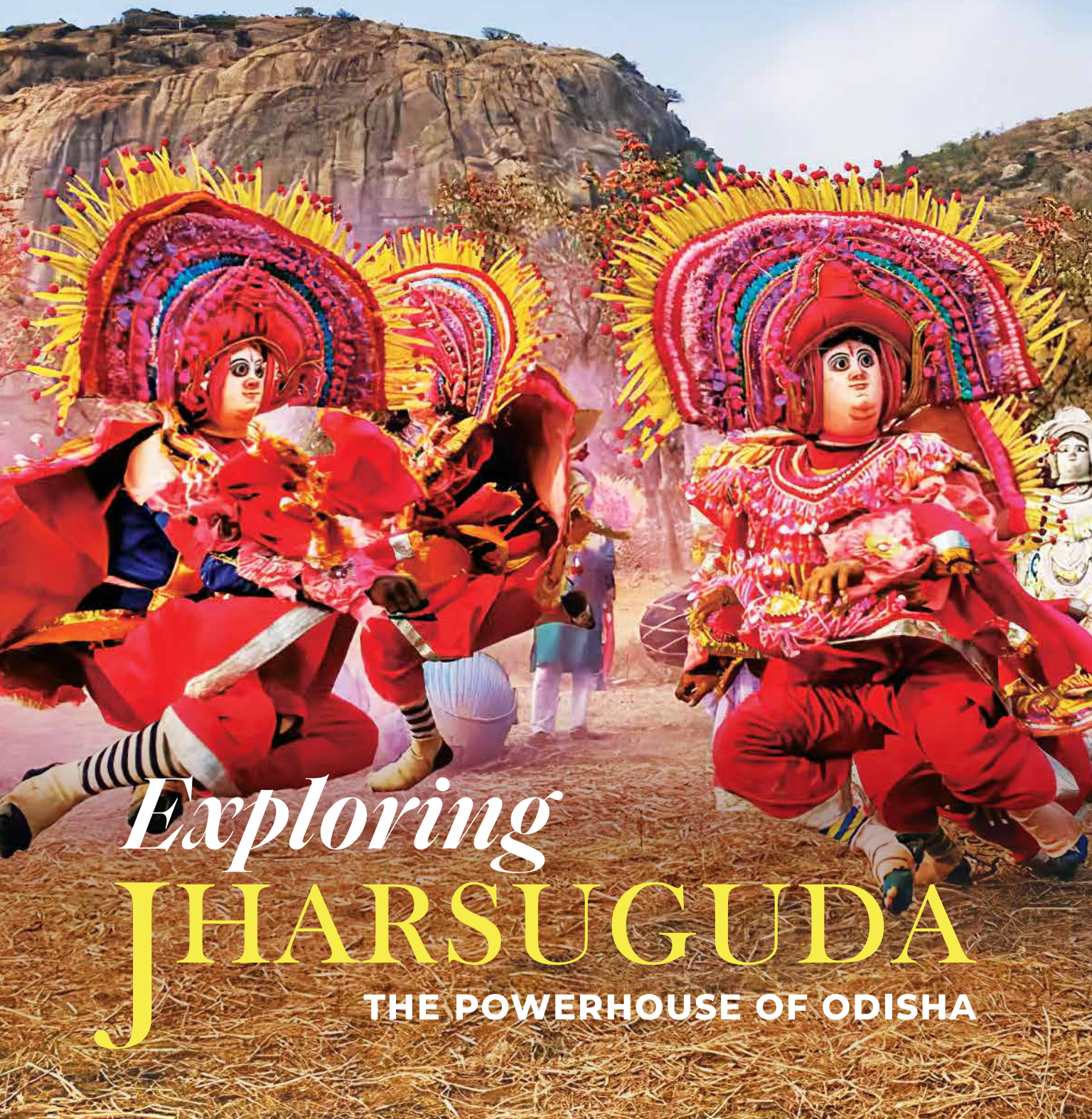


# THE RISING STAR



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Dear Valued Readers,

As we approach the new year, I am filled with immense pride and optimism about the path Star Air is charting for its future. 2025 promises to be a transformative year for our airline, and I am thrilled to share some exciting developments that underscore our commitment to connecting communities, fostering economic growth, and delivering exceptional service.

One of our key milestones in the coming years is our ambitious fleet expansion plan. With a vision to strengthen our network and enhance operational capabilities, we are working towards growing our fleet to 25 aircraft within the next three years. This significant investment reflects our dedication to staying ahead in a dynamic aviation landscape and ensuring we cater to the increasing travel demands of our customers.

In line with our expansion, we are also thrilled to announce two new destinations, Jharsuguda & Raipur, starting January and February 2025 respectively. These routes will connect Jharsuguda to Hyderabad, Raipur, and Lucknow, seamlessly linking passengers from Odisha to key cities in central and northern India. This initiative reaffirms our mission of bridging under-served regions and making air travel more accessible and convenient for everyone.

Behind these accomplishments lies the hard work, passion, and commitment of our incredible team and the trust of our valued customers. Together, we are building a robust national airline that not only provides reliable connectivity but also fosters a sense of community and progress.

As we embark on this journey, I invite you to join us in celebrating the spirit of growth and opportunity. Thank you for your continued support and belief in Star Air. Let us soar to greater heights together!

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Warm regards,

**SANJAY D. GHODAWAT**  
Chairman

# Contents

January-February 2025  
Volume 6 ✕ Issue 1



**OWNER**  
STAR AIR

**CEO**  
CAPT. SIMRAN SINGH TIWANA

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
SANDEEP SURESH

*For Star Air business related enquiries, please write to: [marketing@starair.in](mailto:marketing@starair.in)*



**CHAIRMAN**  
MANECK DAVAR  
**EDITORIAL**  
**ASST. EDITOR**  
ROHIT GEORGE

**DESIGN**  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
DIYA MAHESH

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT-  
ADMINISTRATION**  
BOBBY DANIEL

**Spenta Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.**  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sun Paradise Business Plaza, Senapati Bapat Marg, Opposite Kamala Mills, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai - 400 013.  
Tel: 022-6734 1002

**For business enquiries, contact:**

**SPENTA MULTIMEDIA PVT. LTD.**  
Tel: 022-6734 1002  
E-mail: [ho@spentamultimedia.com](mailto:ho@spentamultimedia.com)

Content, design, and printing done at Spenta Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.



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# Watch List

Catch the very best of upcoming movies and series slated to release in the next two months.



## EMERGENCY

**Synopsis:** Following internal disturbances in the country, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed proclaims a state of emergency in the country on the advice of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

**Genre:** Drama, Action

**Release Date:** 17 January 2025

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## BUN TIKKI

**Synopsis:** While a son sets out on a journey of self-exploration and challenges societal norms, his father battles grief in his quest to understand his son.

**Genre:** Drama

**Release Date:** 05 January 2025

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## WOLF MAN

**Synopsis:** On being attacked by an unseen animal, Blake begins to behave strangely. Soon, his behaviour transforms into something that endangers his family.

**Genre:** Horror, Fantasy

**Release Date:** 17 January 2025

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## KRAVEN THE HUNTER

**Synopsis:** Sergei Kravinoff, a big game hunter, takes a magical serum that gives him superhuman abilities and a longer life.

**Genre:** Action, Adventure

**Release Date:** 01 January 2025

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## BABY JOHN

**Synopsis:** DSP Satya Verma, alias Baby John, fakes his death and goes underground to raise his daughter. However, his nemesis Babbar Sher finds out he's still alive and starts to harass him and his family.

**Genre:** Action, Drama

**Release Date:** 25 December 2024

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE WAR OF THE ROHIRRIM

**Synopsis:** Helm Hammerhand and his people are caught off guard by a sudden attack by Wulf, a ruthless Dunlending lord. Desperate, they look to Helm Hammerhand's daughter to protect them.

**Genre:** Action, Drama

**Release Date:** 13 December 2024

**Playing in:** Cinemas★





# What the Stars Reveal

Find out what the stars reveal for the coming months.



## Aries (March 21 – April 19)

2025 is going to be a big year for you, as you realise the value of patience. The New Year brings opportunities ranging from career growth to financial stability. However, moving with patience and taking time to introspect occasionally is key.



## Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

2025 has all the ingredients to be a mixed year for you. While you will experience growth, success, and exciting opportunities, not everything will go to plan. And this is where you will experience the power of surrendering to the universe.



## Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

2025 is the year when you finally realise the value of deep and meaningful relationships as opposed to shallow ones. In the coming year, you will also experience a transformation in your career, education, finances, and health.



## Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

This year is the year when the otherwise selfless crab learns to prioritise. After numerous trials and errors along the way, you learn the importance of loving yourself and that leads to a positive shift in career, finances, and personal growth.



## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

The otherwise self-assured lion is about to learn a lesson in humility in 2025 as this year will teach you that true power lies in acknowledging your shortcomings and remaining receptive to new ideas.



## Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

The perfectionists of the zodiac signs are in for a reality check in 2025 as they realise that nothing in life is ever 'perfect' and that's okay. In the coming year, Virgos will experience a perfect mix of challenges and opportunities.



## Libra (September 23 – October 22)

You will experience growth in various aspects of your life in the New Year. But most importantly, you will learn that you don't always have to play the role of peacemaker among others and that it is perfectly okay for you to put yourself first.



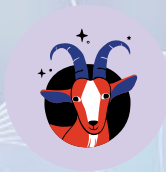
## Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

As someone who has been holding on to the past for too long, 2025 is the year when you finally unburden yourself. By doing so, you'll make room for fresh development and healing in your life by forgiving both yourself and other people.



## Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Silence is said to be golden and 2025 is the year you finally realise this for yourself. Though you have always actively sought out growth, this year you will realise that growth can occur during times of introspection as well.



## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

As one of the hardest workers in the zodiac signs, you are about to realise one of the keys to success—that success is a state of mind rather than a destination. Embrace yourself for a New Year filled with learning and growth.



## Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Despite being one of the most fiercely independent zodiac signs, you will finally experience the power of community in the coming year. Your New Year will be a testament to the fact that true power comes from reaching out to one another.



## Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

You have always had one of the strongest intuitions in the zodiac signs and the most important thing you will learn in 2025 is to trust your gut feelings. Your intuition will bring you to a point of profound alignment with who you are in a never-seen-before manner.★



# JHARSUGUDA

## A Hidden Gem

Jharsuguda, a city steeped in history and natural beauty, offers a unique blend of cultural heritage, industrial prowess, and scenic landscapes. From its origins under the rule of the Chauhan Kings in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to its modern-day recognition as the 'Powerhouse of Odisha', Jharsuguda has witnessed a remarkable transformation.

Known for its steel, aluminum, and power industries, Jharsuguda also boasts ancient temples, historic forts, and breathtaking natural wonders. Whether you're exploring its rich

history, savoring local delicacies, or immersing yourself in the tranquility of its waterfalls and caves, Jharsuguda is a destination that promises a memorable experience





**“ According to historical records, Jharsuguda, a dense forest, was home to a dangerous man-eating tiger that sent shivers down the spine of the locals.**

### **A LESSON IN HISTORY**

The history of Jharsuguda goes hand in hand with the sovereignty of the Chauhan Kings in Sambalpur, who came into power way back in the 16th century, when Balaram Dev of Chauhan dynasty established the Kingdom of Sambalpur.

According to historical records, Jharsuguda, a dense forest, was home to a dangerous man-eating tiger that sent shivers down the spine of the locals. Siva Singh, the grandson of Chhatrasai Dev, bravely killed the tiger and brought relief to the locals. As a reward for his efforts, King Chhatrasai Dev awarded him the area and bestowed him with the title ‘Bhutti’ or ‘Jageri’.

### **KNOW YOUR CITY**

Jharsuguda is known as the ‘Powerhouse of Odisha’ due to its Mega Steel, Aluminum & Power Projects. The city has also been nicknamed ‘Little India; due to its diverse demographic and it being a melting pot of cultures.

### **TREAT FOR YOUR EYES**

**Jhadeswar Temple:** Though Odisha is home to several temples, the Jhadeswar Temple has a charm of its own. Located one kilometer from Jharsuguda railway station, the temple is home to a self-appearing ‘Sivalingam’, the age of which is unknown.

**Kolabira Fort:** The Kolabira Fort is situated 17 kilometres away from Jharsuguda town on the banks of the River Telen. Despite being an ancient fort, this has managed to stay away from the public eye. The descendants of this fort live here to date and do the necessary work to maintain the fort.

**Maa Ramchandi Temple:** Situated inside a natural rock on the banks of the River Ib, the Maa Ram Chandi Temple is four kilometres away from Brajrannagar and 20 km away from Jharsuguda railway station. Here, one can catch a glimpse of the beautiful surroundings on the banks of the River Ib.



“ The city has also been nicknamed ‘Little India’ due to its diverse demographic and it being a melting pot of cultures.

#### TANTALISE YOUR TASTE BUDS

**Dalma:** The flagship food of Odisha, Dalma is food for the soul made from lentils, green vegetables, raw bananas, and a hint of grated coconut. This popular delicacy is available at most restaurants across the state.

**Maccha Besara:** Maccha Besara is for seafood lovers. This is a fish curry prepared using mustard paste and grated coconut. This popular fish delicacy attracts seafood lovers from far and wide.

**Chhena Poda:** Chhena Poda is a traditional Odia dessert that translates to ‘burnt cheese’. Its ingredients include fresh cottage cheese, sugar, and ghee. The delicacy is baked for several hours until it turns brown and its flavour is derived predominantly from the caramelisation of sugar.





## TRYST WITH NATURE

**Koiligugar Waterfall:** This waterfall is located 30 kilometres from Belpahar and makes for an ideal picnic spot. The best time to visit this place is during winter when fishing is not allowed.

**Bikramkhol Caves:** Bikramhol Caves is a prehistoric archaeological site known for prehistoric inscriptions. Located at a distance of about 35 kilometres from Jharsuguda, there was an evolution of civilisation in the region in 4000 BC and they developed a script and engraved it on the walls of the caves.

## TIME IT RIGHT

Since the state of Odisha is known for its hot and humid climate, the best time to visit Jharsuguda is during the winter months from November to February. During this period, one can visit all the above-mentioned places and have a memorable trip.★

## Schedule

### FOR JAN 2025

FLIGHT #	SECTOR	STD (IST)	STA (IST)	AC TYPE	DOOP	FROM	TO
S5 226	HYD-JRG	1635	1820	EMB-175	Mon, Sun	01-Jan 25	31 Jan 25
S5 226	HYD-JRG	1900	2045	EMB-175	Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	01-Jan 25	31 Jan 25
S5 227	JRG-HYD	1850	2035	EMB 175	Mon, Sun	01-Jan 25	31 Jan 25
S5 227	JRG-HYD	2115	2300	EMB-175	Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	01-Jan 25	31 Jan 25

### FROM FEB 2025

FLIGHT #	SECTOR	STD (IST)	STA (IST)	AC TYPE	DOOP	FROM	TO
S5 226	HYD-JRG	1620	1805	EMB-175	Daily	01 Feb 2025	25 Oct 2025
S5 227	JRG-HYD	2115	2300	EMB-175	Daily	01 Feb 2025	25 Oct 2025
S5 230	JRG-RPR	1835	1925	EMB-175	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	01 Feb 2025	25 Oct 2025
S5 231	RPR-JRG	1955	2045	EMB-175	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	01 Feb 2025	25 Oct 2025
S5 228	JRG-LKO	1735	1855	EMB-175	Tue, Thu, Sat	01 Feb 2025	25 Oct 2025
S5 229	LKO-JRG	1925	2045	EMB-175	Tue, Thu, Sat	01 Feb 2025	25 Oct 2025

# Raipur

## THE RISING JEWEL OF CHHATTISGARH

Raipur, one of India's oldest cities, is a fascinating blend of rich history, cultural heritage, and modern growth. With roots tracing back to the 9th century, this city has witnessed centuries of rule by various kings and dynasties, each leaving its mark on its landscape and legacy.

From the era of the British rule to its designation as the capital of Chhattisgarh in 2000, Raipur has continually evolved. Today, it stands as a thriving commercial hub and one of India's cleanest cities, while also being a treasure trove of historical landmarks, scenic spots, and culinary delights. Whether you're exploring its ancient temples, vibrant local markets, or lush parks, Raipur offers an experience that seamlessly combines the old with the new.

### A LESSON IN HISTORY

The city of Raipur is one of the oldest cities in India. According to historians, the town of Raipur has existed since the 9th century.

Over the years and through the centuries, numerous kings and kingdoms have ruled over the land of Raipur. In 1854, the city of Raipur came under British rule, and it underwent significant changes after India's independence in 1947. Post-independence, Raipur served as a district in the state of Madhya Pradesh. However, on 1 November, 2000, the state of Chhattisgarh was formed, and Raipur was designated as its capital.

### KNOW YOUR CITY

In a relatively short period, Raipur has made a name for itself as a major commercial hub for trade and commerce in the region of Chhattisgarh. It also established itself as the sixth cleanest city in India as per the Swachh Survekshan for the year 2021.





## TREAT FOR YOUR EYES

**Dudhadhari Temple:** The Dudhadhari temple was founded by Sree Swami Balabhadradas Ji Maharaj, a monk, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. According to legends, Sree Swami Balabhadradas Ji Maharaj used to survive only on milk and therefore came to be known as Dudh Ahari Maharaj (one who consumes only milk).

**Swami Vivekananda Sarovar:** A prominent landmark in the city of Raipur, the Swami Vivekananda Sarovar is a popular tourist attraction. Surrounded by several trees, the Swami Vivekananda Sarovar makes for a tranquil visit. The 37-foot statue of Swami Vivekananda, the tallest statue of Vivekananda in the world, is the real landmark of this place.

**Marine Drive Raipur:** The Marine Drive in Raipur is situated right in the heart of the city, along with the periphery of the picturesque Telibandha Lake. The whole stretch has been planned in a way that makes it attractive to tourists. Among the many initiatives taken to upgrade Marine Drive to international tourist standards, the most noticeable ones are enabling Wi-Fi throughout the stretch, installing clean toilets, carrying out mass health-awareness drives, and setting up food stalls and selfie points throughout its entire length.



“ The city of Raipur is one of the oldest cities in India. According to historians, the town of Raipur has existed since the 9<sup>th</sup> century.



#### TRYST WITH NATURE

**Farra:** A popular breakfast delicacy in Raipur, it is made from rice flour dumplings stuffed with channa daal or other lentil fillings, spiced delicately and steamed or boiled to perfection.

**Aamat:** Also known as the Raipur version of Sambar, it is made using mixed vegetables and a special paste of spices and herbs and is best enjoyed with rice.

**Khurmi:** A popular sweet delicacy made during festivals, Khurmi is prepared from wheat flour, jaggery, and sesame seeds, shaped into small cookies, and deep-fried.

#### TRYST WITH NATURE

**Ghatarani Waterfalls:** Situated 85 kilometers away from Raipur, Ghatarani Waterfalls is the largest in the state of Chattisgarh. It is a popular picnic spot for locals and tourists alike. It is surrounded by lush greenery on all sides and is home to some recreational activities.

**Central Park:** Central Park Raipur is conveniently located on Central Avenue Road and is home to several amenities like a restaurant, an amphitheater, a yoga park, and mini markets.

**Gandhi Udyan Park:** Situated on the side of G.E. Road in Raipur, the Gandhi Udyan Park is one of the oldest parks in the city. This park is known for its natural scenic beauty and is a popular destination among locals and tourists alike. ★



#### TIME IT RIGHT

Like most major cities in India, Raipur is known for its hot and humid weather. So, the best time to visit Raipur is between November to January, when the temperatures range comfortably between 14 degrees Celsius and 28 degrees Celsius. ★



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# Chasing Sunsets & New Beginnings

## Embrace the New Year in Dreamy Destinations

As 2024 comes to a close and 2025 dawns, the hunt for the perfect New Year's celebration begins. With breathtaking landscapes and rich cultures to explore, numerous destinations promise to make your New Year unforgettable. Here are five enchanting locations to kick off your 2025 adventure.

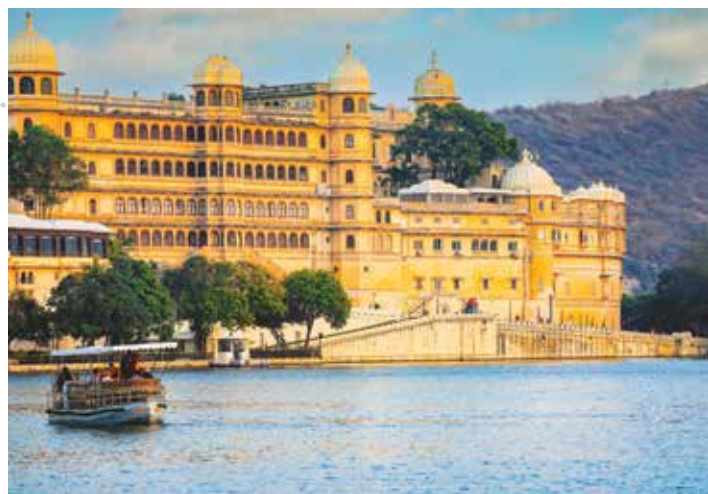
### ▼ **GOA:** Hippy Escape with Midnight Celebrations

Goa epitomises festive fun and carefree living, renowned for its stunning beaches like Baga and Anjuna. This sun-soaked paradise attracts free spirits eager to dance under a starlit sky, with fireworks illuminating the horizon.

**Accommodation Tip:** Choose a beach front resort hosting lively New Year's Eve parties, complete with food stalls and entertainment, right by the ocean.

**Culinary Delights:** Sample local delicacies at bustling food stalls or fresh seafood at beach shacks, with Goan fish curry being a must-try.

For a calmer experience post-celebration, take refuge in the serene beaches of South Goa, like Palolem, perfect for unwinding.



### ▲ **UDAIPUR:** Regal Experience Amidst Lakes

Udaipur, often referred to as the "City of Lakes," is a romantic and grand destination for a memorable New Year. With its majestic palaces and tranquil waters, it offers a stunning backdrop for celebrations.

**Activities:** Enjoy a sunset boat ride on Lake Pichola with warm drinks and breathtaking views. Many heritage hotels host grand New Year's Eve events featuring traditional music and dance.

**Stay in Style:** Opt for a heritage property to experience a luxurious blend of history and culture.

**Dining Experience:** Indulge in exquisite Rajasthani cuisine at local restaurants, transporting you back to royal times.





### ▼ **MANALI:** Enchanting Winter Wonderland

For those seeking a snowy New Year experience, Manali transforms into a winter wonderland in December, ideal for adventure seekers and romantics alike.

**Adventure Awaits:** Skiing and snowboarding at Solang Valley promise thrills, while picturesque snowy landscapes invite relaxation. Many resorts host special New Year's Eve parties featuring bonfires and traditional Himachali dishes.

**Stay Cosy:** Look for mountain resorts that offer festive celebrations amidst stunning scenery.

**Post-Adventure Treats:** Warm up with local soups or steaming momos at nearby cafés after exploring the snow.



### ▲ **RISHIKESH:** Tranquil Retreat by the Ganges

If a peaceful New Year is what you seek, Rishikesh, known as the "Yoga Capital of the World," is a serene sanctuary for rejuvenation.

**Mindful Celebrations:** Engage in yoga sessions and meditation at ashrams. On New Year's Eve, join the Ganga Aarti ceremony, a spiritually uplifting experience to centre yourself for the year ahead.

**Accommodations:** Choose tranquil ashrams or wellness retreats to unwind in a calming atmosphere.

**Local Flavours:** Savour wholesome vegetarian dishes at charming cafés while reflecting on the past year.

### ► **PUDUCHERRY:** Rustic Charm with a French Twist

Puducherry offers a unique blend of Indian and French cultures, making it a delightful New Year destination. The relaxed vibe allows you to unwind while enjoying festive celebrations.

**Beach Celebrations:** Ring in the New Year at Promenade Beach, where vibrant fireworks create a magical midnight backdrop.

**Culinary Bliss:** Stroll through the French Quarter, indulging in delectable French cuisine at local cafés. The charming colonial architecture enhances the experience.

**Stay in Comfort:** Opt for a boutique hotel in the French Quarter to fully immerse yourself in the coastal town's unique aesthetic.

As you plan your New Year's getaway, these dreamlike destinations present diverse experiences—lively beach parties, regal lakeside retreats, enchanting winter adventures, or serene spiritual escapes. Each location offers a unique backdrop for welcoming 2025 and creating cherished memories. Embrace the spirit of travel and let the New Year unfold in style





## STAR AIR TAKES FLIGHT TOWARDS Ambitious Expansion

**W**ith its sights set on transforming the regional aviation landscape, we, as the aviation arm of the Sanjay Ghodawat Group (SGG), have unveiled a bold expansion plan. The aim is to grow the fleet to 25 aircraft within the next 36 months, solidifying our position as a key player in connecting India's underserved regions.

Currently operating nine aircraft—a mix of four Embraer E175s and five Embraer E145s—we are preparing to induct two new E175 aircraft in the current fiscal year (FY25) and another four in FY26. This move underscores our unwavering commitment to the Government of India's UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) initiative, which focuses on enhancing connectivity to smaller cities and towns.

### CONNECTING REAL INDIA

Our mission to "Connect Real India" remains at the heart of this growth strategy. The addition of new E175s will enable us to boost capacity and efficiency across existing and upcoming routes, while also reinforcing our ability to provide better connectivity to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Known for their fuel efficiency and superior passenger comfort, these aircraft align seamlessly with our promise of providing swift, comfortable, and reliable air travel experiences.

Capt. Simran Singh Tiwana, our CEO, shared the vision: "The addition of these new Embraer E175 aircraft marks a pivotal step in our journey. As we expand our fleet to 25 aircrafts, we reaffirm our commitment to reaching more underserved markets and setting new standards in air travel. Each milestone in this expansion brings us closer to connecting more of Real India, offering fast, efficient, and high-quality flying experiences for our passengers."







**Since our inception in 2019, we have flown over 1.3 million passengers across 24 destinations.**



#### **A RISING STAR IN INDIAN AVIATION**

Since our inception in 2019, we have emerged as a rising star in India's aviation sector. We have flown over 1.3 million passengers across 24 destinations, establishing ourselves as a reliable choice for affordable and accessible regional air travel. Our network spans several states, including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Punjab, Goa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

The expansion plan not only signals growth but also reflects our dedication to innovation and excellence. With increasing demand for regional connectivity, we are poised to bridge gaps in India's air travel map, bringing convenience and efficiency to passengers in remote and underserved areas.

#### **FUELING REGIONAL GROWTH**

Our growing fleet will also have a broader impact beyond the aviation sector. Improved air connectivity fosters economic growth in smaller cities by enabling easier access to trade, tourism, and business opportunities. By expanding our reach, we are set to play a crucial role in driving regional development, empowering communities, and boosting local economies.

As we chart this ambitious course, the skies are not just the limit but the starting point of a transformative journey. With a fleet of 25 aircrafts on the horizon, we are poised to redefine regional aviation and make "Connecting Real India" more than just a mission—it's becoming a reality. ★



# THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

Captain **Piyush Chordiya** is a seasoned aviation professional with a wealth of experience in the aviation industry. In a candid conversation with *The Rising Star*, he looks back on his journey so far and sheds light on how Star Air has evolved over the years and shares some invaluable advice for aspiring pilots.

## **Early years, childhood, family background, etc— What inspired you to take up a career in aviation?**

**A.** I was born and raised in Pune, Maharashtra. With my father being in business in the automobile industry and my elder brother studying engineering, I was naturally inclined towards technical studies and ended up graduating with a degree in industrial engineering. During the later years of engineering studies, I was engaged in studying aerospace-related technology, it was then when aviation got my attention as a career choice. My lust for travel and fascination for fast machines ultimately landed me at a flight school in Canada to pursue a career in flying and earning my commercial pilot license.

## **From the lower ranks to a captain, could you please take us through your journey with Star Air to date?**

**A.** After earning my wings, I started off as a flight instructor at a flight school in Canada. I spent a couple of years training new students toward their commercial pilot licenses and ratings before shifting my focus to entering the workforce in India. I spent the next 12 years in Indian Aviation learning skills, and knowledge and gaining experience flying various types of aircrafts engaged in Corporate Aviation, cargo, and passenger operations in different geographic areas of operation. During this time I got my first command in corporate aviation and in subsequent years I was employed as a Captain with one of the major airlines in India. The Pandemic altered my path and I happened to explore an opportunity With Star Air in 2022. Under the leadership and vision of Honorable Chairman Shri

Sanjay Ghodawat and M.D. Shrenik Ghodawat to connect Real India, Star Air was rising and expanding. I applied to Star Air and secured a position as a captain on their Embraer 145 fleet.







## Could you please take us through what does a day in the life of a pilot looks like?

**A.** Depending on which type of operation a pilot is engaged, a day in life could be very different. For example, a day of a long-haul pilot or an overnight cargo pilot could be very different from a day of a regional pilot.

At Star Air, we currently follow a 2-shift pattern. A pilot could be scheduled for a morning shift or an afternoon shift spanning about 10 to 12 hours. We would arrive at the airport about 1 hour before the departure time of our flight. We are then subject to a breath analyser test after which we will gather in a dispatch office where we meet and greet the other flight crew and cabin crew teamed up for the shift.

We would discuss the weather, aircraft technical status, operational documents, and any expected hurdles for the day. Once the briefing is done, we head out to the aircraft and carry on with our role-specific tasks like exterior inspection, setting up of the flight deck computers and instruments, etc. Simultaneously, other teams would be boarding the passengers, fueling the aircraft, loading cargo, etc. It's like the clockwork of different teams to get the aircraft airborne in time.

Once we land at our destination it's action replay! In about 20 to 30 minutes on the ground, we would be on to the next sector! We would either return to our home base on the same day or end up on a layover in a different city after a few such sectors depending on the flight pattern.

## As a captain, you're often expected to put your professional commitments ahead of your commitments, could you recount one such incident?

**A.** At Star Air, fortunately up until now I have been able to balance my work

and life commitments- Touch wood! However, I can say that as a pilot you cannot do everything and cannot be everywhere at the same time. Along with the support of colleagues, prioritising between your commitments, social events, etc. is the key to balancing your work-life situation.

## Could you please take us through your experience of working with Star Air to date.

**A.** Star Air in its current setup has been a fulfilling experience so far, offering recognition, growth opportunities, work-life balance, and open communication channels.

## Every now and then, we hear stories about unruly flyers on board a flight. Have you had any encounters with unruly passengers as a pilot and how did you deal with them?

**A.** Fortunately, I haven't personally come across a situation with an unruly passenger on board. However, there are strict regulations and procedures in place to deal with unruly passengers.

## Could you please tell us how you have evolved at Star Air over the years?

**A.** As a regional carrier we fly to smaller regional airports with limited navigation Infrastructure and often shorter runways. This, in comparison to flying in bigger airports, can get challenging and test your piloting abilities. Flying at Star Air provides ample opportunity to sharpen my piloting skills at such airports. I have been able to expand my operational envelope in the



commanding position of a Jet Aircraft, allowing me to develop my analytical traits further. Coming from a major airline, I have been able to share my experience and knowledge with my juniors in a mentorship role which is satisfying and an opportunity to test my communication skills and my ability to guide.

## Finally, do you have any advice for budding pilots?

**A.** What you aspire will transpire! Having said that, a career in flying requires lifestyle changes and financial considerations. Reality vs expectations can take time to match depending on the economic cycles. Do not compromise on the quality of the flying school you choose for training; this can have a lasting effect! Invest in alternate skills as a backup. ★

# FUTURE WHEELS

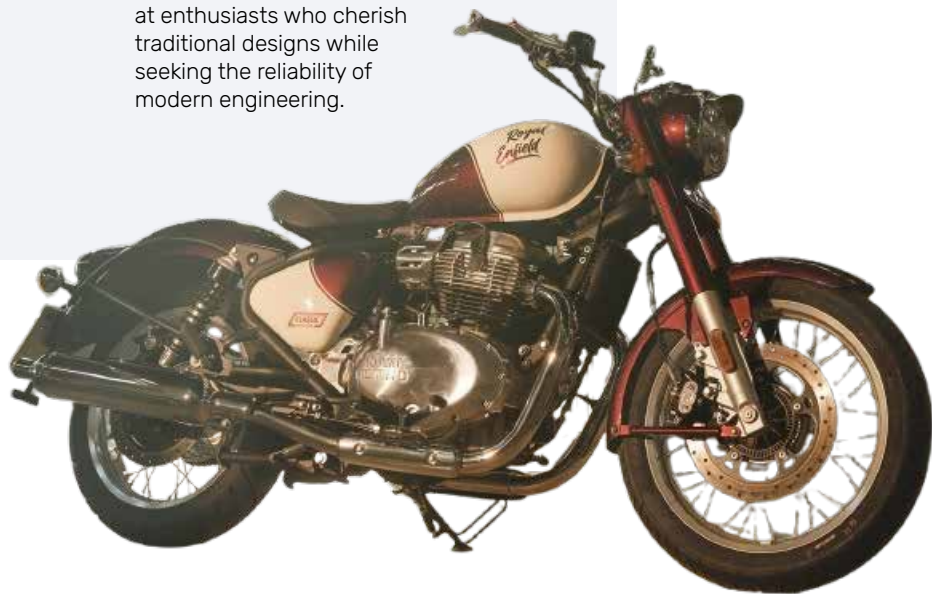
## Unveiling the Sleekest Cars and Bikes Heading to India in 2025

### Royal Enfield Classic 650

**Expected Price:** ₹3.20 Lakh

**Launch Date:** January 2025

A modern take on classic styling, the Royal Enfield Classic 650 combines retro aesthetics with contemporary performance features. This bike is aimed at enthusiasts who cherish traditional designs while seeking the reliability of modern engineering.



As we approach 2025, the Indian automotive market is buzzing with excitement. A range of innovative cars and captivating motorcycles slated for release promises to blend cutting-edge technology with stunning design. Let's dive into some of the most eagerly anticipated vehicles, highlighting their features, specifications, and pricing.

TEXT BY ROHIT GEORGE



### Kia EV5

**Expected Price:** ₹55 - 57 Lakh

**Launch Date:** January 8, 2025

The Kia EV5 is set to revolutionize the electric SUV segment. With spacious interiors designed for passenger comfort and advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) for enhanced safety, it boasts a remarkable range of over 500 km on a single charge, appealing to adventure-seekers who prioritise sustainability.







### **Mahindra XUV.e8**

**Expected Price:** ₹35 - 40 Lakh

**Launch Date:** December 25, 2024

The XUV.e8 by Mahindra features a robust electric powertrain, reflecting the brand's commitment to innovation. A large touchscreen infotainment system enhances the driving experience, promising both cutting-edge technology and Mahindra's renowned engineering for a thrilling ride.



### **Renault Arkana**

**Expected Price:** ₹18 - 20 Lakh

**Launch Date:** February 10, 2025

The Renault Arkana is anticipated to attract buyers with its distinctive coupe-SUV design. It will offer a hybrid engine option, providing a stylish and efficient choice. Luxurious interior features complement its sleek silhouette, ensuring it stands out on the road.



### **KTM 390 Adventure S**

**Expected Price:** ₹3.80 Lakh

**Launch Date:** January 2025

The KTM 390 Adventure S is crafted for thrill-seekers, equipped with robust off-road capabilities and a powerful engine. It is perfect for riders looking to conquer diverse terrains and explore the great outdoors.



# Celebrating Our Star Performers



## ABHIJEET SUNIL KSHIRSAGAR

**(Jr. Technical Officer - Technical Records) (Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation)**

- Abhijeet has demonstrated exceptional dedication and hard work, making outstanding contributions to material planning and ensuring the smooth functioning of Line Maintenance.
- His consistent performance and proactive approach have played a pivotal role in the team's success, with seamless management of third-party aircraft maintenance material planning.
- Always eager to embrace new challenges, he steps up whenever needed, providing invaluable support to both Line and Base Maintenance operations.
- Abhijeet's reliability, commitment, and proactive efforts make him an indispensable asset to the team.

## ARUL ARAVIND

**(Assistant Manager - Rostering) (Flight Operations)**

- Arul plays a crucial role in managing flight operations by efficiently handling rosters and ensuring smooth scheduling.
- He never shies away from responsibility and leads the team with excellent communication skills and unwavering commitment.
- His dedication, skill, and hard work are second to none, keeping operations running seamlessly 24/7 with timely adjustments.
- Over the past five years with the airline, Arul's hard work has greatly inspired and motivated the entire Flight Operations team.
- As a key figure in the heart of operations, he ensures efficiency and contributes immensely to the success of flight operations.★







# Own a piece of Star Air

1:100 Scale model of Embraer E175

₹6499



Reach out to your nearest cabin crew to buy!

# Connecting Real India



\*Map used for general illustration only, and does not represent the political boundaries of India.



## STAR AIR'S FLEET



**EMBRAER EMB-175LR:**  
**NUMBER OF SEATS:** 76  
**ENGINE TYPE:** GE CF34-8E5  
**TOP SPEED:** MACH 0.82



**EMBRAER EMB-145LR:**  
**NUMBER OF SEATS:** 50  
**ENGINE TYPE:** ROLLS-ROYCE  
AE3007A1P  
**TOP SPEED:** MACH 0.78



**AIRBUS HELICOPTER H135:**  
**NUMBER OF SEATS:** 7  
**ENGINE TYPE:** TURBOMECA  
ARRIUS 2B2  
**TOP SPEED:** 287 KM/H



**AIRBUS HELICOPTER H130:**  
**NUMBER OF SEATS:** 6  
**ENGINE TYPE:** TURBOMECA  
ARRIEL  
**TOP SPEED:** 287 KM/H

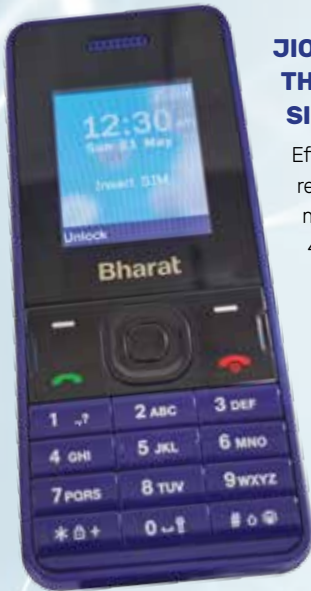


**AIRBUS HELICOPTER H120:**  
**NUMBER OF SEATS:** 6  
**ENGINE TYPE:** TURBOMECA  
ARRIUS 2F  
**TOP SPEED:** 280 KM/H

# New Year New Gadgets

The New Year brings with it a whole host of new gadgets. Delve into the realm of innovation, exploring the newest releases that promise to reshape the way we live, work, and play.

Text by **ROHIT GEORGE**



## JIO BHARAT PHONE – THE ART OF ELEGANT SIMPLICITY

Effortless, essential, and endlessly reliable – the Jio Bharat phone redefines minimalism with a 1.77-inch display, 4GB storage, and a 1000 mAh battery that keeps you connected longer. With 4G VoLTE for crisp calls and fast browsing, it's the perfect blend of utility and understated charm.

## XIAOMI REDMI A4 5G – POWER MEETS PRESTIGE

Fast, fluid, and future-ready, the Xiaomi Redmi A4 5G pairs a Snapdragon 4s Gen 2 processor with a stunning 6.88-inch 120 Hz display. Its sleek design, dual-camera brilliance, and 5G speed offer next-gen luxury without the premium price tag.



## GARMIN FENIX 8 – ADVENTURE REFINED, PRECISION REDEFINED

For those who seek style as bold as their pursuits, the Garmin Fenix 8 is a multisports masterpiece. With GPS navigation, advanced health tracking, and unrivaled durability, it's the ultimate statement piece for explorers with a taste for excellence.



## JIO GLASS – SEE THE FUTURE, LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

Step beyond the ordinary with Jio Glass, where the digital world merges seamlessly with reality. Gesture controls and voice commands put you at the center of interactive learning, entertainment, and immersive exploration. ★





# Barso Ka Bharosa Ab Nayi Pehchan Ke Sath

*Raveena*

Raveena's  
Choice



# Shoot-ing for the Stars

Featuring some of the best and coolest photos of our constellation from social media.







# Chhattisgarh on a Platter

## SAVOURING THE HEART OF INDIA'S HIDDEN GEM

Nestled in the heart of India, Chhattisgarh offers a culinary legacy as vibrant as its landscapes. Known as the "Rice Bowl of India," the region's cuisine is a perfect blend of indigenous wisdom and ancient traditions. With earthy ingredients, rustic techniques, and a deep connection to nature, Chhattisgarh's food tells stories of heritage, community, and flavour. From tribal hearths to festive feasts, here are six iconic dishes that capture the essence of this remarkable cuisine.

Text by **ROHIT GEORGE**



### Bountiful Bafauri: A Steamed Treat

The healthier cousin of *pakora*, *bafauri* swaps deep-frying for steaming. Made from ground chana dal, onions, and green chillies, these bite-sized delights are soft yet full of flavour. A symbol of Chhattisgarh's emphasis on minimal wastage and maximum nutrition, *bafauri* is a guilt-free indulgence.

**Tip:** Add grated carrots or leafy greens for extra texture and nutrition.

### Classic Chhattisgarhi Kadhi: A Bowl of Comfort

Silky, tangy, and comforting, Chhattisgarhi *kadhi* is a yoghurt-based curry thickened with gram flour. Infused with mustard seeds, curry leaves, and green chillies, it achieves a velvety texture. When paired with steamed rice, it becomes the ultimate comfort food — especially on rainy evenings.

**Tip:** Add fried *boondi* or steamed *bafauri* to the *kadhi* for an extra layer of texture and flavour.



### Decadent Dehrori: A Sweet Serenade

The grand finale of any Chhattisgarhi feast, *dehrori* is a sweet treat made from fermented rice and curd. Deep-fried until golden, the dumplings are soaked in cardamom-scented sugar syrup and garnished with cashews, almonds, and pistachios. Soft, spongy, and syrupy, *dehrori* is a beloved offering during Diwali and other festivals.

**Tip:** Enjoy fresh for a syrup-drenched delight or let it cool for a chewier, more indulgent experience.

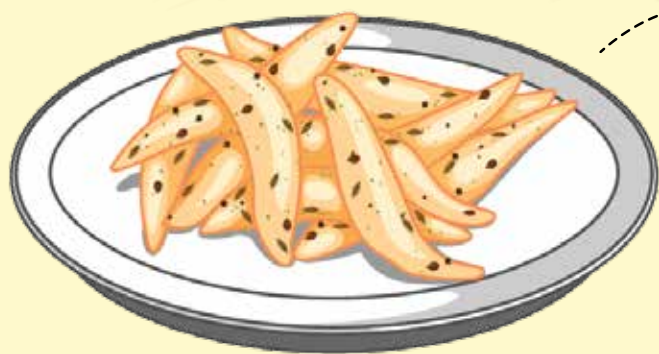




### Aromatic Aamat: The Forest's Flavourful Gift

A tribute to Chhattisgarh's tribal roots, *aamat* combines bamboo shoots, drumsticks, and local vegetables in a tangy yoghurt-based gravy. Slow-cooked in earthen pots, the dish absorbs smoky, earthy undertones, while hand-pounded spices deepen the flavour. *Aamat* is a festival favourite, showcasing rustic elegance.

**Tip:** Enjoy it with steamed rice or crispy *chusela* to taste Chhattisgarh.



### Crispy Chusela: The Rice Flour Revelation

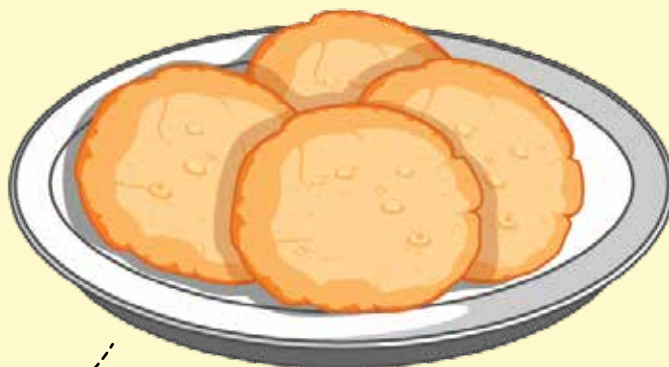
Golden, crisp, and irresistibly crunchy, *chusela* is a rice flour flatbread fried to perfection. Rolled into delicate discs and fried until golden, it boasts a nutty aroma and an unforgettable crunch. Often paired with *chana dal* or fiery curries, it's perfect for breakfast or as a celebratory treat. Its gluten-free nature only adds to its popularity.

**Tip:** Enjoy it fresh with tamarind *chutney* or a fragrant vegetable curry for an authentic Chhattisgarhi experience.

### Fluffy Faraa: Pillows of Culinary Perfection

*Faraa* is a tender, steamed delight made from freshly ground rice batter. These soft rice dumplings, flavoured with cumin and mustard, are the Chhattisgarhi cousin of South India's *idli*. Served as breakfast or a light evening snack, *faraa* offers a wholesome, non-fried option.

**Tip:** Pair *faraa* with a zesty coriander-garlic *chutney* or drizzle with mustard oil for an authentic local twist.



## Flavours of the Heart

Chhattisgarh's culinary legacy is a celebration of simplicity, sustainability, and soulful storytelling. From the crisp *chusela* to the syrupy sweetness of *dehlori*, every dish bridges tradition and modernity. Forest produce, rice, and lentils form the backbone of this cuisine, while spices and cooking methods enhance the natural essence of each ingredient.

Tasting Chhattisgarh means experiencing a world of contrasts — crispy meets tender, rustic meets refined, and every meal becomes a celebration of heritage. So, seek out these flavours where every dish tells a story, every bite evokes a memory, and every meal embodies a legacy.

# ODISHA

## on a Spoon

OLD-WORLD FLAVOURS OF THE EAST

Odisha, a vibrant state along India's eastern coastline, offers a culinary journey that seamlessly blends ancient traditions with coastal life. With its diverse landscapes, from pristine beaches to lush forests, Odia cuisine reflects a rich heritage centred around rice and fish. Each dish tells a story, embodying the spirit of community, culture, and nature. Here, we explore six iconic dishes that define Odisha's culinary legacy.

Text by **ROHIT GEORGE**

### Macho Torkari: The Essence of Coastal Flavours

*Macho Torkari*, or fish curry, is essential to Odisha's coastal identity.

Fresh fish, such as hilsa or rohu, is simmered in a tangy mustard sauce, spiced with green chillies, garlic, and turmeric. The mustard imparts a unique, pungent flavour that beautifully complements the tender fish, capturing the maritime spirit of Odisha.

**Tip:** Serve *macho torkari* with hot rice to fully appreciate its robust, tangy depth.



### Chakuli: A Crispy Start to the Day

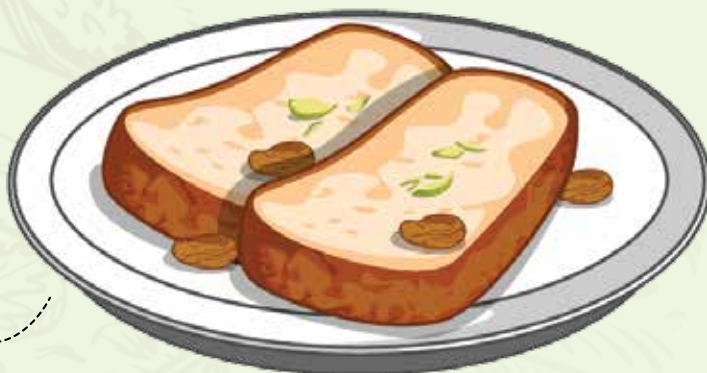
*Chakuli* is a cherished breakfast dish made from a simple batter of rice flour and lentils. These pancakes are crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, often enjoyed with *dalma* or various chutneys. Their delicate texture and slightly savoury flavour make *chakuli* versatile, pairing well with both spicy and mild accompaniments.

**Tip:** For a delicious morning treat, enjoy *chakuli* with sweet tamarind chutney or a spicy lentil curry.

### Chenna Poda: The Sweet Delight of Odisha

Odisha's love for sweets is epitomised by *chenna poda*, a baked dessert made from fresh *chhena* (cottage cheese). Mixed with sugar, cardamom, and roasted nuts, this sweet is baked to golden perfection. Soft and caramelised, it boasts the warm aroma of cardamom and is a festive favourite, embodying Odia hospitality.

**Tip:** Enjoy *chenna poda* warm to savour its rich, caramelised flavour at its best.



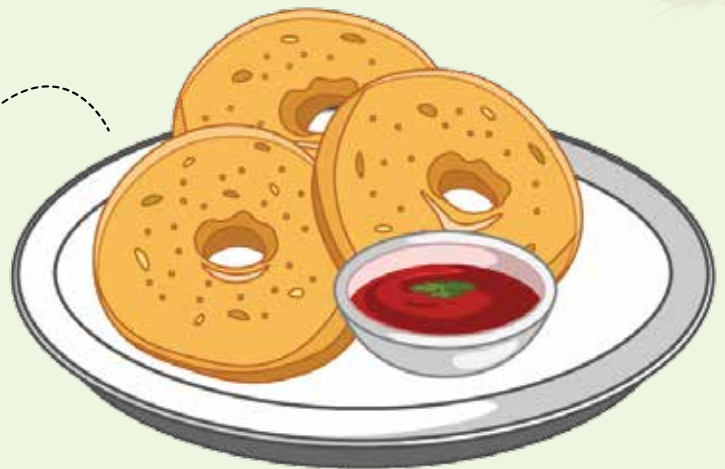




### **Dalma: A Hearty Fusion of Pulses and Vegetables**

*Dalma* embodies Odia comfort food—a nourishing stew that combines lentils with seasonal vegetables and a fragrant mix of spices. Infused with ginger, garlic, and mustard seeds, dalma is traditionally served with steaming rice, delivering warmth and satisfaction.

**Tip:** Enhance the dish's comforting appeal by adding a dollop of ghee just before serving.



### **Bora: A Crispy Snack of Tradition**

*Bora* is a deep-fried lentil fritter that reflects Odisha's vibrant street food culture. Made from ground urad daal and seasoned with ginger, garlic, and green chillies, these fritters deliver a spicy kick. Traditionally served with tangy chutney or curry, *bora* is a popular snack enjoyed during festivals and special occasions.

**Tip:** Pair *bora* with spicy tomato chutney or simple *dalma* for a flavour-packed treat.



### **Pokhalo Bhato: The Refreshing Heartbeat of Odisha**

*Pokhalo Bhato* is a beloved dish, especially during Odisha's hot summer months. This cool, fermented rice is typically served with fried fish, mashed potatoes (*aloo bharta*), or sautéed vegetables. The tanginess from fermentation, combined with the richness of ghee and a hint of green chillies, creates a delightful balance of simplicity and flavour.

**Tip:** For an authentic experience, enjoy pokhalo bhato with crispy fried fish or a side of spicy chutney.

## **Flavours of Odisha: A Culinary Legacy**

Odisha's cuisine is a reflection of its people—a land where tradition is cherished, nature revered, and community bonds celebrated. From refreshing pokhalo bhato to indulgent chenna poda, every dish narrates stories of resilience and warmth, highlighting the deep connection between the people and their environment. This culinary tapestry not only honours the land and sea, but also celebrates the joy of sharing meals, fostering a spirit of hospitality and tradition. Each bite invites you to experience the heart of Eastern India through its rich, comforting flavours.



# On A Lighter Note

Add a dose of fun to your travel with jokes that are guaranteed to tickle your funny bone



The cost of the space program is astronomical.



If you get sick at the airport it could be a terminal illness



During his air test a young pilot flew through a rainbow.  
He passed with flying colors.



If you step onto a plane and recognize a friend of yours named Jack don't yell out Hi Jack!

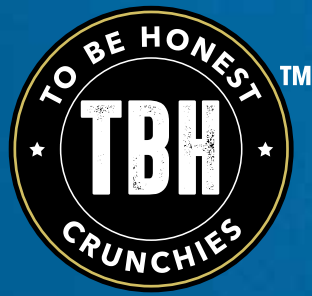


Don't expect to eat something fancy when you're flying because it's plane food.



The airlines have become so cash-strapped, that they charged me for my emotional baggage.





Made with 100%  
real fruits & veggies



~ Honestly Delicious ~

**50%** LESS FAT THAN  
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GLUTEN FREE



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**₹120**



**₹150**

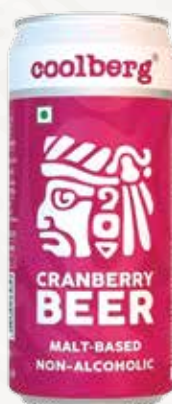


**₹120**



Paper Boat

**₹200**



Coolberg

**₹100**



Hot Beverages



\* All menu items are subject to availability

[www.starair.in](http://www.starair.in)



## SNACK FOOD



Mr Makhana /  
TBH Spiced Okra /  
TBH Golden Sweet Potato

**₹200**

## TEMPTATIONS

**₹300**



Cup Noodles

**₹100**



Star Air Cookies

## LIGHT MEAL

**₹200**



Rava Upma

**₹200**



Vegetable Poha

## HEAVY MEAL

**₹ 300**



Vegetable Biryani /  
Bisibele Bhath

\* All menu items are subject to availability

[www.starair.in](http://www.starair.in)



We hope you had a  
**Pleasant Experience**

We value your feedback, Please write to us at [suggestions@starair.in](mailto:suggestions@starair.in)

or tag us at @officialstarair on

