



May-June 2025  
Volume 6 ✈ Issue 3



# THE RISING STAR

# Bidar

Where Stones Speak Stories



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Dear Valued Customers,

Our journey of growth and connectivity continues to gain momentum, and I am pleased to share some exciting updates with you. One of our most recent milestones was the recommencement of flights in Bidar—a city steeped in history and potential. This strategic move reflects our deep commitment to strengthening regional connectivity and ensuring that underserved destinations are well-integrated into the national air network.

Bidar's return to our route map is more than just a flight launch—it's a step forward in bridging communities, enabling economic development, and honouring the aspirations of travellers who rely on timely, efficient, and accessible air travel. As we look ahead, we remain focused on enhancing the passenger experience and expanding our reach in ways that are both purposeful and sustainable. Our teams continue to explore new opportunities, driven by innovation, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to safety and service excellence.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, let's soar to new heights!

Warm regards,

**SANJAY D. GHODAWAT**  
Chairman

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May-June 2025  
Volume 6 ✈ Issue 3



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## INDIA, FIRST & FOREMOST

As we fly across this vast and vibrant nation, Star Air proudly joins the people of India in celebrating the adoption of the

Constitution on January 26, 1950—a day that shaped our democracy.

This moment enshrined justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity as the core of our Republic. These values guide our mission to Connect Real India, ensuring every citizen enjoys access, opportunity, and connection.

As you travel with us today, we invite you to reflect on the strength of our democracy and the unity that binds us all.

Jai Hind!  
Team Star Air

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### **MALUKA MELA**

**Where: Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

**When: 11 May 2025**

The famous Maluka Fair is organised on the occasion of Vaishakh Shukla Chaturdashi (Narsing Chaudas) in the Gangshyam Ji Temple located in Jodhpur, which sees the participation of thousands of devotees, local residents and tourists. According to mythological beliefs, on this day, Lord Vishnu took the form of Narasimha to protect his devotee Prahlad and killed Hiranyakashyap. Local devotees don the roles of Hiranyakashyap, Bhakt Prahlad and Lord Vishnu and entertain the devotees by enacting the time-treasured episode outside the temple.

# *Celebrations* **You Can't Miss**

Explore the unique culture and lose yourself in the magic of these upcoming festivals

### **SENDRA**

**Where: Dalma, Jharkhand**

**When: 15 May – 29 May 2025**

An important sports and adventure festival, it involves martial arts and hunting. During the festival, tribals perform the ritual of hunting in the forests of the Dalma Mountains near Jamshedpur. It usually falls in the month of May, with activities including archery, dance and rituals. Jharkhand, a land of festivals, also celebrates many other special days, including Kuti Dahan Puja, Buru Festival, Magh Festival, Bora Balounji Festival, Hero-Anga Festival, Rog Khedna Festival, Ba Festival, and Ayyappa Puja.



### **SHIMLA SUMMER FESTIVAL**

**Where: Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**

**When: June 2025**

The former summer capital of British India, Shimla has a rare legacy of built heritage and is surrounded by the natural wealth of thick forests of pine, Himalayan oak, flowering Rhododendron and tall cedars—the 'almost-legendary' deodar trees. The annual Shimla Summer Festival, held in the last week of May/ first week of June every year since 1960, includes cultural evenings, music performances, star nights, flower shows, painting competitions, and more. Also a bouquet of the state's cultural diversity, it is a platform for a display of local talent.



## MOUNT ABU SUMMER FESTIVAL

**Where: Mount Abu, Rajasthan**  
**When: May 2025**

Rajasthan's only hill station – Mount Abu with its verdant hills and lakes provides respite in the harsh summer. Its unique summer festival, starting on the day of Buddha Purnima, celebrates the vibrancy of Rajasthani culture over three days. Soulful ballad singing kicks off the summer festival in style, followed by mesmerising folk dance styles of Gair, Ghoomar and Daph. The Sham-e-Qawwali features some of the best folk singers from various parts of India. Along with a colourful showcase of folk culture, the festival also hosts horse racing events, tug of war, skating races, CRPF band show and boat races on the Nakki Lake, concluding with a dazzling display of fireworks.



## OOTY SUMMER FESTIVAL

**Where: Ooty, Tamil Nadu**  
**When: May 2025**

The iconic Ooty Summer Festival is celebrated every year in the Queen of Hills, Ooty, during the month of May. Its attractions include a variety of cultural programmes and events such as The Ooty Flower Show, Spice Show, Fruit Show, Vegetable Show, a boat race, as well as several cultural programmes including music and dance shows.



## World MUSIC DAY

**Where: Chandigarh**  
**When: 21 June 2025**

The city comes alive with the rhythm of diverse musical genres, which showcases performances by Punjabi and Bollywood artistes, transforming popular city venues into cultural hubs. Residents and tourists alike are invited to experience the joy of music through free concerts. The celebration fosters a sense of unity and harmony through the universal language of music. ★

(Information courtesy Utsav – A Ministry of Tourism initiative)

# Bidar

Where Stones Speak Stories

Renowned as the 'City of Whispering Monuments', Bidar offers a timeless journey through culture, history, and heritage

Text by: **NICHOLA PAIS**



Star Air operates daily flights to Bidar





**N**estled in northern Karnataka, just 150 km from Hyderabad, lies Bidar, a hidden gem. Teeming with grand forts, sacred sites, vibrant markets, and rich history, Bidar invites you to explore a side of India few have truly seen.

### **Rooted in History**

Bidar's origins stretch back over two thousand years, tracing its roots to the Mauryan Empire in the 3rd century BCE. Over the centuries, the city saw the rise of powerful dynasties like the Bahmani Sultanate, Barid Shahi, and the Mughals, each leaving a lasting imprint on its architecture and culture.

### **Architectural Wonders**

The majestic Bidar Fort, built in the 14th century by the Bahmani rulers, is a sprawling complex of palaces, mosques, gardens, and water tanks – a masterpiece of Islamic architecture. Close by stands the Rangeen Mahal, famed for its vibrant frescoes, intricate stucco work, and delicate carvings, making it a true visual feast for history lovers.





### Sacred Sites & Spiritual Stories

Bidar's spiritual landscape is as rich as its history. The Papnash Temple, believed to be linked to Lord Rama, holds mythological significance. It is said Rama worshipped Lord Shiva here to atone for killing Ravana, a Brahmin. The newer temple now stands where the original once was.

The city also honours Guru Nanak Dev Ji at the Gurudwara Nanak Jhira Sahib, built at the site where a miraculous spring burst forth during a famine. The crystal-clear water still flows, believed by devotees to have healing powers. Another spiritual highlight is the Shrine of Hazrat Khalil Ullah, dedicated to a revered Sufi saint, drawing seekers from all backgrounds.

**“ Tracing its roots to the Mauryan empire, Bidar has seen the rise of powerful dynasties like the Bahmani Sultanate, Barid Shahi and the Mughals.**



### Culture, Cuisine, Celebrations

Though part of Karnataka, Bidar shares cultural influences with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, creating a unique blend reflected in its food and festivals. The local cuisine – from Bidri biryani to Bidri qalia – is a delightful mix of flavours.

Festivals are celebrated with great spirit. The Urs or Jaathre Mahotsav commemorates Sultan Ahmad Shah Bahmani, while the Veerabhadreshwara Jatra sees thousands of devotees walk to Humnabad's Shiva temple. The Bidar Utsav, held at the fort, features a blend of traditional and modern events, including kite flying, film screenings, and wrestling competitions.



of Bidar's artisanal legacy. Alongside, travellers can find handloom textiles, wood carvings, and souvenirs that reflect the city's cultural soul.

### Must-see Marvels

#### Bidar Fort: Where History Stands Tall

Just 2.5 km from Bidar Railway Station, Bidar Fort is one of Karnataka's most awe-inspiring heritage sites. Originally built during the Western Chalukya period, it was Sultan Ahmed Shah Wali of the Bahmani Sultanate who rebuilt it in 1430, turning Bidar into a royal capital.

A masterpiece of Persian-inspired architecture, the fort stretches over three miles with triple moats, 37 massive bastions, and imposing red laterite walls. Structures like the Rangeen Mahal, with its vibrant tile work and frescoes, and the Gagan Mahal, once a royal residence, reflect the grandeur of the Bahmani dynasty. Mosques like the Solah Khamba and Jami Masjid add to the cultural richness.

### Modern Marvels & Market Treasures

Adding a modern edge to the city is the Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team (SKAT) – the Indian Air Force's elite squad based in Bidar. On lucky days, visitors can witness their breathtaking stunts in the sky.

No trip to Bidar is complete without exploring its markets. The city is famous for Bidriware – exquisite metalcraft with silver and gold inlays – a true symbol



Within the fort lies Bidar's old city, a treasure trove of monuments, legends, and markets. The fort even withstood Mughal attacks, including one by Emperor Aurangzeb, before finally yielding to fire rockets.

### **Bahmani Tombs: Timeless Beauty**

In the heart of Bidar, the Bahmani Tombs built between 1436 and 1535 are a testament to the grandeur of the Bahmani Sultanate. These stunning mausoleums offer a unique fusion of Persian and Indian architectural styles. With their graceful domes, decorative arches, and symmetrical layouts, the tombs embody elegance and timelessness. Among the many tombs, the graves of Ahmad Shah and Alauddin Shah II stand out due to their grandeur. Also of interest is the partially collapsed tomb of Humayun Shah, Alauddin's son, which was struck by lightning. Each year, the tombs host the Urs (Jatra), a month-long event that draws both Hindu and Muslim visitors in celebration.

### **Kalyani Chalukya Temple: Divine Splendour**

A magnificent testament to the architectural brilliance and spiritual depth of the Chalukya dynasty. Built during the rule of Vikramaditya VI, it blends intricate carvings and sculptures with divine symbolism. Its grand design represents the connection between earth and heaven, offering visitors a serene, spiritual experience. The temple's main sanctum is crowned with a stunning vimana (tower) adorned with detailed carvings of gods, goddesses, and mythological scenes. The mandapa (hall) features exquisitely crafted pillars, showcasing the dynasty's skill in sculpture. Intricate motifs of flowers, animals, and celestial beings tell stories of the divine and everyday life. Its breathtaking architecture continues to enchant visitors and spiritual seekers alike.

### **Guru Nanak Jhira Sahib: Sacred Space**

A revered Sikh Gurudwara dedicated to Guru Nanak Dev, it offers a peaceful retreat for both spiritual seekers and history enthusiasts. The gurudwara is set in a serene environment, featuring a



#### **Trivia**

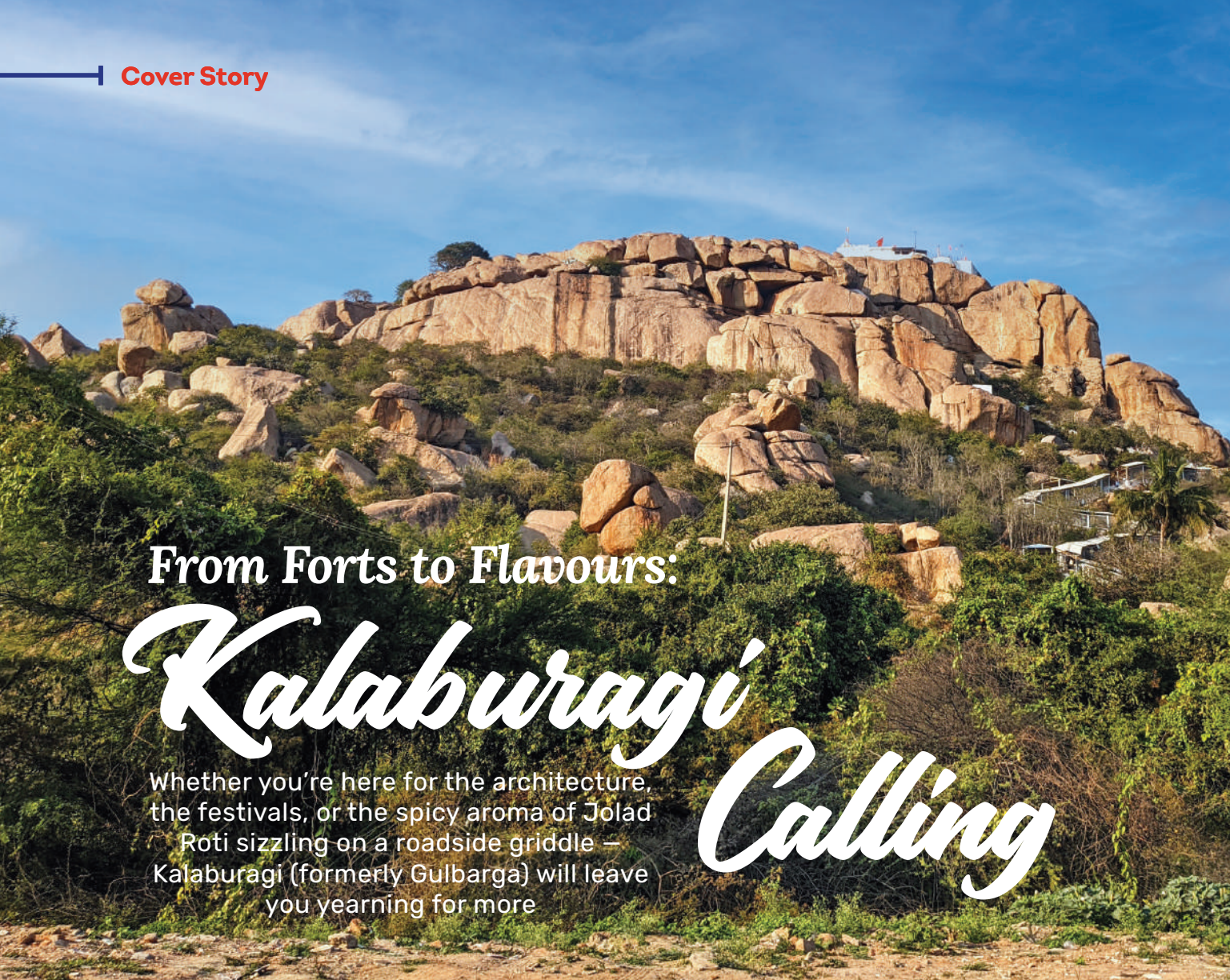
**Flash Fact:** Bidar is Karnataka's coldest and wettest place. November to February is the best period to visit Bidar.

**Flash Fact:** Bidar gives its name to Bidriware and is still its chief centre of production. Developed in the 14th century during the rule of the Bahmani Sultans, it uses white brass that is blackened and inlaid with silver. The craft has found its way into jewellery, and home décor. In 2003, Bidriware obtained a Geographical Indication (GI) registration.

tranquil sarovar (lake) and the Amrut Kunda (sweet water pond), which add a unique spiritual depth to the experience. At the heart of the gurudwara lies the Sukhaasan Room, where the Guru Granth Sahib is venerated, providing solace to visitors through prayer and meditation. The attached Sikh Museum showcases rich historical artifacts, offering a deeper understanding of Sikhism and its prominent figures. According to legend, during a famine, Guru Nanak Devji performed a miracle by causing a freshwater spring to emerge from the laterite mountain, which is believed to have healing properties, attracting many to drink its waters for relief. Guru Nanak Jhira Sahib welcomes all, offering accommodation and langar (community kitchen) for pilgrims. Visitors can engage in spiritual practices, volunteer, or simply enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of this sacred space. ★

(Information courtesy: Incredible India)





From Forts to Flavours:

# Kalaburagi Calling

Whether you're here for the architecture, the festivals, or the spicy aroma of Jolad Roti sizzling on a roadside griddle – Kalaburagi (formerly Gulbarga) will leave you yearning for more

**H**istory and culture flourish in every corner of the city of Kalaburagi, the largest in North Karnataka. Once known as Gulbarga, it is a vibrant tapestry woven with stories from dynasties, spiritual traditions, and irresistible local cuisine.



## Etched in Time

Kalaburagi's roots go back to the 6th century, shaped by the Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas, Hoysalas, and later, the Bahmani Sultanate, which made it its capital in the 14th century. The Kalaburagi Fort, with its towering walls and moat, is an enduring symbol of that era. Nearby, Malkhed Fort and the beautifully echoing Chor Gumbaz add to the city's architectural allure.

## Where Cultures Converge

This is a city that celebrates its diversity. Every year, the Urs of Khwaja Bande Nawaz draws thousands to honour the revered Sufi saint. Meanwhile, the Gulbarga Utsav lights up the city with traditional dance, music, and folk performances

– a true showcase of North Karnataka's rich cultural landscape.

## Flavours You Can't Forget

Food lovers, rejoice! Kalaburagi's cuisine is a feast of bold flavours and comforting traditions. Sample the rustic Jolada Roti with spicy chutney, savour the rich Enne Gai, or indulge in sweet Bele Holige, stuffed with lentils and jaggery. Don't miss Tahari, a fragrant rice and vegetable dish unique to this region – a hearty alternative to biryani.

Whether you're drawn by its layered history, rich cuisine, or the warm hospitality of its people, Kalaburagi invites you to slow down, explore deeply, and uncover soulful stories set in stone.



### Beyond the City

Kalaburagi is the perfect base for short getaways. Marvel at the natural beauty of Narayanapura Dam, or explore the spiritual energy of Chandralamba Temple and the lesser-known Aland Fort.

### Trivia

**Flash Fact:** A major agricultural producer, Kalaburagi is famous for its high-quality *toor dal* (pigeon pea) and also has a thriving handloom industry.

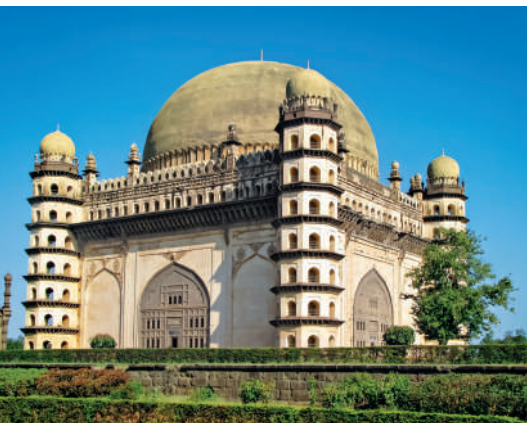
**Flash Fact:** The Bara Gazi Toph (cannon) atop the 14th-century fort is considered by some to be the largest cannon in the world. It measures around 29 feet in length, 7.6 feet in circumference and 2 feet in diameter.



### Wander-worthy!

Spots you shouldn't miss...

- **Gulbarga Fort** - A striking symbol of Karnataka's mediaeval heritage, it was originally built in the 12th century by Raja Gulchand and later expanded by the Bahmani Sultanate in the 14th century. The fort blends Hindu and Islamic architectural styles. Perched atop a granite hill, it features massive walls, bastions, mosques, palaces, and intricately carved gateways. Once the Bahmani capital, the fort played a key role in regional politics and defence. Its design reflects strategic brilliance and cultural fusion, making it one of the Deccan's most significant historical and architectural landmarks.
- **Buddha Vihar** - A sanctuary of tranquility dedicated to the teachings of Lord Buddha, the complex weaves together architectural elements inspired by renowned Buddhist centres like Sanchi, Sarnath, Ajanta, and Nagpur, all while staying true to the principles of traditional Buddhist design.
- **Dargah Khwaja Banda Nawaz** - A vibrant and sacred site, the tomb of Khwaja Banda Nawaz is deeply rooted in Sufi spirituality. A stunning example of Islamic architecture, its grand dome, intricate carvings, and peaceful courtyards offer a haven for reflection and prayer.
- **Sharana Basaveshwara Temple** - This serene temple is dedicated to Shri Sharana Basaveshwara, who was an eminent teacher, philosopher and saint in the Hindu religion. . ★



# Unlocked: Secret Summer Getaways

Expert-recommended destinations to explore this summer before everyone else does!

Text by NICHOLA PAIS

"Summer is not just a busy season—it's a time when families bond, children explore, and travellers of all ages make lasting memories," shares Shailesh Patil, Managing Director, Kesari Tours. However, this can also mean a chaotic rush at some of the most 'popular' summer destinations in the country.

Patil believes travel should not only be enjoyable but also meaningful. "Hence, the importance of offbeat destinations that provide the perfect opportunity to connect with nature, immerse in local cultures, and experience the soul of India—far from the chaos, yet close to the heart of what makes this country truly magical."

This summer, he encourages travellers to step off the beaten path and discover a side of India that's still untouched, unexplored, and unforgettable. Which of his handpicked recommendations will you choose?

## Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)

Home to India's largest Buddhist monastery, Tawang captivates with its remote high-altitude lakes, prayer flags fluttering in the wind, and deep-rooted Tibetan culture. Still blissfully off the beaten path.



SHAILESH PATIL



## Spiti Valley (Himachal Pradesh)

A high-altitude desert wrapped in snow-capped peaks, Spiti offers dramatic landscapes and age-old monasteries like Key Gumpa. Less commercial than Ladakh, it's ideal for adventurers and culture lovers seeking raw Himalayan beauty.



## Lidder Valley (Kashmir)

A quiet offshoot of Pahalgam, Lidder Valley is a haven of alpine meadows, pine forests, and riverbanks—perfect for nature walks, trout fishing, and camping in peaceful surroundings.



1

## Khajjiar & Dalhousie (Himachal Pradesh)

Its lush meadows and cedar forests have earned Khajjiar the nickname 'Mini Switzerland.' Nearby Dalhousie enchants with its colonial architecture, scenic viewpoints, and serene charm—perfect for a relaxed summer holiday.



4



5

**Lahaul Valley (Himachal Pradesh)**

Now easily accessible via the Atal Tunnel, Lahaul boasts surreal alpine views, glacial rivers, and rich Buddhist heritage. Ideal for travellers looking to disconnect and immerse themselves in pristine nature.



7

**Doodhpathri (Kashmir)**

Translating to 'Valley of Milk,' Doodhpathri is an untouched gem near Srinagar with rolling meadows, pine-covered slopes, and gentle streams—ideal for picnics and quiet getaways.



6

**Mawlynnong (Meghalaya)**

Titled 'Asia's Cleanest Village,' Mawlynnong is a model of eco-tourism. Enjoy the living root bridges, waterfalls, bamboo skywalks, and a peek into Khasi village life in this enchanting green haven.



8

**Dawki (Meghalaya)**

Just a short drive from Mawlynnong, Dawki is famed for the crystal-clear waters of the Umngot River, where boats appear to float on air. With lush landscapes and Indo-Bangladesh border views, it's a surreal experience unlike any other.



9

**Sikkim**

Step beyond the capital – Gangtok, to discover the untouched beauty of towns like Pelling, and Lachung. Admire alpine lakes, rhododendron forests, views of Mount Kanchenjunga, and serene monasteries. A haven for peace seekers and nature lovers.

**Dharamshala & McLeod Ganj (Himachal Pradesh)**

Nestled in the shadow of the Dhauladhar mountains, Dharamshala is the spiritual home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It blends Tibetan monasteries, quaint cafés, and mountain tranquility. A perfect escape for spiritual seekers, yoga enthusiasts, and trekkers.



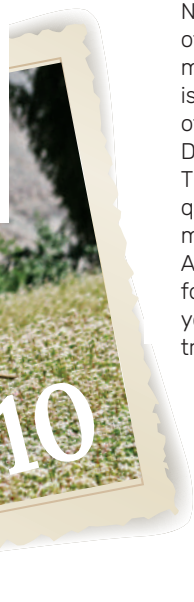
11

**Did you know?**

Summer continues to be one of the most vibrant and active travel seasons across India. With school holidays, family breaks, and favourable weather in hill stations and cooler regions, summer travel accounts for a significant portion of annual domestic tourism. According to recent industry estimates, summer travel in 2024 saw a year-on-year increase of over 40%. ★

**Turtuk Village (Ladakh)**

One of the last villages on the Indian side of the Indo-Pak border, Turtuk offers a fascinating mix of Balti culture, apricot orchards, and stunning Nubra Valley landscapes. Its remoteness adds to the magic—ideal for curious travellers and history buffs.



10



# 'KINDNESS & UNDERSTANDING GO A LONG WAY'

From a customer service executive to cabin crew, **Shradha Khemane's** journey has been a flight of fulfilment

**"M**y passion for aviation began at a young age—there was always something magical about airplanes, airports, and the entire experience of being in aviation," shares Shradha Khemane, Cabin Crew, IXG. "After completing my education, I explored opportunities that would make my passion a reality," she adds, as she

shares insights into her journey and career...

## **Learning Life Lessons**

My mother has been my strongest support. As she is a teacher by profession, she helped me learn so much about life - ups and downs, how to handle failure and not to give up. She also taught me patience in difficult

times, and being calm in every situation with a smile on our face - and these are the qualities one should have to be in aviation.

Initially, I worked as a customer service executive at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, for a reputed airline for almost three years. This experience helped me realise that I truly enjoyed being in dynamic environments where no two days are the same - exactly like life onboard an aircraft.

## **A Change for the Better**

Star Air came into my life as a lucky star. Joining Star Air in 2022 as a customer service executive in Belagavi, offered me the best of both worlds - the opportunity to stay in my hometown as well as work for a beautiful airline. I had a wonderful team and leaders. Working on ground every day for the cute aircrafts - the ERJ 145, I yearned to fly as cabin crew. I had the support of many wonderful people to support me in this journey and I am thankful to all of them. Star Air gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dreams.

## **Flying Inspiration**

My decision to become a flight attendant was a combination of my love for travel, passion for customer service, and the unique lifestyle that aviation offers. I was also drawn to the professionalism and grace of flight attendants. Ultimately, I wanted a career that was dynamic, meaningful and allowed me to grow while making a positive impact on others' journey - and being a flight attendant ticks all those boxes.

## **Challenges & Rewards**

Training, teamwork, and ability to stay calm under pressure are essential. I've also had heartwarming moments, like celebrating birthdays onboard, calming crying babies, comforting a nervous flyer and watching them relax by the end of the journey. It's those small, genuine connections that make all the challenges worth it.

This job definitely comes with pressure, but the sense of purpose and the ability





**“ I wanted a career that was dynamic, meaningful and allowed me to grow while making a positive impact on others’ journey.**

to make a difference—whether big or small—makes it incredibly rewarding.

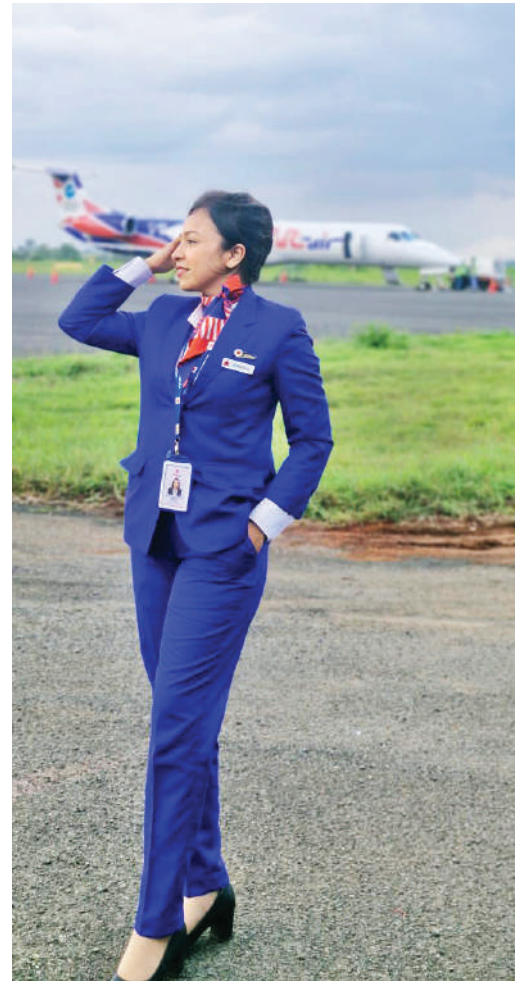
**Advice to the Aspiring**  
Always lead with empathy and adaptability. This career is more than just travelling—it’s about people. Every passenger has a different story, and being able to remain calm, compassionate, and professional no matter the situation is what truly sets you apart. Your attitude and resilience will carry you further than anything else.

**Work-life Balance**  
Managing work-life balance with long flights requires intentional effort and self-awareness. I prioritise rest and recovery during my days off and make the most of my time off by staying connected with loved ones, pursuing hobbies, and maintaining a healthy routine. Setting boundaries, practicing good sleep hygiene, and making space for mental wellness are key. It’s about quality over quantity when it comes to downtime, and learning to be present both on and off duty helps me stay grounded and energised.

**Safety – A Top Priority**  
Cabin crew are frontline safety professionals, not just service providers. We play a crucial role in maintaining a robust safety culture by being vigilant, well-trained, and consistently prepared for emergencies. Our responsibilities include enforcing safety procedures, conducting pre-flight checks, monitoring passenger behavior, and responding swiftly and effectively to any in-flight incidents.

Regular refresher training, scenario-based drills, feedback sessions, and staying updated with evolving aviation regulations ensure we remain sharp and capable. A strong safety culture thrives when every crew member takes ownership, communicates openly, and supports a mindset where safety is always prioritised.

**Blasting Myths**  
One of the most common misconceptions about cabin crew is that our job is mainly about serving food and drinks. While service is a part of what we



do, our primary responsibility is ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone on board. We are trained extensively in first aid, emergency procedures, conflict resolution, and crisis management. In critical situations, we are the first responders at 35,000 feet. It’s a role that requires resilience, quick thinking, and a high level of professionalism, and it goes far beyond the smile and uniform.

**Little Things Matter**  
Sometimes, it’s the smallest gestures by passengers that make the biggest difference. A simple ‘thank you,’ a smile, or a bit of patience during busy moments can truly brighten a cabin crew member’s day. We’re there to support passengers, often while managing long hours and high-stress situations, so kindness and understanding go a long way. Just acknowledging our efforts reminds us why we love what we do. ★

# Bidar Reconnected Daily Flights Resumed



Strengthening regional air connectivity in Karnataka, Star Air has officially resumed its flight services between Bengaluru (BLR) and Bidar (IXX) as of 15 April 2025. The route, which had been eagerly awaited by frequent flyers and local communities alike, is already operational and receiving a warm response from passengers seeking a quicker, more convenient alternative to road and rail travel.

The recommencement of this route underscores Star Air's ongoing mission to enhance accessibility to underserved cities, while promoting economic and cultural linkages within the state. Known for its historic forts and educational institutions, Bidar now enjoys renewed aerial access to Karnataka's vibrant capital thanks to this direct connection. In a statement, Star Air CEO Capt. Simran Singh Tiwana expressed





**“ This route significantly benefits business travellers, tourists, students, and defence personnel. ”**

Star Air’s commitment to regional development. “We are delighted to have resumed flights between Bengaluru and Bidar. This route significantly benefits business travellers, tourists, students, and defence personnel by offering a time-saving and comfortable mode of transport.”

The inaugural flight was launched in the esteemed presence of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Siddaramaiah, reflecting the route’s significance to the state’s infrastructure and development agenda.



Passengers can now book flights with ease through all major channels. The convenient schedule and smooth travel experience offered by Star Air on this sector are already being praised for transforming what was once a long road journey into a comfortable and swift hop..★

# Celebrating Our Star Performers

## ASHIQ RASHEED

**(Flight Dispatch & IOCC Coordinator)**

Ashiq Rasheed began his aviation journey in January 2023 as a Junior Flight Dispatch Executive at Belgaum (IXG), quickly earning a reputation for reliability and operational competence. Through consistent performance and initiative, he rose to the position of IOCC Coordinator by December 2024, demonstrating impressive career progression in a short span of time.

He played a key role in critical operational advancements—successfully leading the establishment of Hyderabad base dispatch operations and upgrading the IXG base into a fully functional line dispatch unit.

Widely recognised for his exceptional interdepartmental communication skills and proactive mindset, he often takes ownership of responsibilities beyond his defined role.

In his current role as IOCC Coordinator, he is instrumental in driving structural improvements, optimising workflows, and promoting a culture of precision, accountability, and cross-functional collaboration.



## MANISH MAURYA

**(Jr. Technician - Adampur Airport)**

Manish Maurya has been leading operations at the AIP station since its inauguration, playing a key role in its successful setup. Under his supervision, the station has consistently recorded nil or minimal audit findings from both internal and regulatory bodies. He ensures smooth coordination with multiple departments to achieve on-time departures without compromising safety. He is known for his proactive approach and commitment to operational excellence, reflecting Star Air's core values.

His reliability and disciplined management have made him a valuable asset to the station and the wider network. ★



# Connecting Real India



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

# STARair FLEET



## Embraer E175

Seats : 76  
Top Speed : Mach .82



## Embraer E145

Seats : 50  
Top Speed : Mach .78



## Airbus H130

Seats : 1+6  
Top Speed : 287 kmph

## Airbus H135

Seats : 2+5  
Top Speed : 287 kmph

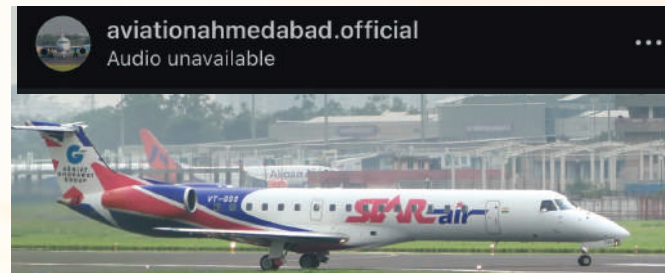
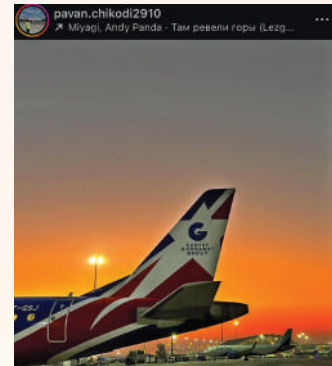
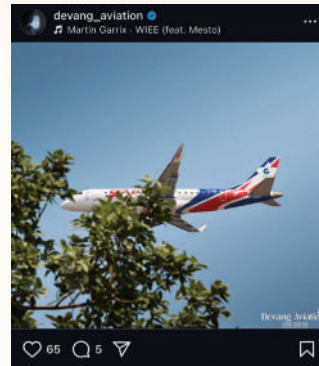
## Airbus H120

Seats : 1+4  
Top Speed : 280 kmph



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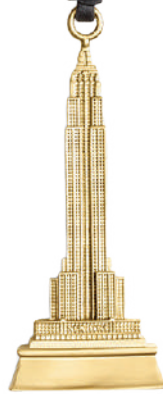


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# Watt to Drive

## EVs Worth Buying

Five electric vehicles that you should definitely be testing before putting down your hard-earned money

TEXT BY: SHAUN PAIS



Image courtesy: Mahindra

**Y**ou can love 'em, you can hate 'em. But you can't ignore them. Electric vehicles, the future of the automotive industry. Regardless of your opinion about them, they're here to stay. And with the way our government is pushing the EV agenda, expect automobiles to turn green sooner than you'd expect.

While I personally haven't been the biggest advocate for EVs, it's difficult to ignore how practical they are. The low cost of living with them combined with the silent ride quality makes them a bliss for daily commutes. And for the enthusiasts, the gut-wrenching torque is a thrill that very few ICE (internal combustion engines) can offer.

If you're in the market for an EV today, here are five vehicles that you should definitely be testing before putting down your hard-earned money...

### **Mahindra XEV 9e**

The newest kid on the block impresses and how. Bold lines on this car help it stand out from everything else on the road and once you step in, the futuristic theme continues. It does look inspired from the Tesla Cybertruck and in my opinion, that isn't a bad thing. With the top model priced at ₹32.53 lakh on road in Mumbai and the motor putting out 282 bhp, the Mahindra is a premium offering that's sure to give its rivals a headache. If I were you, I'd head to the nearest Mahindra showroom and test both this and its smaller sibling - the BE 6 to see which one fits best.



Image courtesy: Ather

### **Ather 450X**

Bajaj's Chetak is a lovely scooter but gets excluded from this list only thanks to the wily Ather. It's been around for a while now but the design refuses to age. It's light on its feet, has few reliability issues and is a no-brainer if you're looking for something to punt around the city. The 100km of real-world range is what justifies its asking price of ₹1.57 lakh. If you're on the larger side or want to haul around some luggage, good to consider its sister the Rizta too.



Image courtesy: MG Motors

### MG Comet EV

This one's debatable. Primarily because the Comet looks cheap but buying it surprisingly isn't light on the pocket - it costs a whopping ₹10.37 lakh in the financial capital. If you can look past that, you'll find a great commuter that's very practical for two adults with their kids/ luggage. Avoid the highway, stick to the city and you'll be far happier in this than any other hatchback especially if you're in the rush hour traffic of Mumbai or Bangalore. Don't think of it as a rival to cars, think of it as an upgrade to a motorcycle and this MG adds value by combining the best bits of a two-wheeler and four-wheeler.



Image courtesy: Ultraviolette

### Ultraviolette F77

I've honestly not been the biggest fan of electric motorcycles in general but the F77 makes a very strong case for itself. It's been around for a few years but still catches enough eyeballs at signals and everywhere else. It goes like a rocket when you wring the accelerator and the good guys at UV have now solved most of the niggles that the earlier models came with. Very good beginner sports bike to have in your garage if you don't intend to go touring even though the ₹4.68 lakh price for the top Recon model is slightly on the higher side. However, if, like me, you're looking for something seriously fast, wait for the F99 which they claim is the fastest Indian-manufactured motorcycle.



Image courtesy: Tata

### Tata Nexon EV

If you're on the fence about EVs in general, just get the Nexon EV. It's been around long enough and it's proven to be just as durable as its ICE counterparts. The safest option and I know of hardcore petrolheads who've taken to this SUV like a fish to water. No gimmicky features here, the electric Tata just focuses on practicality and aces its job. ₹18.09 lakh for the top model means it's not badly priced for all it offers and in my opinion, this is the gateway to EVs if you're in the market for one. ★

# Play Hard!

Games To Blame for Eating Up Your Work-Life Balance

Text by **MARK PAIS**

Remember when video games were just a few simple pixels bouncing around on the screen? Games like Pong were the first to make us think, 'Wow, this is fun!' Fast forward to 2025, and gaming has transformed into an experience that pulls us into stunning worlds with mind-blowing graphics, realistic simulations, and epic adventures. From flying planes to battling zombies, the gaming industry has come a long way in ways we could never have imagined.

Let's take a look at three of the most popular games that dropped and a few that are coming soon that you won't want to miss!

## Popular Games You Can Play Right Now



### FLIGHT SIMULATOR 2024

Want to feel the rush of flying without leaving the ground? Flight Simulator 2024 gives you the most realistic flying experience you can get on a console. With over 37,000 real-world airports, dynamic weather systems, and meticulously detailed aircraft, it's the ultimate aviation simulator. You can fly everything from tiny prop planes to massive airliners, and it's so realistic that even professional pilots use it for practice.

P.S. – It's a game, not a training session, so please, no need to ask the pilot to switch seats!

### RESIDENT EVIL 4: REMAKE (2024)

Pro Tip: Soundproof your room before playing—or be prepared for your neighbors to start sending you eviction notices!

Resident Evil 4 has been remade with stunning visuals and even scarier monsters. This 2024 version brings new layers of tension to the classic survival horror. Whether you're running for your life or solving intense puzzles, it's got the perfect mix of scares and heart-pounding action. Trust us, your hands will be sweating more than ever.





### MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN 2

With great power, comes great... amounts of time spent playing a superhero video game!

Marvel's Spider-Man 2 swings in with even more action than before. Play as both Peter Parker and Miles Morales as you swing through New York City, battling villains with new powers and abilities. This 2024 release takes superhero action to new heights, offering an expanded world, dynamic gameplay, and a whole new level of villainous challenges. It's the superhero experience you've been waiting for.

## Games to Look Forward To

### GTA VI

After more than a decade of waiting, GTA VI is finally on the horizon. So, why the long delay? Well, GTA V is still pulling in massive amounts of cash—over \$6 billion, thanks to the success of GTA Online. Rockstar didn't rush the next installment because it was too busy cashing in on GTA V. With a \$2 billion development budget, GTA VI promises a massive open world, dynamic weather, and next-gen graphics. Get ready for epic car chases, heists, and all the chaotic fun GTA fans love. Let's just hope it arrives before we're all driving flying cars, considering how long it's taken.



### HOGWARTS: LEGACY 2

"Yur a wizard, Harry," and even if you're not, you'll get to live out that dream with Hogwarts Legacy 2! Following the success of the first game, this sequel will bring even more wizarding adventures, spells, and magical creatures to explore. Set in the world of Harry Potter, you'll attend Hogwarts, face dark forces, and uncover new secrets hidden within the school. With a bigger open world and more spells to master, it's everything a wizard-in-training could want.

## CONCLUSION

Whether you're a hardcore gamer or just someone who likes to casually fiddle with a controller, the gaming world is bigger and better than ever. And playing these games? Well, we'd say it's a pretty good way to "waste" your time...

### STAR WARS: KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC 3

For all you Star Wars fans, Knights of the Old Republic 3 is a must-play. This RPG takes you thousands of years before the Skywalker saga, where you can choose between being a Jedi or a Sith, and your actions will shape the galaxy. Expect a deep storyline, exciting lightsaber duels, and epic space battles. The game's visuals and narrative will have you hooked from start to finish. ★





Rishi and Vibuthi/Ogaan



Refreshing jugalbandi



Pankaj and Nidhi/Ogaan



Glamorify/IG



Painterly styles



Jajaabor/Ogaan

Saakshakinni/IG

# Ready, Set

# Summer



Fashion experts interpret the mood for the Summer of '25



Spring Summer 2025, note **Anuradha Chandrashekar & Kanika Vohra**, Co-Founders: ICH NEXT, takes us on a journey through Indian villages, where we experience the purity of a simpler life and appreciate the beauty of inconspicuous art like Gond, Bhil, Warli and Chittara, that adorns every home. "Set against the backdrop of native coconut or areca nut palm fields, grass-root colours combine with an optimistic, free-spirited palette and without the unnecessary fuss of opulence." The palette is nostalgic with native hues from haldi to palm green, rice white, indigo, coal, mitti and soil.

## SUMMER HIGHS

The summer moodboard is marked by sun-lit radiant hues, travel escapades and abundance of flora, fauna and fruit in motif choices. Nature hues get a high contrast filter - Andaman blues, sun, sky and sorbet hues. Brights combine with more brights.

Keeping to the resort mood of the season, silhouettes centre around asymmetric drapes and light volume, to create a sense of nonchalant glamour designed to move effortlessly. Ensembles are made complete



with sheer components or overlays.

“Fashion becomes a celebration of individuality, cultural appreciation, and joyful expression. Radiant hues, artistic motifs, and fluid silhouettes create a sense of effortless glamour, while a deeper connection to heritage and sustainability shapes conscious choices. This season is about embracing abundance—of nature, art, and self-discovery—infusing everyday style with optimism and authenticity,” they vouch.

### WOMEN'S ESSENTIALS

Fast facts from celebrity costume designer **Ashley Rebello...**

Hydration is essential - not only your skin, but also for your body. Achieve that by wearing mul-muls, linen and cotton-based clothing that is not transparent,



but translucent.

Go for block printed shirts, worn short, long, and even as dresses.

Do pants that breathe, all fabrics should breathe with lovely borders at the bottom.

Lime green, yellow and lilac are the three major colours this season.

Trends are basically dresses, knee length, sleeveless, backless, a lot of floral prints. And with Indian wear, a lot of straight kurtas and palazzo pants. Evening, do chiffon saris or just do kaftans with cigarette pants.

Keep jewellery as minimal as possible—just studs—and no major accessories. ★



### MEN'S GUIDE

- Straight fit pants which add volume to your overall fit
- Linens pants and shirts to stay fresh at all times
- Sports coats in breathable fabrics to add a layer of casual formality
- Ties in tones of white for a fresh appearance
- Sleek eye frames for a minimal look
- Suede and leather loafers in neutral hues
- Minimalistic watches for a cleaner finish



# Taste of Summer

Celebrate the season with an array of plant-powered dishes and drinks, easy on the palate as well as the system

Text by **NICHOLA PAIS**

Summer brings an array of vibrant produce that tantalises the taste buds. The preference shifts towards lighter, fresher, and plant-based foods that provide a cooling respite from the heat,” shares Rohit Dadlani, founder, pause Café, Bandra. Discussing the seasonal ingredients that enliven the summer dining experience, he notes, “While mangoes and mango-based preparations undoubtedly take centrestage, other refreshing salads, citrus-infused drinks, and fruit-based desserts become increasingly appealing.”

The scales naturally tip in favour of vegan food in the hot summer months. “Summer is all about bright colours, juicy flavours, and refreshing textures - making vegan food a naturally-better and comforting choice during the hot months. Furthermore, it’s lighter on the palate and easier to digest, which is especially important

Images  
courtesy:  
pause Cafe







Rohit Dadlani

when digestion can be a bit sluggish in the heat. When made with fresh, seasonal veggies and fruits, plant-based dishes are incredibly hydrating and revitalising.”

Another plus – “The absence of dairy and meat reduces the risk of spoilage, making vegan options a safer bet - especially when eating outdoors or on the go. All in all, vegan food just fits the summer vibe: light, fresh, and nourishing,” he vouches. ★

### SUMMER-FRIENDLY DELIGHTS

- **Refreshing beverages:** These include mango-based coolers and lemonades, to quench your thirst. Drinks such as Kashmiri Kahwa Iced Tea, Thai Rose Tea Latte, Passionfruit Blue Pea Iced Tea, smoothies, fresh juice blends, iced teas, and cold coffees are just right to beat the heat
- **Salads:** Opt for salad rolls which are light and easy to digest. Broccoli millet salad and beetroot carpaccio with orange wedges are refreshing and perfect for the season
- **Toasts and sandwiches:** Hummus-tomato toast, avocado toast, and ratatouille sandwich featuring light summer vegetables are ideal for a summer’s day
- **Seasonal treats:** Lemon cookies with orange zest provide a burst of citrusy flavours to complement summer beverages. Cacao-cookies are another popular choice
- **Desserts:** Panna cotta is delicately light and cooling, perfectly paired with vibrant seasonal compotes. Mango desserts such as Tropical Silk Slice is a symphony of textures and flavours that will leave you wanting more! ★





# Small Steps Big Shift

A series designed to help you recharge, realign, and thrive in your everyday life

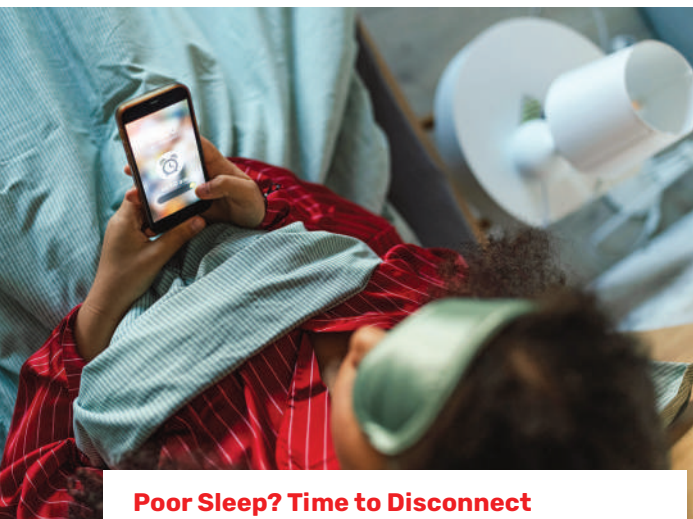
## Fast Walk to a Healthy Heart

A study in BMJ Heart suggests brisk walking could reduce the risk of arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeats, especially in higher-risk individuals. Researchers tracked over 4.2 lakh UK adults for 13 years and found that those who walked at a brisk pace (over 6.4 km/h) had a 35%–43% lower risk of heart rhythm issues compared to slow walkers. Experts say brisk walking supports the heart’s electrical system and keeps it “well-behaved.” It also improves blood pressure, reduces stress, and is an accessible form of preventive care—requiring no gym, just a steady step and regular pace.



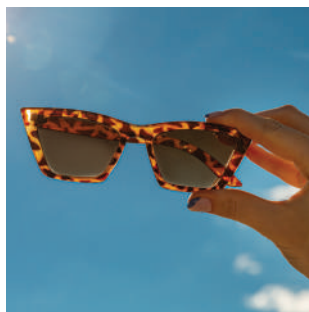
## OMAD - Karan Johar’s Secret

Denying rumours of using medication to lose weight, Karan Johar reveals that he followed the One Meal A Day eating pattern to drop the pounds. OMAD is a type of intermittent fasting where individuals consume all their daily calories in a single meal within a short time window. It’s characterised by a long fasting period. He paired this with activities like swimming and regular workouts.



## Poor Sleep? Time to Disconnect

Scrolling through our phone in bed could be costing us sleep. A Norwegian study of over 45,000 young adults found that using any screen—phone, laptop, TV, or Kindle—after bedtime raises the risk of insomnia by 59% and cuts sleep by 24 minutes.



## Shade Guide

Shopping for sunglasses? A word of advice from Dr Vishali Gupta, Professor, Advanced Eye Centre, PGI, Chandigarh... “Buy one with a label of UV400 to ensure complete protection and prevent sunburns, wrinkles and even cataracts. While polarized lenses reduce glare, they don’t provide UV protection on their own,” she says. ★

*(This article is for informational purposes only and not medical advice. Please consult a healthcare professional before making changes to your health routine.)*

# No Rules Just Cool



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Jot, plot, and twist your thoughts—one happy puzzle at a time

Created by: **JAMES**

### The Ancient India Quiz

1. Who were the Tritsus, Purus, Yadus, Turvasas, Anus and Druhyus?
2. What is the name of Buddha's hometown?
3. What is the oldest prose work in Indo-European literature?
4. Name the grammarian who standardised the Vedic language in 4 BC.
5. What is the common Indo- and Iranian Aryan word for ploughing?

**Solutions:** 1. Renowned Rig-Vedic tribes 2. Kapilavastu 3. The Brahmanas (part of the Vedas) 4. Panini 5. Krish

### Match Made in India

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Largest desert in India              | a. Kannauj (UP)  |
| 2. The Golden Temple                    | b. Barren Island |
| 3. India's deepest river                | c. Kerala        |
| 4. Active volcano in India              | d. Thar          |
| 5. A variety of cheese from West Bengal | e. Kachampuli    |
| 6. India's richest state                | f. Amritsar      |
| 7. Perfume capital of India             | g. Bandel        |
| 8. Spice capital of India               | h. Brahmaputra   |
| 9. Largest brackish water lagoon        | i. Maharashtra   |
| 10. A dark tart vinegar from Coorg      | j. Chilika       |

**(Solutions:**  
1-d, 2-f, 3-h, 4-b,  
5-g, 6-i, 7-a, 8-c,  
9-j, 10-e



### Miles of Smiles

What did the ocean say to the shore?

**Nothing, it just waved!**

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**Because they always pack their trunk!**





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\* All menu items are subject to availability  
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**Pleasant Experience**

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