

AEROCITY LIVE

WORK • SHOP • DINE • STAY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2025
VOL 4 | ISSUE 19 | INR 300

IN THE MOOD FOR WINTER

Step into the warm embrace
at GMR Aerocity, where serenity
meets sparkle and wonder

PLUS



**MANISH
DAYYA**
At the Pinnacle
of Hotel
Excellence



**VIKAS
SHARMA**
Shaping Luxury
for Modern
Airports



**DAVID
WARNER**
The Cricketer
Beyond the
Boundary

SCAN AND
SUBSCRIBE



Complementary
E-magazine



Since 1950, Khub Chand Sawhney's (KCS) Kashmir Shawl Emporium has been synonymous with heritage and fine craftsmanship. We create pieces of timeless beauty – heirlooms that carry stories, warmth, and tradition from one generation to the next.



KCSHOP.IN



**KCS KASHMIR
SHAWL EMPORIUM**



www.kcshop.in

Flagship - 94 M.M Janpath New Delhi | Okhla | Gurugram | www.kcshop.in | +91-9810201838



Aerocity LIVE embodies this spirit, inviting you to discover indulgent escapes, meaningful moments, and the quiet joy of introspection



ON THE COVER

A glimpse of The Square, where chill meets charm and Aerocity glows with golden light

WHERE WINTER FINDS ITS PULSE



Dear Readers,

In Delhi NCR, winter ushers in a gentler rhythm and a renewed appreciation for everyday moments. At GMR Aerocity, this season reflects a distinctive and elevated ambience that embraces indulgence, togetherness, and reflection as the year draws to a graceful close.

Aerocity is festival ready, dressed in festive décor, irresistible cuisines, seasonal delights, and experiences that capture the true essence of winter. From lively promenades and curated pop-ups to comforting flavours and cheerful gatherings, it welcomes you with colour, warmth, and style, inviting everyone to pause and unwind.

The *Winter Awaits* themed issue of *Aerocity LIVE* embodies this spirit, inviting you to discover indulgent escapes, meaningful moments, and the quiet joy of introspection. Aerocity continues to grow beyond its hospitality and dining origins into a dynamic urban district defined by its energy and charm. From world-class hotels to boutique retreats, every destination contributes to Delhi's winter appeal. Whether you seek a solitary pause, a family weekend getaway, a couple's retreat, or simply time out to rejuvenate, Aerocity offers an atmosphere that feels both refined and complete.

This period also marks an important phase of progress, led by the expansion of the Gateway District and the addition of new developments such as Worldmark 4, supported by Bharti Group. These milestones reaffirm Aerocity's position as one of India's most forward-looking and future-ready urban destinations.

With improved connectivity and expanded roadways across NCR, Aerocity has become an essential part of the city's pulse, accessibility with distinction. The evolving infrastructure continues to create opportunities for business, culture, and community to flourish together. As Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently stated at the India Mobile Congress, "Modern infrastructure is not just about convenience; it is the path to a developed India."

Here's to a season and a year-end issue filled with warmth, exploration, and moments that remind us why Aerocity is not just where journeys begin but where they truly feel complete.

Happy reading, and may you find your own corner of calm, celebration, and joy in the city that never stops evolving.

Aman Kapoor

AMAN KAPOOR
CEO, AIRPORT LAND DEVELOPMENT
GMR GROUP

CONTRIBUTORS



TRINA CHOWDHURY

Currently based in Ontario, Canada, she is a Senior Clinical Data Manager, who brings over a decade of experience in clinical research and operations, guided by a strong patient-first philosophy. Outside of work, she loves to travel, try new cuisines, and experiment with cooking. You can often find her in a cosy café or wandering through a bookstore—her favourite spots to unwind, reflect, and recharge.

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.



AYANDRALI DUTTA

A wanderess by passion and wordsmith by profession; always exploring newer terrains, books, tea, and *adda* with a pinch of insanity pretty much sums her up. An Editor and Content Strategist, she holds a Master's degree in Psychology and has over 19+ years of experience working with a few of India's best media houses.

ROHIT KAUL WAFI

A senior travel trade journalist with over 18 years of work experience spanning across print, digital and electronic platforms, Rohit has been associated with reputed media houses, to date. His expertise includes writing on vast subjects ranging from Information Technology to Tourism & Hospitality sectors.



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

AEROCITY LIVE

WORK • SHOP • DINE • STAY

FOLLOW TO KNOW MORE

[gmraerocity](https://www.gmraerocity.com) [@gmraerocity](https://www.gmraerocity.com)
+91 7042333053 [gmraerocitynewdelhi](https://www.gmraerocitynewdelhi.com)
www.gmraerocity.com

BurdaLuxury

www.burdaluxury.com

Director of Print Operations & Strategy (Asia)
Simon Clays

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor Sayanti Halder
Features Editor Ananya Trivedi
Creative Director Sid Ghosh
Art Director Nikhil Kaushik

BRAND SOLUTIONS & MARKETING

Country Director Annesha Sanyal

SALES & BRAND SOLUTIONS

Director of Sales & Brand Solutions-Special Projects
Ritesh Roy Mobile: +91 98103 23063
Regional Manager (South) Anthony Joseph
Mobile: +91 98453 25227
Regional Manager (West) Vinod Mohite
Mobile: +91 93235 54207
Regional Manager (North) Asad Khan
Mobile: +91 91252 53550

PRODUCTION & PRE-PRESS

Senior Manager Devender Pandey
Regional Production Assistant
Bharat Bhushan Upadhyay

CIRCULATION & VISIBILITY

Senior Manager Bijay Kumar Kar

HUMAN RESOURCES & COMPLIANCE (ASIA)

Regional Manager Sonya Caroline Shah

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING OFFICE

Burda Media India Private Limited
Ambience Mall, 7th Floor (AWfis), Gate no. 4,
Ambience Island, NH-8, Gurugram-122002, Haryana
Burda Media India Private Limited is a company of
The Hubert Burda Media Group

HUBERT BURDA MEDIA

Chief Executive Officer Björn Rettig
Burda International Holding GmbH
Legal Address: Hubert Burda Platz 1,
77652 Offenburg, Germany
Postage Address: Arabellastrasse 23,
D-81925 Munich, Germany

The magazine is published by Burda Media India Private Limited having their corporate office at 7th Floor (AWfis), Gate No. 4, Ambience Island, NH-8, Gurugram-122002, Haryana, India ('Burda') on behalf of DIAL. All rights reserved throughout the world. The writing, artwork and/or photography contained herein may not be used or reproduced without the express written permission of Burda/DIAL. Burda/DIAL does not assume any responsibility for loss or damage of unsolicited products, manuscripts, photographs, artwork, transparencies or other materials. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the publisher or DIAL. All efforts have been made while compiling the content of this magazine but Burda/DIAL assume no responsibility for the effects arising therefrom. Burda/DIAL does not assume any liability for services or products advertised herein. Printed at Kala Jyothi Process Pvt. Ltd. Raviryal, Plot no. CFC-1 & 2, Survey No. 18, E-City, SEZ, General Industrial Park, Raviryal & Srinagar (V), Maheswaram (M). R.R. Dist, Telangana-501359.

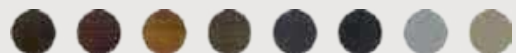


OVER
MILLION
WINDOWS
INSTALLED
SO FAR

Simta Astrix, Premium
uPVC Windows & Doors

**THE
SIGNATURE
OF REFINED
LIVING**

Choose from a wide range of colors



Weather-resistant

Sound-resistant

Multi-point locking

UV-resistant

CONTENTS

THE HUB

Calendar.....	10
Movements.....	15
Dear Diary.....	16
Next Up.....	18
Flashback.....	20
On The Radar.....	26



36

PHOTO ESSAY

A look back at winters past, and the lights and warmth that made Aerocity come alive

30 UNWIND THE WINTER WAY, IN STYLE

COVER STORY

Experience winter with Aerocity's hotels, big or small, each crafting moments to unwind, indulge, and celebrate the season



*A Bygone Era Set in Stone,
Exuding Splendour*

GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM

Gangaikondacholapuram isn't just a temple. It's an artist's abstract creativity chiselled in stone and a nostalgic reminder of a once flourishing empire's timeless magnificence. It's an experience called Gangaikondacholapuram. Known and remembered fondly as the 'City of the Chola who subjugated the Ganges' it is a tribute to the bygone Chola era. It isn't just a tourist spot but an engagement with history itself.

The most striking feature of the historic piece of geography is the main temple, an imposing edifice exuding a mystic charm. The temple built by Rajendra Chola I was a religious landmark and an architectural ode to the victories of the great Chola king. It's an epic saga of an all-conquering kingdom carved in stone and manifested in figurines.



Architecture at its Best

The towering Vimana, the giant tower, immediately captures one's attention as it showcases artistry much akin to the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur; yet the Vimana radiates its own splendour, unique to its architecture. The tower seamlessly blends in with the skyline surrounding it, reflecting an ethereal aura. The exquisitely crafted stone structures of the guardian deities or Dwarapalakas hold a million mysteries in them. And the intricately carved images of various deities bring time to a standstill.

Gangaikondacholapuram is set amidst idyllic surroundings, reminiscent of a breathtaking picture postcard. On entering the magnificent edifice one can subconsciously feel a pious ambience created by the collective chants of a thousand priests. One can visualize a city rejoicing as its victorious heroes march back triumphantly amidst pomp and glory; welcomed by the citizens of a fiefdom which was the centre piece of a whole continent.

Gangaikondacholapuram is Simply Unmissable

Historical Significance: Visit, witness, experience and relive a bygone era showcasing the architectural excellence during the Chola period. One small touch and the ancient stone carvings start whispering long forgotten secrets.

A Connoisseur's Delight: Be it the majestic Nandi statue or the exquisite Ardhanarishvara figurine or just about any of the several sculptures adorning the temple, each one is a masterpiece showcasing a blend of creativity and spirituality.

Listen to the Silence: Gangaikondacholapuram affords you the luxury of listening to the echoes of silence with rapt attention. Explore the place to savour the delectable experience of solitude. Recreate history in all its splendour.

Relive the Past

Gangaikondacholapuram is not just another routine stopover on a tourist's map. It's the confluence of timeless history, architectural magnificence and a sense of déjà vu. Travel back in time and experience the glory of Chola rule in all its pomp. Converse with the age-old stones as they narrate tales of yore!



#Gangaikondacholapuram #CholaDreamsInStone
#LostCapitals #TamilNaduTravel #SoulfulTravel #IncredibleIndia
#HistoryWhispers #TempleLove
#ArtisticEscape #TravelDeeper

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) intourismoffel

[Tamil Nadu Tourism](#) [Jtamilnadutourism.tn.gov.in](#)



54
BEYOND BUSINESS
GMR Group's way of giving back

INSIGHTS		LAYOVER LUXE	
42	 Inside Story	Time Capsule	60
46	 Tête-A-Tête	Retail Therapy	62
48	 Perspectives	F&B	64
52	 Chef's Table	Out & About	68



66
DETOURS
Gardens of Delhi in full bloom and glory

CITY BREAKS	
74	 Stays
78	 Escapes



76
BITES
When coffee becomes an experience to remember



88
THE FINAL WORD
Meet David Warner, the man beyond the match

THE LAST STOP	
Offers	84
Quiz	87



82
INDEX
Where every question and curiosity find its answer

FRAME YOUR DREAMS

PREMIUM DOORS, WINDOWS, AND INTERIORS



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

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



THE HUB

Your inside look at every aspect unfolding in the GMR Group and Aerocity, New Delhi that bring the district to life

What's More? 14 | Dear Diary 16 | Next Up 18 | On The Radar 26

FLAVOURS, FINDS, FUN!

MARKET AVENUE

Aerocity came alive with the vibrant spirit of curated showcase of local brands, artisanal finds, and creative talent. The gathering brought together food pop-ups, handmade treasures, live music, and so much more.

Page 20



MUST ATTEND

The season of joy comes alive at Aerocity with back-to-back events, pop-ups, and celebrations that you just cannot miss

EVENTS AT THE SQUARE



Till 16th November **CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Experience the wonder of Children's Day—where fun meets imagination. Enjoy exciting events and delightful surprises for the entire family.



21st-23rd November **POP-UP MARKET**

23rd November **WHEELS AND WINGS**

28th-29th November **SPEED CUBBING COMPETITION 2.0**

28th-30th November **NOVEMBER NOOK MARKET**



1st-25th December **TAKE A TRIP WITH US**

5th-6th December **CRAFT CITY 3.0**

12th-13th December **WINTER WONDERLAND**

24th-26th December **MERRY CITY 4.0**

EVENTS AT GMR AEROCITY



14th-16th November **KOREA STREET FAIR**

GMR Aerocity and Worldmark Delhi, in collaboration with the Embassy of Korea, is hosting the Korean Street Fair for a cultural togetherness filled with food, fun and live entertainment.

EVENTS AT **utsav**



12th November
ART WORKSHOP by
Anushka

19th November
POSE FOR A CAUSE

21st November
FRIDAY JINGLES-An
Evening of Music

25th-26th November
CARICATURE



30th November
HOLISTIC HAPPINESS with
IRS Rohit Mehra

1st-2nd December
GRAPHOTHERAPY
WORKSHOP by Kavita
Neogi for Corporates

6th December
POETRY MEET-UP: Lamhe

MUST-ATTEND BOOK TALKS



21st NOVEMBER
AEROCITY
CONVERSATIONS with
Sunil Wadhwa-Gut
and Management

22nd NOVEMBER
THE UNTOLD
SECRET OF WILD AT
DEBRIGARGH
by DFO Anshu
Pragyan

EVENTS AT GMR AEROCITY

1st December onwards

CHRISTMAS DÉCOR AND ACTIVITIES



GUEST TALK



NAGMA PK

Founder, The Author's Nest

"Aerocity has become one of my favourite places to unwind and work. It is easy to reach from anywhere in the Delhi-NCR and has everything in one place—great restaurants, open spaces, and a lively atmosphere. I often drop by at the Social or attend events here. Aerocity always feels right."



EVENTS AT HOTELS IN AEROCITY



PULLMAN AND NOVOTEL AEROCITY

PARSI FOOD POP-UP

Farmers' Basket at Pluck
(Dinner and Sunday Brunch)

Till 16th November

ILLUSION BRUNCH 2.0

Where Magic Meets Laughter

16th November onwards

PATLIPUTRA FOOD POP-UP

Food Exchange
(Dinner and Sunday Brunch)

21st-30th November

PRIDE PLAZA

CHILDREN'S DAY SPECIAL LUNCH BUFFET

Café Pride

14th November

INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY SPECIAL LUNCH

Café Pride

19th November

ANDAZ-E-BIRYANI

Shaan-e-Awadh

Till 21st November

CHEERS WITH PRIDE, CRICKET SCREENING

Stallion Bar

29th October-21st January

TEX MEX FOOD FESTIVAL

Stallion Bar

21st-23rd November

CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL DINNER BUFFET

Café Pride

24th December

NEW YEAR EVE CELEBRATION

Café Pride, Stallion Bar, and
Imperial Hall

31st December



HOLIDAY INN NEW DELHI AEROCITY

SPANISH THEMED BRUNCH

At Viva All Day Dining

16th November

CULINARY CARAVAN: PUNJAB TO KASHMIR 2.0

At Viva All Day Dining

21st-30th November



ROSEATE HOUSE NEW DELHI

CHILDREN'S DAY SPECIAL BUFFET

14th November

A JOURNEY THROUGH HUIYANG FLAVOURS

16th November (Sunday Brunch)

AMBARSAR, THE GOLDEN GRIDDLE

Amritsari Pop-Up at Kheer

21st-30th November

A LEVANTINE FEAST

23rd November (Sunday Brunch)

A THANKSGIVING FEAST TO REMEMBER

27th November (Dinner)

INDIA'S FORGOTTEN FLAVOURS

30th November (Sunday Brunch)

ENRICHING OCCASIONS

Delhi's cultural calendar is bursting with events—from a chance to meet a football legend, celebrating the beauty of language, to watching a thrilling play and enjoying a concert—there is something for everyone



SAADAT HASAN MANTO KI KAHANIYAAN

30th November

Venue: The Social House

Raw emotion, truths about the human condition and a timeless relevance reverberate in Manto's works. Multi-disciplinary artist Ravi Solanki brings the words of the legendary writer to life in this unforgettable evening with a powerful live reading.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 13.9km

JOURNEYING ACROSS THE HIMALAYAS— EDITION 2

4th-10th December

Venue: Travancore Palace

Royal Enfield brings this unique multi-disciplinary festival back for a sequel. Spread across seven days, it celebrates the spirit of the mountains through live music, art exhibits and interactive installations, storytelling sessions, and culinary workshops.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 16.9km

SAANP SEEDHI

5th December

Venue: Kamani Auditorium

Based on Anthony Shaffer's Tony award-winning play, *Sleuth* is a drama about infidelity with a twist. Deceit, power, revenge—the play explores how far men will go to satisfy their egos and will keep you guessing till the very end about who will emerge victorious.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 16.8km

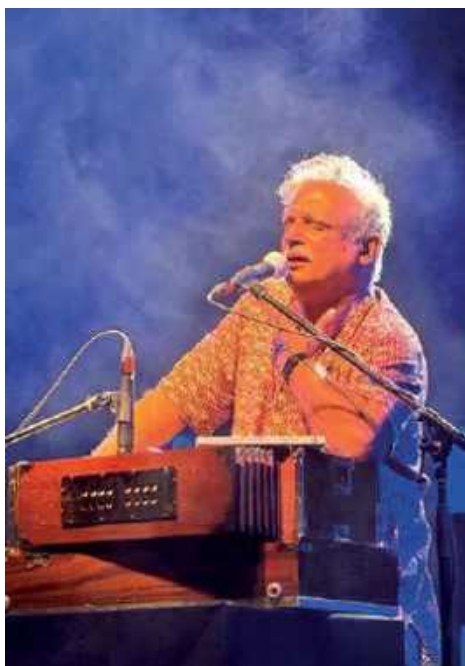
JASHN-E-REKHTA 2025

5th-7th December

Venue: Baansera Park

This iconic cultural festival celebrates the multi-faceted beauty and influence of the Urdu language. The 10th edition of the extravaganza moves to a stunning new location and has performances by artistes like Sukhwinder Singh, composer duo Salim-Sulaiman, lyricist Javed Akhtar, and Shankar Mahadevan alongside the Orchestral Qawwali Project, to name a few.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 22km



DELHI COMIC CON 2025

5th-7th December

Venue: NSIC Exhibition Ground

Comic Con India, the country's greatest pop-culture celebration returns for a weekend jam-packed with fun—whether you are into anime, comics, gaming or a comic book enthusiasts, there is something for all fans. Expect celebrity sessions, jaw-dropping cosplay, live performances, workshops, and exclusive merchandise and collectibles.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 18.7km

GOAT TOUR OF INDIA 2025

15th December

Venue: Feroze Shah Kotla Stadium

Argentine football legend Lionel Messi's four-city tour is culminating in Delhi. Fans can attend the GOAT Cup and Concert, have a chance to meet and greet their idol, and partake in an exclusive football masterclass. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for football fanatics.

Distance from GMR Aerocity: 20.2km

NEW FACES, FRESH CHAPTERS

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

NAVNEET KAUR SETHI

**DIRECTOR OF SALES
ALOFT NEW DELHI AEROCITY**

She comes with over 17 years of extensive experience in hospitality sales and marketing. Navneet brings with her a wealth of knowledge, leadership, and an unwavering passion for building lasting client relationships. Throughout her illustrious career, she has worked with some of the most renowned hospitality brands excelling across multiple leadership roles in sales strategy and business development.



BRENDAN DEWAR

**EXECUTIVE PASTRY CHEF
JW MARRIOTT NEW DELHI AEROCITY**

Chef Dewar joins as the Executive Pastry Chef. With over 30 years of experience across Australia, Europe, and Asia, he brings expertise from renowned brands like Pierre Hermé and Shangri-La. He will lead the hotel's pastry and bakery programme and curating innovative dessert experiences.



SURJEET SINGH RAWAT

**FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER
PULLMAN AND NOVOTEL NEW DELHI AEROCITY**

With over a decade in hospitality, Surjeet joins as their new Food & Beverage Manager. Having worked with leading hospitality brands like Hilton, Westin, and Taj, he brings strong expertise in operations and guest engagement. He will oversee six F&B outlets and operations, driving elevated dining experience.

THREADS OF GROWTH

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

When I first started working in Aerocity New Delhi, it was still finding its rhythm—new spaces were opening, the footfall was beginning to grow, and there was a quite sense of

excitement as to what was to come. Over the years, I have seen this place change completely. Today, Aerocity feels full of life—a blend of travellers, regulars, and curious visitors who bring their own stories and energy to the mix.

At Manan, we have always stayed true to our craft. Every garment is handcrafted with care, made to stand out and last. Being here has helped us connect with people who truly appreciate that—tourists passing through, office-goers on their lunch break or locals returning for something familiar. There is something rewarding about seeing faces light up when they find a piece that speaks to them.

Aerocity's growth has been remarkable. The management, the brands, and the people all share the same drive to make this space better everyday. Watching that progress up close has been inspiring and being a part of it feels special.

Outside work, I have found a creative outlet of my own. I am a musician and part of a music band called Civilise X. I enjoy the live performances which often take place here—they add such a lively spirit to the evenings. On quieter evenings, I sometimes stop by Asia Seven for a good meal and a bit of time to unwind. ■

UTPAL TAMANG
Manager
MANAN, AEROCITY



A SENSE OF BELONGING

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

It has been two wonderful years at Aerocity and I can honestly say that this is the first place I have truly loved working in my 12-year career. The atmosphere here is vibrant and full of life. I often spend my peaceful breaks at the Bikanervala outlet; it is my little corner of calm amid the buzz. What I love most about Aerocity is that it never stands still; there is always something happening that keeps my energy high and mind flowing. Everyday brings new faces and new conversations here. If you want to feel the pulse of India, this is the place to be.

APARNA TIWARI
In-Store Manager
CHIQUE, AEROCITY



I have been proudly working in Aerocity for 13 years now. Before this, I was at IGIA, managing traffic. It is amazing to see how much Aerocity has grown, with its malls, restaurants, and people from all walks of life. A few months ago, I helped two men who had met with an accident on their way home from duty by tracing CCTV footage. They still thank me whenever we meet. Moments like these make me proud of what I do; where I work. Aerocity feels like a place where you experience the whole of India in one space.

GULSHAN KUMAR
Security Marshall
GMR AEROCITY



It has been just two years working here and the experience at Aerocity has been truly rewarding. I love the people, the ambience, and how everyone works like a family. The Square is my favourite spot—open, airy, and full of life, especially after work. I loved last year's Navratri celebrations; this place always feels festive and welcoming. This place keeps me motivated and smiling every day; gives me a reason to love my work.

RANI DEVI
Housekeeping
GMR AEROCITY



Aerocity has grown into the heart of Delhi's nightlife, and being a part of it for six years has been amazing. The crowd is lively and refined, and the energy here keeps rising every year. I love visiting Qavalli for their Wednesday night events—the vibe is electric. One of my fondest memories is seeing Virat Kohli here in 2019. This place is about good people and moments.

PANKAJ SHARMA
General Manager
ONE8 COMMUNE, AEROCITY





WHERE ANCIENT WISDOM MEETS MODERN SCIENCE

On a path of revival, **Kama Ayurveda** is redefining timeless beauty through conscious innovation

Born in 2002 from the rediscovery of centuries-old Ayurvedic recipes by visionary founder Vivek Sahni, Kama Ayurveda has always stood for authenticity and the quiet power of nature. What began as a revival of traditional beauty rituals has now evolved into a contemporary expression of Ayurveda: luxurious, effective, and deeply rooted in holistic wellness.

Its latest skincare line redefines Ayurvedic beauty with record levels of botanicals like saffron in the iconic Kumkumadi collection, now elevated with cutting-edge bio-actives such as Ceramides, Peptides, and Hyaluronic Acid. As Sahni shares, "By blending the best of modern skincare science with our Ayurvedic roots, we are offering a beauty experience that is both authentic and luxurious, but also extraordinarily effective."

With Positive Luxury's Butterfly Mark Certification, Kama Ayurveda also leads as the first Indian beauty brand recognised for its sustainability and transparency, a proof that conscious luxury can be timeless bringing the "energy of life. wisdom of nature. timeless beauty, reborn."

To know more, visit the newly relaunched store of Kama Ayurveda at Aerocity, New Delhi.





LEMON TREE HOTEL REIMAGINES ITS AEROCITY ADDRESS

Red Fox by Lemon Tree Hotels has rebranded its Aerocity property as Lemon Tree Hotel, Delhi Airport. The renovated property, once positioned as a budget option, is now available after renovation with several new facilities to enhance guest experience, which includes upgraded rooms, a revitalised lobby, a swimming pool, and enhanced dining at Citrus Café. Located within Aerocity, New Delhi's bustling business and hospitality hub, the transformation reflects Lemon Tree's commitment to comfort, convenience, and elevated guest experiences—bringing its signature warmth to the heart of Delhi's travel district.



A SWEET NEW TRADITION!

The Airport Land Development team in Delhi recently introduced a heartwarming tradition of monthly gatherings for celebrating its employees' birthdays. Each month, the team would gather to mark their colleagues' special days with cake, laughter, and genuine camaraderie. October witnessed the very first of such celebrations, setting the tone for what promises to become a cherished ritual of togetherness and joy.

GMR AEROCITY IS PROUD TO BE THE PRESENTING PARTNER OF HOSPITALITY'S BIGGEST AWARD NIGHT

The Hotelier India Awards 2025, with GMR Aerocity, New Delhi, as the Presenting Partner, is set to honour the brightest minds and the most dynamic leaders in India's hospitality industry. From visionaries and innovators to the often-unseen heroes behind the scenes, these awards celebrate dedication, passion, and excellence. Set to take place on 17th December 2025 at the JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity, the evening will bring together hospitality's finest to recognise the most outstanding and promising names in the business will gather at New Delhi to find out which of India's top hospitality professionals will take home the coveted Hotelier India Awards trophy. As the proud presenting partner, GMR Aerocity, New Delhi, is setting the stage to recognise the best talents of Indian hospitality.



MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

Insightful panel discussions, live sports screenings, musical programmes, pop-up markets, and more—take a look back at a few of the most vibrant gatherings in Aerocity

EVENTS AT **utsav**



CARICATURE ART BY RAKESH JENA
8th-9th October



GANDHI JAYANTI INSTALLATION
2nd October

BOOK CLUB MEET BY
SIDDHARTH MAHESHWARI
27th September



MARKET AVENUE
25th-28th September

EVENTS AT THE SQUARE

THE FESTIVE COLLECTIVE
16th-19th October



THE FESTIVE COLLECTIVE
2nd-5th October





ARTISTRY COLLECTIVE
18th-21st September

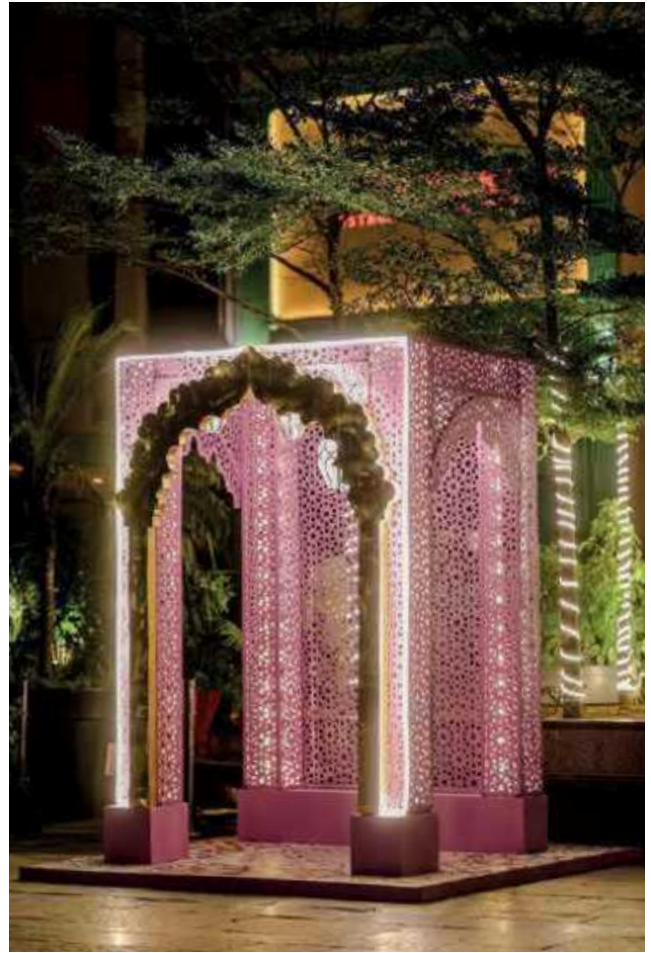


ASIA CUP FINAL MATCH SCREENING
28th September



ASIA CUP LIVE SCREENING
9th-28th September

DIWALI INSTALLATION AT GMR AEROCITY



CHRISTMAS CHEER IN THE MAKING

The hotels of Aerocity kicked off Christmas spirit with a festive cake mixing ceremony

HOLIDAY INN NEW DELHI AEROCITY



PRIDE PLAZA HOTEL AEROCITY,
NEW DELHI





BEYOND THE BOARDROOM

A candid conversation on trust, transformation, and the evolving role of modern leadership, leading with purpose in a changing world

utsav

In an era shaped by relentless change, disruption, and a growing call for empathy in business, leadership is undergoing a quiet yet profound shift. The modern CEO is no longer defined solely by boardroom decisions or strategic playbooks—but by their ability to inspire, engage, and build purpose-driven ecosystems.

This evolving idea of leadership came alive in an insightful conversation between Shiv Shivakumar, Operating Partner, Advent International & Author of *The CEO Mindset*, and Shibani Sethi, MD, Friends of Books (FROB), on 19th

September at Utsav, The Square.

The session delved into the many dimensions of a CEO's role today—emphasising that it is not just about execution but vision, trust, and impact. Core principles like communication, ethical execution, holistic thinking, investing in people, and legacy-building resonated throughout the discussion.

Shivakumar underlined that true leadership is anchored in influence and trust—not control. He noted that reflection and prioritisation are non-negotiable skills for senior leaders. "Every decision a CEO makes should leave the company stronger, not

just profitable," he shared. Drawing on his 'CHARLIE' Framework, he pointed out how, as leaders rise, the challenge is to remain intellectually honest while resisting personal agenda that can dilute a company's larger purpose.

The dialogue also brought gender equity to the forefront, acknowledging the systemic challenges women face in leadership, leaving attendees with a powerful takeaway: modern leadership is as much about strategic foresight as it is about emotional intelligence, authenticity, and the courage to evolve. **A**

THE SEASON OF JOY AND JOURNEYS!

From Delhi to Hyderabad, the wings of GMR soar with smiles and innovation



DELHI AIRPORT'S UPGRADED TERMINAL 2 IS NOW OPERATIONAL

The upgraded Terminal 2 (T2) of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) was inaugurated on 25th October, 2025, by Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation, Shri. Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, in the presence of ADG CISF Smt. Binita Thakur, BCM Airports, Shri. GBS Raju, CEO DIAL, Shri. Videh Kumar Jaipuriar, Dy. CEO DIAL, Shri. Manomay Rai, and other officials from AAI, CISF, and GMR Group.

The 40-year-old terminal has been completely transformed into a future-ready, passenger-centric facility, featuring advanced systems and smart design upgrades. Key innovations include Self-Baggage Drop counters for faster check-ins, six new Passenger Boarding Bridges, a Virtual Information Desk offering real-time flight updates and wayfinding, and enhanced accessibility features for passengers with reduced mobility. The revamped interiors, energy-



efficient systems, and modern signage ensure a seamless and comfortable travel experience.

With the reopening, IndiGo and Air India will operate around 120 daily domestic flights from T2, easing congestion and optimising

operations. The upgraded T2 stands as a testament to DIAL's commitment to creating a world-class, technology-driven airport experience, further strengthening Delhi Airport's position as India's leading aviation hub.

WINTER IS COMING

The first signs of winter arrived at GMR Aerocity, Hyderabad in a swirl of sweetness and song as Novotel Hyderabad kicked off the festive season with its much-loved Cake Mixing and Grape Stomping celebration, a tradition that turns the art of baking into a community ritual. Guests rolled up their sleeves, laughter mingled with the scent of spice and fruit, and a 25-foot-long cake took centre stage inside the Food Exchange—a vision of warmth, joy, and togetherness. Because here, winter does not come quietly. It arrives with stories, aromas, and the promise of connection. These sights and sounds permeate GMR Aerocity, Hyderabad, throughout the festive season. At GMR Aerocity Hyderabad, we dive into festivities because 'tis a season to be jolly'!



SMARTER JOURNEYS BEGIN HERE

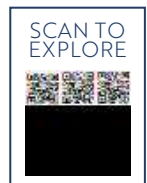
Travel through Hyderabad Airport just got smarter. GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL) has introduced Virtual Information Kiosks (VIKs) and interactive terminal maps, advancing its digital transformation journey. Ten sleek VIKs placed across key passenger areas serve as personal travel assistants, offering real-time flight updates, 3D navigation, emergency support, Wi-Fi access for international travellers, and instant feedback options. The interactive maps, available on GHIAL's website, let travellers explore everything from gates and dining spots to retail outlets and amenities. Together, these innovations deliver a seamless, tech-enabled experience, reinforcing GHIAL's ultimate vision of a connected, intuitive, and passenger-first airport.

DELHI AIRPORT'S LATEST LUXURY BUS REVOLUTION

Just landed at IGI Airport? The GMR Group's new premium bus services with FlixBus, the world's largest intercity travel-tech brand, are transforming how you travel to Agra and Noida. Forget cramped taxis and crowded public transport, these luxury coaches redefine comfort. Sink into spacious reclining seats with free Wi-Fi, USB charging ports, and GPS tracking for your peace of mind. Heading to the Taj Mahal? The Agra route via Yamuna Expressway will take just 3.5 hours at INR599.

After the successful launch of the luxury bus service from Delhi Airport to Agra, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has now introduced another premium route connecting the airport with Noida and Greater Noida. This last mile connectivity was launched on 12th September 2025, with fares starting at just INR199. It runs throughout the day, with plush seating, real-time tracking, CCTV surveillance, USB charging ports, and ample luggage space-promoting seamless and sustainable connectivity.

Following the success of the Delhi Airport–Agra luxury bus service, DIAL has now launched a new premium route to Noida and Greater Noida, operated by FlixBus, the world's largest intercity travel-tech brand. The service offers fares starting from INR99 and runs throughout the day, with plush seating, real-time tracking, CCTV surveillance, USB charging ports, and ample luggage space-promoting seamless and sustainable connectivity. With this initiative, Delhi Airport joins global hubs, like Heathrow, Charles de Gaulle, Berlin Brandenburg, Vienna, and Amsterdam Schiphol, in offering premium and seamless ground transport for air travellers.



HOI: TURNING AIRPORT CHAOS INTO CALM

Designed to make your airport experience smoother, from check-in to takeoff

Picture this: you have reached the airport, juggling your bags, scanning the departure board, and trying to grab a bite before boarding. Now imagine doing all of that, calmly and confidently, with just one app. That is Hoi, your all-in-one travel companion that makes every journey easy and effortless from takeoff to touchdown.

For over five years, Hoi Travel Platform has been quietly transforming how India experiences air travel. Hoi is redefining the airport journey—that crucial first step of travel where convenience matters most. Whether it is saving time, skipping queues, or staying connected abroad, Hoi ensures your trip begins seamlessly, the moment you step into the terminal.

SMARTER TRAVEL STARTS HERE

Real-Time Flight Tracking:

Never miss a beat (or a boarding call). Hoi keeps you informed with live flight updates, gate changes, and delay alerts—so you can plan your airport time with confidence.

Pre-Order Food:

No more racing to restaurant counters between security checks. With Hoi, pre-order your favourite meal and simply pick it up when it is ready. Available at Delhi, Hyderabad, and Manohar International Airport (GOX)—your food, your time, your way.

Meet & Assist Services:

Whether you are travelling solo, with family, or for business, Hoi's airport concierge team is there to make your journey smoother—from check-in assistance to baggage handling. It is personal support that turns travel into comfort.



Travel eSIMs:

Land in any country and stay connected instantly. Hoi's global eSIM works in over 190 destinations, providing reliable data without the hassle of physical SIM cards or searching for Wi-Fi.

ACCESS HOI ANYWHERE

Hoi fits effortlessly into your travel routine.

App: Manage services through the Hoi mobile app (iOS & Android).

Website: Pre-book and plan before your travel day.

Airport Kiosks: Instantly access Hoi services right at the terminal.

SHAPING THE WAY INDIA TRAVELS

As India's travel ecosystem evolves, the airport experience is fast becoming the heartbeat of every journey—the point where travel truly begins. Hoi is leading that evolution by reimagining how travellers connect with airports today while building the ecosystem of tomorrow.

In the coming months, Hoi will go beyond services to become your intelligent travel assistant—with exciting innovations on the way, all designed to make your journey simpler, smarter, and entirely stress-free.

WHY TRAVELLERS LOVE HOI

Hoi brings everything you need under one digital roof—from your meal to your meet-and-assist to your mobile connection abroad. It is more than a travel app; it is your personal airport companion. Whether you are a frequent flyer or a first-time traveller, Hoi ensures your journey begins smoothly—before you even reach the gate.

Currently live at Delhi, Hyderabad, and Manohar International Airport, Hoi is redefining how India begins its journeys—starting at the airport. Download the app, explore the features, and discover what effortless travel truly feels like. ▣



TOP TO BOTTOM: The inviting pool view of Novotel New Delhi Aerocity sets a calm refreshing mood; The open-air dining area at ibis New Delhi Aerocity is set to offer a cosy spot to unwind over good food and conversations, this winter.

YOUR WINTER STAYS PLAYBOOK

From lavish indulgences to spontaneous escapes, Aerocity's hotels are set to define winter luxury, this year and beyond

WORDS **SAYANTI HALDER AND ANANYA TRIVEDI**

Winter has a way of slowing things down, turning even the most familiar corners into moments worth lingering in. And nowhere does the season feel more alive than in Aerocity, New Delhi. Once a convenient cluster of airport hotels, it has grown into something richer: a self-contained neighbourhood where every stay tells a different story.

The district's flagship hotels set the tone for luxury indulgence. Beyond their grand entrances, another rhythm emerges: that of smaller, smarter stays redefining comfort. These are the city's unsung gems—boutique hotels and budget-friendly boltholes attracting solo travellers and last-minute escapists in search of quiet corners and spontaneous warmth. Together, they create a landscape of possibility, proving that good design and good energy do not always require grand gestures, but a heart of gold.

At Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity, winter is all about warmth and indulgence. The hotel embraces the season with elegant Indian-inspired décor, cosy lighting, and curated

festive menus featuring rich seasonal flavours. Guests can enjoy heartwarming culinary experiences, soothing spa therapies, and luxurious stay packages that turn every visit into a celebration. The hotel "adds to the neighbourhood's vibrant rhythm by celebrating Indian hospitality with a modern twist. Through our cultural touchpoints, art-inspired interiors, and engaging F&B experiences, we bring warmth and character to Aerocity's cosmopolitan vibe," shares Mohammad Shoeb, Vice President–Northern Region at The Pride Plaza, Aerocity.

He adds, "During winter, we see guests seeking comfort, connection, and a sense of belonging, whether for a staycation or a business break. They choose us for our 'Truly Indian, Traditionally Luxurious' experience that blends heartfelt service, curated menus, and personalised attention."

Across the district, Pullman and Novotel New Delhi Aerocity capture the season through food, festivities, and winter experiences. "Winter at our property is all about celebrating the season and the festivities it brings along. The hotel becomes a destination that captures this spirit in

Winter at our property is all about warmth, indulgence, and a touch of celebration

SHUVENDU BANERJEE
General Manager, Holiday Inn



every sense. Our F&B offerings take the centre stage, with a series of curated promotions designed to delight guests throughout the season," explains Resident Manager, Sunaina Manerker. From open-air dining and alfresco brunches to spa treatments and heated pools, the hotels offer guests the chance to soak in the crisp winter weather while enjoying immersive seasonal experiences.

Manerker adds, "Guests visiting Farmers Basket can even select vegetables from our 5,500sqft on-site herb garden, which our chefs then prepare to their liking through an interactive experience that blends freshness with culinary creativity." At Holiday Inn New Delhi International Airport, winter brings families, business travellers, and long-stay guests together. "Winter at our property is all about

warmth, indulgence, and a touch of celebration. Our chefs curate menus featuring hearty classics and flavours that offer everyone's choices," says General Manager Shuvendu Banerjee and continues, "What truly connects them is the desire for an experience that feels personal, genuine, and thoughtful. Our team takes pride in going beyond expectations, remembering preferences,



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

L'Osteria Bella at Holiday Inn Aerocity serves authentic Italian flair; The Spice It restaurant at ibis Hotel offers a lively-all day dining experience to its guests; India, winter-special delicacies at ibis hotel capturing the season's warmth; Riso Con Asparagi e Mascarpone at Holiday Inn New Delhi Aerocity.



anticipating needs, and curating meaningful gestures that create lasting memories. We make every interaction feel personal."

Holiday Inn's winter offerings extend beyond dining: new event spaces, facelifts to The Hangar Lounge and Bar, L'Osteria Bella, Airobakes Patisserie, and Viva All Day Dining, as well as versatile poolside areas, accommodate everything from corporate luncheons to intimate parties. Banerjee notes, "One unique specialty of our hotel is the poolside area, which we also offer as a versatile event venue, perfect

for private parties, marriage ceremonies, or relaxed evening socials under the stars. Our chefs bring innovation in our themed Sunday brunches inspired by local and global flavours." For those seeking solitude, the hotel's curated stay packages offer understated luxury and a chance to reconnect in comfort.

For smart, seamless stays, ibis New Delhi Aerocity blends warmth, comfort, and community. "Our team ensures that every stay feels effortless and personal, whether it is through a thoughtful gesture or a customised dining recommendation," says Bharat Gupta, Hotel Manager, "Our outdoor dining and lounge setup comes alive in winter. Guests



Winters bring a wonderful mix of guests to us—from business travellers extending their stay to families and couples looking for a quick escape within the city



BHARAT GUPTA
Hotel Manager, ibis



COVER STORY

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

The elegant interiors of Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity exude timeless warmth and luxury; An exclusive wine tasting event in collaboration with Villa Sandi at Pullman Aerocity brought together fine flavours and convivial conversations.

often tell us it feels like the heart of the hotel during this season. The combination of live grills, warm lighting, and an energetic yet relaxed ambience creates a signature experience that has become a guest favourite."

He adds further, "Winters bring a wonderful mix of guests to us—from business travellers extending their stay to families and couples looking for a quick escape within the city. This season, we also refresh our décor and lighting to reflect the festive mood, creating a cosy and vibrant atmosphere that complements our seasonal culinary offerings."

Together, these hotels illustrate Aerocity's versatility—catering to quick layovers, business trips,



During winter, we see guests seeking comfort, connection, and a sense of belonging, whether for a staycation or a business break



MOHAMMED SHOEB

Vice President—Northern Region, Pride Plaza

festive celebrations, and leisurely escapes. "Aerocity thrives on its seamless mix of business, leisure, and lifestyle. Its connectivity, dining diversity, and vibrant social scene make it Delhi-NCR's most dynamic hub. We see it evolving into a complete destination where hospitality meets culture, entertainment, and global experiences with Pride Plaza as its true Indian heart," says Shoeb.

Manerker agrees: "Aerocity has grown into a vibrant neighbourhood with its own rhythm, and our hotel is proud to play an active role in this ecosystem. While the district offers a variety of experiences and activities, our property ensures that guests have curated access




 Winter at our
 property is all
 about celebrating
 the season and
 the festivities it
 brings along. The
 hotel becomes a
 destination that
 captures this spirit



SUNAINA MANERKER
 Resident Manager
 Pullman and Novotel Hotel

to the best of Aerocity.” Gupta adds, “Aerocity has truly come into its own as a connected urban space that thrives on collaboration and culture. We regularly engage with our neighbouring hotels, restaurants, and local partners to create experiences that go beyond accommodation.”

Banerjee echoes the sentiment: “Aerocity is a vibrant hub where hospitality, gastronomy, and retail thrive side by side. Its strength lies in its versatility: it is equally suited for quick layovers, corporate retreats, or leisurely staycations. Looking ahead, I see Aerocity evolving into a full-fledged lifestyle district that brings together travel, business, culture, and community in a seamless experience.”

WHERE THE MAGIC BEGAN

Revisiting Aerocity's brightest Christmas moments and year-end celebrations, a season lit with lights, laughter, joy, and lasting memories





CLOCKWISE FROM
FACING PAGE: Aerocity
sparkles brighter than
ever as the festive
season paints the
precinct in red and
glitter; Bright festive
décor lit up every
stroll at The Square;
Christmas decorations
transformed every
corner into a canvas.

PHOTO ESSAY

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Craftsmanship at its finest as artisans brought intricate designs to life on the loom at Craft City; Families immersed themselves in creative holiday workshops; Soulful tunes and live music performances are never ignored to keep Aerocity's visitors entertained; An artisan adding finishing touch to handcrafted décor.





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.

FOLLOW US: [gmraerocity](#) [@gmraerocity](#) [+91 7042333053](#) [www.gmraerocity.com](#) [gmraerocitynewdelhi](#)

INSIGHTS

A deep dive into the people, stories, and concepts driving the Aerocity district's business and creative pulse

Inside Story 42 | Tête-à-Tête 46 | Perspective 48 | Beyond Business 54

ALL ACCESS, NO FUSS

SMOOTH HIGHWAYS

Major infrastructure upgrades have made commuting to Aerocity smoother than ever. Whether arriving for business, leisure or a quick stopover, seamless access now defines the Aerocity experience.

Page 50

A GLOBAL VISION ROOTED IN DELHI

With upcoming developments and soaring ambition woven into Aerocity's evolution, the Global Business District emerges as a blueprint for India's next-gen cityscape

WORDS **TEAM AEROCITY LIVE**

PHOTOGRAPHS **BHARAT BHUSHAN UPADHYAY**





At Delhi's edge, GMR Aerocity, New Delhi is quietly scripting a new chapter in urban evolution—one that captures the rhythm of a city confidently stepping onto the global stage. It is not just a location; it is a pulse point where work, leisure, and culture blend effortlessly. With its premium offices, world-class hotels, and open, walkable boulevards lined with greenery, along with safe and walkable districts with multi-modal connectivity, open spaces, and modern amenities, Aerocity is redefining what a modern, human-scaled urban district can feel like.

SETTING A NEW BENCHMARK

Boasting 11 globally-renowned hospitality brands, stands the **Hospitality District**, offering its guests and patrons an unparalleled choice of unmatched stays and luxury experiences. With over 4,000 operational rooms (spanning all the properties), numerous F&B offerings, state-of-the-art facilities, and an end-to-end business ecosystem with premium office spaces, world-class amenities, and high-end infrastructure—it invites with open arms both business and leisure travellers. Add to this the diverse array of retail and F&B outlets, across The Square and Worldmark 1, 2, and 3, the district becomes a one-stop shop for everything immersive and luxury.

A VISION IN MOTION

At the heart of this transformation, also lies the upcoming 70-acre **Gateway District**, the epicentre of Aerocity's growth and Delhi's expanding urban identity. More than a string of developments, it is a living expression of Delhi's ambition to become a vibrant destination at the global crossroads of business, design, and experience.

Among the most anticipated projects in the Gateway District is **Aerocity One**, being developed by GMR Aero Realty, located in the northern precinct of the Gateway District. Conceived as a boutique commercial landmark, it will reflect Aerocity's core philosophy—where functionality meets elegance and business is reimagined as experience. Whether you are a global enterprise, a knowledge-driven firm or a creative collective, Aerocity One—

on the verge of completion by cementing its final roof slab—will offer an address that works as hard as you do.

Anchoring this growth further are landmark luxury hotels like Waldorf Astoria from Hilton Hotels & Resorts, bringing world-class hospitality to the business district. Moreover, new developments like Worldmark 4 and the upcoming Worldmark 5, 6, and 7, along with India's largest retail destination, are shaping a skyline that blends commerce with character.

Along the lines of the already operational Hospitality District and other upcoming projects, The Gateway District's evolution places equal emphasis on human experience and builds an ecosystem where office, retail, and lifestyle spaces coexist seamlessly. It marks Aerocity's shift from being an airport-side hub to a vibrant urban one where

business meets lifestyle.

BUILDING THE NEXT FRONTIER

More in the pipeline are the pillars to further growth, which also includes healthcare, culture, and art. Occupying 90 acres in the heart of the Capital, the upcoming **Downtown District** is on track to become Delhi's most compelling business-cum-cultural address, which will also have a fully integrated healthcare centre and a performing arts centre, in addition to being a coveted destination at the intersection of business, commerce, and rejuvenation. As the final piece in Aerocity's master plan, its completion will mark the full realisation of The Gateway District of Aerocity as a fully integrated Global Business District—heralding a new era for corporate, culture, and healthcare.





Meanwhile, the emerging **Terminal District**—another project in the pipeline near **Terminal 3**—is taking shape as a dynamic extension of the airport ecosystem. At the centre of this ecosystem is **T3 Edge**, another marquee development that is being developed by GMR Aero Realty. T3 Edge will host the iconic Taj Hotels & Resorts with an inventory of 379 rooms, being developed in partnership with Chalet Hotels, in addition to office and conferencing spaces, and a wide range of F&B, dining and recreation offerings.

This commercial landmark is designed to empower global enterprises and foster innovation and collaboration in a well-networked, high-performance environment.

CONNECTIVITY AND THE NEW URBAN FLOW

What sets this Global Business District apart is its integration with the city's evolving mobility

landscape. From the Delhi Metro Airport Express Line and the Dwarka Expressway to the newly inaugurated UER-II, Aerocity stands at the intersection of some of the country's most advanced urban infrastructure. The result is a destination that is not just well connected—it is future connected. This synergy of speed, access, and design makes the district an urban prototype for how global business hubs can coexist with leisure, culture, class, and community. Aerocity's proximity to the IGI Airport, the Airport Express Metro line, and major road corridors like UER-II, Northern Access Road (NAR), and the Dwarka Expressway make it an urban pivot.

WHY THIS MATTERS?

As Aerocity enhances its identity as a vibrant GBD, these districts would bring scale, design, and ambition. It shows how Delhi can evolve from a dispersed city to one where offices, leisure, and retail

converge seamlessly.

As the lights rise over its gleaming towers and open plazas, Aerocity stands as a metaphor—the threshold to a new kind of India: one that moves forward with intention, builds with empathy, and welcomes the world through open doors. Here, the energy is palpable with the buzz that it emits—that of global business and local culture, of work and wanderlust, and of spaces that blur boundaries between life, leisure, and legacy.

With the promising districts, up-and-coming, Aerocity has truly got the buzz by bringing scale, design, and ambition, ensuring that the precinct becomes not just an adjunct to the airport, but a vibrant destination in its own right. ▣

SCAN FOR
ONLINE
VERSION



As the new GM, what are your focus areas for the properties?

My focus at these properties is built on guest experience, people development, and commercial excellence. I aim to elevate the guest journey with personalised, intuitive experiences for business and leisure guests. At the same time, I empower our teams through learning, accountability, and innovation to deliver natural service excellence. Operationally, the goal is to boost efficiency, optimise revenue streams, and drive sustainable growth. Ultimately, I want Pullman and Novotel Aerocity to set the national standard for contemporary hospitality, merging innovation and efficiency.

How do you view Aerocity's positioning as a key hub of the hospitality sector in the NCR?

Aerocity has become a vibrant hospitality ecosystem, evolving from an airport district into a premier business and lifestyle destination. Its location between Gurugram and Central Delhi, alongside airport proximity and great connectivity, makes it the NCR's hospitality epicenter. Aerocity unites global travellers, corporates, and influencers, remaining lively with events that attract both visitors and locals. This positioning lets us draw international and city clientele. As key players, our hotels lead in shaping this sophisticated, sustainable, and experience-driven narrative. New commercial projects and major corporations enhance Aerocity's business hub status. Its closeness to Yashobhoomi increases appeal, bringing more MICE and overflow business, further solidifying Aerocity as the NCR's top hospitality spot.

What differentiates the hotels from other properties in the vicinity?

What truly sets us apart is our scale, diversity, and depth of experience. With over 670 rooms between both hotels, expansive event facilities,



SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS

The recently-appointed General Manager **Manish Dayya** is redefining standards at Pullman and Novotel New Delhi Aerocity through a three-pronged strategy: deeply personalised guest journeys, an innovative staff culture, and commercial sustainability

WORDS **ROHIT KAUL Wafa**

and a dynamic range of dining options, we operate as a complete hospitality destination. Our integrated hospitality allows us to cater to a wide spectrum of guests, from business to leisure travellers, while maintaining consistent quality and service excellence. Our design aesthetics, art-led ambiance, and strong culinary identity create a distinctive sense of place that blends cosmopolitan energy with local warmth. Additionally, the hotel has six F&B outlets bringing together a plethora of options, along with a banquet space being one of the largest in the city.

How do you balance maintaining the distinct brand identities of Pullman and Novotel?

Each brand has its own defined ethos: Pullman being bold, dynamic, and design-led, while Novotel stands for comfort, connection, and balance. We ensure these identities remain distinct in guest-facing experiences, from design elements and service rituals to communication tone. However, behind the scenes, our operations function as one integrated ecosystem, with shared back-end processes, centralised revenue and procurement management, and cross-functional efficiencies. Our teams are cross-trained and empowered to deliver on both brand promises, with a deep understanding of each brand's distinct culture and philosophy.

How has the recovery from the pandemic shaped your strategies?

The pandemic redefined the entire hospitality industry by emphasising the values of trust, personalisation, and adaptability. Our strategy since recovery has been to rebuild guest confidence through consistent safety, warmth, and intuitive service. Digital transformation plays a pivotal role, enabling frictionless interactions while maintaining a human touch. We have diversified our business mix, focusing on domestic travel, staycations, and long-stay guests, while steadily rebuilding international and corporate segments. On revenue

generation, our emphasis is on optimising yield through data-driven pricing, enhanced loyalty engagement, and growing ancillary revenues from F&B and MICE.

The MICE market is strong in Aerocity. What are your strategies for attracting this segment?

MICE continue to be a cornerstone of our business strategy, and Aerocity's robust infrastructure gives us a distinct competitive edge. With nearly 14,200sqm of versatile event space, including a 1,181sqm pillarless ballroom, 13 breakout rooms with a pre-function area, and an open courtyard perfect for theme breaks, Pullman and Novotel New Delhi Aerocity together define the benchmark for MICE excellence. Our flexible indoor and outdoor venues effortlessly accommodate everything from large-scale exhibitions and car launches to high-profile medical and corporate conferences. Strengthened by strategic partnerships with corporates, associations, and global event planners—along with a strong network both within India and abroad—we continue to position the hotels as preferred destinations for major events.

How do you expect occupancies and ARR to shape up in Aerocity going forward?

Aerocity's performance trajectory is extremely encouraging, driven by a strong rebound in corporate travel, weddings, MICE, and inbound tourism. The district's reputation as a global hospitality hub continues to attract new demand, while its location ensures consistent business even during lean periods. For us, the focus will be on driving rate integrity, optimising segmentation, and enhancing value perception through exceptional experiences that justify premium pricing. The long-term outlook remains highly optimistic, with Aerocity poised to sustain its leadership position in the NCR market.

What are your priorities for this property over the next 3–5 years?

Our long-term vision is to reinforce

Pullman and Novotel Aerocity as icons of modern hospitality, synonymous with innovation, sustainability, and excellence. Over the next three to five years, our focus will be on enhancing our brand equity through digital transformation, advanced data-driven guest personalisation. We plan to further strengthen our positioning as a lifestyle and culinary destination, while expanding partnerships that drive global visibility. Equally, I see talent development as a strategic priority, fostering a culture that attracts, nurtures, and retains the next generation of hospitality leaders. The objective is to ensure sustainable profitability while leaving a lasting impact.

How do you ensure that the F&B offerings remain relevant and appealing to both domestic and international guests?

F&B lies at the heart of the Pullman and Novotel Aerocity experience. Our vision is to establish the two hotels as a culinary landmark in Delhi where authenticity meets innovation. This philosophy comes alive through creative collaborations and experiential dining that evolve constantly with global trends and local preferences. Guests at Pullman and Novotel enjoy an array of six restaurants and bars, each offering something new with every visit, thanks to an ever-evolving calendar of special promotions and seasonal experiences. Sustainability and mindful dining remain central to our culinary ethos, reflected in ethical sourcing, seasonal menus, and a strong focus on minimising food waste. Our in-house 5,500sqft herb garden exemplifies this commitment by providing fresh, homegrown produce that enhances our menus daily. We aim to deepen this positioning through more immersive, experience-driven events and collaborations. With six outlets and a passionate culinary and beverage team, Pullman and Novotel Aerocity continue to create dining experiences that resonate with all guests. ■



THE CALM THAT CONNECTS

Vikas Sharma, Group CEO, Encalm Hospitality, on shaping the future of airport experiences through empathy, innovation, and purpose-led luxury

WORDS **SAYANTI HALDER**

What drew you to lead Encalm at a time when the airport hospitality landscape in India is evolving so rapidly?

It is the commitment to become the gold standard in hospitality by delivering refined, seamless experiences that truly resonate with today's travellers. Encalm is elevating airports into spaces of comfort, care, and curation. As India's aviation sector expands at an unprecedented pace, this presents an opportunity to build something meaningful and forward-looking. That global relevance inspired me.

Airport lounges have transformed from being waiting spaces to lifestyle destinations. How is Encalm reimagining that experience?

We see lounges as curated environments where comfort, culture, and technology converge. We blend design with purpose, offering culinary excellence, wellness touchpoints, business-friendly zones, and immersive brand experiences. Every detail is deliberate, designed to make guests feel cared for and inspired.

What are the key trends shaping traveller behaviour today?

Today's discerning traveller values efficiency, personalisation, and meaning. There is a clear shift toward tech-enabled experiences that feel intuitive, not transactional. Wellness has also become central; travellers now seek spaces that restore and recharge them rather than just serve them. We focus on creating authentic and consistent experiences that earn trust and foster genuine connections.

Many travellers now see airports as extensions of their holidays. How does Encalm balance that within these transient spaces?

That is one of the most exciting shifts we have witnessed. We design experiences that balance precision with personality. Our lounges and wellness zones allow travellers to be productive or unwind, depending on their mood. From ergonomic work



For Encalm, Aerocity is a natural ally. We share the same values of premium service, curated experiences, and guest-first thinking



Pods to spa-inspired relaxation zones, every element is crafted for travellers to feel centred.

Aerocity and the airport are being viewed as one connected ecosystem. How does Encalm contribute to that synergy?

Aerocity and the airport, together, represent a powerful convergence of travel, lifestyle, and commerce—it is where movement meets meaning. For us, Encalm is the bridge within that ecosystem, connecting a traveller's physical journey with a consistent hospitality experience. We believe travel should be efficient yet restorative, and our wellness offerings are designed to make that possible. In this way, Encalm complements Aerocity's lifestyle proposition with balance and calm, enriching the travel experience.

How would you describe Aerocity's evolving identity?

It is a space where global travellers, business leaders, and brands converge, creating an ecosystem that is both dynamic and collaborative. For Encalm, Aerocity is a natural ally. We share the same values of premium service, curated experiences, and guest-first thinking. Being part of this ecosystem allows us to align with a broader narrative of modern hospitality—one that is world-class, forward-looking, and reflective of India's growing global identity.

What does the winter season mean to you as a hospitality leader?

Winter, for me, is a season of reflection and connection. It is a time when people seek comfort, familiarity, and togetherness—and in hospitality, that creates a beautiful

opportunity to go deeper in how we serve. At Encalm, we celebrate winter by creating spaces that feel personal and inviting. Even at an airport, we strive to make every visit feel like a pause that matters—a comforting, memorable moment before the next journey.

What is next in your expansion blueprint for India and beyond?

Our goal has always been to build a cohesive and elevated hospitality ecosystem across the airport journey. A key milestone in this journey, Encalm Xenia, our new first-class lounge, redefines airport luxury with elite sophistication and understated exclusivity. We are also introducing Encalm Privé across key domestic terminals—Delhi Terminal 1 Departures and Hyderabad (Airport) Domestic Departures. Designed to bring Encalm's signature warmth and efficiency to everyday travel, Privé offers a grand yet accessible experience. We are focused on scaling this across major airports in India, and pursuing select international opportunities to bring the Encalm experience to a discerning global audience.

What has been your biggest professional takeaway of the year? How are you setting the tone for the year 2026?

2025 has been a year of consolidation, clarity, and conscious evolution. The biggest learning for me has been the importance of consistency in experience—especially in times of rapid growth. Looking ahead to 2026, we are focused on refining our service model, integrating smarter technology, and creating more intuitive, guest-centric spaces. ■



WHERE ALL ROADS LEAD

Major infrastructure developments in the recent past have ensured that access to Aerocity, New Delhi is getting easier every day

WORDS **SAMAI SINGH**

In a city as vast and vibrant as New Delhi, how easily one moves often defines how fully one lives it. For years, crossing the capital—from North to South, or Delhi to Gurugram—felt like an expedition. But that narrative is quickly changing, thanks to one destination that has redefined convenience, culture, and connection: GMR Aerocity, Delhi.

Strategically poised between Delhi and Gurugram, Aerocity has evolved into one of the capital's most dynamic districts—a place where business meets leisure, and urban energy meets effortless accessibility. What began as a hospitality hub beside the airport has transformed into a self-contained ecosystem, with luxury hotels, gourmet restaurants, global offices, and buzzing nightlife, all stitched together with smart planning and sustainable design.

And now, with a wave of new infrastructure projects and rising

vehicular population, getting to Aerocity from the city has never been easier.

THE NEW RHYTHM OF AEROCITY

The game changer arrived with the Dwarka Expressway (NH-248BB)—a 27.6km, 16-lane masterpiece connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Kherki Daula Toll Plaza in Gurugram. Beginning just minutes from Aerocity, near Shiv Murti, this expressway includes a 5.1km tunnel that leads straight to Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). The result? Travel times that once stretched endlessly have now been significantly reduced. Whether you are a corporate guest, a weekend visitor, or a diner on the move, Aerocity now feels closer than ever.

Adding to the smooth flow are the newly built flyover and underpasses near Shiv Murti, completed in 2024. These links between the Dwarka Expressway

and Samalkha Road have streamlined movement across South Delhi, Dwarka, IGIA, and Aerocity—untangling what was once one of the city's most congested junctions.

A THIRD RING OF POSSIBILITY

The most transformative development yet is the Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II)—a 75.7km, six-lane expressway inaugurated in August 2025. Often referred to as Delhi's Third Ring Road, UER-II arcs around the city's western edge, connecting NH-44 at Alipur to NH-48 near IGIA. For travellers and daily commuters alike, it is a revelation. By easing congestion across older city routes, it has made reaching Aerocity and the airport faster, smoother, and simpler than ever before.

Meanwhile, work is underway on the AIIMS–Mahipalpur–Gurugram Elevated Corridor, a 20km stretch



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The Dwarka Expressway is a seamless link between Delhi and Gurugram; A direct underground expressway connecting to the airport; The Mundka–Bakkarwala Village Toll Plaza as a key access point.

that will further boost connectivity from the heart of South Delhi to Gurugram through Aerocity—cementing its role as the capital’s central mobility hub.

FROM TRANSIT ZONE TO URBAN ICON

Once seen as just a stopover between Delhi and Gurugram, Aerocity today has its own gravitational pull. It is a district where luxury and lifestyle converge, where you can step from a five-star suite to a craft cocktail bar, from a corporate boardroom to an art-filled promenade—all within walking distance.

With every new expressway, flyover, and metro link, Aerocity feels less like the city’s edge and



more like its new centre—the place where Delhi comes together. In an era where connectivity defines progress, Aerocity is not just easier to reach—it is impossible to ignore.

In the near future, Aerocity will enjoy direct metro connectivity to the heart of Delhi through the upcoming Delhi Metro’s Golden Line, which will also link directly to Terminal 1 of Delhi Airport.

Additionally, access from NCR cities such as Meerut will become effortless, with a new Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) station planned near Aerocity. ▢

SCAN FOR
ONLINE
VERSION



AT A GLANCE

DWARKA EXPRESSWAY (NH-248BB)

27.6km, 16-lane expressway linking Dwarka (Delhi) to Kherki Daula (Gurugram); includes a 5.1km tunnel directly connected to IGIA, cutting commute times.

FLYOVER AND UNDERPASSES, NEAR SHIV MURTI (2024)

New link between Dwarka Expressway and Samalkha Road, easing traffic flow between South Delhi, Dwarka, IGIA, and Aerocity.

URBAN EXTENSION ROAD-II (UER-II)

A 75.7km, six-lane corridor forming Delhi’s Third Ring Road; connects NH-44 (Alipur) to NH-48 (near IGIA), improving airport and Aerocity access.

AIIMS–MAHIPALPUR–GURUGRAM ELEVATED CORRIDOR

A 20km corridor, which is under development, will seamlessly connect central South Delhi to Gurugram through Aerocity.



IN GOOD TASTE

From hearty winter ingredients to global festive menus, **Executive Chef Sanjay Mishra** of Aloft New Delhi, Aerocity captures the mood of the season with dishes to warm both heart and table

WORDS **ANANYA TRIVEDI**

As Delhi eases into its gentle winter, the air carries a certain nostalgia—the kind that brings people closer to the warmth of good food and shared stories. At Aloft New Delhi Aerocity, this

shift in season marks the start of something special. For Chef Mishra, the close of the year is not just about festivities; it is about reflection and comfort—emotions which translate beautifully onto every plate that leaves his kitchen.

MOOD OF THE SEASON

“As the year winds down, our kitchen really comes alive,” says Chef Mishra. “It is a time to look back at everything we have created, celebrate the journey, and share that feeling through



food.” At Aloft, that sentiment takes shape in menus that are comforting yet exciting—dishes that blend the warmth of familiar Indian flavours with a touch of global flair. Using fresh seasonal produce, Chef Mishra and his team curate experiences that reflect togetherness and festivity, perfectly in tune with the rhythm of Aerocity.

WINTER ON THE MENU

Chef Mishra shares that winter is a time every chef looks forward to. “It brings comfort, depth, and a beautiful variety of flavours,” he remarks. The kitchen comes alive with the freshness of local produce—mustard greens, winter carrots, root vegetables, and fenugreek—each adding its own warmth and character to the menu. At Aloft, guests can look forward

to generous winter spreads—Mediterranean buffets, courtyard grills, Asian favourites, and signature shawarma stations, all designed to capture the winter mood the hotel is loved for, bringing together a sense of shared celebration.

THE KITCHEN’S CORE

Aloft’s food philosophy, Chef Mishra says, is built on creativity and honesty. “We bring global flavours to the table but keep local ingredients at the core,” he explains. “Our dishes are expressive, modern, and full of energy—just like the Aloft spirit. What shines through is a blend of culture and comfort—food that feels at once familiar and new.

SIMPLY SUSTAINABLE

There is also a quite responsibility that runs through the kitchen—one

that goes beyond taste. “Conscious dining is not a passing trend; it is how we move forward,” says Chef Mishra. The team focuses on sourcing responsibly, supporting local producers, and reducing food waste wherever they can.

SHARED OVER MEAL

For him, the dishes that matter most are the ones which stir emotion. “When someone says a dish reminded them of home, that is the best kind of compliment,” he states. “Dining here is not just about the food, it is about energy, creativity and connection—that is what Aerocity feels like,” he remarks.

At Aloft New Delhi Aerocity, with such culinary philosophy, winter is not just a season, but a mood. One that stays with you long after the last bite. ▢



WHEN KINDNESS GOES VIRAL

As the festive season continues, the deep sense of “sharing is caring” takes centre stage at GMR Group’s Daan Utsav—celebrating the joy of giving back



Rooted in
GMR's core
value of Social
Responsibility,
Daan Utsav also
strengthens
the culture of
Individual Social
Responsibility
(ISR)

At GMR Group, giving is not confined to a season—it is a way of life. Every year, during the week of Gandhi Jayanti (2nd–8th October), GMRites across locations come together to celebrate Daan Utsav, India's Festival of Giving, with compassion, collaboration, and a spirit of community, at its best.

Since its inception in 2009, Daan Utsav has become a cherished GMR tradition, and this year marks its 17th year of celebration. What began as a simple idea to spread joy through acts of kindness has now evolved into a movement—one that unites employees across business units, functions, and geographies in the shared belief that giving enriches both the giver and the receiver.

This year's theme, "Kindness Goes Viral," captures the essence of that spirit. The concept encourages

every employee who undertakes an act of kindness to nominate another colleague to do the same, creating a chain of goodwill that spreads across teams and locations. Whether it is volunteering at a community program, mentoring students, supporting a cleanliness or plantation drive, or spending time with children and the elderly, each act inspires the next, proving that kindness is contagious in the best possible way.

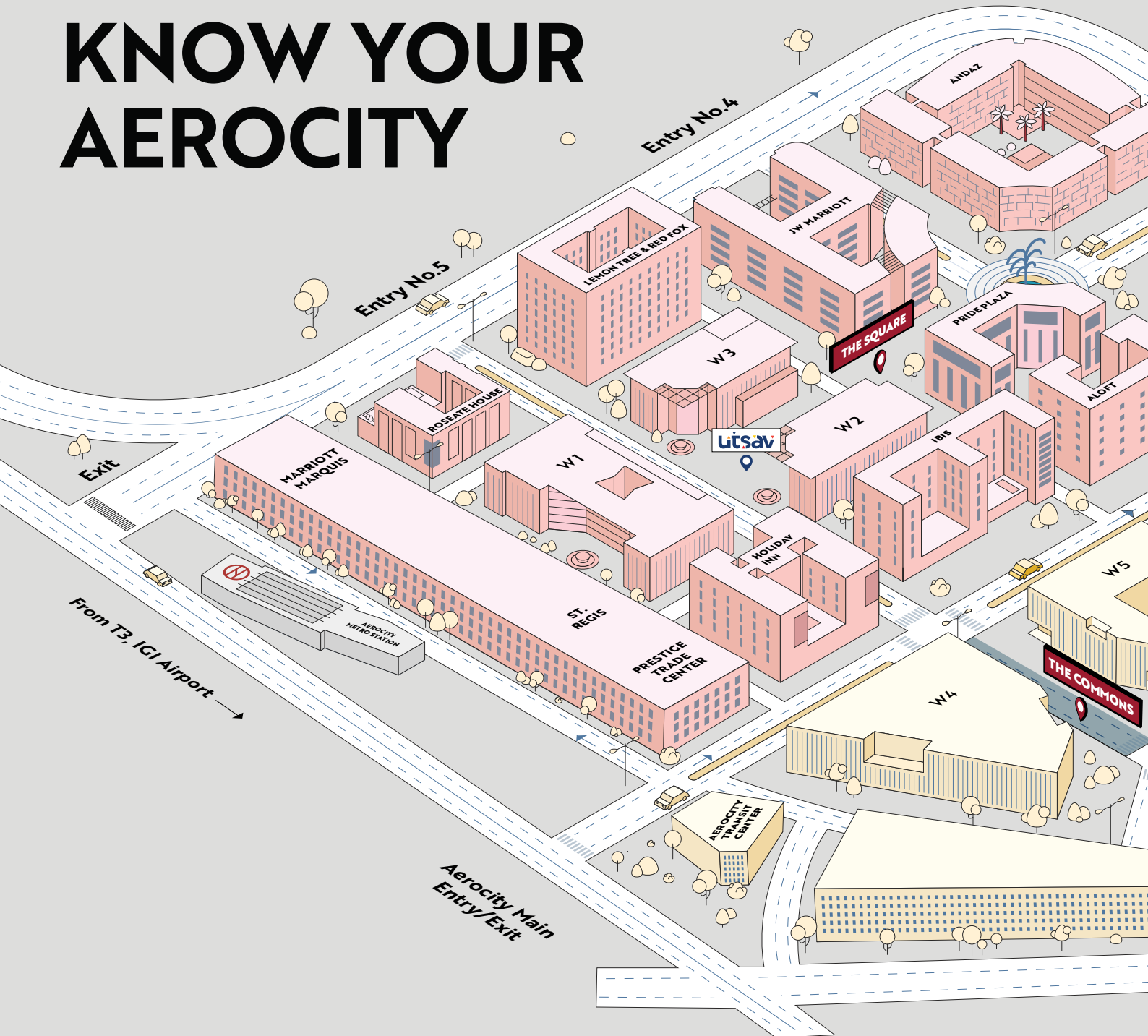
Across GMR locations, around 2,000 employees participate enthusiastically in Daan Utsav activities—fulfilling wishes of underprivileged children, supporting orphanages, and old-age homes, organising health and hygiene awareness sessions or contributing essentials to those in need. Each initiative reflects GMR's deep commitment to giving back to the society in a meaningful, personal ways.

As the week coincides with the festive season, the celebrations take on a special significance. GMRites blend the joy of festivity with the spirit of giving—turning celebrations into opportunities to share, connect, and care. The atmosphere is one of gratitude and togetherness, reminding everyone that the truest form of celebration lies in spreading happiness beyond oneself.

Rooted in GMR's core value of Social Responsibility, Daan Utsav also strengthens the culture of Individual Social Responsibility (ISR) through other ongoing employee volunteering initiatives. Together, they nurture a workplace where empathy, service, and humanity are lived values—not just spoken ones.

As Daan Utsav enters its 17th year, one thing remains constant: the belief that every small act of kindness has the power to inspire another. And when that happens, kindness truly goes viral. ■

KNOW YOUR AEROCITY



■ Hospitality District

The Square

F&B

Chai Point
Sugar & Spice
Blue Tokai

Retail

Minaki
Ruvido Caso
Manan
Kama Ayurveda
Chique
Nicobar

ATM

ICICI Bank

Paan Shop

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
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
Shaan-e-Awadh
Stallion Bar and Lounge
Aqua Grill

Pullman & Novotel

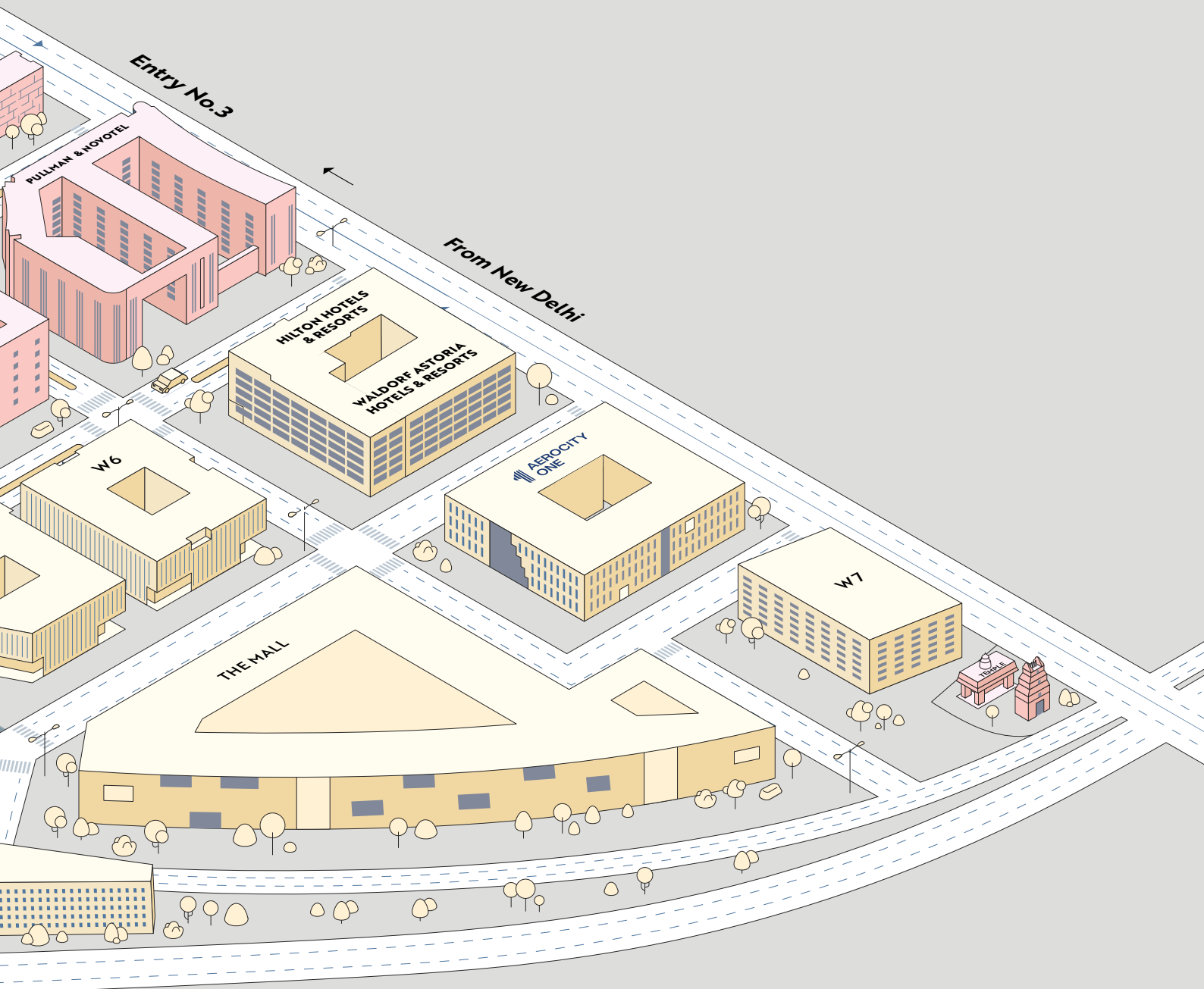
Farmers' Basket at Pluck
Café Pluck
Honk
Pling
Food Exchange
Quoin Bar

Andaz By Hyatt

AnnaMaya
Juniper Bar
Soul Pantry
Khubani

JW Marriott

K3
Adrift Kaya
Delhi Baking Company
JW Lounge
Norman



■ Gateway District
(Upcoming)

Lemon Tree
Citrus Cafe
Republic of Noodles

Roseate
Kheer
Del
Tara
Chidya Ghar
Rosted By Roseate

Marriott Marquis*

St. Regis*

Prestige Trade Center*

Co-Working Offices

Worldmark
Coworks
Atelier

Pride Plaza
Innov8

Roseate
Upstage

Novotel & Pullman
Regus

Amenities

Temple - Hanuman & Sai Baba Temple

98.4 Chemist

Aerocity Metro Station

Rest Rooms in Common Area

Concierge Desk

Note :

W stands for Worldmark

*Under development

For more information,
please turn to INDEX

AEROCITY
ONE

Aerocity Transit Center

Hilton Hotels & Resort

Waldorf Astoria

Worldmark 4

Worldmark 5

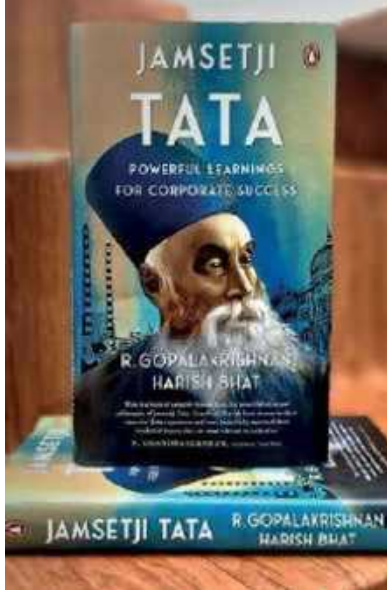
Worldmark 6

Worldmark 7

The Mall



MOVIE
SCREENINGS



BOOK LAUNCHES



ART
EXHIBITIONS



TEDTALKS



Utsav

CREATE. COLLABORATE. CONNECT.

INBUILT PLUG & PLAY AV WITH MODULAR STAGE
ARTISTICALLY CURATED 2000SQFT SPACE
COMFORTABLE SEATING FOR 75 PAX



TOWNHALLS



WORKSHOPS

FOR HOSTING EVENTS, REACH OUT TO US AT
concierge.aerocity@gmrgroup.in OR CALL
+91 9818500869

LAYOVER LUXE

Discover the experiences, offerings, and spaces that make Aerocity a truly refreshing escape

Time Capsule 60 | Retail Therapy 62 | F&B 64 | Out & About 68

CALM AMID THE CITY

GARDENS OF DELHI

Amid the capital's restless rhythm, Delhi's gardens offer an enduring sense of balance and calm. From morning light to the hush of dusk, each garden stands as a testament to Delhi's timeless dialogue between history and design.

Page 66



A VERY INDIAN KIND OF CHRISTMAS

How India gave the global festival its own colour, flavour, and heart

In India, Christmas is not just celebrated; it is felt. It is the scent of spice and sugar rising from an old oven, the hum of carols sung in many tongues, and the clink of cutlery over long, laughter-filled lunches. Over time, this festival has grown beyond the church walls, becoming a shared expression of joy that wears the colours, flavours, and generosity of India.

In Goa, Christmas arrived with the Portuguese in the 16th century, and over the centuries, the region has turned the feast into a sensory spectacle. Streets glow with paper stars, neighbours exchange trays of sweets, and kitchens become workshops of love and patience. The pride of every Goan Christmas table, *bebinca*, is crafted layer by painstaking layer—a dessert that demands time and care. Alongside it, *neureos*, *bolinhas*, and *doce de grao* fill the air with coconut

and jaggery, made in generous batches because, in Goa, everyone is invited. Midnight Mass often flows into fireworks and dancing on the beach—a testament to how seamlessly faith and festivity intertwine here.

In Kerala, where the Saint Thomas Christians trace their faith back nearly 2,000 years—among the oldest Christian communities in the world—Christmas carries the quiet grace of tradition. The feast is modest yet rich in meaning: *appam* and stew, fragrant duck roast, Fish Molly or Molee, and homemade grape wine. These flavours echo the state's history as a stop on the ancient spice route, where faith and flavour have always mingled beautifully.

In Kolkata, Christmas sparkles with nostalgia. Ever since the days of the British Raj, Park Street has transformed each December into a carnival of lights, carols, and cocoa-

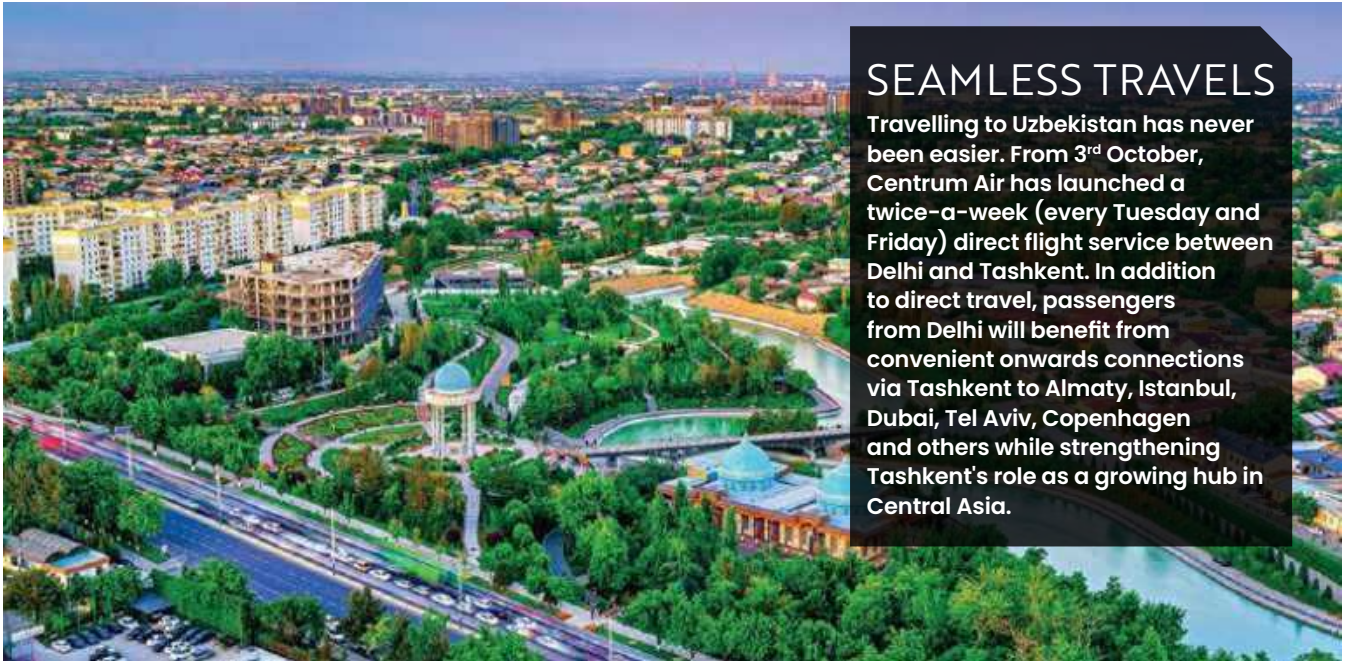
scented air. The century-old Nahoum & Sons, a Jewish bakery in the New Market, remains a beloved ritual stop for its plum cakes, rose cakes, and rum balls—where families of all faiths queue up alike. Here, Christmas is not confined to religion; it is a celebration of the city itself.

Further, the Parsi community joins the revelry with quiet flair. Known for their love of good food and good company, Parsi households bake spiced fruit cakes, ginger biscuits, Mawa Cake, and *Lagan nu Custard* alongside *Dhansak* and *Sali Boti*—a nod to India's broader habit of blending festivals and flavours.

Across India, Christmas has adapted in ways that feel deeply rooted. Marigolds mingle with mistletoe; *torans* hang beside wreaths; and carols are sung in almost all regional languages. Christmas in India is not borrowed—it is beautifully made our own. ▣

FLIGHT MODE: ON

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



SEAMLESS TRAVELS

Travelling to Uzbekistan has never been easier. From 3rd October, Centrum Air has launched a twice-a-week (every Tuesday and Friday) direct flight service between Delhi and Tashkent. In addition to direct travel, passengers from Delhi will benefit from convenient onwards connections via Tashkent to Almaty, Istanbul, Dubai, Tel Aviv, Copenhagen and others while strengthening Tashkent's role as a growing hub in Central Asia.

SMART GATES

The Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) has now expanded to thirteen airports across India, following its launch at five additional locations. Introduced in 2024, the initiative allows passengers to clear immigration in just 30 seconds via biometric e-gates, significantly streamlining travel formalities nationwide.



NEW AVIATION CORRIDOR

IndiGo recently announced Athens as the inaugural destination to be served by its first Airbus A321XLR aircraft. The airline is all set to bring home India's first A321XLR by the end of 2025 and begin six weekly, direct flights to Athens by early January 2026 (subject to regulatory approval). This milestone will make IndiGo the only Indian carrier to offer direct flights between India (Delhi and Mumbai) and Greece.

FLY DIRECT

Air India has begun non-stop services between Delhi and Jaisalmer from 26th October. The airline operates daily flights on this route, offering the only full-service experience for travellers to Jaisalmer. These new flights are also timed to enable convenient connections to/from Europe, the UK, and major domestic stations. The service will operate until 28th March 2026 to meet the seasonal tourism demand.

AS HOT AS IT COULD GET

Brace the Delhi's winter in style at Aerocity. From chic layers to skincare solutions...we have got you covered

WORDS ANANYA TRIVEDI

As the air turns crisp and the days grows softer, early winter arrives with a quite kind of luxury. It is the season of layering—of textures that cocoon, fragrances that linger, and indulgences that warm from within. Aerocity's boutiques bring everything together for you to welcome the season in style.

MAYA JACKET MANAN

Crafted in Manan's signature handwoven linen, the jacket carries a natural softness that only deepens with wear. It is relaxed, slightly oversized, and cut layers beautifully over turtle necks. A true winter essential for everyone who appreciate style.

PRICE: ₹ 23,100
SPOT THE STORE AT:
The Square





KUMKUMADI YOUTH-REVITALISING SOFT CREAM KAMA AYURVEDA

When heaters would dry out your skin, this winter, this cream will arrive like a gentle reset. Infused with the heritage of kumkumadi and modern actives, it helps smooth, brighten and hydrate. Think of it as your winter companion; restoring moisture to face the harsh winter.

PRICE ₹ 2,095

SPOT THE STORE AT: The Square

MONOGRAM LEATHER BOTTLE CASE DA MILANO

There is something undeniably chic about carrying warmth in style. Handcrafted in rich leather, this bottle case adds a layer of quite luxury to everyday life.

Perfect for winter, it keeps your drink snug and look effortlessly polished.

PRICE ₹ 7,999

**SPOT THE STORE AT:
Worldmark 1**



SKIN PERFECT DAY CREAM HERBS & HILLS (MODERN BAZAAR EXPRESS)

Between chilly winds and indoor heating, winter leaves skin yearning for comfort. This handy, purse-friendly cream nourishes deeply while feeling light and smelling fresh. Infused with natural ingredients, it is the quiet winter staple that keeps your skin cared for.

PRICE ₹ 2,999

SPOT THE STORE AT: The Square



COLD PRESSED ORGANIC VIRGIN ALMOND OIL FOREST ESSENTIALS

Extracted from sweet almonds, this nourishing and soothing oil is a winter essential. The texture is luxuriously smooth yet light, absorbing. In the chill of winter, it locks in and restores moisture and brings back a natural glow while nourishing you from within—perfect for both skin and hair.

PRICE ₹ 2,450

SPOT THE STORE AT: The Square

*MRP may vary

END OF YEAR, START OF CHEER

Where every toast, laugh, and moment turns the year's end into a memory

The close of the year finds Aerocity at its liveliest—tables buzzing, glasses raised, and every evening carrying a hint of celebration. From the upbeat spirit of Social Aerocity to the inviting warmth of Mesa Kitchen & Bar, each space captures the mood of the season in its own way. Whether it is for celebrating New Year's eve with loved ones, having a heartfelt team luncheon or celebrating a small-sized family or pre-wedding function, these are where good food and great company come together to celebrate the year on a memorable note.

KHUBANI

If Aerocity has a place that truly knows how to host a night, it is this. The space feels alive with music, laughter, and the aroma of global dishes weaving together. With striking interiors and cocktails that keep the mood high, Khubani makes every celebration feel like playful decadence.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT: Andaz Delhi, by Hyatt



MESA KITCHEN & BAR

Soft lights, good music, and delectable flavours set the tone at Mesa. Reputed for serving European, Mexican, Italian, and Mediterranean, the restaurant accommodates 120 guests, with a 30-seater private dining area ideal for intimate gatherings. Seasonal specials, handcrafted cocktails and themed nights for Christmas, New Year's, and beyond keep the celebrations flowing. It is where festive evenings blend effortlessly into memorable nights.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT:
Worldmark 3



UNDERDOGS AEROCITY

With its electric energy and sports-bar charm, this is where every celebration feels like a win. True to their theme, all cocktails here are named after iconic sports legends, while special menus roll out for every occasion—from Halloween to New Year's Eve. Whether it is a casual catchup or a night that ends in cheers, Underdoggs makes every get together count.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT:
Worldmark 2



AEROCITY SOCIAL

At the heart of Aerocity's buzz, Social captures the city's love for food, music, and easy conversations. With 104 covers and customisable sections, it is perfect for quick-catch ups to long evenings. Known for their Big Drop menu and creative pop-ups, Social keeps the vibe celebratory all year round.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT:
Worldmark 1



TOY ROOM DELHI

As the lights dim and city winds down, this buzzing spot is just getting started. Known for their electric vibe and signature after hours allure, the venue accommodates around 250-300 guests and offers both private and full-section bookings. Each weekend brings a fresh mix of live artists, genre pop-ups, and immersive nights that define Aerocity's party scene. Think: extensive mocktail menu, good bartenders, and best music in town.

SPOT THE OUTLET AT:
Aloft New Delhi Aerocity

GUEST TALK

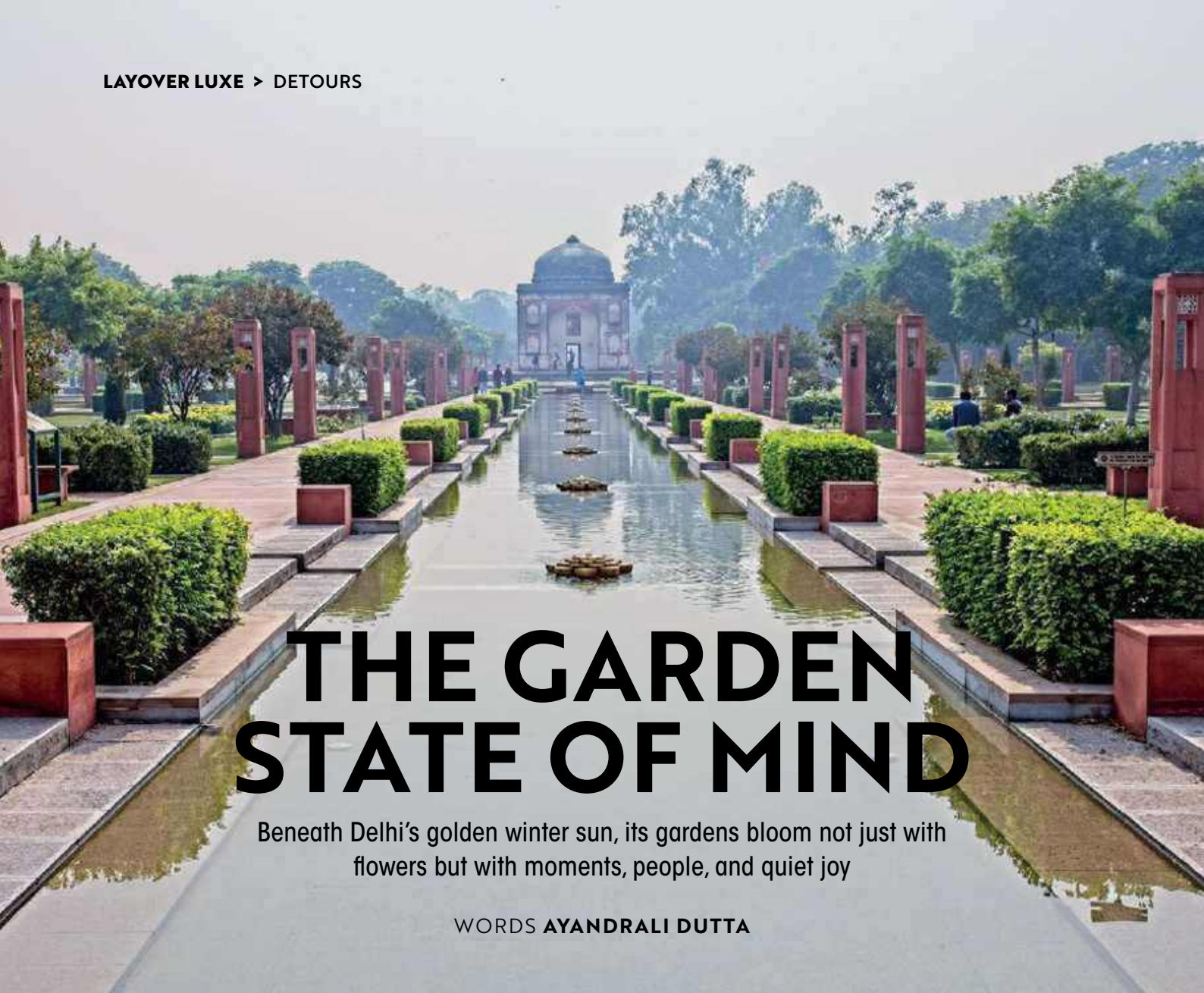


FLORENT HAZUCKA
Visitor

"When I arrived in Delhi, I carried with me all the clichés one might have about India. Yet my first step into the country led me to Aerocity—a modern, cosmopolitan enclave where you can instantly feel the energy of a connected, forward-looking India. With its metro service linked to the heart of the capital, Aerocity is, in its own way, a new Indian Gate."

SCAN TO EXPLORE
Aerocity's Offerings





THE GARDEN STATE OF MIND

Beneath Delhi's golden winter sun, its gardens bloom not just with flowers but with moments, people, and quiet joy

WORDS **AYANDRALI DUTTA**

Winter has always held a special place in my heart. When I first landed in this vast and imposing city of Delhi, I was both excited and intimidated by its sheer magnitude. And while finding ways to keep myself engaged, a friend introduced me to the idea of exploring Delhi's heritage walks, and that is how I discovered the beautiful gardens of Delhi, from Lodhi Gardens and Sunder Nursery to Mehrauli Archaeological Park and more. I still remember the first time I entered—the sweeping lawns, the ancient domes, and the quiet

air steeped in centuries of history, a garden that houses the tombs of Sayyid and Lodhi rulers. Even today, it remains one of Delhi's most graceful heritage landmarks, a place still run to find myself, a place where history breathes through every stone and every breeze.

Abu Sufiyan K., founder of Tales of City, says, "For me, what makes Lodhi Gardens endlessly fascinating is not just its beauty but the story of the Lodhis themselves—once horse traders from Sirhind who rose to become rulers of Hindustan. The garden, wrapped in the quiet dignity of its domes and arches, is more

than a green refuge; it is a living record of Delhi's transformation. Here, the Indo-Afghan style first found its footing, later inspiring the grandeur of Mughal architecture. Each structure within the gardens speaks. To me, Lodhi Gardens is not simply a park; it is a storyteller in disguise, whispering tales of faith, power, and art that once converged to shape the city's soul." These parks offer more than just a breath of fresh air—they blend nature and history in a way that appeals to both locals and visitors alike.

Delhi Karavan's Asif Khan Dehlvi describes it beautifully, adding



CLOCKWISE FROM FACING PAGE: Sunder Nursery; Mehrauli Archaeological Park; Lodhi by day; Bougainvillea trees in Lodhi Gardens.

"Beneath every footstep in these heritage parks lie echoes of sultans, saints, poets, and lovers who once walked those same paths. These gardens are living archives of resilience—where empires have risen and fallen, yet jasmine, neem, and amaltas bloom faithfully each year. Amid the hum of traffic, peacocks cry from treetops that have witnessed the passing of dynasties. For Asif, these are spaces "where the living and the lost coexist, where the Mughal love for symmetry meets the restless pulse of the modern city."

While the ancient monuments

draw most visitors, the lush greenery also serves as a small environmental haven in the heart of Delhi, home to diverse plants, animals, and birds. Heritage storyteller Dhusyant Singh notes that his tours create multi-sensorial experiences—where sound, sight, scent, and story come together. These gardens remind us that heritage is not confined to the past; it breathes in the present, teaching us to belong to the city, to nature, and to one another.

VISITOR'S GUIDE

GETTING THERE

Easily accessible via Lodhi Road and Nizamuddin; take the metro or stroll in

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Mid November to early February

MIND THE GREEN

Keep the charm alive: carry no plastic, leave no waste, and respect the blooms and furry friends around

MAKE A DAY OF IT

Begin with a heritage walk, end with coffee and calm at Sunder Nursery or nearby cafés

DO NOT MISS

Join a weekend heritage walk or concert to see the gardens come alive

These gardens are a standing testament of where history and humanity intertwine, reminding us that heritage is not frozen in stone but alive in every moment. Delhi's gardens, especially in winter, invite us to slow down—to listen to the rustle of leaves, the snap of a twig, the filtered sunlight on weathered walls. 🌿

LAST CALL BEFORE TAKE-OFF

The cheat sheet for flying out in style

BREWS & BITES

Quick coffees, fresh sandwiches, gourmet snacks—before you fly out

**ADRIFT KAYA, JW MARRIOTT
HOTEL NEW DELHI AEROCITY**

A quick meal with flair—Omakase delights and glocal desserts

**CAFÉ PLUCK, PULLMAN NEW
DELHI AEROCITY**

Classic Neapolitan pizza French Press for in-flight indulgence

**STARBUCKS, THE SQUARE +
IGIA T1 & T3**

Your go-to caffeine fix and flavourful munchies

**PRET A MANGER,
WORLDMARK 1**

Gourmet sandwiches and organic brews—tastes meets comfort

TIM HORTONS, IGIA T1 & T3

Quick bites and steaming cuppas to satiate your hunger pangs





BARS

For one last drink!

THE IRISH HOUSE (IGIA T3)

MUST TRY Dublin Wisdom

**AEROCITY SOCIAL
(WORLDMARK 1)**

MUST TRY Banarasi Patiala

KAMPAI (WORLDMARK 1)

MUST TRY Wasabi Martini

**CHIDYA GHAR
(ROSEATE HOUSE NEW DELHI)**

MUST TRY The Dessert Rose

THE GIFT DASH

Last-minute gifting that does
not look last-minute

CHIQUE

THE SQUARE

Effortless, comfort-first
silhouettes for every day

MANAN

THE SQUARE

Handcrafted statement
jewellery and scarves

APTRONIX

WORLDMARK 1

Explore latest gadgets and
premium accessories

COCOCART

IGIA T3

Global chocolates and
sweet indulgences

SMART SWIPES

One chic, compact
purchase that travels well

**DA MILANO
(WORLDMARK 1)**

Luxury leather must haves—
for both work and travel

**MODERN BAZAAR EXPRESS
(THE SQUARE)**

For gourmet groceries,
imported snacks, and your
daily essentials

**MINISO
(WORLDMARK 1)**

Wipes, bottles, and organisers
for everyday travel and more

WHSMITH (IGIA T2)

Your quick stop for books,
refreshments, and travel picks



PLUG IN

Our download-before-
you-board picks

TOP OTT SHOWS

GIRL FROM NOWHERE

One girl, many secrets, and
endless chaos (Netflix)

CALL ME BAE

A series on making fresh starts
(Prime Video)

KILLER SOUP

Murder madness and
mistaken identities (Netflix)

THE OFFICE

Mockumentary style comfort
rewatch (JioHotstar)

**TOP PODCASTS /
AUDIOBOOKS**

THE REST IS HISTORY

Smart banter and history like
never before (Spotify)

OUR LAST WEEK

Comedy meets wit with
Pal and Kapur (Spotify)

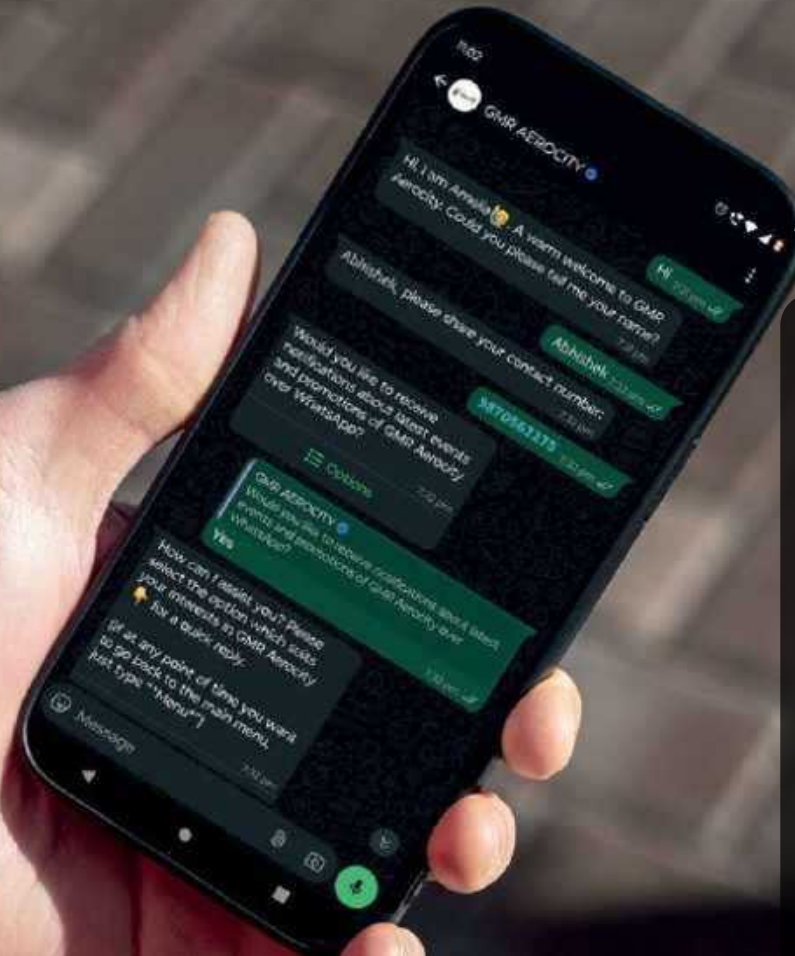
**ATOMIC HABITS
(AUDIOBOOK)**

Small changes, powerful
results (Audible India)

SCAN FOR
ONLINE
VERSION



A 'HI' IS
ALL IT
TAKES!



Your Aerocity assistant is now on WhatsApp

Whether you are heading to a quick meeting, a luxe stay or just passing through, finding your way around GMR Aerocity is now simpler than ever.

Just send a "Hi" to **+91 70423 33053** on WhatsApp and let the seamless, friendly chatbot do the rest.

From hotel options and spa bookings to dining picks, events, and retail recommendations—think of this as your pocket-sized digital concierge, available 24/7.

No downloads, no delays—just instant help, right when you need it.

So next time you are here, skip the guesswork. Ask away. Plan better. Enjoy more. Because the best journeys often start with a simple hello.

SCAN THE QR TO
START CHATTING NOW



TYPE "HI" ON WHATSAPP

Your GMR Aerocity journey
starts here
+91 70423 33053

CITY BREAKS

Find refreshing getaways, in and around, that let you relax and explore the best that the country has to offer

Stays 74 | Escapes 78



BREWED FOR MOMENTS

WEEKEND UNPLUGGED

There is beauty in slowing down, in weekends that unfold gently and moments that linger a little longer. Think good food, easy comfort, and quite charm like an afternoon at Café Nomme in Hyderabad where time seems to soften around the edges.

Page 76



HOW TRAVEL CAN BECOME A CONVERSATION

Explore the symbol of love with special fixed departures from Aerocity New Delhi

Every journey has two beginnings. The one that appears on a map and the one that stirs quietly inside you. The first begins when you step into a car. The second, when something within you opens to listen. Between these two, travel becomes transformation.

This is the spirit that shapes a new collaboration between GMR Aerocity, India Experiences, and India City Walks (ICW). Together, they are redefining how India is experienced. Not as a destination to be ticked off, but as a story to be felt. Their partnership is not about tourism as transaction, but about travel as connection. It begins right at Aerocity New Delhi, where India's modern rhythm meets its timeless soul. For years, travellers have passed through Aerocity as a corridor between the airport and

the Capital. Now, it becomes a launchpad for discovery—a space where meaningful journeys begin. The Fixed Departures to Agra and Delhi mark the first chapter of this evolving vision. They are designed not around monuments, but around moments.

A STORY TOLD IN MARBLE AND MEMORY

Agra has been celebrated across centuries for its splendour; a city that has preserved patience, craftsmanship, and beauty in the palms of its people. The Agra Fixed Departure takes travellers beyond admiration into understanding. It turns the familiar into the extraordinary by shifting focus from what was built to how it continues to breathe.

The journey begins early from Aerocity. The transfers are seamless, the storytelling

begins softly. The voice of the guide weaves history and heart, placing travellers not in the role of observers but in that of participants. As the highway unfolds, the narration moves from geography to emotion and from timelines to textures.

When you arrive in Agra, the story opens with the Taj Mahal and the storyteller invites you to see beyond the symmetry and into the soul of the creation. You notice the quiet precision of its inlay work and the geometry that feels more like meditation than Mathematics. The Taj becomes less a monument and more a metaphor for love, legacy, and labour.

From there, the journey deepens through the lives of local craftsmen. In tucked-away workshops, travellers meet Zardozi embroiderers and artisans who still use the same tools and techniques their ancestors did centuries ago.



Lunch becomes another layer of experience, designed to reflect the warmth of regional food, served in local style, where hospitality flows naturally, without performance. The meal is not a pause between activities but a continuation of storytelling through taste.

For those who wish to explore further, optional extensions are available to Agra Fort or Fatehpur Sikri. The choice to include them rests on time and inclination, ensuring the journey remains fluid and unhurried. On return to Aerocity, the narration shifts tone from storytelling to reflection. The marble glow of the Taj stays in your mind long after it fades from view. What you bring back is not just the memory of a visit, but a quiet change in perception.

THE CAPITAL AS A STORY

The Delhi Fixed Departure is designed to let the city speak in its own voice, shifting effortlessly between its elegance and energy, its past and pulse. The journey begins from Aerocity, that vibrant gateway where India's global face greets the world. From there, travellers move into the layered narrative of a city that carries a thousand stories within a single skyline.

The drive becomes a moving story. The storyteller's voice blends



CLOCKWISE FROM
FACING PAGE: Rashtrapati
Bhavan; Taj Mahal; The
walk leaders; Inside Taj's
core ground; Purana Qila.

observation with imagination, drawing attention not only to landmarks but to life itself. As you move along Kartavya Path and through avenues framed by trees and history, you begin to sense Delhi's contrasts and the chaos, and the quiet faith that underpins its constant motion.

The route is curated with care. Stops are chosen for how they feel, not only how they look. The experience blends broad perspectives with intimate discoveries. The traveller is encouraged to see what most pass by.

Then comes Old Delhi, the heart of the experience. Entering its lanes with ICW is like stepping into a living museum. Here, faith, flavour, and folklore merge into a single heartbeat. The aroma of cardamom, the glimmer of silver, the chatter of vendors, the echo of evening prayers—everything becomes part of the story. The walk leaders lead not just with facts, but feelings, helping you connect.

The return to Aerocity in the evening feels like closing a circle. The city you thought you knew has changed form. It now feels alive, intimate, and full of grace. You realise that Delhi does not need to be explained, but experienced, one moment at a time. ▣



THE LUXURY OF PAUSE

In the quiet grace of ITC Mughal, time unravels gently, steeped in the charm of comfort and lasting in memory

WORDS ANANYA TRIVEDI

As the year winds down, it brings with it a certain calm—a moment to pause, look back, and reflect on all that has been, while holding hope for what lies ahead. Christmas and New Year's mark that beautiful in-between, when nostalgia and anticipation coexist in perfect harmony. And there is perhaps no place better to embrace this gentle rhythm than ITC Mughal, Agra — where time seems to slow, and every experience feels layered with warmth, grandeur,

and meaning. Set close to the Taj Mahal and spread across acres of gardens and shaded walkways, ITC Mughal is not just another hotel. It is a space where time feels like it stretches gently, where you can truly unwind and let the year settle before stepping into the next.

A VIEW OF THE TAJ

One of the most special things about ITC Mughal is its closeness to the Taj Mahal. From select spots within the property, you can catch glimpses of the monument

shimmering in the distance. The hotel also curates guided visits to the Taj—early morning experiences that let guests witness the monument in that first light of dawn, when the marble glows faintly pink and the world around it still feels half asleep.

FESTIVE FLAVOURS, MUGHAL STYLE

At Honestly Vegetarian, you will find a menu inspired by regional favourites and nostalgic family dishes—think Agra Ki Chaat,



Belanganj Ke Parathe, simple *jhols*, and warm pumpkin and potato *sabzis* cooked to perfection. Afternoon tea at 'The Jharokha' takes on a sheer royal touch, with elegant trays of savouries, sweets, and fine teas that invite you to linger a little longer.

And as the day fades, there is something truly special about dining under the stars—whether by the poolside or inside a softly lit gazebo. Each setup feels personal and timeless, perfect for Christmas dinners, New Year's Eve celebrations or even a quiet evening with loved ones.

RELAXATION AND RITUAL

The festive season at ITC Mughal is not just about food and festivities; it is also about finding your calm. Kaya Kalp—The Royal Spa is a world of its own, with ancient wellness traditions, relaxing therapies, and guided yoga sessions that help ease both body and mind. For something more lively, guests can join Art of Bartending sessions—where they learn how to mix, stir, and pour with a touch of flair. It is a fun, interactive way to add a spark to your evenings and toast to new beginnings.

FUN FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Holidays are for everyone, and



CLOCKWISE FROM FACING PAGE: A panoramic view of ITC Mughal located within the vicinity of the Taj Mahal; The sprawling gardens at this property lets you soak in fresh air; Couples can choose to enjoy a romantic setting at the lobby bar, Maikhana; The Kaya Kalp Wellness Spa is a must-try experience.

ITC Mughal makes sure even the youngest guests feel part of the celebration. Ollie's Club is a dedicated space for children, full of energy and play. From games like chess, table tennis, and croquet to creative sessions



and storytelling, there is always something happening to keep little minds busy and happy. Parents can unwind knowing their children are having as much fun as they are—a small but meaningful touch that makes family holidays here feel easy and memorable.

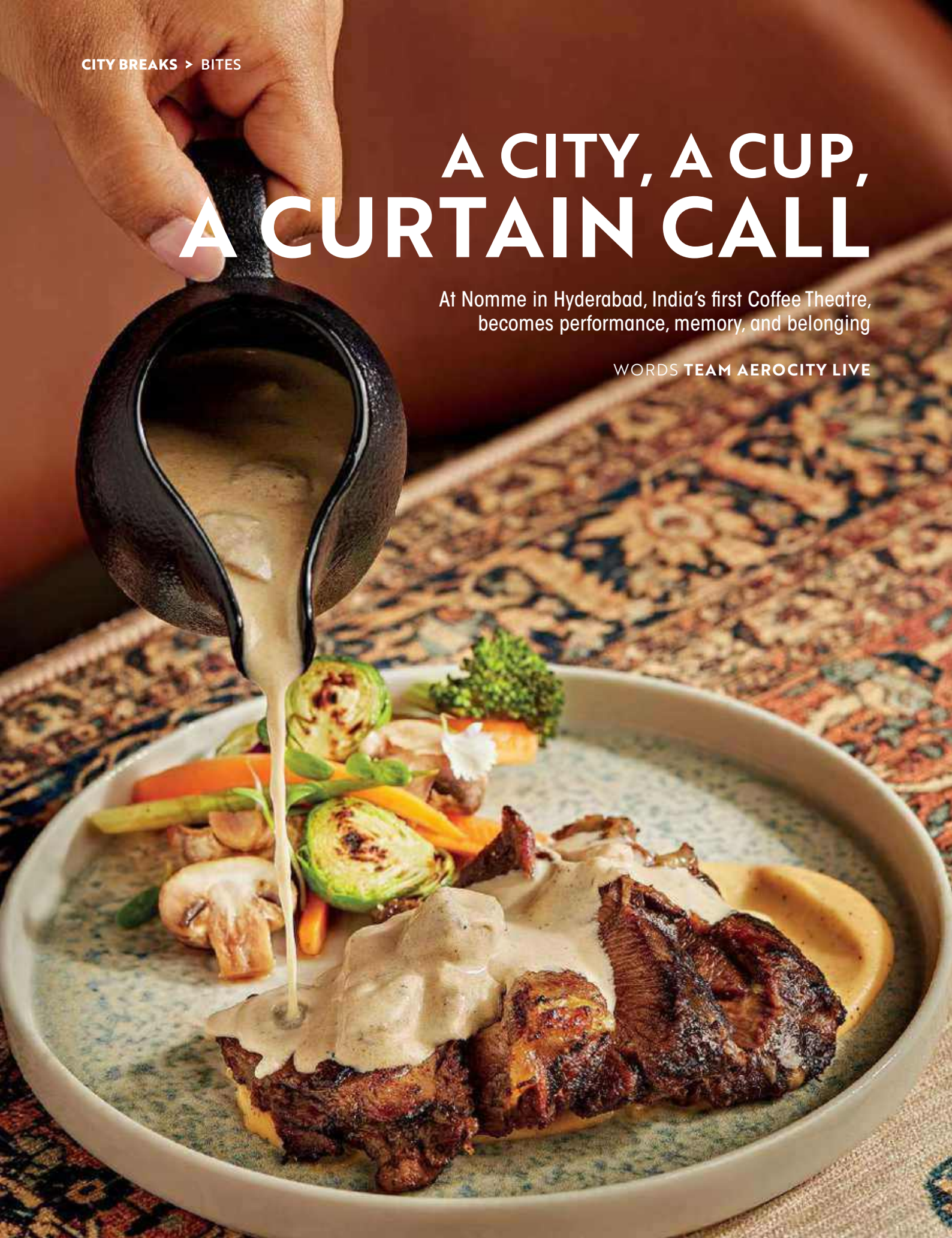
At ITC Mughal, every stay becomes a gentle reminder that luxury is not about more—it is about meaning. And as you watch the year turn, surrounded by warmth and grandeur, you will find that few places make reflection feel quite as beautiful. 

CITY BREAKS > BITES

A CITY, A CUP, A CURTAIN CALL

At Nomme in Hyderabad, India's first Coffee Theatre,
becomes performance, memory, and belonging

WORDS TEAM AEROCITY LIVE



The first thing you notice at Nomme is the sound. A soft hum fills the air as coffee beans shoot through transparent tubes above your head, swirling and dancing before tumbling into a roaster. The aroma rises—warm, nutty, comforting—and conversations pause for a moment. It feels less like a café and more like a theatre. Here, coffee is not just brewed; it is performed.

This is Nomme, Hyderabad's newest dining destination and home to India's first Coffee Theatre. The idea is the brainchild of Imtiaz Ali Siddiqui, a culinary dreamer who has spent over a decade giving Hyderabad its "firsts"—from Telangana's first Lebanese QSR to India's first Levantine fine-dining restaurant. But this time, his ambition stretches beyond food. "I wanted to create something that feels alive," he says. "A space where people come not just to eat, but to experience."

WHEN COFFEE TAKES THE CENTRE STAGE

At Nomme, the act of making coffee is turned into an experience that connects people through sight, scent, and sound. Guests watch the journey unfold—from the beans flying through the air to the rhythmic hiss of the brew. It is familiar yet transformed into something extraordinary.



CLOCKWISE FROM FACING PAGE: The Mediterranean Lamb Brisket is a show stealer; The collection of pastries at Nomme is a must-try with coffee; Another underdog at Nomme is its Cinnamon Cold Brew; One of the popular picks from their menu is the Mediterranean Food Hummus Trio; The ambience is not only to soothe your mind but create drama to your eyes; Nomme is reputed for serving original Turkish Coffee.



THE FLAVOURS OF A COASTLINE

The Mediterranean finds a home here, guided by two chefs—Fatih from Cyprus, who brings dessert artistry, and Hisham from Lebanon, who carries the soul of Levantine flavours. Mezze spreads glisten in shades of gold and green, grills arrive still smoking, and pastries layer sweetness with air-light precision a rare flavours to indulge.

WHERE THE CITY SLOWS DOWN

By evening, the clink of cups softens into conversation. Strangers share stories, and friends linger over one last pour-over. Nomme does not chase trends—it creates moments. Because here, every cup is a curtain rising. And every performance ends the same way—with warmth, connection, and the quiet joy of belonging like a familiar hug. ☐

A GENTLE CITY, A QUIET JOY

Away from the beaches and bustle, Goa's capital Panjim celebrates Christmas with quiet grace, old traditions, and open doors

WORDS **TRINA CHOWDHURY**

It begins, as most stories in Panjim (or Panaji) do, with light. It glows softly through old yellow windows, spills across winding lanes, and dances on whitewashed walls that have seen centuries of seasons come and go. By December, Fontainhas, the city's old Latin quarter—hums with a secret warmth. Stars hang over balconies and poinsettias sit on doorsteps. There is a kind of music in the air you feel more than hear. This is not the Goa of beach parties and loud carols. This is Christmas in Panjim—gentle, human, and deeply rooted in the city's soul.

THE STREETS THAT REMEMBER

As you walk through Fontainhas in the early evening, the past walks beside you. The streets smell faintly of rose water and freshly baked bread. Homes painted in coral, teal, and ochre wear their festive best. They glow under fairy lights and paper lanterns. Somewhere, an old record plays *Silent Night*. The song drifts through a courtyard where a family strings up decorations. Children race between chairs, their laughter echoing against mosaic tiles.

Here, Christmas is not an event; it is something the locals grow into every year. It is about faith, but also about friendship, food, and memory.

THE TASTE OF TRADITION

In Panjim, Christmas comes to life in the kitchen long before the first carol is sung. The city's bakeries like Confeitaria 31 de Janeiro and Mr. Baker 1922 are busier than ever. The aromas of caramelising sugar, candied fruit, and spiced cake fills the air. Locals wait patiently for their orders—*doce de grao*, *bebinca*, and rich plum cake soaked in rum.

The *Kuswar* platter—Goa's traditional Christmas sweet spread—is an edible anthology of the season. Each family adds something of their own: *kulkuls* crisped in ghee, golden *bolinhas* made from semolina, or the soft, chewy *doce*. Recipes are guarded, shared, whispered. They connect generations, reminding everyone that Christmas in Goa is as much about food as it is about faith.

A MIDNIGHT TO REMEMBER

On Christmas Eve, the city gathers at the Immaculate Conception Church, its pristine white façade glowing under a thousand lights. The climb up the zigzag steps feels ritualistic, a slow ascent into celebration. Inside, the choir



begins—hymns that have been sung for hundreds of years.

Outside, the quiet devotion turns to jubilation. Strangers hug; friends exchange sweets; laughter rings down the steps. Fireworks bloom over the Mandovi River. Restaurants on 18th June Road spill into the streets, serving steaming bowls of *sorpotel* and glasses of warm *feni* or rum. It is the kind of night that makes you forget the difference between celebration and prayer.

CLOCKWISE FROM FACING PAGE:

A glimpse of colourful heritage of Fontainhas; A night shot of Dona Paula; Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church; The Goan favourite *Bebinca*.

WHERE THE HEART BELONGS

By evening, Panjim glows like a secret waiting to be shared. The light pools on Yog Setu, that elegant arc of steel and silence connecting two sides of the Mandovi. Locals pause mid-crossing, watching

THE MUST-TRY SPOTS

Walk, do not drive. The best finds in Panjim reveal themselves between cafés, bakeries, and bars tucked into its sun-dappled lanes

ROUTE 66

A lively, all-American diner vibe with a Goan twist. Try their pulled pork sandwich or local chorizo burger—best paired with a cold craft beer.

BLACK SHEEP BISTRO

Contemporary Goan dining at its finest. Expect inventive plates like pork ribs with feni glaze and local seafood cooked with flair.

BABA AU RHUM—PANJIM

The Assagao classic now in the city, serving fresh bakes, crepes, and excellent coffee. Perfect for people-watching under the winter sun.

BOMBIL

For a traditional Konkani table. Coastal cooking at its finest—honest, hearty, and utterly local.

PADARIA PRAZERES

A charming Portuguese-style bakery known for its buttery croissants, bebinca tarts, and signature almond cake. Perfect with a cup of strong local coffee.

SAME MAGIC, ELSEWHERE

Before you think Christmas magic lives only in Goa's sunlit churches, wander through Aerocity, New Delhi. Here, winter hums with its own melody—soft lights, lingering laughter, and the comforting warmth of togetherness. The air is crisp with festive aromas, and every corner glows with a sense of homecoming.



the river catch fire under the December sun. Down the promenade, the air smells of salt and spice. A short walk leads you to a speakeasy, MTW, where the bar hums low and golden. You sip on a cocktail and the evening feels unhurried, wrapped in music and conversation.

Later, the lanes of Fontainhas stir awake. At Vincent's Café, tables fill with the warmth of Goan-Catholic or Portuguese cooking: *sorpotel*, prawn *balchão*, and stories that travel back generations. Around the other corner, Bombil plates up another side of Goa: a more rustic, rooted Konkani spread—homestyle *tisreo sukhem*, *rava* fried fish, *kaalchi kodi*, and coconut curry—a

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

A stroll along the Mandovi promenade can never go wrong; Classic *rava* fried fish served on a banana leaf; A traditional Konkani thali served at Bombil.

meal that tastes like homecoming.

Across Panjim, small bands gather near churches, guitars catching the night air. The old Latin quarters glow in soft yellows and reds, balconies strung with stars. Bells ring faintly across the river; the city exhales, unhurried and alive. And in that moment—standing by the Mandovi, your skin warm from the breeze—you realise that Christmas in Panjim is not something you simply witness. It is something you feel. ▣

THE LAST STOP

Your curated guide to Aerocity's finest offerings, created to make every experience effortless

Offers 84 | Quiz 87 | Final Word 88

CONCIERGE

KHEONI
Aerocity's wellness

THE GIFT OF WELLNESS

PASSIVE WELLNESS
WITH CAREFULLY
HANDCRAFTED PRODUCTS

www.aerocity.com



AEROCITY

NEW DELHI

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

Chai Point
Sugar & Spice
Blue Tokai
Coffee Roasters

RETAIL

Minaki
Ruvido Caso
Manan
Kama Ayurveda
Chique
Nicobar

ATM

ICICI Bank

SALON

Looks Privé

EXPERIENCES

utsav
CREATE. COLLABORATE. CONNECT.

CONVENIENCE STORE

Modern Bazaar Express

REFRESHMENT

Banaras Paan



HOTELS AT GMR AEROCITY

PULLMAN & NOVOTEL

Farmers' Basket at Pluck
Café Pluck
Honk
Pling
Food Exchange at Novotel
Quoin Bar at Novotel
Regus (Co-Working Office)

PRIDE PLAZA

Mr Confectioner
Café Pride
Shaan-e-Awadh
Stallion Bar and Lounge
Aqua Grill
Innov8 (Co-Working Office)

IBIS

Spice It
Spice It Bar

ALOFT

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

HOLIDAY INN

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

JW MARRIOTT

K3
Adrift Kaya
Delhi Baking Company
JW Lounge
Norman

ANDAZ

AnnaMaya
Juniper Bar
Soul Pantry
Khubani

ROSEATE

Kheer
DEL
Tara
Chidya Ghar
Roasted By Roseate
Upstage (Co-Working Office)

LEMON TREE

Citrus Cafe
Republic of Noodles



WORLDMARK 1, 2 & 3

WORLDMARK 1 F&B OUTLETS

Reve	Dragonfly Experience	Chai Garam
Subway	Asia Seven	Pizza Hut
WOW! Momo	Street Foods by Punjab Grill	Sandburgs
Biryani Blues	Pret A Manger	Kuuraku Ramen
Monsoon By Café Lota	Tea Bear	Sagar Ratna
Starbucks	Giani's	Doner & Gyros
Chaayos	Karim's	Krispy Kreme
Liv Bar	Keventers	Basil
Punjab Grill	Khan Chacha	Qavalli
Kampai	Bikanervala	Daryaganj
		Social

RETAIL OUTLETS

Da Milano Forest Essentials Aprtronix Miniso

CO-WORKING OFFICES AT WORLDMARK

Coworks Atelier

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 FOR
ONLINE
VERSION



EXCLUSIVE DEALS

Indulge more, spend less—only at GMR Aerocity!

THE SQUARE

RUVIDO CASO

10% Discount

on INR 2,000

15% Discount

on INR 6,000

20% Discount

on INR 13,000

*till 30th Nov 2025

CHIQUE

Flat 40% Off

*Additional 10% off on INR 10,000



CHAI POINT

Combos in Chai and Kombucha

Between 7^{AM} and 11^{AM}

SUGAR & SPICE

Grab 30% Discount

on all type of breads, cookies, and sandwiches.

Everyday, 7^{PM}-11^{PM}

MINAKI

20% Discount

on purchase of INR 20,000

WORLDMARK 1, 2 & 3

DAMILANO

Upto 10% off

on all the products

*Valid all the time

LIV BAR

Happy Hours

Monday to Sunday

12^{PM}-8^{PM}

*Valid all year

BAGLINE

Upto 50% Discount

on Luggage

COSTA COFFEE

**Buy 1 Drink,
Get 1 Free**

8^{PM}-9^{PM}

*Valid all time



KAMPAI

Unlimited Lunches

Unlimited Sushi,
Dimsum, Bao, and more

Monday to Friday

1^{PM}-5^{PM}

For reservations, call:
+91 9319274015



MESA KITCHEN

20% Discount

on the total bill for all walk-in guest

*Valid all year

UNDERDOGS

1+1 Happy Hours

from 12^{NOON}-7^{PM} and
7^{PM}-10^{PM}

Unlimited drinks for ladies
7^{PM}-12^{AM} only on Wednesdays

*Until further notice

NUA CAFÉ

20% discount

for airlines staff

20% discount

on reservation through
Nua café website

*Valid all time

BIZOU-BIZOU

**Happy Hours
Everyday**

Buy 1 Get 1 (12^{NOON}-7^{PM})

LADIES TABLE

30% off on Ladies Table
from Monday to Sunday

(12^{PM}-7^{PM})

*Valid all year

SCAN FOR
ONLINE
VERSION





EMBARK ON A GASTRONOMIC JOURNEY WHERE GLOBAL FLAVOURS CONVERGE

GMR AEROCITY, NEW DELHI HAS CLOSE TO A 100 OF THE WORLD'S MOST
PREMIUM F&B BRANDS OFFERING A WIDE RANGE OF CULINARY EXPERIENCES

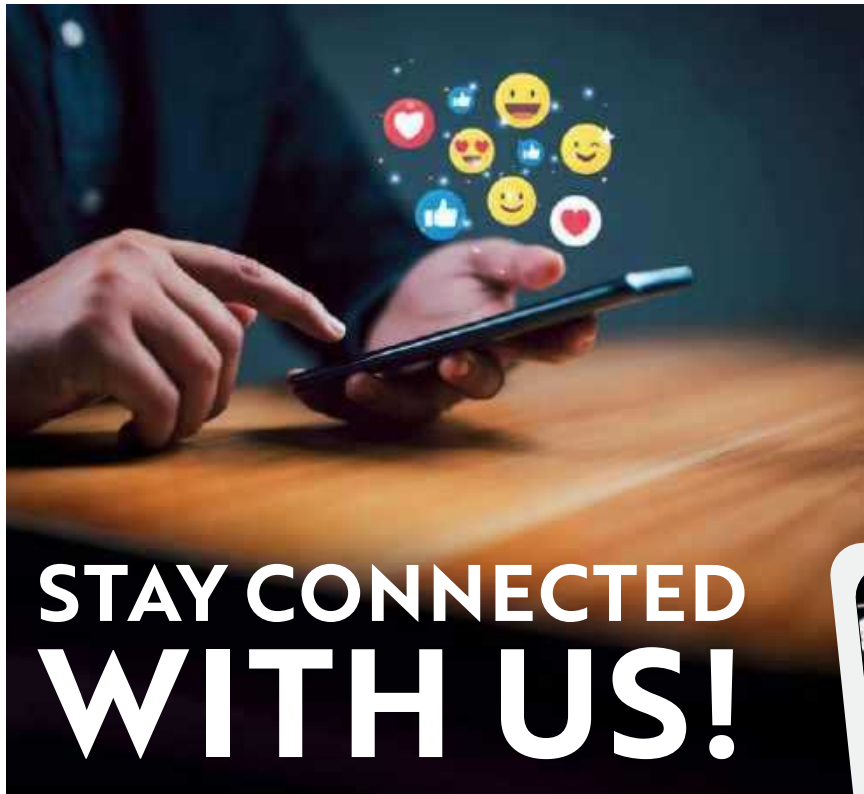
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.gmraerocity.com/eat-drink

TO ENJOY EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND DISCOUNTS ON F&B

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR TABLE AND AVAIL DISCOUNTS





STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

EXPERIENCE THE PULSE OF THE CAPITAL – FOLLOW GMR AEROCITY NEW DELHI!

From luxury stays to global flavours, curated events to business brilliance – **GMR Aerocity** is where New Delhi comes alive

LOVE AEROCITY? LET THE WORLD KNOW!

Follow us on Instagram,
Facebook & LinkedIn
Tag us in your photos and
stories using **#GMRAerocity**
Give us a shoutout and
get featured



ALREADY PART OF THE AEROCITY VIBE?

Tag us or use **#GMRAerocity** and you could be featured in our next community spotlight!

Social Handles: Instagram Facebook LinkedIn

TEST YOUR AEROCITY IQ!

How well do you know the city of buzz?

ANSWER THESE FUN QUESTIONS AND WIN EXCITING PRIZES! *

1. Which terminal at IGI Airport houses India's first dedicated "Arrival Duty-Free" store?

- A) Terminal 1
- B) Terminal 2
- C) Terminal 3
- D) All of the above

2. Which hotel in Aerocity recently introduced a Japanese speakeasy bar hidden behind an Omakase counter?

- A) Andaz Delhi
- B) Pullman New Delhi
- C) Roseate House New Delhi
- D) JW Marriott New Delhi

3. The soon-to-open Marriott Marquis at GMR Aerocity will be:

- A) India's largest Marriott property
- B) The first Marriott Marquis in India
- C) Asia's first dual-hotel development with St. Regis
- D) All of the above

4. Where can visitors find Aerocity's dedicated Concierge service?

- A) Near The Walk, Worldmark 1
- B) At The Square, Aerocity
- C) Inside the Airport Metro Station
- D) Next to Valet Parking kiosk

5. Delhi Airport's Terminal 2 has introduced new tech upgrades for travellers. Which of these is not a part of revamp?

- A) Smart baggage drop and face-recognition entry
- B) Virtual help desks and automated boarding bridges
- C) Rooftop viewing gallery and heritage museum
- D) Brighter lighting and upgraded seating areas



Congratulations!

TO OUR WINNERS
FROM LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ



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

SCAN TO WIN
TAKE THE QUIZ
AND CLAIM
YOUR PRIZE



*Deadline: 15th December 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

INNINGS OFF THE FIELD

Australian former international cricketer, **David Warner** on family, Indian films and food

THE INDIAN DISHES YOU SAVOUR MOST DURING YOUR TRIPS?

Dal Tadka and *Dal Makhani*—I can happily survive on it for days. But recently, I had a *butter chicken kulcha* and my tastebuds stood up and applauded. I also enjoy *bhindi*.

YOUR FAVOURITE DESTINATION IN INDIA?

Dharamshala. The hills, the calm, the crisp clean air. I once did a 6km-run there and did not feel tired at all—that is how magical and wholesome the place is.

WE HEAR YOU ENJOY INDIAN FILMS.

Absolutely! I watched *Pushpa 2* recently. The colours, the music, the action—South Indian cinema can truly entertain.

YOUR FAVOURITE CUISINE IN THE WORLD?

Japanese. Simple, clean, and full of flavour.

HOW WAS IT MAKING YOUR MAJOR LEAGUE CRICKET DEBUT WITH THE SEATTLE ORCAS?

Special! Cricket has always been global, but to see it take root in the US feels like being part of history in the making.

BEYOND THE GAME AND FAME, WHAT HAS CRICKET GIVEN YOU?

Friendships, stories, and memories for life. Some of the best conversations I have had were not even on the field, but with people I met because of cricket.

YOUR REELS WITH YOUR DAUGHTER DANCING OFF WENT VIRAL. WHICH VERSION OF DAD ARE THEY PROUDER OF—THE DANCER DAD OR THE CRICKETER?

Neither—just their father; their best mate.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT AEROCITY?

It is literally the easiest pit stop—land, step out, and you are in the heart of it. It barely takes me time to reach the airport. Plus, I really enjoy my stays at JW Marriott (Aerocity).

IF NOT A CRICKETER, YOU WOULD HAVE BECOME...

An astronaut. 🚀

- as told to Sayanti Halder



Your Future First

Beyond borders, beyond limits

Unlock your financial and personal freedom



Secure family future



Tax Optimization



Flexible residency



Investment diversification



Path to tier-1 passport

Schedule Your
Consultation



www.citizenshipinvest.com | info@citizenshipinvest.com



Ensure Foreign Travel Convenience

Presenting **SBI Foreign Travel Card**, for safe and cashless journeys



Load your card digitally from anywhere through YONO or Internet Banking



Best forex rates



Add up to 9 currencies on one card



Use at ATMs, PoS and e-commerce platforms worldwide



No need to carry cash



Convenient, safe, secure & flexible

Available at all SBI branches

Scan to know more



For assistance, call **1800 1234 | 2100** or visit **bank.sbi**

Follow us on

