

# AEROCITY: THE EPICENTRE OF GLOBAL WORKFORCE



## PERSPECTIVES

## IN FOCUS

### Aerocity's Revolution in Corporate Culture and Workspace Excellence



**Mohit Gupta**  
Co Founder  
Friends of Books



**Chef Dario Trevisan**  
Italian Chef De Cuisine  
JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity



**Aradhana Lal**  
Senior VP – Sustainability & ESG  
Lemon Tree Hotels



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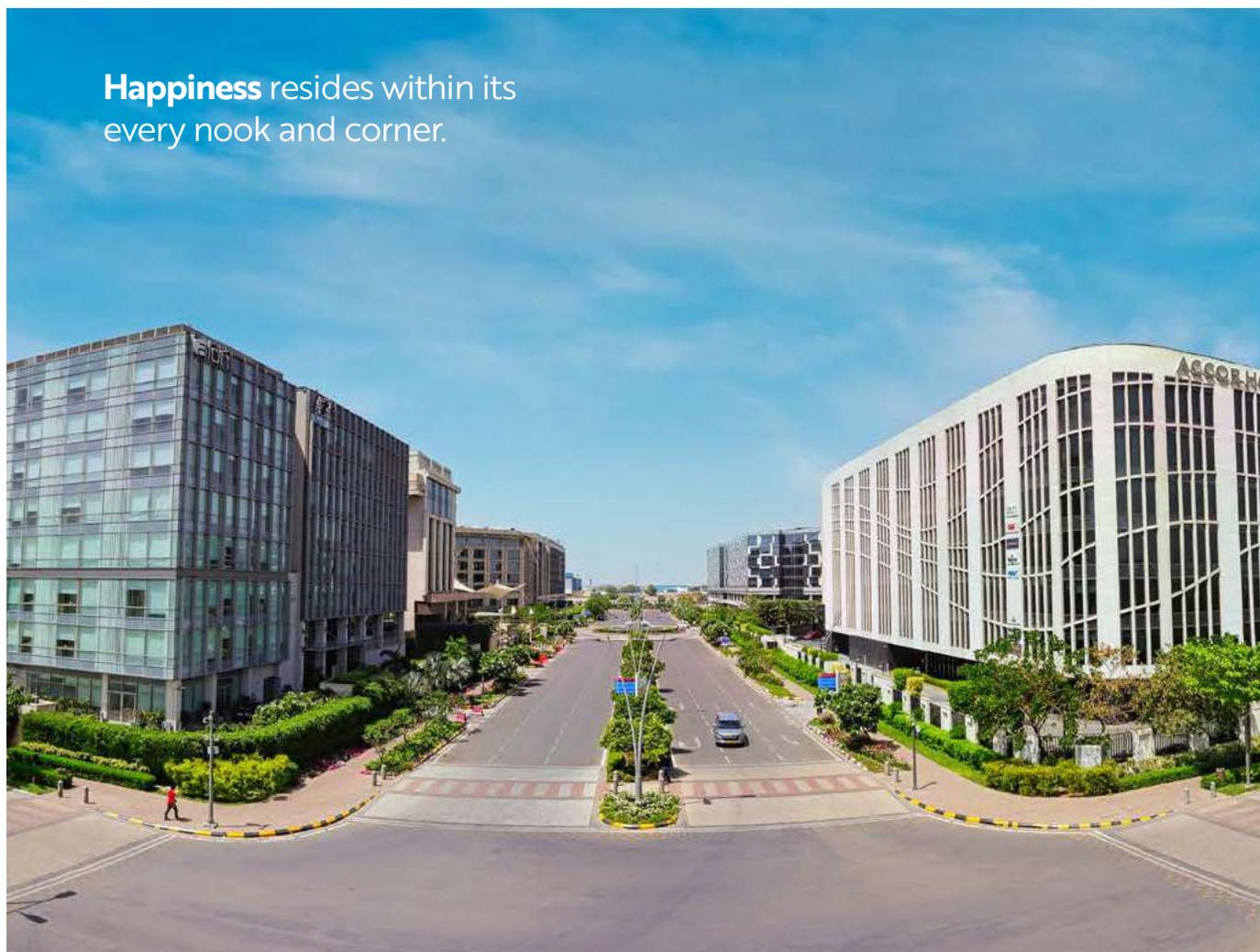
Sometimes it's a destination.

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.

**SO, HEAD TO GMR AEROCITY, NEW DELHI. IT'S A DESTINATION LIKE NO OTHER.**

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**GROUP EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, BW:** NOOR FATHIMA WARSIA

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**CONTENT DEVELOPMENT TEAM:** POONAM SINGH, DEEP MAJUMDAR

TARANNUM MANJUL, UPASANA, HIMANSHU OJHA, SHRUTI TRIPATHI,

PRIYANKA SINGH, BARKHA RAWAT

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**VISUALISER:** ARUN KUMAR

**SR. GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** RAHUL ROY

**SENIOR PHOTO RESEARCHER, BW:** KAMAL KUMAR

**PHOTOGRAPHER FOR BW:** NAVAL KISHORE

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**WEST:** KIRAN DEDHIA, NILESH ARGEKAR

**SOUTH:** C S RAJARAMAN

**SUBSCRIBE @ :** SUBSCRIPTION.BUSINESSWORLD.IN

**SUBSCRIPTION:** VINOD@BUSINESSWORLD.IN

**FOR EDITORIAL:** MEHA.MATHUR@BUSINESSWORLD.IN

**FOR ADVT OR SPONSORSHIP:** SOMYAJIT@BUSINESSWORLD.IN

**ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT:** SOMYAJIT SENGUPTA



ANNURAG BATRA

[amurag.batra@businessworld.in](mailto:amurag.batra@businessworld.in)

## What's Your Reason To Come To Office Each Day

**A** popular Hindi TV serial 'Office Office' exposed everything that can be wrong about workplaces. Funny though the serial was, the dismal work atmosphere that it portrayed has been typical of quite a few workplaces. Apathy towards work, worn-out furniture, piles of files and paan stains is hardly conducive to quality work. But that office setting represented a different ethos, when jobs were secure and there was not much incentive for improvement.

In the globalised economy and concern for bottom lines, much is expected from employees. It is only natural therefore, that employees too expect a workplace that is welcoming – a workplace that is bright, cheery, well laid out and with care for ergonomics. A place that cares for employees' wellbeing & safety and where people from diverse backgrounds & nationalities can come to work for eight hours a day. And a place free from bias or prejudices.

GMR Aerocity exemplifies that ethos. Laid out in modern design principles, it is welcoming in every sense of the term. While the office spaces are congenial to productive work, there are ample open areas and eating options for relaxed 'me time' and for socialising over a cup of coffee. For the Millennials and Gen Zs, who like to work and party hard, there is a world of cuisines on the platter. And they need not worry about late hours, so well connected is Aerocity to the rest of the city.

In this issue focussing on Aerocity and the global workforce, we spoke to a number of professionals working in various capacities. One hotel professional recounted how she has seen the entire ecosystem being built in front of her, like a baby grow in front of you. She recounted how a year of being away from Aerocity due to another job opportunity was difficult for her.

Another professional described the experience of working in Aerocity as a '360 experience'. Another professional said, "Combined with a vibrant mix of hotels, restaurants and shopping outlets, all alongside modern, sustainable office spaces, Aerocity fosters a productive and enjoyable work experience." These are the sentiments that we got to know. Great designs, coupled with care to wellbeing of employees, make for an ideal 21st Century workplace.

Happy Reading.

## Aerocity: Pioneering The Blueprint For Futuristic Workplaces



**AMAN KAPOOR**

CEO, Airport Land Development, GMR Group

Dear Readers,

The pandemic has illuminated the importance of work-life balance like never before. As organisations call upon their employees back to the office, whether in a full-time or hybrid capacity, they recognise the expectation for enhanced workplace infrastructure and ambiance. Spending eight to ten hours a day in the office demands an environment conducive to productivity and wellbeing.

Enter Aerocity, with its visionary approach to workplace design. Meticulous attention has been given to every facet of employee wellbeing, within each office building as well as adjacent hotels, ensuring seamless connectivity, well-designed roads, technologically enabled safety measures, natural lighting, impeccable hygiene standards, reliable utilities, inviting communal spaces, and a diverse array of dining and socialising options.

**As we celebrate the third consecutive term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we appreciate his holistic perspective that progress encompasses more than economic prosperity and aims to improve the overall quality of life for all citizens. We offer our warmest congratulations to our visionary leader under whose guidance we shall continue to develop innovative infrastructure projects and deliver quality services.** Inspired by our Prime Minister's vision, the comprehensive planning and execution evident in Aerocity has attracted both global and Indian corporations to establish their offices here. The mixed Indian and international workforce finds immense pride and satisfaction in the Aerocity ecosystem, appreciating its unique amenities and welcoming environment.

In this special issue on 'Aerocity and the Global Workforce,' our team interacted with employees from various sectors and job roles, all of whom echo the sentiment of contentment and fulfilment. Whether commuting effortlessly via Metro, enjoying the safety and security even during late working hours, hosting friends for coffee or dinner, or simply enjoying a leisurely stroll in the green & pristine surroundings, Aerocity offers them several advantages, fostering a truly happy workplace environment.

A workforce with diverse backgrounds also has different palettes. We present to you 'Dishes in Delhi'—a culinary guide to quick lunch options within Aerocity and nearby business districts. Additionally, our experts offer wellbeing advice for long office hours.

Join us in exploring the future of work and wellbeing at Aerocity—a testament to innovation, inclusivity, and holistic living.

Happy reading

# BUZZ ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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**GMR Aerocity New Delhi**  
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Join us as we celebrate the heartbeat of GMR Aerocity - our incredible employees! From the smiles that greet guests to the dedication behind the scenes, every effort shines bright. Today, we raise a toast to you, our amazing team, for your unwavering commitment, passion, and tireless work. You make every moment extraordinary. Happy Employee Appreciation Day! Let's cherish the journey together.

Abhishek Jain Dimple Malhotra Tonsana Laisram Bharat Tandon Swati Sinha Khushbu singla Ankur Chaudhary Anlee Deva Anjana Berwa Suhita Pal

#gmr #gmraerocity #aerocitydelhi #employeeadvocacy #employeeappreciationday

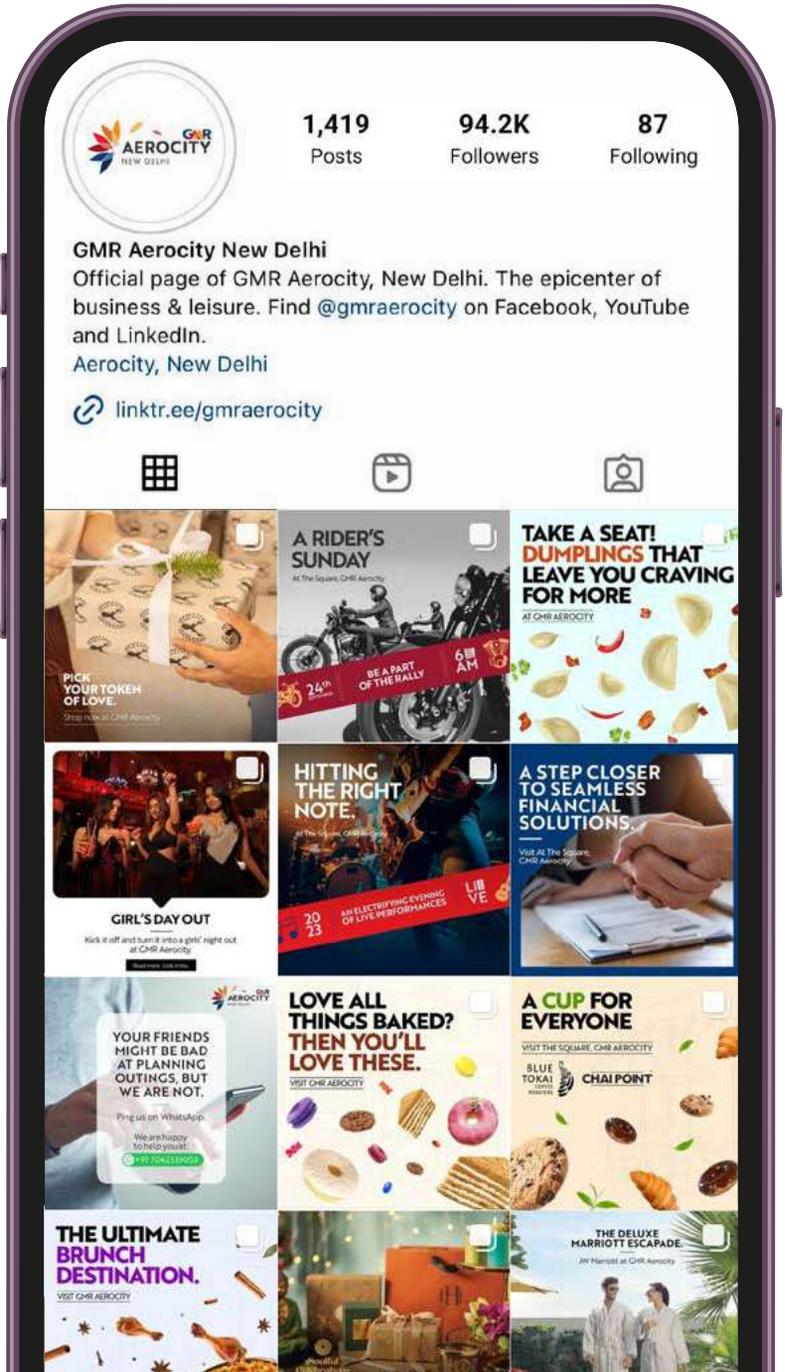


**GMR Aerocity New Delhi**  
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This month's edition of Aerocity Live Magazine features an interview with Jaya Asokan - Fair Director, @India Art Fair. The interview explores the transformative dynamics in South Asian art, celebrating its international recognition driven by grassroots initiatives and burgeoning art spaces like NMACC, Hampi Art Labs, and the Brij Museum. The India Art Fair, marking its 15th year, champions diverse programs like the BMW 'The Future is Born of Art' Commission and fosters a global collector base. Public inclusion is prioritized, reflecting in the fair's diverse artist practices and initiatives. The rise of public art, evidenced in projects like Thukral and Tagra's facade and sālAdakh's installation, signifies a broader cultural shift.

Read the complete interview in the January-February edition of Aerocity Live Magazine: [https://lnkd.in/d/byB\\_WP8](https://lnkd.in/d/byB_WP8)

#gmr #gmraerocity #aerocitydelhi #aerocitylive #indianartfair



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**Nature: Knowing Who We Are –**

**A tribute To The Creation**

Aerocity and Friends of Books (Frob), devote the month of June to discussions under the newly-launched 'Aerocity Conversations' series, talks by eminent authors, workshops on 'waste to cash', wildlife photography exhibition and dance and music performances on the theme of nature



*File photo from Utsav Gallery*

**Aerocity Conversations**

Episode 2- ESG - What CXOs Should Know

(exclusively by invite)

**June 14**

**Talk**

Wild photography chat session by Rohitesh Pandey

**June 19**

Talk Session by Lathika Nath - Tiger Princess of India -

**June 29**

**Book discussion**

Book Talk Show with CXO -Nature & Us

**June 21**

Book Discussion with noted authors Pranay Lal & Sopan Joshi -

**June 28**

**Workshops**

Trash to Cash workshop for children

**June 16**

Watercolour Workshop

**June 22**

Storytelling and Watercolour Workshop For Children

**June 23**

Origami Workshop

**June 26**

**ALSO: Nature & Sustainability theme based exhibition by various artists through the month of June**

**Where: Utsav, The Square**

## T20 World Cup Screenings in Aerocity

As the T20 Cricket World Cup fever picks up, enjoy the screening experience with engagement with emcee, carnivals, flash mob and more. Enjoy the festive spirit with Aerocity carnival on the occasion. A not-to-be-missed experience for cricket lovers

**Where:** The Square, Aerocity

**When:** June 1-29

- Carnival & engagement on June 28 and carnival & engagement plus flash mob on June 29
- Engagement with emcee on June 12, 15 and 27



## Art Installation in Collaboration with Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Sculptures by Subodh Gupta titled 'Gandhi's Three Monkeys'. Made of utensils, these represent the principles of 'see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil'.

**Where:** Fountain Area, Aerocity

(Read further details on page 18)



File photos

## Elsewhere in Delhi

## MUSIC

Parvati calling festival |  
Vuttun live  
@Doho-Delhi

**Where:** Soho Club

**When:** June 20, 2024

**Nearest Metro Station:** Lok  
Kalyan Marg on  
Yellow Line

**Distance from Aerocity:**  
11.7km



## Baithaki Delhi by Swaranjali

**Where:** Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre

**When:** July 3, 7 pm

**Distance from Aerocity:** 15.4 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** Khan Market on Violet Line

## Piyush Mishra Live in Concert

**Where:** KD Jadhav Wrestling Stadium

**When:** July 7, 7 pm

**Distance from Aerocity:** 20.9 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** Indraprastha Metro Station  
on Blue Line/ Alternatively, ITO Metro Station on Violet  
Line

## FESTIVALS

## International Ethnic Folklore Festival

**Where:** Dilli Haat, Janakpuri

**When:** July 11-13

**Distance from Aerocity:** 14.5 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** Janakpuri East Metro  
Station on Blue Line

## THEATRE

The Judgement,  
based on Twelve  
Angry Men by  
Reginald Rose;  
directed by Arjun  
Sahni



**Where:** LTG Auditorium

**When:** June 22, 7 pm

**Distance from Aerocity:** 17.6 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** Mandi House on Blue  
and Violet Lines

Chakravyuh featuring Nitish  
Bharadwaj as Krishna

**Where:** Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House

**When:** June 14-16 2024

**Nearest Metro Station:** Mandi House on Blue  
and Violet Lines

**Distance from Aerocity:** 16.8 km

## EXHIBITION

Sustainable Fashion and Lifestyle  
Exhibition Delhi 2024

**Where:** Aga Khan Hall, Bhagwan Das Road,  
Mandi House

**When:** July 25-26

**Distance from Aerocity:** 18.4 km

**Nearest Metro Station:** Mandi House on  
Blue and Violet Lines

## TRADE SHOW

## Fabrics &amp; Accessories Show

**Where:** Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

**When:** July 18

**Nearest Metro Station:** Supreme Court  
(Pragati Maidan) Metro on Blue Line

**Distance from Aerocity:** 17.9 km

# TRANSCEND BEYOND THE ORDINARY

COLLABORATE



CREATE



CELEBRATE



# AEROCITY: THE PARADIGM OF MODERN OFFICE CULTURE

Aerocity Hospitality District, with state-of-the-art offices, showcases the future of workplaces; and the upcoming Gateway and Downtown Districts will further enhance its position as the coveted place to work

By Ruhail Amin

Over the past decade, a seismic shift has taken place in the corporate world, placing employee wellbeing and satisfaction at the forefront of office culture.

No longer viewed as mere cogs in the corporate machine, workers now seek expansive, well-lit workspaces, comfortable furnishings and hygienic surroundings, enhanced by green spaces for relaxation. This change resonates across all demographics, not just the younger generations.

In the heart of Delhi NCR, Aerocity has emerged as a beacon of innovation, redefining what it means to create corporate environments that cater to these evolving needs. Known for its immaculate hygiene standards and luminous workspaces, Aerocity sets a new benchmark in office infrastructure, boasting reliable utilities that remain a rarity in many parts of the region.

The hospitality district includes **approximately 2.2 million square feet of office and retail space**, catering to a mix of



business and leisure needs. The Worldmark buildings in Aerocity, **home to several prestigious corporate entities**, epitomise this new wave of office culture. Cutting-edge technology has been seamlessly integrated to prioritise air quality—an aspect of paramount importance in the post-Covid era. Enhanced air filtration systems ensure that employees breathe cleaner air, thus promoting better health and productivity. Additionally, **stringent security** measures guarantee a safe and secure working environment around the clock.

Aerocity is not solely about work. It is a thriving hub that offers a plethora of options for leisure and relaxation, making it a well-rounded environment for professionals. Whether it's a leisurely lunch with colleagues, impressing clients with a sophisticated dining experience, or catching up with friends after hours, Aerocity's array of restaurants and cafes cater to all needs. The well-manicured lanes invite visitors to take a rejuvenating stroll,



**As the landscape of office culture continues to evolve, Aerocity stands out as a pioneering force, setting new standards for what a contemporary workspace should be**

providing a much-needed break from the rigours of the workday.

Accessibility is another of Aerocity's significant advantages. The area boasts seamless connectivity to the rest of Delhi NCR through an efficient metro network. The proximity to the nearest metro station, linked to Central Delhi and Dwarka via the Airport Express Metro Line, ensures that commuting is effortless. Furthermore, easy access to Gurugram via NH-48 enhances the appeal of this dynamic workspace.

Looking ahead, Aerocity's future is poised for even greater heights with the upcoming Aerocity Gateway District and Downtown District developments. These projects are set to significantly augment the availability of premium office spaces, reinforcing Aerocity's reputation as the epitome of excellence in workspace provisions. The Gateway District is expected to showcase **approximately 5 million square feet of premium corporate space and 2.8 million square feet of destination retail, the largest in the country.** The

Downtown District, with premium office spaces, is also poised to be a sought-after destination for top-tier corporations.

The promise of these developments heralds a new era for Aerocity, ensuring that it remains at the cutting edge of corporate workspace innovation. As companies continue to place greater emphasis on the wellbeing and satisfaction of their employees, Aerocity's commitment to creating optimal work environments positions it as the premier destination for modern businesses.

Aerocity exemplifies the modern shift in office culture, combining state-of-the-art technology, superior infrastructure, and a focus on employee wellbeing to create a holistic and dynamic work environment. Its strategic location, unparalleled offerings, and planned future expansion make it an ideal location for corporates. As the landscape of office culture continues to evolve, Aerocity stands out as a pioneering force, setting new standards for what a contemporary workspace should be.

## NEW BEGINNINGS

## Preeti Jayant Appointed HR Manager At Aloft New Delhi Aerocity

**A**loft New Delhi Aerocity has announced the appointment of Preeti Jayant as Human Resources Manager. With her expertise in Human Resources Management, she will be responsible for executing strategic plans.

Jayant brings a wealth of expertise garnered from her previous role as Human Resources Manager at Hilton Garden Inn, Lucknow, and her tenure with hospitality brands including Hilton Hotels, Hyatt Hotels, The LaLiT and The Oberoi Group. She has keen understanding of HR practices and has a commitment to fostering a positive work environment.

Beyond her professional achievements, Jayant finds joy in exploring new destinations through travel and draws inspiration from the harmonies of music.



## Swati Kapur Joins Pride Hotels Group; Brings 24-Years-Experience In Various Roles

**S**wati Kapur has joined Pride Hotels Group as the Regional Sales Office Director of Sales (RSO DOS) for North India. She brings with her impressive 24 years of experience in the hospitality industry, demonstrating a strong track record in sales and marketing, business development, and customer relations.

Prior to joining Pride Hotels, Kapur held significant roles at several big hospitality brands. Her career includes leadership positions at Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, Hyatt Hotels Corporation, Marriott, and BWH Hotels. In these roles, she was instrumental in driving growth, achieving sales targets, and implementing successful pre-opening strategies and revenue optimisation initiatives.

Kapur takes on the responsibility of enhancing sales performance and expanding the customer base in North India at Pride Hotels Group's commitment to excellence and growth in the region.

# JW Marriott New Delhi Collaborates With Arts And Souls Foundation For Autism Awareness



Through this collaborative initiative, JW Marriott New Delhi provided a unique platform for specially-abled children affiliated with the Arts and Souls Foundation to showcase their artistic prowess and embark on a transformative journey of self-expression. Guests were enthralled by the collection of paintings, each a testament to the exquisite artistic flair possessed by these exceptional young individuals. The proceeds garnered from the sale of these artworks directly benefitted the Arts and Souls Foundation, empowering them to continue their impactful charitable endeavours.

The evening commenced with a warm address by Sharad Datta, General Manager, JW Marriott New Delhi. As he said, "This initiative provided a valuable platform for children with autism to showcase their artistic abilities and raise awareness for the autistic community. The event not only highlighted the

**T**o foster a more inclusive society, JW Marriott New Delhi collaborated with the Arts and Souls Foundation during the Autism Awareness Month in April, to host a captivating art exhibition at The Gallery Room. This soiree of artistic expression served to highlight the remarkable talents of children with autism, while simultaneously raising awareness for autism.

remarkable talents of these young individuals but also fostered a more inclusive environment."

The ambience was enriched by the soulful melodies of a saxophone performance. The guests actively participated in an immersive painting session, unleashing their artistic spirits by translating their emotions onto canvases with vibrant colours and expressive strokes.

# Aloft New Delhi Aerocity Celebrates Sixth Anniversary

**A**loft New Delhi Aerocity is celebrating its 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary this June. The hotel turned six on June 8, 2024. Since opening its doors, the hotel has become known for its vibrant atmosphere, innovative offerings, contemporary design, commitment to personalised service, and dedication to sustainability.

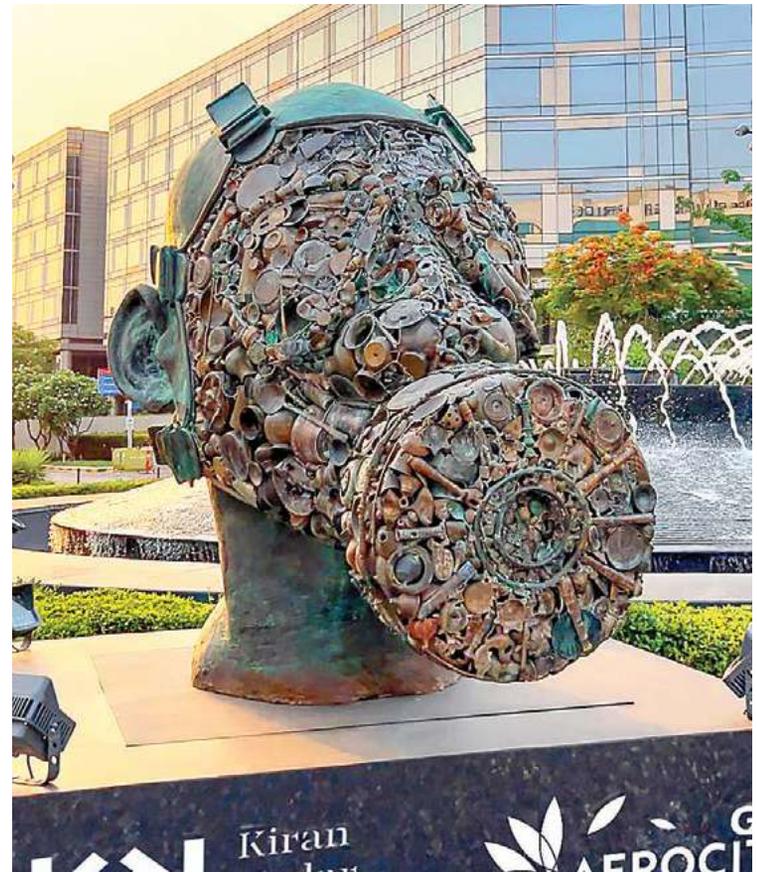
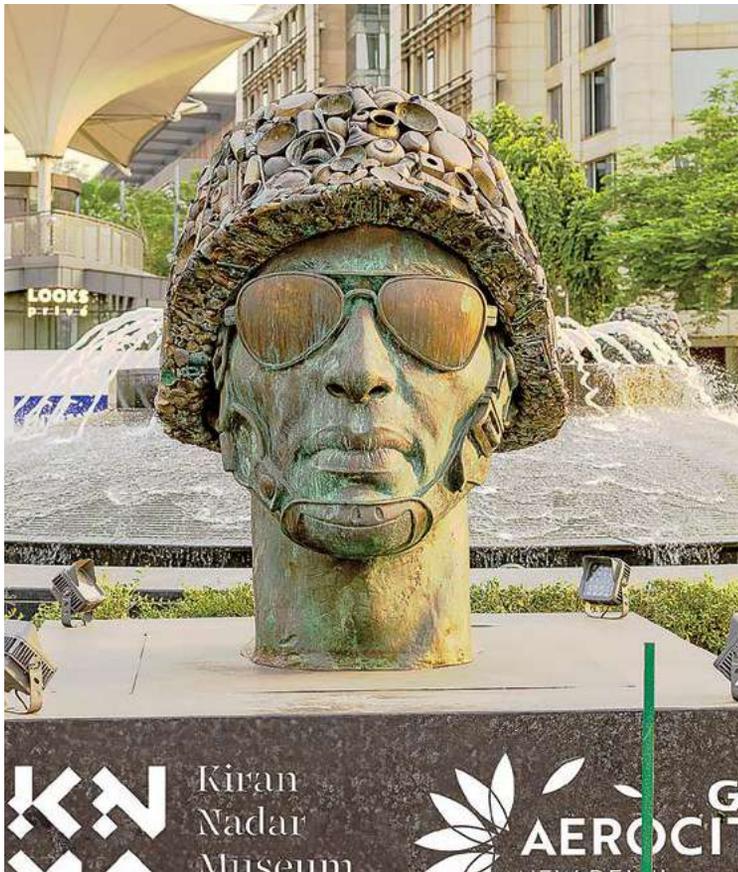
The hotel also celebrated International Gin Day on June 8. Attendees got a chance to savour expertly crafted gin cocktails prepared by the hotel's talented mixologists, featuring a variety of gins from around the world. There were unique flavour combinations and classic favourites on offer, as also a game of pool, and mingle with fellow gin enthusiasts in a lively atmosphere at W XYZ bar.



# GMR Aerocity's Collaboration With Kiran Nadar Museum Of Art To Showcase **Subodh Gupta's** Art

The artist's 'Gandhi's Three Monkeys' have been installed in an open location in Aerocity for maximum impact

By Team Aerocity Live



**G**MR Aerocity and Kiran Nadar Museum of Art have come together to exhibit eminent artist Subodh Gupta's sculptures titled 'Gandhi's Three Monkeys'. These have been installed at the fountain area frequented by guests staying at Aerocity hotels, the diverse workforce that comes to Aerocity each day and other discerning visitors.

Born in 1964, Gupta is known to work with ubiquitous objects such as mass-produced steel utensils, found routinely as part of household kitchens throughout India. While stainless steel is his signature medium, he also executes works in bronze, stone, brass, wood, clay and fibreglass. Striking a dialogue between the found

and the built elements, he manipulates the accoutrements of daily life to encapsulate multitudes of definitions and circumstances of contemporary India.

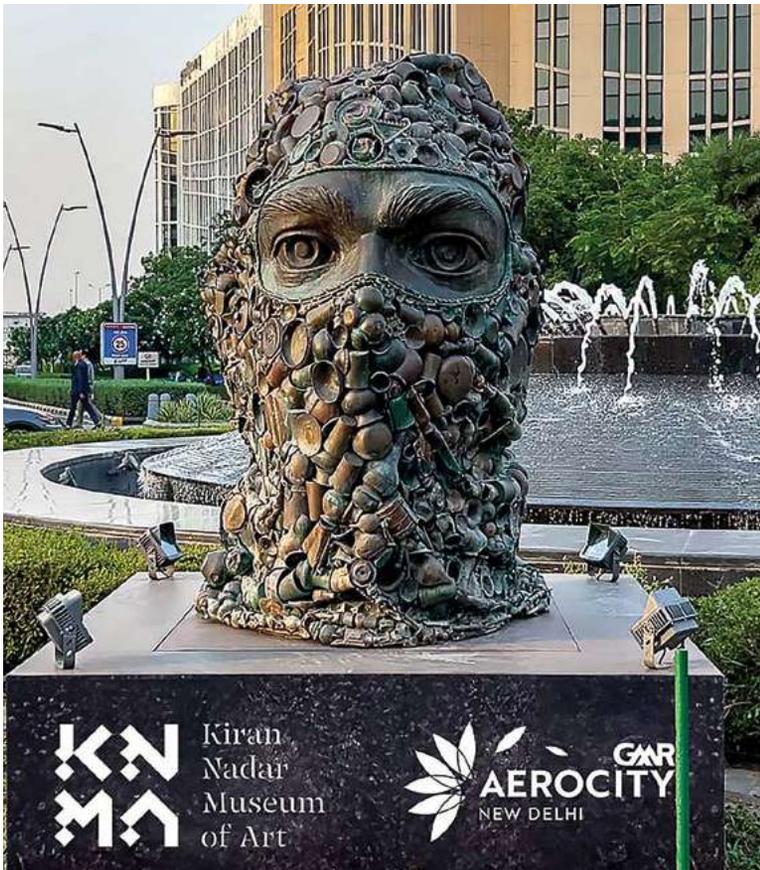
The versatile artist has mastery in paintings as well as sculptures, and has also delved into the arena of theatre, experimenting with both acting and set design. In 2010 Gupta designed the sets and costumes for a performance choreographed by Ballet Preljocaj for the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. His works have been on display in solo exhibitions in prestigious museums, as well as exhibited in art fairs and Biennales globally. He was knighted with the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

(Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the Government of France in 2013.

### Gandhi's three monkeys

The three sculptures are made from bronze, steel and old utensils. Each piece is composed of cooking instruments, used pails, traditional Indian lunch boxes and glass bowls. Together, they recall Gandhi's famous visual metaphor – the three wise monkeys that represent the 'see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil' proverb. The installations portray a human head with different head gear. One wears a soldier's helmet, the other a terrorist's hood and the third a gas mask symbolising war and peace, public & private and global & local themes.

Gupta makes a transition of sorts in his own idiom and dialect in



his work Gandhi's Three Monkeys. Here a tragic-comic Playstation War Game is conjured up by sculptures of three soldier heads that are trimmed with eye shades, mask and helmet. There is an irony in turning the mascot of a Man of Peace into a testament of violence apart. This trinity is not the harbinger of the Apocalypse promised by the End of (a linear) History. Rather it is the formal manifestation of the frightening realisation of the cyclicity of time - a 21st century re-envisioning of the kalachakra. Gupta navigates his chariot of transgressions in a cathartic pageant - that of a world constantly being lost / destroyed and yet emerging anew, reconfigured, reconstructed from its own debris.



**APURVA KACKAR**  
 Director,  
 Institutional Affairs  
 & Outreach, Kiran  
 Nadar Museum  
 of Art



**Aerocity, with its strategic location near the airport and its role as a commercial and hospitality hub, naturally attracts a broad spectrum of visitors. This diverse footfall provides an excellent opportunity to showcase art outside the traditional museum setting, reaching people who might not otherwise engage with it. This initiative aligns with our mission to make art more accessible and to integrate it into the fabric of daily urban life, thereby enriching the cultural landscape and inviting more people to experience and engage with the transformative power of art**





Utsav, an apt venue for cultural events in Delhi

# UTSAV:

## CULTURAL SOUL OF AEROCITY

A celebration of art, culture and community during a month-long festival

By Team Aerocity Live

**D**elhi, with its rich tapestry of art, culture and heritage, abundance of nature, intellectual and political ferment, has been a hub of diverse discourses and engaging activities around socio-political-cultural themes. Engaging Delhiites and visitors to Delhi in an interactive way, through an array of activities, is a new cultural venue at Aerocity, Utsav.

This venue, located at The Square, lends itself well to hosting several events, from talk shows and book launches to art activities, workshops and much more. It could be an author discussing his latest book with interested audience, an artist teaching water colour technique or a historian sharing the history of the city in story-telling way.

The idea behind launching the venue is to build a community of art and culture lovers by engaging corporates, the global workforce that comes to Aerocity, and other enthusiastic



visitors, including children, to the district. Utsav hosts artists, authors and other subject experts to share their knowledge and expertise with a growing tribe of art and culture lovers.

The venue has several advantages, such as its location in the clean and green ambience of The Square, great connectivity, captivating interiors and exteriors, and proximity to a large number of eating outlets.

**Mohit Gupta**, Co-founder of **Friends of Books**, who has joined hands with GMR Aerocity to organise 'Aerocity Conversations' at Utsav, says that the art and culture activities at Utsav are adding to the rich cultural canvas of Delhi, while also adding soul to the world-class infrastructure of Aerocity.

Speaking about the advantage of organising events at Utsav, he says, "For people living in Gurugram, attending Delhi events poses a dilemma. That is why, this location will play an important role, as it's equidistant from all parts of the city. It's also convenient for people who are flying in from other parts of the country. They can club it with other business engagements while attending the discussion." (read interview on page 24).

### **Aerocity Conversations: A Nexus of Ideas and Insight**

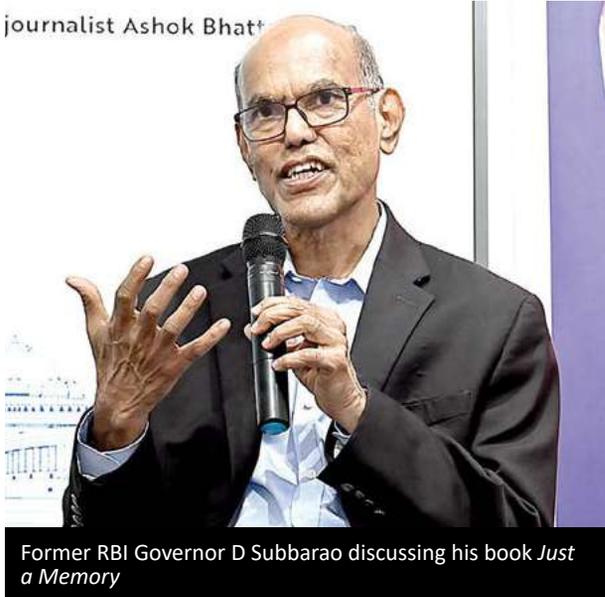
Aerocity Conversations is among the most significant discussions that Utsav will host each month. Launched by GMR Aerocity and Friends of Books, this will feature engrossing conversations and book discussions on current issues.

The inaugural event under the series featured **D Subbarao**, the distinguished former RBI governor. Subbarao's recent memoir, '**Just A Mercenary**', served as the catalyst for a riveting discussion, skillfully moderated by the renowned finance journalist, Ashok Bhattacharya.

During the Bharatanatyam dance performance by Neelam Rawat on this occasion, attendees were drawn into a world of contemplation, exploring the dilemmas faced by individuals in



journalist Ashok Bhatt



Former RBI Governor D Subbarao discussing his book *Just a Memory*

positions of authority, a theme that resonated deeply with Subbarao's tenure at the RBI.

Distinguished guests, including Arun Maira (former member of Planning Commission of India and former Chairman of Boston Consulting Group – India), Kiran Karnik (former President of NASSCOM and Chairman of Satyam Computer Services), and Gen Ian Cardozo, lent their wisdom and insight to the dialogue, further enriching the conversation with diverse perspectives and experiences.

GMR's monthly feature, Aerocity Conversations, is dedicated to fostering a community of like-minded intellectuals and thought leaders. The calendar has been meticulously planned to ensure that each instalment surpasses the last, offering enriching discussions and engaging interactions that continue to elevate the discourse within the community. The theme of episode 2, to be held on June 14, is ' **ESG - What CXOs Should Know**'.

### An 'Utsav' of all things in Delhi

Another pathbreaking initiative that Utsav hosted in May was 'Dil Mein Hai Dilli'. This was an overarching series of events organised by GMR Aerocity, in association with Frob, in celebration of multiple facets of Delhi.

The event wove together a vibrant tapestry of visual arts, performances, and engaging discussions featuring over 100 artists from diverse backgrounds.

Myriad forms of visual arts that adorned the space captivated audiences with their beauty and depth. From breathtaking paintings that captured the city's vibrant landscapes to whimsical cartoons that offered



Actor Atul Tiwari describes Delhi's influence on Hindi films



Author Swapna Liddle describing the ethos of Old Delhi



Rashmi Agarwal's musical recital



Photographs and artworks of Delhi's monuments and other locations providing glimpses into the city's life



Artistic activities with attendees



A standout event was a captivating talk on the profound influence of Delhi on Bollywood, led by the esteemed actor and scriptwriter, **Atul Tiwari**. Attendees were treated to a journey through the nostalgia of Indian cinema, encountering enthralling anecdotes along the way.

Among the key highlights of the festival were a musical recital featuring the works of Delhi poets by Rashmi Agarwal, and an insightful talk on 'Purani Dilliwale' by renowned author **Swapna Liddle**. These special attractions added depth and richness to the event.

Art enthusiasts were treated to a range of learning opportunities, with workshops ranging from sketching and portrait making to pottery, providing attendees with immersive experiences in various artistic

a playful commentary on urban life, the festival showcased the creativity of Delhi's artistic community. Photographs froze moments in time, watercolour art evoked emotions with its ethereal beauty, and every piece served as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the city.

But Dil Mein Hai Dilli was more than just a feast for the eyes; it was an immersive experience that engaged all the senses. The air reverberated with the infectious beats of Bhangra, as dancers took to the stage, infusing the atmosphere with energy and joy. Sufi Ghazals sung by noted singer **Rashmi Agarwal** stirred the soul, transporting listeners to a realm of spiritual transcendence, while engaging talks, art workshops, and book discussions sparked dialogue and fostered connections among attendees.

# DISBURSAL OF IDEAS THROUGH AEROCITY CONVERSATIONS



**Mohit Gupta**, Co Founder, Friends of Books, shares the idea behind curating the monthly discussion series and why Aerocity is an apt venue for it

## What was the idea with which you started the Aerocity Conversations?

Aerocity Conversations is a monthly discussion – building a community of CXOs. The objective was to bring together people who change policies – the think tank of Delhi – and also to showcase Aerocity as the newest Delhi.

The inaugural session happened with D Subbarao, former Governor, Reserve Bank of India, who spoke about the culture in Delhi and how economic forces are shaping up the city. Similarly, each month we will pick up a theme for discussion.

## Why Aerocity? Does it signify a shift from Lutyens' Delhi?

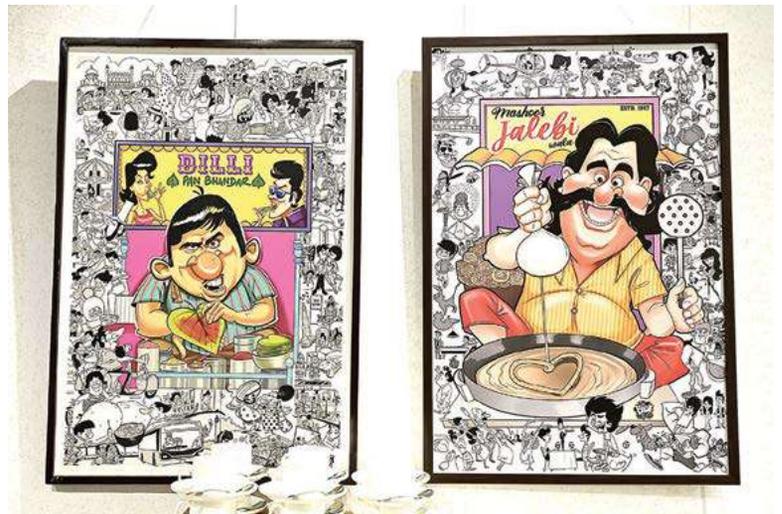
For people living in Gurugram, attending Delhi events has posed a dilemma. That is why, this location will play an important role, as it's equidistant from all parts of the city. It's also convenient for people who are flying in from other parts of the country. They can club it with other business engagements while attending the discussion. So, rather than a shift, I would say it's complimenting and adding to the canvas of such discussions.

## How would you describe Aerocity as a venue for these discussions?

It's a perfect place. And it's surrounded by cafes. Anyone who has visited the place says this looks like Singapore or business centres of London. And activities revolving around art and culture have added a soul to the infrastructure. It's very well located, has ample parking and great hospitality with so many eateries around. So, it's a great place to spend the evening.

## What has been the experience of bringing these thought leaders so far?

The audience included MK Raina, Kiran Karnik, Arun Maira, Gen Cardozo and many senior corporates. It was great to listen to Subbarao discuss with humility his life and what one can learn from some mistakes he did and to watch the Bharatanatyam performance showcasing Arjun's dilemma in Mahabharata. After the session almost 50 to 60 per cent people wrote to me saying what a fantastic book it is. Some of them have already finished it. So, the purpose of the discussion has been met in terms of disbursement of the idea.



mediums. The festival was meticulously curated, offering multiple engagements throughout the week, ensuring there was something for everyone across all age groups.

The festival served as a reminder of the power of art to unite, to inspire, and to transform, and its legacy will continue to enrich the fabric of Delhi's cultural landscape for years to come.

**Ode to nature**

Moving forward, Utsav will see events centred around a theme each month. In June, the theme is '**Nature: Knowing Who We**

**Are – A tribute To The Creation'**. From book discussion with eminent authors Pranay Lal and Sopan Joshi, Talk Session by Lathika Nath - Tiger Princess of India, and Wild photography chat session by Rohitesh Pandey to workshops on 'trash to cash' for children and corporates, there is a series of events lined up (see calendar on page 10).

Next time you find yourself in Aerocity, be sure to explore the vibrant offerings at Utsav, Amazon, and the Open Theatre. These spots often showcase a range of intriguing events and activities planned for the month ahead, providing an excellent opportunity to discover what's new and exciting in the area.

# AEROCITY ENTERTAINMENT FEST: FUN FARE FOR ALL TASTES



By Shruti Tripathi, Barkha Rawat and Mayank Badhwar

A memorable experience with a musical extravaganza, laughter poetry programme, acoustic performances, interactive games & activities, standup shows, delicious culinary delights and much more

Visitors to Aerocity were treated to entertainment in myriad forms during the Aerocity Entertainment Fest 2024, held in early April. Organised by BW Businessworld and GMR Aerocity and presented by Dabur Hajmola, the event had a lineup of captivating performances. With a dynamic blend of music, art, food and culture, the entertainment fest of Aerocity offered something for everyone. Attendees immersed themselves in live music and dance performances from renowned artists across genres,



poetry programme 'Hasya Kavyotsav' by Piyush Yadav & Rohan Kumar; standup shows by the talented Manoj Bhandari and Muskan Taneja; and magic and illusion acts by Magician Vinod Kumar, the event had stage performances across several art forms.

Musical performances by Mohit Singh of Rangrezz, Nazm Unplugged, Devika Arora and her musical band, Malvika Srivastava and her band, Parneet Singh, Sahil Sharma and Kanishka Sharma enthralled the audience, as did performances by DJ Sammot and DJ Moksh

People enjoyed trying archery and playing giant Jenga. Families had a great time bowling together. In the Gaming Room, there were PlayStation 5 consoles with games like FIFA, Grand Theft Auto V, Call of Duty, WWE and Battlefield for those who preferred digital entertainment.

The fashion lovers among the crowd were treated to a glamorous Fashion Fiesta, courtesy Meena Bazaar for clothing; Arckbeauty by Akriti Arora and Makeupbyrua by Rua Kshirja Das for makeup; Joya Art Jewellers by Honey Creations for jewellery and Weaving Threads for footwear.

The event had Bisleri Limonata as the refreshment partner; 24SEVEN as the convenience partner; JT Talent as the entertainment partner; Meena Bazaar as the clothing partner; Arckbeauty by Akriti Arora and Makeupbyrua by Rua Kshirja Das as the makeup partners; Joya Art Jewellers by Honey Creations as the jewellery partner and Weaving Threads as the footwear partner.

The event partners were: Paytm Insider and BookMyShow as outreach partners; NewsX as TV partner; Beany as gifting partner and Joy Travels, Fandrum, Thickshake Factory, Realty+, E4M, IWM Buzz, Impact, Pitch, and Ramdiri Events & Exhibition.



indulged in delicious culinary delights from local vendors, explored captivating art installations and engaged in various interactive activities and experiences. The highlight of the event was the gaming zone which stuck with the audience throughout the event.

### Entertainment redefined

From an exhilarating flash mob performance of 'Dance Fusion' by Oorja Dance Company to a street play by Liftupromedia - The Nukkad Natak Group; laughter

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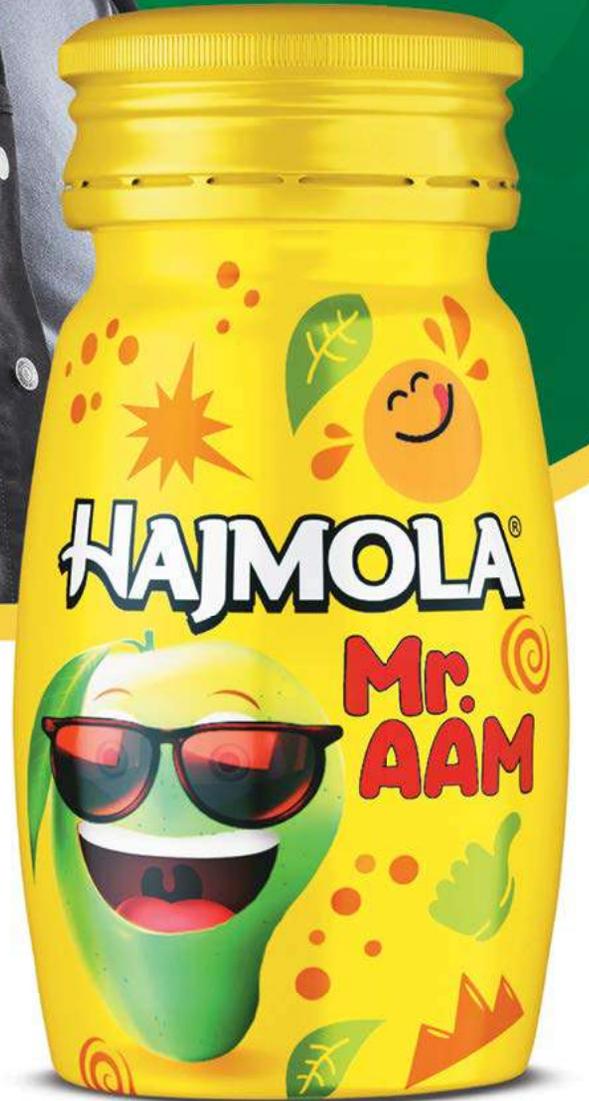
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# ELEVATING WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE AT AEROCITY

By Tarannum Manjul

Due to its exceptional infrastructure, extensive amenities and strategic positioning, GMR Aerocity has evolved beyond a mere destination, transforming into a dynamic ecosystem that stimulates growth and encourages cooperation among professionals worldwide



In the vibrant tapestry of Delhi's urban landscape, one enclave stands out as a beacon of innovation and connectivity: Delhi Aerocity. Nestled strategically near the bustling Indira Gandhi International Airport, this dynamic hub has swiftly evolved into a nucleus for the global workforce, seamlessly blending business, hospitality and leisure.

With its unparalleled infrastructure, diverse amenities and strategic location, Delhi Aerocity has become not just a destination, but a vibrant ecosystem that catalyses growth and fosters collaboration for professionals from around the world.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANTAGE

"Aerocity, as the name suggests, has become a city in itself. It's a perfect destination for business meetings, catering both to Delhi and Gurugram corporates, owing to its location," remarks **Kush Kapoor**, CEO, Roseate Hotels & Resorts, encapsulating the essence of Aerocity's appeal. Indeed, Aerocity's strategic positioning offers unparalleled accessibility to both the commercial epicentres of Delhi and the burgeoning corporate landscape of Gurugram, making it an ideal convergence point for business travellers from across the globe.



“

At Brookfield Properties, we build more than offices. We curate ecosystems that foster collaboration and inspire creativity. Worldmark Aerocity exemplifies this vision, fostering a vibrant global community where innovation thrives and ideas flourish. This seamless integration of work, leisure and community empowers the global workforce with an unparalleled experience

”



**MUNISH MATHUR**  
Senior Vice President &  
Regional Head – North  
Brookfield Properties India

The allure of Aerocity lies not just in its location, but in its **meticulously planned infrastructure and world-class amenities**. "The infrastructure, support & design of Aerocity in itself is conducive for business travellers. Aerocity has everything for a discerning traveller. It is one of the safest locations for any traveller in India with Airports security, hotels security, GMR security & Delhi Police security always on the guard," Kapoor emphasises. This unwavering commitment to safety and security, coupled with state-of-the-art facilities, creates an environment that fosters productivity and peace of mind for professionals on the move.

#### **CONNECTIVITY AT THE CORE OF AEROCITY'S SUCCESS**

Central to Aerocity's success is its impressive array of accommodation options, boasting around 4,000 hotel rooms with an additional 700 set to be added in the next two years. This

abundance of lodging ensures that every traveller finds their ideal sanctuary amidst the bustling cityscape. Moreover, the **seamless connectivity** facilitated by Delhi Metro adds another layer of convenience, allowing travellers to navigate the city with ease. "Delhi Metro station being at walking distance from Aerocity, has made it extremely convenient for any traveller to take it to beat the city traffic & come back to Aerocity as per their convenience," Kapoor observes, highlighting the symbiotic relationship between Aerocity and Delhi's public transportation network.

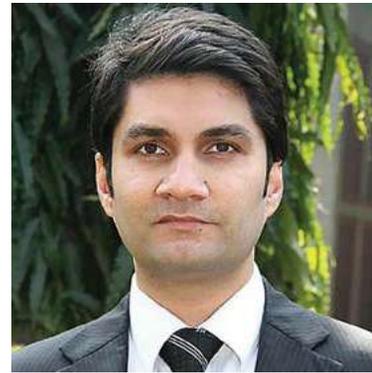
Gaurav Kapoor, a seasoned executive within the ranks of an esteemed international banking institution, underscores the significance of Aerocity as more than just a hub for the global workforce. He perceives it as a nexus where the brightest minds converge, fostering invaluable opportunities for networking, collaboration and the exchange of innovative ideas.

**AMENITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAKE AEROCITY PERFECT**

Beyond its practical amenities, Aerocity offers a vibrant tapestry of culinary delights, cultural experiences and corporate opportunities. From internationally renowned restaurants to Fortune 500 corporate offices, Aerocity caters to diverse tastes and professional ambitions.

"For any traveller, be it restaurants serving International cuisine, international hotel brands along with Indian brands, events being organised from time to time, Fortune 500 companies having their corporate offices, offers a perfect destination for a corporate company to have their base in Aerocity," Kapoor notes.

Chitra Swaminathan, who works with APAC headquarters of an international NGO feels that Aerocity is a complete city in itself. "We always prefer being here as you get work and leisure within an arm's reach. Comfortable hospitality options are a big reason for the success of Aerocity. While you get the best options to stay, a host of options can also help you in working from cafes. And when you wish to unwind, Aerocity still has options."



**CAPTAIN VIPUL SHARMA**  
Deputy General Manager - HR,  
Admin and IT  
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries India



Aerocity as a place has very strong positive vibes and the place always resonates with the exuberance. Worldmark at Aerocity isn't just a workplace, it's a vibrant community that thrives on continuous evolution. From the world-class security ensuring peace of mind to the after-work buzz of restaurants and cafes, it offers an enchanting experience that helps keep a healthy balance to your life and keeps employees happy and productive.

The exceptionally gracious hospitality starts the moment you enter the office premises, gives the overall experience an extra edge and has that wow factor. Since we have many expats coming here, for them Aerocity offers top notch standards and global feel that are comparable to working in any major global business district. It's a matter of immense pride to see them thrive here.

Ambitious benchmarks are the norm here, with the team consistently exceeding them year after year, elevating the entire campus experience. Further, engaging events like screening of cricket matches in common areas, games, music events keep employees motivated and create a truly positive work environment





**UMESH KUMAR**  
Deputy General Manager –  
Administration  
Hitachi



Aerocity has gained symbolism for being one of the most significant business hubs in Delhi. Hitachi India, having more than nine decades of partnership with the nation, took a strategic move of relocating to Worldmark Aerocity and this decision has been seen as one of the most distinguished transitions.

The serene environment around Aerocity, its impeccable focus towards maintaining the vicinity has been instrumental across our successful business voyage. The proximity of access for the constantly growing Hitachi India family offers an astounding mix of work and relaxation.

Aerocity's persistently evolving visibility and strategic location has also been able to offer a distinctive experience to our guests making a visit from across the world. The planned expansion will prominently place Aerocity as the preferred choice for the business neighbourhood



## HUB OF EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

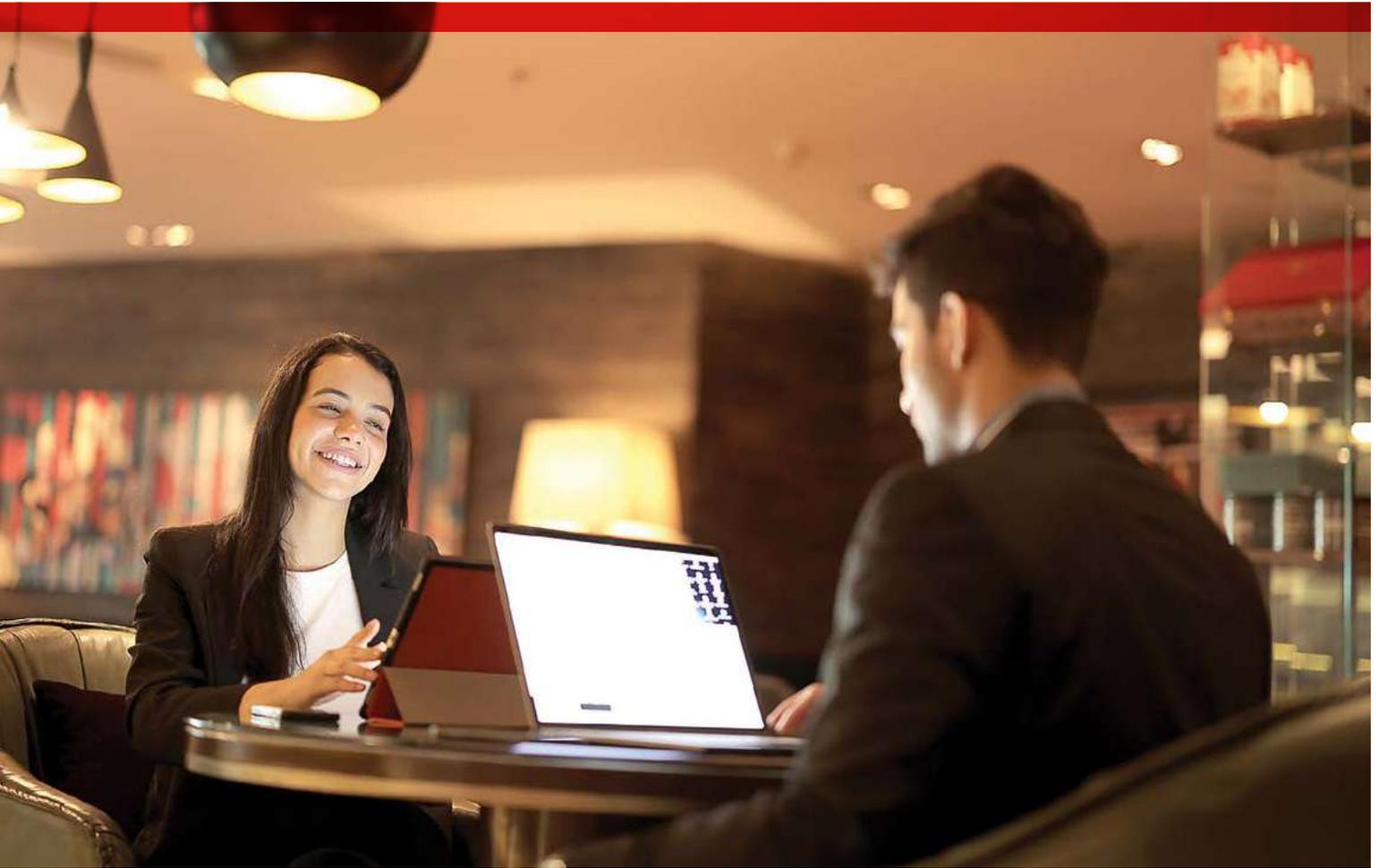
The success of Aerocity has not only redefined Delhi's urban landscape but also catalysed economic growth and employment opportunities. "Aerocity has become a source of generating employment to some thousands of people as well due to the business opportunities available inside the Aerocity with various hospitality partners, restaurants & outlets, office spaces, etc," Kapoor underscores.

Moreover, Aerocity's innovative concept has inspired emulation across the country, with other airports replicating its model to foster similar hubs of economic activity and connectivity. As Kapoor aptly puts it, "Most of the airports in India are copying this concept post the success of Aerocity in Delhi."

In essence, Delhi Aerocity stands as a testament to visionary urban planning and collaborative innovation. It embodies the convergence of convenience, efficiency and luxury, making it an indispensable hub for the global workforce. Whether for business or leisure, Aerocity offers an unparalleled experience that transcends boundaries and fosters growth, both professionally and personally.

As the world continues to evolve, Delhi Aerocity remains at the forefront of progress, shaping the future of work and travel in the digital age. It is not merely a destination but a dynamic ecosystem where ideas flourish, connections thrive and dreams take flight.





**AMIT MEHRA**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Lightspeed India Partners

“

As a venture capital firm, we thrive on a young and energetic atmosphere. Aerocity perfectly captures that vibe. The central location, accessible from all corners of NCR, makes it a convenient hub for our team and potential collaborators. Aerocity offers a unique character. The modern infrastructure boasts a futuristic aesthetic, creating a space with a distinct identity that reflects our forward-thinking vision. Worldmark at Aerocity itself is a complete ecosystem, with a seamless blend of futuristic offices, vibrant greenery and a plethora of amenities like cafes, restaurants and retail stores, eliminating the need for stepping out. Perhaps the most appealing aspect is the density – it avoids the feeling of a crowded and dense corporate tower in a business district. It's a truly global destination that feels less formal, less corporate-like and resonates perfectly with our firm's brand, values and aspirations

”

# "AEROCITY PROVIDES 360 EXPERIENCE"

**Aniruddho Chakraborty,**  
Head of Communications,  
India, Pratt & Whitney, on  
the sense of wellbeing in  
Aerocity

I have worked in several organisations earlier and have had the chance to work in several geographies of Delhi NCR and experienced the entire spectrum of work spaces.

I joined Pratt & Whitney during the Pandemic in 2020. We moved to Aerocity from Gurugram in October 2023. I had been coming to Aerocity to hang around with friends at Worldmark. So, when we made the decision to move to Aerocity, I was quite happy, on account of the infrastructure, the roads, the traffic and the fact that it's walkable.

One of the key reasons why we shifted here was proximity. We are an aerospace firm. You can see our engines in military and commercial aircraft. The second reason was its location in Delhi. Thanks to the support we got from Worldmark, we have been able to create an office that is uniquely collaborative. And the multiple-level security also helps an aerospace firm like us.

Care to minor details pertaining to hygiene, water, electricity, support from general staff at Worldmark also helps. And every day while driving down from Vasant Kunj to Aerocity I can feel the difference.

In terms of entertaining and dining opportunities too, there are just a few comparisons in Delhi NCR. Aerocity is top of the line in that regard. It's 360 in that sense.

In Pratt & Whitney, we are still in hybrid mode. But I do want to come here, thrice a week. If, in the post Covid World, you want to come to office, this is the place. After office, you can grab a coffee and discuss life with friends working in other Worldmark buildings. And all of that leads to a sense of wellbeing.





**Dev Halder,**  
 Director  
 of Sales &  
 Marketing,  
 Holiday Inn,  
 Aerocity,  
 on his first  
 impression  
 of Aerocity  
 as a work  
 ecosystem

I worked in Holiday Inn Aerocity from 2016-22. Having spent two years at Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council, under the ambit of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), I have rejoined the hotel industry in January this year.

My first impression of Aerocity? I wondered why such hubs with strategic location and lively business environment never existed before. Aerocity signifies a much-required transformation that Gurugram and parts of Noida (NCR) have already demonstrated to attract MNCs and corporate giants to set up their offices. It's a model that should be replicated across all other commercial areas of Delhi.

When I joined in 2016, the offices in the Worldmark Towers represented a blend of MNCs and Indian corporates. Commuting to-and-fro Aerocity became easier with an additional metro line at Terminal 1 IGI Airport in 2018.

The expats working here appreciate the rich history and culture of Delhi, and for Aerocity, they state it's a replica of Singapore and matches the

highest standards of safety and security.

The locals value the workplace being spacious, buildings are modern and with sleek architecture. Shopping arcades and retail outlets and a wide range of dining options add convenience for employees and visitors. With enhanced connectivity, everyone is happy saving on travel time, enabling a work-life balance.

On the question of sustainability, environment-friendly practices have been initiated very extensively in Worldmark Offices, the hotels and restaurants in Aerocity. These include LEED-certified green buildings, promoting energy efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint.

The visual impact when one enters Aerocity: It's not only about the work or the remuneration attached to it, it's about the feeling of wellbeing that constantly reverberates throughout the day. It is a sense of satisfaction to work at a place that fosters a vibrant community and a holistic environment, undoubtedly one of the best places Delhi has had in the last 70 years.



# "PRODUCTIVE & ENJOYABLE WORK EXPERIENCE"

**Poulomi Bhattacharya**, Director - Talent and Culture, Pullman and Novotel New Delhi Aerocity, delineates what makes Aerocity a coveted workplace destination in Delhi NCR

Pullman and Novotel New Delhi Aerocity, sustainability is at the helm of all its operations. From energy conservation, waste management, on site water bottling plant, EV charging station to its own herb garden spread over 5,500 square feet of space, the hotel is committed to reduce its environmental footprint and also contribute to the wellbeing of the local community.

### **Transportation and connectivity**

Proximity to the international airport and Aerocity Metro station, makes it a well-connected sub city in the heart of Delhi. This prime location offers a significant advantage for Pullman and Novotel Aerocity, along with the area's overall security, making it highly convenient for guests thus contributing to their positive experience.

### **Entertainment opportunities**

Pullman and Novotel Aerocity has an array of entertainment opportunities ranging from happy hours, bar games at our 24\*7 sports bar - Quoin, food and beverage promotions and more, catering to all preferences.

### **A sense of pride of working from a futuristic workplace**

Knowing that your workplace prioritises the environment adds an extra layer of satisfaction. Plus, global connectivity on your doorstep fuels a sense of being at the centre of something exciting.

**A** lot of factors makes Aerocity a preferred location for offices and hence corporates and employees love to come to work here. Aerocity stands out for its infrastructure, making it a prime location for businesses and a favourite with employees and leisure travellers alike. Easy access to the airport, metro connectivity and access to major business hubs of Gurgaon and Delhi make it a convenient hub. Combined with a vibrant mix of hotels, restaurants and shopping outlets, all alongside modern, sustainable office spaces, Aerocity fosters a productive and enjoyable work experience.

### **Adherence to green norms**

Aerocity prioritises environmental responsibility. With regards to

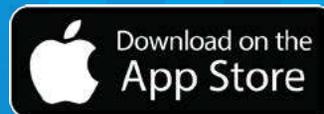
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**Mohammad Shoeb**, Associate Vice President - North India, The Pride Hotels, describes the hospitality district as a workplace ecosystem

## “Dynamic Hospitality Zone With Healthy Competition”

**A**erocity is the only purpose-built hospitality district in the country, that you will not find anywhere else in India. It has world-class infrastructure and an array of international brands. It's a dynamic hospitality zone with healthy competition.

For those coming here to work everyday, the first positive factor is the wonderful connectivity. The Airport Express Metro Line and Magenta Line till T1 are a boon for employees coming from far and wide, though a lot of our staff live in Mahipalpur, Vasant Kunj and Dwarka.

The location is absolutely safe and thanks to the 'rakshak', every in and out movement is monitored. And the Delhi police is very supportive in ensuring safety. The public areas are also green, with hundreds of variety of trees and plants growing.

The ambience is great and for millennials who like to work hard and party well, this location comes as a great package.

An important factor behind the workforce deciding to stay or leave a job is the office atmosphere and we at Hotel Pride Plaza take good care of our staff and nurture talent. Several wellbeing initiatives have been undertaken by us. For example, we have got the employee dining area renovated and made it bright and colourful, so that our staff having lunch or tea can have relaxed time there. On Wednesdays, we serve special meals featuring global cuisine.

Aerocity has emerged as a sought-after destination for professionals. It not only attracts the local workforce but also serves as a transit point for individuals from neighbouring states traveling to other regions or overseas. Additionally, Aerocity is a prime location for corporations to host conferences and meetings. It is also becoming a popular hub for residential weddings, drawing families and guests for extended stays. As a centre for diverse segments of the workforce, multiple sectors contribute to its ongoing growth and development.

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**Rakesh Rana, Executive Chef,**  
Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity,  
New Delhi

## “Significant Growth And Development In This Vibrant Area”

**M**y culinary journey in Aerocity began in 2013 as part of the pre-opening team with IHG, where I served as a sous chef and now I am a part of Pride team. Over the years, I have witnessed significant growth and development in this vibrant area and I thoroughly enjoy being a part of it.

Overall, the comforts found while working in Aerocity contribute to a positive and enriching work experience, allowing me to thrive professionally while enjoying the amenities and vibrancy of this dynamic location.

Working in Aerocity has been instrumental in shaping me into a more skilled, adaptable and culturally aware professional, both as a person and as a chef. The challenges and opportunities presented in this dynamic environment have pushed me to grow and evolve, allowing me to thrive in my career and make meaningful contributions to the culinary world. I have embraced personal growth and cultural awareness, fostering a deeper understanding of diversity while evolving both personally and professionally.

## "Love To Work Here In This 5 Star Hub, Amid Greenery"

**Chef Saumya, Andaz Aerocity**

**I** love working in Aerocity. It's very refreshing coming to work in all this greenery which is surrounded with all 5 star properties.

Aerocity gives me the opportunity to work with one of the leading brands 'Andaz'. Where else can you find a 5 star hub, like a 5 star carnival is going on. I am very proud of this aspect of working in Aerocity.

It is one of the most happening places. I find it very safe as we have guards all over the aerocity, even if you're walking home at 11 at night, it is very safe. My flat is at a walking distance from my hotel. All the aspects of working in aerocity are very comforting.

Working in Aerocity has positively influenced my professional growth. While working with Andaz, Aerocity - I got my very first media coverage as a chef. People have recognised me from that. I have learnt a lot in my professional career as well.





**Tanvi Makol, Associate Director - Sales, Holiday Inn, Aerocity**

## “You Feel Free, Within The Six Levels Of Security”

I first visited Aerocity in December 2015, in my first tenure in Aerocity. There were very few hotels operating here. And there was no Worldmark and no shopping complex. There was no restaurant where we could order tea. There was construction all over. The one fascination was that it was close to the airport. It's like seeing a baby grow in front of you. Since 2015, tremendous changes have happened.

Aerocity today is equipped with smart infrastructure including digital security system making it comfortable for women; it has efficient waste management which I have not seen anywhere else in Delhi NCR. And it's so well connected, making it easier

for the workforce to travel. The green spaces, modern lifestyle, easy and convenient walkways make me feel like coming back to it again and again. You are free here, within the six levels of security. You can stay, eat food, party, work, shop – for everything it's a one-stop shop.

I had taken a move from Aerocity for one year to another part of Delhi and that one year was difficult for me; Aerocity is something that I look forward to. I came back to Aerocity, having spent six years here and being one year away. The feeling of belonging pulled me back, though to a different hotel brand. Everyday I spend here reminds me of being part of something extraordinary. It's a symbol of progress.

## “Aerocity: A Safe, Clean, And Vibrant Work Environment”

**Renu Bist, Marketing & Communication Manager, Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity, New Delhi**

I previously worked in the FMCG and education sectors. This role marks my first foray into the hospitality industry. Aerocity offers a vibrant and engaging atmosphere, with events happening year-round that captivate both visitors and employees. The concentration of hospitality brands here is unparalleled, making it a central hub for the industry as well as a significant number of corporate offices.

Safety and cleanliness are standout features of Aerocity. It provides a secure yet unrestricted environment, complemented by excellent connectivity. I also appreciate the environmental initiatives, such as the campaign to eliminate plastic bottles, which Pride Plaza is actively part of. The cleanliness here is remarkable—I've never seen a tidier area in Delhi.

As a foodie, I relish the diverse dining options available. The food scene here is impressive, catering to a variety of tastes. Furthermore, with Delhi's largest mall set to open soon, Aerocity is poised to become even more of a destination for work and leisure.



# BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE WORKPLACE

Creating a supportive environment in the organisation allows employees to deliver their best

By Aradhana Lal

**D**iversity at the workplace revolves around appreciating individual differences along with enabling every employee to reach their true potential. It plays a crucial role in bringing unique ideas to the forefront, fostering innovation and strengthening employee satisfaction. By instilling this mindset, Lemon Tree has been consistently working towards building an inclusive workplace wherein everyone, irrespective of who they are and where they come from, can work collectively towards shared goals.

Lemon Tree believes that the brand should stand for more than 'just profit'. Over the past seventeen years, we have created a socially inclusive work environment which seeks to bring in people from neglected/non-traditional talent pools comprising different backgrounds, abilities and ethnicities to offer them work as part of a highly engaged team, working towards a common goal.

## Need for equal opportunities

We believe that persons with disabilities - which can be physical, social or

economic disabilities leading to an opportunity deprivation, must be provided the same opportunities as others to realise their full potential and live with dignity. By creating a supportive environment in the organisation that allows them to deliver their best and redefining roles where required, to make their disability irrelevant, we are able to play a part, however small, in social inclusiveness, opportunity & livelihood creation and therefore nation building. Lemon Tree began its journey of hiring employees with special needs in 2007. Over the years, we have been strongly committed towards hiring individuals with special needs and creating an accessible and growth-oriented work environment for them.

At our Aerocity hotels and across the group, we have a significant presence of SHIs, followed by OH. Since 2013, through our strategic partnerships with NGOs that focus on training of individuals with intellectual and developmental needs as well as autistic youth, we have trained and hired a number of employees.

We run an elaborate internship at



**Over the years, we have been strongly committed towards hiring individuals with special needs and creating an accessible and growth-oriented work environment for them**



our hotels – including Aerocity – to ensure these employees understand their tasks and are well trained to perform them.

We have defined the goal as mainstreaming ‘Opportunity Deprived Indians’ i.e. ODIs into the workforce. ODIs include:

### Employees with Disability (EwD)

**Physical Disability:** Speech and Hearing Impaired (SHI), Orthopedically Handicapped (OH), Acid Survivors (AS), Visually Impaired (VI) and Low Vision (LV).

**Intellectual Disability:** Down Syndrome and Autism

### People from Economically/Socially (EcoSoc) Marginalised segments:

Below Poverty Line (BPL) individuals, widowed or abandoned/battered/destitute/divorced women, orphans/abandoned girls, transgenders, individuals from economically weak families and communities who do not get education and employment opportunities easily i.e. North Eastern States, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, tribal/interior areas of any state, etc.

### Implementation

In the past seventeen years, over 3,500 ODIs who have been trained at our company, continue to work with us. Today ~15 per cent of the employee base of owned or leased hotels are ODIs. Our goal is to take our ODI percentage up to 30 per cent by FY26, as a group.

We have developed an inclusion model which comprises seven pillars. This maps our journey and the manner in which we have visualised and implemented our inclusion strategy. Briefly:

**Defined vision:** The inclusion vision comes from the very top of our company and has been cascaded to the leadership team from the beginning. Today it is part of our culture and is embedded in our DNA.

**Dedicated resources:** The initiative is driven at a senior level by two key resources – head of sustainability and head of HR. They define the approach, set the scope of pilots & experiments and work closely with operations and L&D to implement the programme.

**Sensitisation:** To cascade this strategy to all our employees, it is imperative that we sensitise them regarding why Lemon Tree believes in inclusion, what is the business sense in doing so and how can an employee work with/guide/train a person with disability.

**Job mapping:** It is an elaborate process of observing and mapping each task of a Lemon Tree role, with respect to each disability type. The goal is to redefine roles such that the disability becomes irrelevant. We take the support of our partner NGOs to conduct such studies and do the job mapping.

**Partner and collaborate:** Building inclusion in the company requires expertise across disability types, training techniques for people with special needs, engagement with the family of the ODI employee and more. We have built an extensive partnership programme with NGOs and training organisations to support this.

**Training and review:** For each new disability type, we start by conducting a pilot or traineeship which is run for 3-6 months or more. Each stage of the pilot is monitored, reviewed and course correction implemented, as required.

**Scale up hiring:** For us to be an equal opportunity employer, each of the above pilots then becomes a national policy and hiring is scaled up across the group.

#### About the author:

- The author is Senior Vice President – Sustainability & ESG, Lemon Tree Hotels

# THEATRE'S LESSONS

Theatre might appear to be a field far removed from the hustle of corporate life. But two professionals, who straddle both theatre and corporate world, describe some crucial takeaways from theatre that help individuals in the world of work. Team Aerocity Life spoke to them to understand the multiple benefits of being engaged in theatre

## “Theatre Contributes To Emotional Intelligence Of Human Beings”



**ABHISHEK JOSHI**, Co Founder and CEO, Strengths Masters; Gallup Global Strengths Coach

### How did you get interested in theatre?

I come from a small place called Pithoragarh, a beautiful mountainous town and there was nothing we could do as children. I was introduced to theatre by a senior in school. National School of Drama (NSD) used to do some outreach programmes there and I got to attend a few programmes. Former FTII Acting Director, National School of Drama veteran and then director of the Song and Drama division, Late Prem Matiyani was doing mega production in various parts of the country. The then director of NSD, Late Prem Matiyani was doing mega production in various parts of the country. I auditioned for that production and got selected.

Then onwards, I never left theatre, through my school, college and work life. I became part of MerryGoRound Productions where we did theatre.

### How does theatre bring out best potential in a person and enhance work-life balance?

Theatre helps you develop consideration for others. While preparing for a character, you begin to understand the emotional aspect of that individual. I have been doing theatre for about 30 years now and have enacted a large number of characters. I understand the backdrop of those individuals. That helps me develop great consideration for human beings. And in corporate world, I work with col-

leagues from different walks of life. I understand their back story and their emotions very well. So, theatre contributes to emotional intelligence of human beings.

### Being an entrepreneur, how do you balance work and theatre?

The process of theatre is very exciting. Most people spend hours on phone for switching off from work. My way of switching off is to go into the theatre environment. And if you are passionate about something you will take out that time.

### What are some of the activities in theatre that you would suggest for corporate workforce, if they don't have acting skills?

In theatre we have a concept called internalisation vs externalisation. But right from the early stage of life a lot of people make an error that while preparing for a play or speech they remember lines, practising in front of the mirror and this is incorrect because this is externalisation and that's why those expressions look cosmetic. However, a lot of effort goes into internalisation of the character which is the correct method. You go into subtexting, backstory of the character and try to search for the truth, emotions and expressions come out naturally.

A lot of people who are introverts or selectively extroverts, think that the public speaking or theatre is meant for extroverts and they give up and block themselves in enhancing these skills, but if you just look around you will see that a lot of great actors have been introverts. Because when they get into the process of preparing for the character or any subject, they completely immerse themselves and internalise it and a lot of people who learn about theatre while giving a presentation or doing public speaking, are able to apply the process and see the results.

# FOR CORPORATE LIFE

## “Theatre Fosters Teamwork & Collaboration”



**RITU SINHA**, HR Head, Akasa Air

### **In what ways does theatre improve the general wellbeing of workers? Even if they are not great at acting, how does it bring out the best in them?**

Theatre significantly enhances various aspects of a person's wellbeing. To begin with, it improves communication skills, since it involves extensive verbal and non-verbal interactions, along with active listening. If actors don't listen to each other, the performance lacks clarity, thus honing these essential skills is

important. Two, theatre builds confidence as it involves public speaking, which is a crucial skill in corporate environments. It also fosters teamwork and collaboration, as successful performances depend on the coordinated efforts of all participants.

Moreover, engaging in theatre promotes emotional intelligence, as actors need to understand and respond to others' cues effectively.

The immersive nature of theatre provides a break from the usual stress of work. Participants focus on their roles, costumes and performances, which helps them forget daily worries and boosts their engagement and overall wellbeing. From personal experience, even without prior acting skills, theatre can serve as a creative outlet and stress reliever, making one feel relaxed and energised after sessions. This suggests that employees, regardless of their acting experience, can benefit from theatre through increased present-moment awareness, reduced stress and improved mental wellbeing.

### **What type of impact have theatre activities had in your organisation?**

While I have recently joined the organisation in Mumbai and we are still setting up various employee wellbeing activities, I have seen the impact of theatre-like activities in training programmes. Role plays are commonly used in training sessions to simulate real-life scenarios such as giving feedback or performance appraisals. These activities receive positive feedback as they actively involve participants rather than having them passively listen.

Incorporating theatre into the workplace can be done through forming theatre groups, similar to book or travel clubs, where interested employees can participate. As someone who has trained in theatre, I plan to start short courses or fun activities to promote engagement. Additionally, elements of theatre like business storytelling can enhance presentation skills.

Overall, integrating creative activities like theatre, painting or pottery can significantly reduce stress by bringing employees into the present moment and providing a break from work-related thoughts.



Gallery honouring all the PMs



Atal Bihari Vajpayee with director Yash Chopra

## PRADHANMANTRI SANGRAHALAYA: A WALK THROUGH THE LIFE & TIMES OF OUR PMs



The recently constructed **Block B** showcases how a new-age museum should be. Screenings of PMs' speeches, major developments during their tenure, **dioramas** and a large collection of their photographs have been exhibited in a circular flow. The exhaustive display includes **significant achievements of**

**T**een Murti Bhawan, the residence of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, has undergone massive transformation to showcase the illustrious journey of other PMs too. More significantly, the museum, making use of multimedia tools, delves deep into the making of the modern nation.

**Block A**, that is the original building, showcases the making of constitution and instruments of modern polity. On the first floor, the living quarters of Pandit Nehru are up for display, including his vast books collection. Also on display is the dazzling collection of gifts that successive PMs have received from other heads of state.

**the country during the last 75 plus years**, including the setting of IITs and IIMs, space missions, food security, launch of steel plants, technological developments like launch of internet, sports achievements, Grammy & Oscar wins, Miss Universe and so on.

Don't miss the special shows like the 'Suraksha' show, wherein you get the feel of being in fighter planes or tankers as they defend the country's borders; 'Bhavishya ki Jhalkiyan', wherein you can have a glimpse of future development projects from a helicopter seat; selfie with your favourite Prime Minister; Time Machine to relive the past; Parichay, providing an insight into a prime minister's life and a 'sound & light show' in the evening (Hindi – 7:30 PM; English – 8:15 PM). Most of these special features require additional ticket.

Distance from Aerocity: 12.1 km

Nearest metro station: Lok Kalyan Marg on Yellow Line

# PHILATELIC MUSEUM: PRESERVING THE HERITAGE OF INDIA

Reminiscing the contribution of postal services before the information age

By Shruti Tripathi

Photographs by Shruti Tripathi



**H**uman life always needed communication and the postal card has existed as one of the pioneer ways to connect people across the globe in modern times. Postal services started in India in 1854, around the same time as railways. The National Philatelic Museum in New Delhi represents the rich history of postal services and gratifying impact on Indian life.

Located in Dak Bhawan, Parliament Street, close to Connaught Place, the museum has a visualised collection of postal stamps & artefacts and presents the Indian postal journey enticingly. India follows a culture of launching new postal stamps dedicated to an event, and personalities from time to time, and history buffs can explore various galleries featuring iconic stamps issued by India Post over the years. The museum also provides information related

to the growth, prominence, and design of these stamps.

From featuring Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa to Akshardham Temple and Surya Namaskar, the postal stamps have given relevance to the prestigious tangible and intangible heritage of India.

The museum was designed by Anand Burdhan of the School of Heritage Research and Management, Dr BR Ambedkar University Delhi. He is also the president of the Museum Association of India.

In order to increase engagement, the museum organises workshops, events and fairs regularly.

At a time when communication has become easy, the Philatelic Museum remind us of the contribution of postal service when no technology was available in our daily lives once.

 Distance from Aerocity: 29 minutes (15.2 km)

 Nearest metro station: Patel Chowk Metro Station



# WORLDS OF WONDER: A COOL HAVEN

As Delhi sizzles under scorching heat, Worlds of Wonder, North India's largest theme park, offers the perfect getaway. With thrilling rides and a refreshing water park, it's a great place to beat the heat

By Mayank Badhwar

**T**roubled with the scorching Sun and heat wave in the current extremely hot weather of Delhi? Need not worry, find an escape to a cool haven - Worlds of Wonder (WOW), an amusement and water theme park, located in Sector-38A, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar District, Uttar Pradesh, near The Great Indian Palace Mall. It is the largest theme park in North India and features a Go Karting Track. It offers a variety of entertainment, fun, dining and shopping options and entertainment for all ages. The park is known for its world-class attractions and is a popular destination for families and friends. The park is owned and operated by Entertainment City, a joint



venture between International Amusement and Unitech Holdings.

The water park has 26 world-class slides, including a rain dance, the largest man-made lake, a 360-metre lazy river and a beach-themed wave pool. There are two independent zones: 'The Road Show' for thrills and excitement, particularly for adults and 'La Fiesta' for families and children.

The timings are from 10 am to 6 pm and ticket price for adults is Rs 1,399; for kids it is Rs 999 and for senior citizens it is Rs 699. Tickets for the park can be purchased through online and offline platforms. Visitors can enjoy a range of water rides, amusement park attractions and live shows.

 Distance from Aerocity: 30 km

 Nearest metro station: Noida Sector 18 on Blue Line

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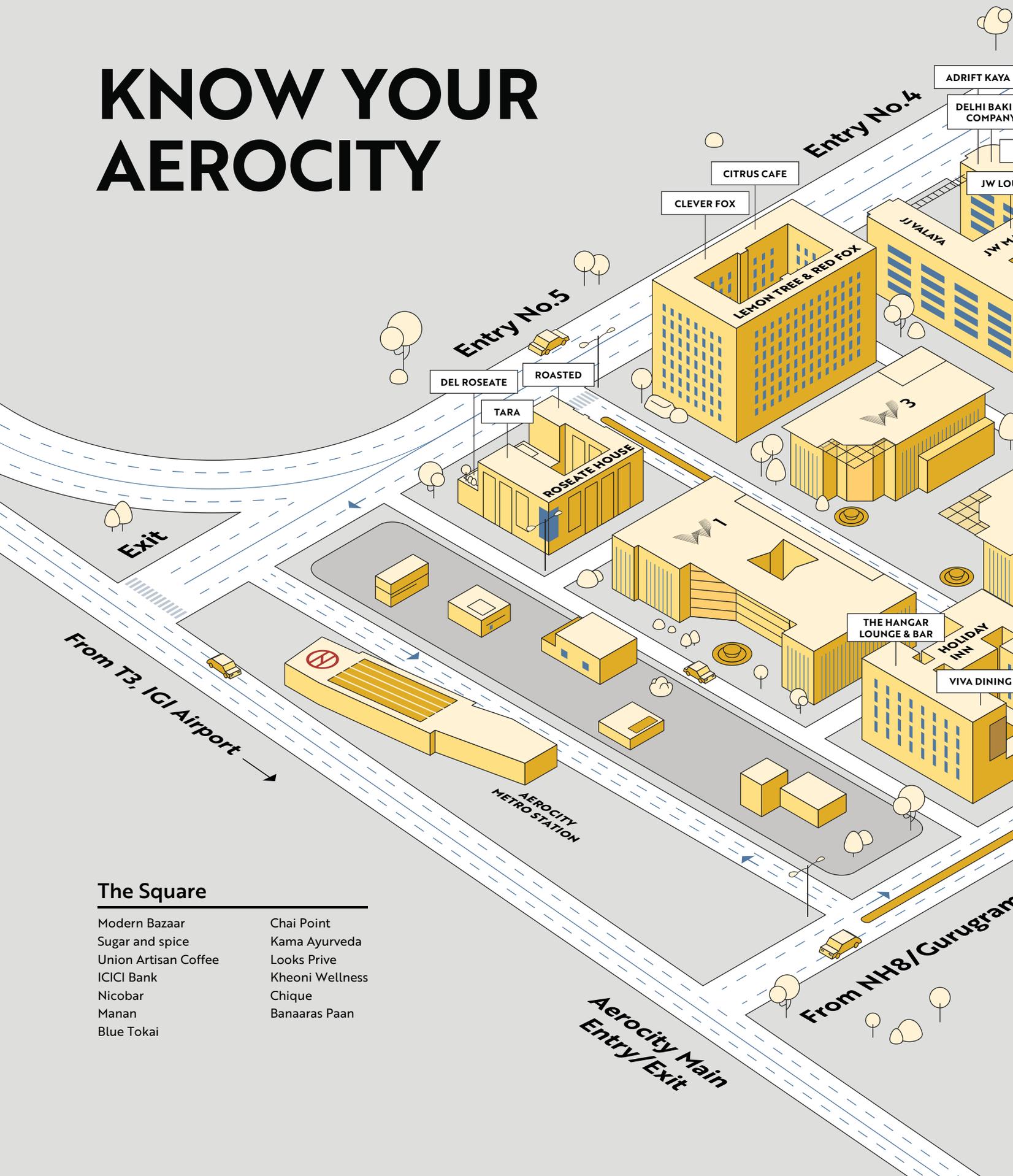
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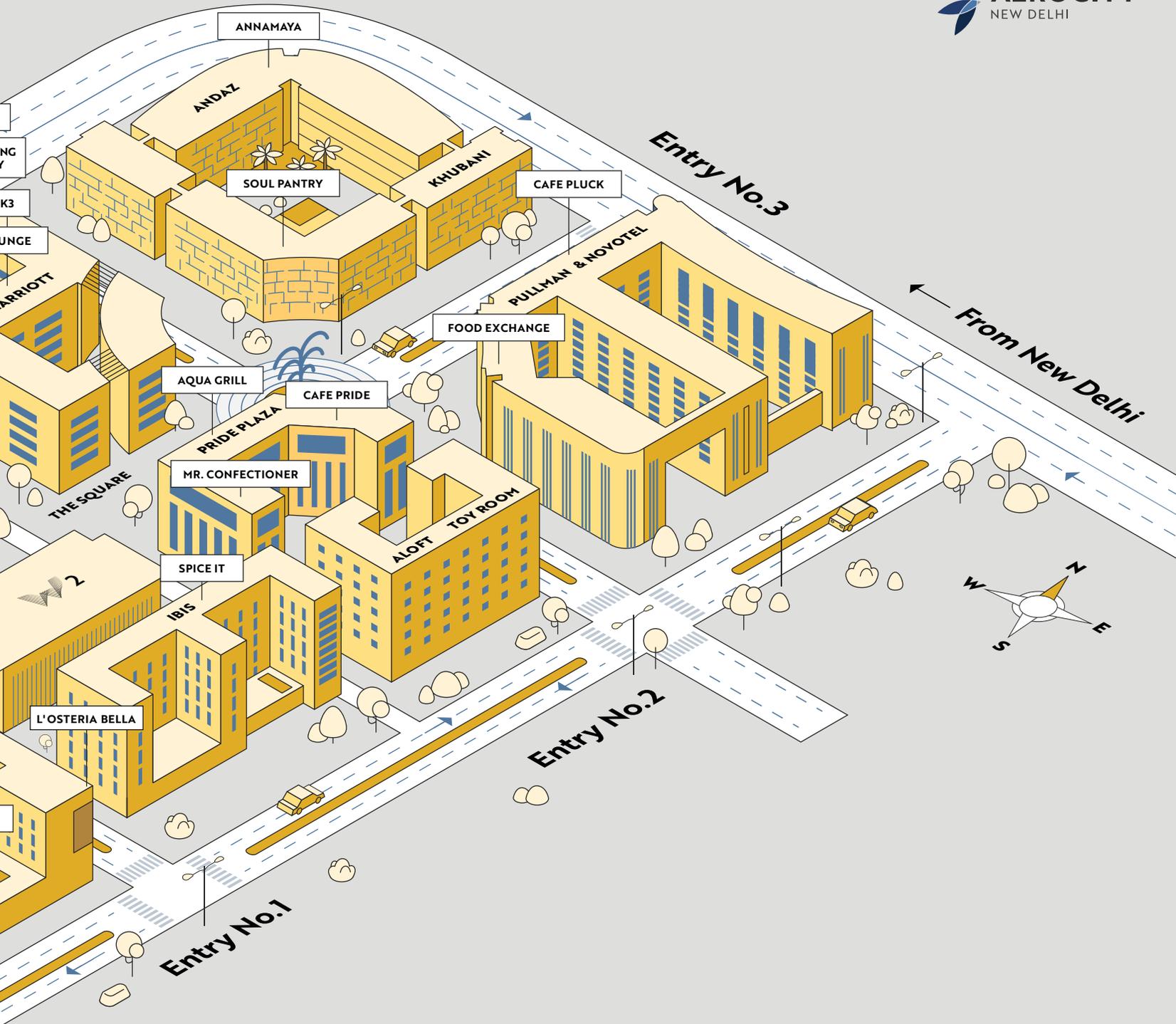


# KNOW YOUR AEROCITY



## The Square

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| ICICI Bank           | Kheoni Wellness |
| Nicobar              | Chique          |
| Manan                | Banaaras Paan   |
| Blue Tokai           |                 |



**1**

- Looks Salon
- Apronix
- Starbucks
- Da Milano
- Forest Essentials
- Food Capital
- Reve Bistro Moderne
- Daryaganj
- Qavalli
- Aerocity Social
- Miniso
- Punjab Grill
- Kampai
- 98.4 Chemist
- Chaayos
- Dragonfly Experience
- Monsoon
- Liv Bar

**2**

- The Beer Cafe
- Kylin Experience
- Dhaba Estd. 1986
- One 8 Commune
- 24 Seven
- Underdoggs

**3**

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

Note :  stands for Worldmark

# FROM MEDITERRANEAN SHORES TO INDIAN SPICES: A CHEF'S JOURNEY

The allure of India for Chef Dario Trevisan, Italian Chef De Cuisine, JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity, is driven by a deep curiosity to explore a culture vastly different from Italian cuisine, spanning from religion to cuisine

By Poonam Singh

## What is your philosophy of food?

My philosophy of food revolves around creating genuine flavours reminiscent of home-cooked meals, but with the precision and finesse that only professional experience can provide. My aim is to bring joy to people through their dining experience. At JW Marriott New Delhi, we embody this philosophy through K3 – New Delhi's Food Theatre, which is renowned as the dining phenomenon of the city. K3 offers an immersive culinary experience where guests can witness our chefs in action at three live kitchens, offering a diverse array of dishes from Mediterranean, Asian and Indian cuisines.

## What attracted you to India?

The allure of India for me was primarily driven by a deep curiosity to explore a culture vastly different from my own, spanning from religion to cuisine. Since I have joined JW Marriott New Delhi, I found the perfect platform to indulge this curiosity through K3.

## What similarities do you see between the two food traditions?

One striking similarity that I have noticed between Italian and Indian food traditions is the **reverence for old, time-honoured recipes** and the significance of sharing meals with loved ones, underscoring



the care and attention given to each dish. This ethos is reflected in the culinary experience offered at K3, where guests can enjoy a wide selection of dishes prepared by our skilled chefs, each dish prepared with meticulous attention to detail.

## What goes into your preparation of a menu and choice of ingredients?

When crafting a menu, **I draw upon my professional expertise and experiences from my travels**, blending various flavours and techniques while always respecting the integrity of the ingredients and the culinary traditions. This is particularly important at everything I cook at JW Marriott New Delhi, where we strive to offer a diverse range of dishes at K3, catering to different palates and preferences.

## What do you aspire to gain from your experience in India?

My primary goal in India is to learn traditional dishes, explore the intricacies of different spices and immerse myself in a culture that promises personal enrichment.



**"My primary goal in India is to learn traditional dishes, explore the intricacies of different spices and immerse myself in a culture that promises personal enrichment"**

Working in Delhi has been pleasant and has provided me with the perfect opportunity to achieve these goals, especially through the vibrant culinary scenes in the city.

**Which Indian cuisines have you tried and which appeals you the most?**

Although I am not certain of all the Indian cuisines I have tried, I believe I have mostly tried sampled dishes from the **Delhi area and northern regions of India**, many of which are featured at K3, our restaurant at JW Marriott New Delhi.

**How do you incorporate local ingredients into your dishes?**

Incorporating local ingredients into my dishes involves understanding the produce and finding ways to substitute or adjust them accordingly. This skill has been honed through my extensive experience cooking abroad. We prioritise using locally sourced ingredients at K3 to ensure the freshest and most authentic flavours.

**What challenges have you faced while cooking in India?**

One significant challenge I have faced while cooking in India is adapting Mediterranean recipes and flavours to suit local tastes. For instance, I have learned that the 'Al dente' pasta I am accustomed to often needs further cooking here. This adaptation process is particularly crucial at JW Marriott New Delhi, where we aim to offer an exceptional dining experience at K3 that resonates with our guests.

**How has your cooking style evolved since you arrived in India?**

My cooking style has evolved considerably, given the entirely new environment and the challenges of working. The vibrant culinary scene and diverse offerings here have played a significant role in shaping this evolution.

**Can you share an unforgettable culinary experience you have had in India?**

One unforgettable culinary experience I have had since arriving was **trying paan from a small street vendor** in old Delhi. The burst of flavours and the cultural significance of paan left a lasting impression on me, reminding me of the rich culinary tapestry that India offers.

## CHEF RECIPE

Pan-Seared Salmon with Yellow Gazpacho, Sautéed Zucchini, Orange-Glazed Carrot and Burnt Cherry Tomatoes.

Outlet:  
K3 - New Delhi's Food Theatre

## INGREDIENTS

**For the Salmon:**

160-180 gram Salmon fillet

**For the Sautéed Vegetables:**

1 green zucchini, 1 red onion and 3 cherry tomatoes

**For the Yellow Gazpacho:**

1 yellow pepper, 100 gram yellow cherry tomatoes, 1 small cucumber, 2 basil leaves, 1 pinch red chili flakes, 5 ml lemon juice, 20 gram old white bread and salt & pepper to taste

**For the Orange Glazed Carrot:**

2 baby carrots, 250 ml orange juice, 5 gram sugar, 2 gram fennel seeds and 10 gram butter.

## INSTRUCTIONS

**Yellow Gazpacho:** Blitz all the gazpacho ingredients in a food processor until smooth, strain and set aside.

**Orange Glazed Carrot:** Peel the baby carrots and place them in a saucepan with orange juice, sugar, salt, fennel



72/16%

seeds and butter. Cook until the juice is reduced to a syrup consistency.

**Salmon:** Sear the salmon in a hot pan, skin side down. Once the skin is crispy, transfer it to a tray to finish cooking in the oven.

**Sautéed Vegetables:** Julienne the zucchini and red onion. Quickly sauté them in a hot pan and season to taste. In the same hot pan, place the cherry tomatoes cut in half until slightly charred.

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Photographs by Deep Majumdar

Craving for a perfect coffee with well-balanced acidity, bitterness and sweetness which leaves you with an amazing aroma? Union Artisan Coffee is the right place to have some sips, along with their lip smacking snacks

# AEROCITY'S NEW COFFEE PARADISE

By Deep Majumdar

It's been a while since a sandwich swooped me off my feet. I'd even go further and state that I almost admitted that such a thing would never happen again. Yet, here we are.

The Malaysia-based Union Artisan Coffee chain officially debuted in the country merely a few weeks ago and set up a shop in GMR Aerocity's The Square. I got a chance to explore the newly opened coffee shop's offerings and here is what I think of it.

## First impressions

As I set my foot inside Union Artisan Coffee, I could tell that they wanted to be as creative as they could, with the space they have. The sitting area is smaller than I

fathomed and it seemed like a barrier to me if they try to accommodate more people. One thing that did impress me is that the management was cognisant of the fact that majority of their customers would require a power source to plug in their laptops or phones. I'd have to admit that the sight of power sockets near every seat did put a smile on my face.

The interior was well lit and had very chill vibe. Wooden tables and chairs, light music and an open style ceiling gave the café a very modern aesthetic. While most of the big coffee chains opt for darker and dimly lit aesthetics which aren't bad at all, I feel well-lit and bright interiors do play a role in making a place feel more welcoming.



texture, the amount of salt used or the degree to which the vegetables were cooked. Everything felt just perfect.

This was complemented by the Smashed Cucumber Salad. The salad was juicy and had peanuts and chia seeds. It wasn't overdressed and just hit the right notes. If you don't have a problem with nuts in your salad, you'll love it. The evening ended with me enjoying a healthy smoothie that goes by the name Purple Love. The beetroot, banana and blueberries clad smoothie gave the perfect ending to what happened to be an extremely good work-from-café situation.

**Must haves:**

- Union Club Sandwich
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Café Mocha
- Cranberry Cold Brew Coffee
- Matcha Cold Brew Coffee
- Purple Love Smoothie

**Food and beverages**

My affair with Union Artisan Coffee began with a Cranberry Cold Brew. Coffee and cranberry juice just feel right to me. It is a combination that we probably didn't know we needed. I was tempted for the classics like a latte or an espresso but I went the other way instead. I also ordered something that I won't have on a regular day but this was no regular day. It was a day of trying new things and that is exactly what I did. I got myself Matcha Cold Brew, a drink that consisted of Matcha tea, honey and milk. To my surprise, it was way better than I expected. The Matcha was subtle but it made its presence felt. Milk and honey, on the other hand, made the drink a sweet and creamy delight.

On the food front, I asked the head chef about the specials and he took no time in suggesting the Union Club Sandwich, a sumptuous, lip smacking and wholesome sandwich with ham, egg and vegetables like cherry tomatoes and broccoli. Never did I imagine that I'd fall in love with a sandwich and yet I did. The sandwich checked all the correct boxes whether it was taste,

The vision of Village Food Concepts (VFC) and of Union Artisan Coffee is dictated by their dedication of sharing the love of coffee globally with various communities. The expansion of Union Artisan Coffee in India has happened at an apt moment. The coffee market in India is said to grow to USD 1.2 billion by 2032 and we are definitely going to see more and more coffee brands enter the country to get a piece of the pie.

Circling back to the topic in hand, Union Artisan Coffee is a fabulous place to get a bite and have a sip of your favourite coffee if calmness and being in less-crowded places are top priorities for you. The food is well made and delicious and so are the beverages. The staff is polite, easy going and helps you out in case you need to understand the ingredients used. A must visit if you are in GMR Aerocity and looking for a coffee place to work in, meet a friend or kill a few hours.



# AEROCITY: SERVING GLOBAL CUISINE ON YOUR PLATTER

By Poonam Singh

Embark upon a culinary journey through Aerocity's diverse dining options, catering to the busy schedules of professionals seeking convenient yet indulgent lunch choices

life's hustle and bustle, packing lunch has become a tedious task for many of us, but why fret when you are surrounded by numerous convenient and high-quality dining options in the office vicinity. Aerocity is a wonderland for all working professionals, offering a multitude of options ranging from a simple sandwich with 400-500 calories to indulging in delectable delicacies from around the world. Let's discover the best options to make your lunch lavish yet easy on the pocket.

## FOOD COURT



It offers food from around the world. There are outlets like Asia Seven, for sizzling Chinese; Khan Chacha, the king of rolls and kebabs; Biryani Blues, the carb haven; Sagar Ratna, serving South Indian fare; Kukuraku Ramen - the trendsetter; Haldirams and Bikaner, providing spicy fare in homely style; Subway, the realm of bread; Pizza Hut, for that lazy indulgence in Italian dough, burgers, shakes, doughnuts; Punjab Grill's street food flavours, and many more options. Taste the delectable delicacies from momos to dal-makhani at this one-stop junction.



# DARYAGANJ



**L**unch brings a sense of joy after the busy tasks of the morning. A delightful lunch can set a positive tone for the entire afternoon. In Aerocity, Daryaganj is the perfect destination for such a meal. Here, you can savour rich dishes like daal makhani, lachha paratha, and butter chicken with naan—each offering a finger-licking experience. Renowned for its delectable flavors and inviting ambiance, Daryaganj is the ideal place to recharge during a hectic day.



# PRET A MANGER



**K**nown for serving freshly made food and good organic coffee, this one-stop shop is for those who are quality-conscious. The Cheesy Chicken Hot Wrap at Pret A Manger is subtle in taste and melts in the mouth with a burst of cheese, light black pepper taste, creamy chicken and mushroom (Rs 475). Its crunchy wrap outside provides a perfect and satisfying treat for your taste buds during a tough day. Combining coffee (Rs 250) with either a hot or cold wrap or sandwich - chicken club and spinach hummus, makes for the perfect meal choice for those who prefer a light meal during working hours.



## CHAI POINT



It's time to skip breakfast at home and head to Chai Point, the perfect place known for its delicacies such as aloo paratha, chai (obviously), bun maska, ghee upma, bun omelette, poha mixture, bun jam and many more, providing the best reasons to skip breakfast.

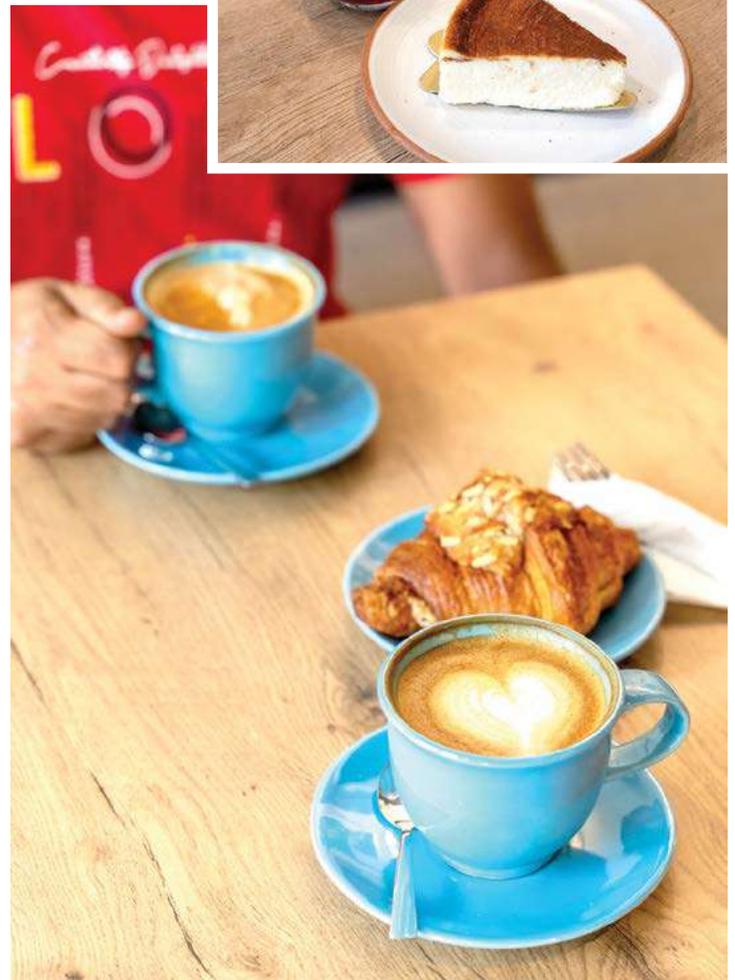
**Price** starts from Rs 99.

## BLUE TOKAI



For some people, coffee works as fuel. To power up your day, Aerocity has Blue Tokai, serving the best coffee that charges up all the coffee lovers to the moon. The coffee range includes black, white and cold brews. And, of course, it serves some healthy toasts like guacamole on toast, mushroom scrambled eggs on sourdough and many others.

**Price** starts from Rs 190 for a cappuccino.



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### Connaught Place

At the heart of the city lies Connaught Place, a true paradise offering a diverse range of experiences in food, shopping and entertainment. From humble paan vendors to upscale multi-cuisine restaurants and from budget-friendly to luxurious options, it caters to every taste & budget without discrimination. Connaught Place embodies inclusivity, ensuring that everyone can find something to enjoy without bias. From Shankar Market and Jain's rajma chawal, shahi paneer rice, kadi rice, to Bhogal's chhole bhature, the culinary offerings span a wide spectrum. Notable eateries such as Triveni Terrace Cafe, Mother India, Restaurant Saravana Bhawan and Haldirams contribute to the rich tapestry of flavours found in this bustling hub.

### Narayana and Sarojini Nagar

Narayana is situated in an area with clusters of embassies. To serve the best international food, it has many bakeries and fine dining restaurants. Sana-Di-ge is one such place that caters to international working professionals. The most ordered dishes include lobster chilli fry, Sri Lankan mud crab, butter pepper garlic, Jumbo pomfret tawa fry and Jumbo prawn lasooni. Around seven minutes away, there are two iconic places: Sarojini Nagar, INA Market and Dilli Haat. Whether you prefer

costlier or pocket-friendly options, these places serve the best food.

### Nehru Place

Famous for its array of shops selling laptops, desktops, servers, workstations, monitors, etc, this office hub is also home to many offices. The area caters to diverse culinary preferences, offering options for all, from paneer-rice to Chinese platters priced under Rs 200. It boasts restaurants such as Sandoz, Pind Balluchi, Dhaba and many others. Additionally, the area is frequented by numerous food vendors offering dishes starting from Rs 80.

### Janak Puri

West Delhi is known as a refugee area, characterised by an amalgamation of Pakistani and Punjabi cuisines. Here, visitors can enjoy a unique experience of shopping and dining simultaneously, thanks to the adjacent Tilak Nagar market. Jail Road Market, renowned for its diverse culinary offerings, features delicacies such as dosa, vada pao, pancakes, gol gappe, chicken soup, ice creams, soya chaap, tava chicken, Afghani chicken and more. Whatever you are craving, you're likely to find it here. Join the party as Delhiites head out of offices for luncheon.



# GMR Domestic Airports Rank In The TOP 100 SKYTRAX LIST

Delhi Airport adjudged best airport in India and South Asia for the sixth consecutive time, secures 36th position globally

All GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited-led Indian Airports are now among the prestigious top global airports, as per latest Skytrax rankings. Skytrax's World Airport Awards, which are described as 'the Oscars of the aviation industry', are most coveted quality accolades for airlines and airports. These represent a global benchmark of excellence.

While Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, India's busiest, has been adjudged as the Best Airport in India & South Asia for the sixth time in a row, it has retained its 36th position in 2024 among all global airports. Delhi Airport is the only Indian Airport in the 'Global top 50 Airports' list by Skytrax. Previously, Delhi Airport was adjudged as the best airport by Skytrax for five consecutive years in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in its global region category.

Meanwhile, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, known for its technological advancements, has been adjudged with Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia and has further bettered its position globally by securing the 61st rank. Through exceptional service, innovative technology and a strong and valuable stakeholder engagement, Hyderabad Airport aims to create unforgettable moments for every passenger true to the airport's promise – 'Experience Epic Everyday'.

The newest airport from GMR, Manohar International Airport in North Goa, which is known as India's first destination airport, has secured the 92nd position in the list of Top 100 global airports by Skytrax, within one year of its operationalisation.



The awards are based on the World Airport Survey questionnaires completed by over 100 nationalities of airport customers during the survey period, which operated from August 2023 to March 2024. The survey evaluated the customer experience across airport service and product key performance indicators – from check in, arrivals, transfers, shopping, security/ immigration through to departure at the gate.

# Delhi International Airport Soars Past 1MMT Cargo Milestone

The feat, achieved in March 2024, is a testament to innovation and excellence



+25°C, maintaining the integrity of sensitive cargo like vaccines and food items. Digitalisation of warehouse operations enables real-time cargo tracking and management, with Delhi Airport achieving 100 per cent EDI and eAWB compliance, streamlining operations and promoting sustainability.

Emphasising technology and sustainable solutions, Delhi Airport is not only enhancing its cargo handling capabilities but also laying the groundwork for a digital cargo community system, reinforcing its status as a leading Cargo Hub in South Asia.

**D**elhi Airport celebrated a significant milestone, exceeding the 1 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) mark in cargo handling during FY 2023-2024, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. March 2024 marked a historic achievement as Delhi Airport became the first in India to handle over 10,00,000 metric tonnes in a single month.

With a vast network comprising 70 carriers and 20 dedicated cargo freighters, the airport commands 30 per cent of India's air freight market, serving as a pivotal hub. Its strategic location facilitates efficient shipping routes, particularly to South Asia, enabling swift and cost-effective transport to Western nations.

The airport's airside infrastructure, including a fourth runway and 12 dedicated freighter bays, accommodates even the largest freighters, with additional nose loading facilities for project cargo. Specialised services cater to several key commodities such as pharmaceuticals, perishables, garments and electronics, supported by certifications like Authorised Economic Operator (AEO).

Technological advancements, including automated truck entry solutions and solar-powered warehouse operations, enhance efficiency and sustainability. State-of-the-art infrastructure ensures precise temperature control from -20°C to

## Delhi Airport's Milestone in Transshipping Bangladeshi Cargo

**G**MR led Delhi Airport has achieved a remarkable feat by transshipping over 80 lakh kgs of Bangladeshi cargo to international destinations in the span of a year. This accomplishment solidifies Delhi Airport's position as the leading Cargo hub in South Asia while catalysing positive ripple effects throughout the aviation industry.

The initiative to facilitate transshipment of Bangladeshi cargo began on February 26th, 2023, streamlining a quicker and more cost-effective route for exporting cargo globally. Since then, Delhi Airport has facilitated the transshipment of over 80 lakh kgs (8,000 MT) of ready-made garments to European nations like Spain, Netherlands, and France, essential export destinations for Bangladeshi apparel.

This landmark achievement not only fosters the region's economic growth and strengthens international ties but also spurs positive developments in the aviation sector.

# GMR HYDERABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EARNS LEVEL 4+ AIRPORT CARBON ACCREDITATION

Ranking among the top 6 airports in Asia-Pacific



**G**MR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) has achieved the highest recognition, Level 4+ accreditation, from the Airports Council International (ACI) for its exemplary efforts in carbon management, aligning with global climate goals. This accreditation, part of the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme, signifies the airport's commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

Introduced by ACI EUROPE in 2009, the ACA programme sets the industry standard for assessing and reducing carbon emissions at airports. It consists of six levels, with Level 4+ being the highest achievement. Pradeep Panicker, CEO of GMR Hyderabad International Airport, emphasised the airport's dedication to combating climate change through various initiatives, including running operations on renewable energy and striving for zero waste and zero discharge.

Stefano Baronci, Director General, ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East, commended the airport's leadership in carbon

management, positioning it as a regional example. This recognition reflects the airport's commitment to a sustainable future amid challenges posed by climate change.

The airport's journey towards carbon emission mitigation began in 2009, following its Silver rating in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification in 2008. Collaborating with stakeholders, it has implemented several measures to reduce carbon footprint, such as constructing a LEED-certified passenger terminal, developing green spaces acting as carbon sinks, and utilising renewable energy sources like solar power.

Additionally, the airport has adopted energy-efficient

practices, replaced fossil fuel-powered equipment with electric alternatives and introduced sustainable aviation fuels. These efforts contribute to the airport's target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action.

Continuing its sustainability journey, the airport plans to integrate renewable energy sources, electric vehicles, and low-global warming potential refrigerants. Recognition for its energy leadership includes the National Energy Leader Award and Excellency-Gold Awards from various organisations, showcasing its consistent commitment to environmental stewardship.

ACI collaborates with global stakeholders to develop policies and practices that elevate airport standards worldwide. By achieving Level 4+ accreditation, GMR Hyderabad International Airport demonstrates its dedication to environmental responsibility and excellence in the aviation industry.



## DIVERSITY AT GMR VARALAKSHMI CENTRE FOR EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOODS, NEW DELHI

**G**MRV CEL-Delhi is the vocational training centre run by GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF), the CSR arm of GMR Group and is supported by Delhi International Airport. It targets underprivileged youth who dropped out of education and extends placement support. Annually, it trains approximately 1,200 individuals from across North India, offering 13 distinct courses. Over its existence, it has empowered around 10,000 youth with an impressive placement rate exceeding 85 per cent.

Embracing diversity & equal opportunities, average female intake per batch cycle is around 35 per cent of total trainees, notably higher in-service oriented courses such as Front Office Associate and Customer Service Associate.

In terms of regional diversity, on an average, out of total 300 trainees enrolled in each batch under various courses, 45 per cent belong to the Delhi-NCR Region while the remaining 55 per cent originate from North Indian States such as Uttar Pradesh (21 per cent), Bihar (12 per cent), Rajasthan (8 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (6 per cent), Jharkhand (3 per cent) and the rest 5 per cent of trainees come from North-Eastern States (Manipur, West Bengal and other neighbouring states).

The Centre's course offerings cater to diverse trades and sectors, addressing the societal needs comprehensively. This includes basic welding & fabrication, basic electrical & house-wiring, refrigerator & air-conditioner and excavator operator etc. These courses cater to the need of skilled technicians in various industries. Further, the centre offers service sector related courses such as Customer Service (Retail), Front Office, Guest Service and



Food Production & Service etc, catering to the need for skilled professionals in Tourism, Hospitality and related sectors.

To echo this diversity, GMRVF has relevant industry partnerships in place and industry leaders such as Schneider Electric, Voltas, Volvo, Celebi, Relaxo, TFS etc are some of the partners in offering industry-relevant vocational training programmes.

Acknowledging the varied identities, backgrounds, cultures and abilities of its learners, GMR Varalakshmi Foundation fosters an environment of inclusivity and equal opportunity. The centre is a nurturing ground where individuals from diverse backgrounds find space to learn and thrive.

# HOTEL MOMENTUM INDIA (HMI)

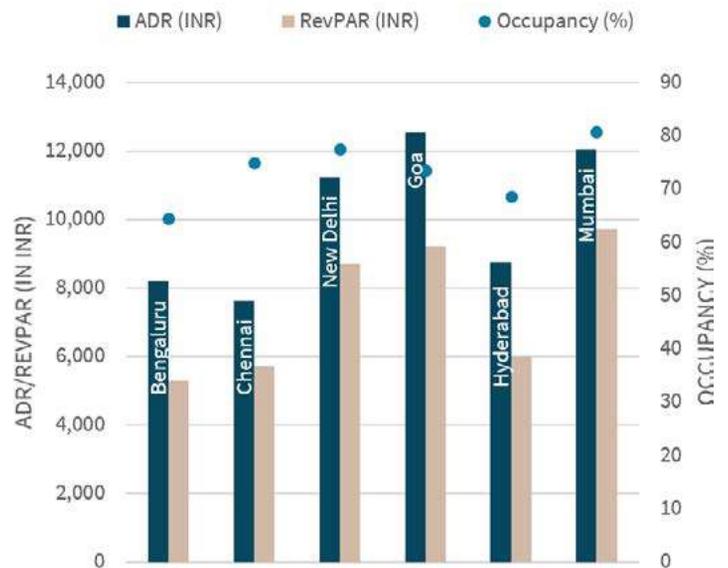
Quarterly Hospitality Monitor from JLL Hospitality

## Key Hotel Market Performance

Cities	Q4 2023		
	Change over same period last year		
	RevPAR Change (%)	OCC Change (pp)	ADR Change (%)
Bengaluru	↑ 1.7	↔ -0.1	↑ 1.9
Chennai	↑ 21.7	↑ 5.6	↑ 12.7
Delhi	↑ 19.0	↑ 2.8	↑ 14.6
Goa	↑ 7.0	↔ -0.5	↑ 7.7
Hyderabad	↑ 21.1	↔ 0.1	↑ 21.0
Mumbai	↑ 5.3	↔ -0.1	↑ 5.5

Source: STR RevPAR: ↑ Increase ↔ Stable ↓ Decrease

## Q1 2024 Performance Trend Chart



Source:STR

## Review Highlights

- All six key markets continued to witness a YoY growth in ADR & RevPAR performance in Q1 2024.
- Chennai saw the steepest RevPAR growth of 21.7% in Q1 2024, compared to the same period last year.
- Mumbai continued to be the RevPAR leader in absolute terms in Q1 2024 while maintaining stable occupancy levels.
- Total no. of signings in Q1 2024 stood at 90 hotels with 9,710 keys.
- 13 hotels were signed as a result of conversions of other hotels. This constituted 12% of the inventory signed in Q1 2024.

## Industry News

- Chalet Hotels acquired the 158-key Courtyard by Marriott Aravali Resort for INR 315 crores.
- Hansoge Enterprises sold a 175-key under construction hotel located near the Bengaluru International Airport for INR 150 crores.
- Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) signed a 300-key Ginger at the Manohar International Airport (MOPA), Goa.
- Hyatt Hotels launched its maiden Ronil – part of JdV property with 135 keys in Goa.
- Marriott's Moxy brand debuted in India with the opening of the 128-key Moxy Bengaluru Airport Prestige Tech Cloud



Supply & Demand  
Growth for Six Cities

Supply **1.7%** ↑

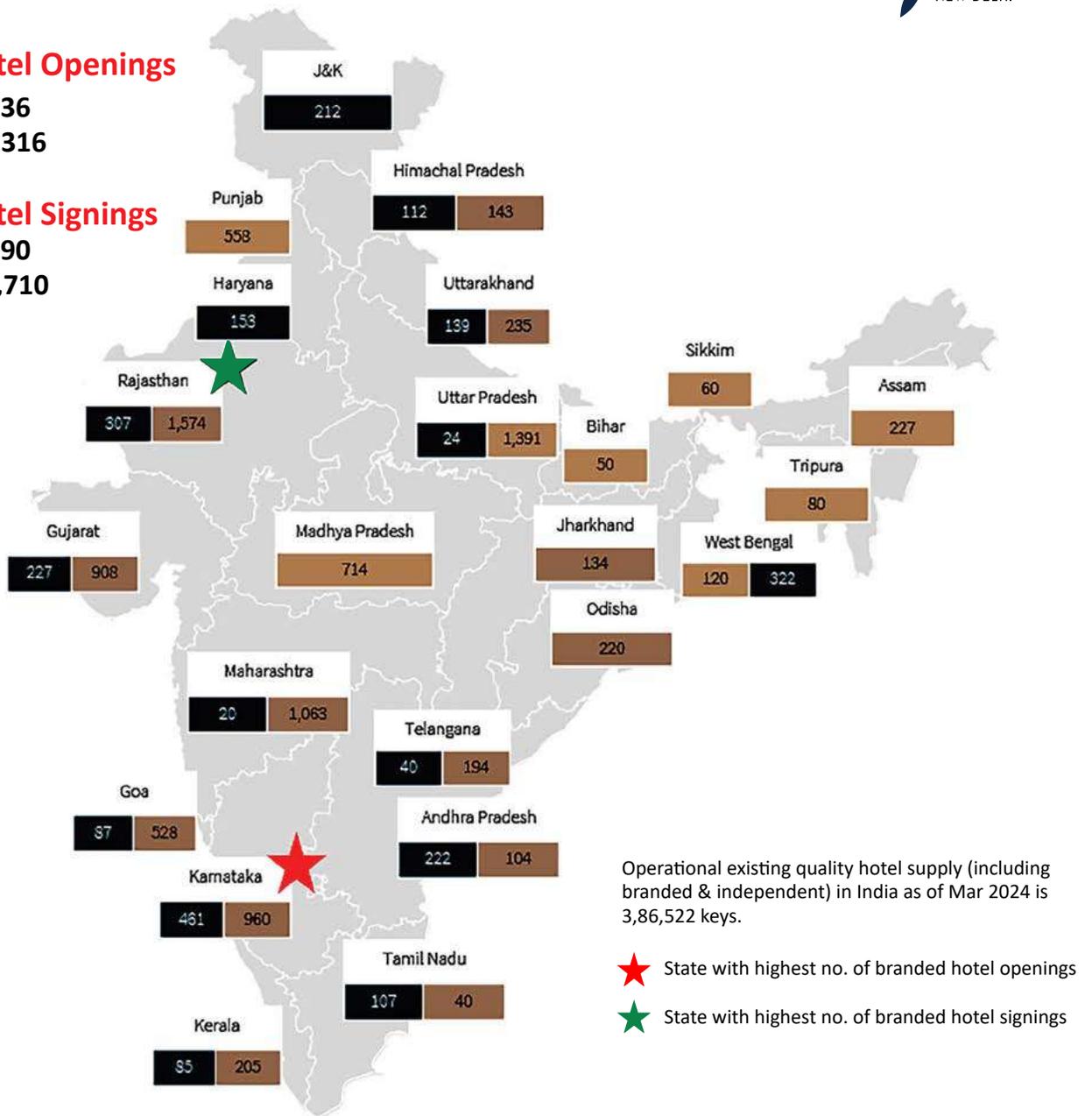
Demand **4.0%** ↑

### Branded Hotel Openings

No. of hotels: 36  
No. of keys: 2,316

### Branded Hotel Signings

No. of hotels: 90  
No. of Keys: 9,710



#### Tier-wise break-up for Q1 2024

Tier	Branded - Hotel Openings		Branded - Hotel Signings	
	Hotels	Keys	Hotels	Keys
I	7	557	10	1,339
II	10	503	44	5,403
III	19	1,256	36	2,968

#### Classification-wise break-up for Q1 2024

Category	Branded - Hotel Openings		Branded - Hotel Signings	
	Hotels	Keys	Hotels	Keys
Luxury	3	356	10	2,335
Upper Upscale	1	30	17	2,382
Upscale	10	810	17	1,812
Midscale	20	965	41	2,641
Budget	2	155	5	540

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<b>Mr. Ravi Khatri</b>	ravi.khatri@businessworld.in	+91 98913 15715
<b>Mr. CS Rajaraman</b>	rajaraman@businessworld.in	+91 93422 62859
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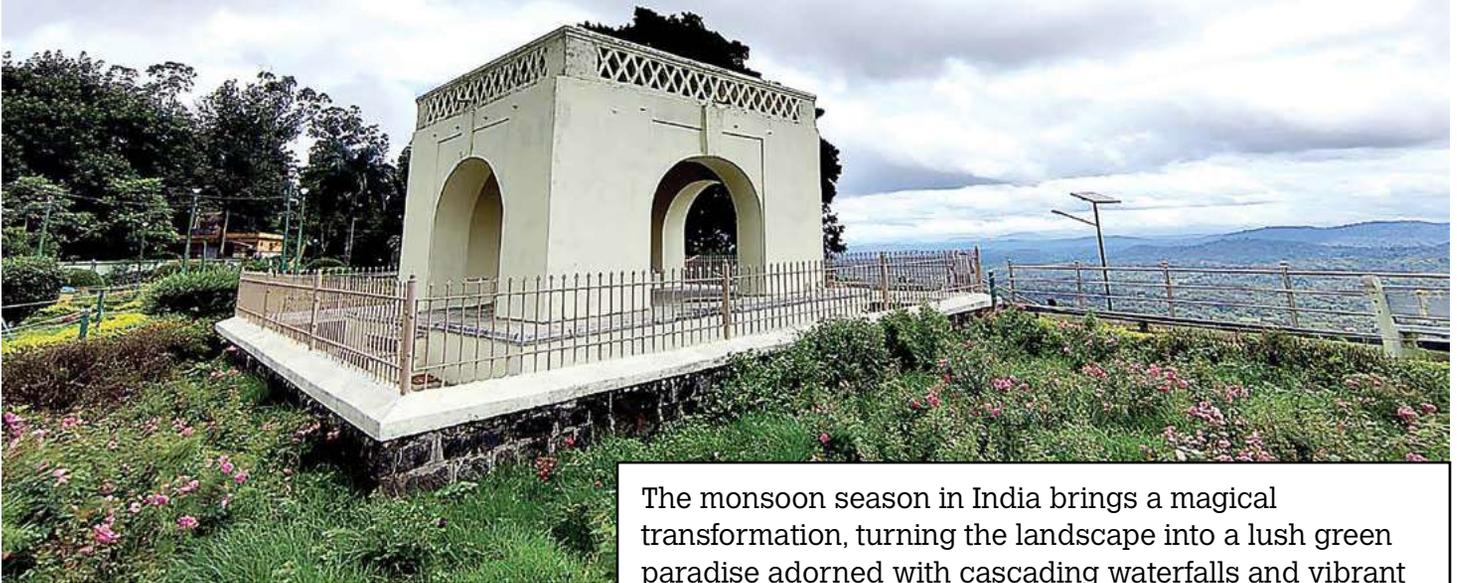


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# EXPLORING THE TRANQUIL MONSOON DESTINATIONS OF INDIA



The monsoon season in India brings a magical transformation, turning the landscape into a lush green paradise adorned with cascading waterfalls and vibrant flora. Take a break from your gruelling work schedule to enjoy these enchanting monsoon destinations in India

By Tarannum Manjul and Meha Mathur

India, a land of diverse landscapes and vibrant cultures, offers a plethora of enchanting destinations that come alive during the monsoon season. From lush green valleys to cascading waterfalls, the monsoon transforms the country into a paradise for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts alike. Let's delve into four captivating monsoon destinations: Coorg, Lonavala, Orchha and Mandu.

## Coorg: The Scotland of India

Nestled amidst the mist-covered hills of Karnataka, Coorg, also known as Kodagu, is a picturesque hill station renowned for its verdant coffee plantations,

brehtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage. During the monsoon months of June to September, Coorg transforms into a lush green paradise, with the aroma of freshly brewed coffee permeating the air.

One of the highlights of a visit to Coorg during the monsoon is witnessing the majestic **Abbey Falls** in all its glory. Located amidst dense foliage, the waterfall cascades from a height of 70 feet, creating a mesmerising spectacle that is enhanced by the monsoon rains. Visitors can enjoy the sight of the waterfall from a viewpoint or venture closer to feel the spray of mist against their skin.

For nature enthusiasts, a trek through the lush green forests of Coorg offers a chance to explore its rich biodiversity. The monsoon rejuvenates the flora and fauna of the region, with vibrant blooms adorning the landscape and exotic bird species chirping melodiously in the canopy above. Popular trekking destinations in Coorg include the Brahmagiri Peak and the



## Air connectivity - Coorg

- The closest international one is Mangalore International Airport, at a distance of 140 km from Coorg city centre. For domestic flights, the nearest one is at Mysore, 120 km from Coorg.
- IndiGo, Air India and Vistara offer direct flights from Delhi to Mangalore. IndiGo and SpiceJet have connecting flights to Mysore.

Tadiandamol Trek, offering panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and hills.

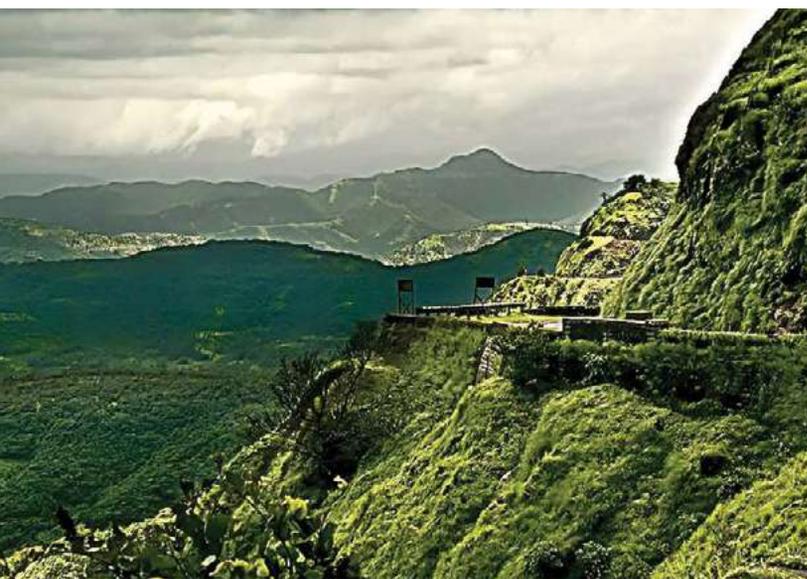
In addition to its natural beauty, Coorg is also steeped in history and culture. Visitors can explore ancient temples, such as the **Omkareshwara Temple** and the **Namdroling Monastery**, which are adorned with intricate architecture and serene surroundings. The monsoon season adds a mystical charm to these cultural landmarks, with the sound of rainfall echoing through the temple corridors.

**Food:** The region boasts a diverse range of food options, with Kodava cuisine taking centre stage. **Kodava cuisine** is characterised by its bold flavours and generous use of spices, featuring delicacies like pandi curry (pork curry), kadambuttu (steamed rice dumplings) and bamboo shoot curry. Visitors can also savour traditional Coorgi dishes such as koli curry (chicken curry), akki rotti (rice pancakes) and neer dosa (rice crepes). Additionally, Coorg offers a variety of vegetarian delights, including baimbale curry (bamboo shoot curry), kootu curry (mixed vegetable curry) and nool puttu (string hoppers). With its blend of indigenous ingredients and culinary techniques, Coorg presents a gastronomic adventure that tantalises the taste buds of every traveller.



## A BLOGGER'S EXPERIENCE

Jade D'Sa, a travel content writer at That Goan Girl shares, "Coorg during the monsoons was an adventure that awakened and refreshed my tired senses. The sound of raindrops falling on the foliage, the smell of the earthy fragrance of wet soil and the sight of mist veiling the treetops - all added to the mystique of the experience. Not to mention, the taste and aroma of the coffee that Coorg is known for, as you take it all in. As far as things to do in Coorg during the monsoons, the waterfalls, such as Abbey Falls and Iruppu Falls, are magnificent sights, with water cascading with full force. Raja's Seat, one of the most famous viewpoints in Coorg offers breathtaking views of mist-covered hills and lush forests. If you are up for activities, trekking through the rain-soaked trails can be an adrenaline-pumping experience. Many people are drawn to the roaring river Kaveri and are enticed to try rafting, which surely is a thrilling experience. To truly immerse myself in the monsoon charm, I stayed at a tranquil homestay amidst coffee plantations, indulging in the serenity and enjoying cups of aromatic coffee and Kodagu food - Pandi Curry, Bamboo Shoot Vegetable, Kadambuttu and Akki Roti."



## Lonavala: A tranquil retreat in the Western Ghats

Perched amidst the lush green slopes of the Western Ghats, Lonavala is a charming hill station located in the state of Maharashtra. Blessed with verdant valleys, glistening lakes and cascading waterfalls, Lonavala is a popular monsoon destination that offers respite from the hustle and bustle of city life.

The monsoon season, which spans from June to September, transforms Lonavala into a verdant paradise, with the landscape adorned in shades of green and the aroma of wet earth filling the air. One of the must-visit attractions during

the monsoon is the picturesque **Bhushi Dam**, where visitors can witness the sight of gushing water cascading down the rocky terrain, creating a natural spectacle that is both mesmerising and exhilarating.

For adventure enthusiasts, Lonavala offers ample opportunities for trekking and hiking amidst its scenic surroundings. The monsoon months breathe new life into the region's numerous trekking trails, with lush greenery and blooming flowers lining the pathways. Popular trekking destinations include the **Rajmachi Fort Trek**, the **Visapur Fort Trek** and the **Lohagad Fort Trek**, each offering stunning views of the surrounding valleys and hills.

**Food:** From local Maharashtrian delicacies to international cuisines, Lonavala offers a plethora of food options to satisfy every palate. Visitors can indulge in traditional Maharashtrian dishes such as vada pav, pav bhaji and misal pav at local eateries and street food stalls. Additionally, Lonavala is renowned for its delectable chikkis, a crunchy sweet made from jaggery and nuts, which serves as a perfect snack while exploring the town. For those craving international flavours, Lonavala boasts an array of restaurants and cafes serving Chinese, Italian and Continental cuisines. Whether enjoying a piping hot bowl of bhajiya pav during the monsoon season or relishing a wood-fired pizza with scenic mountain views, Lonavala promises a delightful culinary journey for all food enthusiasts.



### Air connectivity - Lonavala

- **Nearest airport:** The nearest airport is Pune International Airport, which is 68 km away from Lonavala and well connected with all the major cities in India. Indigo, Air India, Air Asia India, SpiceJet and Vistara offers daily flights from Delhi to Pune.
- **Another nearby major airport near Lonavala is Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, which is 88 km away.**

### Orchha: A hidden gem in Madhya Pradesh

Tucked away in the heart of Madhya Pradesh, Orchha is a hidden gem that boasts a rich historical legacy, architectural marvels and serene natural beauty. During the monsoon season, from July to September, Orchha comes alive with lush greenery, glistening rivers and majestic heritage structures that transport visitors back in time.

One of the highlights of a visit to Orchha during the monsoon is exploring its magnificent palaces and temples, which stand as testaments to its royal past. The Orchha Fort complex, comprising the **Jahangir Mahal, Raj Mahal and Ram Raja Temple**, is a Unesco World Heritage Site that showcases the grandeur of



Orchha photos by Meha Mathur



Bundela architecture. The monsoon rains add a mystical charm to these architectural marvels, with raindrops glistening on the marble facades and lush gardens surrounding the palaces.

For nature lovers, Orchha offers ample opportunities to explore its tranquil surroundings and pristine landscapes. Visitors can

embark on [boat rides along the tranquil Betwa River](#), soaking in the serene ambiance and panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The monsoon season rejuvenates the flora and fauna of Orchha, with vibrant blooms adorning the riverbanks and exotic bird species flocking to the region.

In addition to its historical and natural attractions, Orchha is also known for its vibrant cultural heritage, with traditional music and dance performances being a common sight during the monsoon months. Visitors can immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of local customs and traditions, attending cultural events such as the Ram Leela and the Orchha Dance Festival.

**Food:** Visitors can also embark on a culinary adventure that showcases the rich flavours of Indian cuisine. While the town may not offer as wide a variety of dining options as larger cities, it compensates with its authentic local delicacies. Visitors can savour traditional **Bundelkhandi cuisine**, characterised by its robust and flavourful dishes. Must-try dishes include bafra, a savoury wheat cake served with dal & ghee and poha, a popular breakfast dish made from flattened rice. Travellers can also relish traditional thalis, offering an assortment of vegetarian dishes such as dal, sabzi, roti and rice, providing a wholesome and satisfying meal. Additionally, various small eateries and roadside stalls offer snacks like samosas, kachoris and chaats, perfect for a quick bite while exploring the town's attractions.



### Air connectivity - Orchha

- Nearest airport: Gwalior airport is 113 km away. IndiGo and Vistara Airlines operate daily nonstop flights from Delhi to Gwalior.

### Monsoon magic in Mandu

Located in the southern region of Malwa Plateau and overlooking the Narmada River in the south, is Mandu, which stuns the visitors with monuments of architectural splendour in a small geography.

Made famous by the love story of **Roopmati and Baz Bahadur** that was eulogised in a Hindi film, the town saw change of dynasties over the centuries, starting from the rule of Parmars to the Delhi Sultans, the Mughals and then the Marathas. The monuments that attract visitors from across the country were built by successive rulers, including the Jami Masjid, that was started during the rule of Hoshang Shah but completed under the rule of Mahmud Khilji in 1454; the marble tomb of Hoshang Shah; Hindola Mahal, constructed at around the end of 15th



Photo by Meha Mathur



century under Ghiasuddin Khilji (the name hindola means swing, as the structure gives the impression of a swing); the nearby **Jahaz Mahal**, located on the banks of vast water reservoir Munj Tal and giving the impression of being a large ship, also built by Ghiasuddin Khilji; and Roopmati Mahal built by independent ruler Baz Bahadur for his queen. The palace afforded view of the Narmada river. The Rewa Kund in the palace also had water drawn from Narmada, as desired by Roopmati.

At every nook you will find a building, a gate, a water body or a dense tamarind tree with large canopy, offering a perfect blend of medieval charm and green respite. The beauty of Mandu is best explored during the monsoons, when the clouds and rains (reservoirs), full to the brim, accentuate the magnificence of the buildings. And unlike the sweltering humidity of the northern plains, the weather turns alluringly pleasant.

Located near Indore, Mandu can be covered in a day trip. But such is the charm of the place, you would like to stay in MP tourism guest houses and explore the town in detail.

**Food:** The Malwa cuisine like dal bati and the local cuisine of dal paniye made from pulses and maize can be had in the hotels



### Air connectivity - Mandu

- **Nearest airport:** Indore, which is 84.3 km away. IndiGo, Air India, Vistara airlines operate daily direct flights from Delhi to Indore.

and restaurants; but catering to the tourist traffic from across the country, the regular North and South Indian staples are easily available.

As the monsoon showers blanket the Indian subcontinent in a cloak of greenery and freshness, destinations like Coorg, Lonavala, Orchha and Mandu beckon travellers with their serene landscapes, rich heritage and vibrant culture. Whether you seek adventure amidst lush green forests, tranquillity beside glistening waterfalls or a glimpse into the past through ancient palaces and temples, these monsoon destinations offer an unforgettable experience that celebrates the beauty and diversity of India's natural and cultural heritage. These are ideal locations for those looking to enjoy monsoons.



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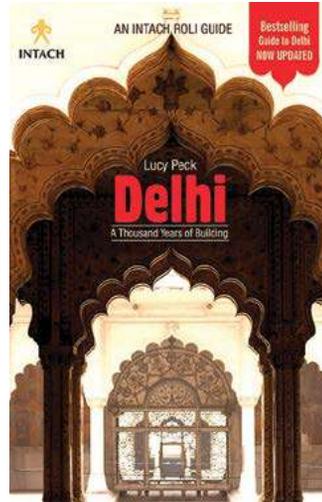
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# PEEK INTO BUILDING & LIVING TRADITIONS OF DELHI

By Meha Mathur

## DELHI – A THOUSAND YEARS OF BUILDING: AN INTACH ROLI GUIDE

Author: **By Lucy Peck**  
 Publisher: **Roli Books**  
 Pages: **308**

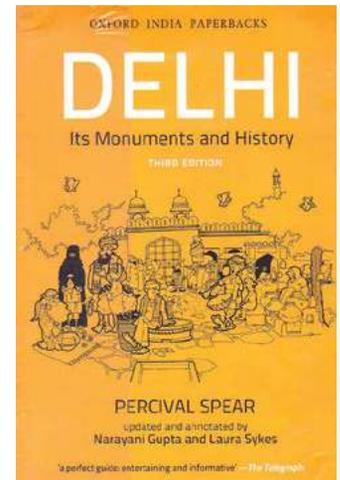


When an author of expertise in architecture & town planning and interest in conservation decides to write about the built heritage of a city, the resultant work is bound to be noteworthy. Not just that, Lucy Peck has also spent several years in India and has been involved in several projects of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). The book draws upon INTACH's and Peck's expertise in heritage conservation issues. The seats of power in Delhi shifted with each dynasty and this enables the writer to describe the built heritage chronologically – structures that date back to Rajput rule, Delhi Sultanate, Firoz Shah's Delhi, Lodi era mosques and so on. The author dives deep describing the history of each dynasty to give a context. The photographs in black and white are also stunning. The only drawback is the small font of text.

## DELHI: ITS MONUMENTS AND HISTORY – THIRD EDITION

Text by : **Percival Spear**  
 Updated and annotated by  
 Narayani Gupta and Laura Sykes  
 Publisher: **Oxford University Press**  
 Pages: **177**

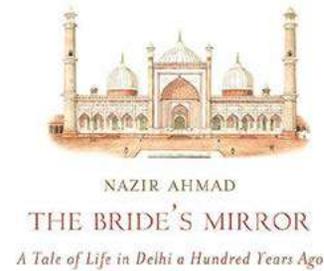
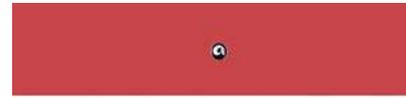
Historian and author Percival Spear wrote this book in 1943, at the height of World War II. It was intended for school students, who could enjoy a visit to these locations on cycle, accompanied by their teacher. He came up with the second edition in 1945, this time for wider public. Fifty years after he wrote the book, historian Narayani Gupta along with Laura Sykes revisited the work and brought it back to the public with their notes and annotations. While the city has transformed totally, much of what Spear describes, especially historical insights and understanding of architectural features, are of great relevance. It would also be of relevance to students of history who would wish to know the changes that have occurred in the cityscape of Delhi. It is not just the prominent landmarks of Delhi like Red Fort and Old Fort but also description of lesser-known structures and the lanes and neighbourhoods that make this book a worthy reading even 80 years after it was written.



# THE BRIDE'S MIRROR: A TALE OF LIFE IN DELHI 150 YEARS AGO

Text: **By Nazir Ahmad**  
 Photographs: **Translated by GE Ward**  
 Publisher: **Aleph Classics**  
 Pages: **214**

**H**ere is a best seller from 150 years ago that sold over one lakh copies within a few years of being published. Written originally in Urdu and published first in 1869 (the year Mahatma Gandhi was born), this book describes the lives of two sisters Akbari and Asghari married to two brothers and why their lives took opposite tracks. It has loads of moral science lessons for the fair sex. Thankfully, while the 19th century notions of how women should behave have been given a burial, the value of this book lies in social and cultural insights it provides about city. Literature is a great source of understanding of a society and this book describes the trades, occupations, the beliefs, festivals, day-to-day life,



bickering in households, pastimes and much more. Locations in Delhi like Chandni Chowk, Sabzi Mandi, Kabuli Gate and Turkman Gate are described as a matter of fact.

# DELHI: LIGHT, SHADES, SHADOWS

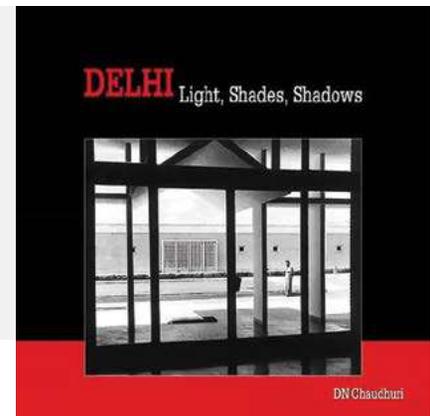
By: **Dhruva N Chaudhuri**  
 Publisher: **Niyogi Books**  
 Pages: **212**

**N**irad C Chaudhuri was a highly celebrated Indian author, known for his books – 'Autobiography Of An Unknown Indian' and 'Thy Hand, Great Anarch!'. He settled in England and was honoured Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth in 1992.

His son Dhruva N Chaudhuri, who observed Delhi closely as a child and teenager since 1942, especially through his camera lens, worked as

a freelance photojournalist for several publications, including The Telegraph and The Illustrated Weekly of India.

Undoubtedly, the book has an iconic selection of photographs including those from the time of independence. But equally poignant are his reminiscences of the city that he grew up in. In this book, he is not just a distant observer; he is a character himself. Some stirring moments, like the excitement of listening to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's



famous independence speech; departure of close friends when the partition happened; the author's exploration of nature at the ridge and along the banks of Yamuna; and Mahatma Gandhi's final journey are among the many episodes that the author describes, that make this book a great chronicle of a period of history.

By Shruti Tripathi

### MANAN:

A classic relaxed fit shirt designed in soft sheer linen with full sleeves dip dyed in a soft mint by hand at the hem. Perfect for summer heat, the set is paired with pants in soft handloom linen with a handwoven mint border and a drawstring at the waist.

Price: Rs 8,800



### NICOBAR:

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Price: Rs 2,000



### CHIQUE:

Elevate your wardrobe with the timeless allure of embroidered detailing in this exquisite dress from the House of Chique. Crafted from luxurious Bamboo Georgette, its solid dusty rose hue exudes sophistication, making it perfect for your next party or special occasion. The half sleeves add a touch of elegance, while the high neck adds a hint of chic charm. Available in various sizes, each with its own tailored length, ensuring a perfect fit for every body type.

Price: Rs 5,200



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## SUGAR & SPICE:

Mango and summers are complimentary to each other. Sugar & Spice has come up with Mango and saffron tres leches which is a variation of the traditional Latin American dessert 'tres leches cake', which translates to 'three milk cake'.

Price: Rs 195



## CHAI POINT

Cranberry iced tea is one of the top cold beverages at Chai Point. It is prepared by infusing cranberry with brewed iced tea. It typically involves brewing black tea, sweetening it with sugar and then mixing it with cranberry juice.

Price: Rs 129

## BANARAS

For cool sensation in skyrocketing temperature, don't miss this paan with mango flavour from the exquisite paan shop.

Price: Rs 140



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Price: Rs 749



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Price: Rs 200

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Club Lounge at Roseate House

**By Team Aerocity Live**

**U**pstage Club at Roseate House New Delhi provides a luxe co-working space with a sophisticated decor for your daily business and social needs with a selection of hand-crafted patisserie & boulangerie delights, savouries and flavourful brews. It is a perfect setting, equipped with the required state-of-the-art amenities, for your everyday work or virtual meetings.

From a formal setting to a relaxed evening ambiance, Upstage Club members have exclusive access to this elegant meeting and dining space. Upstage Club offers two compact meeting halls, a boardroom and a bouquet of small meeting spaces, in addition to access to the auditorium, an avant-garde 4k cinema hall offering the ultimate theatre experience.

The hotel also has Club Lounge, a sophisticated and versatile space now available as an exclusive private working space. Whether you're an entrepreneur, seasonal or travelling worker or an individual seeking a quiet place to focus and work or host a business meeting, the Club Lounge provides the perfect environment to elevate your work experience. It's available from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Club Lounge boasts a private dining area that can host up to 45 guests and includes a private meeting room with a capacity to host 8 guests.



On this page - sophisticated ambience at Upstage Club



# CREATING A HEALTHIER WORKPLACE

A healthy, happy workforce is more engaged, productive and loyal



By Claudia Ciesla

In today's fast-paced corporate world, the workplace can often become a breeding ground for stress and unhealthy habits. However, with a few strategic changes, businesses can foster a culture of wellbeing that not only enhances employee health but also boosts productivity and morale. As a nutritionist with over a decade of experience in holistic health, balanced nutrition and lifestyle coaching, I have seen the profound impact that a comprehensive approach to workplace wellbeing can have on both employees and businesses. This article will explore various aspects of workplace wellbeing, including nutrition, body posture, physical activity and achieving a healthy work-life balance. By integrating these elements, businesses can create an environment that promotes health, productivity and overall satisfaction.

## Nutrition: fuelling productivity

Nutrition plays a crucial role in maintaining energy levels and cognitive function. Employees often resort to quick, unhealthy snacks and caffeinated beverages to get through the day, leading to energy crashes and decreased productivity. Encouraging healthy eating habits in the workplace can make a significant difference.

Organisations should advocate for the availability of nutritious snacks such as fruits, nuts and yogurt in the office pantry. Additionally, educating employees on the benefits of balanced meals rich in proteins, healthy fats and complex carbohydrates can empower them to make better dietary choices. Regular nutrition workshops and personalised diet plans can further support employees in maintaining optimal health.

### Body posture: The backbone of health

Poor posture is a common issue in office environments, often leading to musculoskeletal problems, fatigue and reduced concentration. Ergonomic furniture and proper workstation setup are essential in preventing these issues.

Investing in adjustable chairs, desks and monitor stands can help employees maintain a neutral spine position, reducing strain on the back and neck. Encouraging regular breaks to stand, stretch and move around can also alleviate the adverse effects of prolonged sitting. Posture assessment services and ergonomic training ensure employees are equipped with the knowledge and tools to maintain good posture throughout the workday.

### Physical activity: Energising the workforce

Physical activity is vital for both physical and mental wellbeing. Sedentary lifestyles associated with desk jobs can lead to a host of health issues, including obesity, cardiovascular disease and mental health disorders. Integrating physical activity into the work routine can counteract these effects.

Simple initiatives such as organising group exercise sessions, walking meetings and promoting the use of stairs instead of elevators can make a big difference. Providing on-site fitness facilities or partnerships with local gyms can further encourage employees to stay active and seamlessly fit the extra activity into the workday, ensuring employees stay energised and motivated.

### Work-life balance: The cornerstone of wellbeing

Achieving a healthy work-life balance is crucial for overall wellbeing. Overworking and chronic stress can lead to burnout, negatively impacting both personal and professional life. Employers play a significant role in fostering an environment where work-life balance is prioritised.

Flexible working hours, remote work options and promoting a culture that values time off can help employees manage their responsibilities better. Regularly checking in with employees about their workload and mental health can also provide the support they need to thrive. Organisations should focus on helping employees find harmony between their professional and personal lives, reducing stress and enhancing wellbeing.

### Creating a culture of wellbeing

Building a culture of wellbeing requires commitment from both management and employees. Leadership should lead by example, demonstrating healthy habits and encouraging open communication about wellness needs and challenges. Recognising and rewarding employees for their efforts in maintaining a healthy lifestyle can also motivate others to follow suit.

Partnering with wellness experts to create customised programmes that align with the unique needs and goals of a business can lead to sustained improvements in employee



*Claudia Ciesla*

health and productivity. Comprehensive approaches, including regular health assessments, wellness workshops and ongoing support, are essential.

### Conclusion

Investing in employee wellbeing is not just a moral imperative but a strategic business decision. A healthy, happy workforce is more engaged, productive and loyal. By focussing on nutrition, body posture, physical activity and work-life balance, companies can create an environment where employees thrive.

Together, we can create workplaces where health and productivity go hand in hand, ensuring long-term success for both employees and employers.

### About the author

– Nutritionist, Lifestyle Coach;  
Founder, Claudia's Concept

*Article courtesy BW Wellbeing*



**1. The first Indian Coffee House was opened in..... in 1958.**

- a. Delhi
- b. Kolkata
- c. Mumbai
- d. Thrissur

**2. Arbejdermuseet, the Workers Museum, is located in.....**

- a. Oslo, Norway
- b. Copenhagen, Denmark
- c. Helsinki, Finland
- d. Warsaw, Poland

**3. ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work was adopted in the year.....**

- a. 1945
- b. 1970
- c. 1985
- d. 1998

**4. The statue called 'Worker and Kolkhoz Woman' was installed in.....**

- a. Moscow
- b. Saint Petersburg
- c. Kaliningrad
- d. Tula

**5. In which movie did Sally Field play the role of a minimum-wage cotton mill worker, fighting to improve the working conditions of her ilk? She won an Oscar for this 1979 movie.**

- a. Hidden Figures
- b. Norma Rae
- c. Suffragette
- d. Selma

**6. Which city in India is known as Manchester of India?**

- a. Ahmedabad
- b. Surat
- c. Indore
- d. Mumbai

**7. The steel city of Angul is located in.....**

- a. Jharkhand
- b. Odisha
- c. Bihar
- d. West Bengal

**8. A whole new category of professionals came into being during the Mughal rule. What was the role of Mir Bakshi in Mughal administration?**

- a. Revenue officer
- b. Administrative head
- c. Head of military administration
- d. None of the above

**9. Ghashiram Kotwal, a play set in the backdrop of Pune during the Peshwa rule in the 18th Century, describes the ambitions and manoeuvres of the central character to rise to the position of kotwal. Who was the playwright?**

- a. Girish Karnad
- b. Satyadev Dubey
- c. Habib Tanvir
- d. Vijay Tendulkar

**10. 'Dr Kotnis Ki Amar Kahaani', released in 1946, is the story of a doctor who selflessly served the wounded soldiers in China during the World War II. The film is based on the book.....written by Khwaja Ahmad Abbas.**

- a. Dr Kotnis' True Story
- b. Dr Kotnis Ki Amar Kahaani
- c. And One Did Not Come Back
- d. A Doctor And His Mission

**Answer key**

4. a. Moscow

3. d. 1998

2. b. Copenhagen

1. d. Thrissur

5. b. Norma Rae

6. a. Ahmedabad

7. b. Odisha

8. c. Head of military administration

9. d. Vijay Tendulkar

10. c. And One Did Not Come Back

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