

AEROCITY LIVE

WORK • SHOP • DINE • STAY

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2025
ISSUE 19 | INR 300

LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN

How GMR Aerocity is preparing for
the season's biggest celebrations

PLUS



**ZUBIN
SAXENA**

On Shifting
Trends of
Luxury Hotels



**PRASHANT
SINGH**

On Smart
and Sensible
Festivities



**DABBOO
RATNANI**

On Travel,
Food, and
Frames





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WRAPPED, READY, RADIANT!



ear Readers,

At GMR Aerocity, New Delhi, we believe that the spirit of celebration begins long before the first light is strung or the first toast is raised. It begins with intention. It comes from quiet preparations, curated comforts, and the elegance of anticipation. As Tom Peters once said: "Celebrate what you want to see more of."

This pre-festive season, *GMR Aerocity LIVE* magazine invites you to pause, prepare, and embrace the art of meaningful celebration. Themed the 'Pre-Festive Special', this issue reaffirms GMR Aerocity's role. We are not just a premier urban destination but also the cultural gateway to Delhi-NCR's celebratory calendar. Whether you are arriving from afar, returning home, or seeking refined indulgence before the season's crescendo, GMR Aerocity offers an experience where serenity meets sophistication.

We are also delighted to unveil our magazine's refreshed look and inspired content: Diwali gifting ideas, Durga Puja and Navratri *thalis*, festive cocktails, and early glimpses into couture and décor.

This season also marks exciting milestones. GMR Aerocity is now the second destination in India to welcome Tesla with its signature showroom. New F&B experiences also continue to join us. The Gateway District rises swiftly, promising to redefine urban living with world-class retail, hospitality, and lifestyle offerings. With the recent inauguration of the Dwarka Expressway and UER II by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Minister Nitin Gadkari, Union Cabinet Minister of Road Transport & Highways, GOI, Aerocity now enjoys unparalleled connectivity across NCR. This further strengthens its appeal as a truly future-ready hub.

As GMR Aerocity evolves—with global hospitality giants, elevated experiences, and a thriving community at its core—our commitment remains unchanged: to deliver warmth, precision, and meaningful moments to every guest.

GMR Aerocity, New Delhi is not just where journeys begin—it is where they are made memorable. And *GMR Aerocity LIVE* is our way of celebrating that journey with you.

Happy reading and may your festive season begin with us.

Aman Kapoor

AMAN KAPOOR
CEO, AIRPORT LAND DEVELOPMENT
GMR GROUP



This pre-festive season,
GMR Aerocity LIVE
magazine invites you
to pause, prepare,
and embrace the
art of meaningful
celebration



ON THE COVER

The festive season begins on a sweet note at JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity, with delights curated by its F&B team

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GEETIKA SACHDEV

An independent journalist and brand consultant, she writes extensively on travel, food, health, luxury, and wellness. She also has a penchant for uncovering offbeat cultural experiences. When not penning down her thoughts, you can find her raiding the best cafés and bookstores in town.

SAMAI SINGH

After working with some of the leading lifestyle publications, she switched to freelancing, edited a book of poetry called *Meet Me Where the Sky Touches the Sea* and even taught a micro course on Journalism. Between working and her child's school pick-ups, she spends her time painting with watercolours, reading, and being a dog mom.



SINCHITA SINHA

Based in Mumbai, she shifted her career from banking to pursue her passion for storytelling. Her love of wildlife, conservation of conscious travel, ecologically-fragile spaces, heritage, history, food, and exploring offbeat places and experiences in widely-visited locations, led her to travel with her senses and translate those experiences into words.

SNIGDHA BHATTACHARJEE

This Delhi-based scriptwriter and documentary filmmaker is in a committed relationship with tales and cinema. A trained Indian classical singer, she harbours a soft spot for theatres, plays, and musical events. From Krishna Janmashtami and Ramleela to Bollywood extravaganza—dwelling in art is Snigdha's safe haven.



To read the previous editions, visit: www.gmraerocity.com/e-magazine/

AEROCITY LIVE

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IT'S GOT THE **WORK. SHOP. DINE. STAY. & MORE.** BUZZ

**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 IS JUST A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE THINGS YOU CAN INDULGE IN, AT THIS DESTINATION

SO, HEAD TO GMR AEROCITY, NEW DELHI. IT IS A DESTINATION LIKE NO OTHER.

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CONTENTS

THE HUB

Calendar	08
What's More?.....	12
Next Up.....	15
The Voices	17
Flashback	18
On The Radar	24

34 PHOTO ESSAY



26 | SUGAR, SPICE, COVER STORY | DIWALI!

We speak with senior leaders from GMR Aerocity's hotels to uncover how they are preparing for this year's celebrations... bigger and better





54 BEYOND BUSINESS

INSIGHTS

- 42.....Inside Story
46.....Tête-à-Tête
50.....Chef's Table
52.....Perspectives

LAYOVER LUXE

- Time Capsule...60
Retail Therapy...62
Wellness.....64
F&B.....66



68 DETOURS

CITY BREAKS

- 74.....Escapes
80.....Sky High



78 BITES



88 THE FINAL WORD

THE LAST STOP

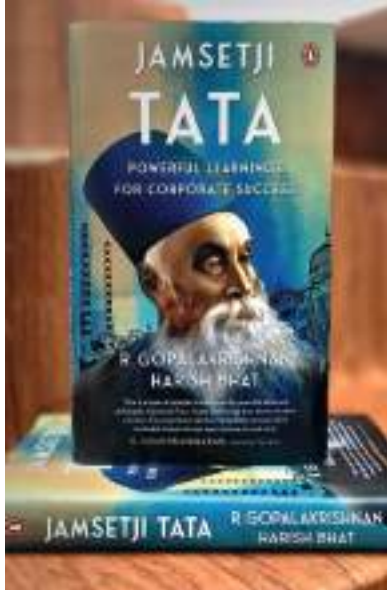
- Offers.....84
Quiz.....87



82 INDEX



MOVIE
SCREENINGS



BOOK LAUNCHES



ART
EXHIBITIONS



TEDTALKS



Utsav

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TOWNHALLS

WORKSHOPS

THE HUB

What's More? **12** | Movements **14** | Dear Diary **16** | On The Radar **24**



SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

CELEBRATING TOGETHER

GMR Aerocity came alive with pride and cheer as the 79th Independence Day was marked in style, alongside several vibrant events, community engagements, and festive gatherings.

Page 18

BUCKET LIST

From Halloween and Navaratri to cricket screenings and art exhibits, here are a few events in GMR Aerocity that you can attend in the upcoming months

EVENTS AT THE SQUARE



9th-29th September

CRICKET SCREENING

Catch the screening of the Asia Giants as they compete for the crown in the Asia Championship, offering an atmosphere filled with fun and excitement



September-October

EXPERIENTIAL THEME-BASED MARKETS

22nd September-2nd October

NAVRATRI AND DUSSEHRA

A vibrant nine-day Navratri celebration at GMR Aerocity, featuring focused market activities, and other engagements

2nd October

GANDHI JAYANTI

The birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation will be honoured with installations at GMR Aerocity



Through out October

DIWALI DÉCOR AND INSTALLATION, EXPERIENTIAL CELEBRATIONS

Captivating Diwali décor and installations combined with an experiential market to celebrate the festive season at GMR Aerocity

31st October

HALLOWEEN

Celebrate Halloween at GMR Aerocity with dramatic décor and engaging activities that will bring out your spooky spirit

EVENTS AT **utsav**



1st-30th September

Art Exhibition–SHIFTING HORIZONS– Curated Show by OCHRE ART

Shifting Horizons invites its spectators to explore the evolving landscape of visual language. The works on display reflect a range of narratives.

12th September

Book Discussion–I AM A SOLDIER'S WIFE by Geetika Liddar

18th September

Book Discussion–SIMPLE NOT EASY with Raj Ganpath and Dr Ambrish Mittal

19th September

Book Discussion–Shiv Shivakumar on CEO MINDSET with Shibani Sethi

20th September

Talk on ART AND INVESTMENTS

21st September

Book Discussion–AM I JUST A BABY VENDING MACHINE? A dialogue on the plight of Indian women by Col (Dr) Nikita Naredi

22nd-27th September

Display–Sustainable gifting by NGO

28th September

Book Discussion–INK OVER AI by Manjima Mishra

GUEST TALK



VIPUL SABHARWAL

Independent Director, RR Label Ltd and Former
MD of Luminous Power Technologies

"I have been to GMR Aerocity numerous times before but very recently, it was my first time in The Utsav. The place is unique; in fact, the whole corridor of The Square is very unique. My daughter does studio pottery and I want to come back here and explore opportunities for her in this place."

EVENTS AT WORLDMARK 1, 2 & 3



Through out **September-October**

ROYAL LIGHTSCAPE

An immersive Diwali décor experience featuring grand lighting installations, Instagramable zones, and thematic elements to elevate the festive spirit

DIWALI FESTIVE POP-UP MARKET

An eclectic retail experience with artisanal gifting, festive hampers, and homegrown brands to cater to your Diwali shopping spree

COMEDY FESTIVAL

An engaging two-day live stand-up series featuring popular comedians to attract young urban audiences and boost evening footfalls

FOOD PASSPORT

A festive F&B trail offering curated tastings, exclusive menus, and limited-time offers across participating outlets

SUFI EVENINGS

Soulful live performances in The Plaza to create serene weekend moments, tailored to appeal to a more mature audience

POETRY EVENINGS

Intimate spoken word events focused on contemporary and cultural poetry, in collaboration with poetry clubs

WINTER BUSK STOPS

Enjoy acoustic music performances across different zones, creating ambient winter charm

HALLOWEEN EVENT

A themed celebration with décor, trick-or-treating, kids' workshops, and community-led costume showcases for a memorable night



EVENTS AT HOTELS IN AEROCITY



HOLIDAY INN NEW DELHI AEROCITY

RANG-E-RAJASTHAN

at Viva All Day Dining

14th September (Brunch)

RISOTTO REVELRY

15th-21st September (Dinner)

ASIAN GOURMET AFFAIR

at Viva All Day Dining

19th-20th September (Dinner)

21st September (Brunch)

NAVRATRI THALI

at Viva All Day Dining

22nd-28th September

JAMUN FIZZ

at The Hangar Lounge & Bar

All Month Long



PRIDE PLAZA HOTEL AEROCITY

NAVRATRI THALI

at Cafe Pride, In-room Dining,
and Shan-e-Awadh

22nd-31st September



PULLMAN NEW DELHI AEROCITY

THE ILLUSIONIST'S TABLE

at Farmers' Basket at Pluck

Every Sunday

A theatrical Sunday brunch experience that blends flavour with mind-bending tricks. Curated to amaze and entertain, the brunch features renowned illusionist Manoj Malik, who will take guests on a whimsical journey of visual trickery and mind games

ROSEATE HOUSE NEW DELHI

GUAVA DELIGHTS

at Roasted by Roseate

1st-31st September

All through this month, indulge in the refreshing flavour of guava with the chef's special creations including the Spicy Guava Mocktail and the exquisite Guava Pastry



ZAYKA LUCKNOW KA

at DEL

14th September (Sunday Brunch)

YUNNAN DELICACIES

at DEL

21st September (Sunday Brunch)

FLAVOURS OF BALLYGUNGE

at DEL

21st September (Sunday Brunch)

NAVRATRI SPECIAL THALI

at DEL and Kheer

22nd September-2nd October

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Delhi's weather turns cool and the events calendar starts brimming—from jazz and design to Halloween parades, there is something for everyone

SCC GOURMET CINEMA: CRAZY RICH ASIANS

14th September

Venue: The Piano Man, ELDECO Centre

Sunset Cinema Club, in collaboration with The Piano Man is screening *Crazy Rich Asians*. The popular rom-com is always fun flick to watch and you can enjoy a five-course Singaporean tasting menu inspired by mouthwatering local bites.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 14.8km

JAZZ WEEKENDER 2025

11th-12th October

Venue: 1AQ, Mehrauli

The boutique live music festival returns for its fourth edition. Set under the iconic Banyan tree,



it celebrates contemporary jazz and its evolving sounds. Spread across two days, the curated festival showcases music that encompasses what contemporary jazz embodies.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 14.4km

IMAGINE—THE ART & DESIGN FAIR

11th-12th October

Venue: PSOI Club, Nehru Park

It is bringing together renowned masters, rising talents, and leading galleries from across India. New this year is the MGVM—Master's Gallery Vault, a specially-curated section that unveils rare and iconic works from legendary artists.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 10.8km

TRAVIS SCOTT: CIRCUS MAXIMUS STADIUM TOUR

18th-19th October

Venue: JLN Stadium

American rapper, singer, songwriter, and record producer Travis Scott aka La Flame is all set to perform in India. Witness history in making and sing along with fans screaming 'FE!N.'

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 16.5km

HORRORCON 2025

25th-26th October

Venue: NSIC Exhibition Ground

For a weekend where horror meets pop culture head to India's biggest Halloween party. Step into the spotlight for a cosplay showdown and witness the country's first-ever Halloween Parade.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 18.7km



Dates accurate at time of publishing



SHIFTING HORIZONS

Uncover the unexpected in contemporary Indian art at **Utsav**

An exhibition of Indian contemporary art is hosted by Ochre Art at GMR Aerocity's Utsav, The Square—a space situated in the heart of the district, where artists can collaborate, create, and celebrate—to present six emerging artists with unique styles and visions.

This exhibition is carefully curated and runs from 1st to 30th September 2025. It presents some of the most promising and upcoming artists, who dare to experiment in their visual language and presentation. The exhibition brings together a compelling mix of new voices. Each contributes to a dialogue that transcends boundaries.

At its heart, *Shifting Horizons* invites viewers to explore the

evolving landscape of visual language. The works on display reflect a range of narratives: intimate, political, spiritual, and abstract. Each is rooted in the artists' lived experiences and cultural contexts. Ochre Art's curatorial approach emphasises discovery. Through personalised guidance and thoughtful presentation, *Shifting Horizons* becomes not just an exhibition but a journey of connection and further exploration.

Whether you are looking to begin your art collection or want to deepen your understanding of Indian contemporary art, *Shifting Horizons* is a must-visit at The Utsav. It is the cultural soul of GMR Aerocity—a unique multipurpose activity venue in the midst of the retail and F&B outlets, celebrating

art, culture, and community.

Ochre Art, by Vipula BM, is a platform for promoting and nurturing emerging artists alongside established artists who have an unconventional and reflective approach towards their artistic endeavours. Their objective is to make the process of understanding and purchasing art more engaging and exploratory. Working alongside new buyers and collectors, Ochre Art helps buyers discover their preferences and interests in this exciting world of visual arts, and find artworks that fit seamlessly in their individual spaces and lifestyles. It is not just about owning art, but fostering meaningful connections between creators and collectors to enrich their lives. Discover the world of contemporary art, this month. 

NEW FACES, FRESH CHAPTERS

Key leadership shifts that are shaping GMR Aerocity's corporate realm



MANISH DAYYA PULLMAN AND NOVOTEL NEW DELHI AEROCITY

Dayya has recently been appointed as the General Manager, marking a new chapter for the flagship dual-branded destination. With a career of over 27 years, he is known for driving transformation across India's luxury and premium hotels and elevating guest experiences.

ASHISH SHARMA ALOFT NEW DELHI AEROCITY

Sharma joins as the Food and Beverages Manager. With a fresh perspective to the hotel's culinary and service programmes, he will now oversee the operations at Nook, W XYZ Bar, Re:Fuel by Aloft, in-room dining, and large-scale catering.



REMI MAILLARD AIRBUS

President of Airbus India and South Asia, Maillard has been appointed as the Head of Technology and EVP Engineering for Commercial Aircraft. The role includes overseeing company-wide R&D and leading commercial aircraft engineering.



RAJIV MEMANI EY INDIA

The Chairman and Regional Managing Partner at EY India, Memani, is now also the Regional Managing Partner for the newly-formed Africa-India super region. He will oversee a territory spanning 33 countries, marking a pivotal expansion of his leadership remit.



DEEPAK VERMA ANDAZ DELHI, BY HYATT

Hyatt has appointed Verma as the Cluster Director of Sales & Marketing for Andaz Delhi and Hyatt Delhi Residences. He brings proven expertise in driving strategic growth, boosting commercial performance, and enhancing brand visibility across Hyatt's flagship Aerocity portfolio.



TESLA ENTERS GMR AEROCITY

Tesla India has added another feather to its cap. In just 27 days of the automotive brand's entry into the Indian market and the launch of the Mumbai BKC Experience Center, Tesla India opened its second Experience Center in GMR Aerocity on 11th August. Located in Worldmark 3, this center is complemented by the first Tesla Charging Station in the city with four V4 Supercharging Stalls (DC) and three Destination Charging Stalls (AC). Customers across India can order the Model Y (that combines range, performance, safety, and technology) on *Tesla.com* and experience the world's best-selling vehicle, now on display at the Tesla Experience Center in GMR Aerocity.



ANDAZ LAUNCHES ITS FIRST-EVER MAGAZINE

Andaz Delhi, by Hyatt launched its inaugural *Andaz Delhi* magazine—a fresh take on the classic hotel publication. More than just a guide, it is a beautifully-curated window into the city's art, culture, and creative energy. Each page tells a story, reflecting the unique Andaz spirit and Delhi's vibrant lifestyle. Designed to inspire and delight, it is something to take with you, revisit, and truly enjoy—cover to cover. The launch coincided with the 15th anniversary of Royal Fables, an event celebrating India's regal heritage, hosted at Andaz Delhi.



BURMA BURMA GETS ANOTHER ADDRESS

The pan-Indian Burmese restaurant's latest branch, located right at the entrance of Aerocity, Worldmark 3, is hard to miss. Spread across two floors and boasting a capacity of nearly 110 diners, it evokes a sense of awe with a soaring atrium crowned by a hanging pagoda installation and a hand-painted mural. A special highlight here is the *From Burma with Tea*, a limited-edition Tea Shop menu inspired by Burma's rich tea culture.

BREWING RICH CONNECTIONS

A personal reflection from one of the many who bring Aerocity to life

As someone who has grown with Blue Tokai over the years—starting as a barista and now leading operations—it means a great deal to reflect on how far we have come, especially in a buzzing space as iconic as GMR Aerocity, New Delhi.

Opening a café in GMR Aerocity was a natural choice for us to establish our presence. It is where people from around the world converge, whether for business, travel, or transit, and we felt there was no better place in the vicinity to introduce global travellers to Indian speciality coffee.

When we opened here, it was not just about footfall; it was about placing Indian coffee on a global stage. Strategically, Aerocity has played a crucial role in supporting our growth in numerous ways. Guests often discover us here and then look for our cafés in other cities, building relationships that go beyond a single interaction.

Some of the most touching moments are when customers stop by before flying out of India. We have had people pause for a final flat white, take pictures, and even message us later, sharing how that moment stayed with them.

With the festive season approaching, I cannot help but feel the excitement building. I love how GMR Aerocity feels during this time of year—there is a certain charm in the lights, music, and energy. It becomes more than a destination; it becomes a memory. And honestly, even after work, we often find ourselves back at our café. There is something grounding about sipping our own coffee in the middle of all the buzz.

It is in these quiet pauses that I am reminded why we started—and why we keep showing up. ☺

DHIRAJ SINGH

Director of Operations

**BLUE TOKAI
COFFEE ROASTERS**



A SENSE OF BELONGING

In their own words—the people powering GMR Aerocity's pulse

I take pride, not just in my work but also for being a part of GMR Aerocity. It is a great place to be with both friends and family. There is a lot of greenery where you can spend time. It has everything—from luxury hotels and high-end retail stores to live performances. Plus, people are super helpful; visitors are warm.

ALTAF ALI
Store Manager
CHAI POINT



GMR Aerocity, for me, is peace. I must mention the efforts of the housekeeping department for always keeping the space spick and span. I often go to One8 Commune. Worldmark 2, where our store is located. It appeared in the web series *Special OPS*; seeing that was an inexplicable feeling.

I have only visited GMR Aerocity about three to four times and I have fallen in love with this place. It has an international charm. My favourite spot is the open space adjacent to the Concierge. And my favourite time of day in GMR Aerocity is the evening. They are magical, with the lights and the music and so many people.

NAVNEET NIGAM
Area Manager
RUVIDO CASO



Working in GMR Aerocity since 2017, I have seen it develop. When I first came, there was not much but the growth has been tremendous and further developments are underway. Aerocity is an excellent place to be as an employee.

DEEPAK KUMAR
Store Manager
MODERN BAZAAR EXPRESS



ANJALI AGNIHOTRI
Assistant Store Manager
FOREST ESSENTIALS



In three and a half years, the experience has been quite good. We welcome international guests and corporate clients, owing to our premium location in GMR Aerocity. Sometimes, I hang out at Bizou Bizou, The Beer Café or One8 Commune. That is the beauty of Aerocity, there is something for everybody here.

AVINASH KUMAR
Restaurant Manager
CAFE DELHI HEIGHTS



OF FESTIVITIES AND CELEBRATIONS

From cultural pop-ups to insightful book talks, GMR Aerocity has seen a vibrant lineup of events. Here's a quick look back



TRI-COLOUR DECOR FOR
79TH INDEPENDENCE DAY
8th-20th August

EVENTS AT utsav



THE NURTURING QUOTIENT:
A CELEBRATION OF
TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP
27th August



FRIDAY JINGLE
25th August



ALL THAT'S JOY
16th July

DASTAAN-E-GHALIB
9th July



LOVE IN WIDE ANGLE BY
ARUNDHATI GHOSH
28th June

BEAUTY WITHIN YOGA:
LIVE YOGA SESSION
WITH ANJALI SHARMA
21st June



CARICATURE ART BY RAKESH JENA
11th-12th June

utsav

More moments that made a mark

BOOK LAUNCH & KAVI
SAMMELAN WITH
NITYA SHUKLA
1st June

JEEVAN, JIGYASA AUR
JAGAHEIN
1st June

MAKE TIME FOR YOUR
CREATIVE SIDE! BY
VAISHNAVI SHARMA
7th June

GLOBAL ART CONTEST
AWARD CEREMONY
14th June

BOOK LAUNCH &
DISCUSSION—
DIAL 100 WITH
KULPREET YADAV
29th June

POSE FOR A CAUSE
3rd-5th July

AN ART UNPLUGGED
WITH VAISHNAVI
9th July

BOOK LAUNCH &
POETIC SESSION —
VICES. VIRTUES. VERSES
BY ADWIKA SINGH
12th July

AEROCITY
CONVERSATION WITH
RAKESH KAUL
18th July

OPEN MIC
19th July

CHILDREN SPECIAL—
STORY OF RESILIENCE
19th July

WHIMSICAL TALES
OF WHISKERS AND
WONDERS
20th July

EVENTS AT THE SQUARE



RAKHI MAKING AT RAKSHA BANDHAN
7th-8th August



WALKATHON 2.0
2nd August



WORLD EMOJI DAY
12th-17th July

MANGO FEST
20th-21st June



INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY
WITH ACHARYA LOKESH
20th-21st June

EVENTS AT WORLDMARK 1, 2 & 3



More moments
that made a mark

INDIAN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC &
SSB BAND
13th August

POP-UP MARKET
22nd -24th August



MANGO FEST 2.0
21st-22nd June

OPEN MIC
14th -15th June and 28th-29th June



SINGLES FEST 2.0
8th June



FROM THE HEART

A candid discussion on empathy and leadership at **Utsav**

Leadership, when rooted in empathy, authenticity, and courage, can not only win markets but also win people's trust and loyalty. This served as the core ethos of an engaging conversation at Utsav, The Square, GMR Aerocity, on 18th July.

Set in the context of the book *Winning Markets With Heart Leadership* by **Rakesh Kaul**, CEO & Managing Director of Livpure, the session between the author and **Mohit Gupta**, co-founder of Friends of books (FROB), redefined what it means to lead in a competitive world.

Kaul described it as "leading with conviction, compassion, and clarity—where success is not measured only in market share but in the lasting impact on people's lives." According to the author, 'Heart Leadership' requires filtering decisions through good sense, even if it goes against conventional thinking.

Drawing from the EM+ (Energy, Motivation, and Positivity) initiative, Kaul illustrated how combining high energy with purpose-driven motivation can transform team morale. "EM+ is about channelling that energy toward shared goals

and creating a culture where people feel challenged and supported," he elaborated.

Of the many crucial points that were deliberated on, one stood out—looking at vulnerability as a sign of strength. Kaul explained that heart leadership involves showing humanity, admitting mistakes, and being open to learning, and that kind of openness fosters trust. ▀

CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP LEFT: Rakesh Kaul (right)
with Mohit Gupta; Kaul's book;
The audience during
the session.

AT THE CORE OF CELEBRATIONS

Enjoy the high life, encompassing work, culture, and world-class experiences across the GMR ecosystem



A WORLD OF ITS OWN

GMR Aerocity Hyderabad—designed with exceptional infrastructure, sustainable operations, open spaces, and a spirit of community—is not just a business hub. Nestled in the heart of the city, close to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, it is a where work meets wonder and every day is a celebration. And it decks up too, in keeping with festivities. From shimmering Diwali lights to spirited Navratri and Ganesh Chaturthi gatherings, every event is celebrated with fervour. Adding to all the joy is FoodLife, the F&B hub that offers seasonal and festive specials. Then there is the GMR Arena. With an 80,000sqft outdoor area and a 45,000sqft pillarless banquet hall, it is truly a versatile venue that has hosted the music concerts of artists like Diljit Dosanjh, Bryan Adams, and Arijit Singh. This year, it will host the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) India. Whether you visit for business or for leisure, GMR Aerocity Hyderabad is your one-stop-shop.

A GLIMPSE OF INDIA'S VIBRANT ARTS

Now, every time you walk into Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, especially Terminal 1 and 3, expect to witness beautiful showcases of the country's rich artistic traditions, especially the performing arts. Launched by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), this first-of-its-kind experiential programme is called 'DEL Vibes'. At its heart are three pillars: music, dance, and curated experiences.

There are engaging hands-on experiences too. Travellers can take part in interactive craft sessions, artist-led workshops, and live demonstrations, adding a tactile dimension as they wait to catch their flights. The programme runs daily from 10AM to 6PM.



GMR AERO'S DELHI DUTY FREE AT IGIA

In a move that has made it a dominant player in travel retail market, GMR Airports Limited (GMR Aero) has officially commenced operations of Delhi Duty Free at Indira Gandhi International Airport on 28th July 2025. This also makes GMR Aero, the largest Duty-Free operator, in India and South Asia. The capital will now join its portfolio alongside Hyderabad, New Goa, and Kannur Duty Free outlets. The addition strengthens GMR's non-aeronautical business and aligns with its long-term strategy of scaling operations, boosting efficiency, and enhancing innovation across its network. By bringing its expertise to India's busiest airport, GMR Aero is poised to position Delhi as a flagship for world-class Duty-Free retail.

A SEASON OF SWEET MOMENTS

Long before the celebrations are set in motion, preparations start in the hotels of GMR Aerocity—from décor and menu to hampers—all running up to the main events

WORDS **TEAM AEROCITY LIVE**

PHOTOGRAPHS **BHARAT BHUSHAN UPADHYAY**



Festivals have an innate ability to bind a country, especially one as vast and diverse as India. And it is the spirit and fervour of these festivals that brings Indians together, albeit a little stronger than usual. Homes are decorated and illuminated, gifts are exchanged, blessings are sought, friends and family gather, and memories are created. And luckily for us, there is no dearth of celebrations in this vast country, with a special mention of north India. More so during this time of year, with Navratri, Durga Puja, Diwali, Bhai Dooj, Karva Chauth and a host of other festivities lined up in succession. A popular Bengali saying sums this beautifully: *Baro maash-e tero parbon* (13 festivals in 12 months).

Taking a cue from the larger-than-life celebratory arrangements that north India indulges in during this season, GMR Aerocity, too, decks up. In fact, the preparations begin even before the first sweet is shared, the first diya is lit, and the first toast is raised—just so everyone can get into the joyful mode and make the most of the festival when it arrives.

Hotel chains across GMR Aerocity take the festive spirit several notches up with hand-picked giftings, themed decorations, specially-curated menus, and more. “Each year, we begin planning well in advance to ensure every festival is celebrated with authenticity and flair,” says Sharad Datta, General Manager at JW Marriott Hotel New

Delhi Aerocity.

Pre-festivities at the Roseate House New Delhi are a treat for the eyes as the hotel transforms into a vibrant celebration of light and tradition. Kush Kapoor, CEO of Roseate Hotels & Resorts, elaborates, “The property is minimalistically adorned with diyas, candles, and intricate *rangolis*, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Our in-house team curates the décor

experience, blending traditional elements with modern elegance.”

Curating a range of attractive offers for guests, aligned with the themes of the upcoming festivals, are the plans underway at Lemon Tree Premier, Delhi Airport. Chef



LEFT TO RIGHT: Sweet bites on display by Roseate House, New Delhi; An assortment of festive treats by Pullman New Delhi Aerocity; Preparing a hamper for the upcoming season at JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity.



We are seeing a growing trend among younger travellers who prefer celebrating and socialising outside their homes



KUSH KAPOOR
CEO, Roseate
Hotels & Resorts



Rajeev Janveja, Senior Vice President and Corporate Chef at Lemon Tree Hotels, informs, "This season, we celebrate the joy of togetherness, the flavour of tradition, and the delight of unforgettable moments. Our pre-festive plans include curating a range of attractive offers for our guests. During Bhai Dooj and Karva Chauth, we would be offering up to 50 per cent discount on our buffet

spread for guests dining with us." Furthermore, Pullman New Delhi Aerocity is simplifying gifting with curated Diwali Hampers featuring five thoughtfully designed goodies. Customisable to suit every preference, they offer complete flexibility for gifting. And not just Indian festivals. In GMR Aerocity, celebrations are international, and for a good reason. As the gateway to India, GMR Aerocity welcomes



Each year, we begin planning well in advance to ensure every festival is celebrated with authenticity and flair



SHARAD DATTA

General Manager
JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity



travellers, visitors, and delegates from across the globe. Echoes Hardip Marwah, General Manager at Andaz Delhi, by Hyatt, "While Diwali remains a key celebration, our plans also include moments around festivals like Oktoberfest, Halloween, and Christmas." For Oktoberfest, the hotel will transform with German-inspired décor, pretzel carts, and beer stations. On Halloween, guests can expect playful, spooky surprises throughout the property. The décor will remain rooted in the hotel chain's ethos of storytelling. "It will be anchored in natural elements, textured materials, and layered lighting, offering a contemporary reinterpretation of Indian festive warmth," Marwah further adds.

JW Marriott's aim is to reflect timeless elegance and luxurious detailing, thoughtfully curated to enhance the guest experience.



Datta notes, "While the vision is led by our in-house teams, we are selectively exploring collaborations with artists whose aesthetic aligns with our brand ethos and can elevate the festive narrative in a meaningful way."

Be it a global event or an Indian one, celebrations always go hand



in hand with good food. From festive brunches to candlelight dinners and from chef-special menus to pop-ups—culinary teams at the GMR Aerocity's hotels curate seasonal menus that bring indulgence and nostalgia to the table. JW Marriott will be relaunching their signature

LEFT TO RIGHT: Preparations are underway at the JW Marriott; Andaz Delhi decks up with beautiful *rangolis* during Diwali; Sweet and savoury offerings at Andaz Delhi; Welcoming guests in festive attire at JW Marriott; Kheer, Roseate House's fine dining, offers exquisite culinary experiences.

Sunday Brunch at K3 that will feature live kitchens, a rotating selection of regional and global fare, and handcrafted cocktails, among other surprising offerings.

Roseate will combine indulgence with wellness by partnering with platforms like Zomato and EazyDiner to roll out exclusive promotions. Kapoor points out that their celebrations are intertwined with mindfulness. "Staying true to our wellness philosophy, our festive sweets, including those from 'Mithai by Roseate', are made using natural alternatives like jaggery, dates, and *khand*, ensuring a balance of taste and health," he explains.

For those looking for a quiet and romantic setting, Lemon



The pre-festive décor will be anchored in natural elements, textured materials, and layered lighting, offering a contemporary reinterpretation of Indian festive warmth



HARDEEP MARWAH

General Manager
Andaz Delhi, by Hyatt





This festive season, we celebrate the joy of togetherness, the flavour of tradition, and the delight of unforgettable moments



CHEF RAJEEV JANVEJA

Senior Vice President
and Corporate Chef
Lemon Tree Hotels



Tree would be offering exclusive personal spaces for guests at poolside gazebos, an experience that would be priced at around INR 11,000. "It will include a candlelight dinner, chef's special curated menu, selected premium beverages, and personalised butler service," says Janveja.

At Andaz, although pre-festivities begin on 21st September, the culinary celebrations will continue till the New Year. So, expect authentic Bavarian food during their Oktoberfest celebrations, special *sattvik thalis* during Navratri, and spooky desserts during Halloween.

Food, décor, and celebrations are integral parts of any

festivities. Yes. But the festive season is also about looking and feeling your best. A wide range of TLC options across GMR Aerocity's hotels will ensure that you rewind, reset, and are party ready. Whether you are a staying at the property or just visiting, feel free to take your pick—from treatments inspired by Indian wellness practices using indigenous ingredients at Andaz Spa to Ayurvedic and wellness offerings like Nadi Pariksha, Craniosacral Therapy, and Naturopathy at Roseate's Aheli Spa. "Around Karva Chauth, we offer couples spa experiences and express rituals. As the weather turns cooler, our hot



potli massage, returns to the menu, offering deep warmth and rejuvenation,” adds Marwah.

These hotels are pulling out all stops to deliver the most immersive dining, bespoke celebrations, and meaningful experiences for the rising number of guests and patrons. Hotels are, as a matter of fact, anticipating an increase in footfall this year, with Datta projecting a 20 per cent increase in covers at K3 and a 25 per cent rise at Adrift Kaya. Marwah predicts a 15–20 per cent increase in overall footfall compared to last year, “driven by evolving preferences for high-touch, boutique-style festive experiences.”

LEFT TO RIGHT: A feast of the senses at Lemon Tree Premier Delhi Airport; Savouring sweets at Andaz Delhi; Dining on an elaborate festive spread at JW Marriott Hotel.

So, let the twinkling lights from the diyas illuminate your life, as you soak in the festive spirit, create lasting memories with friends and family, celebrate to your heart’s fullest, and let GMR Aerocity take care of the rest. **A**

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A BIT MORE ABOUT THE HOTELS...

ROSEATE HOUSE NEW DELHI

(216 WELL-APPOINTED ROOMS)

DEL: An all-day bistro with indoor and alfresco dining and all-day breakfast

Kheer: Fine dining with live cooking stations, a mixology bar, a lounge, and more

Chidya Ghar: A unique ‘old school’ bar run by women

TARA: The rooftop lounge offering a curated selection of drinks and nibbles

Roasted by Roseate: The hotel’s patisserie and boulangerie

ANDAZ DELHI, BY HYATT

(401 ROOMS AND SUITES AND 124 DEDICATED HYATT DELHI RESIDENCES FOR LONG STAYS)

AnnaMaya: A modern food hall

Juniper Bar: India’s first gin bar

Soul Pantry: A mindful, women-led eatery

LEMON TREE PREMIER, DELHI AIRPORT

(280 ROOMS)

Citrus Café: All-day dining restaurant

Republic of Noodles: Signature Pan-Asian cuisine restaurant

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL NEW DELHI AEROCITY

(485+ ROOMS)

K3–New Delhi’s Food Theatre: An all-day dining restaurant

ADRIFT Kaya: A modern Japanese restaurant

Delhi Baking Company: The hotel’s patisserie

JW Lounge: Offers superlative beverages and hors d’oeuvres



BRIGHTEST MOMENTS

A look back at GMR Aerocity's most dazzling Diwali celebrations made with lights, laughter, and unforgettable memories



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Diwali-special installations lighting up GMR Aerocity after dark; Visitors are seen exploring the festive lanes; Expats and international guests taking in the Diwali décor; GMR Aerocity coming alive with lights and colour, every festive season.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Diwali celebrations taking the centre stage at GMR Aerocity with a grand installation; Cultural performances light up the season, every year, making memories richer for the visitors; Pop-up stalls and festive markets drawing the crowds; Festive décor lights up every corner of The Square.







FACING PAGE (TOP AND BOTTOM): An aerial view of The Square as it shimmers with festive lights; Lotus installations are auspicious and symbolic of prosperity; THIS PAGE (TOP AND BOTTOM): The Square lights up extra during the festive season; GMR Aerocity is abuzz with activity and glitters during this time.



THE CIRCLE OF HAPPINESS

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



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INSIGHTS

Spotlight **44** | Tête-à-Tête **46** | Chef'sTable **50** | Perspectives **52**

GATEWAY TO TOMORROW

THE NEXT CHAPTER

GMR Aerocity's newest precinct blends India's largest mall, luxury hotels, premium offices, and vibrant public spaces—setting the stage for Delhi's next business and lifestyle landmark.

Page 42



WHERE THE FUTURE CHECKS IN

Ready for a world-class workplace, retail experience, or brand showcase? The Gateway District in GMR Aerocity, is your destination for future-first business and lifestyle

WORDS **SAYANTI HALDER**

Tucked next to the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, something extraordinary is taking shape. The Gateway District is not just an expansion of GMR Aerocity; it is the next leap in reimagining how India's urban development shapes.

A NEW URBAN CHAPTER UNFOLDS

Spanning 70 acres, this visionary precinct is a bold continuation of GMR Aerocity's transformation into India's first true Global Business District (GBD). GMR Aerocity, is well-known for its diverse offerings of retail, F&B options, premium hotels, long stays, and office spaces housing 100+ corporates. Now, GMR Aerocity is adding a fresh stock of offices and retail space with newly-approved commercial towers and an upcoming 2.8 million sqft retail mall in the Gateway District, and is set to become the country's largest integrated retail-entertainment hub. But this is not growth for growth's sake. With top-notch buildings, designed by the renowned PLP Architecture (London), the Gateway District weaves smart commercial spaces, luxurious hotels, and vibrant plazas into one cohesive, connected whole—creating an ecosystem that pulses with energy, innovation, and intent.

COMMERCE. CULTURE. CONNECTIVITY

At its heart, the Gateway District is a confluence, where luxury meets logistics, global brands

shake hands with local energy, and the lines between business and lifestyle blur. The skyline here is changing fast. Towering over the horizon will soon be Aerocity One, a Grade-A commercial address for top-tier corporates. This is a district where a CXO can land, host a boardroom pitch, unwind at a Michelin-star restaurant, and still catch a flight—all in a day. Furthermore, the Transit Centre—a multi-layered ecosystem—would become a vital hub seamlessly connecting RRTS, Airport Express, Delhi Metro, and APM corridors.

BUILT FOR WORK, AND EVERYTHING BEYOND

The Gateway District is envisioned as a 24/7 live-work-play destination. At full capacity, it can house hundreds of global HQs and regional offices, supported by five million sqft of premium commercial space and 2.8 million sqft of high-impact retail. But beyond the numbers, it is the experience that truly matters. From sunlit boulevards and interactive retail zones to green spaces, this urban design puts people first. Add to that, over 100 curated F&B experiences, spanning artisanal cafés, rooftop lounges, and grab-and-go bistros, and it starts feeling less like a corporate zone and more like a thriving metropolis.

PUBLIC SPACES THAT INVITE YOU IN

What really sets GMR Aerocity and its new Gateway District apart is its placemaking ethos. It is designed to be walked, lingered in, and loved. Expect a calendar full of cultural programmes, community gatherings, and lifestyle events across beautiful zones like: **Utsav**—A celebration plaza for festivals and public art

The Square—A buzzing courtyard for casual mingling and performances

The Commons—An upcoming hybrid space of retail, leisure, and curated experiences

Performing Arts Centre—A stage for shows, talks, and cultural activations

Green Corridors—Tree-lined pathways for walks and jogs

Sports and Recreation Zones—Built-in wellness amenities for a healthier life and mind

WHY NEW DELHI? WHY NOW?

New Delhi has always been India's window to the world and a gateway to India—where tradition meets diplomacy, and heritage dances with ambition. And now, with India's tourism sector aiming for USD one trillion by 2047, the city is powering up as the country's front-facing engine of growth. The capital is where India's narrative is shaped every day. In this context, GMR Aerocity not only makes sense, but also feels inevitable.

THE DISTRICT THAT REDEFINES THE CITY

GMR Aerocity, New Delhi is not just another dot on the map. It is a blueprint. A model for how Indian cities can grow smarter, cleaner, and more connected, while staying people centric. Here, every square foot is designed to serve both function and feeling. The pulse of commerce, the joy of discovery, the ease of access, and the rhythm of modern life—all come together in one, forward-facing address. This is not just where the future checks in. It is where it chooses to stay. ■

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ON THE FAST TRACK

Sophisticated planning that combines office and retail spaces, plus seamless connectivity and access, make GMR Aerocity an ideal urban project

WORDS SAMAI SINGH

Every capital city in the world has a downtown. A buzzing corporate centre with hotels, F&B, and retail, and GMR Aerocity could be well on the right track to becoming Delhi's downtown, ticking all the relevant boxes. With 30 million sqft of mixed commercial development, it is definitely the futuristic high street of Delhi, offering everything you need, whether you are transiting or having a day out. With hotels like Andaz Delhi, JW Marriott, Roseate House, Pullman New Delhi, among others, it offers global fare across its many restaurants and cafés.

What is adding to the buzz is the fact that as a transit hub, it meets all the requirements; a traveller does not need to step out of GMR Aerocity and step onto the traffic-congested roads.

The Airport Express Line (**Orange Line**), a high-speed metro corridor connects the New Delhi Railway Station to IGIA T3 (via Delhi GMR Aerocity) and further to Dwarka Sector-21 and Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector-25. Inaugurated in 2011, this line connects six stations and takes about 21 minutes of estimated travel time to drop passengers at the Delhi Airport from New Delhi Railway Station.

In fact, it provides direct access to IGI Airport Terminal 3, which is a short walk or shuttle ride to Terminal 1. This makes it super convenient for business travellers, inbound visitors, and commuters within National Capital Region (NCR). Commuters can also change to other Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) lines, including **Magenta, Blue, and Yellow** to reach shopping districts, notable landmarks or office hubs in Delhi, Gurugram or NOIDA.

In fact, access to GMR Aerocity is likely to get even better as it is poised to become a major interchange metro station. The



CONNECTING THE DOTS

GMR's dedicated shuttle service runs between GMR Aerocity Metro Station and IGI Airport, helping travellers zip across in comfort. Whether you are arriving via metro or heading to another terminal, this is the most efficient way to bridge the gap. Need to switch terminals? GMR's Inter-Terminal Shuttle ensures a hassle-free transfer. Buses run every 20 minutes, and even non-connecting passengers can hop on for a nominal fee.

station will be connected with the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) station, the Tughlakabad-GMR Aerocity (**Golden Line**) corridor, and the Airport Express Line (which also has a stop at GMR Aerocity). Under Phase IV, the DMRC will connect the Kashmere Gate-Raja Nahar Singh (Ballabhgarh) (**Violet Line**) with the Airport Express Line. This 15-station Golden Line (which was originally called Silver but changed to Golden since the latter can be displayed more prominently and clearly on the trains rather than silver) will enhance connectivity to GMR Aerocity from many



CLOCKWISE FROM FACING PAGE: The Airport Express line connects NDLS to IGIA; Trains running on this line are designed to accommodate luggage; Delhi Metro cards eliminate the need to queue up for tickets.

prominent areas in the southern part of the national capital, including Saket G Block, Vasant Kunj, and Mahipalpur.

According to news reports, Delhi Metro is currently working on three priority corridors to cover a total distance of 65km. Simultaneously, construction work on the Janakpuri West-RK Ashram (Magenta Line) and Tughlakabad-GMR Aerocity (Golden Line) segments is slated to be completed by March 2026.

This kind of unmatched connectivity to a class-apart GBD and airport zones—all via seamless public transit—places GMR Aerocity at a super advantage. **A**

FUTURE LINES

How connectivity is likely to get a boost

GOLDEN LINE

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's Tughlakabad-GMR Aerocity Golden Line is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by March 2026. The 23.62km line, will connect southern Delhi to the IGI Airport.

YELLOW LINE

This line, currently running between Samaypur Badli and Millennium City Centre Gurugram (with a station in New Delhi, which connects to GMR Aerocity via Orange Line), is all set to extend from Samaypur Badli to Sonipat.

The extension is expected to cover 26.5km, linking Nathupur to Rithala, and is scheduled for completion by 2028.

DELHI-ALWAR RRTS CORRIDOR

The proposed Delhi-Alwar Namoo Bharat RRTS from Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan to Rajasthan's Alwar will be developed in three phases along the Delhi-Jaipur Highway. This corridor will boost regional connectivity and promote economic growth.

EXPANSION PLANS IN THE WORKS

According to news reports, the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) is planning for an extension of the under-construction Golden Line Metro track that will connect GMR Aerocity to Kalindi Kunj. This corridor will connect Noida International Airport to Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI). The extension includes two new stations at Sarita Vihar and Madanpur Khadar.



SCALING WITH INTENT

With a landmark project at GMR Aerocity, **Zubin Saxena**, Senior Vice President & Regional Head, South Asia, Hilton, discusses growth guided by purpose and shaping the future of luxury stays in India

WORDS **SAYANTI HALDER**

Could you share Hilton's strategic vision for GMR Aerocity?

Our partnership with GMR Group-led DIAL brings Hilton's luxury and full-service brands to the heart of Delhi's best-connected hospitality and commercial district. These projects will strengthen our presence in Delhi-NCR. It was a strategic expansion for Hilton as GMR Aerocity is India's first global business district. We are aligned with the long-term vision that the GMR Group has, to bring global brands to GMR Aerocity, thereby positioning the location as an epicentre for Delhi's tourism and business economy. We are looking for the right partners, locations, and cities for our global brands. Every new opportunity must check these crucial boxes, and then we collaborate closely with our owners to deliver the Hilton hospitality and experience. GMR Aerocity's unique mix of scale, connectivity, and international character positions it as the natural fit for our future-ready growth plan. We are confident of GMR Aerocity setting new benchmarks in urban and hospitality infrastructure, and the choice of this location to open the capital's first Waldorf Astoria and the first Hilton Hotels and Resorts synced seamlessly.

Tell us more about Hilton's vision for these two properties.

We are introducing two landmark hotels at GMR Aerocity, which will represent the full spectrum of Hilton's premium and luxury offerings. Waldorf Astoria New Delhi, with 150 rooms and suites, will offer the brand's hallmarks of effortless luxury, elegant services, and culinary excellence. Guests will experience Peacock Alley, the iconic social heart of every Waldorf Astoria worldwide. Right next door, the 350-key Hilton Hotels & Resorts will mark the

debut of the Hilton Hotels & Resorts property in New Delhi. Designed for today's business and leisure travellers, this property will feature sophisticated rooms, multiple dining experiences, modern event spaces, and vibrant social hubs. Together, these properties will form a connected hospitality ecosystem, anchored in Hilton's global standards yet enriched with local design, flavour, and culture.

What role does GMR-led DIAL play in shaping this collaboration?

India is a critical part of Hilton's global growth strategy. As one of the world's largest and most dynamic markets, it represents a major opportunity across brand segments—from luxury to premium economy. It is the shared vision of Hilton and GMR Group that brought our landmark agreement to life. We collectively see the location not just as an airport adjunct, but as a world-class, mixed-use hub that blends business, leisure, and lifestyle. This will be Hilton's first dual complex hotel portfolio in Delhi and is strategically important as we expand the brand into captive markets to address city gaps.

How are you tailoring experiences for Indian and international guests alike?

We have established comprehensive guidelines that outline the core elements of each brand, ensuring consistency in quality and guest experience, and allowing flexibility for regional adaptations. We are entering high-growth corridors and cities with our eyes on the big picture—the appetite is right, and India is one of the fastest-growing hospitality markets in the world. Our two properties at GMR Aerocity will be the true essence of our global brands through their design, appeal, and

services. Waldorf Astoria hotels are renowned for delivering an effortless experience, seamlessly creating a true sense of place for guests through stunning architecture, refined art collections, Michelin-starred dining, and elevated in-room amenities. Hilton Hotels & Resorts has set the benchmark for hospitality, providing new product innovations and services to meet guests' evolving needs.

How are the hotels customised for corporate and leisure guests?

Travellers no longer draw lines between business and leisure; they are living one fluid experience and expect spaces that allow them to switch between these two with ease. Both brands will deliver experiences that mirror the brand's character and essence. We aim to serve the discerning guest in their entirety—whether closing a deal, unwinding after a meeting or blending both in one stay. This comprehensive approach ensures every touchpoint reflects the refined service and timeless elegance of Hilton and Waldorf Astoria.

How has Hilton's India playbook evolved in the last few years?

Five years ago, India was part of a broader Asia Pacific growth plan. Today, it is a strategic priority region with its own investment and brand expansion roadmap. Our playbook has shifted in two ways. First, portfolio depth; moving beyond the formulaic markets to building across segments, from luxury to focused service, in both gateway metros and high-growth secondary markets. Second, brand introductions; with five existing brands, we are set to double that number soon (Spark by Hilton, Waldorf Astoria, LXR Hotels & Resorts, Signia by Hilton, and Curio Collection).

What strategic shifts are guiding your next decade?

It is about scale with intent: a balanced footprint, deeper owner partnerships, and hotels that can compete globally while being relevant to the Indian guest. That is how we see India shaping Hilton's global story.

How do you view India's role in Hilton's global growth strategy?

India is one of Hilton's fastest-growing markets, with 2025 poised to be a landmark year for signings and openings that put us on track to grow to ten times our current size over the next decade. With another one hundred million people joining the Indian middle class between now and the end of the decade, we are capturing demand in the mid-market and expanding our luxury offerings on the back of rising affluence. We are on track to quadruple our luxury brand presence in India after our first Conrad in Bengaluru.

Any traveller behaviour or industry shift you are betting on in 2026?

A clear shift that is going to stay and transcend beyond 2026 is that travel is no longer about impulsive, luxury splurges; but, about intention, connection, and personal fulfilment. We are betting on travellers who prioritise depth of experience—seeking wellness-focused stays, exceptional culinary journeys, and authentic local immersion. In India, that means deepening the pillars that matter most here: dining, wellness, and spaces that adapt seamlessly from business to celebration.

What defines Hilton's new India era?

Laser-sharp focus. Picking the right partners; empowering our teams; and staying deeply connected to the market pulse. ▣



HOTEL MOMENTUM INDIA (HMI)

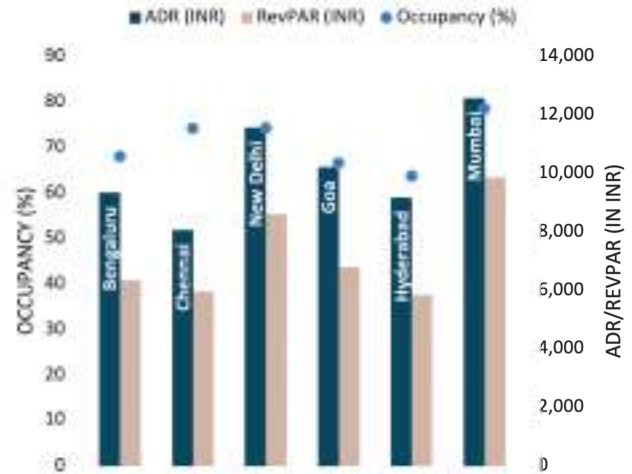
QUATERLY HOSPITALITY MONITOR FROM JLL INDIA Q2 2025

Key Hotel Market Performance

Cities	Q2 2025		
	Change over same period last year		
	RevPAR Change (%)	OCC Change (pp)	ADR Change (%)
Bengaluru	↑ 29.4	↑ 6.7	↑ 21.1
Chennai	↑ 17.1	↑ 5.2	↑ 11.2
Delhi	↑ 21.6	↑ 3.8	↑ 17.1
Goa	↓ -5.4	↔ 0.2	↓ -5.2
Hyderabad	↑ 17.8	↔ -0.7	↑ 18.6
Mumbai	↑ 17.6	↑ 1.0	↑ 16.5

Source: STR RevPAR: ↑ Increase ↔ Stable ↓ Decrease

Q2 2025 Performance Trend Chart



Source: STR



Review Highlights

- Top markets continue to witness strong YoY growth in RevPAR performance in Q2 2025, largely driven by ADR growth in key markets, as occupancy levels start to stabilise
- Bengaluru continues to demonstrate the highest RevPAR growth of 29.4% in Q2 2025, driven by rate strengthening, wherein both ADR and occupancy witnessed a consistent growth throughout the year
- Hyderabad showcased a strong growth in ADR by 18.6% over 2024, driven by increased corporate movement and investment activities reflecting strong pricing power
- Similarly, Chennai, Delhi, and Mumbai showcased high growth on RevPAR, and ADR supported by consistent occupancy growth with summer travel, government activities, and sustained corporate movement
- The quarter saw exceptionally strong activity with a total no. of signings in Q2 2025 stood at 106 hotels with 13,398 keys



Industry News

- Leela Hotels launched India's largest hospitality IPO worth INR 3,500 crore in May 2025. The company manages 13 hotels with 3,553 keys across key business and leisure destinations
- Marriott International acquired a stake in India's Concept Hospitality for USD 15 million (valued at USD 100 million) to launch "Series by Marriott," integrating The Fern's 84 operational hotels and 31 pipeline properties totaling 8,000 rooms
- Accor and InterGlobe invested jointly in Treebo (800 hotels, 120 cities) to develop Ibis and Mercure brands via master license, with 10 new Mercure properties. The alliance creates 30,000+ rooms, leveraging Treebo's tech platform to tap the unbranded hotel market
- Cineline India, the publicly-traded movie theater chain under realty developer Kanakia Group, has completed the sale of its Goa-based Hyatt Centric hotel to Sparsh Vidhyut for INR 270 crore enterprise value. The property was held via the company's wholly-owned subsidiary R&H Spaces



Supply & Demand Growth for Six Cities



Supply
0.46%



Demand
3%

Leader Speak

Manoj Agarwal

Chief Operating Officer, Brigade Hotel Ventures

"India's hospitality growth story is showing sustained momentum, driven by robust domestic demand both in business and leisure segment, and aided by steady calendar of spiritual and sporting events, concerts and business conferences. With the structural growth drivers that we have in place now as an economy and especially for hospitality, I firmly believe that Indian hospitality has broken the cyclical mold and entered a linear growth phase, and the best is yet to come. Right asset at the right location built at right cost, which is also our philosophy, will be the key."



Branded Hotel Openings

No. of hotels: 29

No. of keys: 2,710

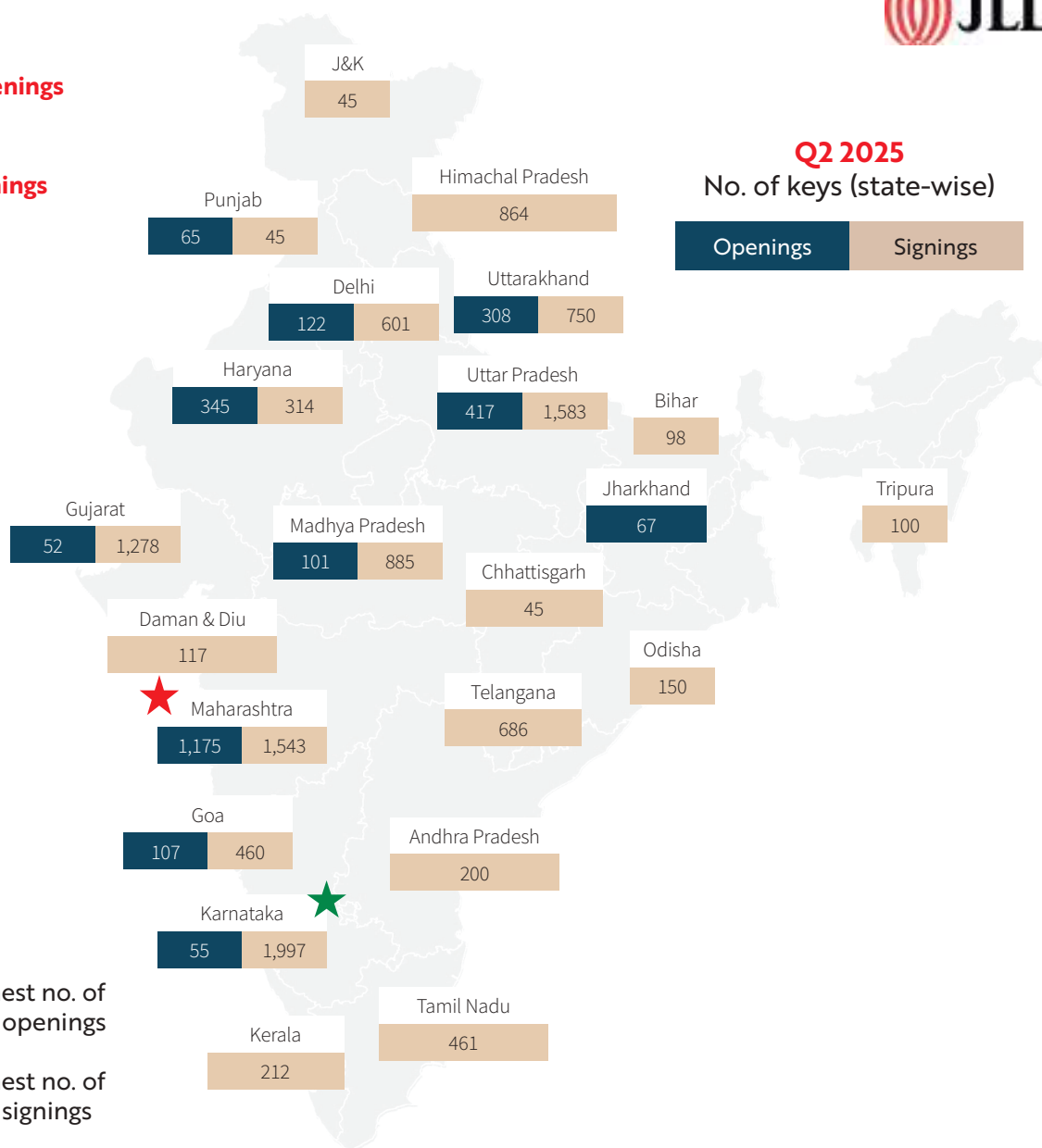
Branded Hotel Signings

No. of hotels: 106

No. of keys: 13,398

Q2 2025

No. of keys (state-wise)



★ State with highest no. of branded hotel openings

★ State with highest no. of branded hotel signings

Tier-wise break-up for Q2 2025

Tier	Branded - Hotel Openings		Branded - Hotel Signings	
	Hotels	Keys	Hotels	Keys
I	8	1,158	29	5,199
II	12	947	34	4,216
III	7	480	32	2,919
IIII	2	125	11	1,064

Classification-wise break-up for Q2 2025

Category	Branded - Hotel Openings		Branded - Hotel Signings	
	Hotels	Keys	Hotels	Keys
Luxury	2	602	14	2,083
Upper Upscale	-	-	15	2,524
Upscale	6	593	28	3,671
Midscale	18	1,367	33	3,178
Economy	3	148	16	1,942



SERVING HERITAGE ON A PLATTER

At Roseate House, New Delhi, **Chef Gagandeep Singh Bedi** spotlights India's micro-cuisines, blending heritage, ingredients, and storytelling

WORDS **GEETIKA SACHDEV**



India's culinary map is vast, layered with flavours that shift not just from state to state but sometimes from one district to the next. Tribal cooking traditions, forgotten royal recipes, and regional techniques passed down through generations often remain confined to local kitchens. But in the evolving world of luxury dining, these micro-cuisines are slowly stepping into the spotlight. At the forefront of this shift is Roseate House, New Delhi, where food is looked at through the lens of a cultural archive and a luxury experience. Leading this journey is Chef Gagandeep Singh Bedi, Director of Culinary at Roseate Hotels and Resorts. He has led Roseate's gourmet vision for four years, paving the way to give India's lesser-known cuisines the recognition they deserve.

SPOTLIGHTING UNHEARD VOICES

Unlike many hotels that rely on celebrity chefs, Bedi prefers to collaborate with home cooks,

artisans, and regional specialists. "Our focus is to bring unknown chefs to the limelight," he says. Roseate House has worked with Dr. Manisha Oraon from Jharkhand, who runs a farm-to-fork initiative in her village, and Chef Aketoli from Nagaland, whose restaurant Ethnic Table was ranked among India's top 30 by critic Vir Sanghvi. "These chefs come with authenticity, stories, and ingredients that guests may never have experienced before," explains Bedi.

LOCAL FLAVOURS THAT SURPRISE

Of all his explorations, Nagaland's rustic tribal cuisine left the deepest impression. Fermented bamboo shoots, fiery local ginger, and earthy vegetables revealed a palate unlike anything most urban diners had encountered. To sustain this ethos, Roseate House also partners with regional producers, sourcing Lakadong turmeric from Meghalaya and Nadia ginger from Nagaland

for its kitchens. "Luxury today is about authenticity, storytelling, and simplicity," adds Bedi. "Guests want unique experiences that connect them to different cultures and communities."

FESTIVE TASTES

In August 2025, Roseate House shone a spotlight on Gujarat's Kutch and Kathiawad regions, delving deep into their micro-cuisines. The months ahead promise an exciting line-up of festivals. Talks are underway for a Bengali showcase of lost recipes from Kolkata's old quarters, along with an international Malaysian festival later in the year. For Chef Bedi, food is never just flavour. It is a memory, a heritage, and a narrative. "When you tell the story behind a dish, people respect and appreciate it more," he says.

Roseate House continues to reimagine luxury dining as an immersive cultural experience—one that connects the diner to heritage, community, and discovery, one plate at a time. ■



WASTE NOT, CELEBRATE MÓRE

Prashant Singh, Co-founder & CEO of Blue Planet Environmental Solutions, on waste-free celebrations, circular design, and turning impact into a movement

WORDS **SAYANTI HALDER**

For the readers, can you tell us what your company stands for?

We turn waste into worth. Blue Planet is a Singapore-based, clean-tech platform driving ESG, decarbonisation, and circular economy solutions across Asia, New Zealand, and the Middle East.

What kind of impact are you making—globally and in India?

We have diverted more than 14 million tonnes of waste, reclaimed over 600 acres, replaced more than 2 million tonnes of fossil fuel, processed 25,000 plus metric tonnes daily, recovered thousands of tonnes of E-waste, and built circular systems that align with net-zero goals.

Why did you choose GMR Aerocity for your India headquarters?

GMR Aerocity is India's cleanest corridor of innovation and influence. It keeps us plugged into policy, enterprise, and partnerships that help scale climate impact.

How does GMR Aerocity mirror Blue Planet's ethos?

Like us, GMR Aerocity is agile, modern, and built for the future. We do not just manage waste—we redesign systems. It is a perfect fit.

What does 'sustainable celebration' mean to you?

It is the joy without the junk. Be it composting in India, digital gifting in the Middle East, or recycling in Singapore—it is all about celebrating consciously and leaving nothing behind.

What are the biggest festive waste challenges?

Plastics, food waste, and over-



Most people forget that post-party waste is still brand impact. We partner with brands to recover, recycle, and regenerate—long after the lights go out



packaging. The fix is smarter: compost, reuse, gift light, and support brands that eliminate waste from design to disposal.

Do you think enough brands are thinking about waste after the party ends?

Not enough. Most companies tend to forget that post-party waste also affects their brand impact. We partner with brands to recover, recycle, and regenerate—long after the lights go out.

What is your most game-changing innovation?

Our Integrated Landfill Mining Solution recovers RDF, recyclables, washed soil, and land—while leaving zero emissions. Paired with EnergyBin™ and BioQUBE, our mobile anaerobic digesters, we decentralise biogas production. Add E-waste Recovery and Biofuel Innovation, and we reclaim energy, eliminate toxins, and restore ecosystems.

What new offerings is Blue Solutions launching soon?

Our XR-led Blue Nudge climate campaign and an advanced plastic-to-lumber line—turning plastic waste into pallets and fencing. Waste converts to product. Impact becomes visible.

What keeps your team driven, especially in a high-growth

environment like India?

We see change instead of challenges. A dump site becomes a wetland, waste turns into treasure and a child becomes a climate leader.

Is urban India waking up to sustainability?

It is shifting from symbolic to strategic. Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) is a boardroom priority. Brands want verified impact. Consumers demand it. We make it happen.

Has the festive season ever inspired your brand for a sustainability campaign?

Our Waste-Free Diwali Kit and Clean-Up Challenge combined culture and climate. Communities competed to recycle the most. The result? Conscious celebration, collective action.

What three values define Blue Planet's festive philosophy?

It is simple: gratitude for natural resources, responsibility in usage, and regeneration through action.

One waste myth you would like to burst for our readers.

"My waste will not matter." It will. Every device recycled, every bin composted, every bottle reused adds up. Waste is a system. So is change. Ready to go circular? Let us build the future together. ■



ROOTED IN POLICY, DRIVEN BY PASSION

With the 'ISR Champion Passport', GMR Group turned 75 days
into a movement of gratitude and giving



For GMR Group, social responsibility is not just a corporate mandate—it is a deeply held core value. To further embed this deeper into their workplace culture, the Group launched the 'ISR Champion Passport', a unique 75-day campaign of gratitude, kindness, and impact, encouraging employees to give back in ways that matter to them. Held from 1st May to 14th July, 2025, the campaign saw over 8,000 employees receive special passports to document their various acts of service. These could be performed individually or in groups, within GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) programmes or within the employees' own communities—offering a flexible, inclusive platform for participation.

The range of activities was as vibrant as any celebration.

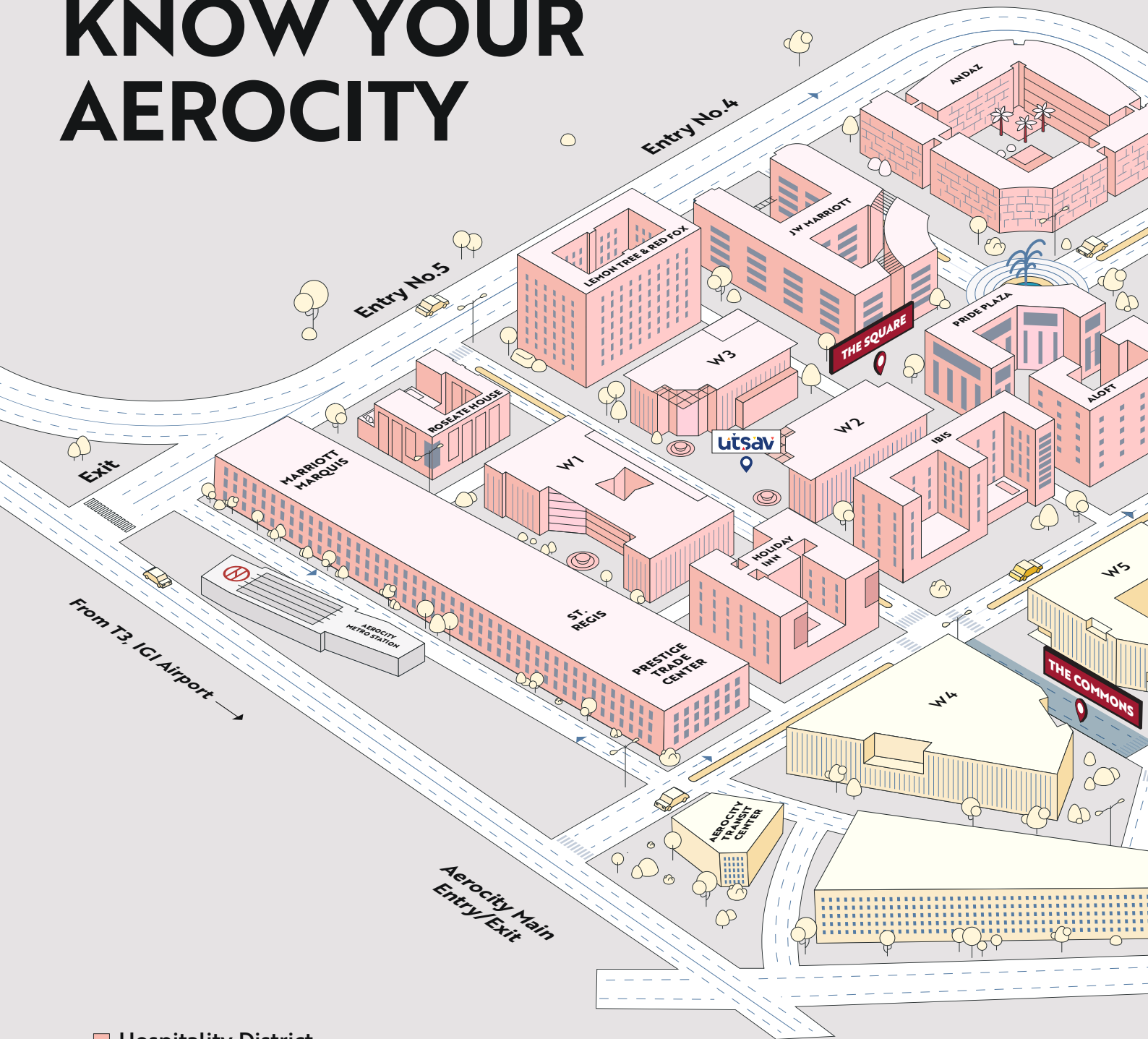
Volunteers planted saplings, narrated stories to children, mentored students, supported Anganwadi centres, distributed groceries and school kits, and held sessions on digital literacy, health, and hygiene. Craft-making with recycled materials, yoga workshops, and road safety awareness drives brought colour and creativity to the campaign.

Acts of service were not limited to GMR Foundation programmes; employees also contributed in their communities, spreading festive goodwill far and wide. Importantly, the campaign saw active participation not just from junior teams but also from CEOs and senior leadership, who led by example, reinforcing the spirit of volunteerism across levels.

The initiative is grounded in GMR Group's Employee Volunteering Policy, which encourages every team

member to dedicate up to 16 paid volunteering hours annually through GMRVF-approved channels. Leaders across levels led by example, fostering an environment where giving is valued just as much as professional excellence. Volunteers of the 'ISR Champion Passport' initiative were recognised through milestone-based titles like 'Kindness Explorer', 'Ripple Creator', 'Impact Creator', and 'Changemaker'. The top 25 contributors, based on volunteering hours, earned a special opportunity to interact directly with the Group Chairman. Much like festivals bring people together in joy and purpose, the ISR Champion Passport united GMRites in a shared celebration of compassion. It proved that with every small act of kindness, we light a lamp of hope—both, in our communities and each other. ■

KNOW YOUR AEROCITY



■ Hospitality District

The Square

F&B

Union Artisan Coffee
Chai Point
Sugar & Spice
Blue Tokai

Retail

Minaki
Ruvdo Caso
Manan
Kama Ayurveda
Chique
Nicobar

ATM

ICICI Bank

Refreshment

Banaras Paan

Convenience Store

Modern Bazaar Express

Salon

Looks Privé

Utsav

Worldmark 1

Punjab Grill
Kampai

Worldmark 2

Kylin
One8 Commune

Worldmark 3

Burma Burma
Mesa Kitchen and bar
Café Delhi Heights

Hotels

Holiday Inn

Viva All Day Dining
L' Osteria Bella
Hangar Lounge and Bar
Airobakes

Ibis

Spice It
Spice It Bar

Aloft

Nook
W XYZ bar
Re:fuel by Aloft
Ginza
Toy Room

Pride Plaza

Mr Confectioner
Café Pride
Oriental Spice
Stallion Bar and Lounge
Aqua Grill

Pullman & Novotel

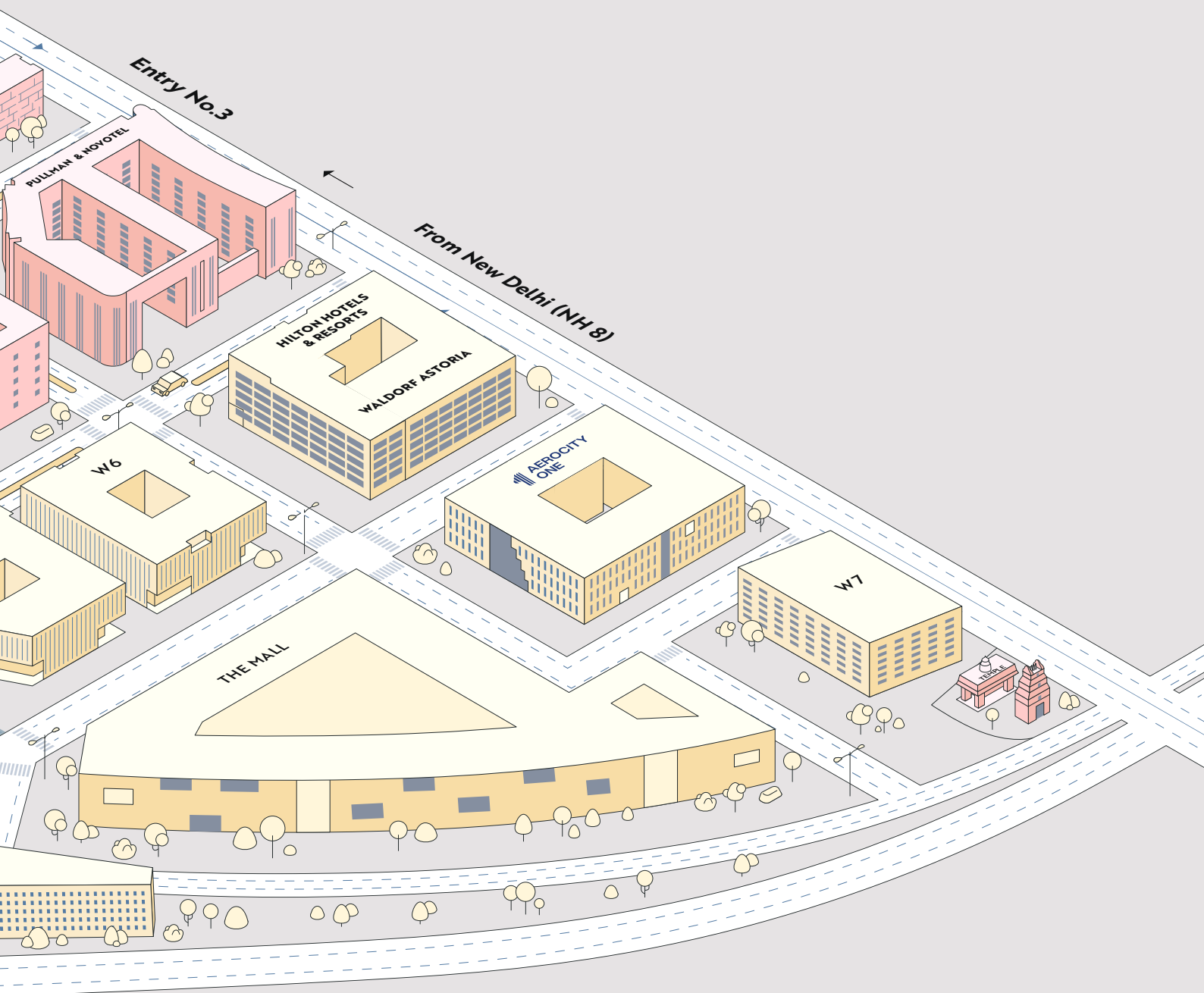
Farmers' Basket at Pluck
Café Pluck
Honk
Pling
Food Exchange at Novotel
Quoin Bar at Novotel

Andaz Delhi, By Hyatt

AnnaMaya
Juniper Bar
Soul Pantry

JW Marriott

K3
ADRIFT Kaya
Delhi Baking Company
JW Lounge
Norman



 **Gateway District**
(Upcoming)

Lemon Tree & Redfox
Citrus Cafe
Republic of Noodles
Clever Fox Cafe

Roseate
Kheer
DEL
Tara
Chidya Ghar
Roasted By Roseate

Marriott Marquis*
St. Regis*
Prestige Trade Center*

Amenities

Temple - Hanuman and Sai Baba Temple
98.4 Chemist
Aerocity Metro Station
Restrooms in common area
Concierge Desk

Note :
W stands for Worldmark
For more information, please turn to page 82

 **AEROCITY
ONE**

Aerocity Transit Center
Hilton Hotels & Resort
Waldorf Astoria
Worldmark 4
Worldmark 5
Worldmark 6
Worldmark 7
The Mall

KNOW ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING ABOUT AEROCITY, JUST SAY 'HI' TO US

GET REGULAR UPDATES ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AEROCITY FROM
OUR AUTOMATED INTERACTIVE CHATBOT



SCAN TO CONNECT
Your GMR Aerocity journey
starts here
+91 70423 33053



LAYOVER LUXE

A hand is pouring a liquid from a glass pitcher into a glass containing a tea bag. The glass is sitting on a wooden coaster, and there is a lot of smoke rising from the glass, creating a dramatic effect. The background is dark.

Culture **61** | Retail Therapy **62** | Detours **68** | Connections **72**

RAISING THE BAR

CHEERS TO FESTIVITY!

This season, GMR Aerocity's bars are buzzing with innovation and classic sensations alongside Indian-inspired pours redefining how we sip. Sample Kampai's Wood cocktail, whiskey-based blend with dominant notes of orange and smoke, with marshmallow on the top.

Page 66

THE ART OF GIFTING

A peek into the past that shaped the 'present'

In India's royal courts, gifting was never just an exchange; it was an emotional storytelling. In Mughal darbars, nobles presented jewelled *nazrana*: silver trays, hand-painted texts—each gift symbolising allegiance and artistry in equal measure. Maharajas sent silver-lidded jars of saffron, embroidered textiles or hand-milled attar in crystal vials. In ancient India, royal families conducted ceremonies like *hiranyagarbha* (golden womb donation) as powerful symbolic gifts, expressions of sovereignty, and spiritual merit. Later, gifts like elephants, horses, and jewels marked diplomatic ties and prestige between kingdoms. Colonial-era gifting shifted the scale—leather-bound

hampers, monogrammed trunks, and imported cheeses became symbols of sophistication.

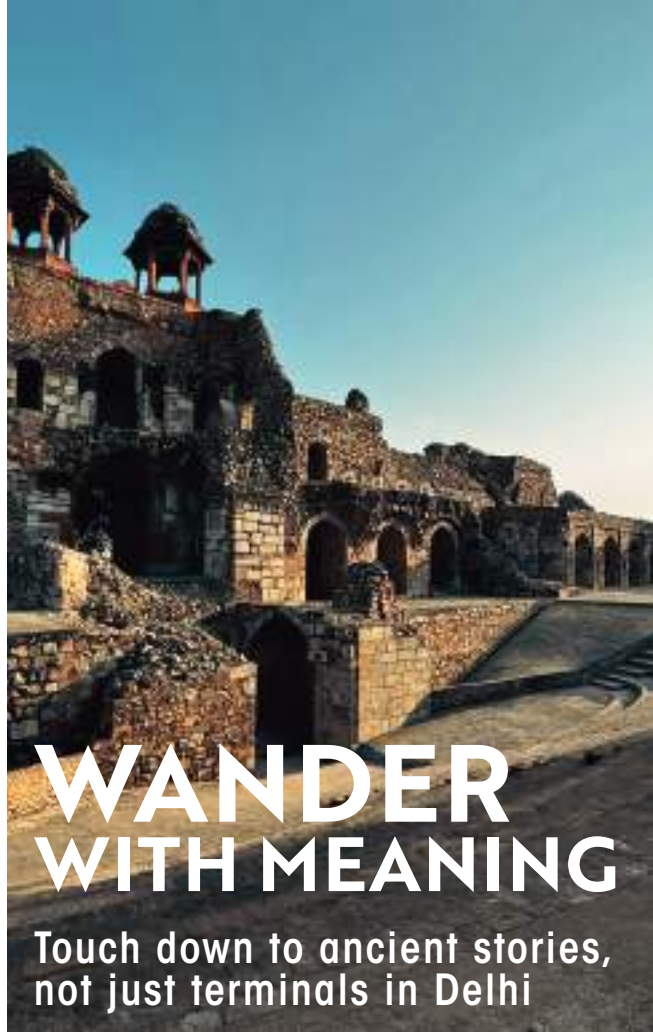
When the Nawab of Arcot presented the Arcot diamonds to Queen Charlotte in 1777, it was a gesture of political allegiance and grandeur, an emblem of royal exchange between Indian and British thrones. Wedding trays, in elite circles, once held ladoos embedded with coins or silver—acts of gifting that combined indulgence with discreet status display.

Long before gift hampers became a trend, Diwali gifting in north Indian merchant families was marked by 'Diwali Daak', a deeply-personal tradition of sending gifts, sweets, and handwritten notes to extended

family, clients, and business associates. By the 1980s, Delhi's elite were queuing up at stores for gold-leafed ladoos and *soan papdi*, and ordering custom curios. Long queues during the festive season reflect its role in ceremonial gifting.

Today's curated hotel hampers are the editorial heirs of this legacy. In airline lounges, gifting evolved into mindfully-chosen duty-free indulgences.

Aerocity New Delhi carries on this legacy through its vast range of hotels and retail outlets. Only now, it is truffle oil and single-origin coffee in minimalist hampers. But the intent remains unchanged: to offer a part of yourself with care, curiosity, and celebration. ▢



WANDER WITH MEANING

Touch down to ancient stories, not just terminals in Delhi



LAYOVER LUXE > CULTURE



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Ancient ruins of Purana Qila;
View of Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya;
Connaught Place at dusk.

GMR Aerocity is seen as a place of transit, an upscale hospitality district where people arrive, meet, and move on. But what if it became something more? A place not just to stay, but to start a story?

In a first-of-its-kind collaboration, India City Walks (ICW) and India Experiences have partnered with the GMR Group to reimagine GMR Aerocity as a cultural gateway to Delhi.

The initiative brings curated storytelling, guided trails, and immersive experiences to travellers and locals alike, right from the IGI Airport. Guests can join walking tours that explore Delhi's rich heritage, moving beyond familiar monuments to uncover spiritual sites, pre-Mughal settlements, and modern cultural institutions. Highlights include the Purana

Qila, linked with the ancient city of Indraprastha; the Yogmaya precinct in Mehrauli; and the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya which displays India's democratic journey. Trails also feature Agrasen ki Baoli, showcasing early urban water systems and Gandhi Smriti. As part of these experiences, you are also invited to explore India's cultural diversity through food, with curated regional meals at State Bhawans—these kitchens offer a delicious expression of India's plural identity.

Designed as short-format, high-impact experiences, the trails are ideal for international travellers on layovers, business visitors and locals looking for a fresh cultural lens. Led by trained interpreters and storytellers, each journey ensures that heritage is both seen and understood. This initiative will make GMR Aerocity a

cultural threshold, where journeys begin with context and discovery.

"GMR Aerocity is evolving into more than a transit hub; it is becoming a cultural destination," says Dimple Malhotra, Head of Marketing at GMR Group, and adds, "Through this partnership, we can offer visitors a Delhi that is intimate, authentic, and grounded in experience."

Nidhi Bansal, CEO of India Experiences, echoes this vision by adding, "Delhi is not just a city to be photographed; it is a place to be felt. This collaboration brings that emotion to the surface, right where most journeys begin."

With GMR, ICW, and India Experiences joining hands, Delhi now welcomes visitors not just with flights and hotel rooms, but with memories and meaning. ■

THE DRESS REHEARSAL

From low-key luxury to high-shine drama, your pre-festive style list begins at GMR Aerocity

Whether it is a handwoven sari steeped in story or a tailored kurta that transitions from boardroom to puja, GMR Aerocity's fashion collection bring together craft, comfort, and grandeur—just in time for Durga Puja, Diwali, and the festive season ahead.



SINDOORI LAAL PEACOCK SAREE DIVANI

Rich in *laal* and *firoza* tones, this hand-finished sari features delicate *mayur* motifs, *sona-rupa zari*, and an all-over *jaal* that speaks of timeless craft. Paired with a *shaneel* blouse and *naqshi-jhallar* trims, it is all things festive. We chose it for its heirloom charm, the kind you will reach for every celebration.

PRICE: INR 2,80,990
SPOT THE STORE AT: JW Marriott
Hotel New Delhi Aerocity



ROYAL BLUE KURTA SET | MURAQQA JJ VALAYA

Woven in luxurious Banarasi fabric with *resham* thread and antique gold embroidery, this kurta set balances festive flair with modern tailoring. The matching pants keep it grounded yet occasion-ready. It is traditional enough for pujas and sharp enough for a Diwali dinner.

PRICE: INR 1,15,000
SPOT THE STORE AT:
**JW Marriott Hotel New
Delhi Aerocity**



ELECTRIC PLUM CLUSTER DRESS CHIQUE

A rich plum hue meets fluid hammered satin in this chic asymmetrical dress, accented with a statement embroidered neckline. Perfect for the party season, it transitions effortlessly from day to night—pair with *juttis* for a laid-back boho mood or slip into heels for an elegant fusion finish. It is stylish, sleek, and very convenient.

PRICE: INR 6,500
SPOT THE STORE AT:
The Square

ASTRAL KURTA NICOBAR

Inspired by travels through Morocco, this soft cotton linen kurta is breathable, easy to wear, and elevated with red buttons on each sleeve placket and subtle fagotting. It is the kind of piece that works just as well at brunch as it does at a family get-together. It just feels right this season.

PRICE: INR 7,000
SPOT THE STORE AT:
The Square



SCAN TO
EXPLORE

**GMR AEROCITY'S
VAST RANGE OF
OFFERINGS**



*MRP may vary at the time of publishing

RESET BEFORE YOU REVEL

A curated guide to spa journeys, healing rituals, and mindful menus across GMR Aerocity, ideal for recharging before the festive fervour kicks in



PULLMAN NEW DELHI AEROCITY

WHAT? Step into serene sophistication, where signature rituals marry global wellness trends with Indian Ayurvedic wisdom.

WHY? Indulgent and immersive, this spa goes beyond the basics—with handcrafted products and treatments that truly linger.

MUST TRY The 'Tropical Delight,' a 180-minute ritual featuring a coconut body polish, brightening facial, and a restorative scalp treatment.



ANDAZ DELHI, BY HYATT

WHAT? Rooted in sensory design and storytelling, it reflects the hotel's contemporary yet culture-rich spirit.

WHY? Known for its signature scent (mango, timur pepper, and ginger), the experience is both grounding and distinctly Delhi—equal parts wellness and mood-lifting ritual.

MUST TRY A therapy infused with the hotel's iconic scent.



PRIDE PLAZA HOTEL, AEROCITY, NEW DELHI

WHAT? Designed as a peaceful cocoon—offering relaxing treatments like aromatherapy massages and holistic body therapies.

WHY? It is a lesser-known gem for those seeking some quiet rejuvenation.

MUST TRY The Zivaya Signature Stress-Relief Massage, perfect for unwinding.



HOLIDAY INN NEW DELHI AEROCITY

WHAT? The hotel's Lea Spa & Salon offers essential wellness therapies, ranging from classic massages to express facials and refreshing beauty treatments.

WHY? Its accessible offerings and convenient location make it a perfect for quick recharge.

MUST TRY The deep tissue massage followed by steam for easing tension and relaxing muscles.

GUEST TALK



AYANDRALI DUTTA

Lifestyle Journalist and Digital Media Specialist

"Aerocity is one of most exciting spots in town. Mostly, I stop for a nice meal, but honestly I love the spa at Andaz Delhi that is based on an apothecary approach. I am always well taken care of by the Andaz Spa's attuned therapists, and their signature experiences—blending seasonal fruits and essential oils—are perfect to feel rejuvenated."

RELAX WITHOUT LIMITS

Step closer to the science of authentic Ayurveda at Kama Ayurveda Experiences centre coming soon in GMR Aerocity. Rejuvenate and refresh yourself in this exclusive space that offers beauty and wellness rituals using the brand's time-honoured formulations. To know more about the offerings, visit the Kama Ayurveda store at The Square.

PUNJAB GRILL

Pairing with traditional fare from Punjab, the drinks here take Indian ingredients and give them a spin. From mocktails like *Rola Cola* to *Desi Girl*, a chilli-infused vodka drink with green apple, pineapple, and elderflower. Other cocktails include concoctions made with clove, tamarind, coriander, and jaggery.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT:
Worldmark 1

HIGH SPIRITS, NEW RULES

A spirited season of bold pours, local notes,
and celebratory sips at GMR Aerocity

A distinctive chill in the air and the allure of festivities around the corner—this is the time to celebrate with high spirits. From timeless signatures to innovative sips with hints of Indian ingredients like *raja mircha*, jaggery, *kokum*, clove, tamarind, and *mulethi*—bartenders are turning into virtuosos and bars are turning into playgrounds for discerning connoisseurs. Here is a round-up of the best drinks to sample this festive season.

QAVALLI

Glamour and drama are Qavalli's mainstays. The lavish space transports you into a bygone era of opulence while the cocktails are an ode to the melodious *qawwali* and *mehfils* of yore. Try the *Begum Jaan*, a twist on tradition with *mulethi*, mandarin rose water, and Nagpur orange liqueur in a whisky-based mix, rounded off with a lavender *potli*.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT: Worldmark 2





NUA CAFÉ

The cocktails, here, are infused with playful, tongue-in-cheek stories, each sip revealing a burst of character and a hint of mischief. The *Dry Text*—Soorahi blended whiskey and Oolong tea, and mixed with fresh plum oleo saccharum, topped with sparkling water, is a must try.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT: Worldmark 3



ONE8 COMMUNE

Rooted in the spirit of community dining, Virat Kohli's venture has made its mark across India. The cocktail menu reinvents classics with floral and fruity twists—like *Grape Expectations*, a zesty blend of fresh pink grapefruit crowned with their signature One8 Secret Spice rim.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT: Worldmark 2

KYLIN

Celebrated for its authentic eastern flavours, this Pan-Asian eatery pairs its dishes with a cocktail list rooted in timeless classics. A must-try is the *Piña Colada*—rum, coconut cream, pineapple juice, and a maraschino cherry for the perfect tropical escape.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT: Worldmark 2



GUEST TALK



TANMOY GHOSH
IT professional

"My first tryst with GMR Aerocity was when Virat Kohli's restaurant One8 Commune opened and the cricket fan in me could not wait to visit. I absolutely had to travel just to dine there and GMR Aerocity welcomed me with open arms. And in all these years, there is one thing that has not changed—the warmth of this place. GMR Aerocity is a vibe that stays with you, long after you have left Delhi."

SCAN FOR
ONLINE
VERSION



OF EPICS AND LEGENDS

Explore the broader experiences that Delhi-NCR has to offer as a cultural hub

WORDS **SNIGDHA BHATTACHARJEE**



What could possibly be new in a rendition of The Ramayana? Turns out, lots. That is precisely why *Humare Ram*, a grand theatrical production, being headlined by actor Ashutosh Rana, has been making waves ever since it debuted in January 2024 to awestruck audiences across India's metropolitan cities.

An adaptation of the epic, what sets this play apart is the perspective with which it is being

showcased. After two years of in-depth research, the drama touches upon several aspects hitherto untouched or skimmed over in the text. Persistent questions on why Lord Rama abandoned Devi Sita despite the *agni pariksha* or why Lord Lakshmana behaved the way he did with Surpanakha, finally find some answers. Several other characters and incidents are introduced, probably left out from popular renditions of the epic that we have all heard and seen

growing up, imparting a new dimension to one of India's most-loved mythological tale.

A multimedia production, it runs just over three hours. It is narrated by Surya (the Sun God), who recounts the story to Lord Rama and Devi Sita's twins, Luv and Kush. The play begins with the ground splitting in two and Devi Sita returning to her mother, Earth. The sensorial experience is made more immersive with songs by Shankar Mahadevan, Sonu Nigam, and Kailash Kher.



HIGH ON OPTICS

Catch the Ramlila this festive season



SAMPOORNA RAMAYANA

A two-day visual spectacle set in the heart of Aerocity, New Delhi, this event brings legendary mythology to life through a blend of dance, drama, music, and visual art. Experience some of the epic's most pivotal moments, reimagined with world-class, open-air performances.



SHRI RAM

It unfolds through dance (styles ranging from Bharatanatyam to Kalaripayattu) at Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra.



THE LUV KUSH RAMLILA

Grand and ornate, it is held at the Red Fort grounds and ends with the burning of Ravana's effigy.



The cast is also a strong highlight. Ashutosh Rana, a commanding artiste in his own right and well-versed in mythology, was the first choice to essay the role of Ravana, bringing his own voice to the play. In a media interview, director Gaurav Bhardwaj had pointed out that Rana has not only written a book, *Ram Rajya*, but has also contributed considerably to the script. Writers Rahull R Bhuchar and Naresh Katyan had also wanted someone who could



portray the many personalities of Ravana, including that of him being a great scholar; and Rana is a true embodiment of all these facets. Bhuchar is also part of the cast and plays Lord Rama; other character actors being Danish Akhtar, Harleen Kaur Rekhi, Karan Sharma, and Taun Khanna, among others.

Produced by Felicity Theatre, *Humare Ram* has had over 200 shows in more than 20 cities and returns to Delhi from 20th July till 2nd November 2025. 📍

LAST CALL BEFORE TAKE-OFF

The cheat sheet for flying out in style

BREWS & BITES

Quick coffees, fresh sandwiches, gourmet snacks—all before you depart

KHUBANI, ANDAZ DELHI

Multi-cuisine restaurant with Middle Eastern influences—taste meets comfort

STARBUCKS, THE SQUARE

Your go-to spot for a quick caffeine fix, warm sandwiches, and cool merchandise

TIM HORTONS, IGIA T1 & T3

Quick bites and steaming cuppas

to satiate your hunger pangs

CAFÉ PLUCK

PULLMAN NEW DELHI AEROCITY

Classic Napolitano pizzas and French press for in-flight fuel

K3: NEW DELHI'S FOOD THEATRE

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL NEW DELHI AEROCITY

Take your pick from Asian, Indian, and Mediterranean fare





BARS

Bottoms Up!

AEROCITY SOCIAL (WORLDMARK 1)

MUST TRY: Banarasi Patiala

CHIDYA GHAR (ROSEATE HOUSE NEW DELHI)

MUST TRY: The Dessert Rose

NORMAN (ARIA TOWER, AEROCITY)

MUST TRY: Pater Sangiovese

TOY ROOM (ALOFT)

MUST TRY: Mai Tai

THE GIFT DASH

Last-minute gifting that does
not look last-minute

KAMA AYURVEDA

THE SQUARE

Try Replenish & Restore or
Rose Radiance Gift Sets

NICOBAR

THE SQUARE

Signature travel wrap/
stole—a scarf in a pouch

MINISO

WORLDMARK 1

Cute, reliable, and utilitarian
products for all ages

DA MILANO

WORLDMARK 1

Pack right with handcrafted
bags, wallets, and more

SMART SWIPES

One chic, compact
purchase that travels well

FOREST ESSENTIALS

(THE SQUARE)

Luxury Ayurvedic skincare,
bottled with love

GEOM365

(WORLDMARK 2)

For imported treats, hot
beverages, healthy snacks,
and more

TANEIRA (IGIA T3)

Exquisite handloom saris—
perfect for your collection

MODERN BAZAAR EXPRESS

(THE SQUARE)

For global nibbles, skincare
minis, or travel-size chargers



PLUG IN

Our top download-
before-you-board picks

OTT SHOWS

THE BEAR

Sharp, fast-paced kitchen
drama (JioHotstar)

GUNS & GULAABS

Trippy, retro Indian noir
(Netflix)

THE NIGHT MANAGER

Espionage meets glam
(JioHotstar)

GRAM CHIKITSALAY

A city doctor's village journey
(Prime Video)

PODCASTS & AUDIOBOOKS

THE MUSAFIR STORIES

Real travel tales from offbeat
India (Spotify)

FINSHOTS DAILY

Crisp takes on news and
money (Spotify)

IKIGAI (AUDIOBOOK)

Gentle, reflective
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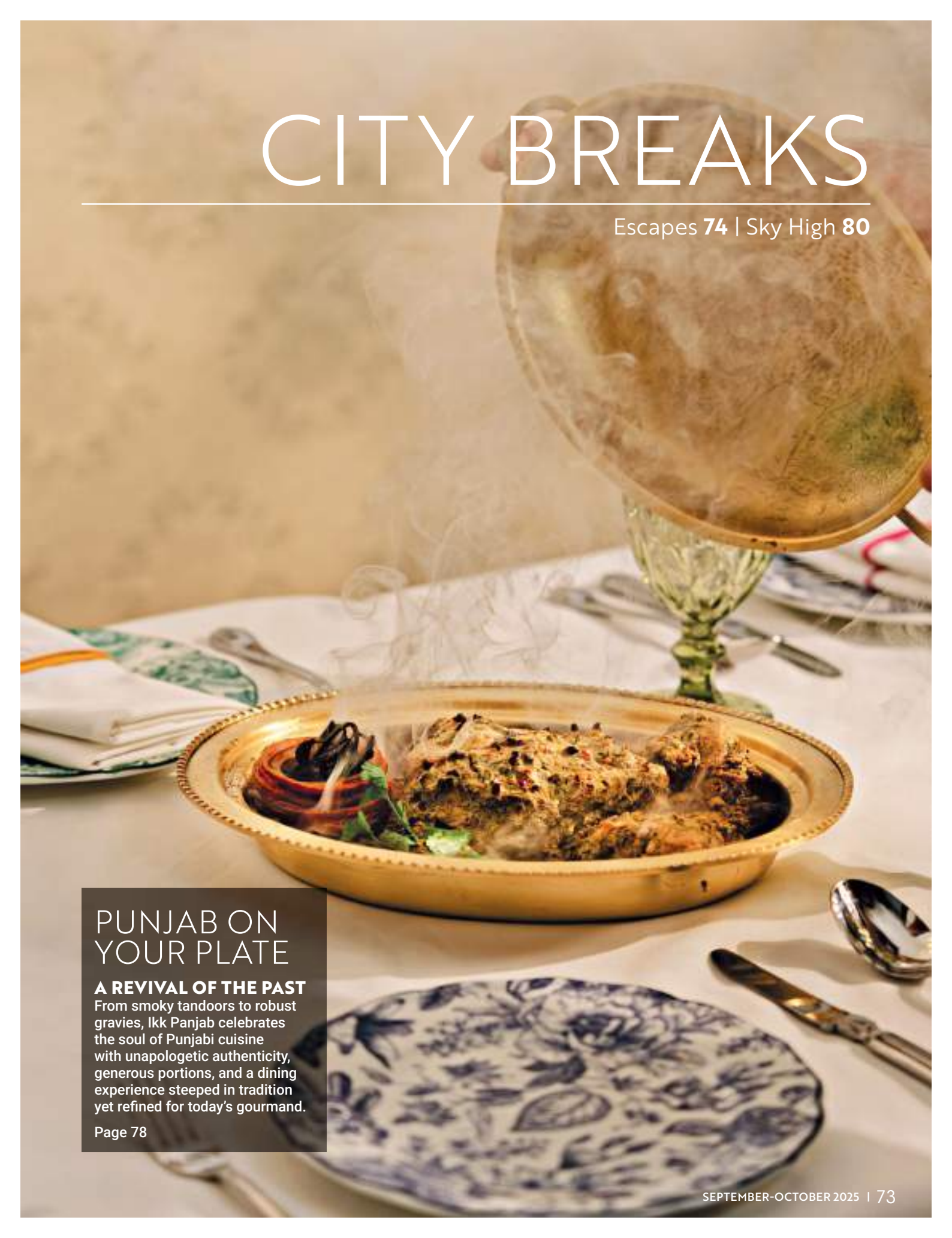
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CITY BREAKS

A golden tandoor is being used to cook food over a plate of Punjabi cuisine. The tandoor is held by a hand, and steam is rising from the food. The plate is ornate and golden, and the food is a mix of meats and vegetables. The background is a warm, textured wall.

Escapes **74** | Sky High **80**

PUNJAB ON YOUR PLATE

A REVIVAL OF THE PAST

From smoky tandoors to robust gravies, Ikk Panjab celebrates the soul of Punjabi cuisine with unapologetic authenticity, generous portions, and a dining experience steeped in tradition yet refined for today's gourmand.

Page 78

CELEBRATING TIMELESS TRADITIONS

Where the Ganges glows and heritage awakens,
discover Dev Deepavali, Varanasi's luminous
Festival of Light

WORDS SINCHITA SINHA



The cool morning breeze filled with the aroma of chai and samosa was a welcome change from the monotony of Mumbai. Though nothing seemed out of the ordinary till I reached the heart of the holy city. I am in town to experience first-hand Varanasi's fabled Dev Deepavali.

It was hard to pull away from pealing bells and the floating fragrance of sandalwood incense as I navigated towards my accommodations. Every alley buzzed with explorers searching for something rare, experts trying to capture a moment, devotees looking for yet another holy spot to seek blessings—the emotions were high in every corner. The labyrinthine ways held the history of this holy city, not just in its lanes but in its walls too. Ancient and historic murals donned the walls, interrupted with age-old sweet corners, antiquity shops and doorways to some hidden cafés or residential houses—a permanent fixture of every bend. I was right in the centre of a mazed cultural cauldron.

The city was gearing up for its big day and so were the artisans. Known for its legendary silk weaving traditions, it was an indescribable delight to watch a master weaver's deft fingers transform threads into an exquisite Banarasi silk sari on a loom. Often inspired by Mughal motifs, the weaves carried the essence of local craftsmanship. Another show of artisanship are the potters of Varanasi. It



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Varanasi lights up for Dev Deepavali; A boat ride offers the most magical view; Benarasi paan; Street food stalls serve up timeless flavours; Lassi remains a Varanasi classic; Devotees and visitors gather on the ghats; A girl lights diyas.

is a visual delight in how an expert potter wheels a chunk of clay into a delicate diya. These generational skill inspire awe.

Among the slew of temples that dotted every bend, the revered Kashi Vishwanath or the coveted kotwal of Varanasi—Kaal Bhairav and the Vishalakshi Temple—one of the 51 shakti pithas are all must-visits. With pujas being performed at designated times, the energy of each one of these temples is simply magnetic.

I could not count calories when I was trying to soak in the local flavour. It is hard not to be drawn by the aroma of sweets, *kachoris*

and *chaat* at every corner. Overflowing with gleaming trays of traditional Indian sweets they beckon passersbys for a bite.

Evenings defaulted into sitting on the steps of Dashashwamedh Ghat to attend Ganga Aarti or watching the spectacle from a *bajra* docked beside the Ghat. Choreographed movements of the brass lamps, rhythmic chants, and the sound of conch shells leaves one in a spiritual trance.



Boat or *bajra* rides are not just about visiting the ghats, it is about understanding the stories—whether it was the flaming ghats of Harishchandra and Manikarnika or the submerged temple of Ratneshwar Mahadev near Scindia Ghat or the past of Ramnagar Fort and Chunar Fort—the ride came with its share of lessons in history.

Long after the Ganga Aarti concluded, the ringing bells a faded echo, I found myself

pondering priorities on the steps of the Ghat. The need to disconnect from the rush of modern life and to reconnect with the something fundamental.

Journey into the heart of a living tradition and be a part of a vibrant celebration during Varanasi's Dev Deepavali. It will leave an indelible mark on your soul. For the locals, it is a way of life. To visitors, it is nothing less than a sensory spectacle of light, faith, and unity. ▣

BOUTIQUE HERITAGE STAYS



BRIHRAMA PALACE

A 213-year-old marvel of Maratha architecture, this 32-room heritage property offers uninterrupted views of the Ganges from its prime location.



GULERIA KOTHI

This immaculately restored 18th-century riverfront property is a fine blend of modernity packed with tradition. Its 15 Ganga-facing rooms boast of local art weaves.



TAJ NADESAR PALACE

Located a mere five-km from the ghats, peacocks roam free and the air carries the scent of jasmine at this erstwhile palace hotel reminiscent of the Raj.

FROM PARTITION TO PLATE

Reviving the soulful, spice-layered flavours of 'Undivided Punjab', Chandigarh's Ikk Panjab brings history, heritage, and heartfelt meals to the table

WORDS SAYANTI HALDER



In a world driven by fusion trends and fast dining, Ikk Panjab chooses to slow down and simmer. Rooted in the kitchens of pre-partition Punjab, this soulful restaurant in Chandigarh's Sector 26 market does more than serving food; it brings nearly-forgotten recipes back to life with reverence and depth.

A TASTE OF MEMORIES

Here, each mustard-oil-slicked

curry and patiently-simmered dal carries the weight of memory—recipes passed down through generations, whispered across borders, and held close by families. More than a restaurant, it is a living archive, honouring an undivided Punjab that once stretched from Lahore to Ludhiana. After winning hearts in Delhi, Ikk Panjab now travels to Chandigarh, a city that stands as a monument to post-partition resilience and renewal.

FEASTING ON HISTORY

The menu reads like a memoir. You will find dishes that once graced royal tables and village courtyards alike—each one meticulously revived. There is Gosht Beliram, inspired by Maharaja Ranjit Singh's famed court chef; Atta Chicken from Kotkapura, encased in a dough and baked to rustic perfection; Karachi Koyla Kadhahi that brings the fire-kissed boldness of the west; and Lahori Chikkad Cholle,



steeped in soul. For those with a sweet tooth, Tarn-Taran di Jalebi-Rabdi offers a syrupy taste of tradition. The menu transcends time and terrain, and each bite feels like coming home.

SPACES THAT SPEAK

Walk in, and you will feel like you have entered 'Colonel Sahab's' home. Designed as the residence of a well-travelled, retired army officer, the space blends warmth and storytelling with strong Punjabi roots. Antique furniture, family heirlooms, Phulkari accents, Gurmukhi calligraphy, and weathered trunks speak of journeys taken and memories preserved. Every room is a layered narrative—part museum and part living room but always welcoming. The Bageecha (garden section) offers a different kind of nostalgia: open skies, soft music, and the comforting hush of a slow, sunny afternoon.

MORE THAN A MEAL

What sets Ikk Panjab apart is its emotional resonance. Everything together to tell a larger story of migration, memory, and identity.



CLOCKWISE FROM FACING PAGE:

A soulful celebration of Punjab's long forgotten, heirloom flavours; Vintage charm meets modern comfort in this restaurant; Sialkot Masala Raan; Dohra Kebab; The Bageecha offers nostalgic charm under open skies; The Station Master's Gimlet.

It reconnects you to a Punjab that once was, and still is—in every story, every spice, every song. This place honours strength, fond remembrance, and a community that continue to shape Punjab's identity today. It is a celebration of the 'Undivided Punjab's' shared culinary soul, now lovingly reimagined on every plate, presented with emotion and a sense of belonging. ■



FLIGHT MODE: ON

The latest in aviation that benefits you—on the ground and in the air



A STEP HIGHER

According to the latest report by Airports Council International (ACI), Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has climbed to the 9th spot on the list of the world's busiest airports in 2024. This is a jump from its 10th position in 2023. With close to 7.8 crore passengers, Delhi airport outperformed major hubs like Los Angeles, Paris, and New York in terms of footfall.



VIRGIN TO CHANGE REWARDS PROGRAMME

The airline has announced a change in its Frequent Flyer Scheme to reward passengers who travel with them as little as once or twice a year. According to Virgin, this is to "recognise all forms of loyalty to make sure customers feel taken care of."

WHAT IF TRAVEL FELT SEAMLESS AND EASY?

Imagine managing flight updates, meals, concierge services, and even duty-free shopping—all in one app. That is exactly what Hoi, India's pioneering travel-tech platform, delivers. By blending real-time flight tracking with airport-focused services like F&B pre-ordering, premium concierge, and AI-powered assistance, Hoi is transforming journeys into stress-free experiences. Already active across Delhi, Hyderabad, and New Goa airports, it is redefining the future of smart travel in India.

VIETJET THAILAND INTRODUCES IFE

The airline plans to take their in-flight experience to new heights with Blueview IFE. The in-flight entertainment (IFE) system is powered by Bluebox Aviation Systems. By October 2025 the service will deliver movies, TV, music, retail, and more directly to passengers' personal devices.

INDIGO'S NEW CONNECTIONS

Air France-KLM, Virgin Atlantic, Delta Air Lines, and IndiGo have signed an MoU with plans to build an industry-leading partnership between North America, the UK, Europe, India, and beyond. The partnership will offer travellers broader access and smoother journeys.



THE LAST STOP

Offers **84** | The Buzz **86** | Quiz **87** | The Final Word **88**

EVERYTHING IN ONE SPOT

ALL ROADS LEAD HERE

From dining and retail to events and hidden gems—this is GMR Aerocity in a nutshell. Your quick-access hub to navigate, explore, and make the most of the city's premium district.

Page 82



THE SQUARE

F&B

Union Artisan Coffee
Chai Point
Sugar & Spice
Blue Tokai
Coffee Roasters

RETAIL

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Ruvido Caso
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Café Pluck
Honk
Pling
Food Exchange at Novotel
Quoin Bar at Novotel

PRIDE PLAZA

Mr Confectioner
Café Pride
Oriental Spice
Stallion Bar and Lounge
Aqua Grill

ANDAZ

AnnaMaya
Juniper Bar
Soul Pantry

ALOFT

Nook
W XYZ bar
Re:fuel by Aloft
Ginza
Toy Room

ROSEATE

Kheer
DEL
Tara
Chidya Ghar
Roasted By Roseate

JW MARRIOTT

K3
ADRIFT Kaya
Delhi Baking Company
JW Lounge
Norman

IBIS

Spice It
Spice It Bar

HOLIDAY INN

Viva All Day Dining
L' Osteria Bella
Hangar Lounge and Bar
Airobakes

LEMON TREE & RED FOX

Citrus Cafe
Republic of Noodles
Clever Fox Cafe



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WORLDMARK 1, 2 & 3

WORLDMARK 1 F&B OUTLETS

Reve
Subway
WOW! Momo
Biryani Blues
Monsoon By
Café Lota
Starbucks
Chaayos
Liv Bar
Punjab Grill
Kampai

Dragonfly Experience
Asia Seven
Street Foods by
Punjab Grill
Pret A Manger
Tea Bear
Giani's
Karim's
Keventers
Khan Chacha
Bikanervala

Chai Garam
Pizza Hut
Sandburgs
Kuuraku Ramen
Sagar Ratna
Doner & Gyros
Krispy Kreme
Basil
Qavalli
Daryaganj
Social

RETAIL OUTLETS

Da Milano
Forest Essentials

Aptronix
Victorinox

Miniso

WORLDMARK 2 F&B OUTLETS

Kylin Experience
Underdoggs
Bizou-Bizou
Dhaba-Estd 1986
The Beer Café
One8 Commune
The Hazelnut Factory
Emoi

RETAIL OUTLETS

Geom365

WORLDMARK 3 F&B OUTLETS

Café Delhi Heights
Costa Coffee
Nua Café
Mesa Kitchen and Bar
Burma Burma

AUTOMOBILES

Tesla

SCAN TO
EXPLORE
AEROCITY'S
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TEST YOUR AEROCITY IQ

How well do you know the city of buzz?

THINK YOU KNOW AEROCITY AND DELHI-NCR INSIDE OUT? Answer these fun questions and stand a chance to win exclusive prizes!*

1. Aerocity is closest to which terminal of IGI Airport?

- a) Terminal 1
- b) Terminal 2
- c) Terminal 3

2. What is the name of the pedestrian-friendly urban square that hosts concerts, exhibitions, and cultural events in Aerocity?

- a) The Square
- b) The Walk
- c) Both

3. What metro line connects Aerocity directly to Delhi International Airport and New Delhi Railway Station?

- a) Pink Line
- b) Magenta Line
- c) Airport Express Line

4. Which luxury hotel in Aerocity is known for its massive chandelier?

- a) Roseate House
- b) Pride Plaza
- c) JW Marriott

5. Name the hotel in Aerocity that features an European-style foodhall with an Indian soul.

- a) Holiday Inn
- b) Andaz
- c) Novotel

TOP 3 WINNERS WILL BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS FROM LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ



Khyati
Gurgaon



Prashasti
Noida



Yash
Vasant Kunj

SCAN TO WIN
TAKE THE QUIZ
AND CLAIM
YOUR PRIZE



*Deadline: 15th October 2025 | Winners to be announced in the next issue! T&C apply

**Winners are selected based on the first three entries received with all correct answers

THROUGH THE LENS

Ace photographer Dabboo Ratnani on travel, food, and frames

AN EPIC PLACE YOU HAVE TRAVELLED TO?

New York! Every time I visit, I discover a new side to the city. It is a medley of diverse cultures and cuisines, and it also has B&H, one of the world's largest photography stores where I feel like a kid in a candy store.

YOUR GO-TO COMFORT FOOD WHILE TRAVELLING?

I try to eat clean and healthy, but if I need something quick, it is usually a *vada pav* or *samosa pav*, especially while driving.

A FAVOURITE INDIAN DESTINATION?

Rajasthan, for so many reasons. It looks incredible in pictures, and I love the culture, the people, the food, and the heritage. The palaces, the small streets—everything is so vibrant.

MOST LOVED INTERNATIONAL SPOTS?

Cape Town has my heart—with the ocean on one side and mountains on the other. Also, Switzerland—the mountain tops, Jungfrau summit, Interlaken, and Zürich are stunning.

YOUR IDEA OF A PERFECT CELEBRATION?

Celebrating anything in my life revolves around my family. These days, it is all about taking holidays with them. Earlier we partied hard but now, everything is centred around Manisha, my wife, and the kids.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT DELHI?

Definitely the fashion scene. And the food! I love the grills, tandooris, and kebabs.

A MEMORABLE GMR AEROCITY MOMENT?

I have always stayed at Aerocity whenever I visited Delhi. The best experience was shooting at Andaz Delhi—such cool décor and the Soul Pantry, a lovely café concept where you can also buy ingredients. Another great stay was at JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity, where the staff was nice and the whole ambience was warm. I love GMR Aerocity for the sheer fact that it is so close to the airport. ▢



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