

THE RISING STAR

JULY-AUGUST 2026 | VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4



THE 'Momentum' ISSUE

MUNDRA RISING

*Gujarat's best-kept secret is where
India's future is being built, right at
the edge of the sea*

A TIMELESS CITY

*Bhubaneswar has stood for nearly two
thousand years—a day is just enough to
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Dear Passengers,

Connecting Real India has been our mission from the very beginning, and I am proud to share another significant milestone in that journey. We are honoured to be the first carrier to commence services to Mundra, the Gateway to Kutch.

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We are also delighted to recommence services connecting Bengaluru with Bidar and Kalaburagi, as well as flights linking Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, and Jharsuguda. These routes will benefit business travellers, students, tourists, and local communities while strengthening our growing network.

Alongside expansion, we remain focused on operational excellence. I am pleased to share that we achieved our highest-ever On-Time Performance of 92% in May 2026, a testament to the dedication and hard work of our employees across the organisation.

As we continue to grow, we remain committed to expanding connectivity, serving underserved regions and creating greater opportunities. We thank our passengers, partners, stakeholders, and employees for their continued trust and support as we connect destinations and bring India closer, one flight at a time.

Warm regards,

Sanjay D. Ghodawat
Chairman, Star Air



ON THE COVER

Mundra—where ambition meets vastness—reflects the momentum of a nation constantly looking ahead. More than a gateway for trade, this vibrant port city of Gujarat captures the spirit of India's next chapter.

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**RAUL DIAS**

For over two decades, he has contributed travel, food, and luxury stories to leading Indian and international publications. Based in Mumbai, Raul is a passionate globetrotter and consummate lover of fine things. Equally devoted to luxury and cuisine, he has travelled to more than 65 countries... and counting!

**SNIGDHA BHATTACHARJEE**

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

**AAYAAN UPADHYAYA**

He enjoys writing about pop culture, wellness, and lifestyle. In his spare time, you can find Aayaan listening to true crime podcasts, playing RPG video games or reading an engrossing novel. A graduate of journalism and mass communication, he is a senior editor who has previously worked with Times Internet.



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PATOLA

BY NIRMAL SALVI

Original Gi 232 Certified Patan Patola, Single Ikat Patola, Bandhej, Paithani, Zari Kota Sarees, Kalamkari, Fusion Sarees, Men's Wear & Accessories

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Mumbai

Shop no 1 B, GF, Hormuz Mansion
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Hyderabad

Ground Floor, Road No. 36,
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Bangalore

Coming Soon

 patola_bynirmalsalvi

→
HYDERABAD

25 YEARS OF HARRIS JAYARAJ

5th September; Boulder Hills

Marking a significant milestone in a celebrated musical journey, this special performance will offer the audience an evening of timeless melodies and exceptional artistry. One of South India's most celebrated composers, Jayaraj will take the centre stage for his first-ever Telugu gig, presenting beloved compositions that have shaped countless memories. From soulful ballads to chart-topping favourites, it promises an unforgettable night for any fan and every music lover.



THE SEASON'S BEST

A curated line-up of festivals, concerts, sporting spectacles, and cultural moments defining the most exciting experiences

WORDS: Aayaan Upadhyaya



←
ARANMULA, KERALA

ARANMULA UTHRITTATHI VALLAMKALI

30th August; River Pampa

Steeped in history and devotion, this centuries-old display transforms tranquil waters into a vibrant celebration of the state's cultural heritage. The ornate *palliyodams*, gracefully glide across the river and are accompanied by rhythmic *vanchippattu* to create a captivating display of teamwork and pageantry. Rooted in temple traditions and local folklore, the sporting event is more than a race; it is a cherished observance that continues to bring communities together in a spirit of unity and reverence.

IMAGE COURTESY: Shutterstock (bottom image)

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BHUBANESWAR
WORLD ATHLETICS
CONTINENTAL TOUR

22nd August;
 Kalinga Stadium

A celebration of speed, strength, and sporting excellence, this prestigious meet will bring together top track and field athletes from across the world. As the country's first-ever Silver-level meet, it signals a new chapter for Indian athletics. From lightning-fast sprints to endurance-driven contests, spectators can look forward to an exciting showcase of elite competition.



MUMBAI ↑
INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING
FESTIVAL-MIST

15th-16th August;
 Godrej Dance Theatre

Inspired by *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, this year's edition explores the many meanings of family through stories of belonging, heritage, and identity. Weaving together storytellers from India and beyond, the festival presents histories, legends, and intergenerational narratives celebrating shared human connections.



BENAULIM, GOA ↓
MALHAR & THE SEA 2026

24th-26th July, Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Goa

Set against the lyrical beauty of the monsoon, this residential festival blends music, art, and hospitality into a thoughtfully curated getaway. Featuring acclaimed performers across traditions ranging from *dhrupad* and *khayal* to sufi, *ghazal*, and musical theatre, it pairs intimate performances with exceptional cuisine, wellness programmes, and a relaxed setting designed for deeper engagement with the arts.



KOLKATA ↓
DANCE BRIDGES
FESTIVAL 2026

20th-24th August;
 Multiple locations

Bringing together artistes, audiences, and creative voices from around the world, this international biennial celebrates the power of contemporary dance as a medium for dialogue and expression.

The programme features performances, workshops, film screenings, and creative exchanges that encourage collaboration and cultural engagement.

With a diverse line-up of national and international participants, the festival offers a dynamic platform for movement, ideas, and innovation.



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* Upcoming

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'THE SEN' DEBUTS
NEAR LANSDOWNE ↓

Designed by creator Nakul Sen, it is a new luxury boutique retreat in Velda Bada, Uttarakhand. Tucked away on a quiet, four-acre forested ridge, it offers just four exclusive suites, embracing a slow-living aesthetic with an outdoor pool, local-to-global *pahadi* dining, and an immersive nature experience alongside bird-watching.

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ATTRANGI DESIGNS ↓ INTRODUCES 'PEARL EDITS'

The contemporary jewellery label has unveiled *Pearl Edits*, a refined celebration of pearls that brings together timeless craftsmanship and contemporary design through a curated selection of statement jewellery. Designed for both festive occasions, like the *Gulbahaar Antique Gold Polish Polki Set with Pearls* (as shown in the image), and everyday elegance, the collection reinterprets classic pearl adornment with modern silhouettes.



← NANDAN COFFEE SETS FOOT IN BENGALURU

Designed as a coffee-first destination, the space features an espresso bar, manual brewing stations, and a dedicated Filter Kaapi Bar. Rooted in farm-to-cup philosophy, it offers visitors a deeper appreciation of sourcing, roasting, and brewing. Inspired by the brand's estate in Kodaikanal, the experience blends coffee and retail while showcasing diverse brewing formats and an all-day café concept.



→ IKAI BRINGS LUXURY MITHAI TO MUMBAI'S BANDRA WEST

A new design-led destination for Indian sweets and savouries has opened in city, blending culinary heritage with luxury. Featuring live dessert experiences, curated tastings, and artisanal gifting, the space reimagines *mithai* through craftsmanship and innovation. The concept by IKAI aims to elevate traditional Indian confectionery into an immersive hospitality experience, offering guests a more thoughtful way to savour Indian sweets.



BOSE ELEVATES HOME AUDIO ↑

Blending advanced engineering with minimalist luxury, the brand's new 'Lifestyle Collection' features an upgraded modular audio lineup featuring the Lifestyle Ultra Soundbar, Lifestyle Ultra Subwoofer, and Lifestyle Ultra Speaker. Equipped with AI-powered dialogue enhancement and spatial audio technologies, the range delivers cinema-like immersion.





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The Port and The Pink

On Gujarat's western edge, where one of India's largest and busiest ports hums quietly alongside salt flats and ancient shrines, a destination unlike any other awaits. Welcome to Mundra, India's most unlikely coastline and Star Air's newest destination

WORDS: Sayanti Halder

IMAGE COURTESY: Gettyimages

Every year, the flamingos turn Mundra into a breathtaking canvas of pink; **Bottom:** Home to one of India's most powerful ports, Mundra is a city that means business.



Few places in India sit so easily between two worlds. On one side, a container ship the length of several football fields glides toward a berth, stacked high with the machinery of global trade. On the other hand, a flamboyance of flamingos lifts off a tidal flat in a wash of pink, indifferent to the schedules of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

This is Mundra, a coastal census town and the headquarters of *Mundra Taluka* in the Kutch district of Gujarat, and a name that, until recently, lived mostly in business headlines and shipping manifests. But for travellers willing to look past the cranes and gantries, this stretch of Kutch's coastline holds one of India's most compelling contradictions: a 21st-century industrial powerhouse fringed by some of the country's most untouched, atmospheric landscapes.

THE ENGINE ROOM OF THE COAST

It is impossible to talk about Mundra without acknowledging its scale. Mundra Port has grown into one of the most significant nodes in India's trade map, a deep-water harbour capable of berthing some of the largest vessels afloat, handling everything from containers and coal to crude oil, LNG, and automobiles. Founded in the 1640s, the town has been an important mercantile centre and port throughout its history.

And yet, drive 20 minutes in almost any direction from the port's gates, and the landscape opens into something altogether different: flat scrubland giving way to mudflats, mangroves, and a coastline that feels closer to wilderness than to the port. It is this juxtaposition—cranes on one side, herons on the other—that makes Mundra such an unusual place to simply stand and look around.



LAYERS OF AN OLD TOWN

Mundra's vicinity holds a tidy plait of history within a small footprint. The Bukhari Pir Dargah, with its glass-studded roof and intricately-carved gateway, honours Shah Murad Bukhari, a spiritually-inclined ruler from Bukhara who settled in Mundra in 1662 and remains revered by seafarers seeking blessings before setting sail. Nearby, the Mahadev temple holds memorials to local sailors, including some said to have guided Vasco da Gama, while a dedicated temple to Dariyalal honours the patron saint of Kutch's fishing communities. The town's fortified walls—built from masonry salvaged from the ancient ruins of Bhadresar, still trace the outline of the old walled city—and four Jain temples, along with the earthquake-damaged *shikhara* of a 18th-century Jain canopy (chhatra), speak to Mundra's multi-religious heritage. A short distance away, the Shree Shantinath Mahadev temple sits amid a quiet garden near Shantivan Colony, and the Nilkanth Mahadev temple at Baroi houses a striking seven-headed brass snake said to have come from Bhadresar's ruins.

A TOWN WITH KUTCH IN ITS BLOOD

Mundra's location, within easy reach of Bhuj and the wider Kutch region, means that the cultural textures of one of India's most distinctive regions spill generously into the town itself. Kutch's embroidery traditions, its *bandhani* and *qjrakh* textiles, and its centuries-old trade patterns with the Gulf and East Africa are all woven into Mundra's identity as a historic port town.

Nowhere is this layered history more visible than at the shrine of Darya Pir, the patron saint of Kutch's seafarers, built in the late 17th century and still tended to today. Every year, the town comes together for Darya Navu Varsh, a multi-religious festival that honours the sea and the generations of sailors who depended on it, a reminder that long before ships, Mundra's relationship with the ocean was built on faith, trade winds, and wooden *dhow*s.

SALT, SKY, AND SUDDEN PINK

If there is one image that captures the strangeness and beauty of this region, it is this: a vast white salt flat, stretching to the horizon, suddenly interrupted by a shifting carpet of flamingos. The wider Kutch landscape, of which Mundra forms the coastal edge, is one of the most important breeding and wintering grounds for flamingos anywhere in the country.



The monsoon marks the beginning of the transformation. Rain turns the cracked, sun-baked salt desert into a shallow, mirror-like wetland, and the rich mix of small fish and crustaceans it brings draws in cranes, pelicans, storks, and the first flamingos of the season to feed and nest. The real spectacle, however, builds through the months that follow, as the wetlands fill further and the wintering flocks arrive in full force, turning the salt flats into a sea of pink that lasts well into the cooler months.

WHY MUNDRA, WHY NOW

This port town is not, by any conventional measure, a holiday destination, and that is precisely its appeal. It offers travellers something increasingly rare, where the rhythms of daily life, fishing, salt-making, and shipping continue much as they have for generations, simply waiting to be noticed. With



HOW TO REACH
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Mundra with
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Surat, Goa
(Mopa),
Ghaziabad
(Hindon),
Bengaluru,
Nanded, and
Belagavi



Left to right:
One of the oldest Jain temples in the world; the Bhadreswar Jain temple is a 2,500-year-old testament to faith and timeless craftsmanship; Kutch's ancient textile craft tells its stories through intricate patterns and rich, earthy hues.

hotels like Beetle Smartotels, The Fern Residency, and Hotel Icon Inn all within easy reach of the airport, Mundra is quietly emerging as one of India's more unconventional travel destinations—one that rewards curiosity as richly as any well-worn tourist trail.

For those flying in this season, the itinerary writes itself: a morning at the port to take in the sheer scale of modern Indian trade, an afternoon in Mundra's old town soaking in its maritime history and craft traditions, and an evening out along the salt flats, watching the sky and the birds turn the same shade of pink. Few destinations in India offer quite this range, or quite this contrast, within a single day's reach. ★



GETAWAYS GALORE

Mundra makes an ideal base for exploring Kutch's many moods—from royal heritage and craft villages to the coastline and desert. Visit a palace city, a beach town or a wildlife sanctuary—all within a couple of hours. Here is a curated list of experiences for travellers.



BHUJ

53.5km from Mundra

Kutch's cultural capital, just over an hour away, where mirrored palaces, museums, grand architecture, art and craft, and years of royal legacy converge seamlessly.



MANDVI BEACH

60km from Mundra

A serene stretch of coastline where a centuries-old working shipyard meets the gentle rhythm of the Arabian sea. Monsoon brings out a different side of it.



CHHARI DHANDH WETLAND CONSERVATION RESERVE

132km from Mundra

A haven for birdwatchers and nature lovers alike, this is one of Kutch's most treasured wetlands. Winters welcome migratory birds.

ALL IN A DAY'S WANDER

From ancient caves and a world-class zoo to unforgettable fare and indigenous craft, explore the many wonders of Bhubaneswar, Odisha

WORDS: Shrabasti Anindita Mallik

6:30AM LINGARAJ TEMPLE

Reverent start

Begin your day at this spiritual site, surrounded by incense whiffs and soft clanging of bells. This 180ft-tall marvel is a masterpiece of Kalinga architecture. The nearby Bindusagar Lake is an ideal spot for reflection before the city wakes up.



11:45AM UDAYGIRI AND KHANDAGIRI CAVES

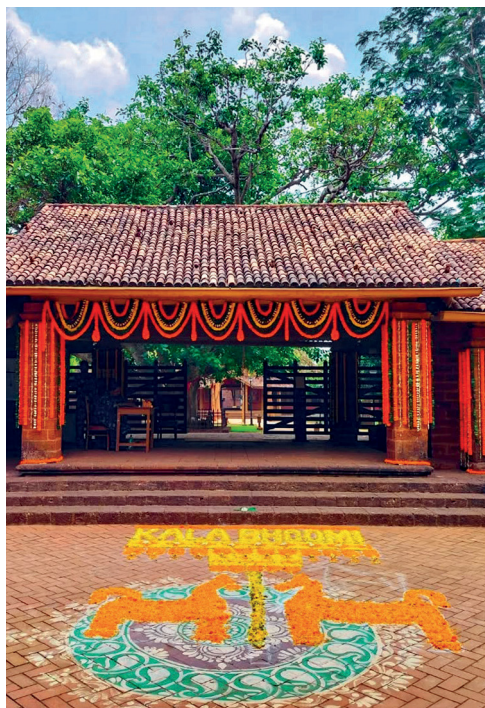
Step back in time

Turn a page in history at these ancient rock-cut caves, built as sanctuaries for Jain monks centuries ago. Take your time to explore the intricate carvings and rich history of ancient India.

8:15AM MAHATMA GANDHI (MG) MARG

Fuel up

Bhubaneswar offers delicious sweet-savoury fare. From the quintessential *dahi vada-alu dum* and *ghughuni vada* to treats like *chhena poda* and *pitha*—savour all these from the numerous stalls along or right off MG Marg. Pro tip: ask for *dahi pani*, if you are having *dahi vada-alu dum*.



10AM KALABHOONI (ODISHA CRAFTS MUSEUM)

Art detour

Delve into the rich craft traditions of the state at this museum, equipped with an AV room, an open-air theatre, and a workshop space. Learn about Odisha's iconic crafts and artistic traditions across nine specialised galleries. Numerous workshops (including free pottery ones every Sunday) are organised here.

IMAGE COURTESY: Gettyimages; Shutterstock; Odisha Crafts Museum

2PM THE BOMBAY

Meal with a twist

Unwind with a hearty spread at this quirky café that appears as vibrant as an Andy Warhol artwork. Try their house special Bhidu's Baingan Bharta (an eggplant dish). They serve wraps, soup, salads, and a variety of refreshing drinks too.



6PM EKAMRA HAAT

Local canvas

The dipping sun is your cue to slow down. With stalls offering the best of local art, craft, and handloom—this humble marketplace recreates the simple joys of rural Odisha. So, take a leisurely walk, munch on some light snacks, and pick up a few traditional souvenirs like *patachitra*, appliqué, *dokra* craft, and handloom products.



3:30PM NANDANKANAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Into the wild

Wildlife and animal lovers rejoice! This is one stop you should not miss. The Yellow Anaconda is a big draw, as are the white tigers, Indian pangolins, and the endangered Long-Billed Vultures.



BEST STAYS



VIVANTA, BHUBANESWAR

Bold and stylish, this pet-friendly property in DN Square boasts a rooftop pool, an all-day diner, and more.



WELCOMHOTEL BY ITC HOTELS, BHUBANESWAR

Featuring sloping roofs with pronounced overhangs, it offers exquisite *Odia* cuisine.



TRIDENT, BHUBANESWAR

This five-star hotel boasts fruit gardens, manicured lawns, a floodlit tennis court, and delectable local food.



HOW TO REACH

**Star Air connects
Bhubaneswar with
Jharsuguda and Hyderabad**

BENEATH THE CLOUDS

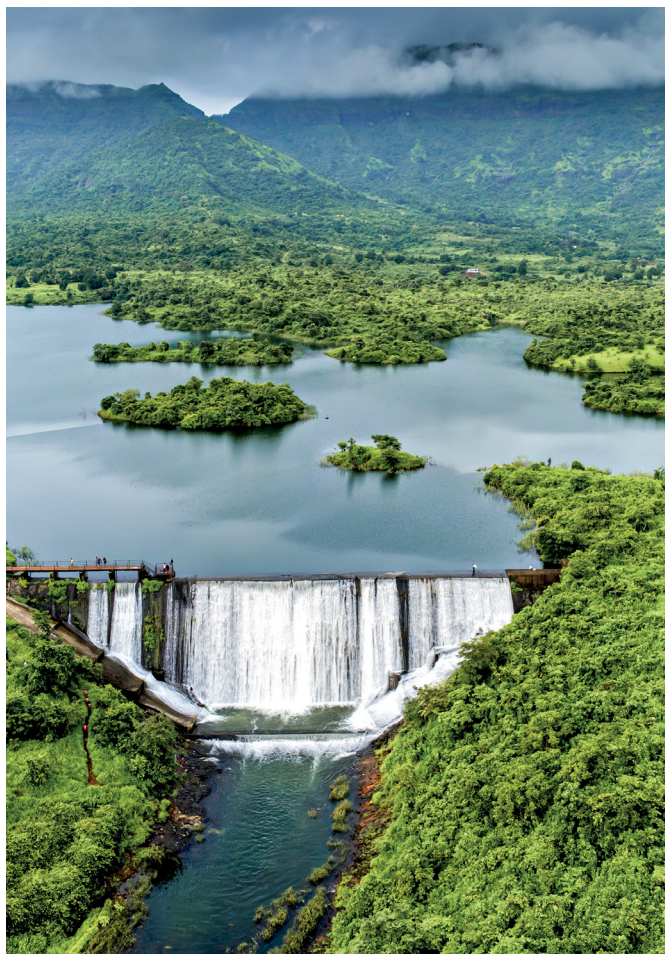
Monsoon transforms Maharashtra's hill forts into mist-shrouded realms straight out of history, drawing trekkers eager to wander through the drizzle

WORDS: Raul Dias

Across the Sahyadris, rainfall paints slopes in countless hues of green: fern-bright, moss-dark, rice-field luminous, and forest deep. Ancient pathways soften beneath rain, gurgling streams appear beside forgotten walls, and clouds drift through gateways once crossed by warriors.

Each fort offers a different conversation with the season—sometimes through waterfalls, sometimes through silence. Trekkers climb not merely for views but for the changing mood of the mountains, where every turn reveals fresh textures and distant valleys veiled in mist, while village kitchens reward the journey with rustic warmth.





← RAIGAD FORT, RAIGAD DISTRICT

Rising above the Konkan, this Fort remains inseparable from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who established it as the capital of the Maratha kingdom in 1674AD. During monsoon, the ascent feels almost theatrical—steps emerge from drifting cloud, and ramparts appear briefly before rain conceals them again. The route passes waterfalls spilling from laterite cliffs, while mountain winds carry the scent of moist earth. From the summit, valleys unfold between curtains of mist. The fort's commanding position explains its strategic importance, yet the journey today is akin to reading a passage of history through a living landscape. Tea stalls and simple village meals await below, offering welcome respite after long stretches of rain-soaked climbing.



HOW TO REACH

Star Air connects Mumbai with Belagavi, Kolhapur, Bhuj, Surat, Mundra, Nanded, Solapur, and Ghaziabad (Hindon). Raigad Fort is an approximate four-hour drive from the airport

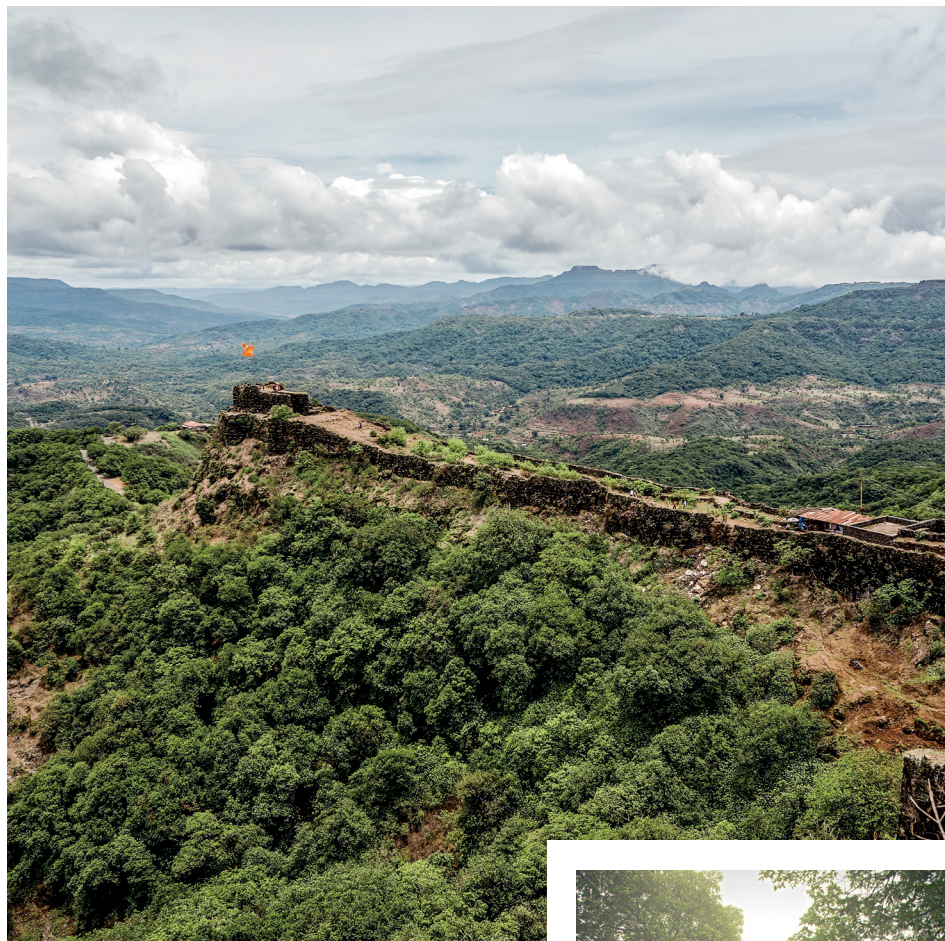
↓ HARISHCHANDRAGAD, AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

This mighty one, straddling the edge of the Konkan, is among Maharashtra's most celebrated treks. Its origins stretch back centuries, yet the landscape often steals attention from history. Rains transform the trail into a passage through dense vegetation, across streams, and beneath cliffs streaked with water. The famed Konkan Kada viewpoint frequently disappears behind clouds, revealing itself only in fleeting intervals. That uncertainty is part of its appeal. Trekkers encounter ancient caves, weathered shrines, and plateaus where wild growth brushes the path. The final approach feels wonderfully remote, as though the mountain has taken a sabbatical from the modern world. When breaks in the weather open, vast panoramas suddenly link the fort to distant ridges and valleys.



HOW TO REACH

Star Air connects Mumbai with Belagavi, Kolhapur, Bhuj, Surat, Mundra, Nanded, Solapur, and Ghaziabad (Hindon). Harishchandragad Fort is an approximate five-hour drive from the airport



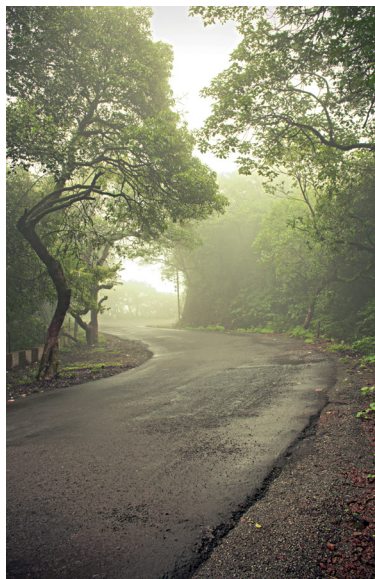
↑ PRATAPGAD FORT, SATARA DISTRICT

Situated near Mahabaleshwar, Pratapgad occupies a dramatic position above forested valleys. Best known for the encounter between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Afzal Khan, it carries immense historical significance. The monsoon journey towards the fort follows winding roads edged by dripping woodland, creating anticipation long before the trek begins. Clouds gather around bastions, while viewpoints overlook hills softened by rain. Shorter than some Sahyadri treks, it nevertheless delivers abundant atmosphere. Walkers encounter gateways, reservoirs, and stretches of fortification emerging from fog.



HOW TO REACH

Star Air connects Pune to Hyderabad, Kishangarh, Nanded, and Ghaziabad (Hindon). Pratapgad Fort is an approximate five-hour drive from the airport



BEST BITES



HAWALDARJINCHI RASOL, MAHABALESHWAR

Must try: Maharashtrian vegetarian fare including *bhakri*, *pithla*, and seasonal local preparations.



HOTEL KRUSHNA, PAACHNAI (NEAR HARISHCHANDRAGAD)

Must try: A rustic stop for *bhakri*, *thecha*, *poha*, and steaming chai.

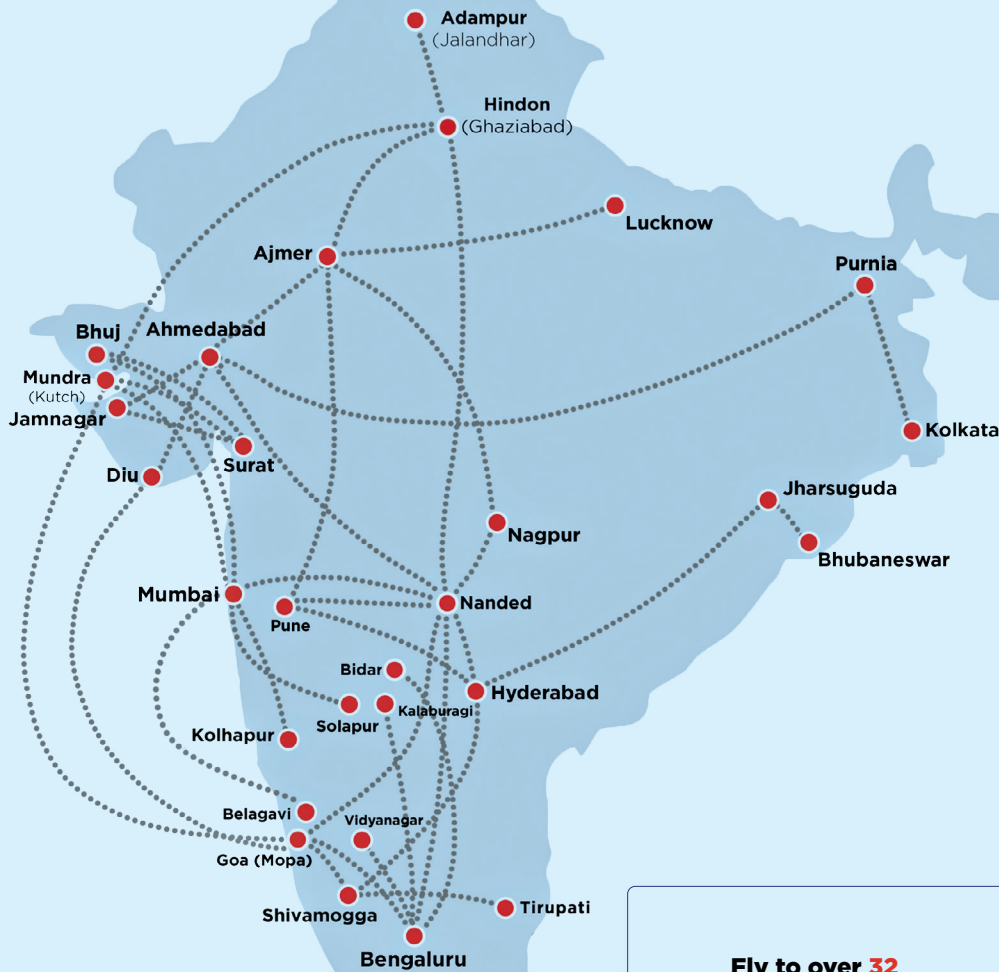


HOTEL TORNA VIHAR, VELHE

Must try: Village-style *thalis*, *zunka-bhakri*, *thecha*, and buttermilk favoured by trekkers heading to Torna

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Chabutaro
Mundra, Kutch, Gujarat

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Competing among the world's best, Formula 2 driver **KUSH MAINI** is helping redefine what is possible for Indian motorsport

WORDS: Nikita Meshram

As India marks its 79th Independence Day, this year, it is worth pausing to celebrate those who carry the tricolour beyond our borders. Kush Maini is doing just that—with a Sprint race win in Barcelona and a historic victory at Monaco in 2025, making him the first Indian to win at the iconic circuit, he is fast emerging as one of the most compelling figures in the narrative of Indian motorsport.

Has representing India become a conscious part of your journey?

Growing up, my focus was always on racing, but over time, I have come to appreciate what it means to represent India. The support from fans worldwide is special, and if my journey inspires young Indian drivers to dream big, I am proud of that.

You became the first Indian driver to win a Formula 2 race at Monaco. What did that milestone mean to you?

It was a proud moment. It is a legendary race, and being the first Indian to win there was special. It gave me confidence and strengthened my determination to keep improving and aim higher.

What is the reality of pursuing this dream that most people never get to see?

Most people only see the races and results, but a lot happens behind the scenes. You are constantly

under pressure and facing setbacks. The biggest lesson motorsport teaches you is to keep believing in yourself and working hard, even when things are not going your way.

What has your journey to Formula 2 taught you about yourself?

It has taught me to believe in myself. There have been ups and downs, but every challenge has helped me grow. I have learned that if you put in the work and trust the process, the results will come.

Do you think the next generation of Indian drivers will have a different journey from yours?

I hope so! Motorsport can be tricky, but I think young drivers have more reasons to believe it is possible. If my journey gives people the confidence to chase their dreams, that would be incredibly rewarding.

As BWT Alpine Formula One reserve driver, your thoughts on what separates good drivers from the very best?

Being around Formula 1 has taught me that the biggest difference is consistency. The best drivers deliver in every situation and never stop working to improve. That is the biggest lesson I have learned.

Are you witnessing a shift in how the sport is being viewed back home?

There is definitely a shift as more people are



Top to bottom:

Trophy in hand, Maini celebrates a landmark triumph at Barcelona in 2026; Wheel-to-wheel and flat out, the Indian racer competes in the fiercely high-speed world of Formula 2.



IMAGE COURTESY: Dutch Photo Agency

following the sport. It is exciting to see that interest grow—and hopefully, it is a sign of bigger things to come for Indian motorsport.

If a young Indian fan dreams of becoming a racing driver, what is that one thought you would want them to remember?

Dream big—but focus on the process. Keep learning, improving, and enjoy the journey. There will be challenges, but if you believe in yourself and keep putting in the work, anything is possible. ★



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LIFTING SPIRITS, WINNING HEARTS

Flights, feelings, and first impressions...here's what the world is saying about Star Air



ecst.asyspots and _vedanttttttt_



airbombay



heartfulness_krish



skyscaper747_



bangalore_aviation

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THE VERY BEST OF US

Every month, we shine a light on the people who go above and beyond to make Star Air what it is



SANJEEV TIWARI
MANAGER-AVIONICS

Nearly 38 years in aviation, and Sanjeev's passion for the craft has not dimmed. Rising from aircraft maintenance engineer to his current designation entirely within Star Air, his journey is marked by deep expertise, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to the organisation. Overseeing one of the most critical functions in flight operations, he has consistently ensured fleet reliability and readiness. When AOG situations arise, he is invariably the first to step up and present whenever and wherever the need demands. A firm believer that honesty underpins good engineering, he champions a collaborative culture where every achievement is shared, leading with humility and a round-the-clock dedication that leaves a lasting mark on both operations and people. Star Air is proud to have Sanjeev as the backbone of its avionics function, a professional whose decades of service are a testament to what true dedication looks like.

ANAGHA KP

SENIOR SECURITY AGENT

Some professionals do not just do their job; they own it. Vigilant, dependable, and sharply attuned to her surroundings, Anagha brings a rare steadiness to one of aviation's most critical roles. Her proactive approach and attention to detail have been central to maintaining safe, secure operations at Star Air. During a high-alert security check, she successfully identified prohibited items—a moment that reflected the precision and calm professionalism she brings to every shift, and a timely reminder of why diligence at every step of the passenger journey matters. Her composure under pressure and commitment to excellence continue to set the standard for her peers, making her a quietly indispensable part of the Star Air team. It is professionals like Anagha—guardians of the skies whose quiet diligence and unwavering determination make every journey a safer one—that we are truly proud to call our own.





CHASING Open Skies

From dreaming of aircraft as a boy to earning his place in the cockpit, **CAPTAIN NITISH KUMAR**'s journey, with Star Air, is one shaped by persistence, discipline, and purpose

WORDS: Nikita Meshram



“Witnessing how Star Air started and is now expanding its fleet of beautiful aircraft, gradually conquering the skies, fills me with pride”

What began as a childhood fascination with aircraft gradually evolved into an unwavering pursuit that remained constant through demanding examinations, long work hours, expensive training, and moments of self-doubt.

For Captain Kumar, flying was never a backup plan. It was the one goal he kept returning to despite the challenges along the way. That sense of purpose eventually led him to aviation as a profession.

Star Air “unexpectedly” entered the picture while he was working as a flight instructor. The opportunity arrived at the right moment, offering the chance to grow alongside a young airline. Four years later, he remains one of the original crew members and has witnessed its trajectory into an expanding regional carrier. “Witnessing how Star Air started and is now expanding its fleet of beautiful aircraft, gradually conquering the skies, fills me with pride,” he further shares.

Among his proudest achievements, his progression from First Officer to Captain on the very same Embraer E175 remains his most significant one. Kumar had always promised himself he would occupy the left seat.

Some of Captain Kumar’s most memorable moments happen after the aircraft has parked. First-time flyers often request to meet the pilot, thank him for the flight, or even request a picture together. For him, those interactions never lose their charm.

Away from the cockpit, he enjoys cricket and lawn tennis. His philosophy remains unchanged: “Aviate. Navigate. Communicate.” ★

THE ON-BOARD MEALS

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Upma
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Cup Noodles
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Coolberg (Peach/Cranberry)	₹200
Paper Boat (Alphonso Aamras)	₹120
Paper Boat (Pomegranate)	₹150
Coconut Water	₹150
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NOTE: All images are for representational purposes only;
All items are subject to availability onboard

MEMORIES OF THE COAST

Sharing stories of his Goan sojourn, **JATIN SARNA** talks about scenic shores, local flavours, and a *susegad* mode that made the trip truly special



Because his work keeps him travelling so often, discovering new places is more than just a hobby for him. The actor, best known for his role in *Sacred Games*, says travel is one of his greatest joys. “Fortunately, because I am an actor, I get to travel a lot,” Sarna shares.

A SEASIDE ESCAPE

One reason this trip to Goa remains memorable is that it fulfilled a long-held wish. I had always imagined spending my birthday on a film set. That dream finally came true while shooting for *Jailer 2* with Rajinikanth sir. Exploring South Goa for the first time, I found it mesmerising and homely. Spending time by the beach with my parents made the experience more meaningful.

ONE TREAT TOO MANY

The highlight of the trip was discovering the state’s distinct fare. From popular desserts like *bebinca* and coconut pudding to delicious carrot cake and traditional thalis, there was plenty to enjoy. I would especially recommend trying the local cacao smoothies.

A VIEW TO REMEMBER

The Cabo de Rama beach was one of the most beautiful discoveries of the trip. The sea’s colour was unlike anything I had seen before, especially at sunset when the waves reflected a striking mint-green hue. Clean and scenic, this beach remains one of my most vivid memories.

THE TRUE REWARD

For me, travel is about exploration. Whether you are alone or with company, just pack your bags and go. Every journey introduces you to new people, cultures, and experiences while teaching valuable life lessons. Travel makes you wiser, changes you for the better, and leaves you with memories that last forever. ★

WORDS: Snigdha Bhattacharjee



Left: *Bebinca* is beloved locally and celebrated globally;
Bottom: Cabo de Rama is one of South Goa’s pristine, secluded beaches.



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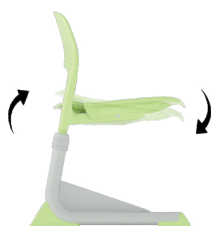
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