing arts, handicrafts, and other indigenous products that showcase unique techniques.

Experience local cuisine: Hyderabad is famous for its biryani, a flavourful rice dish made with meat or vegetables. Other local specialties include kebabs, haleem and the sweet dessert, double ka meetha. Visitors can explore the city's many restaurants and street food vendors to experience the delicious cuisine.



Shop at local markets: Hyderabad is known for its vibrant markets, such as Laad Bazaar and the Begum Bazaar, where visitors can find traditional clothing, jewellery and handicrafts. Visitors can also explore the city's modern shopping malls for a more upscale shopping experience. The most popular items to be bought from Hyderabad include Bidri Work, Hyderabad Pearls, Lac Bangles, Pochampally Sarees and Kalamkari Fabrics. Each of these items is very unique.

Explore cultural sites: Hyderabad is home to several museums, such as the Salar Jung Museum and the Nizam Museum, which showcase the city's rich culture and history. Visitors can also attend cultural events, such as music and dance performances and visit the many art galleries and theatres in the





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city. It also has many libraries, the State Central Library being one of the biggest Libraries out of 10 biggest Libraries in India.

Enjoy the outdoors: Hyderabad has several parks and gardens, such as the Lumbini Park and the KBR National Park, which offer a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. Visitors can also take a boat ride on the Hussain Sagar Lake or visit the Ramoji Film City, one of the largest film studios in the world.

Overall, tourist life in Hyderabad can be an exciting and enriching experience, filled with history, culture and delicious food.





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Wonderful India

- Ravi Varrier

India is a land of diverse cultures, languages, and landscapes with a rich cultural and historical heritage that attracts millions of tourists every year. The country is home to some of the most iconic landmarks and unique tourist attractions in the world. From the majestic Himalayan mountains in the north to the serene backwaters of Kerala in the south, India offers a wealth of experiences that caters to every kind of traveller.



One of the most popular tourist destinations in India is the Taj Mahal in Agra. This magnificent white marble mausoleum was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visitors can admire the stunning architecture and intricate carvings while learning about the love story behind its construction.

Another must-see destination in India is the ancient city of Varanasi, situated on the banks of the holy river Ganges. Varanasi is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and is a major centre of Hindu culture and spirituality. Visitors can take a boat ride on the Ganges to witness the daily rituals and ceremonies that take place along the river banks.

Another iconic landmark in India is the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab. Also known as Harmandir Sahib, the Golden Temple is a sacred site for Sikhs and attracts millions of visitors every year. The temple's gold-plated dome, intricate architecture, and serene atmosphere make it a popular destination for spiritual seekers and history buffs.

For nature lovers, India is home to several national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The most famous is the Himalayan mountains in northern India, which offers cherishable experiences. The Himalayas, the world's highest mountain range, are known for their breathtaking natural beauty and unique biodiversity. The region is home to some of the world's most iconic peaks, including Mount Everest, and is a



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heaven for adventure enthusiasts, nature lovers, and spiritual seekers.

Western ghats of India also known as the Sahyadri Mountains is declared as the UNESCO world heritage site and is among the top ten 'Hottest Biodiversity Hotspots in the world'. This mountain range is older than the Himalayas and consists totally thirty-nine properties which were designated as world heritage sites in 2012, Twenty in the state of Kerala, ten in Karnataka, five in Tamil Nadu and four in Maharashtra.

The hill stations of Shimla, Manali, and Darjeeling are popular tourist destinations that offer breathtaking views of the mountains, valleys, and forests. The Jim Corbett National Park, located in Uttarakhand is home to the majestic Bengal tiger, Visitors can go on a jungle safari to observe and spot tigers, elephants, and other animals in their natural habitat.

In the south, the backwaters of Kerala and Ayurvedic treatments are unique attractions that offer a glimpse into the state's traditional way of life. Visitors can take a boat ride through the interconnected canals, lakes, and lagoons and experience the tranquility and beauty of the backwaters. The state's beaches, such as Kovalam and Varkala, are also popular tourist destinations that offer a chance to relax, unwind, and soak in the sun.

Apart from these popular attractions, India is also home to several unique destinations that are off the beaten track. The village of Hampi, located in Karnataka, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that showcases the rich architectural and cultural heritage of the Vijayanagara Empire. The village's ancient temples, palaces, and other structures offer a glimpse into the empire's glorious past. UNESCO has listed 29 world Heritage sites in India.

The village of Khajuraho, located in Madhya Pradesh, is famous for its intricately carved temples that depict scenes from Hindu mythology. The temples' erotic sculptures have gained international fame and are unique attractions that showcase India's rich cultural heritage.

The city of Jaipur, also known as the Pink City, is a unique destination that offers a glimpse into Rajasthan's rich history and culture. The city's palaces, forts, and markets are a testament to the state's royal past and offer a chance to experience its vibrant culture.

Overall, India is a country that offers a wealth of experiences for every kind of traveler. Its iconic landmarks, natural beauty, and unique destinations make it a must-visit destination for anyone looking for a truly unforgettable experience. Whether you are looking for spiritual enlightenment, adventure, or relaxation, India has everything to offer.



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Delhi – Mere Dil Ma Hai

- Ashok Kalra

India's vast diversity of terrain, multitude of cultures, religions, languages and more, offers travelers a fascinating slideshow of views and experiences unlike any other country in the world. As one traverses the length and breadth of this wonderful land, the magnificence of the Indian panorama unfolds in the form of colourful festivals, palatable-tickling cuisines, unique attires, tongue-twisting dialects, age-old customs and traditions juxtaposed with modernity.



One place I am qualified to write in detail is about my native Delhi, arguably one of the most beautiful places in India, where I lived on and off for varying lengths of time.

Delhi is a cauldron of cultures and people of various religions and ethnicities, and its diversified nature reflects India's present-day multicultural demography. Throughout its history, Delhi has witnessed the ebb and flow of empires and dynasties, of emperors, kings and sultans, many of whom sought to make this strategic city their center of power. Centuries of this confluence of conquests, has left an indelible mark on the city in the form of ancient forts, monuments and other striking architectural edifices.

Straddling the Yamuna River, primarily on its western banks, Delhi is a uniquely historic and cosmopolitan city replete with resplendent historical monuments, meticulously landscaped gardens, bustling markets, and a vibrant art scene. For history and architectural buffs the city offers remarkable venues for exploration, including several places that are on the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. I am glad to introduce some of these.

Purana Qila: An ancient fort that has stoically withstood the passage of time, Purana Qila is built on the site of the legendary city of Indraprastha. Conquerors and rulers since then have modified this base structure. Today, Purana Qila is the venue for the spectacular sound and light show held every evening.



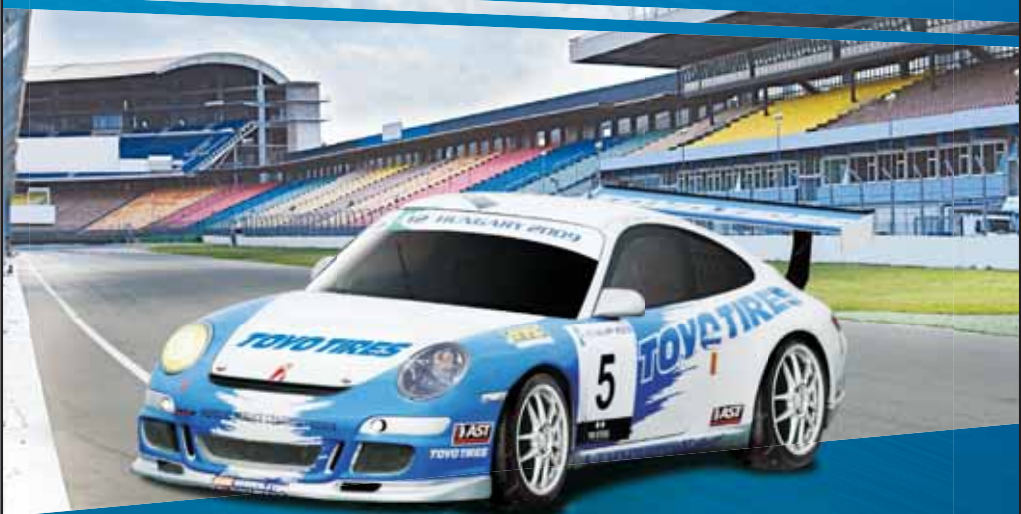
India Gate: Situated in the heart of the city, the iconic India Gate was designed by the renowned English architect Edwin Lutyens. The 42 meter high war memorial was unveiled in the year 1933 in memory of British soldiers who lost their lives in various battles. Following Independence, India Gate became the site of 'Amar Jawan Jyoti', Indian Army's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Today, the running fountains and well-manicured lawns around the memorial make it a perfect spot for picnics.



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Qutub Minar: Built in red and buff sandstone, the 73 meter high Qutub Minar has a diameter of over 14 meters at the base and nearly 3 meters at the top. The foundation for this structure was laid in 1199 by Qutbu'd-Din Aibak for use by muezzin to give calls for Muslim prayers each day. The tower is surrounded by a projected balcony supported by stone brackets, which are decorated with a honey-comb design.



Jantar Mantar: This observatory was built in 1724. Finding existing astronomical instruments too small to take correct measurements, Maharaja Jai Singh built these larger and more accurate instruments that have been lauded for their ingenuity. However, making accurate observations is no longer possible from this place because of the surrounding tall buildings.



Humayun's Tomb: Built for Mughal Emperor Humayun in the year 1570, it is the first grand dynastic garden mausoleum of the subcontinent. The tomb was constructed on the banks of the Yamuna River near the Nizamuddin Dargah. Spread across an area of 30 acres, it offers a panoramic view of the majestic Char Bagh — a Persian style garden with pools connected to intersecting water channel pathways. It is one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture.



Lotus Temple: This lotus shaped temple is the last of seven major temples in the world, built by members of the Bahai congregation. Completed in 1986, the structure has white marble walls that flow into the lotus-petal-shaped roof. The architect, Fariborz Sabha chose the lotus as it is a symbol common to Hinduism, Buddhism, Bahai, Jainism and Islam. Adherents of any faith are free to visit the temple.



Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple is also a must visit spot in Delhi.

To conclude, never miss an opportunity to travel. Interacting with others during travel helps people become more open-minded and willing to understand and accept each other. It drives home the realization that though we may be different in our physical traits, customs, religions and beliefs, our similarity as human beings makes us one.



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Himachal Pradesh

- S.K.Wadhawan

Himachal Pradesh is one of the beautiful states in India, known for its stunning natural beauty, snow-capped mountains, crystal clear lakes, and rich cultural heritage. The state is a popular tourist destination that attracts visitors from all over the world. Here are some of the important tourist places in Himachal Pradesh:



Shimla - The capital city of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla is a popular hill station that is known for its scenic beauty and colonial architecture. Also known as the 'Queen of Hills', Shimla is a picturesque hill town nestled at an altitude of 2205 meters in the enchanting state of Himachal Pradesh. Visitors can take a stroll on the Mall Road, visit the Jakhu Temple, and enjoy the panoramic views of the Himalayan range.

It's also a paradise for adventure seekers. The popular 'Tattapani Point' on the banks of Satluj River, 50 km off Shimla is a hub for water sport aficionados and offers them an unmatched river rafting experience. There are plenty of other enthralling activities that one can indulge in to satiate those adrenaline cravings. Some of these are forest camping, paragliding and cycling through the wilderness of the 'Water Catchment Wildlife Sanctuary'.

A trip to Shimla is incomplete without embarking on the famed toy train ride, which runs from Shimla to Kalka is a world heritage site included in UNESCO list and vice-versa. Meandering through mountainous tracks, giving a glimpse of the hypnotic scenery, it is an engineering marvel in itself and one of the top things to do in Shimla.



The quaint little hill town of Shimla hides in its store, plethora of activities, places to visit and things to do. Shimla Christ Church, Johnnie's Wax Museum, Viceregal Lodge and Annandale Army Museum are some of the popular sightseeing attractions in the erstwhile British summer capital, leaving every visitor here with a great experience.

Manali - A trip to Kullu Manali is the medicine for fatigued minds and tired souls. Nature has blessed them generously, and yet, one is different from the kind of experiences they offer. Kullu is called the 'land of the gods', and quite aptly so. Kullu and Manali are two different places. Kullu to Manali distance is approximately 40 km. Located in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, Manali is a picturesque hill station that is known for its snow-capped mountains, apple orchards, and adventure activities. Visitors can go skiing, snowboarding, trekking, and river rafting.

There are many things to see in Kullu, like the Great Himalayan National Park. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site which houses a rich variety of wildlife. Several of these



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are classified as endangered, including Himalayan Brown Bear, Blue Sheep and Snow Leopard. Spotting of Monal and Western Tragopan is not uncommon. Trekking and outdoor camping are also pursued enthusiastically in the park.

Manikaran is another place to see in Kullu which is most famous for its gurudwara. Kasol, fondly referred to as mini-Israel for attracting Israelis in large numbers, while the village of Malana has that ancient look to it.

The greatest tourist attraction though, is Rohtang Pass. About 51 km from Manali, it is the gateway to Lahaul and Spiti, and offers a chance to enjoy activities like paragliding, skiing and trekking. Along the way, you are treated to views of waterfalls, pastures and streams.

During the winters, it wears a white coat, with fir trees acting as its embroidery. During the summers, it discards it, and replaces it with an easily flowing green garment. That's Solang Valley for you, located about 13 km from Manali and a magnificent place to see in Himachal Pradesh.



You could also head to Naggar, located about 22 km from Manali. It served as the capital of the municipality before it was shifted to Kullu in 1660 AD. There are many monuments here that remind you of its glorious past, including a 500 year old castle. Nowadays, it functions as a museum and heritage hotel. Vashisht Village is famous, as is the Bhrgu Lake, which is believed to be the meditation spot of Sage Bhrgu.

Dharamshala - Known for being the home of the Dalai Lama, Dharamshala is a beautiful hill station that is located in the Kangra Valley. Visitors can explore the Tibetan culture and visit the famous Tsuglagkhang Complex and the Namgyal Monastery. There are tourist spots in plenty, but mostly, Dharamshala is about unwinding and enjoying the serenity that is found here in abundance.

Spiti Valley - Located in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh, Spiti Valley is a remote and beautiful destination that is known for its rugged landscapes, ancient monasteries, and traditional villages. Visitors can go trekking, camping, and explore the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Dalhousie - Dalhousie is a popular hill station that is known for its natural beauty, colonial architecture, and serene surroundings. Visitors can go trekking, explore the Khajjiar Lake and the Dainkund Peak, and enjoy the beautiful views of the mountains.

In conclusion, Himachal Pradesh is a beautiful state that offers a wide range of tourist destinations and activities. With its scenic landscapes, adventurous activities, and warm hospitality, Himachal Pradesh is a must-visit destination for all those who love to explore and experience new cultures.



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Lucknow

The City of Nawabs

- K.S.Lamba

Lucknow is the capital city of Uttar Pradesh and it has always been a multicultural city. Courty manners, beautiful gardens, poetry, music, and fine cuisine patronized by the Persian-loving Shia Nawabs of the city add to its charisma. The city has been given various other names too, such as The Constantinople of India, Shiraz-i-Hind and the Golden City of the East. It is the most highly monitored city of the country and owns the name 'First CCTV city in India.'



The Rumi Darwaza, is an imposing gateway which was built by Nawab Asaf-Ud-Daula in 1784. It is an example of Awadhi architecture. Also referred to as Turkish Gate, it stands sixty feet tall. Its ornate structure is marked by an eight-faceted umbrella-like structure in its uppermost part. It was built with red sandstone and marble, to generate employment during the famine of 1784.



The 18th-century Bada Imambara, meaning big mosque, is one of the most fantastic heritage attractions of Lucknow. It welcomes one with its huge arched hall and is an example of intelligent engineering. Its astonishing part is Bhool Bhulaiya. It is a maze with several interconnected passages, which lead to different corridors each time. There are nearly 1000 passages and 489 identical doors. The narrow tunnels lead to marvellous city views from its upper balconies. Do not venture into the bhool bhulaiya alone, as there are stories of people missing and could not be found ever again. It is preferable to hire an authorized guide to explore the passages.



Dedicated to the demised Samajwadi Party politician, Janeshwar Mishra, the Janeshwar Mishra Park was opened to the public in 2014. This lush greenery shimmered with floral gardens also offers activities such as boat and gondola rides.



Ambedkar Memorial Park is a public park and memorial in Gomti Nagar. Hazratganj is the happening, central shopping district of Lucknow. Marine drive, Dilkusha Kothi palace and the grand Husainabad Clock Tower are other important places of the City of Nawabs.





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Nagaland

- Peeyush Jain

Nagaland, a north eastern state, with its rich cultural heritage and scintillating landscapes, is any traveller's delight. It offers huge scope for exploring heritage villages. It has a sub-alpine climate, lush green surroundings and abundant flora and fauna. Old Naga traditional homes have this legacy of storytelling where many of our folktales, folksongs, and stories of our rich culture have been passed on, from generation to generation. The Naga people form the largest ethnic group. It is also popularly known as the 'land of festivals' and every tribal festival is celebrated with pomp and gaiety. The state's economy is primarily based on agriculture and forestry, with a growing focus on tourism and the service sectors. The state is also home to several wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, such as the Intanki National Park and Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary.



Mount Saramati at an elevation of 3,841 metres is the state's highest peak. Dimapur, is the Kanchari tribe's capital. You can find temples, monuments, Kanchari ruins, Zoological Park, Nagaland Science Centre, Green Park, Ao Baptist Church and Diezeph Craft Village here.



Kohima is also called as 'untouched nature'. It is Nagaland's capital and offers many things for the visitor, such as shopping, historical places and colourful local festivals. Visiting the place during the Hornbill festival can be a fantastic experience, during which 16 Naga tribes showcase their culture at Kisama village. Dzukou Valley, Japfu Peak, ToupHEMA Village, Heritage DC Bungalow, Naga Heritage Village, Kohima Zoo, Catholic Church and Kohima War cemetery are few places of interest.

Trekking enthusiasts can enjoy trekking at Mount Tiyi and Totsu Cliff. You can find an adorable carpet of flowers and orchards around. While at this place, explore the Doyang Hydro Project, Water Pool, Liphanyan Governor's camp and Vankhosung. Mokokchung, an exotic hill station in Nagaland, offers Baptist Mother Church, Dikhu river, Langpangkong caves, Mokokchung Museum and Longkhum village to explore. Nagaland produces a variety of traditional products like cane carpets, Naga shawls, bamboo mugs, and Naga silk Mekhela.

To understand the life and culture of the local tribes of India, Nagaland is the best choice.





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Western Ghats

- Dr. S.M. Hyder Ali

Think India's mountains begin and end with the Himalayas? Think again. Our Western Ghats travel guide unveils a 1,600km-long range that creases the whole western edge of the country. And while the hills might be a quarter of the size of India's most famous peaks, their staggering biodiversity makes them a must-visit for wildlife watchers.



Older than the great Himalayan mountain chain, the Western Ghats of India are a geomorphic feature of immense global importance. The Western Ghats region demonstrates speciation related to the breakup of the ancient landmass of Gondwanaland in the early Jurassic period; secondly to the formation of India into an isolated landmass.

The Western Ghats is a mountain range that covers an area of 160,000 sq. km traversing the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Stretching north to south along the western edge of the Deccan plateau it is also called the 'Great Escarpment of India' and starts from the border of Gujarat and ends at Kanyakumari. The highest peak in the Western Ghats is Anamudi in Kerala that rises to an elevation of 2695 meters above sea level.

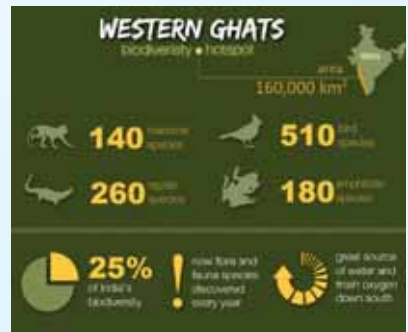


One among the eight hottest biodiversity hotspots, the region is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It comprises a total of 39 properties including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and reserve forests— 20 in the state of Kerala, 10 in Karnataka, 5 in Tamil Nadu, and 4 in Maharashtra.

They stand as a barrier between the west coast and the rest of the Indian peninsula. They attract a high level of rainfall and form the catchment area for a complex of river systems that drain almost 40% of India that supply water to billions of people. Several important rivers run from them, including the Bhima, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri.

Though it covers less than 6% of the land area of India, the Western Ghats contain more than 30% of all species of plant, fish, reptile, amphibian, bird and mammal found in the whole country.

The Western Ghats are one of the world's biodiversity hotspots with over 5,000 flowering plants, 139 mammals, 508 birds and 179 amphibian species. It has particularly impressive populations of large mammals – for instance around 30% of all Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) and around 18% of wild tigers, spread across a number of wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves and national parks. Endangered species such as the lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Tahr and Nilgiri Langur are unique to the area.



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The Nilgiri Hills mark where the Western Ghats step down into the Eastern Ghats. A biosphere reserve, they contain some of the world's most species-rich forest. Up to 10,000 Asian elephants plod the paths – that's the largest population on the planet. And 10 percent of the world's tigers stalk the grasslands. The Blue Mountain Railway chugs through it all, through tea hills, tunnels, and up to hill station Ooty.

Hill stations like Ooty, Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala, Khandala, Munnar, Ponmudi, Wayanad are some of the several tourist hotspots in Western Ghats. Mathikettan Shola National Park, Pampadam Shola National Park, Begur Wildlife Sanctuary, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Thattekad, Phansad Bird Sanctuary and Karnala Bird Sanctuary are some of the wildlife reserves located in the Western Ghats.

Kodaikanal, Lovedale, Coonoor, Yercaud, Meghmalai, Valparai, Kumily, Thenmala, Sulthan Bathery, Ranipuram, Mattupetty, Wayanad, Idukki, Vagamon, Nelliampathy, Vythiri, Ponmudi and Chikmagalur are some of the prominent towns located in the mountain range.

You'll need at least two weeks to get your head around the Western Ghats, although you can make do with a week if you're concentrating on a specialist subject like birding or cycling. Kochi (Kerala) and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) are popular starting points. Some tours can last up

to a month, travelling from Mumbai to Kochi in a series of flights, hikes, safaris and rail trips. They sometimes even bolt on an extra week for a Golden Triangle tour, Goa beach break or Kerala houseboat cruise.



Here is the list of 13 Places to Visit in Western Ghats - Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra) - The land of Strawberries, Yercaud (Tamil Nadu) - The Land of Seven Forests, Kalpetta (Kerala), Mollem National Park (Goa), Coonoor (Tamil Nadu), Valparai (Tamilnadu) – Seventh Heaven, Thekkady (Kerala) - largest Tiger Reserve, Agumbe (Karnataka) - Cherrapunji of South India, Dandeli (Karnataka) – Adventure capital of South India, Idukki (Kerala) – Spice garden, Vagamon (Kerala) – Scotland of Asia, Munnar (Kerala) - Kashmir of South India, Coorg (Karnataka) – The Scotland of India.

The Western Ghats of India is truly special. Just like the Himalayas of the north, the Sundarbans of the East and the Thar Desert in the West. There is so much already to preserve. Let us preserve and explore the beauty of Western Ghat.

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Medical Tourism in India

- P. Senthil Kumar M.S.

Medical Tourism can be defined as when clients go for medical treatment and choose to travel across international countries for medical services such as heart problems, transplants, dental problems, beauty surgery, and different type of surgery and fertility treatment.



Medical tourism is a growing sector in India. In mid-2020, India's medical tourism sector was estimated to be worth US\$ 5-6 billion.

In 2017, 495,056 patients visited India to seek medical care. According to a report from 2019 by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Ernst & Young, most of the medical tourist arrivals in India were from Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa, and SAARC region. India also receives significant number of medical tourists.

Medical tourism in India is a fast-growing sector. It is one of the major drivers of the Indian economy along with biotechnology, software technology, and consumer services.



India has been the most attractive destination for visitors around the globe. But the recent trend in the tourism sector shows a propelling growth in this industry. This is not only because of the heritage attraction of the country but due to growing medical care facilities in India.

Medical tourism is a developing concept and this sector is growing at a very fast rate. It is also offering other medical services like yoga, meditation, and Ayurveda, which is increasingly becoming popular as a non-surgical treatment for various ailments among foreign patients.

The major service providers in Indian medical tourism are the Apollo Hospitals, Escorts Hospital, Fortis Hospitals, Breach Candy, Hinduja, Mumbai's Asian Heart Institute, Arvind Eye Hospitals, Manipal Hospitals, Mallya Hospital, Shankara Nethralaya, etc.



There are many reasons for the growth of medical tourism in India. The primary reasons cited for this are the cost advantage that the Indian health care sector enjoys in comparison to



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other countries. Along with cost advantage, the services are offered by internationally experienced specialists. Then, it has many hospitals equipped with international standards. Most Indian doctors and other medical staff have world-class exposure and are fluent in English which is common language globally.

This mixture of world-class facilities at an affordable cost makes India one of the top five most favored medical tourist destinations in the world. India is also endowed with world-acclaimed tourist destinations.

India provides a wide range of tourist destinations with natural beauties (Jammu, Srinagar, Shimla, Dehradun, Kerala backwaters, beaches of Chennai, Mumbai, Goa, Kolkata, etc.) heritage sites (Western ghats, Sunderbans, Nilgiris, Ajanta, Ellora, and Elephanta caves) spiritual destinations (Varanasi, Haridwar, Bodh Gaya, Ajmer Sharif, Churches of Goa) and Metropolitan cities (Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad).



This gives the tourists visiting India a variety of options to include along with the treatment of their ailments. Another reason for the growth of medical tourism in India is the comparative cost advantages of India vis-à-vis other countries.

In the olden days, people used to travel to the USA to get advanced medical treatment. Now the reverse is happening. IT boom and cheaper flights make people to choose alternate health destinations for treatment.



Soaring medical costs, high insurance premiums, long waiting lists, a large number of uninsured/underinsured and insured in many advanced nations force people in those nations to be medical tourists. Insurance companies and employers also prefer to send patients to India in order to reduce health care expenses. The large Indian community living abroad also makes use of a significant part of medical tourism in India.

India also has a whole lot of natural solutions to health like Ayurveda, and Sidha. It has many exotic tourist spots. Many medical tourists have already chosen India as their destination for treatments.



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Darjeeling

Exploring the Enchanting Hill Station of Eastern India

- A.N.Natarajan

Darjeeling, located in the northeastern part of India, is a captivating hill station known for its picturesque beauty, lush green tea plantations, and breathtaking views of the Himalayas. As a tourist who recently visited Darjeeling, I was mesmerized by the stunning landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality of the locals.



One of the highlights of my trip was experiencing the famous toy train ride on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The narrow-gauge railway, fondly called the 'Toy Train,' takes you on a leisurely journey through the misty mountains, verdant valleys, and quaint villages. The scenic beauty that unfolded during the train ride was truly magical, with mist-laden tea gardens, cascading waterfalls, and charming Himalayan villages dotting the landscape. It was a unique and unforgettable experience that allowed me to appreciate the region's natural beauty up close.

Darjeeling is also renowned for its tea production, and a visit to the tea gardens was a must on my itinerary. I had the opportunity to tour a tea plantation and learn about the intricate process of tea production, from plucking the tender tea leaves to processing and packaging. The aroma of fresh tea leaves and the sight of lush green tea bushes sprawling across the terraced slopes were a treat for the senses. I also indulged in some tea tasting, savoring the distinct flavors of Darjeeling tea, known for its unique muscatel flavors.



Another must-visit attraction in Darjeeling is Tiger Hill, which offers a panoramic view of the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas at sunrise. I woke up early in the morning and trekked to the summit to witness the breathtaking sight of the first rays of the sun illuminating the majestic Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest peak. The sight was awe-inspiring, and I was left speechless by the beauty of the Himalayas unfolding before my eyes.

Bagdogra Airport is the nearest air connection which is 96 kms away from Darjeeling. Delhi and Kolkata airports are well-connected with international cities across the globe.

In conclusion, my visit to Darjeeling was a truly enriching and unforgettable experience. The scenic beauty, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality of the locals left a lasting impression on me. Darjeeling is a destination that has something to offer for every type of traveler. If you're looking for a unique and offbeat destination in India, Darjeeling should definitely be in your list.





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Rural Tourism in India

An Untapped Zone in the Tourism Sector

- P.N.J. Kumar

Rural tourism means travelling to non-urbanized places that goes beyond city breaks. Moreover, it's an incredible chance to connect with local communities, support them and immerse yourself in their local culture.



Unfortunately, it has been noticed that the role of tourism contributions to rural community development still remains unexplored. This to be called as a peculiar type of tourism activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle / biological and cultural diversity, local values, civilization, angling and the authentic sightseeing with unique landscapes.

In brief, this is a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature but it is sad to see that very few are involved in promoting this tourism sector.

Let us take an example of India, we have plenty of untapped potential with 29 states, each the size of a small country, a rich history and remarkable diversity of culture. In other words, a country whose geographical journey begins from the snow-covered Himalayan mountains in the northern region, passes through the desert landscapes of Rajasthan, and then crosses the lush forests of Madhya Pradesh.



Next, it sails through the extensive backwaters of Kerala before culminating in the crystal-clear waters of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is worth mentioning here that there are some regions considered as a paradise on earth. If one were to search the entire world for such a place, India would be the country they should look to.

When we analyze the rural tourism in India, the potential has not been explored yet, though rural tourism has been identified as a niche area for the development of rural India.

Apart from the well known tourist places, there are more than 50 unexplored places to visit in rural India. This takes everyone by surprise. These are the delightful places that are truly paradise for nature lovers.



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சுஜி

Unlike countries like Far East, Europe, USA and many other countries giving more prominence to rural tourism, spreading their authentic culture to the world with pride, it's always a question mark that why we cannot do the same way to deviate our tourism zones other than going for the readymade and repeated cycle of introducing the popular tourist attractions?

We understand the major challenges faced in rural tourism development in India are the lack of digital literacy, marketing, and proper tourism infrastructure. To address these issues, there are many ways but it is difficult to elaborate them in detail. I suggest that a comprehensive planning strategy must be implemented, with the support of the tourism department.



If we look at the natural landscapes compared to other countries, India is gifted with more exciting locations. This journey offers a thrilling experience through high-altitude terrains and peaceful lowlands.

Spread across its lakhs of villages lie untold venues in all their myriad colors and hues. If explored and developed as rural tourism sites, these venues could be instrumental in bringing out the much-needed turnaround of rural communities and at the same time providing a visitor wholesale tourism experience.

Nature-based tourism is one of the fastest-growing tourism sectors in the world in the recent times. Most of the countries are turning it into a progressive business. India possesses abundant wealth, power, and beauty bestowed by nature. It should also focus in promoting rural tourism by finding immediate solutions.



India has the fourth most considerable numbers of world heritage sites in the world. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari there are so many beautiful places in the country. Anyone will agree that these are more divine than the heaven and the beauty of rural India is incomparable. Every Indian village offers its own resources, authentic culture and civilization.

Unless we develop the rural tourism, we cannot do justice to the economy of our rural sectors. It is important to prepare an action plan for the same. It is our duty to make the tourists realize that a bullock cart ride is as enjoyable as white water rafting.



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Udaipur

The City of Lakes: Unveiling the Royal Charms of Udaipur

- Satish Sharma

Udaipur, also known as the 'City of Lakes,' is a picturesque city located in the Indian state of Rajasthan. It is known for its rich history, stunning architecture, and breathtaking natural beauty. Udaipur has been a popular tourist destination for many years, and it's easy to learn why.



The city is home to several magnificent palaces and forts that showcase the rich history of Rajasthan. One of the most famous landmarks in Udaipur is the City Palace, which is located on the banks of Lake Pichola. The palace was built in the 16th century, and is a perfect example of the fusion of Mughal and Rajasthani architectural styles. The palace complex consists of several courtyards, terraces, and gardens, and offers stunning views of the lake and the surrounding hills.

Another important attraction in Udaipur is the Jagdish Temple, which is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The temple was built in the 17th century, and is known for its intricate carvings and beautiful architecture.



Udaipur is also known for its stunning lakes, which are major attractions for tourists. Lake Pichola is one of the most famous lakes in the city, and is surrounded by several hills and palaces. The lake offers breathtaking views of the city and is a popular spot for boating and sightseeing. Another popular lake in Udaipur is Fateh Sagar Lake, which is known for its calm waters and scenic surroundings. It is a place for destination weddings.

Apart from its architectural marvels and natural beauty, Udaipur is also known for its vibrant culture and traditions. The city is famous for its colorful festivals, including the Mewar Festival and the Gangaur Festival, which are celebrated with great pomp and show. The city is also known for its handicrafts, including textiles, pottery, and jewelry, which are made using traditional techniques that have been passed down through generations.



Udaipur is a city that is rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. Its magnificent palaces, stunning lakes, and vibrant culture make it a must-visit destination for anyone who wants to experience the true essence of Rajasthan.



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Bihar

- Ravi Kohli

Defined beautifully by rich culture, colourful festivals, quaint monuments and ancient monasteries, Bihar, the land of Gautama Buddha has its own charming personality. With the mighty Ganga River flowing through it, Bihar has been the perfect vacation spot for millions. While the Gurudwaras in Patna and the Hargauri Temple In Kishanganj let you seek blessings, Valmiki National Park In Bettiah and Kanwar Bird Sanctuary In Begusarai offer you an insight into the state's rich biodiversity. The Sher Shah Suri Tomb in Sasaram and The Navlakha Palace in Rajnagar highlight Bihar's history. India's first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born in Bihar.



Bihar is the place from where the concept of non-violence originated. It was Lord Mahavira and Lord Buddha who raised this idea about 2600 years ago. Bihar is also the birthplace of two religions - Jainism and Buddhism. It is the home of the oldest Hindu temple in India – Mundeshwari. Bihar is the birthplace of the tenth Guru - Guru Gobind Singh and is the holy place of Sikhs.

Patna, the capital of Bihar was originally known as Pataliputra and renamed as Azimabad during the Mughal rule. It is home to a myriad of famed historical monuments, including Golghar, the Patna Museum, Jalan Museum and the Ruins of Pataliputra. Other important tourist attractions in Patna include the Patna Market, Gandhi Ghat, the Patna Planetarium and Buddha Smriti Udyan.

The town of Bodhgaya is the home to the sacred Bodhi tree, under which Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment. The beauty of Bodhgaya is mainly defined by its magnificent age-old Buddhist temples that offer you a glimpse into the rich Buddhist mythology. The Royal Bhutan Monastery throws light on the life and preaching of Gautama Buddha.



Nalanda University – One of the world's oldest universities is located 90 km from Patna. Vishwa Shanti Stupa, known as the World Peace Pagoda, is located in Rajgir. Buxar fort built by King Rudra Rao is another place of interest.

The colourful Chhau dance form, vivid Sonapur Mela - an annual rural carnival and Madhubani artworks are unique to the state of Bihar.



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DAMAN AND DIU

- Ashish Jain

Situated about 193 kms north of Mumbai, Daman has become synonymous with blue sea, rustic beaches, picturesque villages and relics from its Portuguese past. It lies sandwiched between Gujarat and Maharashtra. Daman was a Portuguese territory for over 300 years and was liberated in 1961. It lies on the banks of the Daman Ganga River.



Nani Daman Jetty comprises of Jetty Garden, the estuary, the dock, several fast food stalls and Saint Jerome Fort. Jetty Garden has been popular among children for years as it has a playground to offer. One gets to experience the view that comprises of the estuary, where Daman Ganga River meets the Arabian Sea. Two forts constructed by the Portuguese during the 16th century and two lighthouses add history to this spot.



Diu seems to be very near to Daman, but it is 600 kms away. It was an important trading post of the Portuguese during colonial times. Located among the Portuguese structures, Diu Fort is the main attraction of Diu. It was built by the Portuguese Governor Nuno De Cunha between 1535 and 1541 AD. On the fort, one can see a light house and canons. The Diu fort is surrounded by sea on three sides.



Naida caves, Diu are located outside the city wall of the Diu Fort. They feature a big network of tunnels. It is believed that the Portuguese during their reign, hacked building materials for constructing the fortress of Diu from these caves. Other Portuguese structures on the island are the St Paul's Church, Church of St Francis of Assisi and the St Thomas Church.



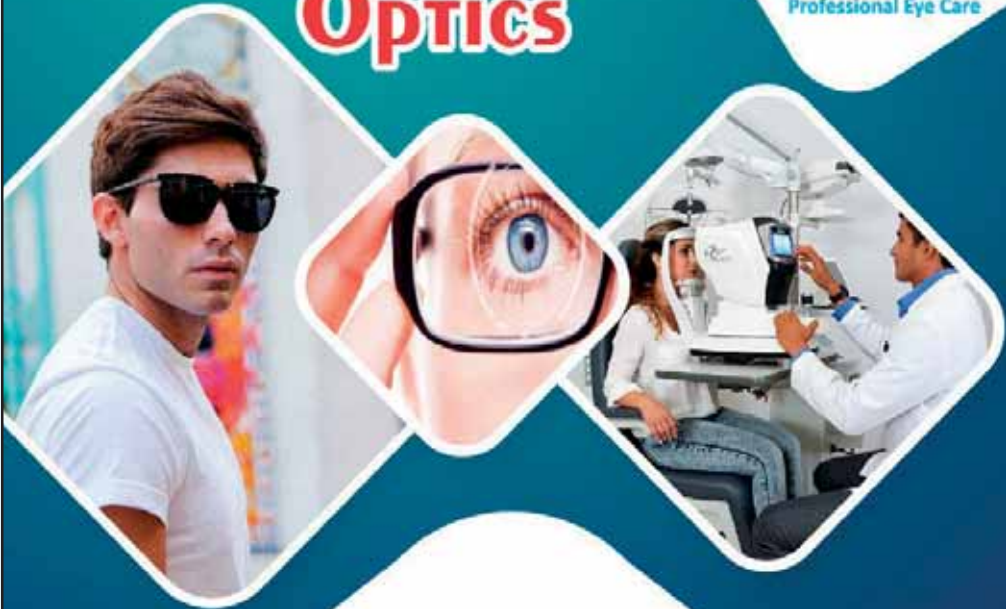
The 21 km shoreline of the island comprises three beaches — Nagoa, Ghoghla and Jallandhar. All three beaches have escaped commercialization and are ideal places to unwind. On the Nagoa and Ghoghla beach, one can enjoy water sports activities like water scooter and parasailing. Evening boat cruises are another attraction on the beaches.



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Kauthuka Park

Nature at its Best

- Krishnakumar

A stunning ode to nature's beautiful bounty, Kauthuka Park is situated on the way to Athirappally Waterfalls at Chalakkudy in Thrissur, Kerala. This unique garden is a testament to the founder and architect Mr. Varkey Veliyath's creative excellence. Situated at his residential and agricultural land, the visitors are guided through the park by either Mr. Varkey or his family members. One can admire the peaceful co-existence of many creatures in the park. Even the predators of nature that live here, transform into harmless kids by the affectionate and caring nature of Mr. Varkey.



The very plot of land, that is the Park, makes one feel as though he or she has entered the remote habitat of nature's very best. With small rivulets, caves, and ancient ponds around, one can feel the heartbeat of Mother Nature here. Fish of various hues and sizes play hide and seek in the depths of crystal-clear waters. The creatures roam around freely, instead of being in captivity.



The landscape is dotted with picturesque hills, gurgling streams, verdant canopies, and rare medicinal plants. We can even find trees related to zodiac signs. One can enjoy the friendly companionship of peacocks and emu birds, which lumber after you for a sweet morsel. Sightings of rare animals and birds are an added attraction. After a satisfying walk around the park, one can enjoy sweet daydreams in the park's cradles and swings.



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Jodhpur

The Blue City of Rajasthan

- Aziz F

Jodhpur, also known as the Blue City due to the blue-hued buildings in the old city, is a city in the state of Rajasthan, India. It is located on the edge of the Thar Desert and is the second-largest city in Rajasthan after the capital city of Jaipur. The city is famous for its rich history, culture, architecture, and vibrant colours.



Jodhpur was founded by Rao Jodha, the chief of the Rathore clan, in 1459. The city was named after him and was a significant trade centre due to its location on the ancient camel trade routes. The city was also the capital of the princely state of Marwar and served as a centre of administration, arts, and culture. During the British Raj, Jodhpur was a part of the Rajputana Agency and later became a part of the newly independent India.

Jodhpur is known for its rich cultural heritage, traditions and customs. The city has a unique blend of Rajput, Mughal and British architectures. The most famous landmark of the city is the Mehrangarh Fort, one of the largest forts in India. It was built by Rao Jodha in 1460 and was expanded by his successors. The fort has multiple palaces and temples within its complex, each showcasing the Rajput architectural style. The grandeur and the architecture of Mehrangarh Fort make it one of the most popular tourist destinations in India.



Another famous landmark of the city is the Umaid Bhawan Palace, a luxury hotel and the residence of the former royal family of Jodhpur. The palace was built in 1943 and is an excellent example of Indo-Saracenic architecture.



The Clock Tower or Ghanta Ghar is another famous landmark of Jodhpur, located in the heart of the city. It was built by Maharaja Sardar Singh in 1912 and is surrounded by a vibrant market selling everything from textiles, handicrafts, spices to street food.

Jodhpur is an enchanting city, offering a plethora of experiences from the narrow lanes of the old city to the grandeur of Mehrangarh Fort. The city provides a glimpse into Rajasthani culture, architecture, and cuisine, making it a must-visit destination for anyone interested in history, art, and food. The Blue City of Jodhpur is indeed a paradise on earth.



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Silent Valley National Park

Palakkad

- Sunil Menon

The eerie silence, that gave Silent Valley its name, may make you feel and hear things you could never have imagined. It is located in the Northeast corner of Palakkad district. Besides being a lush gem surrounded by nature's wealth, it is also one of the most extensively researched National Parks in India. You must experience and observe this first-hand to truly feel the wonders of nature. Silent Valley was named a National Park only in 1984. It was called 'Sairandhrivanam' as it was here that Sairandhri (the secret identity donned by Panchali, from the epic Mahabharata) is believed to have hidden along with her five husbands, the Pandavas.



The Kunthippuzha River which feeds the entire forest was named after Kunthi, mother of the Pandavas. It constitutes the centerpiece of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.



From leopards, elephants, snakes, lion-tailed macaques to Malabar giant squirrels, the diversity in fauna are breathtaking. Along with them, one can view over 1,000 species of flowering plants and another 110 species of orchids that enchant all who see them.

You can take up a Palakkad Bus and reach Mukkali via Manarkad. The entrance to Silent valley Park is 25 kms from Mukkali along a jeep road. You have to get entrance tickets from the office at Mukkali to enter into the park. The park also offers several trekking and camping packages for travelers. You can avail Sairandhri Trip and Boommiyampadi trekking package. The Bommiyampadi eco-tourism package is more of a jungle retreat



and offers an enchanting journey through the pristine blanket of green. The package lets one stay in a forest front cottage. You can enjoy a guided trip through the lush, wild woods. It also includes a trip to the tribal areas of Attappady.





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Kerala

A divine destination

- Ajai Goel

The unique culture, rich history and varied demography have made Kerala one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Several international agencies ranging from UNESCO to National Geographic have recognised the state's tourism potential. It is a tropical land with serene beaches, soothing stretches of emerald backwaters, fertile hill stations and exotic wildlife. A brief look at few places of Kerala will educate one about the evergreen state.



Thiruvananthapuram

The capital city of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, which means the city of Lord Ananta, was formerly known as Trivandrum. Located within the precincts of the East Fort, the 'Padmanabhaswamy Temple' is famous for its stone carvings



and mural paintings. Lord Vishnu reclining on Anantha, the serpent, is the presiding deity in this temple, which is considered to be among the 108 sacred shrines, or Divya Desams of Lord Vishnu in India. The 'Kuthiramalika Palace Museum' is a two storeyed structure that was built by Swathi Thirunal Balarama Varma, who was the maharaja of the kingdom of Travancore at the time of the British rule. Kuthiramalika means palace of horses and the museum houses 122 wooden horses that have been carved in such a way that they appear to be smiling. The museum preserves sculptures made of white marble, Kathakali (dance form) figures, Belgian mirrors and paintings. Made from teakwood, rosewood, marble, and granite, it is a fine example of Kerala architecture.

Since 1930s, Kovalam Beach has been an internationally famous stopover for tourists. There are three crescent-shaped beaches with a rock wall that make Kovalam one of the best spots in the country for sea swimming. You can also go on



a catamaran cruise or sunbathe. One of the biggest and busiest shipping ports of the region, Vizhinjam is a natural port located 2 km south of Kovalam. It is home to the Sagarika Vizhinjam Marine Aquarium, which uses the image pearl technique to create customized pearls from pearl cement. Located 20 km from Thiruvananthapuram, the Elephant Rehabilitation Centre is a 56-hectare expanse of grassy, deciduous forest. Pachyderm-lovers can spend a day in the company of elephants, and go for a jumbo safari.



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Alleppey

The backwaters of Kerala, running parallel to the Arabian Sea, are one of the most popular tourist destinations in India. Rightly called as 'Venice of the East', Alleppey or Alappuzha, is popular for its houseboat cruises. Be it short stays in small



canoes or boats, which meander through narrow canals, or longer stays on luxurious houseboats, you can feel the inner peace and tranquility. These cruises let you float along the backwaters, which are fringed with palm and coconut trees. Decorated with over a thousand houseboats, Alleppey is known for the enthusiastic boat races and sumptuous sea food. Adding to its charm are the Ayurvedic spas and wellness centres, which ease the tired bodies and minds.

Munnar

Munnar is a lush carpet of rolling green, interrupted by low rises of mountains of the gorgeous Western Ghats. It is known for its flourishing plantations and pristine waterfalls. You can feel a mixed scent of tea, coffee and cardamom following you everywhere in Munnar. Such



is the beauty of the awe-inspiring viewpoints; Munnar is often called the Kashmir of South India. Eravikulam National Park, a habitat for the endangered mountain goat Nilgiri tahr, is home to the Lakkam Waterfalls and hiking trails. 2,695m-tall Anamudi Peak, the highest peak in the Western Ghats, is a famous spot. The unique tea museum run by the Kannan Devan Hills Plantations Company Private Limited, the first of its kind in the country showcases the history of tea cultivation in Munnar. Pothamedu and Lockhart gap viewpoints are other popular spots.

Spice Village

Spice Village is an eco-resort in Thekkady, near the Periyar wildlife sanctuary. A cluster of tribal style huts set in a beautiful spice garden is a great escape for most tourists from the heat of the plains. They have a comfortable pool and an ayurvedic spa. They also organize treks into the forest, bamboo rafting and many other activities.



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Pulsating Pune

The Vibrant Heart of Maharashtra

- Remesh Ananda Das

Pune, also known as the cultural capital of Maharashtra, is a perfect destination for adventurous teenagers looking for a thrilling and memorable experience. Here are some reasons why adventurous teenagers should consider visiting Pune.



Pune is surrounded by beautiful hills and valleys, making it a perfect destination for trekking and adventure sports enthusiasts. The city has several trekking routes, including Sinhagad Fort, Rajmachi Trek, and Lohagad Fort, which offer breathtaking views of the Western Ghats. Wide range of activities, including paragliding, rock climbing, and river rafting can be performed. These activities provide a unique and thrilling experience that adventurous teenagers are sure to enjoy.

Pune has a rich history and is home to several historical landmarks that offer a glimpse into its past. The Aga Khan Palace, Shaniwar Wada, and Lal Mahal are just a few of the many historical sites in the city.



Pune has a vibrant and diverse culture, is known for its classical and folk music performances, including the famous Lavani dance, which originated in Pune. Ganesh Chaturthi, one of the biggest festivals in Maharashtra, is celebrated with great enthusiasm and is an exciting time to visit Pune.

In addition to its adventure, history, and culture, Pune is also a hub of education. The city is home to some of the best educational institutions in India, including the University of Pune, MIT World Peace University, Symbiosis International University, and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research. These institutions offer various courses in different fields, attracting students from all over the country and the world.

World Peace Dome inside MIT Vishwashanti Gurukul campus. It is world's largest dome, adding to Pune's rich educational heritage, with a history dating back to the 8th century, provides a unique opportunity for teenagers to learn more about India's educational past and present.



The city's trekking routes, historical landmarks, delicious cuisine, and vibrant culture make it a must-visit destination for any adventurous teenager.

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Punjab

Sapta Sindhu – Vibrant and colourful

- Ramdas Nair

Punjab is known for its vibrant and colourful culture. The history of Punjab can be traced back to the era of Indus Valley Civilization. During the Vedic period, the Punjab region was known as Sapta Sindhu, which means the Land of Seven Rivers. Punjab is a vibrant state located in northern India, known for its rich culture, warm hospitality, delicious food, and historical significance. Beas, Ravi, Satluj, Jhelum, and Chenab are the five major rivers of the state.



Punjab has several places of interest for tourists but many people who come here, undoubtedly head straight to Amritsar to pay their respects at the Golden Temple. The city of Amritsar might be old, but it is considered to be a spiritual centre for Sikhs. The Golden Temple is the holiest gurdwara of the Sikh people and is a sight to behold.

Jallianwala bagh is a must visit for everyone. Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar is a public garden that stands as a moving reminder of one of the most tragic chapters in India's freedom movement. This garden is where hundreds of unarmed Indian men, women, and children were massacred heartlessly by the British Army in 1919. Today, Jallianwala Bagh is a memorial of national importance and also one of the most visited historical places in Amritsar.



The Wagah Border is the international border between India and Pakistan. It is famous for the daily closing ceremony, which is a must-see for anyone visiting Punjab. Other places that you should certainly include in your Punjab tour are Pathankot which is really quite beautiful, Kapurthala which has gorgeous monuments and a scenic landscape and Mohali which is famous for its cricket stadium. One of the towns in Punjab is Ropar which was the first Harappan site to be excavated in independent India. This goes to show the deep historical value that some cities in Punjab have.



Don't miss the Cuisine of Punjab. Rich, flavorful and full of ghee are the words that best describe the cuisine of Punjab.

A visit to Punjab feels like you are travelling back and forth in time. Straddling history and modernity with ease, Punjab is one of the states that will enthrall you and remain with you for a long time.



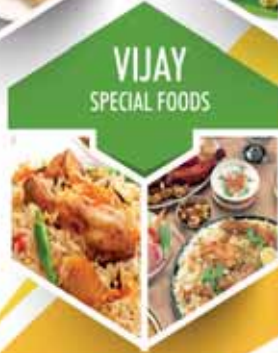
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Odisha

- Dr. Narender Dhir

Odisha with its exotic beaches, rich flora and fauna, abundant wildlife and exquisite temples must definitely be a part of every traveller's bucket list. The magnificent cities reveal the state's cultural past. Decorating the eastern coast of India with a coastline of about 485 km, Odisha is home to mesmerising exotic beaches. The beaches of Odisha truly justify its tourism tagline, 'scenic, serene and sublime'.



The colourful sunsets at the pristine Astaranga Beach, the surreal beach of Bhitarkanika lined with coconut and palm trees, hypnotic Paradeep beach and disappearing sea of the Chandipur Beach are splendid retreats for nature lovers. The year in Odisha is lined up with festivals like Konark Dance and Music Festival, Baliyatra, Makar-Sankranti and the Rathayatra.

Whether it is strolling around the majestic temple of Jagannath, lingering around the Konark Sun Temple, exploring the ancient Jain caves in Khandagiri, shopping at Pipli, trekking to Dhauli Giri Hills or visiting the tranquil Chilika Lake you just cannot get enough of the soul of Incredible India.



Known as the 'City of Temples', the capital city Bhubaneswar has a strong foothold in the history of India. Important religious sites like Parasurameswara Temple, Mukteshwar Temple, Lingaraj Temple, Peace Pagoda, Rajarani Temple and Ananta Vasudeva Temple attract many pilgrims to this place. While Udayagiri, Khandagiri, Ashoka Rock Edict, Odisha State Museum and Ratnagiri Buddhist Excavation attract history buffs, Nandankanan Zoo, Indira Gandhi Park, Atri, Bindu Sagar and Ekamra Kanan attract nature lovers.

Konark houses one of the most extraordinary architectures in the country - the 13th-century Sun Temple. This UNESCO protected site is renowned all over the world. The oldest Konark Museum houses various artefacts and remains of the Sun temple. You can also enjoy watersports at the beautiful Chandrabhaga Beach. Durga Puja, Kali Puja and Maha Sivrathri are some of the religious festivals of Odisha.



Orissa Temples Nature Tours

Haridwar

A Journey through the Holiest City of India

- N.S. Shetty

Haridwar, located in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, is a city that is known for its religious significance and natural beauty. It is one of the seven holiest places of Hinduism, and is situated on the banks of the river Ganges. The city attracts millions of pilgrims every year, who come to bathe in the holy waters of the river and offer prayers at the various temples and shrines in the city.



One of the most famous landmarks in Haridwar is the Har Ki Pauri, which is a ghat on the banks of the river Ganges. The ghat is also famous for the evening aarti (ritual), which is a mesmerizing sight to behold. Thousands of devotees gather at the ghat to witness the aarti and offer prayers to the river.

Another important attraction in Haridwar is the Mansa Devi Temple, which is dedicated to the goddess Mansa Devi. The temple is located on top of a hill, and offers breathtaking views of the city and the surrounding hills. The temple is believed to fulfill the wishes of those who visit it, and is a popular destination for devotees and tourists alike.



Haridwar is also known for its Kumbh Mela, which is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. The Kumbh Mela is held every twelve years in Haridwar, and attracts millions of pilgrims from all over India and the world. The festival is a celebration of faith and devotion, and is a unique cultural experience that should not be missed.

Apart from its religious significance, Haridwar is also known for its natural beauty. The city is located in the foothills of the Himalayas, and is surrounded by lush green forests and hills. The city is also home to several waterfalls and natural springs, which are a popular destination for tourists. The Rajaji National Park, which is located near Haridwar, is a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts, and is home to several rare species of animals and birds.



Whether you are a religious devotee, a nature lover, or a cultural enthusiast, Haridwar offers everyone a soulful experience.

Andhra Pradesh

- Mohamed RS Hameed

The state of Andhra Pradesh offers a beautiful blend of culture set against a vibrant natural landscape. There is an abundance of things to see and do, from beautiful temples and beaches to historic forts and stunning hills and caves.



Kurnool is one of the largest cities in the state. It once served as the state capital in the 1950s. Belum caves - the second largest natural caves on the Indian subcontinent, offer stunning landscapes lined with stalactite and stalagmite formations. Rollapadu wildlife sanctuary, Konda Reddy fort, Sri Yagantiswamy temple and Srisailem Mallikarjuna temple are important places in Kurnool.

Despite being an industrial port, natural beauty is abundant in Visakhapatnam or Vizag. Take your pick between the various beaches: Bheemili, Rama Krishna, Rishikonda, or Lawson's Bay, or take a dip under Katiki Falls. The lush green Kailash Hills and The Indra Gandhi Zoological Park



attract hundreds of visitors daily. The beauty of the Eastern Ghats can be witnessed in the Araku Valley. Andhra Pradesh tourism department is about to launch 'Night Vihar': a new travel package to experience the Araku forest during night.

Vijayawada offers historical marvels, such as the iconic Prakasam Bridge over River Krishna. Victoria Jubilee Museum, Kondapalli Fort, Undavalli caves, Mogalarajapuram caves, Gandhi Hill and Hazratbal Mosque showcase centuries of history. The agricultural centre of AP, Nellore is home to the 600 year old Sri Ranganathaswami temple. The towering Galigopuram, an astonishing 70 feet high structure, Mypadu Beach, Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary are merely short rides away.

Pilgrims flock to the famous Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati from all corners of the world. You can visit Talakona waterfalls, TTD Gardens, Deer Park or even Sri Vari museum. The area is also home to Sri Govindarajaswami, Srikalahasti and Kanipakam temples. Nestled amidst the Palkonda and Nallama hills, the district of Kadappa offers gorgeous views, along with the historic Gandikota and Sidhout



Forts, Bhagvan Mahavir Government Museum and Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary. Lepakshi is home to some ancient temples built during the Vijayanagara Empire. Horsley Hills and Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary are important places in Chittoor district. Dharmavaram region in Anantapur is famous worldwide for silk sarees. Anantapur city is also a major educational hub with many reputed academic institutions.

Karnataka

- Ayyob Kachery

Karnataka, the sixth largest state in India is famous for its wildlife, temples, monuments, beaches, adventure, food and much more. It is home to UNESCO World Heritage Sites like Hampi and Pattadakal and is ideal for heritage tours.



Bengaluru, the capital city, is famously called the 'City of Gardens' with the captivating Lalbagh Botanical Gardens. The city is the IT hub of India. The Vidhana Soudha, located in Bengaluru, is the largest legislative building in the country and was constructed using granite. Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technical Museum, Bannerghatta Zoo and ISKCON temple are places worth visiting.

Mysuru is a remarkable display of Indian royalty, with the historic Mysuru Palace and the alluring Brindavan Gardens.

Karnataka boasts of a 320 km natural coastline and has many captivating hill stations such as Coorg, Nandi Hills and Chikmagalur. It also has 21 wildlife sanctuaries and 5 national parks including the well-known Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks. Comprising 880 square kilometers, Bandipur is home to 100 species of mammals and 350 species of birds. Kudremukh and Madikeri have evolved as popular eco-tourism destinations. The Blue Lagoon and Ladies Beaches are perfect weekend getaways.



Lagoon and Ladies Beaches are perfect weekend getaways.

Coorg or Kodagu, also known as the 'Scotland of India', is a beloved hill station and a highly sought-after camping destination. It is a major producer of Coffee and Indian spices. The picturesque forests of Kabini are home to the Bengal tigers.



The ancient city of Hampi, famous for the 14th-century ruins, is an open-air museum of sacred complexes, shrines and royal structures. The two towns, Belur and Halebidu are renowned for their Hindu and Jain temples, built during the rule of the Hoysala dynasty. Islamic ruins of Bijapur along with Buddhist cave temples and Jain structures in Aihole are also worth visiting.

Located in the coastal Konkan region, Gokarna is blessed with a beautiful string of beaches. Badami, Mangalore, Jog Falls and Bidar are other major tourist spots. The state also offers go-karting in Bengaluru, skydiving in Mysuru, trekking and river rafting in Coorg for the thrill-seekers.

West Bengal

- A.K. Babu I. Razack

West Bengal, the state in eastern India offers a matchless geographical variety. The state offers an exciting combo of hill stations, religious centres, wild life sanctuaries and exotic beaches. It is home to many pilgrimage places and there are religious centres for all religious groups such as Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs.



Bishnupur has many Hindu temples that are renowned for their exclusive terracotta works. These temples are built mostly of brick, laterite, clay and sometimes wood and bamboo. To name a few... The Murali Mohana and the Madana Mohana Temples, Shyama Raya temple, The Kalighat temple and The Dakshineswar temple. Nakhoda Mosque in Kolkata has a very big structure and more than ten thousand men can perform the 'Namaaz' in the prayer hall. The St. Paul's cathedral is one of the most important Christian religious centres. The Shitalanatha is a Jain temple and the Gurudwara Bari Sangat attracts Sikh disciples from all over India. There are a large number of Buddhist monasteries as well in Kalimpong and Gangtok.



West Bengal is endowed with some wonderful hill stations like Darjeeling, Mirik and Sandakphu. Tourists come here to witness the breathtaking views of sun rise on Eastern Himalayas. The exuberant toy train ride and the miles of surging hillsides covered with emerald green tea bushes make Darjeeling the 'Queen of Hill Stations'. The beach towns of Digha, Tajpur, Mandarmani and Shankarpur are excellent holiday spots. The quiet and charming environment of Bakkhali beach is enjoyed by many.

The district of Murshidabad, with its legendary Hazarduari palace, Plassey and Coochbehar talk about our glorious past. The Firoze Minar of Malda is a small imitation of Delhi's Qutub Minar. The Royal Bengal Tigers and One-horned Indian Rhinos are treasures of the state, which can be spotted in Jaldapara National park. The Sunderbans are a part



of the world's largest delta formed by the rivers Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna. The Hooghly river cruise, the iconic Victoria Memorial of Kolkata, made with white marble and the four day holy festival of Durga Puja add more vibes to the state.

Chandigarh

The Charming city

- Swarna Ramya

The charismatic beauty of the Gulmohar trees that decorate the skyline... the cleanliness of the planned roads... the aroma of the 'sarson da saag' with the well-deserved combo of fluffy butter rotis, the immaculate fragrance of the fresh roses, the vibrant 'balle balle' music of the Bhangra... The city of Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana has its own dynamic charm. Situated at a distance of roughly 250 kms. from Delhi, Chandigarh is known to be the first planned city of modern India. It is the dream city of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and was planned by the famous French Architect Le Corbusier.



Even the stone hearted will fall in love with the romantic ambience of the Zakir Hussain Rose garden. This botanical garden is spread over 30 acres of land. It is the royal palace of 50,000 rose-bushes and 1600 different species of trees. The rose plants have been planted in carved-out lawns and flower beds. This garden also serves as the venue for hosting an annual Rose Festival, a major cultural event in Chandigarh during February or March. Make sure you keep your photographic devices fully charged, to load them with a bunch of rosy selfies.



The NekChand Saini's Rock Garden takes you to a mesmerizing world and is completely built from industrial and domestic waste. It consists of man-made waterfalls and more than 5000 sculptures made out of scrap like bottles, glasses, bangles, tiles, ceramics, electrical waste, broken pipes, etc. This garden insists on the present day thoughts of recycling.



Fateh Burj, standing tall at 328 ft. is the tallest minar in India. It is an architectural marvel built in 2011 to commemorate the victory of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur against Wazir Khan at the Battle of Chapar Chiri. The war memorial complex also has an amphitheatre and a children's park. The manmade picturesque Sukhna lake in the foothills of Shivalik range is an idyllic place for quiet communion with nature. Boating, rowing, sailing, kayaking, water skiing... you name it... and enjoy it here throughout the year. The city is also blessed with 22 heavenly gardens like The Japanese garden and the Garden of Silence.



Though it has been more than a decade since I visited this 'City Beautiful', my memories of Chandigarh are as exuberant as the city itself.

Coimbatore

- Dr. Mahendran Meyyappan

Coimbatore, also known as Kovai, is a bustling city in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. It is known for its industrial and commercial activities, but it also has much to offer in terms of tourism. From beautiful temples to scenic hills and waterfalls, Coimbatore has something for every type of traveller.



Temples

One of the most popular attractions in Coimbatore is the Marudamalai Temple, dedicated to Lord Murugan. The temple is located on a hilltop, offering stunning views of the surrounding hills and the city below. The temple's architecture is beautiful.



Another famous temple in Coimbatore is the Perur Pateeswarar Temple, which is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This temple was built by King Karikala Chola in the 2nd century AD. This 1,500-year-old temple is considered to be one of the oldest temples in the state. The temple has several gopurams and halls, among which is the famous 'Kanaka Sabha', that houses a golden statue of Nataraja. The temple's architecture is intricate, and it is a popular spot for devotees to offer their prayers. The temple is also known for its annual festival, which attracts tourists from all over the world.

Isha Yoga

The Isha Yoga Centre is a popular tourist destination located in Coimbatore. It is a spiritual retreat centre founded by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, a spiritual leader and yoga guru.



The centre is spread over 150 acres of lush greenery and offers a variety of activities for tourists including yoga and meditation programs, nature walks, and spiritual discourses. The centre is also known for its stunning architecture, featuring a large meditation hall called the Dhyanalinga and Adiyogi.



Recognized as the world's largest bust sculpture by the Guinness World Records, the face of Adiyogi is 112 feet high, representing the 112 ways he offered for

one to attain wellbeing and one's Ultimate nature. Installed near the Adiyogi is the Yogeshwar Linga, which was consecrated by Sadhguru, as manifestation of five of the major chakras in the human system. Adiyogi, with the presence of the Yogeshwar Linga, has become a living entity.

Hills

Coimbatore is also home to several scenic hills that are worth visiting. One of the most famous is the Velliangiri Hills, which is located about 40 km from the city. The hills are known for their natural beauty and are a popular spot for trekking and hiking.

Waterfalls

Coimbatore is also home to several beautiful waterfalls that are worth visiting. The Siruvani Waterfalls is one of the most famous and is located about 37 km from the city. The waterfalls is surrounded by lush green forests and is a popular spot for picnics and trekking.



Climate

Coimbatore has a tropical wet and dry climate with hot summers and moderate winters. The best time to visit the city is from October to March when the weather is pleasant.

Restaurants

Coimbatore is also known for its delicious food, with a variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options available. Some of the must-try dishes include biryani, kothu parotta, and dosa. Some of the popular restaurants in Coimbatore include Annapoorna, Sree Annapoorna, and Junior Kuppanna.



Overall, Coimbatore is a city that has something for everyone. Whether you are interested in temples, hills, or waterfalls, Coimbatore has it all. The city's pleasant climate and delicious food make it a perfect destination for a weekend getaway or a longer vacation. If you are planning a trip to Tamil Nadu, be sure to add Coimbatore to your itinerary.

Tour to the 'ELEPHANTA CAVES'

- Laila Panicker

We, as a family had the opportunity of visiting the Elephanta Caves, situated in Elephanta Island, about 7 km from Mumbai's mainland shore, near Gateway of India which is a prime landmark. Mumbai is one of the well-connected cities in Maharashtra, India. It is from this point that the ferries to Elephanta Island operates. From wherever you are in Mumbai, catch a local train / City Bus or taxi to Churchgate or Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) station. Once at Gateway of India, you are just a 60 minute away from Elephanta by the ferry.



Thought to have been built somewhere between the 5th and 8th century AD., Elephanta Island has two groups of rock-cut caves, carved in solid basalt rock. The larger group, consisting of five caves on the western hill of the island, is well known for its Hindu sculptures. The caves along with its sculptures have survived centuries of habitation and invasion.



The island received the name 'Elephanta' from the Portuguese soon after the discovery of a black stone sculpture shaped like that of an elephant on the island. The impressive Trimurthi sculpture, which features three faces of Lord Shiva, survived, and took its place as the highlight of the cave. Many aspects of the caves' internal design, including sculptures and wall carvings, bear resemblance to the Shiva temple at the Ellora caves.

The creators of the caves remain unknown due to a lack of historical records. Local legend credits various mythical and non-human figures with the creation of these temples. The earliest surviving record identifies Elephanta Island as Puri or Purika, capital of the Konkan Maurya kingdom during the 6th century AD. However, their role in building the caves remains debated amongst historians. The Great Cave is the most intact among what remains. It was an active place of worship for the island's Hindu residents until the 1500s, when the Portuguese took control of the island.



This Archaeological site is preserved by UNESCO and attracts thousands of tourists annually. We were really mesmerized by its beauty, and we would strongly recommend everyone to visit the 'Elephanta Caves' during your vacation to India.



INCREDIBLE INDIA

- N.R. Sampath

India is an incredible country that can be rightly called the 'tourists' paradise, with its innumerable tourist attractions – hill stations, wildlife national parks, snow-covered mountains, beaches, temples, churches, mosques, gurudwaras, colourful festivals and fairs, waterfalls, deserts, palaces, forts, lakes, museums, gardens, archeological sites, and many others. India occupies an important place in world tourism map, because of its rich cultural diversity, peaceful environment, friendly and hospitable people and good connectivity and infrastructure. India has imbibed a cultural tradition where 'Athithi Devo Bhava' (Guest is God).



Indian tourism industry has witnessed an impressive growth in the last few years and the number of domestic and international tourists has registered a remarkable increase. In this article, we will look into some of the important tourist attractions in India.

MADURAI (Tamil Nadu)

Situated at a distance of 460 kms from Chennai, Madurai is one of the most well-known tourist centres in India. Meenakshi Amman – Sundareswarar Temple, rebuilt by the Hindu Nayaka dynasty rulers in the 16th and 17th centuries, with more than 30,000 sculptures and a temple tank attracts visitors.



Gandhi Memorial Museum established in 1959, contains a 'Visual Biography of Bapuji' with photos, manuscripts, letters written by Mahatma Gandhi, sculptures, paintings etc. Part of the blood-stained garment worn by Gandhiji, when he was assassinated is also one of the exhibits.

Aayiram Kaal Mandapam, Alagar Koil Temple, Pazhamudhir Solai and Thirupparankundram (two of the six abodes of Lord Muruga) Vandiyur Mariamman, Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal, Vaigai Dam are some of the other important tourist attractions in and around Madurai.

COURTALLAM (Tamil Nadu)

Courtallam is located at 160 kms from Madurai / 625 kms from Chennai / 7 kms from Tenkasi. With an elevation of 160 metres, the waterfalls towers above its green surroundings and magnificent hills. Five falls, courtallam falls, main falls (Peraruvi), Old falls and Puli Aruvi are the falls thronged by tourists. There are also few small falls deep inside the mountains. Shenbagadevi Amman Temple near Shenbagadevi falls is also a tourist attraction. June to September is the best season to visit Courtallam.



KULLU-MANALI (Himachal Pradesh)

(554 kms from Delhi / 270 kms from Shimla / Manali – 40 kms from Kullu; 6730 ft above sea level.)

Kullu – Manali, with snow-clad mountains, valleys, cool climate, orchards rivers and eye-catching greenery, reminds tourists of Switzerland.

Some of the important places that attract tourists are Hadimba Devi Temple, Great Himalayan National Park (UNESCO World Heritage site), Manikiran gurudwara, with its famous hot springs, believed to contain medicinal properties, Kasol – a village rich in natural beauty, Rohtang Pass and Solang Valley. Skiing in the solang valley and trekking in the Parvati valley draw a large number of domestic and international tourists. Paragliding, rafting and mountaineering are also popular in Kullu – Manali.



HARIDWAR (Uttarkhand State)

Situated on the banks of the Ganges river, at the foothills of the Shivalik ranges, Haridwar is regarded as a holy place for Hindus. During Kumbh Mela, celebrated once in 12 years in Haridwar, millions of pilgrims, devotees and tourists congregate to perform ritualistic bathing in Ganges.



The evening prayer (Aarti) performed at Har Ki Pauri (steps of Lord Shiva) is an enchanting, experience, a spectacle of sound and colour that attracts huge crowds of pilgrims who float Diyas (floral floats with lamps) on the river, commemorating their deceased ancestors.

Chandi Devi Temple, Mansa Devi Temple, Maya Devi Temple, Bharat Mata Temple and many other temples and ashrams are popular tourist attractions.

Rishikesh, at a distance of 20 kms from Haridwar is known as the 'Yoga Capital of the World', with many yoga institutes and meditation centres. Ram Jhula – suspension bridge in Rishikesh offers a thrilling experience of walking from one end to the other, with the placid waters of Ganges flowing on either side.

JAISALMER (Rajasthan)

Lies in the heart of the Thar Desert. 575 kms from Jaipur. Jaisalmer Fort, world heritage site, contains a royal palace and several ornate Jain temples. Built in 1156, the Fort has been the scene of many battles. Government War Museum has 7th and 9th Century AD jewellery and crockery on display here. Camel ride in the desert is an exciting experience. Jaisalmer is famous for folk music and dance and local artists perform for the tourists daily in the desert in the evening and at local venues.



Gadisar Lake, Bada Bagh (Big Garden), Desert National Park, Battle of Longewala Point are the other important places visited by tourists.

UDAIPUR (Rajasthan)

397 kms, from Jaipur, called the 'Venice of the East', founded in 1553 by Maharana Udai Singh, the city is set around a series of artificial lakes and known for its lavish royal residences. City palace, overlooking Lake Pichola, is a monumental complex of 11 palaces, courtyards and gardens. Lake Pichola, Wax Museum, Bada Bazar, Jain Temples, Patwon Ki Haveli, Gadisar Lake, Taj Lake Palace, Nathamal Ki Haveli, Solar observatory, Nehru Lake Garden, Jag Mandir, Marvel Water Park, Ahar Museum, Fatch Sagar Lake and Gulab Bagh Zoo are the famous tourist attractions in Udaipur.



NAINITAL (Uttarkhand)

Nainital is a hill station, at an altitude of 6358 feet, on the Kumaon foothills, and is called the 'Jewel of Kumaon'. 315 kms from New Delhi, it was founded in 1841.

Naini Lake offers a myriad of activities such as yachting, kayaking, boating and paddling. This eye-shaped lake is the most popular attraction in Nainital.



Zoo, Naini Devi Temple, Raj Bhavan, Bhimtal Lake City, Sariyatal Lake, Khurpatal Lake, Naukuchiya Tal, Sattal and Kamal Tal are the other tourist attractions in Nainital.

LONAVALA (Maharashtra)

Hill Station, surrounded by Green Valleys, 96 kms from Mumbai, with stunning waterfalls, panoramic view of mountains and caves, offers a variety of attractions for tourists.

Della Adventure Park: More than 70 activities and rides, Thrilling experience, Excellent Food Court.

KARLA CAVES: A complex of ancient Buddhist – Indian rock cut caves, 11 kms from Lonavala. Bhaja Caves, Patan Buddhist Cave, Nasik Caves and Bedse caves of 1st century BCE are nearby and offer an interesting study of Buddhism.



Bhushi Dam and dukes nose are some of the popular tourist spot that offers a panoramic view of the mountain.

Tikona Fort, Pawna Lake, Lohagad Fort, Ryewood Park, Valvan Dam, Rajmachi Fort, Canyon Valley, Visapur Fort Imagica Adlabs (Theme Park), Amby Valley, Lonavala Lake, Bhairavnath Temple, Narayani Dham Temple, Reverse waterfall (water flows upwards), Kune Falls, Sunils Celebrity Wax Museum and Shirota Lake are some of the other tourists attractions of Lonavala.

PUNE (Maharashtra)

The second big city of Maharashtra, after Mumbai, at an elevation of 560 meters. Many tourist attractions and good weather attract a large number of tourists to this city.

Aga Khan Palace built in 1892, is now a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, whose ashes are preserved in the garden. Dagadusheth Halwai Ganapathi Temple founded in 1893, is the most prominent one and visited by hundreds of devotees every day.

DARSHAN MUSEUM: Tells the story of a saint of modern India, Sadhu T.L.Vaswani, who was a visionary, an educationist, a poet and a spiritual leader.

ISKCON TEMPLE: Dedicated to Lord Krishna, this temple is a beautiful spiritual place with incredible marble idols of Lord Krishna.

SINHAGAD FORT: Historical and amazing fort, with scenic Sahayadri Ranges. An important part of Maratha history.

Other Attractions: Sri Balaji Mandir, Laxmi Road (Shoppers Paradise), National Defence Academy, Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Rajgad Fort, Shaniwar Wada, Shivaneri Fort, National War Museum, Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Mulshi Dam, Devkund waterfalls, Khadakwasla Dam, Visapur Fort, Torna Fort and many Hindu and Jain Temples.

MAHABALESHWAR (Maharashtra)

Most popular hill station with an height elevation of 1439 metre. It features many elevated viewing points, such as Arthur's seat. Very famous for strawberries – 80% of India's strawberries are grown here.

Arthur's Seat – one of the most popular view points, offers the most mesmerizing and fascinating view of the dense valleys of Brahma Arayana and Savitri river.

Verna Lake – Scenic manmade lake offers row boats and paddle boats. Panchgani - popular hill station, famous for its sunrise/sunset points and scenic valley view.

MAHABALESHWAR TEMPLE

Citadel rises to an elevation of 3500 feet from the ground. Built in 1656 by Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj. 23 kms from Mahabaleshwar.

Other Tourist Attractions of Mahabaleshwar: Wilson point sunset point, Elephantstone Point, Lingmala Waterfalls, Mapra Garden, Rajouri Caves, Laxmi Strawberry farm, Krishnabai Temple, Connaught Peak, Wax Museum, Holy Cross Church, On Wheels (amusement park), Atibaleshwar Temple, Pratapsingh Park, Babbington Point, Dhobi Waterfall and Marjorie Point.



Khajuraho

- P. Senthil Kumar M.S. Tiruchirappalli

I visited Khajuraho somewhere in 1989, when I was in Guna for an ONGC's LPG Plant commissioning on behalf of SPIC. I still remember vaguely going in a car for an overnight journey to reach the cottage and refresh quickly to get ready to visit the temples there. It's the memory back from 34 years now!!!



The Khajuraho Group of Monuments are a group of Hindu and Jain temples in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, India. They are about 175 kilometers southeast of Jhansi and 49 km from district headquarter Chhatarpur. They are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temples are famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and erotic sculptures. The town's name, anciently "Kharjuravahaka", is derived from the Sanskrit word kharjur meaning "date palm".

The temples at Khajuraho were built during the Chandella dynasty, which reached its apogee between 950 and 1050. Only about 20 temples remain; they fall into three distinct groups and belong to two different religions – Hinduism and Jainism. They strike a perfect balance between architecture and sculpture. The Temple of Kandariya is decorated with a profusion of sculptures that are among the greatest masterpieces of Indian art.



Distributed over an area of 6 square km in a picturesque landscape, the 23 temples (including one partly excavated structure) that form the western, eastern, and southern clusters of the Khajuraho Group of Monuments are rare surviving examples that display the originality and high quality of Nagara-style temple architecture.

The Khajuraho Group of Monuments demonstrates in layout and physical form, the pinnacle of temple architectural development in northern India. Built in sandstone, each temple is elevated from its environs by a highly ornate terraced platform, or jagati, on which stands the body, or jangha, whose sanctum is topped by a tower, or shikhara, of a type unique to Nagara, where the verticality of the principal spire atop the sanctum is accentuated by a series of miniature spires flanking it, each symbolizing Mount Kailasa, the abode of the Gods.



All surfaces are profusely carved with anthropomorphic and non-anthropomorphic motifs depicting sacred and secular themes. Sculptures depicting acts of worship, clan and minor deities, and couples in union, all reflect the sacred belief system. Other

themes mirror social life through depictions of domestic scenes, teachers and disciples, dancers and musicians, and amorous couples.

Khajuraho Group of Monuments includes all the elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value, including 23 temples that together demonstrate the originality and high quality attained in northern Indian Nagara-style temple architecture..

To safeguard the temples within their landscape setting, the western, eastern, and southern clusters are each fenced, thus delineating the protected limits. This curbs the spill-over of settlements that once comprised a part of the Chandella Empire.

Of the area's 85 original temples, 22 are still reasonably well preserved. With a few exceptions they are constructed of hard river sandstone. The temples are divided into three complexes, of which the western is the largest and best known, containing the magnificent Shaivite temple Kandariya Mahadeva, a 102-foot high agglomeration of porches and turrets culminating in a spire.

Erotic art is a broad field of the visual arts that includes any artistic work intended to evoke erotic arousal. It usually depicts human nudity or sexual activity, and has included works in various visual mediums, including drawings, engravings, films, paintings, photographs, and sculptures. Some of the earliest known works of art include erotic themes, which have recurred with varying prominence in different societies throughout history. However, it has also been widely considered taboo.

Sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property over time will require continuing to protect and control the area immediately surrounding the property and monitoring the situation at the nearby airport to identify and eliminate any negative impacts on the value, integrity or authenticity of the property.



Tour of Meghalaya

An awesome experience & ever lasting memories!!!

- N Lakshminarayanan

Indian sightseeing trips always provide extra spice edible, by colour & an impressive experience. Unlike in other countries these locations at our mother land vary by language, climate & people, as Indians it is amalgamation of our conscious and diversity of our human race.



Having explored places in South, North, West we as a family for the first time wished to experience knowledge, life style and the atmosphere of the North East. Thanks to our daughter architect Suvetta bringing to our table the subject 'living root bridges'. Yes the guess is correct the only place in the world where roots of the tree have been used by early human, 100 years ago to create bridges across river and canals at the hills of Khasi the beautiful state of Meghalaya.

To have an understanding of the place before the visit, we as usual went to Google and we landed up with Cherrapunjee holiday resort, surprisingly we came to understand that Mr. Dennis P Rayan a Tamilian settled in Cherrapunjee was behind the Root bridges. To promote tourism, he decided to exhibit the concept to the world few decades ago. His Khasi tribe wife and his family supported him.



We discussed with him from Kuwait and charted a detailed itinerary & credit to the success of the trip should be given to the highly friendly attitude of Mr. Rayan!!!!!!

Meghalaya is a small state adjoining Assam and also sharing a border with Bangladesh. It has 3 different tribes and friendly set of people with tourism high on their agenda. Guwahati to the cherrapunjee resort was a 5 hours drive through the ghat sessions of the hilly ranges and it offered breathtaking views in all 360 degrees.



Living Root bridge: This by itself is a phenomena that none could believe or envisage. Roots of the trees are entwined to form a cross way over the streams of the river. These trees are very special Indian rubber trees which even have secondary roots coming off its branches. The Northeastern understood its beauty, and have wonderfully used their skills to build upon them, it required several decades of workmanship, to pave easy paths over the gushing waters.

The Double Decker Root Bridge in Nongriat is one of its kind with two levels of bridge,

one stacked over the other. To visit these living roots bridges which are deep in the forestry environment we may need to cross dangling wire rope bridge upon deep gorges and couple of similar very exciting terrain gives one a rush of fresh adrenaline that remains in memory for too long.



When you do the trek to the Double Decker Root Bridge, you can see five Living Root Bridges including the Double Decker Root Bridge. Another very beautiful trip is the visit to the Living Root Bridge Umunoi and Umkar, and also the visit to the viewpoints in Cherrapunjee. A visit to these places truly opens our eyes, heart and mind to the vision of our tribal ancestors. Their consciousness to preserve the ecology is mind-blowing. They have engineered a 100 feet bridge mechanism, that has enabled us to cross the river.

Dawki river about 20 km from the border entry point to Bangladesh was one other outstanding adventure as the 20+ feet depth of the clean river is so beautifully visible to our naked eyes as we sit on the small boats that canoe down the water way. I doubt if we can ever see such a scene in any other part of the earth.

Shillong where we visited Don Bosco Museum gives a very vivid expression of the various Tribes of the North East and it is both educative and kindles the aptitude to read further about the beauties of NE India. Ladies will love shopping both handcrafted items and fabrics.



December is an ideal time for outdoor activities and thus good for trekking. December is a dry month and normally there is no rainfall in December. So you can see the location without an umbrella or a rain coat.

Returning via Guwahati we did not want to miss the sight of the Brahmaputra and the Kamakhya temple in the hilly slopes of Nilachal. River side boating was great view of the huge river and the differently shaped dolphin occasional jump over the water was an awesome scene.

In short we could understand that Meghalaya state was much cleaner and the people's awareness to live with nature was outstanding!!! Vegetarianism seems to be high on the agenda and friendly nature of the public seems to be a spectacle to watch...

Tourism industry of India is wide open and the government's schemes to improve the growth of it every year is a splendid step in the right direction.

Jaipur

The Pink Paris of India

- Swarna Ramya

As a school kid when I visited Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, I wondered why many of the buildings wore a romantic pink hue. In 1876, Maharaja Ram Singh had most of the buildings painted pink, the colour of hospitality, to welcome Britain's Queen Victoria and Prince of Wales. As many tourists visit the monuments and pay tribute to the historical traditions of the city, it is also called the 'Paris of India'.



The heart of Old Jaipur is crowned with The City Palace. This amalgamation of Rajput and Mughal architecture was built by Maharaja Jai Singh II. This lavish palace houses Diwan-e-Am, Diwan-e-Khas, Mubarak Mahal and Maharani's palace. Mubarak Mahal houses Maharaja Sawai Mansingh II museum. It displays the royal family's belongings like exquisitely embroidered garments. The Maharani's Palace showcases one of the largest weapon collections in the country and many rare artworks.



Hawa Mahal, the palace of wind, gives a royal outlook to the bustling Johari bazaar. The five-storeyed monument is a fine honeycomb of latticed windows. Built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, it was a summer resort for the royal family. It has a Rajasthani miniature art museum inside. The entrance is a commercial hub of handmade jewellery, leather crafted home decors and Jaipur silver jewellery.



The Ranthambore National Park is located 155 km from Jaipur. Its topographical mix of hills, meadows and lakes offers finest sighting of the Asian tigers in the wild. The Ranthambore fort elevates the magnificence of the landscape. Built in the 10th century, it served as protective armour for the Rajput kings against foreign invaders.

Sambhar saltwater lake with its stunning white landscape is a birdwatcher's paradise. This lake is a Ramsar site (wetland of global importance) and is home to flamingoes and pelicans. The architectural marvel at the centre of Mansagar lake



– Jalmahal, Asia's largest circular park – Jawahar circle, Jaipur wax museum and Sisodiarani gardens are other places worth visiting in Jaipur.

Kashi

Soul of India

- Purvi Gajjar

Nature is the ideal getaway from the dull grey monotony of city life, a life filled with noise, pollution, uninspired cement structures and heaps of metal dressed as cars. The call of the jungle, the sight of the mountains and the calm of the sea are all gateways to a realm of rejuvenation for the soul, mind and body, yet every time my being aches for peace, it doesn't call for any of these places, yet it calls for a city. A noisy, crowded, dirty, congested and chaotic city that is like no other place on the planet. A city where voices from eons past cascade through the alleys, wisdom, knowledge from ages gone walk down steps and culture as old as civilization permeates in every corner, nook and cranny. A city called Kashi.



Its history goes back to when Maa Parvati and Lord Shiva descended there from the peaks of the Himalayas to settle down from the heavens, and thus began the tale of Kashi. The holy mother itself flows through the heart of Kashi, where the city is located on the northern bank. Through the passage of time, it has gone from being Kashi, to Banaras, to Varanasi, yet across all these years it has remained as a pilgrimage site for Hindus across the globe, yet it is so much more than that. It is the place where mankind and mindfulness can trace back its roots. To me, Kashi is a beacon of spirit, spark and strength and a place where I wish to go and never return from.



Kashi is not just a place but an epicentre of Hinduism from where spirituality, culture, traditions and value of life have evolved. It is a rare place which doesn't just follow Hindu philosophy, but rather embraces and embodies it. A place where life and death aren't reflections of good and bad, but a place where life and death alike are a celebration of our connection to divinity.



The city pours its heart and soul into anything and everything it does, which enhances and enriches everything that it touches; giving it meaning beyond just what it is, rather it all comes back to its very creation at the hands of the destroyer himself. Kashi isn't a place whose story can be told in half a page. It tells its own story, a story of roots, heritage, culture, growth, beauty and so much more. The story of Kashi requires you to emerge yourself in its heart and soul so that you can really experience what Kashi represents; what it truly means.



Kashmir

A Paradise on Earth

- Abhijay Ramadoss

I am Abhijay, a student studying in the Indian Community School, Senior-Kuwait and this is a small overview on one of the most beautiful places that I visited recently in India, Kashmir.



We first landed in Srinagar which was our 1st destination to visit. The place is known as Heaven on Earth and this you get to witness right from the plane window itself as you approach Srinagar airport and you see the mesmerizing views of the beautiful snow-capped mountains.

The Zabarwan Range borders the central part of the Kashmir Valley in the east that specifically overlooks the Dal Lake which is the gem of the city. You can go on the Shikara boat rides in the Dal Lake and it is one of the most incredible and relaxing times that you can spend in this scenic spot.



Next comes the Shankaracharya Temple which is a Shiva temple situated on top of the Shankaracharya Hill on the Zabarwan Range.

The recently built Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in the lap of the Zabarwans is considered the largest tulip garden of Asia spread over 12 hectares of land and has over 1.5million tulip bulbs.



Next, we travelled to Gulmarg. This area is the heartland of winter sports in India. Gulmarg means a 'meadow of flowers'. Asia's largest and highest and world's second largest and second highest cable car project, Gulmarg Gondola is the top attraction in Gulmarg which goes up the Apharwat peak.

The cable car ride takes place in two levels/stages.

- Phase I: from the Gulmarg resort to Kongdori Station (2600 m) in the bowl-shaped Kongdori Valley which takes 9 minutes to reach.
- Phase II: from Kongdori Station to Kongdori Mountain (3747 m), the shoulder of Apharwat Peak which takes 12 minutes.

There are a lot of attractions in Phase-1 ranging from skiing to Mountain biking and sledging in the snow. It was a lot of fun to learn to ski from scratch and ride the bikes viewing the beautiful snow-capped mountains.



To conclude, Kashmir was very magnificent and one of the most beautiful places I have visited in India. Make sure you add a visit to Kashmir to your bucket list!

Mamallapuram /Mahabalipuram

The Land of Seven Pagodas

- Ramajayam.P

Rock carving was one of the main art forms in ancient India, as you will find this done on almost every ancient temple. Mahabalipuram, also known as Mamallapuram, is a wonderful tourist spot in India that is popular for its rock carved monuments and sculptured temples.



The eternally wonderful monolithic architectures housed in Chennai's popular tourist destination, Mahabalipuram, portrays the engineering excellence of the artisans in the ancient times. It has been an awesome experience, when I visited Mahabalipuram.

Mahabalipuram town is located at a distance of 58 Km from Chennai - Tamil Nadu, it is best known for the UNESCO World Heritage Site of 7th century Hindu Group of Monuments. The ancient name of the place is Thirukadalmalai.

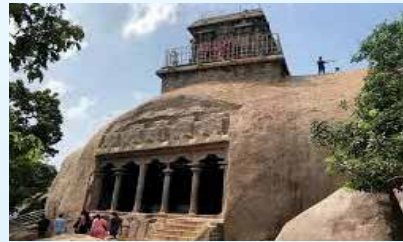
Mamallapuram was one of two major port cities in the Pallava kingdom. The town was named after Pallava king Narasimhavarman I, who was also known as Mamalla. Along with economic prosperity, it became the site of a group of royal monuments, many carved out of the living rock; rathas (temples in the form of chariots), mandapas (cave sanctuaries), the giant open-air rock relief the Descent of the Ganges, and the Shore Temple dedicated to Shiva. The contemporary town plan was established by the British Raj in 1827.



There is another curious structure known as Sri Krishna's Butter Ball that fascinates everyone in Mahabalipuram. It is not a sculpted piece but more of a handiwork of nature. Today, Mahabalipuram is trying to re-create its image as the country's premier beach resort. Every year, it hosts classical dance and drama festivals to preserve and promote the heritage of a very ancient culture. Granite sculptures, bronze statues and ruins of what seem to be manmade structures came to the fore. Mahabalipuram is an ongoing process that promises to reveal many more of the city's grand edifices and solve some of the long-standing questions about its past.



Nearest places to Visit: Shore temple, Beach, water sporting activities in Mahabalipuram beach, the Descent of Ganges, Arjuna's penance, Pancha Ratha Temple and lot more.



Rishikesh

- Kamal Jain

Rishikesh, synonymous with serenity, is at the foothills of the grand Himalayas. It is the spiritual capital of the world which beholds the Ganga and Yoga.

Wanting to receive a first-hand experience and soak in the energy that Rishikesh exudes, I enrolled myself into a meditation course led by the Art of Living foundation in November 2022.

This place echoed with chants, hymns, rhythmic peaceful sounds of the Ganga, and bells ringing from the temples. What a heavenly feel!

Stretched across the mighty and holy river of Ganga are the spectacular bridges of Lakshman Jhoola, Ram Jhoola & Janki Setu. These bridges give the image of a garland embracing the city. It also provides ease and comfort to the people in terms of access, enabling them to cross over from one end to the other.



The Triveni Ghat, most popular for being a confluence of rivers - the Ganga, the Yamuna & the Saraswati, is a serene place, famous for the Ganga aarti. It truly is a sight to behold as the water gleams with the tiny flickering lamps floating over it.

As the night ends and dawn breaks, the sneak peak of sun and moon behind the Himalayas makes one feel that an eye opening experience is just about to begin.

Along with the peaceful serenity of the city, it is also home to plenty of thrill that can get your heart pumping and your adrenaline rushing, with a vast array of adventure sports. From hiking and trekking to river rafting, you have the choices.

Rishikesh promises to give you a wholesome experience and somewhere between the thrill from the adventures and calmness from the supernatural elements, you may discover the food for your soul.



The sheer bliss and tranquillity that I experienced cannot be penned down in words, and one must only get to visit this place to truly imbibe what it holds. I would only say, come to Rishikesh, dip in the Ganga and feel that energy shift for yourself. It is ethereal.

Sri Sharadamba Temple – Sringeri

- Dr. Manohar

Sringeri, also called Shringeri, is a hill town and Taluk headquarters located in Chikkamagaluru district in Karnataka. It is the site of the first matha (Dakshinamnaya Sringeri Sharada Peetham) established by Adi Shankara. It is located on the banks of the river Tungabathra, the town draws a large number of pilgrims to its temples of Sri Sharadamba, Sri Vidyashankara, Sri Malahanikareshvara and other deities.



According to legend, Sri Adi Shankara is said to have selected the site as the place to stay and teach his disciples, because when he was walking by the Tunga river, he saw a cobra with a raised hood, providing shelter from the hot sun, to a frog undergoing labour. Astonished by the place where natural enemies had gone beyond their instincts, he stayed here for twelve years.

Sringeri is home to a number of historic temples. Of these, Sri Sharadamba temple, Sri Vidyashankara temple and Sri Malahanikareshwara temple are the most prominent.

Sri Sharadamba temple: The ancient temple of Sri Sharada, the presiding deity of Sringeri has a glorious history that begins with the setting up of the Dakshinamnaya Peetham by Sri Adi Shankara. Originally it was an unpretentious shrine with the idol of Sharada made of sandalwood, installed over the Sri Chakra that Sri Adi Shankara carved on a rock. Subsequently, Sri Bharati Krishna Tirtha and Sri Vidyaranya had a temple built in the Kerala style, with timber and tiled roof, and substituted the sandalwood idol with the present golden idol.



Sri Sacchidananda Shivabhinava Nrisimha Bharati raised the present structure in granite around the sanctum and Sri Chandrasekhara Bharati consecrated the new temple in May 1916. Sri Abhinava Vidyatirtha made several improvements in the temple. The mahamandapam has large stone pillars exquisitely carved with deities like Durga, Raja Rajeshwari, dwarapalakas and devis.



In addition to Sri Sharadamba temple, the following temples and shrines are within the temple complex:

- Sri Thorana Ganapathy, Sri Adi Shankaracharya, Sri Shakthi Ganapathy, Sri Kodandaramaswamy, Sri Malayala Brahma, Sri Sureshwaracharya, Sri Vageeswari Vidyaranya, Sri Janardhanaswamy, Sri Anjaneya, Sri Garuda, Sri Balasubrahmanyaswamy.

Sri Vidyashankara temple: The Vidyashankara temple was built in the year 1338 A.D., in commemoration of the pontiff Sri Vidyashankara, by Sri Vidyanaraya, patron-saint of Harihara and Bukka, the brothers who founded the Vijayanagara Empire. It is built entirely of stone and stands on a high plinth, more or less a rectangle with apsidal east-west ends. On the western side is the garbhagriha, with Vidya Ganapati on one side and Durga on the other side.



On the other three sides of the garbhagriha are shrines to Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara with their consorts.

In the eastern half of the structure is a mantapa with twelve pillars (popularly known as rashi stambhas), marked by the twelve signs of the zodiac. The rays of the sun fall on each of them in the order of the twelve solar months. On the floor is a large circle, marked with converging lines to indicate the direction of the shadows. The central ceiling is an exquisite piece of workmanship with lotus and pecking parrots. The vimana over the garbhagriha rises with shikhara, mahapadma and stupa. The rest of the roof is made up of sloping channeled slab. The basement is elaborately sculpted with animals, puranic stories, Shiva, Vishnu, Dashavatara, Kali, Shanmukha and so on. Other intricate features include chains of stone rings and growling lions with stone balls inside the faces, which can be rotated.



The pilgrims can go to the Tunga River and feed the big fishes with Puffed Rice, fruits and small sweets which help to remove our previous karma.



Vidyatirtha Rathotsava is celebrated on a grand scale during kartika shukla paksha. The festival spans for seven days from tritiya to navami. On the saptami day, Jagadguru Bharathi Teertha Mahaswamiji performs special puja. The aradhana of Sri Vidya Shankara is performed on shasti, saptami and ashtami.

Pragadeeswarar Temple

Big temple - Thanjavur

- K.Nirmaladevi Tamilarasan

Thanjavur is my hometown. I feel proud that our temple has so many historical values. Yes, our 'Periyakovil' is one of the best tourist spots. Since my childhood, I visited the temple so many times. Every time I feel its amazing beauty. So many foreigners visited the temple. They were astonished by the Chola architectural style. It is located on the south bank of the Cauvery River in Thanjavur. It was built by the Chola emperor Rajaraja1 between 1003 and 1010 CE. The temple is a part of the UNESCO world heritage site known as the Great Living Chola Temples.



It is a Hindu Sivan temple. The gopura, the main temple, its massive tower, inscriptions, frescoes, and sculptures are predominantly related to Shaivism. Built using granite, the vimana tier above the shrine is one of the tallest in South India. The temple has a massive colonnaded prakara and one of the largest Shiva linga in India. The Nandi Hall is in front of the temple. The Chola era architects and artisans innovated the expertise to scale up and build, particularly with a heavy stone, and to accomplish



the 63.4 meters high towering vimana.

Each time when I visit, I feel the historical story of ponniiyan selvan. It's a great feeling. I used to see the guide explaining its values to foreigners. Even though so many technological and architectural improvements occur, no one can achieve to build a temple like this. Apart from religion, everyone can visit and see the architecture of this temple.



Around and near Thanjavur, we can visit Navagraha temples and can visit Kumbakonam to see temples. Everyone must visit and see the historical value of this temple.



The City of Ahmedabad, Khushbu Gujarat Ki

- Chhaya Thakkar

Ahmedabad, the first UNESCO heritage city of India, earlier known as Karnavati is a hospitable land of tradition, situated on the banks of the Sabarmati River in the state of Gujarat. As a proud resident of Ahmedabad, I feel privileged to share my insights about this culturally rich city that holds a special place in my heart.



Gujarat, the sixth largest state in India, is a treasure trove of historical sites, natural wonders, temples, mosques, towns, wildlife, resorts, handicrafts, and festivals, earning it the nickname “Khushbu Gujarat Ki” (fragrance of Gujarat). The state boasts of a rich cultural heritage and is home to iconic figures such as Mahatma Gandhi.

Located on the banks of the Sabarmati River, Ahmedabad is known for its warm hospitality, delicious cuisine, traditional clothing, and entertainment options. The city has a rich history, and many freedom movements took place here during India’s struggle for independence. Two ashrams founded by Mahatma Gandhi, the Kocharab Ashram and Satyagraha Ashram, are located in Ahmedabad. The Sabarmati Riverfront, a beautifully constructed promenade on the banks of the Sabarmati River, is a popular tourist destination.



The city’s history is showcased in landmarks such as the Jhulta Minara, Dada Hari Ni Wav, Bhadra Fort, Jama Masjid, and Sidi Syed Ni Jali. Ahmedabad is also known as the ‘Manchester of India’ due to its thriving dairy and textile industries. The city is a commercial hub and has been included in the smart city project by the government. Shopping is a delight in Ahmedabad, with Ratanpol being the go-to destination for clothing suitable for all ages and occasions. During the festive season of Navratri, the city comes alive with Garba Dandiya, a traditional dance form.



For those seeking entertainment, Ahmedabad has plenty of options such as the Indroda Nature Park and Museum, the Gujarat Science City, and the Vintage Car Museum. Kakaria Lake and Zoo are my favourite places. Kakaria Lake is a man-made lake. A carnival is held there at the end of December. The zoo is also rated as the best zoo in Asia.

High-quality education is provided in this Ahmedabad city from well-known educational institutes like IIM, and MICA. Also, there are many libraries, gardens, and museums. If you go to Ahmedabad, then do not forget to taste the pearls of various dishes. So, this is my Ahmedabad from Gujarat.



Deoria Tal

- Dr. Devipriya

Uttarakhand is home to some of the most beautiful and enchanting natural lakes in India that attracts a large number of tourists.

Deoria Tal also spelled as 'Devaria' or 'Deoriya' is a pristine lake located about 3 km atop a hill from the quaint village of Sari on the Ukhimath–Chopta road in Uttarakhand.



The trek upto the lake is easy level and is great for beginners and sort of a warm-up for seasoned trekkers aiming to conquer Chopta and Tungnath. Cafe Buransh in Sari village is a perfect homestay to start the trek upto Deoria Tal.

Hindu faith states that the Devas bathed in this lake, hence the name. The lake is also believed to be the "Indra Sarovar" referred to in the Puranas by wandering Hindu mendicants, Sadhus. It is also believed that it was the place from where the mighty Pandavas were asked queries by Yaksha.

The Deoria Tal in itself is a very small lake. It is more of a pond. But the spacious lawns surrounded by dense vegetation around it make it an excellent spot for camping, sighting distant mountains and star gazing. Deoria Tal is surrounded by verdant forests and offers refreshing views of snow-clad peaks at the backdrop. One can see the reflection of the majestic Chaukhamba on the crystal clear waters of the lake which is an awe-inspiring sight indeed.



The 'Golden' India

- Afsal Khan

India is a treasure trove, rich in its history, culture, diversity and arts. It is a repository of the glittering metal which is a boon to humans from Mother Earth – The Gold. The origins of the use of gold in India go as far back as the Indus Valley civilisation.



Historically, India has been the largest ever consumer of gold, only to be overtaken by China. Apart from using the sparkling beauty to adorn one's lockers with gorgeous arts of jewellery, it has also been used for coins, to back paper currencies and as a reserve asset.

Despite the societal status, Gold has been an integral and emotional part of literally every Indian household. Be it to propose your beloved, or cherish your wedding, or celebrate the arrival of your little one, you flaunt the moment with gifts of gold.



Even few customs allow the grave of the demised to be filled with their possessions of gold. Even though the various Indian castes differ in their culture, they share the tradition of passing gold from one generation to another.



This also helps people to save money on gold, as the prices of the metal are always rising. Talking about gold, one cannot resist talking about the lavish Indian weddings. Be it any style of Indian wedding, golden moments are exchanged between the bride and the groom families. It is also considered auspicious to make the holy mangalsutra or thaali itself in gold.



Indian jewellery industry is popular globally for its finest creations and uncompromising quality. The fashion has revolutionised since ancient dynasties.

The Rajput rulers' love for gemstones

makes Jaipur to be called as the 'City of Gems.' The rich legacy of 2500 years old Kundan jewellery began in the royal courts of Gujarat and Rajasthan. The pure white pearls of Hyderabad and Meenakari jewellery of the western states are popular.



Originating around the 9th century in the Chola empire, arguably the golden age of ancient India, Temple jewellery adds pride to the state of Tamilnadu. As the name suggests, it is used in temples to decorate the deities. Kolkata has been renowned for handcrafted gold jewellery market.

Gold business in Thrissur, Kerala is a major revenue earner. The bondage between gold and the Indian soil is deep-rooted and everlasting.

‘Stay Bold with Indian Gold.’



Trip to Gujarat

- Swarna Priya Tanguturu

Have lately heard many say Gujarat has developed a lot. I thought that was an exaggeration. But when I visited the state I could see it with my own eyes. I would like to share things that fascinated me in Gujarat



- Be it, a city or a small village, food won't be available post 10 AM, 3PM and 10 PM. Whenever we order food, they freshly prepare and serve it steaming hot. So, it takes time and the taste is yum.
- Roads were wide in most of the places and maintained neatly. Many of the places were designed in an environmentally friendly way.
- Even small villages were neat and beautiful to see. Most importantly, they had very neat and hygienic toilets, with special facilities for the physically challenged and for baby diaper change.
- Many of the tourist places also had ramps for the physically challenged to enjoy as well.
- We were able to see a lot of CNG vehicles. Even villages had facilities for CNG refill and charge points for EVs, including highways.
- Gujarati people were very kind and friendly. There was no rash driving.



Now, I would like to move on to the places we visited on our 10 days trip. Kindly note that the entry fees were very less. So it's a great option for a low budget holiday.

Rann of Kutch: It was a spectacular visit to the White desert. Two eyes weren't enough to enjoy its beauty. We also enjoyed camel rides, horse rides, hot air balloon rides, paragliding, rock concerts, light shows and many other entertainments available there. The best thing about this place is the possibility of staying in tents inside the desert.

Jamnagar: The best place that we visited here was the Lakhota lake and palace. This palace is beautifully and gigantically constructed in the middle of the lake. We also got a chance to visit a magnificent temple named Shriman Narayana temple. It was glowing beautifully like a gem.

Porbander: It is not necessary to explain the importance of this place as it is the birthplace of the world famous leader Mahatma Gandhi. It was a goosebumps moment for all of us to see the exact birth room of Gandhiji and the place where he grew up.



Dwaraka: One of the ancient cities located along the Arabian sea shore. It is believed that Lord Krishna ruled that place. Beth Dwaraka is a small island which is where Krishna lived when he ruled Dwaraka. The journey to the island was really mesmerizing especially during sunset times

Somnath: Located on the sea shore, this temple stands majestically with intricate works. Lord shiva will make a huge impact as this place gives a huge vibration to our mind and body. I still can't get over the sight of the Gopurams standing gigantically with waves roaring in the background. One of the must visit temples.

Gir forest: Of course, this place was full of dense trees and the climate was very pleasant. It was a no plastic zone with many more restrictions. We need to get permission to visit this forest, at least two months in advance. Morning safari, night safari, jeep safari etc are available. Facilities to stay inside the forest are also available but have to be pre booked.



Statue of Unity: Along the river banks of Narmada, in a beautiful city named Kevadia stands the World's tallest statue. The statue of Unity. The height of Sardar Vallabhai Patel statue is 182 meters. Tourism has been developed around the statue for a few kms. Private vehicles aren't allowed inside Kevadia unless you stay inside the town. For tourists who visit the statue, the transportation available are pink autos and free shuttle buses from the Kevadia entry parking lot. Pink autos are run only by women.

Tilt your head to 90 degrees to see the statue that huge. We can reach the feet of the statue only after climbing five floors. It was a wonderful sight to see the statue amidst delightful Narmada river, dam, valley of mountains and colorful flora. We can also have a view from inside the statue. Facts about Vallabhai Patel, story about him, story behind the statue construction etc have been displayed in a very interactive and classy way. I felt that we were not in India as it was all arranged in world class. It was even better than the Liberty statue museum.



It's not just about the statue, there are also several other sightseeing places and activities to do like river rafting, light show, butterfly park, flower garden, zoo, dam and much more. All have been maintained world class. It is worth to stay for a day and enjoy all of them.

Ahmedabad: Sabarmati river, Atal bridge, Science city, Modi stadium are few of the best attractions in this big city. There were different segments like Robotics, Marine life, Planet earth, Nature park etc. all displaying science concepts for children in the most interactive way possible. There were many simulation rides, VR and 4D rides as well. We could witness robot dancing, wrestling, climbing and flying. This is a must visit place



To be honest, ten days are not enough to cover this huge state. In fact, we could not visit many places. I guess we can plan another trip to cover the rest of the places. For me, it was a wow trip overall!

Vagamon

Switzerland of Kerala

- Swarna Ramya

An enchanting little hill station in the Idukki district of Kerala, Vagamon is a popular holiday destination, for those who are looking to indulge in adventure sports and escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. From forests and lakes to waterfalls, Vagamon has it all. It is a perfect location for adrenaline junkies and offers world-class activities including trekking, paragliding, mountaineering and rock climbing. It is almost 1100 metres above sea level. It is called the Switzerland of Kerala because of its misty and cold weather.



People can also travel across a chain of three famous hills of Vagamon - Thangal, Muruganmala and Kurisumala. A sumptuous treat for one's eyes are the Vagamon Pine forests. When yellow sunshine finds its way into the forest through the trees, the environment becomes even more magical. This is also one of the favourite picks for film shooting.

Plummeting from a height of 200 feet, the Maramala waterfalls, cascades down to Teekoy River and is located in the Teekoy Rubber Estate, 20 km from Vagamon.

Offering breath taking moments amidst the timber mountains, this location is known as the 'enchantress of the jungle.' The Vagamon Lake is a picturesque place amidst three green hills and lush green tea estates. The flourishing green Vagamon meadows, Barren hills and Ulipooni wildlife sanctuary are other important places. You can't ask for a better summer vacation spot than Vagamon!



Vishakhapatnam

Jewel of the East Coast

- Jyostna Kishore.B.M.

My favourite port city commonly known as Vizag, is one of the ancient port cities and industrial hub in the country. It is situated in the heart of Andhra Pradesh state, between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal. It is nicknamed as the 'Jewel of the East Coast' and the 'City of Destiny'. Being the only natural harbour on the east coast, Vizag is known for its picturesque and clean beaches with a long shoreline, adorned with majestic hills on three sides. Vizag is famous for its sumptuous seafood and authentic Andhra cuisine. The city is also known for its vibrant and cosmopolitan culture.



It is also a popular educational hub with reputed institutions like IIM, Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy, National Institute of Oceanography, etc.



It is the headquarters for Eastern Naval Command. This is the only place in the country where one can see a museum inside a submarine. The city also celebrates 'Navy Day' every year with great splendour. It is a display show of the Navy's weaponry, and its fighting prowess. The oldest shipyard of India known as 'Hindustan Shipyard' is another gem in the crown of Vizag.



Araku Valley is one of the prime attractions of Vizag. The valley is mainly inhabited by tribals, who have strongly held on to their vibrant traditions and culture. It is blessed with enchanting streams, lush green forests, gushing waterfalls, coffee plantations and adventurous trekking trails. The colourful tribal dance known as Dhimsa is a must see for visitors.



Borra Caves are one among the biggest caves of India. Made of natural karstic limestone, the caves are kaleidoscopic in nature. The light falling on the rocks coupled with the waterfalls creates an extremely colourful effect, lending an aura of magic to the ambience. Simhachalam Temple of Lord Narasimha, Kailasagiri and Kambalakonda wildlife sanctuary are other important places.

Vizag promises to give you a wholesome experience, especially during the months of October to March. It always astonishes me with evergreen memories.

Why I Love Yercadu - in Tamilnadu

- Lena Tamilvanan

How many of us aware that, there are 15 recognized hill stations situated in Tamilnadu? How many local people and our fellow countrymen have visited all these hill stations? Hardly yes.



Of all these hill stations of Tamilnadu, I prefer Yercadu as the best, and bought a place and I used to visit every month end.

This has become my life time habit. I am practicing this from 1996, that is for the past 27 years and I hardly missed it.

I love most and suggest Yercadu hills for 3 valuable reasons, first having affordable prices, reachable distance and lovable climate.

Yercadu is situated at 334 Km from Chennai and 45-minute uphill drive from Salem. It is situated in servarayan range of hills and about 4969 feet from sea level.

Yercadu is known as poor man's Ooty. This is nothing but endorsing the first statement of mine. True. Buying land, house or any property like coffee estate are feasible, as prices are very reasonable compared to other hill stations. Hotel room charges and service apartments are also fair in my opinion. Food prices also decently pinch your purse.

Climate varies from 16 degree celsius to 25 degree celsius. It is like nature's air condition. You never feel very chill and never sweat even in hot summer here.

My property is in Vellakkadai northeast of Yercadu lake and 12 kms away from it. I live between a chill and stream. Birds are singing for me.

There are more than twelve interesting places to visit and about 12 top sites in Yercadu.

Killiyur Falls, Nallur Falls, Ladies seat, Gents seat, pagoda point, Bear's cave, Anna park, silk farm, rose garden, kottachedu teak forest and many camping spots and of course Shervaroy plains.

If you are spiritual, you can visit Shervaroy temples, Murugan temple, Raja Rajeswari temple and don't miss Maha meru.

It seems Americans tour their country at least twice in their life time.

Do we travel at least once? Let us start thinking in these lines from now on.



GOA

Discovering the Land of Sun, Sea, and Sand

- Abeenash

After hearing the name 'GOA' everyone will think of excitement and a cool place to enjoy. We too started our journey with that enthusiasm from Trichy to Goa by Train. It's good fortune for those who love to travel by train and it's a 24-hour journey.



Goa has a laid-back and relaxed lifestyle that attracts people from all over the world. The state's sunny weather, beautiful beaches, and tropical climate create an ideal environment for those seeking a slower pace of life. There's no shortage of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, from surfing to hiking to simply lounging on the beach.

Goa has a vibrant and diverse community that welcomes newcomers with open arms. Whether you're a solo traveler or with your family, you'll find a warm and friendly atmosphere in Goa. The state's blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures creates a unique identity that celebrates diversity and inclusivity.



Calangute Beach is one of the busiest places and has easy access to many tourist spots in Goa. We took the longest beach walk and the beautiful sunset in the evening was memorable during our journey.

Third day morning we visited the Aguada Fort which is situated south of Calangute and it's a 20 minutes journey. We took a bike to reach the place. The fort was neat and clean. The view spot of the sea from the fort was excellent. We stayed there for only a few hours since the Sun started to rise. While returning from the Fort, we took a ride to Dolphin View. The boat travel was for more than an hour, and the boat was circling to catch a glimpse of the dolphins. Unfortunately, the Dolphin was not visible during that time but the boat ride made us happy.

On the fourth day, we visited the Shri Devaki Krishna Temple. During the travel, we had a wonderful ride over the bridge and took a ferry with the bike. It's my first experience with the bike in the boat. On the same day, evening visited BAGA Beach which completed our journey.

On the final day, we started our journey back home. During our travel by taxi, the Mandovi Bridge with its morning sunrise, fog, and amazing bridge view completed our journey with fulfillment. Somehow we missed the view of Dudsagar Falls by train but got a nice view of a mountain with the Green Valley.



Kolkata Chronicles

Exploring the Cultural Capital of India

- Nasrin Ejner

Kolkata, also known as Calcutta, is an incredible city located in the eastern part of India. It is the capital of the state of West Bengal and is one of India's largest and most important cities. Some of the things that make Kolkata an incredible city are its food, people and its rich cultural heritage.



Rich Cultural Heritage: Kolkata has a rich cultural heritage that is reflected in its art, literature, music, and cuisine. The city has been a centre of intellectual and artistic activity since the 19th century and has produced some of India's most famous writers, poets, and artists.

Visiting Historical Landmarks in Kolkata is a must as it is home to several historical landmarks that are a testament to their rich history. These include the Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Indian Museum, and the Howrah Bridge. These landmarks are not only significant for their historical value, but they are also architectural marvels that are worth visiting. They are featured in many Bollywood Movies also.



Food in Kolkata is known for its unique cuisine, which is a blend of Indian and European flavors. Some of the most popular dishes in Kolkata include fish curry, chicken chaap, and roshogolla, a popular dessert made from cheese balls soaked in syrup. Street food is cheap and delicious. Park Street has some of the finest places to eat and it's a must see place during Christmas time.

Festivals are celebrated in Kolkata with all its glory and rituals. The city comes alive during Durga Puja, which is the biggest festival in Kolkata. During this time, the city is decorated with lights and colourful pandals, and people from all over the city come out to celebrate.



People are known for their warm and welcoming nature, who are always ready to help visitors. The city has a unique charm that comes from its people, who are proud of their city and its rich cultural heritage.

Kolkata is an incredible city that is rich in history, culture, and cuisine. It is a must-visit destination for anyone traveling to India, and its people, landmarks, festivals, and food make it an unforgettable experience.

Ratnagiri

Land of the alphonso mangoes and so much more!

- Nita Bhatkar Chogle

When asked where I am from in India, the easiest answer is Maharashtra or Mumbai but I always make it a point to say Ratnagiri. You know the famous Alphonso mangoes? I am from there – sweet mangoes and sweet people come from Ratnagiri!



Alphonso (hapus) mangoes are famous around the world. However, their origin - the beautiful port city of Ratnagiri, part of Kokan division of a district by the same name in Maharashtra, is lesser known. A city plush with beaches, mountains, plateaus and forests. Located along the coast of the Arabian Sea, Ratnagiri is the birthplace of the famous Indian activist Lokmanya Tilak. His ancestral house a great example of Kokani architecture, is now converted into a museum with a wide collection of photos and memorabilia.

A lot of interesting forts can be found in and around Ratnagiri namely Bhagvati Fort, Ratnadurg Fort, making it a great place for the explorer in you. To view one of the best sunrises and sunsets, it is highly recommended that you visit Thebaw Point located near the Thebaw Palace. The palace is named after Thebaw, the last king of Burma who was exiled in this two storey mansion with his two infant daughters. I spent many fun evenings here enjoying chaats (savory treats) and chats with friends.



The 'Gateway of Ratnagiri' located on Mandvi beach (a short walk away from my ancestral home) has a vast expanse of dark sand giving it the name of 'kala samudra' or black sea. There is also a 'pandhra samudra' or white sea that offers scenic views from the mountain top. Among some of the most interesting tourist places in Ratnagiri, Marine Aquarium and Museum that is home to some of the rarest aquatic creatures, definitely tops the list.

The city is located very close to Mumbai-Goa National Highway and the cheapest route to visit Ratnagiri is from Mumbai by train which takes around 4 hours 55 mins. I lived in Ratnagiri, where we have our ancestral home for around two years when I was a teenager. I last visited my father's birth town in 2008 and it has definitely developed by light years since then. Despite that, the memories of the rustic life there especially the sweet smelling earth in the monsoon season are still fresh in my memory till date.



Tourism Education in India

India and Educational tourism

- Padmavathy Senthil Kumar B.E. Canada

India is one of the world's largest democracies and is globally acclaimed for its cultural richness. It is home to Top-Ranked Institutions, including central, deemed, state, and private universities that offer world-class education in various subjects. There is also plenty of scope for pursuing higher studies and research programmes. Around 3.33 lakh foreign students arrived in India from over 160 countries around the world in the last five years. Let us dive deep into the ocean of some reputed Indian institutions.



The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)

IIMs are central government-owned-public business schools for management offering various programmes in the field of business administration. It's well established legacy extends across 20 locations in India, with top ones being IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bengaluru, IIM Kolkata, IIM Lucknow and IIM Indore.

IIM - Ahmedabad has bagged the first position in 'Career progress rank' and it has one of the most beautiful campuses. The Sabarmati River runs through its center. On its western bank is the Gandhi Ashram, which displays the 'Father of the Nation's' living quarters and artifacts.

The Indian School of Business (ISB)

The Indian School of Business (ISB) was started in 1996 by a group of businessmen and academicians. It has state-of-the-art campuses in Hyderabad and Mohali.



The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)

IITs are prestigious central government owned public technical institutes located across India. Known for their excellence in education, they are under the ownership of the Ministry of Education. There are 23 IITs in India which are declared as important institutes of the nation by the Indian parliament.



Other Reputed Indian Institutes

The National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli, situated in the heart of Tamil Nadu on the banks of the river Cauvery. NIT located in Silchar is also well known for its educational standards. Silchar is a city in Assam and is the second largest city of the North Eastern regions after Guwahati.

Pilani is a small city located near the city of Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan. The place became popular



after the establishment of Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS). It was established in 1964 with Dr. G. D. Birla as the Founder Chairman. It works with and provides consultancy to the Government as well as the industries through its many R & D centers.



NLSIU was the first National Law University established in India in 1986. Popularly called as the Harvard of the east, its sprawling 23-acre campus in Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru, is home to a vibrant student community. Nagarabhavi is located between Mysore Road and Magadi road.

According to a report on internationalization of higher education in India, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) has one of the highest numbers of foreign students in India. It is a private deemed university located in Manipal, India. It also has campuses in Mangalore, Bangalore and Jamshedpur. Manipal is a suburb within Udipi, in coastal Karnataka. It is one of the cleanest towns in India.



Further, many private universities have started the trend of foreign internships or international tours for a period of 2 to 3 months, which is creating a lot of traction among millennials.

As a result, they are willing to pay high prices for the courses in order to visit abroad. In addition, governments around the world, particularly those in developing countries, face significant educational challenges. As a result, students are more attracted towards private universities and colleges for further studies.



India occupies a significant position in the global education sector. One of the world's largest networks of institutions of higher learning is found in India. The number of colleges in India stood at 42,343 in FY20. As of November 25, 2022, the number of universities in India stood at 1,072. India had 38.5 million students enrolled in higher education in 2019-20.



The education sector in India was estimated to be worth US\$ 117 billion in FY20 and is expected to reach US\$ 225 billion by FY25. The Indian edtech market size is expected to reach US\$ 30 billion by 2031, from US\$ 700-800 million in 2021.

Sikkim

- Syed Anwar

From mighty Himalayan ranges and dazzling waterfalls to green forests and grand Buddhist monasteries, Sikkim, a north-eastern state, is a treasure trove of nature. It is recognized for having the least population in India. It's also regarded as being the best place to meditate. It aims to become completely eco-friendly, with plastic bags being strictly banned. Kanchenjunga (8586m above sea level), the third highest peak in the world, is in Sikkim, a reason enough to visit this gorgeous state.



People who enjoy adrenaline rush, will have a blast in Sikkim, with activities ranging from trekking and mountain biking to mountaineering and vehicle safaris. Teesta River is the best pick for river rafting. Yak riding in Changu River, along with a tasty accompaniment of Churpi, a dessert made from Yak's milk, gives a delightful experience.

The Chungthang, Lachen, Yumthang, Yumesamdong and Chopta Valleys are certainly a slice of heaven on earth. The Goechala mountain pass, Sikkim zoo, Enchey Monastery, Ganesh Tok, Do Drul Chorten Monastery and White Hall, where the state's flowers, Sikkim Orchids are displayed are must visit spots in Sikkim. The Nathu-La Pass has an amalgamation of Indian and Tibetan cultures, as it is the crossroad where Tibet, China, and India meet.



Tsuglakhang Monastery or Palace Monastery is a Buddhist monastery located in Gangtok, the capital. This monastery was probably built in the year 1898 AD during the reign of 9th King Thutob Namgyal. Tsomgo Lake is located around 40 km away from the main city of Gangtok. Gurudongmar Lake, with an elevation of 5,425 m, is one of the world's and Asia's largest lakes. It is sacred to Buddhists, Sikhs and Hindus.

Many individuals are aware of the fact that Sikkim has Mayfair Resorts with casinos and that it is among three other states in the country where gambling is legal. The Mahjong Casino is often known as India's Las Vegas. Sikkim was the first Indian state to legalise gambling to boost tourism.



Overall, Sikkim is nature's gift where you can definitely plan a trip with your loved ones.

Important Waterfalls in India

- S. Ramadoss

A waterfall is an astonishing sight to behold and is definitely one of the wonders of nature. In Hindustan, the places of natural beauty are associated with the divine and are regarded as places of pilgrimage. India is blessed with a diverse climate and most of the parts of the country receive good rainfall throughout the year. Beauty of place translates itself to the Indian consciousness as God's blessings to the souls.



In India, thus, there are thousands of waterfalls that are not only spectacular but also are among the tallest waterfalls in the world. In fact, each state of the country has a small or big waterfall.

Kunchikal Falls in Shimoga District Karnataka is the highest waterfall in India with a height of 1493 feet. It is formed by the Varahi River.

Nohkalikai Falls located near Cherrapunji is the tallest plunge waterfall in India. Its height is 1115 feet (340 metres) and is one of the wettest places on Earth. Dudhsagar falls is known as the 'Sea of milk', it is formed from the Mandovi River.

Nohsngithiang Falls (also known as the Seven Sisters Waterfalls or Mawsmai Falls) is a seven-segmented waterfall located 1 kilometre south of Mawsmai village in East Khasi Hills district in the Indian state of Meghalaya.

Athirappally Waterfalls; The famous Athirappally Waterfalls is located on the Chalakudy River in Thrissur district of Kerala. It originates from the upper reaches of the Western Ghats at the entrance to the Sholayar ranges.

Jog Falls; The highest untiered (Single Plunge) falls (253m) of India, located on the Sharavati River in the Shimoga District of Karnataka. Also called as Gersoppa or Jogda Guindi. Famous tourist attraction.

Dhuandhar; Located on the Narmada River at Bheraghat town , just 20 km away from Jabalpur

Rajrappa; Located in the Hazaribagh District where Bhairve (Bhera) joins the river Damodar, falling from a height of 30 ft. In the vicinity lies a famous temple called Chinnamasta Temple.



Hundroo; Located in the Ranchi district, Panoramic view of it is enchanting and attracts many tourists. 320 feet falls on the Subarnarekha highest waterfalls of Jharkhand. 45 km from the city of Ranchi.

Hogenkkal; Located on the Cauvery in the Dharampuri District of Tamil Nadu.. The most beautiful fall in southern India. Downstream of it we have the Stanley Reservoir and the Mettur Dam.

Kamtee; Located in the Mussoorie Valley just 15 kms. from the Mussoorie city.

Chitrakoot; Located near Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh on the Indravati River, 29m high, Called as 'Niagara of India', Falls for the full stretch of the river, Look majestic in the monsoon season,

Teerathgarh; A waterfall at Kanger Ghati on the Kanger River, just 35 km south-west of Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh., Plunge for 91m in a single drop, Highest waterfalls of Chhattisgarh

Rakim Kund; Located on the Gayghat River, a tributary of the Ausane River, At the edge of the Rohtas Plateau where a series of waterfalls is formed, Located in Bihar

Shivasamudram (Cauvery falls); Second biggest waterfalls of India, Located in the Mandya District of Karnataka, Gardens and parks developed in it add to its beauty. The falls are surrounded by the Kaveri Wildlife Sanctuary

Kapildhara; Waterfalls located on the Narmada River, in Madhya Pradesh , where it descends from the Amarkantak Hill. A distance of 8 kms from the origin of river Narmada, the river falls from a height of 100 feet creating a fall.

Gokak; Waterfalls located on the Ghatprabha River in Belgaum district of Karnataka, 52m high, resembles the Niagara Falls on a smaller scale, Horse-shoe shaped at the crest, Power generation is being done nearby it.

Kutralam; Located on the Western Ghats at an elevation of about 167m in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, It has nine falls, Nicknamed as 'the Spa of the South India', its water is believed to have medicinal properties.

Keoti; Located on the Mahana River, a tributary of the Tons, in the Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, It's a knick point fall at the edge of the Rewa Plateau, 98m high.



Johna / Gautamdihara; Situated at the edge of the Ranchi Plateau, it is a hanging valley fall, The Gunga River hangs over its master stream, Raru River, and forms the falls, Drops from a height of 43 meters, An example of a nick point falls caused by rejuvenation.

Chachai; Located in the Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh on the Bihad River, a tributary of the Tons, Comes down from the Rewa Plateau for 130m. It is an example of a nick point falls caused by rejuvenation.

Dudma; 157 m high waterfalls on the Machhkund River in Odisha, Supports a large hydro electric project, An important place of pilgrimage, It is called Matsya Tirth.



Dudhsagar; A tired waterfall on the Mandovi River, located in Goa near the border with Karnataka, 60 km from Panaji, 310m high – four tiered.

Vajrai Waterfalls; These are located just 27km away from Satara in Maharashtra, over Sahyadris. The height of this waterfall is 1840 ft and it falls from a straight cliff having three steps. The water for waterfall comes from the river Urmodi.

Kunohikal; These are located in the Shimoga district in Karnataka. These are the second highest waterfalls in India.



Man Banjara, an eternal Odyssey !

- Deepa Swaminathan

Man Banjara is an attempt to weave together experiences from different dimensions of Art while traveling. One of a kind literary travel ensemble to broaden the vistas of an inquisitive creative mind, Man Banjara is the brain child of three Hindi writers namely Sneha Dev from Dubai, Deepa Swaminathan and Medha Jha from Bengaluru, India.



The objective is to explore and deepen perspectives through the creative lens while blending into a group of like-minded travellers to visit places of historic and cultural significance in India. Embarking on its maiden trip, an enthusiastic group comprising of active Writers, Poets, Artists, Music lovers and story tellers travelled to Varanasi in March 2023.

Varanasi, Kashi, Banaras... known as the spiritual and cultural heartbeat of India, is one of the oldest living cities in the world.

Among the 12 participants on this trip were Dr. Vimla Vyas from Prayag Raj, Mr. K.P Saxena and Dr. Mahendra Thakur and Dr. Meenakshi Bajpayi from Raipur, Mrs.



Shakuntala Tiwari from Chattisgarh, Mrs. Shyama Bharadwaj and Mrs. Poonam Grover from New Delhi, Mr. Bhanwar Lal Jat from Nagaur, Rajasthan and Mrs. Indu Singhal from Hrishikesh. Immersed in the spiritual and cultural experiences of Kashi the participants were absorbed in various facets of Art, Literature and Music individually and socially as well.

On 13th March, team Man Banjara was felicitated by the esteemed members of Bauddhayan Society during the Poetry and literary meet held at the Nagari Pracharini Sabha, Kashi which is the oldest institution in India promoting Devanagari. Several distinguished senior writers and poets from Kashi shared their views on challenges concerning Hindi creative writing in the present scenario. As a token of appreciation, mementos and certificates were presented to all participants of Man Banjara team.



While every sight at Varanasi reveals an untold story, the participants also visited

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS



M.A. Asad Khan



Askok Kalra



K.S. Lamba



Sulaiman



Dhiraj Oberai



S.K. Wadhawan



Shiv Bhasin



Ravi Varrier



N.S. Shetye



M. Mullick



N.R. Sampath



Mukesh Kumar



Jitendra Suri



Aziz F.



Suryakanth



Sathyamurthy



P.V. Sunil Menon



Har Charan Singh



Vijay Devraj



Nitin Singhvi



Rama Chandran



Stanley



Andrews



Srinivasan



K.G. Abraham



Dr. Narendar Dhir



Abraham David

Sarnath where Gautam Buddha taught his first sermon after attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya. Another highlight of this trip was the visit to the memorial of Munshi Premchand at Lamhi which is also his birthplace. His unparalleled literary works are an inspiration for many even today. He was one of the first Hindi and Urdu authors from India to write about caste hierarchies, plights of women and labourers prevalent in the pre independence era.



A dip in the Ganges, mesmerizing sights of sunrise, live painting, the divine evening and morning Ganga Arti at the ghats, boat rides on the Ganges river, popularly known as Nauka Vihar, singing, chatting up over lip smacking chaats & mouth-watering desserts and so much more made this trip an unforgettable experience for all.

Man Banjara endeavours to create more opportunities for unique experiences in the months to come.

Meridian Hospital – Chennai

– A Multi Specialty Hospital – Your Family Hospital

- Dr. Pooja Varshini Raja M.B.B.S

An example of the passion to serve the community through untiring efforts to reach excellence in technology and infrastructure for an ideal multispecialty tertiary care center in the city of Chennai is the Meridian group of hospitals.



We are exploring the aspects of their rapid development in this medical touristic section of the journal. Meridian hospital is set to be the future proof plan and an approach to an ideal health care delivery model amidst the society with its growing lifestyles diseases and pandemics challenging the fundamentals of healthy living, all in affordable and accessible ways to the public.

On visiting the location one can conclude it as the best corporate hospital with global standards with state of art architecture, cutting edge technology, and best trained and dedicated doctors and staff. It's a multi super specialty hospital holding up to 300 modern bed facilities, 65 advanced ICU, 10 modular OT with latest technologies including for advanced minimal invasive surgeries and laparoscopies. A wide



variety of super specialties and specialties being covered by highly qualified doctors, it offers a compassionate health care to the sick and needy.

A few from the huge list of milestones of the establishment is the air ambulance ready green certified (LEED certified) which makes it one of a kind amongst the city hospitals. While maintaining their own full pledged oxygen generation plant and a Green building, they abide to all the standard treatment protocols and all quality standards compliant to NABH, JCI, and LEED etc which has been taken with utmost sincerity by the founders.



While walking through their technological infrastructure you can find certain unique standouts including 128 slice CT, 4D ultrasound, MRI along with cardiac imaging facilities, state of art CATH lab for various procedures, and so much more to that list. These facilities boost the operation of the wide range of super specialties departments in the hospital including medical and surgical oncology, interventional radiology and

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS



R. Seetharaman



Lawrence D'souza



S.M. HyderAli



Sirish



Ananthi Natarajan



B. Valavan



A. Stephen



P. Senthil Kumar



S.C. Jolly



Carmo Santos



Shahinsha



Deepak Jolly



G.Ramaraj



Syed Anwar



Vijay



Dr. Binumon



PG. Varghese



Ibrahim Kutty



Jacob Thomas



Agnello Fernandes



Mohamed Merchant



Devesh Kumar



K. Jeya Kumar



Afsar Ali



Sreejith Kuniyil



Arif Kazi



Jyothi



Kumar

neurology, endocrinology, rheumatology etc. Soon, with implementing the plans of bringing in radiation oncology services, the facility is looking for a better recognition among the people of the city. On focusing the wholistic health care, they have been successful to have reached out for 25+ establishments and companies around the city for their health insurances and other benefits with more ideas all together waiting to be executed.



A gigantic establishment located in the 200 ring feet road in Kolathur with accessible 24 hour emergency services, Meridian hospital is the most promising health service provider in and around the city of Chennai at realistic expenses.

Even though so much has been spoken about the establishment, it is recommended that the readers visit the facility in person, and explore their wide range of amenities. They are sure to agree upon the fact that it's one of a kind healthcare provider in the city for now and the near future.

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS



SaleahAl Moosa



Ajai Goel



Ravi Kohli



Krishnakumar



Sanjeev Suri



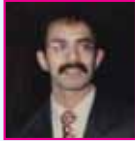
C. Sabu



Shantha Maria James



J P Bansal



Reavan



Yoga



Mohammed Khan



K.V. Bhandary



Arumugam



Alkesh Takker



Sardar Janki



Ashok Kamptan



Ali Khan



Nurullah



Mohamed Hilal



K.N. Subramanian



Vijay



Ka.Mo.Sundaram



S.S.Poongathir



R. Ramesh



Sasikumar



Babu Razack



Santhosh



R. Suman



Su. Thirunavukkarasar M.P.
Former Central Minister



Priyadarshini
Supreme Court Lawyer



IFL 25th YEAR GRAND FUNCTION

Part 23 Book Release on India Tourism



Dr Fouzia Khan M.P.
Ex. Minister of Maharashtra

National Integration Cultural Show

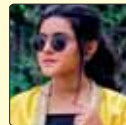
26-05-2023, Friday 6 PM at INNOVO International School, Kuwait



Mufeeda



Vikram Sai Prasad



V.J. Kalyani



Prasanna



Mounika

McLeodganj

A Tranquil Haven in the Heart of the Himalayas

Nestled in the lap of the magnificent Himalayas, McLeodganj is a small hill station located in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh, India. Known as the 'Little Lhasa' owing to its large population of Tibetan refugees, McLeodganj is a serene getaway amidst nature's bounty that has something to offer to everyone.

The former summer capital of British India, McLeodganj, is a gateway to various trekking trails in the Dhauladhar ranges and a pilgrimage destination for the followers of Tibetan Buddhism. The town is bustling with monasteries, temples, stupas, and nunneries that add to its charm and tranquility.

The most prominent attraction in McLeodganj is the residence of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. It is also the headquarters of the Tibetan government-in-exile and the Tibetan community in India. The Dalai Lama Temple Complex is a must-visit for its serene ambience, stunning architecture, and the opportunity to attend a teaching or prayer session by the Dalai Lama himself.



For nature enthusiasts, McLeodganj offers numerous trekking trails, including the popular Triund trek, which takes you through picturesque landscapes of lush green forests, cascading waterfalls, and snow-capped peaks. The trek is moderate and can be completed in a day, making it ideal for beginners.

Another popular trek is the Indrahar Pass Trek, which is a more strenuous and challenging trek. The trek is a 3-4 day affair, and the views from the top are simply breathtaking.



SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS



T.A. Ramesh



Satish Sharma



R.C. Suresh



Delhi Batcha



Prabhu



Raja Ganapathy



Riyas



Rajan Peter



Mohamed Arif



Alexander



Fairoz Miller



Gasper



Selvaraj



Deivasigamani



Udhayam Balan



S.K.S



Siva



Tyagi



Gowrishankar



Labba S.A



Ramesh



RaviTamilvannan



M.K. Samy



Muthu Chidambaram

Rani Ki Vav

Rani Ki Vav' is a stepwell situated in the town of Patan in Gujarat, located on the banks of the Saraswati River. The stepwell was built in 1063 by Rani Udayamati of the Chaulukya Dynasty to commemorate her husband, Bhimdev I.

Steps lead down through multiple levels with lines of carved pillars and more than 800 sculptures. It showcases superior craftsmanship of the era, and the unique Maru-Gurjara architectural style and houses sculptures. It has been listed as one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India since 2014.



Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Tropical Paradise of India

- Shiv Bhasin

Andaman and Nicobar Islands featuring palm-fringed beaches with spotless stretches of white sands, an uninterrupted presence of peace, and crystal clear turquoise waters all around - Andaman is a true example of what you call 'Tropical Paradise'.



Andaman and Nicobar is an Indian archipelago located in the Bay of Bengal, claiming a large group of nearly 300+ islands. Andaman and Nicobar Islands is one of the most popular destinations in India for an exotic vacation.

The centre point of tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands revolves around its beaches, which include famous sites like Radhanagar Beach, Kala Pathar Beach, and Elephant Beach. Attractions like Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Cellular Jail, Viper Island, Chatham Saw Mill, etc., make up the other popular tourist places in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Apart from enjoying the breath-taking scenic views, individuals can also learn a lot about the unique culture and traditions of the region during their visit.

Port Blair, located on the south Andaman Island, like a gleaming pearl in the sand, is the capital city. Infused with historical properties and heritage notes, Port Blair offers its visitors much more than postcard-perfect beaches. Cellular Jail speaks of a complicated history - a colonial prison for political prisoners.



Renowned for its buttery waterfalls, mangrove forest trails, and maple glazed beaches, Little Andaman is a traveller's aspiration. Plump with culture, it has been a tribal reserve since 1957.

Havelock Island, perhaps one of the most enticing crowd pullers, is nurtured with eco-tourism and glistening water sports. To relish an ivory-sapphire world, head to Radhanagar Beach - a page right out of a luxury travel magazine. Its sugar-white sand and blueberry waters exude a beauty so compelling; it seems unreal. Elephant beach, with its magical underwater flora and fauna will spellbound you.



The gorgeous waters surrounding Barren Island are recognised as one of the leading scuba diving destinations in the world. Here, you can observe the fascinating Manta Ray and view intricate basalt rock formations.

Even though tourists are only allowed at a few islands, it still offers a remarkable range of popular attractions. Andaman and Nicobar Islands cover everything one hopes for in a perfect holiday destination, from natural landmarks and historical sites to delectable food and thrilling adventures.

SOME OF OUR WELL WISHERS



Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan



Ayoob Kachery



Peeyush Jain



S. Ramadoss



Renjith



Mathew Varughese



Ramdas Nair



Ashish Jain



Mohamed Ghouse



Sherif



Ajee Varghese



Zubriya Hyder



Satish Sharma



Neelraj



Rashidkhan



Hameed Rafeek



Radhakrishnan



Supin James



Dot Samy



K.P. Suresh



S. Saguber Ali



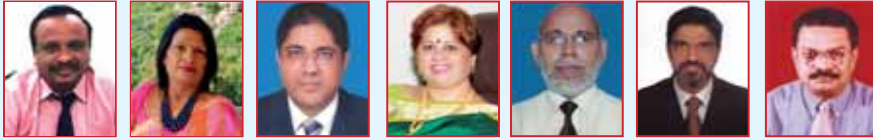
Abdul Kareem

Ellora Caves:

Ellora Caves are a rock-cut Hindu, Buddhist and Jain cave complex, with artwork dating from the period 600–1000 CE, located in the Sambhaji nagar District of Maharashtra, India. These 34 monasteries and temples, extending over more than 2 km, were dug side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff. Ellora is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



IFL - Association Team



S. Ramadoss Ananthi Natarajan M.A. Asad Khan Shantha Maria James Anis Ahmad Rumane A.N. Natarajan



P. Senthil Kumar Lakshmi Narayanan Joseph Panicker K. Mathi Durairaj Shibu Subbu



C. Lakshmanan Ramajeyam D. Prabakar M. Naga Srinivasan Murugan G.N.S. Manian Muthu Chidambaram

IFL - Organising Team



B. Rajalakshmi Sunitha Suresh Anitha Padma Nagu Nasrin Ejner Samshul Huda Nirmala Tamilarasan



Dr. Mahendhran A. Mariappan Hari Laxmanan N. Senthilkumar Alaudeen S. Durai Villalan



K.V.Swamy Karthikeyan CS.Mani Mani Abeenash M. Annamalai



Panneer selvam Shuji Feroz Khan M.Ravi Rawther Gani

IFL - Founder Team

..with them



B. Elamaran A.V. Murali Manohar G. Rajasekar Reavan V.K. Periya Samy



N.C. Mohandoss

Walks of Frontliners



Part 1 Book Release - Mr. P. Chidambaram



Part 2 book Release - Mr. T.N. Seshan



Part 3 Book Release - Actor Sarath Kumar



Part 4 Book Release - Director K. Balachandar



Part 5 Book Release - Director Visu



Part 6 Book Release - Mr. Thirunaukarasar



Memento to Mrs. Maneka at Part-7 Release



Felicitation to Director Bharathiraja at Part-8 Release



Part-9 Book Release - by Actor Vikram



Memento to Sri. MSV at Part 10 Release



Part 11 Book Release - Mr. Arun Shourie & Mr. Karti



Memento to Sri. Ilayaraja

Walks of Frontliners



Part 12 Book release - Mr. Shatrugan Sinha



Memento to Director Cheran



Part 13 Book Release - Dr. Kiran Bedi



Felicitation to Sri. Nalli



Part 14 Book Release - Mr. Joginder Singh I.P.S



Part 18 Book Release - Dr. Seetharaman



Part 15 Book Release - D.R. Karthekeyan IPS



Part 19 Book Release - Director Bhagyaraj



Part 16 Book Release - GopalaSwamy IAS



Part 20 Book Release - Mr. Salman Khurshid



Part 17 Book Release -
Justice Dr. AR. Lakshmanan & Dr. R. Seetharaman



Part 21 on Medical Achievers Release



IFL
INDIAN FRONT LINERS
www.ifkuwait.com
 United To Serve . United We Serve



Email : frontlinerskuwait@gmail.com, ncmohandoss@yahoo.com
 Website : www.ifkuwait.com



Motto

Indian Frontliners Service Organization, registered with Indian Embassy, Kuwait, was started in 1997 by Writer N.C.Mohandoss with service minded people, to join hands for serving the needy people; To Do Things that Count – For Others;

Indian Frontliners team consists of people from :

- different cultural background - from all ethnic, linguistic, religious and age groups.
- different walks of life – businessmen, industrialists, doctors, engineers, teachers, managers, office staff, technicians, semi-skilled workers, drivers, maids etc.
- different parts of India - from all states in India; from Metropolitan cities, towns and villages
- different economic strata – Millionaires, high-income, middle-income and low-income people

Indian Frontliners' helping hands have reached out to a wide spectrum of the needy person in the society. Indian Frontliners Association, working directly and through other social service organizations, have provided relief and assistance in the areas of Education, Health, Disaster relief, Old-age care, orphanage services, development of differently-abled persons, Animal care, social work & community welfare, rural development, environmental protection etc., In Kuwait,

Indian Frontliners have extended assistance to people in distress like stranded workers / maids, poor and sick labourers in need of medical attention, families of persons who died in Kuwait. Members of Indian Frontliners Team take part in campaigns, such as tree-planting etc organized by the Kuwait Volunteer Work Centre under the guidance of its Chairperson, Madam Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Indian Frontliners Books series, have been successful in showcasing the talents and achievements of prominent Indians in Kuwait. The varied themes covered have provided inspiration and motivation for a number of people to actively participate in the community service efforts of Indian Frontliners. Each book in the Indian Frontliners Book series was released by a prominent VIP in a glittering function arranged with sponsorship and participation by way of advertisement by various companies and organizations in Kuwait.

Indian Frontliners and YOU : Indian Frontliners believe that Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. Every contribution, whether big or small, makes a big difference to the life some person in need. We welcome you to Join Indian Frontliners and support our activities. Make your life a garland of kind deeds !!

Email : frontlinerskuwait@gmail.com, ncmohandoss@yahoo.com

Website : www.iflkuwait.com



IFL BOOK SERIES - RELEASE DETAILS

| IFL BOOK PART # | CHIEF GUESTS | DATE OF RELEASE |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Former Finance Minister Sri. P. Chidambaram | 05/11/1998 |
| 2 | Chief Election Commissioner India Sri. T.N. Seshan | 12/12/1998 |
| 3 | Indian Actor Sarath Kumar | 21/07/1999 |
| 4 | Padmashree K. Balachandar | 30/03/2000 |
| 5 | Director Mr. Vishu | 08/02/2001 |
| 6 | Sri. Thirunaukarasar | 21/02/2002 |
| 7 | Mrs. Maneka Gandhi | 11/09/2003 |
| 8 | Director Bharathiraja | 29/04/2004 |
| 9 | Actor Vikram | 10/02/2005 |
| 10 | Music Director M.S. Viswanathan | 27/04/2006 |
| 11 | Mr. Arun Shourie MP & Karti Chidambaram | 04/05/2007 |
| 12 | Mr. Shatrughan Sinha (Former Central minister) | 11/04/2008 |
| 13 | Kiranbedi IPS | 10/04/2009 |
| 14 | Mr. Joginder Singh IPS (former CBI Director) & Ramesh Prabha | 30/04/2010 |
| 15 | Mr. D.R. Karthikeyan IPS (Former CBI Director) | 27/05/2011 |
| 16 | Mr. Gopalsamy (Former Chief Election Commissioner India) & Mr. V. Ponraj (Advisor to Dr. Abdul Kalam) | 04/05/2012 |
| 17 | Justice Dr. A.R. Lakshmanan & Dr. R. Seetharaman , CEO Doha bank | 03/05/2013 |
| 18 | Dr. R. Seetharaman (CEO Doha bank group) & Brigadier Sushil Bhasin | 23/05/2014 |
| 19 | Director Bhagyaraj & Mrs Poornima Indian Actress | 21/05/2015 |
| 20 | Former Union Minister Salman Kurshid, Sivanandan IPS & Rangaraj Pandey | 05/05/2017 |
| 21 | Mr. Jeeva Sagar Indian Ambassador to Kuwait | 11/05/2018 |
| 22 | Mr. Karthigaichelvan , Indian Journalist & Ms. Varalakshmi Sarathkumar Indian Actress | 26/04/2019 |

IFL's Silver Jubilee Services !

- by Founder, Writer N.C. Mohandoss

What a satisfaction to have completed 25 years of yeoman services to the mankind and still continuing- that too in a foreign land? No words can describe that.



It is a great feeling from the bottom of my heart to grow this fantastic organization to this state where we are now. The people around us were directing us according to the circumstances and giving us their shoulders. That's how the Indian Frontliners (IFL) service system was formed in Kuwait. The age of its service is 25 years old now!

The Indian Frontliners, a service organization registered in Indian Embassy, Kuwait was started in 1997 with service minded people, to join hands for serving the needy people.

IFL's helping hands have reached out to wide spectrum of the needy person in the society. IFL working directly and through other service organization, have provided relief and assistance in the field of Education, Health, Disaster Relief, Old-age care, Orphanage services, Animal Care & Community welfare etc.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to give back to the society, and to take care of the needy people. Members of IFL have united for this purpose and cause.



Based on the conditions, circumstances, time availability, many people have worked for the success of IFL. Sponsors! Well-wishers! Countless people have contributed. cultural groups! It is festivity! And the most important of these are the FOUR! First the IFL Book group! The Service Team! The Event Team! and The www.iflkuwait.com team..!

The beginning and the base foundation of IFL are the collection books of Indian achievers! It has so far become 22 volumes and thereby collecting funds and charity throughout the year!

Every year IFL have been conducting such programs and releasing the book consisting of valuable articles about prominent Indians; through which IFL is able to mobilize the fund to help the needy people. We have been providing the financial help for more than 5 crore Indian Rupees so far with the support of our sponsors and well-wishers.

One of the biggest achievements by IFL Welfare



wing was to suspend the execution of two Indians sentenced to death in Kuwait, with the help of Indian Embassy and then Ambassador Shri. Satish C. Mehta.

By getting the information just before 3 days of execution, on behalf of IFL, Secretary Mr. K. Mathi, coordinated with Indian Embassy for the above humble effort. It was this incident that recently turned into a film mixed with fantasy as “Blood Money”.

IFL has extended help mainly for the people in distress like stranded and sick workers/maids, poor in need of medical attention, families of persons died in Kuwait who does not have the proper knowledge / support in the state of Kuwait where there are limited opportunities for the expatriates.

IFL Provides the Financial support to the poor / sick people to go back to India either mobilizing fund through the associations or with the support from the Indian Embassy. IFL running a website to update the status to the people around the world.

Even now from India, I am continuing with the website works+ Embassy contacts+ services from India without any hesitation. That's because there's a strong IFL team out there in Kuwait, soulful - skillful -service oriented!

Beyond their work and sleep, it is not easy to go directly and help the victims in need. It's not like just sitting at home and talking hoaxes. In this regard, I have my backbones of IFL K. Mathi, Durai, Subbu, Ramajayam, Hari, Anand, Alauddin, Villalan, Shibu who supports me in this matter and work with the Indian Embassy.



When issues pop up such as work related, medical, visa, legal, travel, death, I'll tell the embassy and let our team know. Immediately.. the job is done! K. Mathi is the person to be mentioned in this. Impossible charity! Not only stayed with me shoulder to shoulder for 20 years, but coordination throughout Kuwait, contacts with the common man, many good things done along with the Indian Embassy...a lot of that has gone through IFL.



As the founder + coordinator of IFL to find out who has what talent.. and it becomes my success to find out what can be done for the common good and entrust them with their respective responsibilities - to do what is necessary - and to make everything happen properly and at the right time.



There are many people who cool down in the labour of others. It's not like that here. I'm the first worker! My share will be in every drop of service.

Nothing happens on its own. Constant stimulation and motivation are required. At the back of my mind, if the assigned person in charge of a task is unable to do so, an alternative arrangement will be kept ready to complete it! It will always be with me!

Our services are not just health care, education, homes for the elderly and orphans but continues to National Disasters... Kargil... Tsunami.. Flood.. Earthquake.. Drought.. Corona and everywhere.

For Covid relief- immediately IFL had sent One Lakh Indian rupees to Prime Minister's fund from Kuwait. In India we organized to help in different areas and also here we started the distribution of provisions, then joined with ICSG, IBPC, Mughal mahal, Malabar gold and other commercial organizations. Over 30,00,000 IRS worth material, we helped in India and Kuwait.

We have also worked fast with the group of our Vice President Senthil Kumar in coordination with the Indian Embassy. That is why the Ambassador of India, Shri. Sibi George had invited me to the embassy and honored me when I was



retiring from Kuwait services. (To mention that no Indian embassy in the world so far had honored an individual! In this, I'm proud to be the first.)

This is also true, like Dr. Kalam Award for Service, Annam Award of Ilakiya Veedhi, Ilayaraja Award at Mullaicharam Golden Jubilee, Dr. Abdul Kalam Award of Gulf-Dubai Event....

I wish to dedicate this to our Indian Frontliners (IFL) Service Organization Team, "Enga Vattthiyar" Dinamalar Editor Mr. Ramasubbu, our family, and my wife Arulmozhi, and all my beloved Kuwait & Indian well-wishers!



Editorial Team - Book Part 23 - Soft Power

IFL Editorial Team



Subbu. V



Hari Lakshman



Swarna Ramya



Nasrin Ejner



P. Senthil Kumar



K. Mathi



Madhulika Mohta



Vijaya Priya



C. Lakshmanan



Ananth



Dr. Devi Priya



Chhaya Thakkar



Babu Razack



Shibu



Priya Ambalavanan



Sinduja. V



Durairaj



Ramesh Kumar



J. Vijai



Aparna. V



J. Rajesh



Nisha. V.



Arifa. N



Arif Maricar



Alaudeen



Dinesh

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with them
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KUWAIT SWEDISH CLEANING SERVICES CO.

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- Marble crystallization by German Product (MKS Crystallization Fluid)
- Housekeeping Services
- Carpet + Upholstery Shampooing
- Cleaning Service (Contractual & Initial)
- Glass cleaning
- Facade Cleaning
- Tea Boy + Messenger Services
- Waste Removal (Compactable + Non-Compactable)
- Sewage Cleaning
- Suppliers of Cleaning Equipment + Hygiene Products

AGENTS FOR FINEST CLEANING PRODUCTS:

- Premiere Products - UK
- MKS Funks GmbH - Germany
- IP Cleaning – Italy
- SOTECO – Italy
- GHIBLI – Italy
- Lavor Wash – Italy
- Techno Trolley – Italy
- Enviro Dri – UK
- Roto Wash – Australia
- Expokro – Spain
- Fanda Hygiene – Taiwan

For Sewage Services Contact # - 97886836 / 97886846

Head office –Salah ElDeen Street, Al Bahar Building – 2nd Floor
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