

# Aerocity LIVE

GMR AEROCITY MAGAZINE

TRAVEL, WORK & DINE



**AEROCITY**  
NEW DELHI

**BW**

November-December 2023

ISSUE 11

INR 300

## Symphony of FESTIVE LIGHTS @ Aerocity

*Come November & December, this hospitality district charms visitors with a dazzle of lights and winter vibes*



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PERSPECTIVES



**Pradeep Malhotra**  
Regional Head  
ICICI Bank



**Chef Saumya Srivastava**  
Soul Pantry in Hotel Andaz,  
New Delhi Aerocity



**Nidhi Bansal**  
CEO  
India City Walks

IN FOCUS

**A Global  
Business  
Hub In The  
Making**



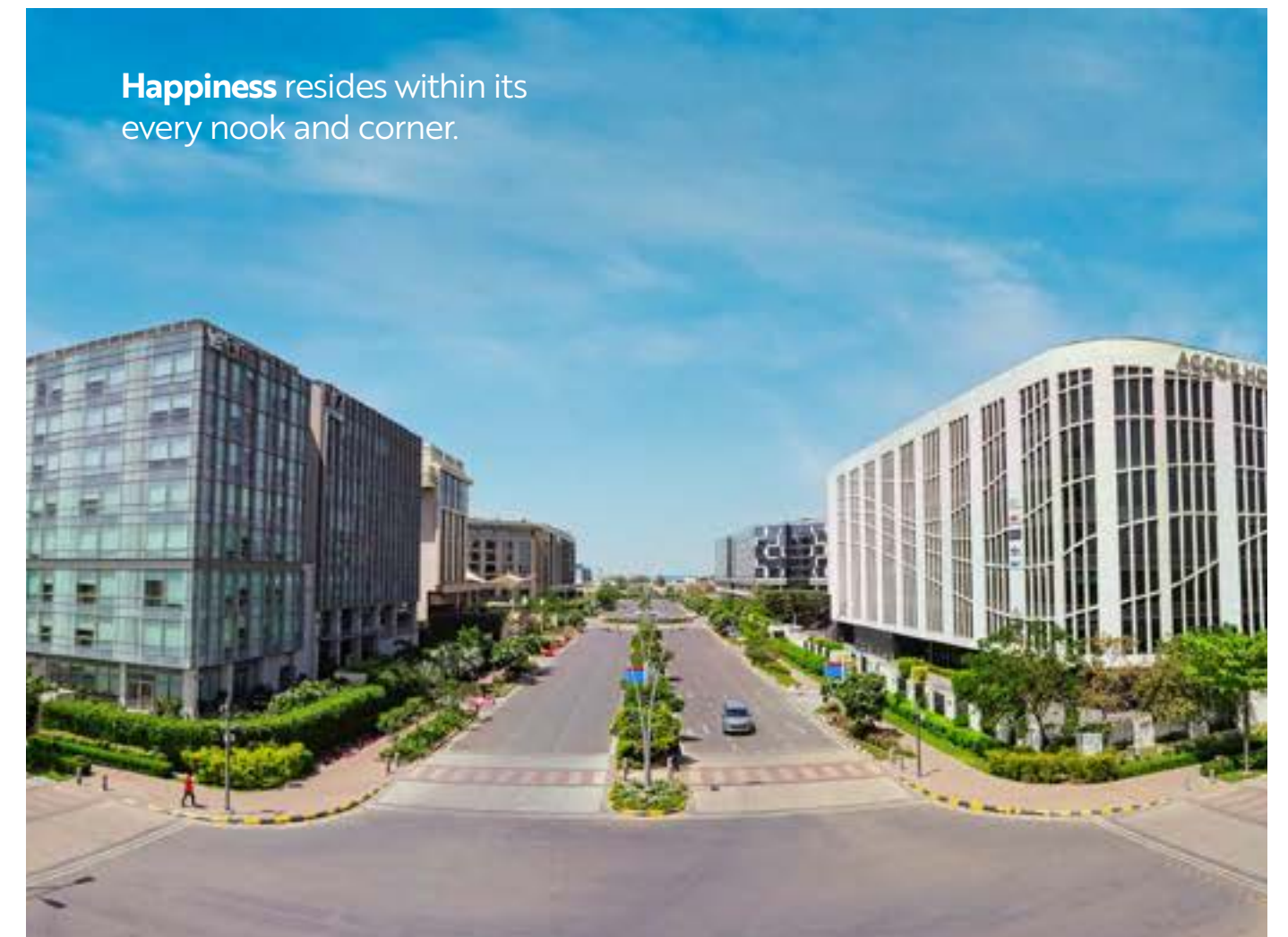
# YOUR HAPPY PLACE.



Sometimes it's a destination.

GMR Aerocity is a place where you will never run out of things to do, a place where you will always be happy.

Welcome to



**Happiness** resides within its every nook and corner.

A ballroom, a book vending machine, an express ritual at the salon, a bowl of chicken wings, a watermelon mint margarita, coffee with croissants, and luxurious suites – that's just a small representative sample of the things you can indulge in, at this destination.

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# That Comforting Chill In The Air



**ANNURAG BATRA**

*anurag.batra@businessworld.in*

In every sphere, God preserves the best for the last and the same holds true for the best three months of the year when the comfort of the cold winter months comes along with the flurry of festive activity. People of Delhi, yearning for good weather and feeling happy at the respite from harsh summers, make the best of these months. Be it Diwali, Gurupurab or Christmas and New Year, they join in the celebrations irrespective of their denomination.

This spirit is wonderfully exemplified at Aerocity, where there is celebratory mood during these months. There is much fun-fare during festival time; stalls selling ethnic and festive items and eatables come up, activities are organised for visitors of various age groups and interests and notes of music add to the jovial atmosphere.

Even besides the celebration of festivals, Aerocity is a charming place to be in winters. Take a stroll through the lanes or the green stretch of The Square or spend idle time musing at a comfortable seat at any of the spots in The Square and you will realise this.

Delhi, *per se*, is a fascinating place to explore in winters and no matter what your interests are, you will return mesmerised. Our cover package is an ode to Aerocity and Delhi, which are at their best in the winter festive season. Some great places to explore have been described in the 'Must Visit Spots' section of the magazine.

Food is an extension of the festive fare and we bring to you the best spots to try out 'Delhi-cacies' during this festive season. And since winter, Christmas and new-year time is associated with steaming tea and coffee along with cakes and cookies, we bring to you some great places to try out the 3Cs of cakes, cookies and coffee in Aerocity.

This being the final issue of the year, this is also the time of the year to celebrate the achievements and we bring to you some high points of the year for Aerocity, in a special story on the Year That Was. From hosting G20 teams throughout the year and during the Summit, to holding a mega sporting event for the aviation community, Aerocity did it all.

Happy reading and season's greetings.



# Aerocity's Winter Charm



AMAN KAPOOR  
CEO, Airports Land Development, GMR Group

Dear Readers,

Delhi's allure reaches its pinnacle during the months of November and December, as the winter's crisp embrace harmoniously intertwines with the festive fervour. It's the season when tourists throng to the nation's capital, businesses convene conferences, and the city's cultural calendar brims with vibrant activities.

The recent inauguration of YashoBhoomi in Dwarka by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has only elevated Delhi's appeal as a must-visit destination. Prime Minister Modi unveiled the extension of the Airport Metro Express Line to Sector 25, emphasising its significance by remarking, "This is an exceptional hub to showcase India's future, with its proximity to the airport and seamless Metro connectivity making it accessible to all." YashoBhoomi proudly stands as one of India's premier MICE facilities.

Moreover, this time of year isn't just about business visits, it's a season of jubilant celebrations, commencing with Diwali and followed by Chhath Puja, Gurupurab, and Christmas. Delhi truly comes alive during this remarkable period.

For those seeking to savour the winter season to the fullest, Aerocity stands out as the perfect destination. This meticulously planned hospitality district boasts a collection of upscale hotels, standalone restaurants, excellent metro connectivity to the city centre, and a pristine and secure environment for both lodging and exploration.

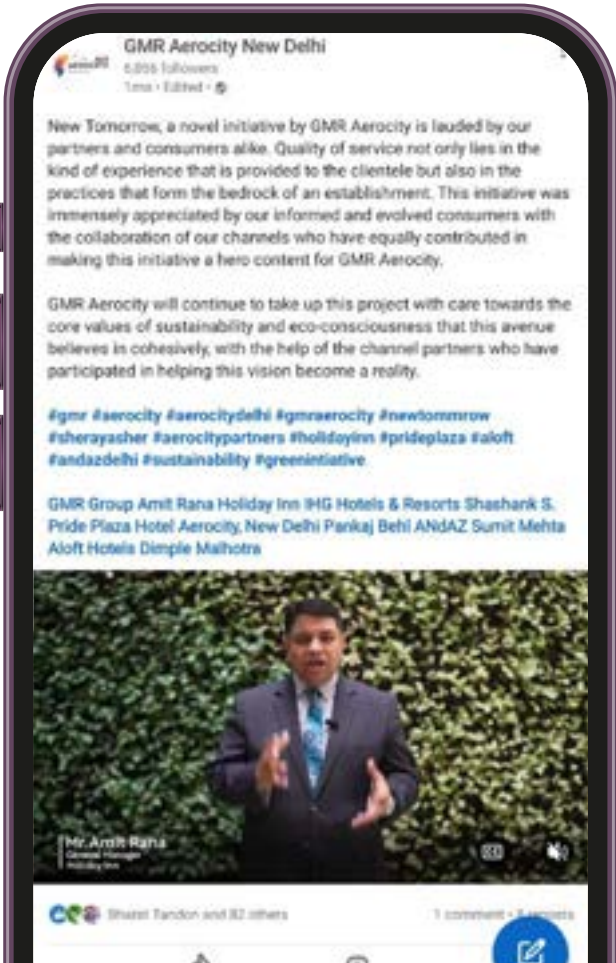
What's even more enticing is the plethora of experiences awaiting you within and around Aerocity. Start with the great outdoors, particularly The Square, where expansive green spaces provide a delightful setting for winter enjoyment. As the festive season approaches, The Square comes alive with enchanting decorations, dazzling lights, and a myriad of events that warm the heart. This year, the D2C event at The Square promises an all-encompassing winter experience, featuring music, entertainment, culinary delights, shopping, and much more.

Beyond Aerocity, winter transforms Delhi into a captivating wonderland. Its lush green landscapes, intertwined with historic landmarks, continue to charm both residents and visitors alike. Whether you explore vast expanses or cozy corners, the city's innate beauty is bound to enthrall you. In this edition, we offer a comprehensive guide to the gems along the Yellow Line of the Metro, spanning Delhi's seven historical cities. Additionally, savour the city's rich culinary heritage, with Aerocity providing a delectable taste of Delhi's diverse gastronomy.

To unravel the intricacies of this multifaceted city, we turn to Nidhi Bansal, CEO of India City Walks, who aptly describes Delhi as profound, with layers waiting to be uncovered. She likens the process of exploring Delhi to peeling an onion – as you peel away each layer, you discover something new, whether it's in the realm of food, architecture, or history.

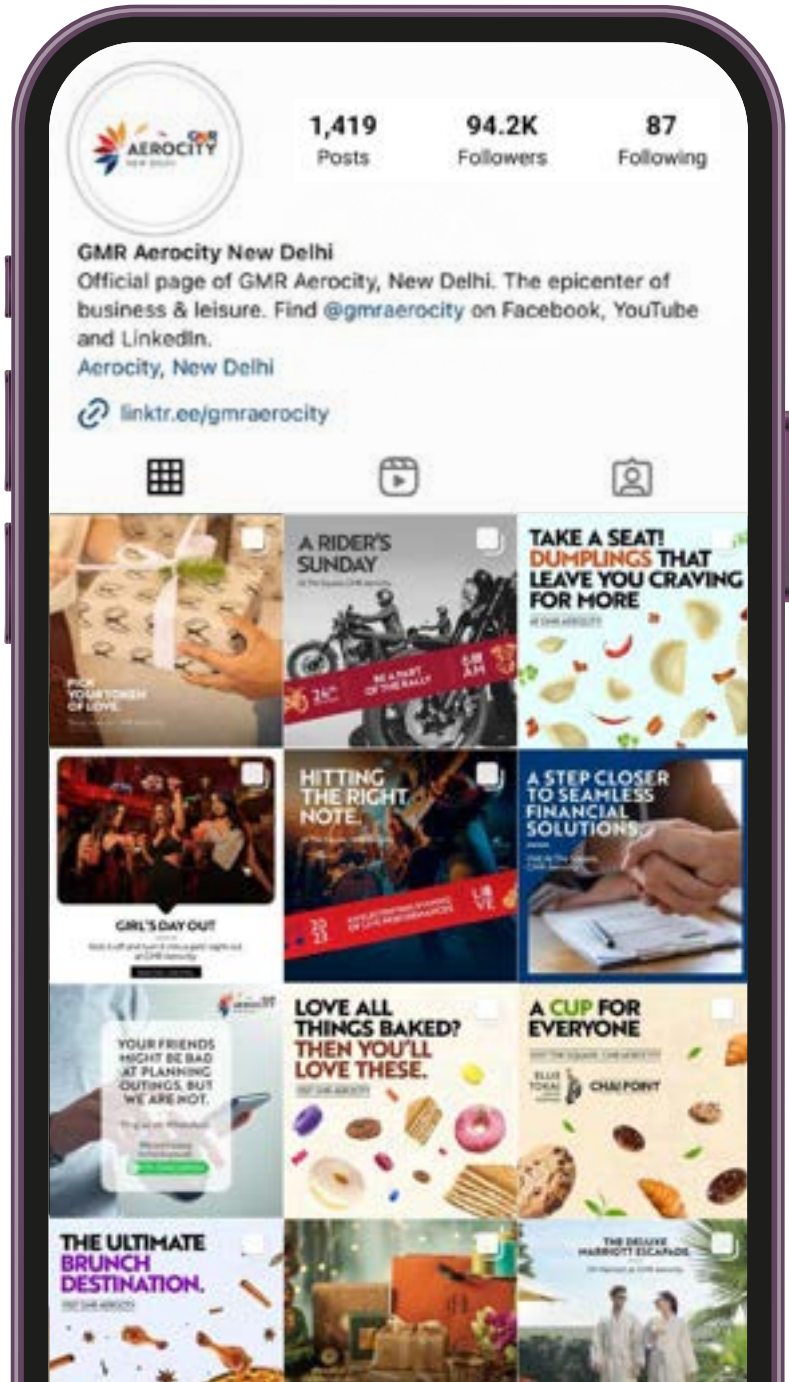
As we bask in the warmth of Diwali's glow, we invite you to embark on a journey through the vibrant tapestry of Delhi's winter wonders.

Happy Diwali and happy reading!



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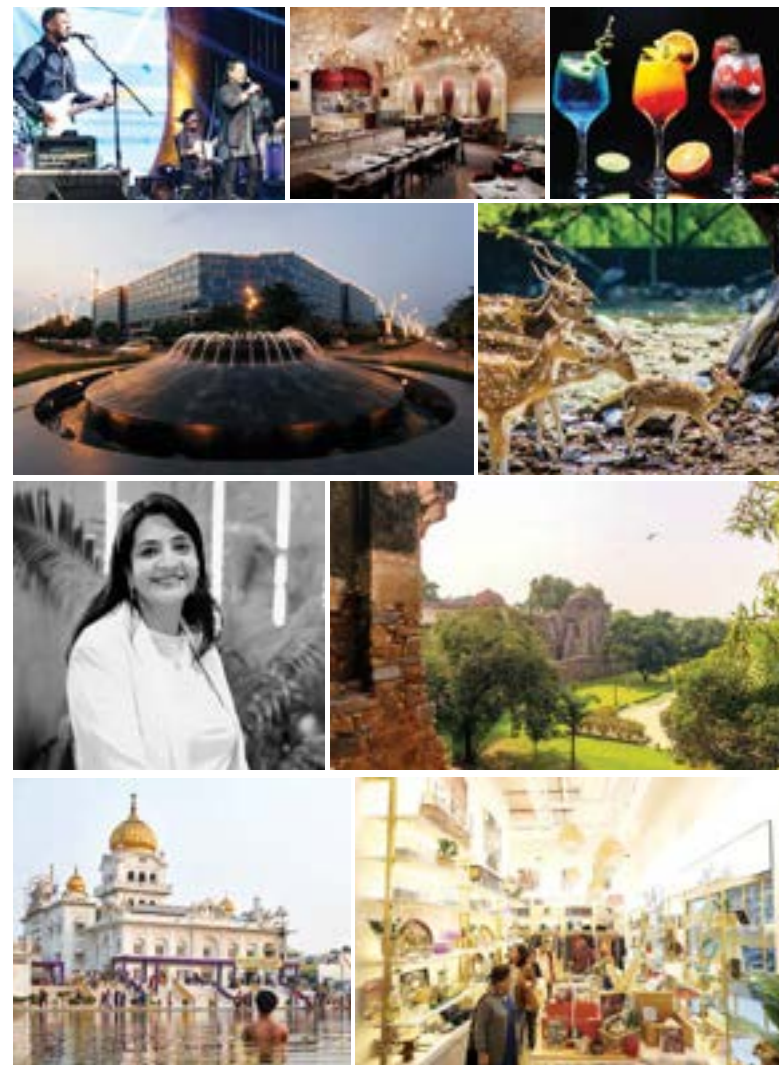
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Cover design: Shivaji Sengupta





## Diwali Celebrations



Decoration of the whole hospitality district, festive activities at The Square and stalls. The celebrations will include D2C Fest.

**Where:** The Square, Aerocity

**When:** November 1-19

## Screening of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup



Coupled with activities like Cricket Pool, Catch the Baton and Top Bat Challenge

**Where:** Amazon area of The Square

**When:** Till November 19

## AEROCITY

### The Craft City



Featuring display of crafts like Pattachitra paintings, Usta art, Kashmiri kaleen, Madhubani art, Chamba rumal and blue pottery; besides food stalls and cultural performances

**Where:** The Square, Aerocity

**When:** November 9-10

### Magic of Christmas at Merry City

An authentic Christmas market that brings the holiday spirit to life, featuring a delightful array of brands that embody the essence of Christmas.

From charming and quirky souvenirs to exquisite ornaments and festive decor Merry City is your one-stop destination for all things Christmas.

**When:** December 24-25

**Where:** The Square, Aerocity



## Upcoming Events Under GMR Aerocity Festivals

### GMR Aerocity D2C Festival

An experiential conference & exhibition for greatest D2C brands. With some of the best brands being showcased in various segments, it will provide visitors a complete shopping, eating and entertainment experience. The experience will be made complete with gigs from some happening music bands.

**When:** November 25-26

### GMR Aerocity F&B Fiesta

An experiential conference & exhibition for food lovers, coffee connoisseurs, & urban foodies

**When:** Dec 16-17



### GMR Entertainment

An extravaganza of entertainment through various activities, games, music performances, culture, celebrities, awards and a lot more.

**When:** Feb 10-11



### GMR Aerocity India Festival of Wellbeing

An event featuring yoga, meditation, food and nutrition, energies and crystals, happiness and wellbeing, this event will help encourage everyone to find their path of health and wellness and rediscover the deeply engraved wellbeing element already within us.

**When:** March 2024

(See further details on page 86)



## ELSEWHERE IN DELHI

### Music

#### Qawwali by Nizami Bandhu



**Where:** Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg  
**When:** November 20, 2023

**Distance from Aerocity:** 17.6 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** Barakhamba Road

### Theatre

#### The Haunting of Hill House

**Where:** Pyare Lal Bhavan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg  
**When:** November 19

**Distance from Aerocity:** 18.6 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** ITO on Violet Line



### Fair

#### Dastkar Winter Mela



**Where:** Andheria Mod  
**When:** December 15-26

**Distance from Aerocity:** 7.2 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** Chhattarpur on Yellow

### Literature

#### Jashn-e-Rekhta

**Where:** Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, India Gate

**When:** December 8-10

**Distance from Aerocity:** 16.8 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** Supreme Court on Blue Line



# Celebrating Aerocity: A Global Business Hub In The Making

By Team Aerocity Live

In the heart of New Delhi, the Aerocity Hospitality District stands as a marvel of modern urban planning and development. With its near-30 million square feet of planned mixed commercial space, coupled with state-of-the-art technology and an environment tailored for global retail brands and multinational corporations, this location is truly set to build upon the success of its existing Hospitality Development and ascended to the ranks of other illustrious global business districts. Much like Canary Wharf in London, Battery Park City in New York, DIFC in Dubai and Mission Bay in San Francisco, Aerocity Hospitality District is an exceptional business destination that exemplifies the best in design, connectivity, sustainability and ambition.

Hospitality districts as such are a big marker of urban development and contribute immensely to economic growth. Their location, preferably close to airports and to convention, exhibition and business centres of the city make them a critical linchpin of MICE too. With their world-class hotel facilities with large inventory, safe and secure environment, access to rapid transport facilities and dining and entertainment options, these are the locations where business and leisure travellers would love to stay.

## Milestone in urban excellence

Aerocity Hospitality District has already

With nearly 6 million square feet of hospitality led commercial development, it has joined the league of leading global business districts

carved its niche in the global business landscape. With close to 6 million square feet of hospitality led commercial development, it has joined the exclusive league of leading global business districts, setting new standards and serving as a symbol of India's aspirations in the world of business and commerce.

Aerocity Hospitality District's strategic location and connectivity are exceptional.



The ease of travel to and from the district, whether by road or through the efficient metro network, is a testament to its accessibility. With its proximity to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, it is a gateway not just to New Delhi but to the entire nation, making it an attractive destination for business & leisure users working at multinational corporations and looking to experience and engage with global retail brands & lifestyle.

## Aesthetic excellence

One cannot help but applaud the aesthetic finesse of the Aerocity Hospitality District. The district stands out from the concrete jungle mushrooming in India urban cluster. Its well-planned and welcoming hospitality, retail and office spaces provide a nurturing environment where leading international organisations, multinational corporations and top Indian have truly found a much coveted sanctuary of creativity and productivity.

The grandeur of the district is further amplified by its collection of luxury & premium hotels, which have not only hosted national and international conferences but have become preferred destinations for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions. The presence of these upscale hotels complements the district's identity, making it a hub of hospitality and luxury for business and leisure travellers. Alongside the hotels, an array of retail outlets features some of the world's finest designers and luxury lifestyle brands. The district's dynamic fusion of business and leisure creates a thriving atmosphere that is unparalleled.

## A verdant oasis

Aerocity Hospitality District's commitment to open landscaped spaces is admirable. Outdoor spaces and tree-lined avenues offer a refreshing break from the hustle and bustle of the city. The diverse range of eateries not only caters to different tastes but also fosters a sense of community and togetherness. The district is a true oasis within the city, providing a welcoming environment for both residents and visitors.

The Aerocity Hospitality District also proudly presents The Square, a vibrant space for cultural and recreational events all year round. From festive carnivals to culinary extravaganzas, from celebrating festivals to hosting outdoor screenings and mega sports events, this district is a melting pot of entertainment and culture. It has become a place where memories are made and shared.

## The future beckons – GBD, a vision unveiled

Aerocity with the two new districts of Gateway and Downtown Districts now taking shape, will set new benchmarks in office spaces, retail experiences and leisure destinations. The Gateway District will redefine modern retail and commercial spaces, while the Downtown District will combine recreation, healthcare and other social infrastructure. This visionary expansion is a testament to the district's enduring commitment to growth and evolution.

The crown jewel of this visionary development will be the global experiences. Global Business District (GBD) will not only host luxury and aspirational retail brands but will also cater to diverse culinary tastes, ranging from global delicacies to Michelin-star dining and the flavours of street food. With abundant public spaces featuring courtyards, eclectic street furniture and captivating public art displays, GBD will redefine the essence of urban travelling.

Aerocity is more than just a business destination; it's a model of urban excellence, a tribute to thoughtful planning and a testament to the ambitious spirit of India's global aspirations. Innovation, aesthetics and connectivity converge here to create a destination that is emblematic of 21st-century urban planning. As we look ahead, it is clear that the best is yet to come for the Aerocity and its remarkable journey will continue to inspire and captivate.



## ICICI Bank Opens Branch In Aerocity

ICICI Bank has set up a branch at Aerocity in New Delhi. This is the 213th branch of the bank in the city. Housed at The Plaza GMR Square, the branch has an ATM-cum-Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) to offer cash deposit and withdrawal services to the customers round the clock.

GRK Babu, CFO, Airport Sector, GMR Airport and Aman Kapoor, CEO, Airport Land Development, GMR Airport, inaugurated the branch.

The branch offers a comprehensive range of accounts, including savings and current accounts, trade and forex services, fixed and recurring deposits, loans – business loan, home loan, personal loan, auto loan and gold loan – along with remittance and card services. The branch also offers banking services to NRI customers. It operates from



9:30 AM to 3:00 PM from Monday to Friday and on the first, third and fifth Saturdays of the month.

The bank has a network of 212 branches and 924 ATMs in Delhi.

## Pret A Manger In Aerocity

Pret A Manger, a leading name in modern freshly-made food options, has opened an outlet in WorldMark in Aerocity. With kitchens located very closeby that deliver food items as they are made, Pret serves fresh food items to customers. Nothing is kept overnight. The tempting array of food items includes sandwiches, salad wraps, salads, baguettes, soups, hot food, porridge, croissants, cookies, desserts and hot & cold beverages. The sleek interiors, including display of items, wall decor and seating make the restaurant a welcoming place.



## Qavalli At WorldMark Aerocity

The Walk, a vibrant retail street that showcases a distinguished lineup of F&B and retail stores, now has Qavalli restaurant.

Qavalli captures the essence of 'Mehmaan-nawazi,' where the warmth of Indian hospitality enriches the flavours of Indian spices. It is not just a restaurant; it is an experience that welcomes guests as royalty, making every bite tell a story of India's rich culinary heritage.

Qavalli is more than a dining establishment; it is an architectural masterpiece meticulously crafted to complement the vibrant atmosphere of WorldMark

Aerocity. Founded by Dinesh & Pooja Arora, the celebrated restaurateurs and designed by Chromed Design Studio under the visionary guidance of architect and interior designer Abhigyan Neogi, it seamlessly blends Moroccan themes with Indian opulence.

The restaurant offers a divine experience, showcasing Mughlai cuisine with perfectly grilled tikkas, kebabs, soulful curries, rich breads and aromatic biryanis. Moreover, it houses an Indian botanical bar, crafting cocktails with special cordials, tinctures and elixirs, awakening the senses to a world of flavours.



## NEW BEGINNING

## Himanshu Sharma Joins As Director Of Sales And Marketing At Pullman & Novotel

Pullman & Novotel New Delhi Aerocity has announced the appointment of Himanshu Sharma as the Director of Sales and Marketing. He will be heading the sales, marketing and brand communication mandate for the hotel and will take charge of driving commercial objectives as well as enhancing the brand positioning.

With over 21 years of experience and having strong analytical abilities to monitor market trends, performance metrics and competitive landscape, Sharma has worked with players like JW Marriott Aerocity, Shangri-La New Delhi, Leela Ambience Gurugram, The Westin Gurugram & Westin Sohna and Le Meridien Gurugram in the hospitality domain.

In his new role, Sharma will take on the broad agenda of driving business for the two hotels by developing sales strategies across various market segments, aimed towards optimising the hotel revenue. He will be spearheading the sales and marketing team, charting business opportunities and will aim at meeting the hotel's commercial objectives.

Sharma has experience in customer-facing hospitality like sales, distribution, revenue management and customer satisfaction. He has a strategic mindset with the ability to think creatively and adapt to a competitive market. His passion for work along with his enterprising mindset will be invaluable for further success of Pullman & Novotel New Delhi Aerocity.







## Festive Thalīs At Aerocity Hotels

Several hotels at Aerocity Hospitality District offered the best of thalis during the Navratri festival.

**Holiday Inn's** meticulously crafted Navratri Thali offered a lavish spread of 13 delectable dishes, such as *zafrani paneer*, *khatta meetha sitafal*, *kuttukadi pakoda*, *sama rice* and *makhana kheer*, among others, thoughtfully designed for those observing the fast. For those who prefer a broader selection, there was the specially curated à la carte menu. To respect the sentiments and apprehensions of the guests, culinary experts at the hotel prepared these dishes separately in the kitchen. This ensured strict adherence to fasting guidelines, giving visitors a worry-free dining experience.

DEL and Kiyan at **Roseate House** offered delectable traditional cuisine on the auspicious occasion of Navratri. The mouth-watering offerings included *sabudana aur singdana ki tikki*, *dahi vade*, *masala dungarchaas*, *khatta meetha kaddu*, *sukhe aloo ki subzi*, *hari mirchi ka paneer*, *kuttu ki roti*, *sama ke chawal* and *phool makhana ki kheer*. Each and every dish was specially curated and crafted by expert chefs, keeping the preferences associated with these 'divine nine' days in check.

## Mixology Experience At Pullman, Featuring Luca Cinalli

**P**ullman New Delhi Aerocity, had a bar takeover featuring Luca Cinalli, renowned bartender, on the October 8 at Pling. Luca Cinalli, the Italian Maestro of cocktails and mixology, transformed Pling into a haven of inventive blends and daring flavours. With a career spanning over a decade, Luca has garnered international acclaim for his complex and innovative cocktails that push the boundaries of traditional mixology. Apart from being a bartender, Luca is also a botanist, farmer, sommelier and sculptor, making his approach to mixology as unique and multifaceted as his background.



## Indian Gentleman's Ride At Aerocity

**B**harat Beard Club co-organised the first edition of Indian Gentleman's Ride at The Square, Aerocity on September 24. The objective was to create awareness on men's mental and physical health.

The event was conceptualised and managed by Bharat Beard Club. The event partner was Helm Experiential, and the charity partner for the event was @Save The Indian Family. @RC11 Motorcycling club of Delhi got together all the motorcycling clubs of Delhi together for this movement.

The event had several categories of participation, including best dressed couple, BEARD swag, MOOCH swag, most eminent gentleman, most eminent lady and the most admirable bike.





## JW Marriott New Delhi Completes 10 Years



**J**W Marriott New Delhi Aerocity, an iconic hotel that stands as a true beacon of luxury and hospitality, celebrated its 10-year anniversary on 28 October 2023. It was time to reflect on a decade of unforgettable experiences, unmatched service and the creation of timeless memories.

Celebrating a decade of luxury, the hotel hosted a black and gold themed gala night with industry patrons, renowned leaders and cherished customers. The grand event marking this milestone was a testament to JW Marriott's unwavering commitment to providing unparalleled experiences.

The evening began with an enlightening video by Padma Shri Awardee Sushil Gupta and Chairman of Aria Hotels and Consultancy Sandeep Gupta, followed by a diya lighting ceremony and a mesmerising live classical Indian performance. The Grand Crystal Ballroom was transformed into a magical wonderland, adorned with enchanting lights and tasteful decorations, creating an enchanting atmosphere.

The evening's entertainment was nothing short of spectacular. From live performances to the mind-boggling act by mentalist Tushar Raj, the celebration showcased the finest talents in the country, setting the stage for an unforgettable night.

The highlight of the evening was an enchanting performance by the renowned singer Kailash Kher. Taking over the stage, Kher serenaded the audience with his soulful tunes, creating a mesmerising atmosphere that had guests swaying to the music.

The event culminated in a sumptuous dinner, featuring a diverse menu with 10 live stations, buffet spread and personalised menu cards, each bearing a heartfelt message, a thoughtful touch that encapsulated the hotel's commitment to personalised hospitality.

The event not only celebrated the past but also hinted at a promising future of more luxurious experiences and unparalleled service. JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity continues to be an epitome of hospitality excellence, a true jewel in the heart of India's capital.

### In its 10-year journey, the hotel has achieved several milestones, like:

- **Hotel Opening:** In, 2013, It was the first Aerocity hotel, marking the beginning of its luxury journey.
- **The Gallery launch:** In 2018, the hotel unveiled 'The Gallery', a luxurious space that added to the hotel's charm and offered guests a unique experience.
- **In-house water bottling plant:** In 2019, the hotel took a sustainable step by launching a water bottling plant, reducing its environmental footprint and promoting eco-friendliness.
- **Marriott Bonvoy on Wheels launch:** Amidst the challenges of 2020, JW Marriott adapted its brand initiative by launching 'Marriott Bonvoy on Wheels', offering a home delivery menu to ensure guests' continued enjoyment of its culinary offerings.
- **Adrift Kaya:** In 2022, the hotel expanded its culinary offerings by opening Adrift Kaya, Japanese Izakaya by Michelin Star Chef- David Myer's, enhancing its reputation as a dining destination.
- **EV charging station:** The hotel embraced the future in 2022 by installing an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station, catering to eco-conscious guests.
- **G20 Delegates, including hosting of South Africa Head of State:** JW Marriott achieved a pinnacle milestone by hosting G20 Delegates, including the Head of State from South Africa, solidifying its position as a top luxury hotel for prestigious events and dignitaries.

## BW Hotelier Gives Away Indian Hospitality Awards 2023

The mega event, held at Hotel Pullman, Aerocity, saw a galaxy of policy makers and industry leaders share their thoughts on the way forward for hospitality's growth

**“**If we unleash domestic potential, hospitality industry may hit \$1 trillion by 2047,” said Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, at the 7th edition of the Indian Hospitality Summit and Awards (IHA) 2023 in New Delhi. The event took place at Hotel Pullman in New Delhi Aerocity.

Puri, who was the chief guest for the occasion, said the hospitality industry is doing well and thriving better not only because it gets investment from established hotel chains but also because of a diverse set of people.

The jobs created by this large hospitality sector will be huge whether directly or indirectly and that will make it one of the most important sectors in terms of the nation's economy, he added.

Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor, Kerala, made a resounding call at the Awards, asserting, "Indian hospitality should be globally renowned, not just for professional and commercial motives but driven by our rich cultural heritage."

Delving into the richness of Indian civilisation, Khan noted how societies worldwide often categorise people based on their



Union Minister Hardeep Puri lighting the ceremonial lamp

skin colour, language, faith and expressions of belief.

However, Indian civilisation, he emphasised, transcends these superficial distinctions. "Indian civilisation has always viewed a person in terms of the invariable, inalienable characteristic that is the soul, the Atma. We see it as all-inclusive," he mentioned.

There were invigorating discussions on a host of issues like Indian Aviation and its Synergy with Travel, Tourism and Hospitality; Navigating Succession, Identity and Diversity in Indian Hospitality; Expansion in Emerging Markets; Digital Transformation in Indian Hospitality; Sustainable Pathways that featured who's who of hospitality.

The BW Hotelier Hall of Fame Award 2023 was conferred upon Patanjali Govind Keswani, Chairman and Managing Director, Lemon Tree Hotels.

Awards were given at national and regional levels in a range of categories, including general managers in Luxury, Upper Upscale, Midscale and Budget; GM – Budget; Heads of Revenue Management, sales and marketing, PR and Marketing Communications, Culinary, Engineering, IT, HR, F&B, Spa, Accommodation, Procurement and Housekeeping.

Renowned chef Sandeep Kalra, Director of Culinary, Pullman & Novotel New Delhi Aerocity, got the BW Hotelier Anil Bhandari Chef of the Year Award.



The winners of Indian Hospitality Awards



# Highlights Of Year 2023 In Aerocity

By Team Aerocity Live

## HOTELS

### Holiday Inn Aerocity



**H**oliday Inn saw renovation of the space and increase in seating capacities, understanding the importance of accommodating a high number of guests. The hotel also invested in digital innovations in banquet spaces which act as valuable tools for displaying essential event information, schedules, and engaging presentations. Attendees can expect an elevated level of connectivity and interaction during their gatherings at the hotel.

Another highlight of the hotel was new menu launch at L'Osteria Bella, a captivating Italian restaurant. The introduction of Charcoal-based pizzas, including a signature creation, adds a unique touch to the dining experience.

**Environment Initiative at Holiday Inn:** The hotel has taken a significant step towards sustainability by installing an in-house glass water bottling plant at the hotel. This initiative is part of the hotel's commitment to reducing its environmental impact and promoting eco-friendly practices.

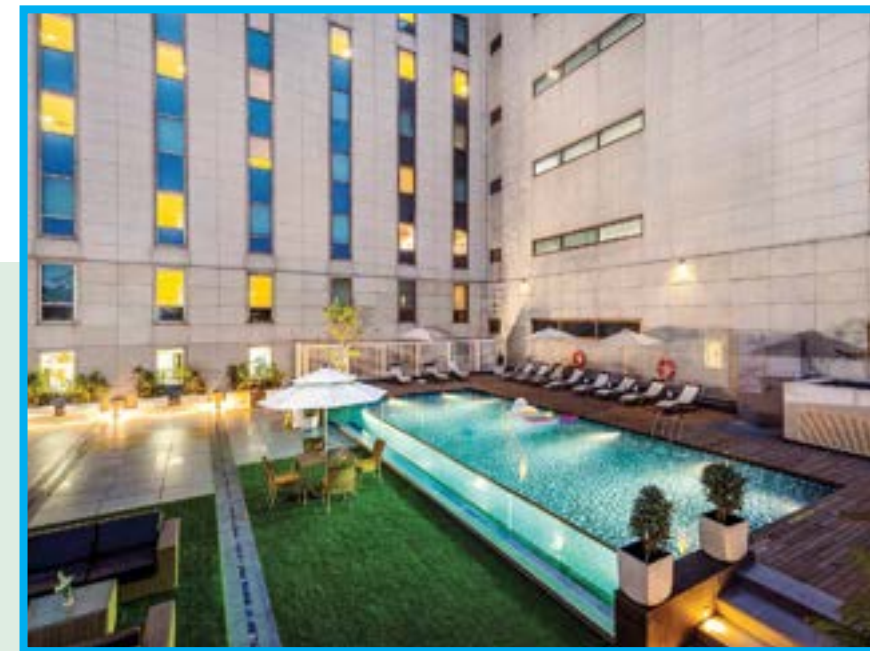
The primary objective is to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bottles, which are a major source of plastic waste and pollution. The in-house glass water bottling plant is equipped with advanced water filtration and purification systems to ensure safe and healthy water.

This in house bottling plant

reduces the carbon footprint associated with transportation and disposal of plastic bottles. The hotel educates guests about its sustainable practices and encourages responsible consumption. This initiative is fully aligned with IHG's Green Engage practices and journey to tomorrow showcasing the hotel's commitment to sustainability and responsible environmental stewardship.

In the long run, the investment will be cost-effective. The water bottling plant exemplifies its commitment to environmental responsibility and sets an example for other businesses to reduce their environmental footprint.

From being at the forefront of hosting G20 delegates to adding to its strength in terms of new retail outlets and being part of larger social narrative and contributing to causes, Aerocity achieved significant milestones. Here are some high points of the hospitality district



### ibis New Delhi Aerocity

**I**n 2023, Ibis New Delhi Aerocity has had the privilege of hosting numerous successful events and conferences. Among these, several standout offerings garnered significant attention and appreciation from its guests:

dedicated to honouring dads and their humour.

**VIBE IS AT ibis Campaign:** Building on the momentum of its successful 'VIBE IS AT ibis' campaign earlier this year, the hotel continued to delight its guests with new and exciting offers. These included an irresistible 'Breakfast @ '1' deal and a '1+1' offer on its lunch and dinner buffets.

**Women's Day Campaign:** In March, as part of its Women's Day campaign, the hotel celebrated by offering a generous 50 per cent discount on all beverages to its women guests. The hotel honoured the remarkable women of Ibis by showcasing their invaluable contributions on its social media platforms.

**Father's Day Comedy Show:** On Father's Day, the hotel celebrated the special occasion with a side-splitting comedy show. It was a day filled with laughter,

### Hotel Pride Plaza

**Y**ear 2023 marked the celebration of its 36th Pride Foundation Day. On this special day, the hotel unveiled its newly refurbished staff cafeteria, which was renamed 'Eat and Tweet', a vibrant space where the team can relish delicious meals and connect with each other.

**The DREAM Programme:** The programme is designed for college graduate students aspiring to start their careers in the hospitality industry. This initiative aims to nurture talent and provide them with the opportunity to develop into future leaders.

**Pride Walk for the LGBTQ Community:** Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity organised the 'Pride Walk' in support of the LGBTQ+ community, promoting love, inclusivity, and acceptance. This event was a testament to its commitment to diversity and equal rights.

**Wedding Planners Event:** The hotel played host to a gathering of renowned wedding planners, providing them with a platform

to connect, share ideas, and explore the latest trends in the industry.

**World Bicycle Day, World Environment Day, World No Tobacco Day, and World Donors Day:** Pride Plaza was at the forefront of promoting global awareness by actively participating in World Bicycle Day, World Environment Day, World No Tobacco Day, and World Donors Day. These initiatives underscored the hotel's dedication to sustainability and health.

**Independence Day Celebrations:** On India's Independence Day, Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity came alive with patriotic fervour. The day was marked with flag hoisting, cultural performances, and a grand celebration of the nation's freedom.

**CSR Initiatives for Underprivileged Kids and Girls:** Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity also extended its commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) by organising initiatives to support underprivileged children and girls in the local community. These efforts align with its core values of making a positive impact on society.





## Pullman New Delhi Aerocity

**P**ullman New Delhi Aerocity organised a series of events over the year that celebrated India's artists, women power, and more. It collaborated with The Art Registry and LGBTQ artist Naman Jaggi to introduce Tour De Art, Chapter 2: 'No Boundaries'. This chapter was a collaboration with Naman Jaggi, an artist who draws inspiration from the Pride community and expresses it through abstract art. The campaign aimed to celebrate diversity and champion inclusivity by setting a platform for emerging LGBTQ artists and their creative endeavours.

Pullman New Delhi Aerocity presented these specially created artwork pieces of this association at the 'Artist Junction', a dedicated space for creativity which celebrates the brilliance of different artists from across the globe.

In March, on the occasion of Women's Day, the hotel launched 'Own The Show', a campaign which aims to celebrate the incredible strength and resilience of each woman, working and being everything all at once.

The campaign depicted the idea of 'Everything All At Once', in the form of a musical which brought out different aspects of female protagonists and their capabilities. The film featured the employees of Pullman & Novotel including women HODs, F&B, spa, security, front office and sales and marketing team members.



## SHOPPING BUZZ AT AEROCITY WITH A FLURRY OF NEW STORES

**T**he Square at Aerocity saw the launch of several high-end retail outlets, falling in apparel, home décor, beauty products and lifestyle segment.



### Chique: ^

A fast-growing Indian brand in women's apparel that owns a portfolio of various categories including work wear, casual wear, evening wear and occasion wear.



### Pure Home + Living: ^

Featuring the largest variety of home décor, dinnerware, glassware, leather accessories and gifting options for all occasions.



### Looks Salon:

Unisex salon with great facilities for personal care. it's located in an ideal setting of The Square with welcoming interiors. ✓



### Manan:

Clothing brand for men, women and kids' wear that makes use of natural fibre, especially linen, and is inspired by earthy colours. ✓



### Nicobar:

Featuring clothing, homeware and travel accessories, with the brand philosophy of making products that are designed to last, that are time-less in appeal, influenced by Indian culture, but globally relevant



### Kama Ayurveda:

Authentic Ayurvedic brand providing traditional and holistic treatments for beauty and wellness, with outlets across the country.



### Modern Bazaar:

A one-stop shop for grocery and bakery products, sourced globally, and available at affordable prices.



### Kheoni:

Personal care products that also draw ingredients from forests, and empower forest dwellers in return. Kheoni was born out of a need to support a forest, redefine responsible luxury, and bring the most sustainable wellness and skincare products to your doorsteps.



## Roseate House New Delhi

Roseate House New Delhi, Aerocity offers an array of distinctive dining experiences encompassing every element – cuisine par excellence, bespoke design and exceptional service. True to its exemplary dining philosophy, the hotel hosted an unforgettable rendezvous with the Scottish **Master Chef Gary Maclean**. Chef Maclaren, who has been at the heart of the Scottish hospitality industry since 35 years, presented some of his favourite dishes from his motherland at a special dinner at Roseate House on 17th and 18th March 2023.

In a delightful collaboration with All Things Nice, Roseate House New Delhi hosted a fine dining experience, a delicate fusion of French and Indian cuisine curated by the renowned, **Chef Michel Christmann** on 14th June 2023. Born in Eastern France, Chef Christmann is passionate about his exquisite craft and works relentlessly to highlight and promote local produce. He was felicitated with the 'Young Talents' trophy and two toques from the famous guides Gault and Millau in 2014. Since then, he has been spending time between Pondicherry (India) and France.

On 15th and 16th July 2023, an outstanding fine dining experience at Roseate House New Delhi, Aerocity was presented by the renowned Western Australian **Chef Tony Howell**. Chef Tone as he is affectionately known, has garnered a reputation as one of Australia's top chefs, as Tourism Australia's Ambassador and the Western Australian face of 'Restaurant Australia'. He has appeared on numerous cooking shows, hosted Channel 7's hit lifestyle program 'Fresh TV' and appeared as a guest chef on Master Chef Australia 2011.

On 30th September 2023, Roseate House in collaboration with All Things Nice presented an exclusive dining experience featuring gourmet Indian cuisine curated by the renowned Chef Extraordinaire, **Manjunath Mural**, paired with wines from all over the world.

Chef Manjunath Mural is the former Executive Chef, of Song of India, Singapore. He was the first Indian Chef to win a Michelin Star for an Indian restaurant in Southeast Asia. Song of India was awarded the Michelin Star four times (2016 - 2019) under his leadership.



## More Choices On Your Platter

Aerocity also saw the opening of Blue Tokai Coffee Roasters and Chai Point, both of which are very popular eateries known for their choice of beverages and food items.



## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

There rarely was a dull week in Aerocity, with its busy calendar of activities through the year. Some events that garnered attention were:

### The Skylympics For Aviation Fraternity

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) organised a three-day sports event at New Udaan Bhawan for the aviation fraternity of Delhi in March end. It



was the third season of the event. Aptly named as the Olympics of the airport fraternity, 'Skylympics' is a spectacular sports initiative taken by DIAL. Launched in 2017, it aims to foster camaraderie by bringing together the Delhi airport community which comprises of almost 50,000 people working in various roles.

The event witnessed record-breaking participation from 23 teams across various stakeholders with over 900 players, competing in 10 sporting events. Indigo was declared the Champions for securing first overall place.

### Screenings At The Amazon Area

Summer Entertainment District is a joint screening festival by Sunset Cinema and GMR Aerocity. A seven-day screening festival that was attended by over 2,000 people, took place at The Square between May 24 to June 17. The play-offs and final of IPL were screened during this festival. Besides that, four movies that were shown were:

- Travel Related movies - Midnight in Paris and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara
- David Warner's Choice – The Notebook
- Father's Day Theme – Finding Nemo

**Screenings of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup are happening at the same venue.**



### Palate Fest Showcased The Best In Food Traditions And Experimental Cuisine

The Palate Fest, held in February was a two-day extravaganza of food, fun and games at their brand-new venue, the Aerocity Grounds at GMR Aerocity. The brainchild of Ruchi Sibal and Aditi Kapoor, the event provides a common platform for interaction, business



generation and the exchange of ideas for all the associated culinary brands.

The food festival had stalls set up by leading names in the culinary space, including from the kitchens of five-star hotels in the city. The Delhi winters made for a great time to savour delicacies from the coal fired ovens of Koyla Kebab who were present at the venue. Those with a taste for more continental cuisine headed straight to Burgerama to enjoy their triple patty burgers. With the popularity of Asian food growing in the capital, the fests' directors brought to the visitors Kylin's famous spicy avocado rolls, and many flavours of dumplings from the Art Of Dumpling.

### New Tomorrow Campaign At The Square, GMR Aerocity

GMR Aerocity launched 'New Tomorrow' campaign, a creative approach to address two critical issues - plastic waste and the conservation of endangered species.

A striking tiger sculpture was installed at GMR Aerocity, made entirely from recycled plastic bottles that were donated by Aerocity's partners. GMR Aerocity chose the tiger as the symbol for this initiative because it represents a critically endangered species. By addressing plastic waste and supporting tiger conservation, Aerocity is addressing two important aspects of environmental responsibility.



### Gentleman's Ride For Men's Health

Aerocity has regularly supported specific causes ranging from environment to diversity to health and wellbeing. On September 24, it hosted the first edition of Indian Gentleman's Ride, conceptualised and managed by Bharat Beard Club. The event saw participation in various categories. The event was organised to spread awareness about men's mental and physical health.





# GMR Varalakshmi Foundation's Empowering Initiatives

The Foundation works with the vision 'To make sustainable impact on the human development of under-served communities through initiatives in education, health and livelihoods'

Inclusive growth is at the core of GMR Group and since inception there has been a strong focus on corporate sustainability with profit, people and planet at the triple bottom line of the business. GMR Group's charitable and philanthropic activities started in 1991. As the group grew and emerged as one of the leading infrastructure companies in the country, it formed a separate institution called GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) for undertaking CSR activities on a significant scale. Considering that education, health and livelihoods are the key components that ensure the wellbeing of the communities, the Foundation focuses on these thrust areas. GMRVF is currently working in 17 locations across the country wherever it has business operations.

Recognising the need for access to good quality education and healthcare in rural and remote locations, GMRVF established educational institutions of excellence at Rajam, Andhra Pradesh – GMR Institute of Technology and SGCSR College – that provide higher education opportunities to the local students. A 200-bed multi-specialty hospital was also built at Rajam which provides affordable quality healthcare services in this remote location.

Considering the industry's need for skilled manpower and also to leverage the huge demographic dividend of the country, GMRVF has been training youth in various industry-relevant skills, in line with Skill India Mission of GOI, in its 15 skill training centres across the country, including the three state-of-the-art training centres in three airport locations namely Delhi, Hyderabad and Goa. The main USP of skilling by GMRVF is the industry-partnered model so that the training becomes very relevant



to the industry requirements. Voltas, Schneider, Volvo, Gyproc-Saint Gobian are some of the eminent industry partners GMRVF has in the area of skill training. All trainings are offered without any fees and Delhi and Hyderabad centres also offer free boarding and lodging during the training period.

Women empowerment is another important focus of the Foundation and towards this Foundation works with women groups and encourages them to produce different products for income generation which are marketed through EMPOWER (Enabling Marketing of Products of Women Entrepreneurs) initiative. Eco-friendly jute and handmade paper products, cloth bags etc. made by the women are marketed through the shop at the Hyderabad Airport, office sales, setting up exhibitions, bulk

orders etc. A Millet Processing Unit was also set up in Hyderabad recently which is also providing livelihood opportunity for under-privileged women. Overall, about 100 women are being supported under this initiative.

In Delhi, about 600 Covid-affected families, including Covid widows, were supported with push carts to initiate income generation activities under the Project SMILE (Supporting Marginalised Individuals through Livelihoods and Empowerment).

GMRVF believes that every child should be engaged in quality learning experience and towards this it works with over 7,000 underprivileged students studying in government schools at the three airport locations. Providing Vidya Volunteers to address the gap in teacher-student ratio, teaching and learning material, infrastructure support like toilets, additional classrooms, drinking water facility, conducting after school classes are some of the interventions in this area.

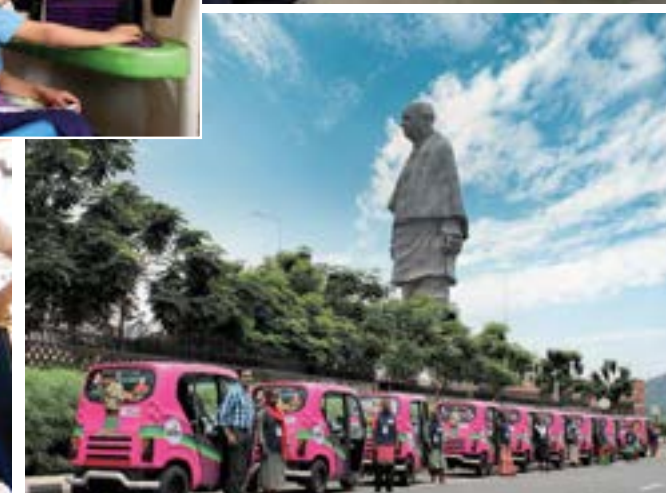
Digital learning is also being actively promoted through education centres, Smart classrooms, STEM labs, World on

Wheels bus etc.

The Foundation also implements a unique scheme called Gifted Children under which 283 under-privileged children are being sponsored for education from 1st standard till their first job since last 20 years with a few batches already completing their education and settled in good jobs.

Considering the healthcare and wellbeing needs of the growing elderly population, the Foundation is running four Mobile Medical Units in all three airport locations and multi-activity centre that provide multiple health services to the elderly at Delhi. The Foundation also strives towards providing preventive and curative healthcare to the most vulnerable communities through its evening clinics, regular health camps and awareness programs. Five nutrition centres are run at Delhi and Hyderabad that provide nutrition supplements, ante and post-natal care to the pregnant and lactating women.

While GMR Group is contributing to the development of the nation by building world class infrastructure, GMR Varalakshmi Foundation, through its humble efforts, is ensuring that the fruits of development reach out to the most under-served.



## Few Highlights of Skilling Initiatives:

- About 3800 youth trained in three skill training centres in FY 2022-23 with over 85 per cent settlement
- Aviation Skill Development Centre set up at Goa Airport in 2022 has trained 926 youth in the first year of operations and placed 907 of them in various jobs at airport
- MoSDE (Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) showcased GMRVF's Training centre at Delhi as representative model of industry led skilling in India to President of the World Bank - Ajay Banga on 19 July 2023





# Lights, Colours And Festive Action

By Team Aerocity Live

November brings with it double delight – change of season and festive season. Aerocity and Delhi celebrate the occasion with full aplomb, that's not to be missed

**M**ost of the Indian festivals are associated with seasons, albeit with sowing and reaping crops. While urban India has become much aloof from the original intent, it still must be thanking Gods that the festive fervour in India that starts with Teej, finds its culmination in the winter months. Come November, stepping out of home for celebrations and shopping is not only bearable, but a joyous experience. There never is a dull day in the days preceding and following Diwali, with Karva Chauth, Dhanteras, Govardhan, Bhai Dooj, Chhath Pooja, keeping the devoted families super occupied. Then there is Gurupurab, the most significant





festival of Sikhs and the Christmas & new year celebrations in which people of different denominations partake.

The fact of this series of festivals falling in the last three months of the year, with winter sun blessing us with its gentle rays than punishing us with its harshness, adds to the festive mood. Hawkers can sell their ware in the open, seating arrangements at eateries come out of air-conditioned confines and as you shop, you take a break for a hot beverage. Being out in the open is itself a celebration. Night time also keeps its promise to enchant you. The brilliant light work spreads its warmth with its pleasing colours and glow.

### The dazzle at Aerocity

Visitors to Delhi staying in Aerocity hotels and Delhiites alike can enjoy a great festive experience in this hospitality district. The harshness of summers being over, the open areas of Aerocity, especially the Square, lend themselves well to organising events and activities around Diwali and Christmas time.

There never is a time of the day when you would regret being outdoors in Aerocity during these months. Starting with morning walk at The Square and feeling the dew drops on your toes, to enjoying the interplay of gentle blue sky, greenery and chirping of birds and metal work of adjoining Worldmark buildings hugging the sky, as the sun peaks and then descends towards the west, every hour of the day brings with it sensory experiences. To complete the sensory experience, there is a Fountain at one end of The Square, that is not just a treat for the eyes but has soothing impact with the sound of falling water

and there are eateries along The Square that entice with the aromas of hot beverages, savouries & desserts, as also with their kitsch décor work.

The well-maintained lawns of various constituent hotels of Aerocity are also great places to spend quality time. Place an order for a steaming tea or coffee and get engrossed in your favourite book or close your eyes to relax and introspect. Some of these hotels in fact boast gardens with herbs and vegetables and are a must-visit for those interested in flora and some have great outdoor sculpture installations too.



The district appeals to the sensibilities of different age groups and different preferences. You can spend idle time in these magical surroundings under the winter sun and clear blue sky, taking a stroll along the well-maintained lanes, using the landscape for photography backdrop and watching a plane take off or land are also some other winter attractions.

The entire Aerocity gets transformed into a fairyland kind of landscape with magical lighting and a sight to behold, after the sunset. Low temperatures notwithstanding, you wouldn't want to miss this cozy sight in the winter festive season. To add to the fun quotient are screenings of major sports events (the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup is being screened till November 19) and popular movies.

### Festive mood

The Square, spread over multiple levels, is also the ideal setting for festive events, with décor suiting the mood. Some colourful installations and montages come up in open areas that are most frequented by visitors.

The entire duration of festive period is jam-packed with events. There are theme-based activities (see the calendar on pg 10), with visitors getting a chance to try their hands at rangoli making, getting their hands done up with henna and much more. There are shopping fests where you can shop to your heart's content and buy gifts for your loved ones. Artisans from across the country also get a chance to showcase their exquisite crafts.

Besides the stalls that come up, the shopping outlets of some big retail brands in lifestyle segment have a great range of home décor and gifting items that will liven up any living space. These are located at the lower level of The Square (which is called Sunken Plaza) and in Worldmark buildings. And should you drop

dead from shopping, there are ample sitting areas all around to help your legs regain strength.

### Culinary delights

Of course, no festive outing is complete without trying out the range of food items on offer and during festive season, the food court at Aerocity and the stalls that come up in open area of the Square, are a must-visit-spot for any foodie. You will get a range of Indian and global cuisine here. And you can buy hampers specially curated for festive occasions from some of the outlets at the Food Court.

Of course, the hotels and stand-alone restaurants, with their well-curated menus, are also a major attraction. Some great dining experiences are to be enjoyed in these hotels and restaurants. What's more, there are also offers on some wonderful delectables, especially desserts, during this season (also read our section Dishes in Aerocity on pages 58-59).

### Far from the maddening horns

Staying at a constituent hotel in Aerocity or working at a WorldMark office in Aerocity proves to be a wholesome experience, with its quality infrastructure, utmost care to hygiene and a world of eating and a range of experiences, shopping options to choose from. This experience is only enhanced during the pleasant winter festive months.

All this, without the hassle of car parking. With ample and dedicated car parking area and with walking zone of The Square where you won't be bothered by honking cars, you can spend peaceful time. Even better – you don't have to drive all the way to Aerocity. With the Airport Express Metro Line at the doorstep of this hospitality district, a ride from Central Delhi is just 17 minutes away.





# The Many Ways to Explore Delhi

Delhi has something for everyone. Whether you are a nature lover or theatre buff, you will find much to satiate your taste

**W**inters bring out the best in Delhi, and locals and tourists come out of the air-conditioned confines to explore the city. Irrespective of your tastes and inclination, there is something for everyone in this city. Follow any trail, and you will never be disappointed.

Starting with Aerocity, that has lush green and well-maintained green space at The Square, you can spend hours soaking in the sun, admiring the

greenery and chirping of birds. Or you stroll along the well-maintained streets admiring the modernist architecture, or enjoy a beverage at an outdoor seating arrangement at a restaurant or a hotel lawn. Step out of Aerocity to experience the city which has a rich historical legacy and greenery that are the envy of any other city, cultural spaces, food trail, and festive trail.

**Heritage trail:** Pick up a map of monuments of Delhi from a tourism office



Lodhi Gardens

of Delhi and get footloose in any of the heritage or archaeological parks that dot the city – Lodhi Gardens, Hauz Khas Monuments, Qutb Minar and Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Red Fort and Old Delhi, Old Fort, Humayun's Tomb and Sundar Nursery which double up as a treat for nature lovers, and so many more independent monuments that are testimony to evolving architecture of the city and have a story to tell.

**Nature trail:** The lushness of the city – both its forest areas and parks as well as its avenues leave the travellers spell-bound. Both the British and the post-independent planners had the vision and foresight to leave large tracts for natural vegetation and to plant native fruit-bearing trees on major roads. The northern and the southern ridges, the Lodhi Gardens and the Deer Park that also spring heritage surprises at every



Digambar Jain Mandir



National Gallery of Modern Art



St James Church

nook and corner with pristine vegetation hugging the monuments, Nehru Park, and other small and large gardens, making Delhi mesmerisingly beautiful. To add to that are the banks of Yamuna where you can observe the winter migratory birds.

**Art and culture trail:** Winters are also the months when the Delhi revs up its art act. The theatre district of National School of Drama, Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts, Kamani Auditorium, Triveni Kala Sangam and Little Theatre Group at Mandi House, India Habitat Centre and India International Centre are the prominent spots where much of the theatre action happens. Coupled with that are the numerous art galleries, alongside the National Gallery of Modern Art that showcase the best of fine arts.

**Food trail:** Head to any locality – markets big or small – and you will get the taste of India. Winters are the month when you can enjoy the country-wide cuisine in outdoors. From litti-chokha of Bihar and momos of north-eastern states to bhel poori, pao bhaji, chhole-bhature, South Indian fare and everything else that

qualifies as fast food of India, is to be had in markets like Connaught Place, Bengali Barket, Green Park, Sarojini Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, and right within the Food Court of Aerocity.

During the festive season starting with Diwali, extending to Christmas celebrations, several bazaars spring up in prominent market spaces, open areas of malls and temple precincts selling quality apparel, jewellery, décor, gifting items, and other lifestyle products, besides eatables.

**Festive + religious trail:** Hanuman Mandir, Birla Mandir, temples in Chhattarpur, Iskon temple, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, Sis Ganj Sahib, Digambar Jain Mandir, St James Church and Jama Masjid are some must-visit spots for those on spiritual or religious quest.

Delhi also is open to exploration by any means possible – on foot for those who love to sweat it out, in personal vehicles for those who want to do it fast but end up wasting more time in jams, and the environmentally conscious ones who are fine with hopping in and out of HOHO buses or metro. In the next section, we bring to you Delhi as covered by the Yellow Line of Delhi Metro.



# Take The Yellow Line To Delhi's Heart



Explore the rich textures of Delhi, with all its beauty and diversity, on the Yellow Line of Delhi Metro

By Deep Majumdar

Delhi, a city known for its history, nuanced culture and notorious street food is an *amalgamation* of joy, chaos and an unlimited series of sporadic events all happening at the same time. It is a city of great significance, both in a geopolitical as well as a cultural sense. One of the cornerstones of Delhi's soul is its prestigious Metro. Not only does it hold great significance in the lives of Delhiites, one could even argue that it is the very driving force behind it. The *yellow line*, in particular is arguably the busiest metro line in the city. Some might make a case for the blue line, but we'll save that debate for another day.

The yellow line can easily be described as the working man's metro line. The stretch, from Samaypur Badli to Millennium city centre, is travelled by over a million people every single day. However, there's something else that this metro is known for and that is connecting some of the most iconic places in Delhi's landscape. Let's dive into some of these places.

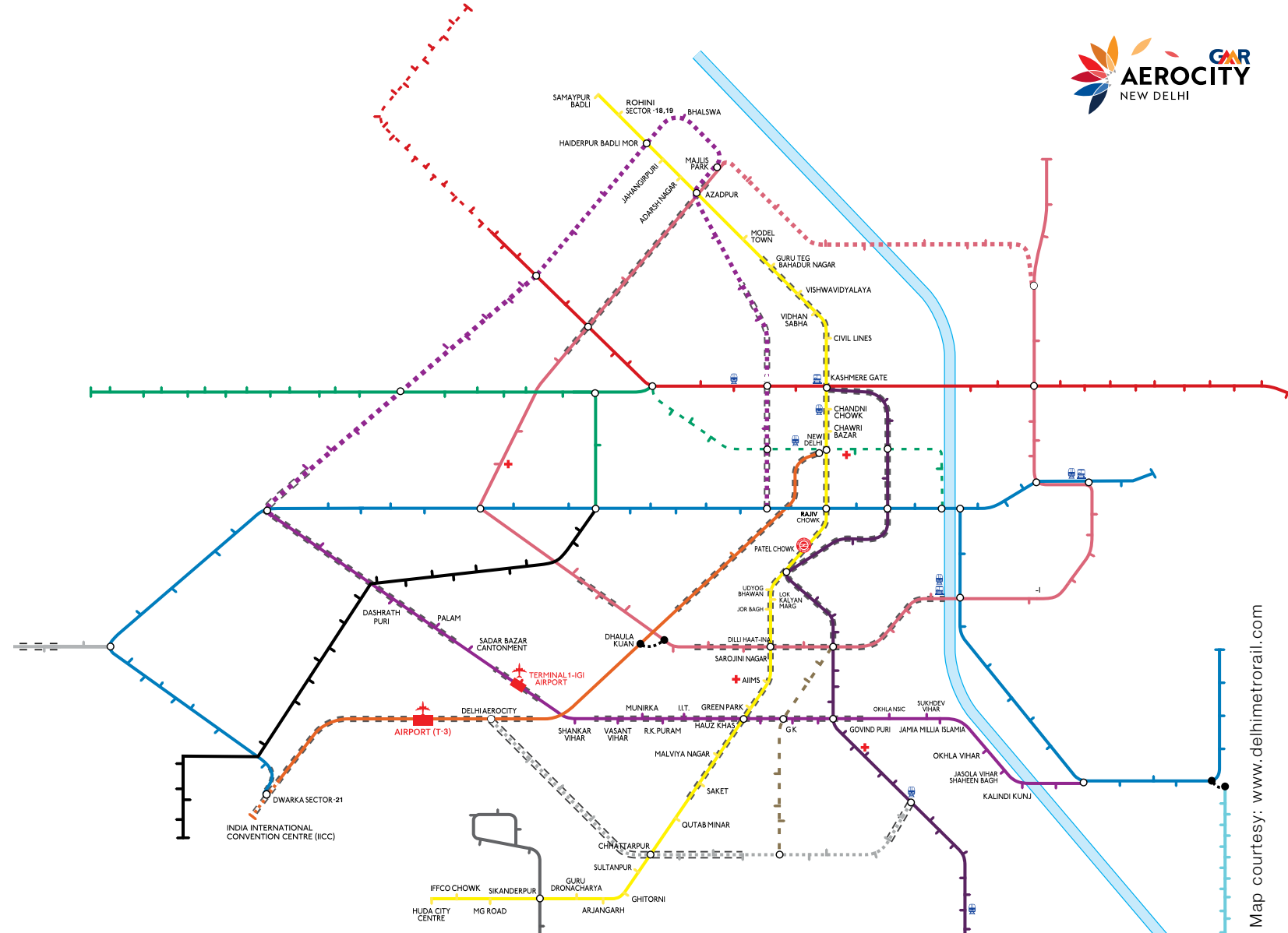
## Kashmere Gate – Kashmere Gate Metro Station

The scene of gruesome fighting between the colonial and Indian forces during the Revolt of 1857, this northern gate that guarded the walled city during the Mughal rule was at the receiving end of heavy shelling. Today, this gate, otherwise secluded from the hustle of the adjoining Inter State Bus Terminal and the market area, receives occasional groups of history enthusiasts and regular groups of locals looking for a place to rest or play. Some century-old shops and residential quarters nearby are pale shadow of what the happening quarters of Delhi would have been like in the late 19th and early 20th century.

## Hudson Lane – Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station

This food hub in the North Campus of Delhi University has some popular eateries where a range of fast food and snacking choices is served. You can club your trip to Hudson Lane with a stroll in the campus area where some of the leading colleges of the Delhi University are located.

The North campus, located between three parallel roads, is soaked in youthful vibe.



Map courtesy: [www.delhimetrorail.com](http://www.delhimetrorail.com)

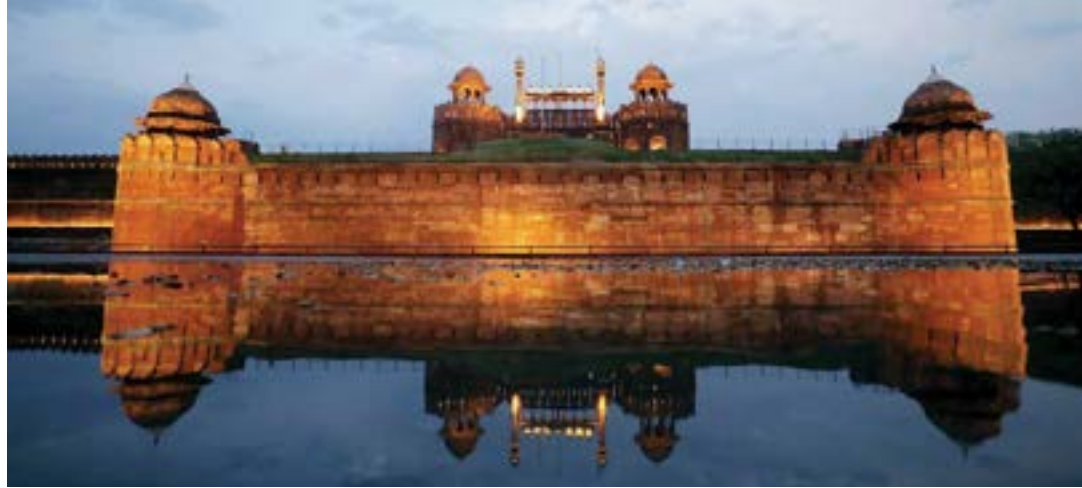
## Chandni Chowk Market - Chandni Chowk Metro Station

Established by Shah Jahan in the 17th century as part of Shah-jahanabad, this market oozes of Delhi's raw and unfiltered energy. There is so much happening all at once that it is often hard to keep a track of things. We have the bustling marketplace where shopkeepers and customers are in a constant bargaining battle on one hand and iconic food outlets such as Giani's, Kuremal and Parathe Waali Gali that have been offering authentic flavours since the day of their inception on the other hand. Finally, we have the mighty Red Fort acting as the perfect backdrop. More on that later.

Chandi Chowk is a place of massive historical significance as well. The name Chandni Chowk translates to a half-moon shaped square. This market originally had a pool of water that would itself reflect moonlight. In the 1950s, this pool was replaced by a clock tower. Recently, with the redevelopment from Red Fort to Fatehpuri Masjid, Chandni Chowk has truly become a must visit spot for travellers and explorers.







### Red Fort - Chandni Chowk Metro Station

Red Fort does not need any introduction. This titanic red stone fort was built in 1638 by then Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. The fort spanning across 125 acres is also a major attraction during Independence Day when the prime minister addresses the nation. Apart from that, it has become a symbol of national pride that is loaded with history. Also called the Lal Qila, this is one of the most iconic monuments in the capital city of Delhi and the red coloured sandstone used in its construction is the reason behind it. The Red Fort comprises multiple palaces, entertainment halls, baths and indoor canals, geometrical gardens and even a mosque that was used by the emperor himself.

### Jama Masjid – Chawri Bazaar Metro Station

Originally named the Masjid-i-Jehān-Numā and once considered the symbol of Islamic power in India, today Jama Masjid is one of Delhi's most iconic structures. Built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, Jama Masjid used to serve as the imperial mosque for Mughal emperors until the sultanate's fall in 1857. Spanning across an area of 325 square feet, Jama Masjid holds huge historical significance. Surrounded by the



melancholy and cacophony of Delhi 6, this mosque perfectly describes how Delhi actually operates.

### India Gate – Central Secretariat Metro Station

Undergoing massive transformation, first with the coming up of the War Memorial and the shifting of the Amar Jawan Jyoti to these premises, and the installation of Subhash Chandra Bose's statue and now with the coming up of Prime Minister's Residence and other construction projects all around, India Gate remains a popular tourist spot. Tourists flock to it throughout the year, braving the summers and winters alike.

### Safdarjung ka Maqbara – Jor Bagh Metro Station

*Safdarjung ka Maqbara* or Safdarjung's Tomb, as the name suggests, is the tomb of Safdarjung who served as the Viceroy of Awadh under the rule of then Mughal emperor Mohammed Shah.



Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah might give you flashbacks from 2011's hit flick, *Rockstar*. Apart from being the set for *kunfayakun*, Hazrat Nizamuddin is also a key piece of the collage of Delhi's heritage. Known for live qawwali sessions and a haven for people who have nowhere to go, Hazrat Nizamuddin is a place of serenity and solace.

### Hauz Khas Village – Hauz Khas Metro Station

Hauz Khas village is a hub for Delhi's youth. Not only is this place a hub for the city's party crowd, over the course of the last few years, Hauz Khas Village has transformed into one of Delhi's popular cultural centres. It still is a place known for some of Delhi's fantastic restaurants and it has also become a place

known for expressionism that allows people to experience the city's youthful vigour, art and cultural epicness. Visitors will also find fascinating stores in HKV that deal in first copies and thrift items.

### Dilli Haat – Dilli Haat Metro Station

You cannot explore Delhi and leave out Dilli Haat. This place, that originally started off as a platform for rural arts and handicrafts, has become more than that in the last decade. Apart from being a stage for rural artisans and craftsmen and helping them showcase their hard work, Dilli Haat has quite successfully become an integral part of the city's social and cultural structure.

### Aravali Biodiversity Park – Guru Dronacharya Metro Station

Just a few steps from the Guru Dronacharya Metro Station, you'll

It was built by Nawab Shujaud Daula, Safdarjung's son, in memory of his father. It is the last garden tomb that displays the archetypal architecture seen during the Mughal era. This iconic piece of Delhi's history dates back to the 18th century. Interestingly, it is not just the monument that attracts tourists but it is also the surrounding nature that is an absolute sight to behold.

### Lodi Gardens – Jor Bagh Metro Station

Similar to the above mentioned Safdarjung's Tomb, Lodhi Gardens is also an immaculate concoction of nature and history. As it can clearly be inferred by the name, Lodhi Gardens is essentially home to the tombs of members of the Lodhi dynasty. In winters, this place also hosts a large number of migratory birds.

### Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah – Jor Bagh Metro Station

Coming out of the Jor Bagh metro station and approaching the







find a plush and well-constructed biodiversity park that is just perfect for walking around, cycling, jogging or simply experiencing the sunset while taking a stroll. Originally a sand mine, the park, with the efforts of citizens, an NGO called IAMGurgaon and ecologist Vijay Dhasmana, was transformed into a place that is today home to numerous species of vegetation. It is also the country's first OECM site (other effective area-based conservation measures). For those who do not know OECMs are areas that aim to achieve long-term in-situ conservation of biodiversity but are not categorically protected areas.

#### Garden of Five Senses and Champa Gali – Saket Metro Station

This lush garden that came up 20 years ago, in 2003, combines elements of nature including water channels and fountains with sculptures and futuristic designs and speaks to – as the name suggests – all our five senses. Touch, smell, sight, sound, and taste are all evoked by a combination of colour and aroma, texture and form. Close by, in the back lanes of Saket, is a picturesque called Champa Gali with boutique setups – garments, knick-knacks, gift shops, eateries and wall art-with cool quotient that especially appeals to Gen Zs and Millennials.

The significance of the Yellow Line in Delhiite's lives is, needless to say, huge. Imagine, if you will, that surreal feeling when you're on your way to work in the Delhi Metro and you get to witness the Qutb Minar for a brief second as you approach Chhatrapur Metro Station. You're essentially witnessing a great piece of heritage and culture of one of the world's most popular cities and you do not even realise it. Metro is the very soul of the city that moves around helping people reach their destination on a daily basis. It is also a means for people to explore the city landscape in one of its rawest forms. That feeling of standing shoulder to shoulder in a crowded morning metro and hopping from station to station to explore Delhi's cultural and historical hotspots is a feeling that is best experienced rather than explained.

#### THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Yellow Line can be extremely crowded during office hours. 8 AM to 10 AM should be ideally avoided.
- Pick pockets might be an issue in certain stations so you might want to be careful in these stations.

#### FUN FACTS

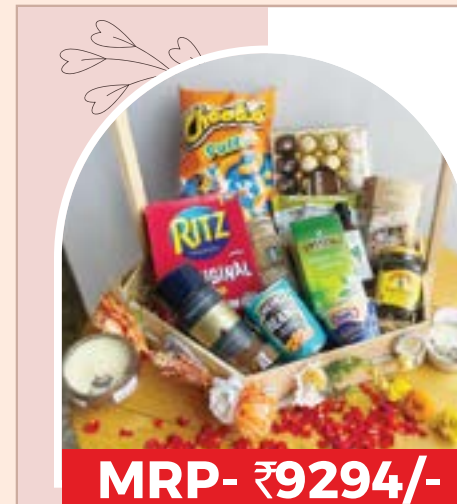
- 2<sup>nd</sup> metro line to be operational after the Red Line.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> longest metro line in Delhi Metro.
- 49.02 km covered approximately 94 minutes.
- Former Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh inaugurated the four-kilometre stretch (from Vishwa Vidyalaya to Kashmir Gate) on December 19 2004.
- Consists of 37 stations.
- Maximum speed of 100 kmph.

#### HOW TO CONNECT VIA AEROCITY

The Magenta Line (Janak Puri to Botanical Gardens) connects T1 of the Delhi Airport to Green Park Metro Station on Yellow Line

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# “Delhi Is Very Deep, With Multiple Layers”

**Nidhi Bansal, CEO, India City Walks,** describes the ethos of Delhi, and how best to explore the city



**B**orn and Chandigarh and educated in Aurangabad, Nidhi Bansal started her career in hospitality industry and subsequently IT/ITES industry, before venturing into heritage walks. Under the umbrella of India City Walks, she has developed Delhi Walks®, Dastan E Delhi® and India Heritage Walks, besides other programmes. In an interview to Aerocity Live, she shares what made her switch over from a corporate career, what attracted her to Delhi's heritage and culture in the first place, and how visitors to Delhi can best discover the hidden gems of the city. Excerpts:

## How did you get interested in heritage walks?

I do not come from history background but I was always interested in experiences. I worked in hospitality for 10 years and then worked in an IT/ITES organisation for about 8 years. In my 18 years in the corporate world, I focussed on delivering best

experiences. The idea to start heritage walks was my partner's (Sachin Bansal), a true Delhiite. Both of us were doing really well in our corporate jobs. I initially questioned the idea. But on a tour to Chicago, I spent two hours at a lake, and I realised that if I could spend two hours there listening to stories, in our country there is a story in every 200 metres. But nobody is telling those stories. That got me interested.

## What is it about Delhi that fascinates you?

Delhi is very deep. It has multiple layers. It's like peeling an onion. As you peel it you discover something new – be it food or architecture or history. And Delhi is developing even today, with newer Metro lines, and landmarks like Akshardham.

**Since you have lived in other cities, what is your take on the competitive spirit like Mumbai vs Delhi,**



## Kolkata vs Delhi, especially in terms of food? How do you take to specific cultural nuances of various cities?

I grew up in Maharashtra, and my first job was in Mumbai. So, I understand that rivalry more than most people. When it comes to any city, it's about exploring the city's soul. The beauty of our country is that every city has something very distinctive to offer. Both Mumbai and Delhi hold their own beauty.

## With what expectation do visitors come to Delhi, and what is it that they are looking at?

A decade ago, visitors came to India to visit the Golden Triangle of Delhi-Agra-Jaipur. They would spend a day in Delhi and see the most prominent spots. But there has been a change over a period of time. International visitors are interested in different elements of the country or a city. India is no more one-dimensional. It is multi-faceted and it is now known to the world. Different people come for unique interests too. So, there are people who are interested in food even if it may not suit their palette. There are people who come for specific genres of art or architecture; heritage and history. Interestingly, festivals have become a major attraction, including Independence Day and Republic Day. The visitors are very educated and aware, and want to know the unknown, not readily available experiences.

## Which are your favourite spots in Delhi?

My first walk was at Mehrauli Archeological Park. It is one of my favourites. The tranquility of that place has always captivated me.

Having said that, I love the chaos of Old Delhi (where the office of India City Walks is located). It has different shades. It offers a different experience in the morning, and if you come in the afternoon or evening it is different. And it looks like a chaotic place but it is not. It moves. Nothing stands still in this place.

## Besides the walks what other products have you developed?

We have cultural and heritage events, storytelling sessions, cultural orientation for employees of organisations, programmes for students, and for people working in embassies, who are posted for two years. We also have rickshaw tours which are well-equipped with provisions and have an city explorer® accompanying you.

## What would be your advice for someone coming to Delhi and staying in Aerocity, and what are the spots, or walks around Aerocity that you would recommend?

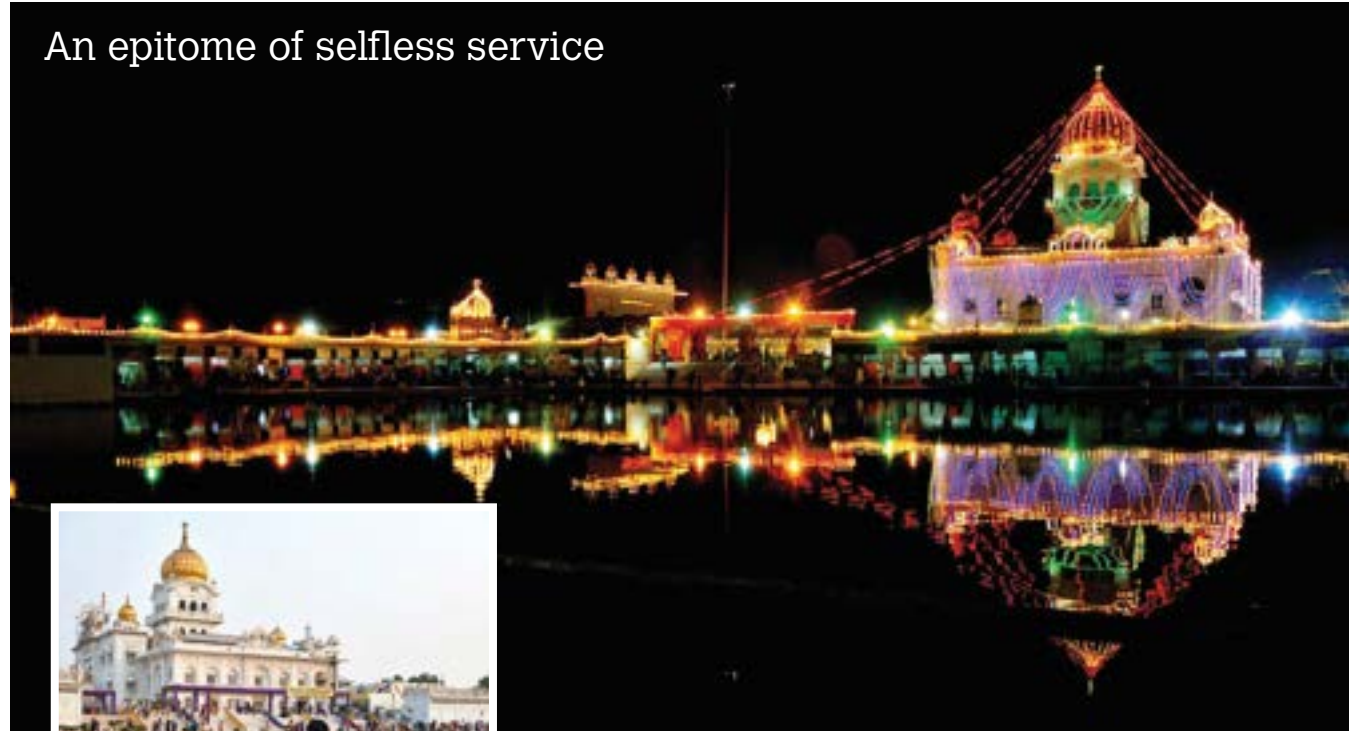
Aerocity has come up really well and one of the biggest boons for Aerocity is the Metro. And now you can reach from Aerocity to Dwarka in 15 minutes. Distance is irrelevant now and nothing is far in Delhi. And those staying in Aerocity can easily travel to Connaught Place and also see India Gate, Rashtrapati Bhavan, in a short timeframe. They should definitely see Humayun's Tomb, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If they are a little more adventurous, they can come to Old Delhi for its food.





## Bangla Sahib Gurudwara

An epitome of selfless service



By Shruti Tripathi

**S**ikhism is not only a religion but also sets forth ideal principles to live a selfless life, and Bangla Sahib Gurudwara is the epitome of the same generosity and selfless service that Sikhism teaches. This Sikh temple was built in 1783 by Sikh General Bhagel Singh to commemorate the visit of Guru Hari Krishan in 1664.

As per the history of Sikhism, when Guru Hari Krishan visited the place, the population was reeling under the outbreak of diseases. The Guru helped the sufferers by providing them the fresh water from wells that healed the disease of many. The present-day Gurudwara Bangla Sahib was the bungalow of Raja Jai Singh and the same place where Guru Hari Krishan stayed. The sarovar on the premise of Gurudwara Bangla Sahib was built by Raja Jai Singh as a small tank over the water of a well and is still considered to have healing power for every devotee.

The main dome of the gurudwara, carved out from lustrous white marble, is of gold leaf. Apart from the main shrine, the gurudwara has several sections that are dedicated to different purposes; langar (community kitchen), a charitable hospital, a parking space, a higher secondary school and also to waiting

room for visitors as yatriniwas where they can rest and relax.

Gurudwara Bangla Sahib is one of the main and most visited places in New Delhi by tourists as well as by locals. Every weekend, the Sikh temple witnesses the coming of lakhs of devotees. It is also known for its welfare services to the people, and going to start a cancer screening facility in its clinic soon.

Another example of the gurudwara's selfless service is its mega community kitchen that runs 24/7, 365 days a year and feeds over 35,000 people every day.

During festivals like Baisakhi, Prakash Utsav and Guru Purab the gurudwara shimmers with light, colour and faith of lakhs of disciples irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. Gurudwara Bangla Sahib truly practises the motto 'Seva Parmo Dharma' which means '*service to humanity is the highest religion*'



**Distance from Aerocity:** 14.4 km



**Nearest Metro Station:** Shivaji Stadium  
(on Airport Express Metro Line)

## Birla Mandir, New Delhi

### A temple that has seen history closely

By Shruti Tripathi

**B**irla Mandir, also known as Lakshminarayan Temple, is the first temple in the chain of Birla Temples present in different cities across India. The construction of Birla Mandir started in 1933 under the aegis of Jugal Kishore Birla, and the foundation stone of the temple was laid by Jat Maharaj Udaybhan Singh. The construction was completed in 1939. Mahatma Gandhi who inaugurated the temple, visualised it to be a temple that would not restrict humans on the basis of caste and creed.

There are a total of 14 Birla temples built across India. Apart from Delhi, there are Birla Mandirs in Patna, Jaipur, Bhopal, Varanasi, Hyderabad and Kolkata, among other cities.

Birla Mandir in Delhi is a must-visit spot for tourists and

devotees alike. Especially during the festive occasions of Janmashtami and Diwali, the temple is filled up with lakhs of devotees and visitors.

The temple is spread over an area of 7.5 acres approximately, with a built-up area is 0.52 acres. The temple was built with stones brought from Agra, Makarana and Kota while the idols are built with marble brought from Jaipur. Built in Nagar style of architecture, and painted in yellow and red stone colour, the temple consists of three shikharas. The walls are adorned with verses of Bhagvad Geeta.

Apart from the main shrine of Lakshmi and Narayana, the temple also consists of the little shrine of Ganesha, Hanuman, Shiva and Buddha. The life journey of Gautama Buddha is also depicted on the walls.

Architect of the temple, Sris Chandra Banerjee, is known to have given nationalistic direction to buildings of the time, along with adding element of modernity to them.

Situated in the central part of the capital, Birla Mandir has witnessed several significant events of modern Indian history and witnessed the socio-religious transformation of India. Along with shrines, the temple has is also embellished with a large garden, fountain and nationalistic sculptures of Shivaji and Chandra Gupta Maurya.



**Distance from Aerocity:** 15 km



**Nearest Metro Station:** RK Ashram Marg



## MUST VISIT SPOTS

# St James Church

## The oldest church in Delhi

By Shruti Tripathi

Built in 1836, St James Church is the structure that signifies faith and belief in the supreme authority. During the British rule in India, St James was the official church of the British Viceroy of India in Delhi, India. Located in Kashmiri Gate, St James Church had its origins in the miraculous experience of James Skinner (a professional soldier) who was left wounded in one of his battles without food and water for 48 hours. He prayed for his safety to god in return of promise to build a chapel for god. Instantly, as an answer to his prayers, a downtrodden woman appeared and helped him out and saved his life.

Later on, Skinner built a chapel to keep his promise to god which cost him nearly Rs 90,000 in that time.

It is the oldest and first church in Delhi that has been the stage of historical events in itself. The main dome of the structure, painted with a dim yellow colour and standing on three porticoed porches, has the sign of a cross (principal & sacred symbol of Christianity).

On the inside, the church is huge and aesthetic and follows the original European Christian architecture style. There is one painting 'The Prodigal Son' which is an original work of Pompeo Batoni that adorned the Church premise.


The same premises also consist of many tombstones, including




those of James Skinner, Thomas Metcalf and William Fraser.

Historically, St James Church witnessed the most significant event of the freedom movement in 1857 when it suffered damages too. In 2015, the church authority initiated the conservation plan which finally started in July 2022 due to the pandemic.

Recently, in the month of August, the oldest church of the capital was renovated and opened for the public again. The restored church is now one of the most visited spots in Delhi for tourists and visitors. On Christmas every year, the church witnesses a huge crowd of believers, prayers and celebration.

 Distance from Aerocity: 27.2 km

 Nearest Metro Station: Chandni Chowk Metro Station

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By Meha Mathur and Shruti Tripathi




## Connaught Place


**A**t the heart of Delhi lies the most well-planned, happening, and captivating shopping district of Connaught Place. Conceptualised in three concentric semi-circles when the new capital of Delhi was being built in early 20th Century, it has literally come a full circle as new blocks were added in later decades. Painted in sparkling white and characterised by corridors supported by massive circular pillars, Connaught Place has Delhi's 'OG' mega showrooms of garments, apparel, footwear, leather, books and household items and big eateries in inner and outer circles. The middle circle largely has some offices and way to residences of long-time Delhi-wallahs, and it also has its share of boutique eateries. But it's not just about big showrooms. The corridors are a parallel shopping world altogether, where some great handicraft work from Gujarat, funky jewellery items, posters, electronics goods and toys can be had at reasonable prices. At the heart of Connaught place, above the Rajiv Chowk Metro Station is an open area where you can enjoy a cultural event or just take in the afternoon sun in winters.

## Shopping Extravaganza At The Square, Aerocity

**A**erocity offers a unique shopping experience. It's an amalgam of joyous mood and safe, serene and hygienic atmosphere for shopping where you do not have to worry about traffic, noise and clutter. High-end luxury stores in apparel, beauty products and treatment, home décor, gifting, travel accessories and eatables entice guests staying in Aerocity hotels and regular office commuters alike. It's a place for a relaxed shopping experience, where you can spend hours exploring products. You can club the shopping experience with a dining out experience, with global cuisine on offer at the restaurants in this hospitality district.



 Distance from Aerocity: 17.4 km

 Nearest Metro Station: Rajiv Chowk Metro Station on Blue & Yellow Line

## Food Shopping At INA

**B**efore online shopping made sourcing food ingredients from far and wide easier, Delhiites and foreigners posted in Delhi, even from far off localities, would throng to the Indian National Army (INA) market to meet their culinary requirements. While not too fancy in terms of setting, it sells a range of sea produce, fruits, vegetables, dry fruits and other ingredients. There are also shops selling crockery items and even clothing. It promises to be a great shopping experience and offers a slice of the lifestyle of Delhi. An added attraction is its location right across the Dilli Haat.

 Distance from Aerocity: 16.4 km

 Nearest Metro Station: INA Market Metro Station on Yellow and Pink lines



## Karol Bagh: Delhi's Heart & Soul

**L**ocated in West Delhi, Karol Bagh has everything to offer to people of every age group. Its streets have shoppers from all over the city jostling for clothing, footwear and jewellery, especially those doing trousseau shopping, what with its reasonable pricing.

And it also lives up to its reputation as a culinary hub of Delhi. Be it fish preparations from Ganesh Restaurant or spicy Indianised pasta of Pasta Aunty, the range of food preparations never disappoints.

There are two main streets where the shopping happens - Ajmal Khan Road and Ghaffar

Market. While Ajmal Khan Road has a range of options for clothing, footwear and accessories, Ghaffar Market is known for its electronic shops and repairing of electric appliances. The market also has new brand outlets of Miniso, Hush Puppies and Westside.

Karol Bagh is gradually becoming a civil services preparation hub, with aspirants seeking study space taking up apartments there.

As the country approaches the main event of the G20 presidency, Karol Bagh is included among five zones finalised by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) where amenities have been upgraded.



Representative image

 Distance from Aerocity: 16.5 km

 Nearest Metro Station: Drishti IAS Karol Bagh Metro Station on Blue Line



# KNOW YOUR AEROCITY



## Worldmark 1

Looks Salon  
Aerocity Social  
Apronix  
Miniso  
Starbucks  
Punjab Grill  
Da Milano  
Kampai  
Forest Essentials  
98.4 Chemist  
Gute Relise  
Chaayos  
Pret a Manger

## Worldmark 2

Plum by Bent Chair  
The Beer Cafe  
Kylin Experience  
Dhaba Estd. 1986  
One 8 Commune  
24 Seven  
Underdoggs

## Worldmark 3

The Farzi Cafe  
NUA Cafe  
Costa Coffee  
Mesa Kitchen & Bar  
Cafe Delhi Heights

## The Square

Chai Point  
Kama Ayurveda  
Looks Prive  
Kheoni Wellness  
Modern Bazaar  
Pure Home+Living

Nicobar  
Manan  
Blue Tokai  
Chique  
Banaaras Paan  
ICICI Bank

## Restaurants

Dragonfly Experience  
Monsoon  
Liv Bar  
Reve Bistro Moderne  
Daryaganj  
Qavalli

## Food Outlets

Giani's  
Keventers  
Krispy Kreme  
Orange Peel  
Doner & Gyros  
Wow Momo  
Pizza Hut

Bikanerwala  
Subway  
Karim's  
Asia Seven  
Street Food  
Sandburg Shakes  
Khan Chacha

Biryani Blues  
Kuuraku Ramen  
Tokyo Table  
Sagar Ratna  
Chai Garam



## “Aerocity Branch Equipped For All Requirements Of Customers”



**Pradeep Malhotra – Regional Head, ICICI Bank, describes the services that the bank provides at its Aerocity branch**

By Team Aerocity Live

**What is the customer base you are catering to through the branch at Aerocity?**

At our branch in Aerocity, we are equipped to serve customers for all their corporate and individual banking requirements.

**What are the products and services that you are offering here?**

The branch offers a comprehensive range of accounts, including savings and current accounts, trade and forex services, fixed and recurring deposits, loans – business loan, home loan, personal loan and auto loan – along with remittance and card services. The branch also offers banking services to NRI customers.

**We understand that in today’s day and age, banks encourage customers to go for DIY mode and visit a branch for advisory. What kind of team do you have in the branch to provide this advisory?**

The branch works in harmony with a lot of core teams within the bank’s ecosystem to provide solutions to unique banking requirements of our customers. A dedicated team to look after specific banking requirements of multi-national companies and a specific team to look after all the retail loan requirements of our retail customers are a few examples of our integrated ecosystem.



**“This is the first branch at Aerocity which is indeed a one-stop-shop for all banking needs of our customers. It caters to retail customers by providing them with necessary products and services, and advisory that they need to meet their banking requirements”**



**What are you doing differently in this branch to create customer delight?**

The branch offers TAB banking facility that provides nearly 100 services at customer’s place or in branch premises with the assistance of a branch employee through a tablet device. The services include opening of accounts, fixed deposit (FD), raising cheque book request, generation of e-statement and change of address among others.

**Aerocity has state-of-the art infrastructure offering avenues to work, shop at the premium outlets and relish various food joints. With this new branch at Aerocity, do you think customers would prefer to visit this branch, as they get the option to fulfil all their day-to-day needs at one place?**

This is the first branch at Aerocity which is indeed a one-stop-shop for all banking needs of our customers. It caters to retail customers by providing them with necessary products and services, and advisory that they need to meet their banking requirements. The branch is equipped with a Cash Recycler Machine which is available for customers for cash deposit and withdrawal 24X7. We feel that corporate customers will also visit the branch for the ecosystem banking options that it offers.



# A Millet Maestro

This remarkable woman could truly create a flavourful tornado on your plate or in the kitchen

By Poonam Singh

**C**hef Saumya Srivastava might have found herself in the wrong profession if she had not taken the hotel management entrance exam. Her parents had other aspirations for her, hoping she would become a company secretary. However, Chef Saumya, the innovative chef at **Soul Pantry in Hotel Andaz**, New Delhi Aerocity, strongly followed her dream and today, she delights in serving the most succulent dishes to those who appreciate her culinary artistry.

In the world of gastronomy, Chef Saumya stands out as a passionate culinary artist, whose journey from a young age to becoming a professional chef is nothing short of inspiring. With a keen love for cooking deeply rooted in her heart, Chef Saumya has crafted her path in the culinary world, leaving a trail of delectable creations in her wake.



Chef Saumya Srivastava

## Early culinary affection

At a tender age of three, Chef Saumya exhibited her culinary flair by preparing her first meal, suji ka halwa, all on her own. This extraordinary feat showcased her natural talent and curiosity in the kitchen. These early experiences instilled in Chef Saumya a profound love for experimenting with flavours and ingredients.

## Cooking as a lifelong passion

Cooking was not just a hobby for Chef Saumya; it was a lifeline. She recalls cooking even when she was feverish at times, because the thought of not being in the kitchen was unthinkable to her. Whether it is preparing meals in her professional kitchen or whipping up a late-night dish at home, cooking is her constant companion. She believes in the therapeutic power of cooking and finds solace in the kitchen.

Chef Saumya's culinary journey officially began when she enrolled in the Institute of Science and Management (ISM) in Ranchi. Despite her initial desire to pursue hotel management, her father encouraged her to complete her undergraduate degree first. She enrolled in a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) programme before pursuing her culinary dreams.

Chef Saumya's love for cooking extends beyond the kitchen. She's a firm believer in the importance of having her trusty knife with her wherever she goes, and she proudly carries it to her various destinations, even choosing cabs over the metro to ensure her beloved kitchen tool is always within reach.

## Mastery In millets

Chef Saumya can be called affectionately as the "Millet Maestro." She possesses an unparalleled mastery in creating millet dishes, capable of creating any cuisine from around the world using these nutri-



tious grains. Whether it is a comforting bowl of millet porridge or an exotic millet-based delicacy, she can craft it with culinary finesse.

Her recipe for success includes boundless creativity, unshakeable patience, relentless hard work and an abundance of heartfelt emotion. These are the very tools and steps that have propelled her to culinary stardom.

Yet, there were days when she was relegated to the housekeeping department, as some doubted whether this remarkable woman could truly create a flavourful tornado on your plate or in the kitchen. However, with time, she proved that her culinary magic knew no bounds, and now, her delectable millet creations grace tables and kitchens worldwide.

## Breaking the notion

It is said that millets might not need water to grow, but they require a lot of water post-consumption. To challenge this notion, the Chef explained how we used to consume millets regularly without knowing what they were or how healthy they could be. Surprisingly, they have proven to be relatively good for us and easy to digest. The Chef is the best person to vouch for this, as she has been eating them regularly and has noticed many positive impacts on herself, including weight loss and increased energy.

## Joy of food

In a world often blinded by fame and showmanship, Chef Saumya stands out as a beacon of passion and authenticity in the culinary realm. Her journey is a moti-

vating dedication to the craft of cooking, highlighting the important relationship between food, lifestyle choices, and self-expression.

Chef Saumya, not in pursuit of online stardom like others, but

driven by an unwavering love for crafting delectable dishes, is redefining the essence of culinary art. With each plate she prepares, she weaves a story of creativity, carefully selecting the freshest ingredients as the palette for her culinary masterpieces.

## The culinary artist

For Chef Saumya, cooking is not just a skill; it is an art form. She thinks it is critical to know your ingredients and to enjoy each step of the cooking process. This deep-seated philosophy allows her to elevate even the simplest of dishes into extraordinary experiences for the palate.

## A mission to share

Chef Saumya's mission extends beyond her own kitchen. She is determined to raise awareness about mindful cooking and the importance of being attentive to what we eat. It is not merely about her; it's a collective celebration of the love for cooking, a shared appreciation for food, and the pursuit of making every meal a delightful experience.

## All-women squad

While the hospitality industry may still be slow to embrace women chefs, Soul Pantry has shattered this stereotype by staffing exclusively with women, from the chef to the waitstaff. This unique approach ensures that every dining experience here is infused with not only the most exquisite delicacies but also a generous serving of warmth, affection, and love. Her story exemplifies how passion and dedication can transform a hobby into a lifelong calling.



# CHEF'S PROFILE

## Chef's Recipe



## GLUTEN FREE QUINOA FLAT BREAD

### INGREDIENTS

• Quinoa flour	150 grams
• Salt	5 grams
• Olive oil	5 grams
• Broccoli	5 grams
• Bell pepper	5 grams
• Zucchini	5 grams
• Olives	5 pcs

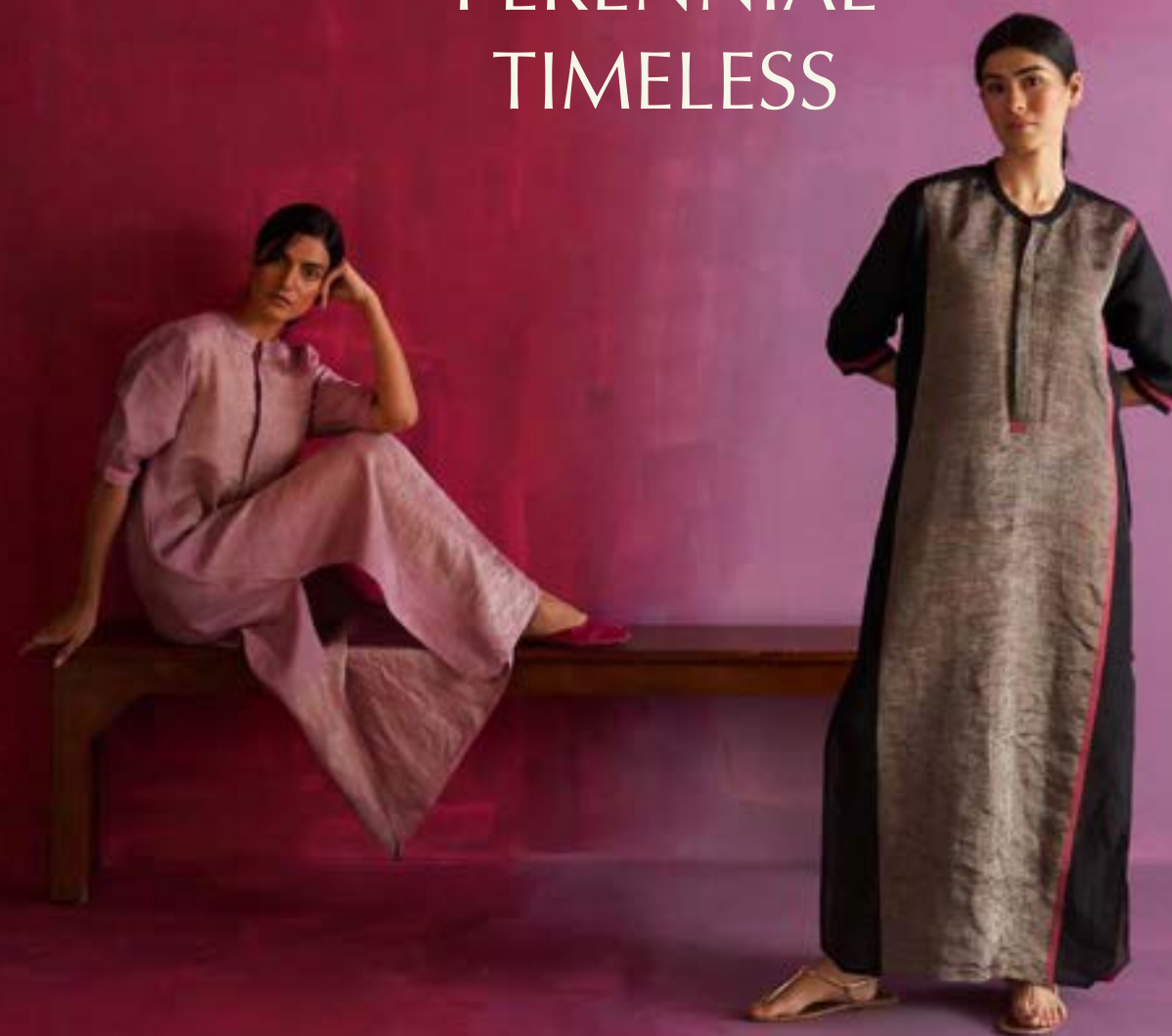
### METHOD

- Knead the dough with quinoa flour, salt, olive oil and water
- Roll it in oval shape for approximately 9 inches
- Now bake it into the oven at 300 degrees for 3 mins
- Take it out the oven and add the pizza sauce on the bread, add some mozzarella cheese and all the vegetables and bake it again till the cheese gets nice golden colour
- The gluten free flat bread pizza is ready
- Cut it into slices and serve hot

MANAN

Handcrafted | Natural | Wearable

HANDMADE  
PERENNIAL  
TIMELESS



SS-11 Lower Ground, The Square at  
GMR Aerocity



## Great Assortment Of Coffee And Food Items

Though wanting in seating and sockets for charging points, Blue Tokai at Aerocity scores high on what matters most – F&B

By Deep Majumdar

From the moment you enter Blue Tokai to the moment you get up and leave, you will be in a constant state of calm. It might be just a 'coffee house' thing but what I know for sure is that it is definitely something that you will feel deeply. It is not the music, I can tell that for sure. While other popular coffee houses go for something like jazz or instrumental, Blue Tokai Aerocity is jamming on indie music.

I've been to Blue Tokai establishments in the past and this one was not different. The ambience, the music and even the seating arrangements fell in line with the brand's language. The seating, however, is limited and that did seem to be something that could make your visit to this particular Blue Tokai outlet a bit tedious depending on the time of the day you're visiting.

Another thing that concerned me gravely was the availability of power sockets. Being a working professional, I always look for spots where I can have a good cup of coffee and at the same time get some work done. All of a sudden, there is this symbiotic relationship between coffee houses and working professionals that became a norm before anyone even realised it. Blue Tokai Aerocity did not disappoint in this regard. The number of charging points could use an upgrade, though.



At last, the table was set, the laptop was out and I was ready to take on anything that menu had to offer. The first beverage I tried was the Iced Vietnamese coffee. Vietnamese coffee is essentially a concoction of strong coffee, sweet condensed milk and lot of ice. It's as simple as that. I have to say there are plenty of coffee places in Delhi NCR that serve a top notch Iced Vietnamese and this one easily secures its place among the best ones.

Next up, served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and a shot espresso, was the Affogato. Now, the thing about Affogatos is that they are part coffee and part ice cream (ideally a scoop of vanilla) and despite this strict definition, coffee houses like to play it lose. They blur the lines and make their own versions of this beverage cum dessert. Although I did find myself wanting more coffee to actually drown the scoop of ice cream completely, I liked how the two completely different flavours collided at first and then just fused together to form something so delicious that explaining it won't do it justice.

This was followed by a few drinks, namely, the Flat White and the Iced Pour Over. The former is a combination of espresso with steamed milk often characterised by a velvety consistency commonly termed as microfoam. What makes it different from a latte is its higher espresso to milk proportion and a much thinner layer of microfoam than seen in a cappuccino. The latter, on the other hand, is hands down one of the best coffee beverages ever created. The Iced Pour Over is a hidden gem that introduces you to the hidden nuances of coffee. It is a very simple beverage to make and perhaps that is what makes it so darn impressive.

Apart from beverages, Blue Tokai also has a great assortment of food items that are made in real time. Some Blue Tokai outlets also sell pasta. The one in GMR Aerocity, however, does not. The food here is exceptionally good and this is not hyperbole. It is genuinely great on all fronts, be it texture, flavour and freshness.



It was fulfilling but at the same time it does not give you lethargy after you eat it.

### Must Haves Beverages:

- Vietnamese Style Iced Coffee
- Cortado
- Flat White
- Iced Pour Over
- Americano
- Iced Mocha

### Must Have Food Items:

- Morning Bun
- Korean Bun
- Toasted Sesame Bagel
- Cuban Chicken Sourdough Sandwich
- Open-faced Avocado and Poached Eggs Sourdough Toast



In my opinion, Blue Tokai is a coffee enthusiast's paradise. An amusement park specifically designed for caffeine junkies, so to speak. The thing that impressed the most is the fact that there is an option for people to stay in and work as well. The ambience is conducive, the music is not too harsh on the ears and most importantly, the staff seemed to be very polite and courteous. I understand that Blue Tokai went for a bright and welcoming theme but I would have preferred a darker tone for the décor.

If the aroma of coffee is something that you're used to, you will miss that at the Blue Tokai premise at Aerocity. However, you'll have to look beyond the aromas and gimmicks and feel the quality of the products that this place has to offer.



## 3 Cheers With Cakes, Cookies & Coffee

**A**erocity has emerged as a vibrant and sought-after destination for both Delhi and Gurugram residents, owing to its strategically perfect location nestled between two states. The place offers a plethora of dining options and hotels to choose from. The culinary experience in Aerocity is a gastronomic delight for all, boasting

an array of restaurants, cafes and hotels. It is a paradise for food enthusiasts. You can spend a delightful mid-evening time here, a period when meetings happen and a light hunger craves for a coffee or tea accompanied by cookies and cakes to savour the moment. Let's check out what is available for chai-time to explore during winters, especially Christmas.

Explore a world of exquisite coffee and delightful pastries in the heart of Aerocity as we take you on a culinary adventure through some of the best cafes and patisseries in the area



### Holiday Inn Aerocity

**T**he winter season invites us to indulge in hot beverages to experience the warmth with every sip. During this season, hotels and restaurants offer an array of flavours to provide the cosy comfort of hot beverages. Tasting the carefully crafted coffee at Holiday Inn Aerocity reveals a special treat for the season. The Pumpkin Spiced Coffee offers a perfect blend of fall spices like cinnamon and nutmeg. This coffee involves infusing the spices directly into the coffee grounds. The first sip delivers a delightful burst of these spices, evoking the essence of the season. If you prefer your coffee without sugar, you can skip adding extra sugar, as these blends already have a sweet, satisfying taste.

On the other hand, the Caramel Macchiato offers a nuanced yet robust

coffee experience by combining espresso, vanilla syrup, milk and a luscious caramel drizzle on top. This coffee flavour is an ideal fusion for those who relish the combination of caramel sweetness with the boldness of espresso.

The hotel also offers a wide array of specially curated cookies and cakes to accompany these beverages, enhancing the overall experience and flavours. The Dry-fruit Plum Cake, rich in nuts and bursting with flavours, complements the coffee superbly. It pairs exceptionally well with the Pumpkin Spiced Coffee, creating a delightful fusion of spices, dry fruits and a coffee punch. To taste this mouthwatering combination of hot beverages, cookies and cake, a visit to Aerocity is a must.

**Price: Rs 645 per cup of coffee**

### Cookies by Roseate House New Delhi

**A**n exemplary experience has always been at the heart of the hospitality and dining philosophy across Roseate Hotels & Resorts. And to keep the romance of coffee/chai that is legendary since generation is not left out by the hospitality group for sure and Roasted by Roseate is the perfect example for that. Next to the Upstage Club, you will find this cafe, the hotel's own patisserie and bakery. This café is quite eminent in Aerocity and is often called one of the best cafes in New Delhi.

This patisserie is renowned for its diverse selection of macarons, savoury items and desserts. They also offer an array of exotic TWG teas, a speciality of The

Wellbeing Group and authentic Illy coffee.

Cookies by Roseate House New Delhi are prepared by our expert pastry Chefs, using the finest quality of ingredients, rich Belgian chocolate, high-quality nuts, seeds and freshly ground spices. One can taste the most delicious and unique combinations while enjoying coffee at the café. What makes coffee perfect is not just the best Arabica, but also the tasty companions that elevate its flavours. The café serves the best taste combinations, including prunes and apricots, carrot and cinnamon, double chocolate (eggless) and banana walnut, available in both sugar-free and eggless options for you to enjoy a delightful chat.

**Price: Rs 550 plus taxes**



### Plum by the Bent Chair

**P**lum is renowned for its Pan-Asian cuisine delicacies and introduces a unique concept that combines dining and retail, offering an unprecedented experience all in one place. Surprise! Surprise! They not only serve delectable savouries but also offer three exceptional cake varieties. While these cakes are limited in quantity, they are undoubtedly the best. You can relish

the real chocolate torte, the intense chocolate slice and the delightful trio cheesecake. Each of these three sweet bites delivers a rich, chocolaty explosion with every mouthful. The incredibly courteous Chef Vishal Tamang enhances the experience even further. These outsourced pastries are one of the most ordered sweets of the restaurant.

**Price range: Rs 625 per unit**

### Delhi Baking Company by JW Marriott New Delhi

**T**he period between lunch and dinner is the ideal time to savour the city's finest baked goods. During this time frame, you can relish delicacies that might have gone untouched or unordered during the busier hours. Delhi Baking Company is the best place to enjoy illy coffee alongside the most exotic house-baked treats. The hotel's patisserie serves the finest coffee, expertly prepared by highly trained baristas using the state-of-the-art La Marzocco coffee machine.

The dessert options here at DBC are truly exceptional, all lovingly homemade. The attentive staff recommended the best

options and two delightful surprises for our taste buds were the Tiramisu and the delectable Honey and Fig ice cream.

Known as DBC (Delhi Baking Company) to the locals, this place offers a diverse food selection, including Avocado Toast, salads, Chicken Tikka Panini and a delightful array of homemade fresh breads, cakes and pastries. These delicious treats are crafted with love and care by the executive pastry chef and his talented team. For coffee lovers, it's a must-visit destination with numerous incredibly tasty options. What a delightful treat before heading home.

**Price: Coffee starts at Rs 695 plus taxes**







## Festivals, Food & Fun In Delhi

By Team Aerocity Live

The markets, mela grounds and streets of Delhi are the stage for some epic festival celebrations through November and December. Here is how to soak in the festive mood

**T**he festive mood that commences with Teej in the rainy season and culminates in the Diwali celebrations and Chhath Puja observed by a section of the population, pervade the population in Delhi all through the winters. It's as if they are not willing to let go of this joyous feeling. And irrespective of their religious beliefs, they become part of the festive celebrations of various religions. That means more occasions to celebrate, to explore the city, to take photographs and selfies and very importantly, to satiate your palate. Here are a few occasions when various locations in Delhi can be explored during festivals.



**Five-day Diwali festivities:** With every nook and corner decked up and lit up for the biggest Hindu festival, Delhi as a whole turns festive destination. Festoons, earthen pottery items, stalls of gifts, candles, dry fruits and other eatables spoil the customers with choices during the Dhan Teras-Bhai Dooj period. In particular, the Delhi Haat, Connaught Place, Khan Market, Lajpat Nagar and The Square at Aerocity become a must-visit-spots in themselves for their beautiful lighting in evening hours, not to forget the range of sweets that one can purchase from these locations.

**Food fare:** During Diwali, numerous individuals from various geographical locations of the country showcase their exceptional creativity be it food or artistic souvenir. They

participate in Diwali melas, organised by various societies in Delhi, where their talents shine brightly, adding to the festival's grandeur. The melas at Blind Relief Association, Dilli Haat, Moti Bagh and Sunder Nagar are in particular the talk of the town, for their fun and food fare. The mela at Dilli Haat caters to all tastes, whether vegetarian or non-vegetarian, serving both desi and Chinese dishes, with authentic flavours representing various states and more.

**Chhath Puja:** The large community from Bihar that has made Delhi their home observes the Chhath Puja by the ceremonious dip in the river waters, in this case the Yamuna. They brave the cold water and take the holy dip in the river, and pray to the Sun God. It's also the time of the year to don their best attire and jewellery. The banks of Yamuna are the best place to be, if you wish to partake in the festival.

**Food fare:** Chana daal, lauki and bhaat (rice) cooked in ghee without turmeric, garlic and onion on Nahaye Khaye day marks the beginning of Bihar's most important festival Chhath Puja. Being the festival when devotees thank nature, especially the sun for providing so much, it comes up with lots of authentic homecooked delicacies. The second day is called Kharna; on this day devotees who keep fast, eat kheer made with jaggery at night to break their fast. Next two days are Sandhya Arghya and Usha Urghya, when



the fasting devotees don't even drink water. After that they finally break their fast with mouthwatering sweets including khajoor, thekua, bhuswa (laddoo made of rice flour) and gujiya. All kinds



# DISHES IN DELHI

of fruits and vegetables are presented as prasad in this puja. Banana, sugarcane and daabnimbu are the most important of them all.



**Gurupurab:** The most significant festival of the Sikhs, it's commemorated, to begin with, by early morning Satsangs. Ladies join the early morning 'prabhat pheris' (morning processions in the neighbourhood streets), gently humming songs on the tune of manjiras, and families join in in recital of Guru Granth Sahib in the gurudwaras. Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, Sisganj, Damdama Sahib and a few other big gurudwaras get wonderfully lit up and buzz with activity during these days. Visitors are served the prasad (sooji halwa called karra prasad) that is utterly delicious.



**Food fare:** The tradition of serving langar, a communal meal, dates to the time of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Gurupurab marks the day when the entire community comes together to contribute in any way they can. This celebration's culinary offerings go beyond the ordinary, encompassing not just daal, chapati, and rice but a wide array of street foods that you can imagine. From aloo tikki, dahi bhalla, ice cream, and bread pakoda to samosa, chhole bhature, rajma rice, chhole rice, kadi rice, pav bhaji, chowmein,

chocolate, cakes, candies, and so much more, the streets of Delhi offer a tantalising experience.

During Gurupurab, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib serves langar round the clock. The core principle behind this noble initiative is that everyone, regardless of their background, partakes in the communal feast, ensuring that no one leaves the Gurudwara with an empty stomach.

**Christmas-New Year time:** In what could be called the grand finale to the year's festivities, Delhi is set to unite under the luminous banner of Christmas. Christmas in Delhi casts a spell of enchantment, weaving a tapestry of vivid traditions. Amidst this celebration, grand cathedrals such as Sacred Heart Cathedral and St. James' Church will be filled with voices harmonising in carols. Markets burst with the scents of pine and sweet treats, diverse flavours merge melding Indian and western cuisine. From Xmas themed cupcakes to western style home decor, Delhiites are poised to embrace the magic of Christmas with open arms.



**Food fare:** In the heart of this multi-cultural metropolis, bakeries, restaurants and shopping hubs will be fully decorated. While every neighbourhood now has a bakery that sells quality Christmas cakes that are fresh, some locations where you can combine a food and fun with a range of eating options are The Square in Aerocity, Khan Market, Pandara Market, Priya's at Vasant Vihar and Anupam Complex in Saket.

- With inputs from Poonam Singh, Deep Majumdar and Harshita Das

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## The Shades Of India's Festive Platters

By Tarannum Manjul

Festivals in India are incomplete without indulging in delicious and mouth-watering delicacies that are prepared with love and devotion. Here are some popular examples of festival food

Indian festival foods hold a special place in the hearts and cultures of people across the nation, reflecting the diverse culinary traditions, flavours, and regional influences that define each celebration. During these joyous occasions, mouth-watering dishes ranging from sweet to savoury are meticulously prepared, often featuring unique ingredients and time-honoured techniques passed down through generations.

Festivals in India are incomplete without indulging in delicious and mouth-watering delicacies that are prepared with love and devotion. One such festival is Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights. During Diwali, families come together to celebrate the victory of light over darkness and indulge in a variety of traditional sweets and snacks. From the irresistible aroma of freshly made jalebis to the sweet and creamy taste of kheer, Diwali is a time when every household is filled with the aroma of spices and the sound of sizzling oil.

Some popular examples of festival food include kajukatti during Diwali, gujiyas during Holi, modak for Ganesh Chaturthi, and seviyan or sheer khurma during Eid-ul-Fitr. These festive treats not only serve to unite families and communities but also create lasting memories with their irresistible tastes and aromas. Additionally, the practice of sharing food with loved ones and

even strangers is testimony to the spirit of generosity, togetherness, and hospitality that underscores Indian festivities.

### Goan melancholy

The festival food of Goa showcases the region's rich culinary heritage, enticing food enthusiasts with its unique blend of flavours and vibrant presentation. During these festive times, the Goan cuisine truly comes alive, as locals and visitors indulge in traditional dishes that reflect the diverse cultural influences from Portuguese, Konkani, and Saraswati civilisations. Popular items like xacuti, vindaloo, sannas, and bebinca tantalise the taste buds



Photo credit: Sagar Kapoor/The Little Bird

with a perfect commingling of spicy, tangy, sweet, and savoury notes. The use of local ingredients such as coconut, fish, and an array of spices adds authenticity to these gastronomic delights. Ultimately, the festival food of Goa not only satiates appetite but also represents a dynamic cultural expression that brings together people from all walks of life in a flavorful celebration.

Goan festival cuisine includes Moonga gathi, a traditional Goan dish usually served in temples. This dish is made using sprouts of green gram in a delicious coconut gravy which is tempered with mustard leaves and curry leaves, and is immensely popular during Ganesh Chaturthi. As popular Goan digital creator Jade says, "Goa has a rich cuisine when it comes to festival food. Dishes like Khatkhate, Amadyache uddamethi, Paanchpalya bhaji and sweets like Mangane, Kelya halwo, Modak Patolyo, Nevryo that add to the festivities."

### Bhopali platter

Bhopal, a popular food destination of India, too has its platter full when it comes to festival food. As Mudra Kesarwani, Bhopal's popular food writer says, "Bhopal has food for every festival. From falahar items like Aloo Chaat, singhade ke aate ka halwa, Rabri, saboodana tikki with khajoor and amla chutney, namkeen varieties, mithais, to Diwali sweets like ghewar, meethe samose and Mawa jalebi here, you can enjoy it all in Bhopal."

### Bengali thaal

Durga Puja, a significant festival in Bengal, celebrates the goddess Durga with the preparation of various traditional dishes that hold great importance for Bengali culture. An essential dessert during this festive period is Narkel Naru, coconut laddoos made with rich jaggery. These mouth-watering treats symbolise the sweetness and joy of these celebrations, while also exemplifying the authentic flavours of Bengal. During Kali Puja, another such delectable dish is Niramish Mangsho, which is mutton cooked without onions or garlic, keeping with the theme of Puja Bhoger. This succulent mutton curry is often served alongside Bhoger



Khichuri, a divine blend of rice and lentils. The delicate balance of rich and smooth tastes in these dishes brings families together and adds unforgettable warmth to the auspicious occasion of Kali Puja. As Anindya, Madhushree And Dolon, story tellers at Kolkata Classics reveal, "Pujo season is incomplete without Bhog and other delicacies."





## Karnataka's musical feast

Karnataka festival food is a vibrant and flavourful celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage, featuring a delectable array of dishes that showcase the season's finest ingredients. At the heart of this gastronomic extravaganza are kosambari, a refreshing salad made from grated vegetables and lentils; Chitrana, a tangy and aromatic rice dish; and sweet pongals, delicious rice-based desserts prepared to mark special occasions. As the seasons change, so do the offerings, with sesame laddoos and beleholige (similar to puran poli) taking centre stage during certain festivities.

Of course, no Karnataka feast would be complete without a variety of payasams gracing the table, with gasgase payasa emerging as a personal favourite for its rich, creamy texture and distinct flavour profile. Says Debolina, a popular food writer from Bengaluru, "In essence, Karnataka festival food is an invigorating culinary journey that beautifully illustrates how tradition, culture, and seasonality seamlessly blend together on a single plate."

## What India says

Sonali Kapoor, Founder of the brand The Little Bird that makes clean, healthier versions of classic desserts, says that festivals are a time to binge and enjoy. "Festivals in India have a vibe! Everything associated with it, the festivities, the decor, the food,



everything has a special place in our hearts. Unfortunately, the sedentary lifestyle in today's time does not allow us to enjoy them as much. Through our dishes like Kaju Bombs and Fibre Laddoos, we have tried to give the classics a modern, healthier twist."

Indian chefs also make sure that their menus do include the festival dishes during the season to keep the spirit alive. Chef Ali of The Old Delhi Restaurant calls Shahi Tukda a delicacy fit for royalty, and a festival favourite in India. "This decadent dish has a rich history steeped in Mughal influences, making it an integral part of the festive celebration. Shahi Tuk-

da translates as "royal side" and, of course, lives up to its name. Starting with pieces of bread, they are dipped in fragrant saffron milk and deep-fried until golden brown. These savoury pastries are then generously dipped in creamy, cardamom-scented rabri (sweet condensed milk), garnished with chopped almond pistachios and spreadable rose petals for a dessert that is an enriching taste in terms of taste and presentation, making it a must for festive season gatherings."

Shahi Tukda holds a deeper meaning than its sweet taste. It represents India's heritage and culture, as it seamlessly blends Mughal culinary traditions with local influences. Each of these delicacies speaks of the grandeur of the Mughal emperors and the warmth of Indian hospitality. As families come together on festivals, preparing and sharing Shahi Tukda symbolises the importance of togetherness, happiness and the rich traditional Indian fabric. Whether enjoying Diwali, Eid, or festival among others, Shahi Tukda is a sweet reminder of the harmony found in diversity, with a festive spirit. It is a melodious melody.

Chef Deepak of The Tigress Resort and Spa, Ranthambore, calls Poori Bhaji an essential festive dish. "In the vibrant mosaic of Indian festivals, there is one dish that stands out as an indispensable part of the celebration - Poori Bhaji. We love this delectable combination of spices, potato curry (bhaji) and deep-fried bread (poori). No festival is truly complete without this combination," he reveals. He further adds that festivals are the moments to uphold traditions and create lasting memories. For generations, Poori Bhaji has been a part of our households, serving as a link to both our cultural heritage and the warmth of family get-togethers.



We invite you to Craft City a meticulous curation of artists from every corner of the country.

It's an initiative to rekindle the appreciation for forgotten art forms and reintroduce attendees to the incredible experiences of our talented National award winning artists by giving them hands on experience of art forms like Gond Painting, Rogan art, Pattachitra and many more. Our goal is to breathe life back into these crafts and showcase the true treasure they are and why they deserve the appreciation due.

We are excited at the collaborative engagement at Craft City curated exclusively by Kiran Nadar Museum of Art as they bring an indulgently impactful side of these forms of art to GMR Aerocity. We're honored to have national awardees like Bijay Kumar renowned for his Pattachitra, coconut and palm leaf painting, Ms. Anita Kumari for her Chamba Rumal and so many more like them to lead these workshops and showcase their products for sale.

Not to forget to indulge in delectable food stalls, cultural music performances and shopping opportunities. We can't contain our excitement for this unique experience.

**Are you coming?**



## Zaha Clothing, Manan

In its latest launch the Manan store at Aerocity, New Delhi has introduced the collection of 'Zaha' in clothing. Made from natural fabric, this collection consists of a kurta and a kurta-style top. The best thing about this collection is that the wearables are completely handcrafted and available in coral pink and black colours. The fabric in this collection is available in both linen and cotton.

**Price:** Ranging from Rs 4,500 to Rs 29,600



## Bali Breakfast Set, Nicobar

Nicobar has come up with an aesthetic 'breakfast set' that can add to the mood of the breakfast set. The launch is named 'Bali' and also reflects the characteristics of Bali in colours and style. The Bali breakfast set has two sets of shallow bowls, two sets of dessert plates, four espresso mugs, four sets of tea plates and four lotus coasters. This new collection of Nicobar has Bali in its core, as every piece has sunk in bold colours of blue and yellow and picturised dragonflies, palm trees and elephants.

**Price:** Total Rs 8,000



## Kumkumadi Facial Oil, Kama Ayurveda

For more radiant skin, Kama Ayurveda has brought a new product Kumkumadi Facial Oil that can make their face glow on their special occasion. Especially when the festive season is right around the corner, this product is a necessity. The Kumkumadi facial oil is a complete Ayurvedic age-defying face oil powered by saffron for youthful & radiant skin. This facial oil is also effective in nourishing the ageing signs.

**Price:** Rs 7,495 (30 ml)



## White Handcrafted Co-ord Set, Chique

Chique which is known for its beautiful clothing, came up with the white handcrafted cord set that suits one's festive attire. Women's shirts in solid white have detailed embroidery on their sleeves while rest of the part of the clothes are plain white. Like every other clothing piece of Chique, the white co-ord set is also woven, dyed and painted through a handcrafted process and can go with any jewellery and accessories.

**Price:** Rs 8,500

## Décor Objects, Pure Home+ Living

Besides personal upkeep, home is the next thing one decorates at festivals. For the same purpose, Pure Home+ Living has launched a soulful collection in green ombre colour. The collection has pieces such as Buddha's sitting idols and tealight holders. Along with the lights and colour, the soulful collection of Pure Home + Living will compliment one's home.

**Price:** Ranging from Rs 549 to Rs 1,699



## Gift Hamper, Kheoni

As the festive season is right around the corner, Kheoni has come up with a gift hamper that has three products - natural lip balm, tropical face cream infused with rosemary and natural hair cream. The gift hamper is apt for one's own usage and can be given to near and dear ones during the festive season. As made from completely natural elements, these product do not have any allergic effect on the skin and also give a festive-like shine to one's skin.

**Price:** Rs 3,049





## DIAL Manages Superbikes For MotoGP Bharat Event

**D**elhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) in partnership with Celebi and RE Rogers managed the timely handling of the superbikes for the historic MotoGP Bharat event. DIAL coordinated the transportation of the initial batch of Superbikes using three Silk Way West Airlines and one ATLAS Air Freighter Aircraft, amounting to a total of 155 pieces and approximately 380 metric tonnes of cargo.

The critical transport operation took place between September 14 to 17, 2023.

To ensure the secure handling of the Superbikes, vehicle entry passes were issued, granting direct access for transport vehicles to the ramp and minimising the need for multiple handling. The entire movement was escorted from Delhi International Airport to the Buddha International Circuit, ensuring a safe and efficient journey.



## Hyderabad, get ready for an iconic WinterTainment!

Hyderabad, the bustling capital city of the Indian state of Telangana, takes on a magical charm during the winter months. As the monsoon season comes to an end, the city comes alive with a rich blend of winter delicacies, cultural events, a festive spirit and delightful weather that is ideal for some outdoor explorations.

Discover the winter landscape of Hyderabad in this article and plan a sensational season ahead.



### The coolest getaway of the season

The winters of Hyderabad and the festive spirit is a perfect reason to indulge in a staycation. An address of luxury like the Novotel Hyderabad Airport offers the extravagance and a great base to explore and experience the city's magical winter season. Located in the heart of **GMR AeroCity Hyderabad**, it is at a convenient distance to the array of carnivals, monuments and festive events being held in the city.

### History beckons

The cool, crisp air provides the perfect backdrop to immerse oneself in the rich heritage and culture that the old Hyderabad city has to offer. The iconic Charminar, with its stunning architecture, stands as the gateway to a labyrinth of narrow streets, bustling bazaars and centuries-old mosques. The Nizam's architectural wonders, like the Chowmohallah Palace and Golconda Fort, take on a majestic aura in the winter sun. The city's numerous parks and gardens, such as the serene Hussain Sagar Lake and the picturesque Ramoji Film City, are perfect for leisurely strolls and outdoor activities.



### The answer to your winter cravings

The craving for some delicious, comforting food is satisfied by the iconic Hyderabadi dishes available across the city. The aromatic and soul-soothing Irani Chai is a milky, sweet and spiced concoction best enjoyed in the charming and cozy Irani cafés scattered across the city. The crispy, deep-fried rice and lentil fritters, Punugulu, and the spicy and deep-fried green chili fritters are delightful snacks enjoyed during the winter. Another authentic Hyderabadi dish is Dalcha, a hearty and flavourful stew made with lentils and mutton, served with Bagara khana, a tempered rice dish. For those seeking some North Indian flavours, Sarson ka saag is a dish fondly enjoyed by the locals during the cold season. Novotel and the food court at **GMR Business Park** also offer some scrumptious multi-cuisine delicacies for its guests.

## Witness the stars, experience the festive spirit

What's winters without some fun and entertainment? Hyderabad is known for hosting some of the most spectacular music festivals, carnivals and exciting events during the winter months that also coincide with popular festivals like Diwali, Dussehra and Christmas. **GMR Arena's** vast reconfigurable space hosts some of these events that feature a line-up of

renowned musicians from various genres, food carnivals and festive markets every year. It is an ideal space to immerse in the city's rich cultural tapestry.

So, gear up for a memorable winter in Hyderabad and don't forget to visit **GMR AeroCity Hyderabad** for some exclusive, unforgettable experiences.



## The Ultimate Party Destination: North Goa via Manohar International Airport

Explore the charm of this quaint coastal city in December, that attracts tourist from far and wide

By Team Aerocity Live

As we inch closer to the festive season, there's a palpable sense of excitement in the air. Goa, with its sun-kissed beaches and vibrant party scene, emerges as the most sought-after year-end destination. This season, the revelry promises to be even more accessible, courtesy of the newly minted Manohar International Airport in North Goa which was inaugurated in January 2023.

Goa's charm during the year-end is undeniable. As the sun mellows, temperatures drop, and the sea turns serene, the weather becomes ideal for a plethora of outdoor activities. While South Goa caters to peace-seeking nature enthusiasts, it's North Goa that beckons the fun-loving, party-seeking crowd. The name 'Goa' has become synonymous with epic parties, akin to the likes of Berlin and Ibiza. It's a magnet for both domestic and international travelers in pursuit of mirth and relaxation.

Now, party aficionados worldwide have a new gateway - Manohar International Airport - nestled in Mopa, North Goa. The airport offers passengers an instant immersion into the Goan vibe as they touch down. Its decor, adorned with Goa's signature Azulejos tiles in vibrant shades of red, blue, green, and yellow with white borders, mirrors the nostalgic essence of old Goa. The food court at the Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) recreates the ambiance of a typical Goan café, featuring brightly coloured walls and counters adorned with tin-glazed blue-and-white Azulejos tiles.

Manohar International Airport is the perfect portal to Goa's vibrant party scene. With no flight time restrictions, the Airport

operates round the clock, 365 days a year, catering to all segments of inbound and outbound tourism. Just a short 45-50 minute (25-30 km) drive away lie the famous beaches of North Goa - Arambol, Ashvem, Morjim, Vagator, Baga, Calangute, and Candolim - known for hosting some of the most legendary parties in Goa. North Goa is home to the renowned EDM (Electronic Dance Music) festival, Sunburn, and is dotted with indoor and open-air party hubs.

To ensure seamless connectivity, Manohar International Airport boasts registered dedicated taxi counters and government-operated electric AC bus services to Sinquerim, Candolim, Calangute, Panjim, and Mapusa. Travelers can effortlessly navigate their way to and from the airport, making their party-filled escapades in Goa all the more convenient.

As we usher in the festive season and look forward to Christmas and New Year's celebrations, Manohar International Airport stands as the gateway to an unforgettable Goan adventure. With its vibrant ambience and easy accessibility, it has never been simpler to join the ranks of those who paint the town red in Goa, ensuring that this year-end will be an experience to remember.



## YashoBhoomi, Critical Link In MICE Story

MICE in Delhi NCR gets a boost with YashoBhoomi Convention Centre in Dwarka



By Pratyaksh Dutta

Close on the heels of conclusion of G20 Summit came the inauguration of the first phase of the India International Convention and Expo Centre at YashoBhoomi in Dwarka. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who inaugurated YashoBhoomi, also inaugurated the extension of Airport Metro Express Line to Sector 25 of Dwarkathat will connect the convention centre to the airport.

On the occasion, he said, "This is a wonderful centre to showcase the future of India. It is located close to the Airport and connected through the Metro for anyone to visit. Direct connectivity of the centre with metro makes it easier for anyone to commute and reach the centre from any part of the city."

YashoBhoomi is among the biggest MICE facilities in India. The convention centre, built across more than 73,000 square metre of area, comprises 15 convention rooms including the main auditorium, the grand ballroom and 13 meeting rooms with a total capacity of holding 11,000 delegates. Its exhibition is built over more than one lakh square metre.

More than 200 events are lined up for Yashobhoomi over the next two years, including over 100 exhibitions and over 100 conventions. The venue is equipped with a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system that enables the centre to achieve 100 per cent reuse of wastewater, rainwater harvesting facilities and rooftop solar panels. The campus has received Green Cities Platinum Certification from CII's Indian Green Building Council.

YashoBhoomi, along with Bharat Mandapam inaugurated on the eve of the G20 summit, are state-of-the-art and sustainable exhibition and convention centres that now put the national capital on the map of the world's Rs 25-lakh crore conference tourism space.

The two new landmarks are additions to the city's experiential economy infrastructure that will in the days ahead showcase the country's rich cultural heritage, as well as modern achievements to the world.

As Prime Minister Modi said at the inauguration, "India is going to stop at nothing now. We are determined to move forward and emerge as a developed India by 2047."

Inputs from BW BusinessWorld



# OFFERS & ACTIVITIES

What's In Store For You This Festive & Winter Season At Aerocity

## Celebrate Diwali With JW Marriott New Delhi's Marriott Bonvoy

Celebrate the Festival of Lights, Diwali with **Marriott Bonvoy**, and elevate your festivities with some exclusive hampers.

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## Diwali Hampers From Holiday Inn, New Delhi Aerocity



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# OFFERS & ACTIVITIES

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Wishing you a Radiant and Prosperous Diwali!

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\*T&C APPLY



## Aerocity Allure: Sunny Leone's Favourite Spots

**A**ctor-turned fitness entrepreneur Sunny Leone loves spending time in Aerocity. During her recent visit to Delhi, she interacted with Team Aerocity Live, where she shared that she loves the ambience of the place. The hospitality, the food here, especially Sushi available at a few restaurants, and the possibility of stroll at The Square are what appeal to her the most about this hospitality district. "You can fly in and out and have your meetings here. And everything is in the vicinity of this area. I don't have to worry about anything."

She is no stranger to Delhi and has a lot of memories of the city, as her extended family lives here. When asked what makes Delhi the city that it is, she says, "It's the people. Each area has its unique character." The liveliness of the markets and people putting *mehndi* on customers' hands on the side of the road are some of the fascinating memories she has of the city. On the food front, she remembers the Punjabi food the most.

When it comes to fashion, Leone finds Delhi "grand" in comparison to the "laid back" Mumbai. Delhiites are dressed up to the T, from head to toes, with diamonds etc. "It doesn't happen anywhere else in India," she remarks.



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## Myriad Shopping Ops At GMR Aerocity D2C Fest

**WHEN:**  
November 24-26

**WHERE:**  
The Square,  
Aerocity

**A**erocity D2C Festival aims to be one of the biggest shopping cum entertainment festivals in Delhi NCR!

The Aerocity D2C Festival is a two-day shopping extravaganza that lets you shop your heart out and buy anything you ever desired at mind blowing rates. To be organised at The Square, this festival would be among the biggest shopping cum entertainment festivals in Delhi NCR this season.

Aerocity D2C Festival is an experiential conference & exhibition for greatest D2C brands. It will feature discussions on the 'D2C Businesses' & exclusive showcasing on various forms of consumer experiences. On November 25, the eve of the D2C fest, a curtain-raiser will be held, wherein some leading brand leaders will share their thoughts.

A shopaholic will definitely exploit this gold mine to the maximum!

### What to expect

The Festival will be a wholesome experience for visitors. The event will include:

A mega experiential conference and exhibition brought to you in association with BW Businessworld, as part of GMR Aerocity Public Art & Culture Initiative

### Shopping

The product categories that will be showcased at the fest are:

- Apparel
- Jewellery
- Perfumes
- Watches
- Accessories
- Watches
- Home décor

### Leadership talks

GMR leaders, representatives from retail brands in The Square, startups operating out of WorldMark in Aerocity, GMR Innovex, GMR Goa Airport and other GMR-associated companies, invitees from reputed corporate and retail brands and other industry leaders will share thoughts on their respective segment, their brand's journey, and more.

### Culinary

(Including street food carts, experiential food tastings and bespoke culinary experience)



### Entertainment

- Music (Performances by various bands, street music and artists spread across the entire venue)
- Stand up
- Games (Kids zone, archery, golf drive, hoverboard sessions, etc.)
- Quizzes and contests; prizes and awards; lucky draws
- Fashion show for adults and kids
- Best deals and offers
- Photo booths

Headlining acts by renowned singers and artists will mark the gala evenings at the two-day event. Just don't let the festive occasion pass by.



### Other festivals to watch out for:



**F&B Fiesta**, an experiential conference & exhibition for food lovers, coffee connoisseurs, & urban foodies with discussions from leading players in the Indian food and beverages industry and allied industries, celebration of flourishing liquor industry with spotlight on all liquors international and home grown. Featuring enthralling discussions, keynote speakers & tasting, experience zones and multiple F&B players exhibiting lip smacking food, this will be a 'not to be missed' festival for the high spirited.

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 23



**Entertainment Fest** will bring an extravagance of entertainment through various activities, games, entertainment through music performances, culture, celebrities, awards and a lot more This will be an extraordinary two day celebration of the world of music, games, food, art and culture.

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. 24



**India Festival of Wellbeing** aims to demystify the concept of Wellbeing and bring it to the grassroots level. It will also help encourage everyone to find their path of health and wellness and rediscover the deeply engraved wellbeing element already within us with a union of the mind, body and spirit. The topics at the festival will include yoga, meditation, wellbeing, arts, food and nutrition, health and happiness, heritage, healing, crystals and energies, harmony, coexistence and much more. The event will have workshops, discussions, dance and music performances, demonstrations and talks by national and international invitees.

**Date:** March 2024





By Luke Coutinho

## How to incorporate locally grown products for great cooking, health benefits and for the cause of environment

In a world where convenience often takes precedence, there's a quiet revolution happening in the culinary world—a return to the roots of our food sources. The farm-to-table movement has gained significant momentum in recent years, emphasising the importance of incorporating locally grown products into our cooking. In this article, we will explore the benefits of embracing locally sourced ingredients and provide tips on how to make the most of them in your culinary endeavours.

When it comes to choosing locally grown products, it is essential to prioritise ethical sourcing. This means ensuring that the products come from farmers who practice sustainable farming methods and do not use harmful chemicals or pesticides. By supporting local growers who prioritise sustainability, we can

help create a healthier and more sustainable food supply chain.

Furthermore, by incorporating locally grown products into our cooking, we can have a positive impact on our overall health. Local produce is often fresher and higher in nutrients, as it spends less time traveling and is picked at the peak of ripeness. Additionally, choosing locally grown products supports local farmers and communities, ensuring that they have a stable source of income and a better quality of life.

### Locally sourced spices and condiments

**Pure and premium:** Locally sourced spices and condiments are often of superior quality, as they are cultivated with care and expertise.

**Adulterant-free:** Buying from local sources reduces the chances of contamination or adulteration, ensuring purity in your dishes.

**Authentic flavours:** These spices and condiments capture the essence of the region, infusing your dishes with a genuine taste of the local culture.

### Whole and unprocessed dal & pulses

**Wholesome nutrition:** Locally grown dal and pulses are often less processed, retaining their natural nutritional value.

**Enhanced flavour:** Unpolished dal is a nutritional powerhouse, abundant in both soluble and insoluble fibres while boasting high levels of essential nutrients including protein, magnesium, potassium, iron, zinc, and thiamine. Whole and unprocessed pulses have a richer, earthier flavour that can take your dals and stews to the next level.

### Pure grains and flour

**Adulterant-free:** Locally sourced grains and flours are less likely to be tampered with, ensuring purity in your bread, rotis, and baked goods.

**Minimal processing:** Minimal processing means that essential nutrients are retained, contributing to the overall healthfulness of your meals.

**Residue-free:** By knowing the source of your grains, you can be confident that they are free from harmful residues or chemicals.

### Emphasis on millets

Millets, while not a recent introduction to Indian cuisine, have deep roots in Asian cultures. They were once a dietary staple for the majority of people in Central and Southern India until the Green Revolution made rice and wheat more widely accessible.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023) to help people understand the importance and benefits of millets.

Diverse in size and shape, millets encompass a range of varieties including Foxtail millet, Ragi/Finger millet, Pearl millet/Bajra, Buckwheat, Little millet/Samai/Kutki, Jowar/Sorghum, Kodo millet, and Barnyard millet, among others. Despite various myths surrounding them, scientific documentation attests to their numerous benefits.

One compelling reason to incorporate millets into your lifestyle is their remarkable anti-inflammatory properties. Yes, you read that correctly. Millets possess the ability to combat inflammation, a primary contributor to many prevalent health and lifestyle diseases today. By effectively managing chronic inflammation in advance, millets can serve as a preventative measure against a wide spectrum of conditions.

Millet grains, with their lower glycemic index and abundance of essential trace minerals, play a pivotal role in human health. Even a deficiency in a single trace mineral can lead to significant

health challenges.

Millets also contain high amounts of dietary fiber, which can help regulate blood sugar levels and reduce the risk of diabetes. Furthermore, millets are also packed with antioxidants, which can help to reduce the risk of cancer.

As a lifestyle ambassador for the Fit India Mission led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I actively engage in a partnership to promote millets across India, working tirelessly to educate a broader audience about this nutritious grain.

Cooking with locally grown products isn't just about creating delicious meals; it's a way to connect with your community, support sustainable agriculture, and savour the rich flavours of your region. As you explore the abundance of your local food scene, you will discover that cooking with these ingredients is more than a culinary choice; it is a celebration of the land, the people, and the flavours that make your corner of the world unique. So, let your kitchen become the heart of this movement, and savour the delicious rewards of embracing locally grown ingredients.



Luke Coutinho

- The author is Co-founder of You Care Lifestyle

Local produce is often fresher and higher in nutrients, as it spends less time travelling and is picked at the peak of ripeness



## WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHICH....

# Festive quiz?

1. Diwali is celebrated in the month of ... as per traditional Hindu calendar.

- a. Maagh
- b. Ashvin/ Kartik
- c. Chaitra
- d. Pausa

2. In southern parts of India, the day before Diwali is commemorated as Naraka Chaturdashi. Why?

- a. To mark killing of Narakasura by Krishna and Satyabhama
- b. To mark the killing of Narakasura by Goddess Durga
- c. To mark the killing of Narakasura by Lord Rama and Hanuman on their return from Lanka to Ayodhya
- d. None of the above

3. Why is Diwali significant to Sikhs?

- a. The sixth Guru Hargobind Singh was freed from captivity on Diwali day.
- b. The city of Amritsar was founded on Diwali day in 1574.
- c. Both statements are correct.
- d. Both statements are incorrect.

4. In which other religion is Diwali of immense importance?

- a. Buddhism
- b. Jainism
- c. Zoroastrianism
- d. Bahaism

5. Which Indian state marks Diwali as Kaunriya Kathi, wherein ancestors are invoked by burning jute sticks, a practice now banned due to environmental concerns?

- a. West Bengal
- b. Odisha
- c. Telangana
- d. Sikkim

6. The five-day festivities of Diwali see unique rituals in different parts of India. In which region does the 'patthar ka mela' take place, wherein stones are pelted at each other?

- a. Himachal Pradesh
- b. Uttarakhand
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Uttar Pradesh

7. In another state the 'ingoriya' fight takes place, wherein gun powder stuffed in ingoriya fruits is hurled at other groups. In which state does this festival take place?

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Gujarat
- c. Rajasthan
- d. Haryana

8. In which country do 'Lewes Bonfires' take place in early November?

- a. The UK
- b. The US
- c. Greenland
- d. Iceland

9. In which country was 'eggnog' or milk-egg punch, popular among aristocrats during the Christmas celebrations?

- a. Germany
- b. France
- c. Italy
- d. None of the above

10. Who is the author of 'Letters from Father Christmas'?

- a. Charles Dickens
- b. Truman Capote
- c. JRR Tolkien
- d. Maya Angelou

### Answer key

- |                      |   |                                    |  |              |                        |               |              |  |                    |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|--------------------|
| 1. b. Ashvin/ Kartik | 2. a. To mark killing of Narakasura by Krishna and Satyabhama | 3. c. Both statements are correct. | 4. b. Jainism (the day of nirvana of Mahavira) | 5. b. Odisha | 6. a. Himachal Pradesh | 7. b. Gujarat | 8. a. The UK | 9. d. None of the above (correct answer is the UK) | 10. c. JRR Tolkien |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|--------------------|



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