

THE **RISING** STAR

MAY-JUNE 2026 | VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

The 'New Horizons' Issue

BELAGAVI, FINALLY

Every journey has a crossroads. In northern Karnataka, that place has a name

A DAY IN 'LURU

Twenty-four hours to uncover every facet of Bengaluru—and still want more

BEYOND THE HILLS

Offbeat, cool-weather destinations in India for a refreshing summer break this year

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Welcome Onboard



Dear Passengers,

New routes, new stories, and new perspectives. Welcome to our *New Horizons* issue of *The Rising Star*.

I have always believed that the best journeys do more than simply take you from one place to another. They reveal something new, something you did not even know you were looking for. Since Day One, that has been Star Air's vision: connecting real India and bringing the cities, communities, and cultures that deserve to be discovered closer together.

This edition of *The Rising Star* carries that same spirit. With a fresh new look and feel, we hope it makes your time in the air both engaging and enjoyable.

Our Cover Story this season takes you to Belagavi, a city where Karnataka and Maharashtra meet, and where everything blends beautifully. Languages, cuisines, and histories flow naturally into one another, creating a character that is truly unique. Long known as a connector, Belagavi is now confidently emerging as a destination in its own right.

In this issue, we also take you through a full day in Bengaluru and share a few refreshing summer escapes for those moments when you simply need to pause and breathe. Beyond destinations, you will also find stories of style, food, culture, and conversation—everything that makes a journey memorable.

We hope that something in these pages stays with you long after you land.

Thank you for choosing Star Air. New horizons await, and we are excited to fly you there.

Warm regards,

Sanjay D. Ghodawat
Chairman, Star Air



ON THE COVER

Belagavi, one of Karnataka's hidden gems, is rising beyond its once-untapped terrains. Endless, evolving, and quietly powerful, this image of the Western Ghats captures a landscape unfolding into a vast new horizon.

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COVER STORY

Journey through Belagavi, where history and terrain define a unique narrative

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ESHITA SRINIVAS

A lifestyle writer with a sharp eye for the next big thing, Bengaluru-based Eshita has spent years scouting trends across the travel, food, and alco-bev industries. Needless to say, she has got a recommendation or two up her sleeve for almost anything. In her free time, she reads (voraciously) and plans her next trip.



PRANAV DIXIT

A seasoned luxury, lifestyle, and technology journalist, he also covers travel and culture. Pranav's work blends sharp reporting with hands-on analysis, focusing on how culture and emerging technologies shape everyday life, while offering industry insights through features, reviews, and interviews.



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 Ramleela to Bollywood extravaganzas—dwelling in art is Snigdha's safe haven.



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SHANGRI-LA EROS GIVES ITS
POOLSIDE A MAKEOVER ↓

Blending fashion, hospitality, and wellness, the New Delhi hotel, in collaboration with designers Shivan & Narresh, has introduced Palmera, a poolside pop-up at its Wellness Club. This marks India's first lifestyle-led takeover of its kind.



FRESH ON THE Scene

Celebrating the best of Indian hospitality,
fashion, lifestyle, and beyond

COMPILED BY: Nikita Meshram

↓ **AUTOGRAPH
COLLECTION DEBUTS IN
INDIA WITH NOORMAHAL**

Marriott International introduces its design-led portfolio to the country through this distinctive collectors' heritage palace in Karnal, Haryana, set along the historic Grand Trunk Road. Blending regal architecture, curated art, refined dining, and immersive experiences, the property offers culturally rooted hospitality for travellers.



← **AARNORA JEWELS DEBUTS
WITH A FRESH TAKE ON
SILVER JEWELLERY**

The brand has entered the market with a fresh focus on 92.5 fine silver jewellery, positioning it as an affordable, design-forward alternative to gold. Its new Secunderabad showroom, inaugurated by actor Nidhi Agerwal, introduces a standout 77 per cent assured exchange policy that blends style, accessibility, and long-term value for modern consumers.



→ **SEIKO OPENS NEW
FLAGSHIP STORE IN
BENGALURU**

Strengthening its retail presence, the Japanese watchmaker unveiled a new boutique store at Marks Square. Featuring key collections and limited editions, the store highlights rising demand for finely crafted timepieces, fostering deeper connections with collectors and enthusiasts across the market.



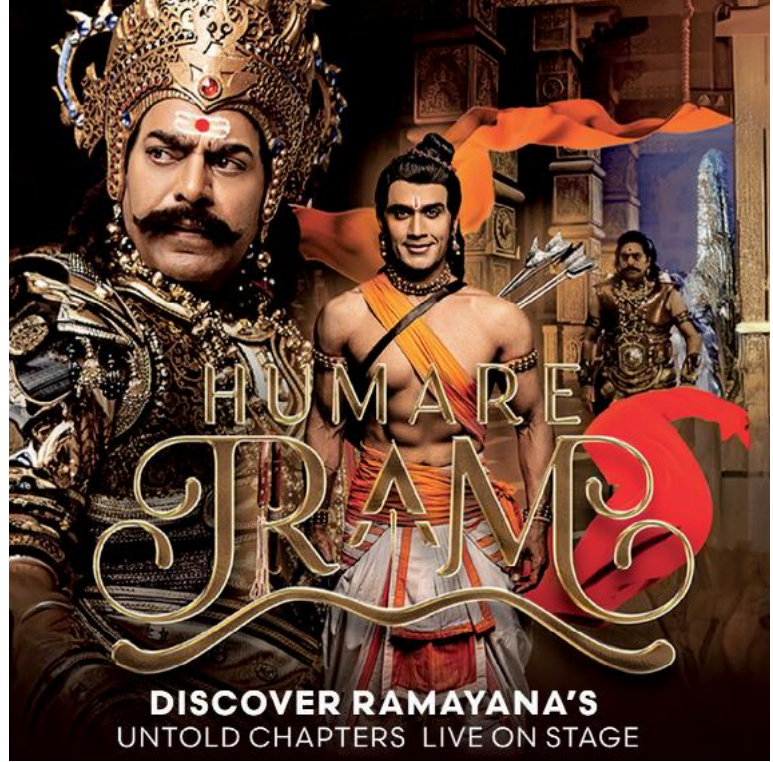
↑ **THAI NAAM RELOCATES TO NEW
BANDRA ADDRESS**

The homegrown dining concept enters a new growth phase in Mumbai's premium casual segment. The updated menu balances traditional Thai preparations with select Pan-Asian influences, while the redesigned outlet showcases an improved layout, expanded seating, and an open kitchen. The shift ushers in a more refined dining experience.

→
MUMBAI
HUMARE RAM

Till 27th June; Nehru Centre

Step into the grand retelling of a timeless epic, where mythology meets powerful theatre. Witness stunning performances, rich music, and immersive storytelling that brings Lord Ram's journey vividly to life. With evocative visuals and stirring emotion, this production promises an unforgettable evening of culture, devotion, and spectacle that lingers long after the curtains fall and the lights fade away, leaving you deeply moved.



HELLO SUMMER PLANS

A curated mix of theatre, festivals, sport, and design-led showcases—inviting you to step out and explore experiences where culture, energy, and creativity converge

WORDS: Snigdha Bhattacharjee



←
PURI
RATH YATRA

16th July; Jagannath Temple

Also known as Srigindicha Yatra and Chariot Festival, it is one of the biggest celebrations of reverence in India. On this day, Lord Jagannatha, along with Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, leave the sanctum of the Sri Jagannath Temple and travel to their aunt's house (Gundicha Temple) on bright-canopied wooden chariots that are pulled by thousands of devotees along the Bada Danda (the grand road) amidst prayers, ringing of *ghantas* (bells), and the sound of conch shells—making it a visual treat.

IMAGE COURTESY: Shutterstock (bottom image)

→
KOLLAM

OCHIRA KALI

15th-16th June;
Oachira Parabrahma Temple

This annual tradition of a spirited mock battle, which commemorates a historic conflict between two ancient kingdoms of the state, unfolds in a paddy field (known as *padanilam*) adjacent to the temple. Reenacted by two groups of men (and boys), it plays out with sticks instead of swords to the beat of drums, charging the air with infectious energy and drawing visitors from near and far.



BENGALURU ↑

**VISHAL AND REKHA
BHARDWAJ LIVE IN CONCERT**

30th May;
Phoenix Market City

An evening of soulful music unfolds as the celebrated artist duo takes the stage with powerful vocals and rich compositions. Blending melody, emotion, and live energy, this concert will create an intimate yet vibrant atmosphere, bringing audiences closer to the magic of live music.



AHMEDABAD ↓
**INDIA JEWELLERY
SHOW (IJS) 2026**

26th-28th June;
YMCA International
Centre

Discover a dazzling trade showcase of craftsmanship and innovation as leading jewellers come together to present exquisite designs and emerging trends. From intricate traditional pieces to contemporary creations, the curated selection offers a closer look at artistry, luxury, wedding, and evolving style. A must-visit for enthusiasts, buyers, and industry insiders seeking inspiration, networking, and long-term business associations.



READY FOR TAKE-OFF

The smarter way to pack, move, and arrive, with pieces handpicked for every leg of your journey

COMPILED BY: Pranav Dixit



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Where The Ghats Run Deep

Perched between plateaus and possibilities, Belagavi in northern Karnataka is fast emerging as a destination that balances business with leisure

WORDS: Mignonne Dsouza



The mighty Gokak Falls tumbles over the Ghataprabha river, one of Belagavi's most breathtaking natural spectacles

A lush green land emerging as a regional powerhouse in industry, education, and culture, Belagavi has always been a city to contend with. Situated strategically between the economic giants of Mumbai (MH) and Bengaluru (KA), this city commands attention, and rightfully so.

Belagavi's location—close to both Goa and Maharashtra—has always given it an edge. The city seamlessly weaves in the traditions of these neighbouring states, carving its own unique niche. People here speak and understand three languages: Konkani, Marathi, and Kannada, making it a perfect hub for trade and culture.

The city is known as the 'hydraulic capital of India' and *malenadu* or 'rain country', supporting year-long vegetation. Yet the focus extends beyond infrastructure and agriculture. Belagavi (and the surrounding area) is also an aerospace ecosystem, manufacturing aircraft components for both Airbus and Boeing.

The city's investments in the future also include growing the next generation of achievers. With several international schools, engineering and medical colleges, and the Visvesvaraya Technological University, the city is a thriving magnet for students. As part of the Smart Cities Mission, the local administration has also implemented a series of initiatives to make Belagavi more future-focused.



Belagavi is less popular as a tourist hub, but anyone looking to spend their leisure time wisely need not look far. As the city is situated in the Western Ghats, it is surrounded by spectacular landscapes like the Gokak and Godachinamalki falls. History enthusiasts should head to Belagavi Fort, built by the Ratta rulers in the 12th century. The minars, domes, and arches inside point to a typical fusion of Indo-Sarcenic and Deccan styles of architecture. Mahatma Gandhi lived here at an important period during India's struggle for Independence. Visitors may also explore the forts of Kittur and Rajhansgad.

The nearby Jamboti Hills offer more vistas of serene landscapes. Besides trekking and birdwatching, there are also many opportunities for adventure here. Visitors seeking a spiritual experience can find it in the many spectacular

temples in the area like the Kapileshwara Temple, also known as the 'Dakshina Kashi', and the 4th-6th-century Sri Bhavaraha Narasimha Temple.

Other spots of natural and man-made beauty include the Hidkal and the Dhupdal dams, and the Shourya Bhoomi Shilpa Vana. The latter is a rock garden dedicated to the memory of Sangolli Rayanna, a local commander who rebelled against the British Empire.

Belagavi is a melting pot of three states, which are reputed for its rich culinary heritage. It offers an array of local cuisine, including dishes like *kunda* (a signature milk-based sweet), *karadantu* (a highly-nutritious sweet made with fried edible gum or *gond*, jaggery, ghee, dry coconut, and a variety of nuts), *girmit* (puffed rice served with *mirchi bhajiyas*), and *ale pak*, a snack mostly enjoyed with fresh sugarcane juice—all must-try delicacies.



HOW TO REACH
Star Air
connects
Belagavi with
Mumbai and
Ahmedabad



Clockwise from left: The Old Kedareswara Temple, near Belagavi, stands timeless, a quiet echo of a rich heritage; The Raja Lakhamagouda (Hidkal) Dam in full monsoon fury is a sight to behold; *Susla* or *mandakki usli*, the local puffed rice upma, brings warmth to every South Indian breakfast table.



For those who wish to linger a little longer, need not worry about finding accommodations to suit their tastes. Many of the country's top hotel chains are present in Belagavi, including The Fern Hotels & Resorts, Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, Fairfield by Marriott, and Regenta Resorts.

Belagavi is moving beyond its history. The city is buzzing with new energy, attracting businesses, travellers, and curious minds alike. As trade grows and tourism picks up, Belagavi is stepping into the spotlight and embracing its time to shine. ★

GETAWAYS GALORE

Belagavi's strategic location at the confluence of three states ensures that you reach popular attractions in the surrounding areas in just a few hours. You may opt to visit a former royal kingdom, a historic site or an island that exudes Goan *susegad*.



SAWANTWADI MAHARASHTRA

Less than three hours from Belagavi, this former royal enclave is known for its beautiful Moti Talao, a palace hotel, and its tradition of making *Ganjifa* cards



DIVAR ISLAND GOA

Once you board the ferry to this island, three hours away, you will feel your cares drop away. Head out to enjoy views of the Mandovi river from several viewpoints



HAMPI KARNATAKA

A must-visit attraction for history buffs, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Composed of granite boulders and ancient ruins, Hampi is about five hours away

CRACK THE GARDEN CITY

Explore Bengaluru's many monikers in a day—from quiet parks to pub capital buzz, via its creative, cultural, and culinary soul

WORDS: Eshita Srinivas

6:30AM KR MARKET

Floral frenzy

At first light, this market is already in motion. Mounds of marigolds and jasmine spill across the area as vendors thread garlands with ease. Every corner is photo-worthy. And somewhere amidst the bustle are fragments of Bangalore Fort, a reminder of the area's layered past.



1PM KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH

Art, unfiltered

Art here goes beyond the gallery, filling corridors and open spaces. You will find traditional Mysore paintings next to modern pieces and student shows, creating a mix of culture and new ideas.



8:30AM VIDYARTHI BHAVAN

Breakfast with a side of theatre

Here, morning meal unfolds at full pace. Waiters move quickly between the crowded tables, carrying plates piled high with crisp, golden dosas. The place looks much the same as it did when it opened in 1943, and that sense of tradition adds to its appeal.

Enjoy a cup of frothy filter coffee.



11AM CUBBON PARK

Green refuge

The city's much-loved green space is a great place to relax after a hearty brekkie. You will find tree-lined paths under thick canopies, people out for a morning walk, and dogs joining their humans for a picnic. As you stroll, you can see the bright red State Central Library and the High Court.

IMAGE COURTESY: Shutterstock; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; Gettyimages; Vidyarthi Bhavan

**3PM THE POLO CLUB
(THE OBEROI, BENGALURU)**

Colonial comfort

Unwind at Bengaluru's most iconic verandah lounge and restaurant. Its oasis-like charm is supplemented with lush garden views and a tranquil ambience is just what you need for a balmy afternoon. From your morning cup of fresh coffee and all-day breakfast to healthy salads, the club has you covered.



8:30AM NĀVU PROJECT

Modern memory

A meal here is shaped by seasonality and a strong sense of place. Local ingredients lead the menu, with dishes that balance familiarity and reinvention.

Expect Heirloom Beetroot Salad, pissaladière, and churros reimagined in savoury form.

BEST STAYS



GRAND MERCURE BANGALORE

A polished, all-suite retreat in the heart of Whitefield, ideal for those who seek comfort with easy access to the tech corridor



**MULBERRY SHADES
BENGALURU NANDI HILLS, A
TRIBUTE PORTFOLIO RESORT**

A misty hillside retreat just beyond the city's edge



CONRAD BENGALURU

Sleek, sophisticated, and centrally located, this is Bengaluru luxury at its most confident



HOW TO REACH

**Star Air connects
Bengaluru with Goa
(Mopa), Vidyanagar,
Nanded, and
Hyderabad**



5:15PM CHURCH STREET Urban buzz

As the day winds down, this bustling street comes into its own. Bookstores (Blossom Book House, a staple), cafés, dessert shops, and street art line the stretch, drawing a steady crowd. Expect impromptu musical performances, casual street interactions, and caricature sessions by artists at any time of the day.



Beyond Form and Drama

A sculptural new address at DLF Emporio, New Delhi, marks a pivotal moment in fashion designer **GAURAV GUPTA**'s evolving menswear journey, where architecture, craft, and clothing come together in harmony

WORDS: Ananya Trivedi

Stepping beyond the spectacle of the runway, the menswear flagship marks a decisive shift towards building an immersive universe for modern men. Conceived as a design statement, the store distils couture into permanence. In conversation with the man, who reflects on a philosophy driven by a commitment to timeless design over passing trends.

What prompted you to launch menswear? Does it relate to your womenswear language?

Menswear has been part of the house since 2017, but this is the first time it is being presented as a fully realised and independent universe. The language is connected to womenswear in its approach to form, craftsmanship, and emotion.

Does this debut feel like an extension of your couture or a new language?

It extends my design philosophy, but it also allows a new vocabulary to develop. Designing menswear pushes me to rethink proportion, construction, and detail in a more controlled way.

Did you choose to unlearn any belief while designing menswear?

I had to unlearn the idea that menswear needs to stay within rigid boundaries. I wanted to approach it with the same emotional and conceptual depth as couture, while still respecting the realities of how men move, live, and dress today.

Where does your collection sit between heritage and global design?

I see our menswear positioned at the intersection of Indian cultural identity and a global design language. We honour traditional forms such as bandhgallas, ceremonial tailoring, and indigenous craftsmanship, but we reinterpret them through contemporary silhouettes, surface techniques, and construction.

What emotions and reactions did you want this store to evoke?

I wanted it to feel calm, introspective and quietly powerful. It is designed to slow you down and encourage a more personal engagement with the garments.

How do you see Indian craft and couture shaping global fashion?

Indian couture and craftsmanship are no longer seen only through the lens of heritage. They are being recognised as powerful tools for innovation.

Your work is often described as sculptural. How do you balance that with wearability?

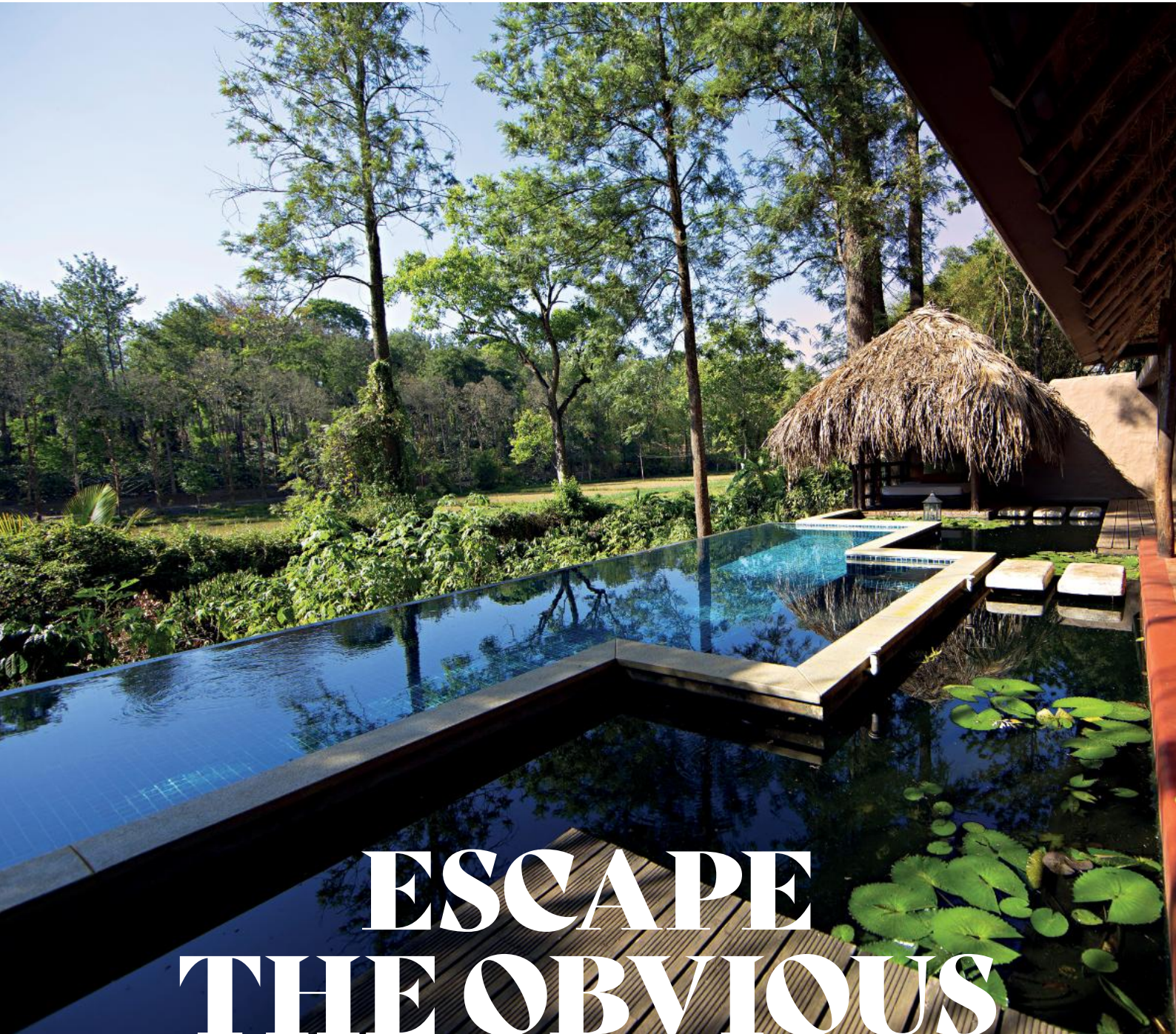
Sculpture, in my work, is not about creating objects. It is about shaping the body and enhancing movement. Wearability comes from understanding proportion, balance, and comfort, and from working closely with our pattern makers and artisans to ensure that every piece functions as beautifully as it looks.

Looking back, what advice would you give to your younger self?

Trust the long journey. Build slowly, stay true to your voice, and let your work evolve naturally. ★

Left to right: Fashion designer Gaurav Gupta marks a milestone with his menswear debut at DLF Emporio, New Delhi; His menswear line brings his signature sculptural drama to a new wardrobe, blending bold silhouettes with refined craftsmanship.





ESCAPE THE OBVIOUS

Short flights, cooler air, fewer crowds—the ideal way to get away this summer

WORDS: Ananya Trivedi

As peak-season travel packs out the usual hill stations, a different rhythm is emerging—one that leans into ease, access, and experience over sheer popularity. The focus is shifting to places that feel just as cool, but far less crowded, where the journey

is smoother and more considered. From lush plantation trails and forest-lined getaways to breezy plateaus—each destination offers its own version of “cool,” without the overwhelm. The result is travel that feels lighter, more flexible, and truly in tune with summer.



COORG, KARNATAKA

Plan this as a slow, stay-led escape rather than a packed sightseeing itinerary. Opt for plantation homestays over hotels to access quieter surroundings and more local experiences. A stay of two to three nights allows a comfortable pace without rushing between viewpoints. Such key spots as Abbey Falls and Mandalpatti are best scheduled early in the day to avoid crowds. Internal transport is limited, so hiring a local vehicle is recommended for ease of use. Coorg is around 260km from Bengaluru, roughly a five- to six-hour drive. Temperatures remain moderate in the summer, with light layers required for early mornings and evenings. Focus on downtime and relaxed schedules.



HOW TO REACH

Star Air connects Bengaluru with Goa (Mopa), Vidyanagar, Nanded, and Hyderabad. Coorg is an approximate six-hour drive from the airport

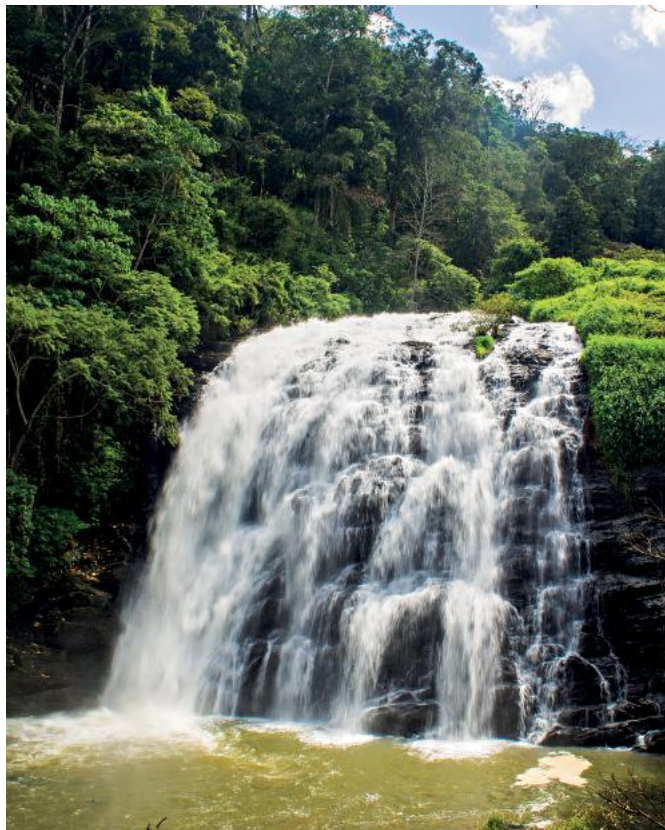
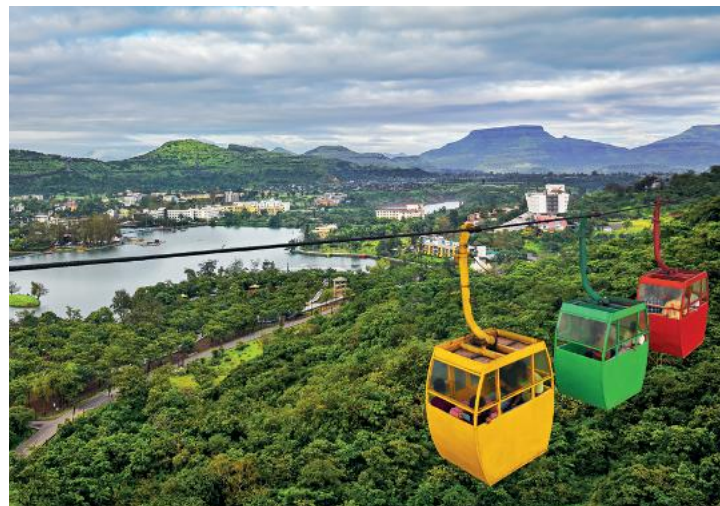


IMAGE COURTESY: Gettyimages



↑ SAPUTARA, GUJARAT

An understated escape where the pace is gentle and the views do the talking, Saputara is a great choice for a low-intensity hill break. The terrain suits travellers looking for shorter escapes. Accommodation is straightforward, so selecting lake-facing or higher-elevation stays can elevate the overall experience. The town is compact, making it easy to cover key spots within a day or two without rushing. Drive up to Don Hill Station (about an hour away), the only one of its kind in the state, and escape into nature. Take a leisurely walk in the rolling expanse of the Governor's hill and see the sun dip into the Saputara lake. Well connected by road, it sits around 380km from Ahmedabad and nearly 80km from Nashik, making it a convenient and easy-to-plan getaway.



HOW TO REACH

Star Air connects Surat with Jamnagar and Bhuj. Saputara is an approximate 3.5-hour drive from the airport



↑ DANDELI, KARNATAKA

Best suited for activity-led holidays, this stretch works best when experiences are booked in advance. Thrill seekers can choose from kayaking, zip-lining, trekking, and wildlife safaris in the nearby Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve. Always go with certified operators for water activities, as river conditions can change. Two nights are enough to cover experiences without feeling rushed. Expect a digital detox due to limited mobile reception, owing to the dense forest cover. The region is about 90km from Belagavi and 125km from Goa, making it easy to access. Carry quick-dry clothing and sturdy footwear for comfort.



HOW TO REACH

Star Air connects Belagavi with Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Dandeli is approximately a 2.5-hour drive from the airport



↑ PANCHGANI, MAHARASHTRA

A great pick for unwinding away from home, this landscape is best enjoyed at a steady, unhurried pace. Opt heritage bungalows or boutique properties for a quieter stay and intimate experiences. The Table Land (a vast 95-acre volcanic plateau) is best explored early in the morning or near sunset to avoid the heat and heavy crowds. With most spots located nearby, a one- to two-day itinerary is more than enough to make the most of this place. Check ahead for seasonal activities like strawberry picking. Conveniently accessible by road, it is ideal for a quick weekend break.



HOW TO REACH

Star Air connects Pune with Nanded, Ajmer, and Hyderabad. Panchgani is an approximate 3-hour drive from the airport



CHIKKAMAGALURU, KARNATAKA ↑

A relaxed itinerary is ideal here, giving you time to slow down and enjoy your surroundings. Consider staying at a plantation or a small resort that offers guided walks and activities. With three nights, you can see the main spots like Mullayanagiri Peak and Baba Budangiri at a comfortable pace. For the best views and weather, try to visit outdoor sites in the wee hours. The area is easy to reach by road—nearly 240km from Bengaluru and about 150km from Mangaluru—so it is a convenient and peaceful getaway.



HOW TO REACH

Star Air connects Bengaluru with Goa (Mopa), Vidyannagar, Nanded, and Hyderabad. Chikkamagaluru is an approximate 4.5-hour drive from the airport



BEST BITES



HILL-TOP ICE CREAM, PANCHGANI

Must try: Strawberry cream and milkshakes, Mulberry Ice Cream, Gulkand Ice Cream, and fresh juices



RAINTREE RESTAURANT, COORG

Must try: Dhingri Matar Hara Pyaz, Paneer Ghee Roast, Coorg Style Kummu Curry, and Elaneer Payasam



PEABERRY RESTAURANT (GATEWAY CHIKMAGALUR)

Must try: Enne Mulgai, Malenadu Biryani, Bhindi Hulli, Tarkari Talda, Veg Kebab Set, and Oota

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Airbus H135 T2+

Seats : 2+5
Cruise Speed : 259 kmph

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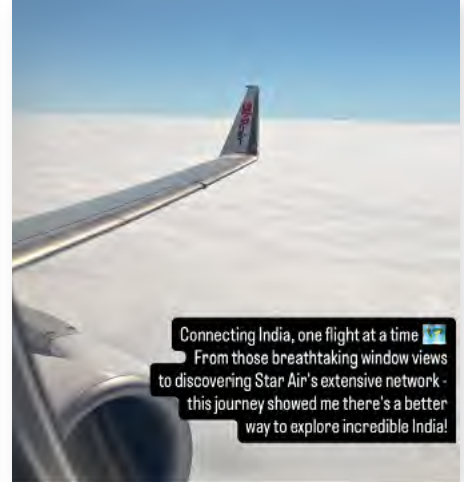
Tilari waterfalls
Karnataka-Maharashtra border

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



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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



SAJID KHAN

ASSISTANT MANAGER-SECURITY

Six years. One unwavering commitment. Sajid's journey at Star Air is a testament to what dedication and quiet capability can build over time. Starting as a Senior Executive in Security, he has grown steadily and purposefully into his current role as Assistant Manager. This progression speaks not just to his skills, but to the trust he has earned along the way. What makes him truly remarkable is how much he achieved with how little. Managing operations with minimal staff, he has consistently ensured smooth, secure, and seamless functioning, never letting constraints become excuses. He leads not from behind a desk, but from the front, setting the standard for his team through his own example. When the pressure is highest, during last-minute charter operations, tight timelines, and no room for error, Sajid is the one who steps up. Composed, professional, and utterly reliable, he handles the unexpected with the ease of someone who has long made excellence a habit.

MERIGE NAGALINGA PRASAD

MAINTENANCE CONTROLLER

A name synonymous with reliability, Merige is the kind of professional every team counts on when it matters most. Always available and unfailingly dependable, he brings a steadiness to operations that those around him have come to rely on deeply. When flight disruptions strike, he is the first to step in—handling each situation with calm efficiency and a quiet confidence that puts everyone at ease. Proactive by nature, he rarely waits for problems to escalate. Instead, he takes initiative, addresses challenges head-on, and finds effective solutions independently, often before others have even identified the issue. This spirit of ownership is perhaps most visible during AOG situations, where his round-the-clock support, sharp problem-solving, and unwavering responsiveness make a significant, measurable difference to the team and operations. More than his skills, it is his quiet, tireless dedication that leaves the deepest impression.





Between SKIES and SHORES

Across continents and cultures, **CAPTAIN HECTOR BERMUDEZ** has found his purpose in the skies, the people, and the quiet discipline of flight

WORDS: Nikita Meshram



From top to bottom: Captain Bermudez holidaying at the ancient Maya ruins of El Tazumal; Preparing for take-off; On the tarmac, ready for departure with Star Air.



“I wanted to contribute, not just operate. Being part of building systems and safety culture gives the work a sense of purpose beyond the cockpit.”

For Captain Bermudez, aviation was never a career. It was a calling he could not outfly.

Growing up in Venezuela, he was drawn to anything that flew, eventually joining the military, where he studied Aeronautics and Military Science. The experience-built discipline, leadership, and the ability to perform under pressure. His career has since taken him across Central America, Central and Southeast Asia, and now India, with each posting adding something technical, cultural, and human. Nearly three decades in, he is still learning on every flight.

The captain had been following the airline’s trajectory. While the Embraer fleet was a type he knew deeply, it was the culture and a genuine investment in people and safety systems that stood out. When the opportunity came, it felt like the right fit. Today, his work includes Flight Data Monitoring, CRM instruction, and contributing

to safety culture alongside a young, hungry, and receptive team.

For him, not every moment is dramatic: an early morning departure, downgraded weather conditions, the aircraft performing perfectly, and the crew working like a well-rehearsed team. Then, breaking above the clouds into a clear sunrise. Nobody says anything. Just look at each other and smile. Is the job at its best—no fanfare, no applause, just professionals doing what they love, doing it well.

India, he says, takes getting used to, “then quietly becomes part of you”. The warmth, family, and food feel familiar, with spice, variety, and regional pride. People here do not let you feel like a stranger. Bengaluru suits him, with pace and energy, while smaller cities bring meaning through connection.

Outside the cockpit, diving, investing, and reading keep him engaged. His approach remains simple: consistency over intensity. ★



PRE-BOOK YOUR MEALS

Plan ahead and book your meals at www.starair.in before you fly

Veg Junglee Sandwich + Beverage ₹400
Any hot/cold beverage (except Coolberg)

Veg Roast Curried Sandwich + Beverage ₹400
Any hot/cold beverage (except Coolberg)

Cup Noodles + Beverage ₹300
Any hot/cold beverage (except Coolberg)

Veg Biryani + Beverage ₹300
Any hot/cold beverage (except Coolberg)

Upma + Tea/Coffee ₹250

Poha + Tea/Coffee ₹250

Chocolate Cookies + Tea/Coffee ₹250

Nuts' Box + Tea/Coffee ₹250
Star Air's very own tin case



MEAL COMBOS

HEARTY MEALS

Cup Noodles/Biryani + Choice of Beverage (except Coolberg) ₹350

SMALL PLATES

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READY TO EAT

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Veg. Hyderabadi Biryani	₹300
Upma	₹200
Poha	₹200



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Pune Protein Company (Smokey BBQ/Sea Salt/ Tomato Mexicano)	₹100

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Regular Coffee	₹100	Coke (Regular/Diet)	₹100
Black Coffee	₹100	Coolberg (Peach/Cranberry)	₹200
Cappuccino	₹100	Paper Boat (Alphonso Aamras)	₹120
Masala Chai	₹100	Paper Boat (Pomegranate)	₹150
Black Tea	₹100	Coconut Water	₹150
Hot Chocolate	₹100	Milkshake (Badam/Chocolate)	₹150
		Cold Coffee	₹150

NOTE: All images are for
representational purposes only;
All items are subject to
availability onboard

MAGIC OF THE MOUNTAINS

PRIT KAMANI recalls a life-changing trip to Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh, and the moments that stayed with him



Travel for this rising actor and musician is more than a break between projects. It is a way to reset, reflect, and step beyond the camera. Amid packed schedules and constant movement, these journeys offer a rare pause. Drawn to quiet, untouched places, he seeks immersive, unfiltered experiences that stay with him long after he returns.

MOST MEMORABLE TRIP IN INDIA

In 2018, after finishing my debut film as a lead, I decided to start a tradition: every time I finish a project, I will take a trip. That year, I went to Spiti Valley with my best friend, Ayush. Back then, it felt like a hidden gem known to only a few.

A MOMENT THAT LINGERED

We rented motorcycles, and I had no experience riding in the mountains. I was on a heavy Bullet, tackling sharp turns in Spiti. At one hairpin bend, strong winds, gravel, and harsh sunlight struck at once. I lost control and nearly went off a cliff. I managed to brake in time. It was terrifying and unforgettable.

A TASTE OF THE REGION

One morning, we had breakfast at a small café near our hostel, where I tried sea buckthorn juice. It is local to the region, refreshing, and packed with health benefits. Often called the elixir of Spiti, it grows only at high altitudes and is something everyone should try once.

PLACES ONE CANNOT MISS

Camp at Chandratul Lake, especially on a full moon night. Visit Langza for the towering Buddha statue overlooking the valley and make time for Key Monastery. Each place has its own quiet beauty.

THE REAL APPEAL

India offers incredible diversity, but Spiti feels different. It is stark, raw, and almost otherworldly. ★

WORDS: Shrabasti Anindita Mallik



Left: The sea buckthorn juice is called the elixir of Spiti
Below: Every time Prit finishes a project, he takes a trip to celebrate.



IMAGE COURTESY: Prit Kamani; Shutterstock



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