

# THE RISING STAR



## *The* WHITE DESERT *Festival*







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Dear Valued Readers,

It brings me great pride to share the incredible strides Star Air has made in recent times. What started as a vision to seamlessly connect people and places has now grown into a dynamic airline, playing a vital role in shaping the Indian aviation landscape.

Our journey so far has been marked by consistent and sustainable growth. With the expansion of our fleet, the launch of new routes, and an increasing number of satisfied passengers, we continue to achieve significant milestones. This success would not have been possible without the dedication of our talented team, the trust of our passengers, and the unwavering support of our partners.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future of Star Air. We are committed to further enhancing connectivity across India by introducing new routes and delivering exceptional service to all our passengers. I'm delighted to announce the launch of our new route from Kolhapur to Ahmedabad, commencing from 28th of October. This is yet another step towards our mission of bringing people closer, while providing world-class service with every flight.

As we continue to grow, we remain driven by the needs of our customers and our belief in the immense potential of the Indian aviation market. With your continued support, we are confident that Star Air will soar to even greater heights.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Warm regards,

**SANJAY D. GHODAWAT**  
Chairman

# Contents

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Volume 5 ✈ Issue 6



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**01 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

**06 COVER STORY**  
The White Desert Festival

**14 KNOW YOUR CREW**  
Passion, Precision & Progress

**16 IN THE SPOTLIGHT**  
Star Air's Onam Celebrations

**18 IN THE SPOTLIGHT**  
The Ghodawat Aviation Story

**22 IN THE SPOTLIGHT**  
Star Air Celebrates Dussehra

**26 TRAVEL**  
A Winter Wonderland

**28 LAUGH OUT LOUD**  
On a Lighter Note

**30 RECIPES**  
Flavours of Festivity

**32 FOOD**  
Spice, Tradition and Taste



## REGULARS

04	ENTERTAINMENT	25	STAR PRIDE
05	ASTRO GUIDE	29	ROUTE MAP
11	STAR FLEET	34	PUZZLES
12	JETSETTER	36	MENU

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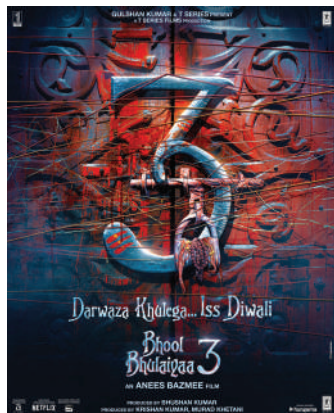
# Barso Ka Bharosa Ab Nayi Pehchan Ke Sath





# Watch List

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



## BHOOL BHULAIYAA 3

**Synopsis:** Ruhan continues his charade as 'Rooh Baba' but things get complicated when he finds himself in a mansion haunted by two spirits.

**Genre:** Horror, Comedy

**Release Date:** 01 November 2024

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## MEET ME NEXT CHRISTMAS

**Synopsis:** In pursuit of a storybook romance, Layla dashed through New York City to secure a ticket to the Pentatonix Christmas Eve Concert.

**Genre:** Romance, Comedy

**Release Date:** 06 November 2024

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## SINGHAM AGAIN

**Synopsis:** Singham gathers a team of police officers from all over the country in order to take the fight to his rival and rescue his kidnapped wife.

**Genre:** Action, Drama

**Release Date:** 06 November 2024

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3

**Synopsis:** Sonic, Knuckles, and Tails team up against a formidable new foe with abilities unlike anything they've seen before.

**Genre:** Action, Adventure

**Release Date:** 20 December 2024

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## PUSHPA: THE RULE - PART 2

**Synopsis:** Pushpa who is rumoured to be dead, returns from the jungle to seek revenge against Bhanwar Singh and the syndicate in order to take control of his empire.

**Genre:** Crime, Action

**Release Date:** 06 December 2024

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## MUFASA: THE LION KING

**Synopsis:** After Eddie and Venom are hunted down by both of their worlds, the duo is forced to make a devastating decision that will change their relationship forever.

**Genre:** Musical, Drama

**Release Date:** 20 December 2024

**Playing in:** Cinemas★





# What the Stars Reveal

Find out what the stars reveal for the coming months.



## Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Your energy levels are high, and you are ready to take on new challenges. Focus on channelling that drive into long-term goals without rushing.



## Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Embrace the calmness around you. You will find peace in steady routines and familiar surroundings. Simple joys will bring the most fulfilment.



## Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Conversations will spark fresh ideas. Stay open to new perspectives—they could lead to exciting opportunities or creative solutions.



## Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Emotions run deep. Take care of yourself while nurturing close relationships, but remember to set healthy boundaries for balance.



## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

You're in the spotlight! Your confidence and charisma are drawing attention. Use your natural leadership to inspire and create positive change.



## Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Small adjustments can make a big impact. Focus on refining the details in your life, and you'll see improvement in both personal and professional areas.



## Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Harmony is your guiding star. Seeking balance in relationships and your surroundings will bring you inner peace and smooth interactions with others.



## Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Your intensity is heightened. This is the perfect time to focus on what truly matters, but keep your emotions in check to avoid burnout.



## Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Your adventurous spirit is calling. Break out of your usual routine and explore new ideas or experiences that broaden your horizons.



## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Steady progress is the theme. Keep working hard towards your goals, but don't forget to find moments for relaxation and self-care.



## Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Innovative thinking flows naturally. Your unique ideas have the potential to inspire others and push boundaries, so don't hold back.



## Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Your intuition is strong. Trust your inner voice, and let your creativity flourish. Reflection will bring clarity to whatever is on your mind.★



# *The* WHITE DESERT *Festival*

The Kutch Rann Utsav, a celebration of Gujarat's vibrant culture and natural beauty, is an annual festival that takes place in the heart of the mesmerizing Rann of Kutch. Known for its white salt desert that stretches to the horizon, the festival here is a unique blend of art, music, crafts, and adventure.



## A LESSON IN HISTORY

The Rann of Kutch, once an ancient seabed, is a sprawling salt desert that transforms into a cultural hub during the winter months. The festival was initiated by the Gujarat government to promote tourism and showcase the rich heritage of the Kutch region. It draws inspiration from the nomadic traditions of the Kutchi people, who have long lived in harmony with the stark landscape. The festival has grown over the years into a global event, highlighting the craftsmanship, music, and dance that are intrinsic to the local culture.







## KNOW YOUR FESTIVAL

The Kutch Rann Utsav, which lasts for several months from November to February, offers visitors a chance to experience Gujarat's cultural richness. The festival grounds are adorned with beautifully crafted tents, offering a luxurious stay in the middle of the white desert. Each evening comes alive with folk music, dance performances, and storytelling sessions that offer a glimpse into the traditions of the local communities. From bustling handicraft markets to adventure sports like parasailing, the festival caters to a wide range of interests.



## TREAT FOR YOUR EYES

**White Salt Desert:** The vast expanse of the salt desert is the main attraction, especially under the full moon, when the entire landscape takes on an ethereal glow. Visitors can take camel rides, engage in photography, or simply stroll along the shimmering surface to take in the beauty of the Rann.

**Cultural Performances:** Every evening, the festival presents captivating performances of Gujarati folk dances like Garba and Dandiya, accompanied by the soulful sounds of local instruments. These performances offer a chance to experience the vibrant culture of Kutch in its most authentic form.

**Handicraft Bazaar:** The Kutch region is famous for its handicrafts, including intricate embroidery, Bandhani textiles, and hand-painted pottery. The bazaar at the Rann Utsav is a treasure trove for art lovers, offering a wide range of handmade items crafted by local artisans.







“ The Kutch Rann Utsav, offers visitors a chance to experience Gujarat’s cultural richness.

#### TANTALISE YOUR TASTE BUDS

**Dhokla:** A steamed cake made from fermented rice and chickpea batter, Dhokla is a popular Gujarati snack that is both light and delicious. Served with tangy chutneys, it’s a must-try for anyone visiting the festival.

**Dabeli:** A spicy and tangy street food dish that originated in Kutch, Dabeli is a sandwich stuffed with a mixture of mashed potatoes, pomegranate seeds, peanuts, and special Kutchi spices. Its blend of textures and flavours makes it an irresistible treat.







### TRYST WITH NATURE

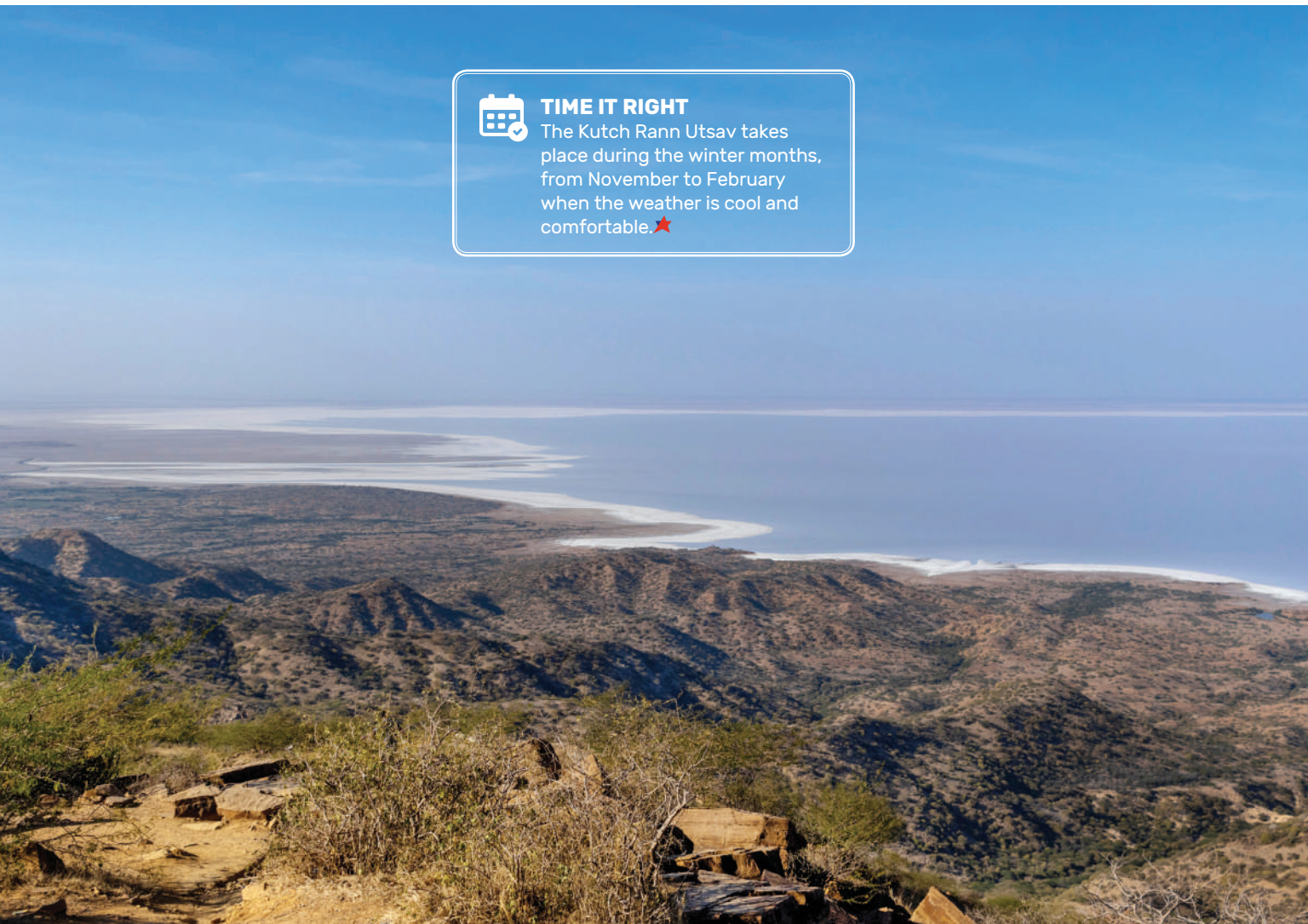
**Wildlife at Kutch:** The Rann is home to unique wildlife, including the Indian wild ass, flamingos, and various migratory birds. Visitors can take guided tours through the nearby Wild Ass Sanctuary or the Chari-Dhand Wetlands, perfect for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts.

**Kalo Dungar:** Known as the Black Hill, Kalo Dungar is the highest point in Kutch, offering panoramic views of the Rann. The sunset from this vantage point is a sight to behold, with the sun dipping below the vast salt plains, creating a spectacular play of colours.



### TIME IT RIGHT

The Kutch Rann Utsav takes place during the winter months, from November to February when the weather is cool and comfortable.★







# Own a piece of Star Air

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## STAR AIR'S FLEET



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



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



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



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

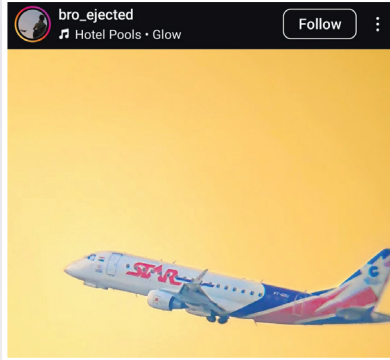
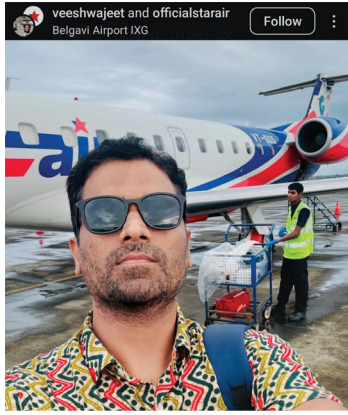


**AIRBUS HELICOPTER H120:**  
**NUMBER OF SEATS:** 6  
**ENGINE TYPE:** TURBOMECA  
ARRIUS 2F  
**TOP SPEED:** 280 KM/H



# Shoot-ing for the Stars

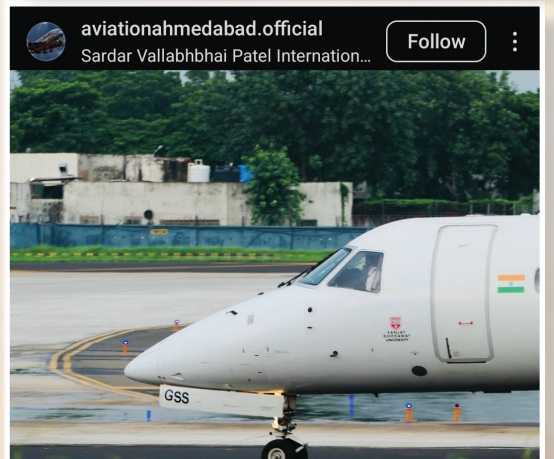
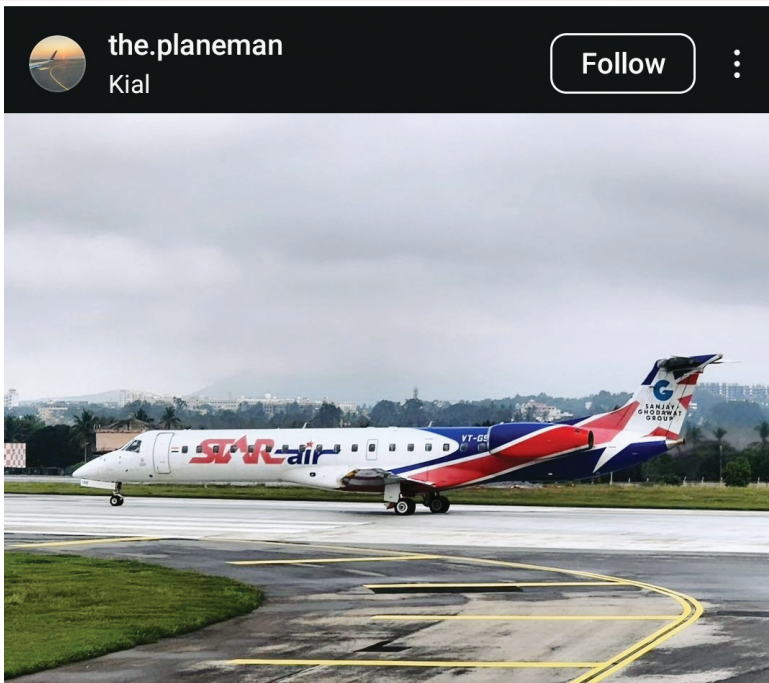
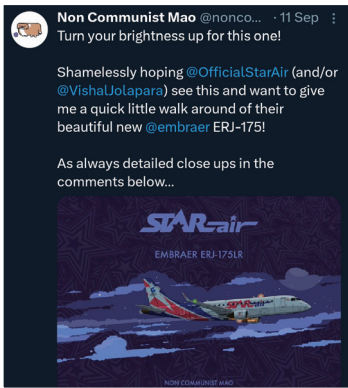
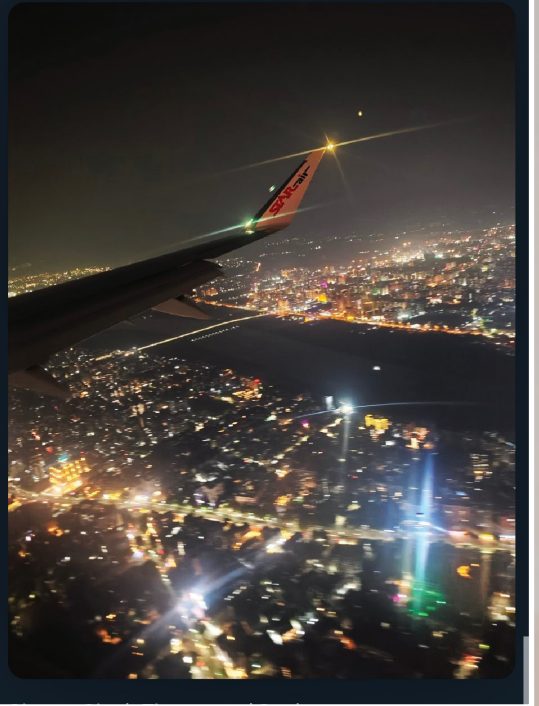
Featuring some of the best and coolest photos of our constellation from social media.



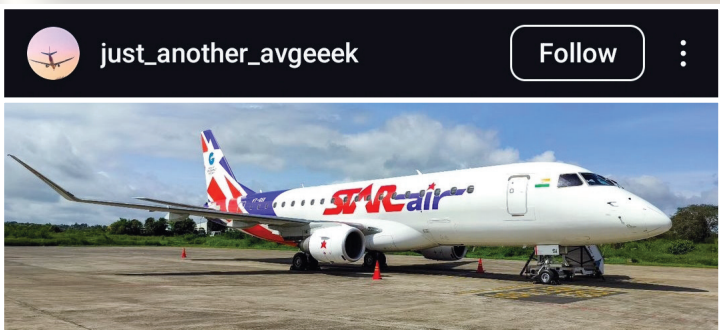
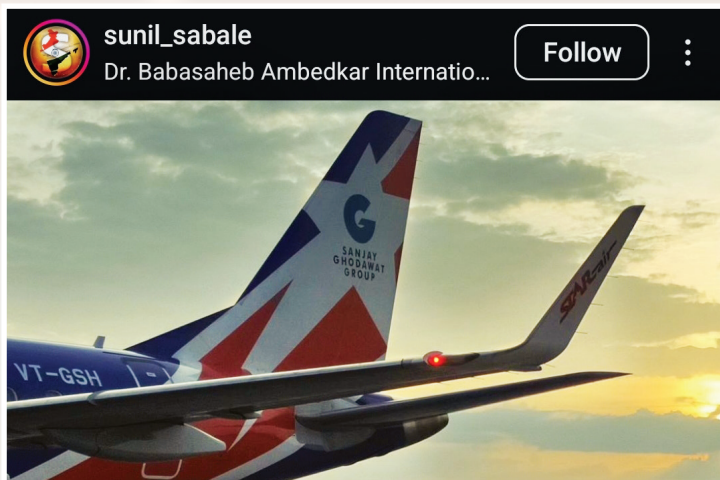
**Sunil (Jain) Khasgiwala**  
@suvisunil

Follow

Twinkle twinkle little star (air), ..like diamonds on the earth. Looks like diamonds scattered. While flying to diamond City from Hyderabad. Very good timing to come home. This flight was almost full .@OfficialStarAir pl ad more destinations from Surat.









# Passion, Precision & Progress

**Wilmer Navas** is an experienced aviation professional with over 30 years in the industry. As the Director of Flight Operations at Star Air, he plays a pivotal role in overseeing flight safety, compliance, and fleet expansion. With a distinguished career spanning both military and civilian aviation, Wilmer's passion for flying and mentoring has made him a respected figure in the global aviation community.



**Q Can you briefly walk us through your journey in aviation, starting with your time in the Venezuelan Air Force and leading to your current position at Star Air?**

**A.** I started my aviation career in 1985 by joining the Venezuelan Air Force Military Academy, where I spent four years in rigorous training that laid the foundation for my career. After retiring from the Air Force, I transitioned to commercial aviation with Conviasa Airlines in Venezuela, where I became a B737 instructor and examiner, and later moved on to the Embraer 190. During my time at Conviasa, I held leadership roles as Director of Training and Director

of Operations. My career then took me internationally, working for Air Costa in India, Air Astana in Kazakhstan, Avianca-TACA in El Salvador, and Air Burkina in Burkina Faso. Now, as the Director of Flight Operations at Star Air, I oversee all flight operations, ensuring regulatory compliance and maintaining the highest standards of safety and efficiency.

**Q What inspired you to become a pilot, and how did your career path evolve from military service to commercial aviation?**

**A.** I have always had a passion for aviation, from an early age, I was inspired by the idea of flight and service to my country which led me to join the

Venezuelan Air Force Military Academy in 1985. The military provided me with unique flying experiences that shaped my career. After retirement from the Air Force in 2008 as Lieutenant Colonel, I joined Conviasa Airlines as a B737 instructor and examiner. From there, my career evolved into more leadership and training roles, allowing me to apply my skills in various countries and airlines globally.

**Q What motivated you to move into flight operations management, and how has your military background influenced your approach to leading this department?**

**A.** The structured environment of the Air Force instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility, discipline, and attention to detail, which naturally prepared me for management roles. My experience managing complex military missions as Director of Operations for the Air Transport Group in the Air Force gave me the skills needed to lead flight operations in a commercial environment. The transition to management allowed me to influence airline operations at a higher level, focusing on safety, efficiency, and team leadership. At Star Air, I continue to bring this disciplined and systematic approach to ensure we meet and exceed industry safety standards and regulatory compliance.

**Q What was the most significant challenge you faced when transitioning from military aviation (flying C-130s) to civilian aircraft?**

**A.** The most significant challenge was





adjusting to the different operational demands between military and civilian aviation. In the military, the missions are often complex, and we must operate under more unpredictable conditions, 'any time anywhere' such as flying with night vision goggles or performing tactical operations. Civilian aviation, however, is more standardized and focused on efficiency and passenger comfort. Learning to adapt to the more structured environment of commercial airlines, with its strict schedules, regulations, and customer service requirements, was a big shift, but the discipline and adaptability from my military career helped me navigate this transition successfully.

**Q Can you share any memorable experiences which reflect the challenges and rewards of flying these diverse aircraft?**

**A.** One of the most memorable experiences from my military career was flying the C-130H on special missions using night vision goggles. These missions involved parachute drops, cargo transport, and humanitarian aid, as well including air refueling tankering with the B707 for fighter aircraft, and they required precision, focus, and teamwork. The challenges were high, but the sense of accomplishment was even greater.

**Q Safety is always a top priority in aviation. How do you ensure that Star Air maintains a robust safety culture, and what measures do you believe are critical to continuous improvement?**

**A.** At Star Air, we prioritize safety by fostering a proactive safety culture that is ingrained in every level of the organization. This includes regular safety audits, training programs, and a strong emphasis on reporting safety issues through open communication channels. Continuous improvement is driven by data analysis, flight data monitoring systems, and staying updated with industry best practices. The key to



maintaining a robust safety culture is ensuring that all team members, from pilots to ground staff, are committed to upholding these standards.

**Q Reflecting on your career, what has been the most fulfilling aspect of your journey, from your days in the Venezuelan Air Force to leading Star Air's flight operations?**

**A.** Mentoring and training the next generation of pilots has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career. Whether in the military or commercial aviation, sharing my knowledge and

experience with others has always been rewarding. Watching young pilots grow and succeed under my guidance gives me great pride. Additionally, overseeing the expansion of Star Air and ensuring that we maintain a strong safety and operational framework has been a career highlight. However, none of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of my family. My mother, wife, sons and daughter have stood by me throughout my career, even during the times I had to travel extensively. Their encouragement and understanding allowed me to fully dedicate myself to aviation while knowing I had a strong foundation at home. This support has been crucial in my ability to focus, grow, and succeed in my roles across the world.

**Q If you could offer one piece of advice to aspiring pilots or aviation leaders, what would it be?**

**A.** My advice would be to maintain discipline, stay curious, and always prioritize safety. Aviation is a constantly evolving field, and the best pilots and leaders are those who are committed to lifelong learning and improvement. Foster a culture of teamwork and never underestimate the importance of preparation and attention to detail. Most importantly, keep your passion for flying alive—it's the key to staying motivated and excelling in this career.★







## Star Air's Onam Celebrations Across Airports











# Aerial Ambitions: The Ghodawat Aviation Story

Text by **RAVI THAKUR**, Quality Manager At Star Air

In 2004, Ghodawat Aviation took flight, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the Sanjay Ghodawat Group. The Group, already a diverse business entity, expanded its operations by acquiring its first Airbus Helicopter EC 120B Colibri. This strategic move enhanced operational efficiency, allowing the chairman to oversee the Group's vast and growing interests, even in remote areas. The helicopter not only streamlined the oversight process but also contributed to the Group's mission of positively impacting lives across the globe.

As the years passed, Ghodawat Aviation continued to grow and evolve. In 2013, the company introduced a more advanced aircraft to its fleet, the Airbus EC 135 T2+, equipped with state-of-the-art avionics and twin Safran engines in a luxurious VVIP configuration. This marked the company's shift into more formal aviation services, culminating in the acquisition of a Non-Scheduled Operator Permit (NSOP) by 2014. With this permit, Ghodawat Aviation began offering exclusive VVIP charter services during crucial events like elections.

At the same time, the company expanded its capabilities with the introduction of the Airbus EC 130 T2, a helicopter specifically designed to operate at high altitudes. It became the first of its kind in India, playing a key role in transporting pilgrims to sacred destinations like Kedarnath and Badrinath. Recognized for its versatility and safety, Ghodawat Aviation earned accolades from Airbus for its commitment to excellence in operations.

A major turning point came in 2016, when Ghodawat Aviation set its sights on connecting the city of Kolhapur to other major cities in India. Under the leadership of Managing Director Shrenik Ghodawat, the company made the strategic decision to enter the commercial airline market. The Embraer 145 LR aircraft was chosen for its cost-effectiveness and reliability, and in the following years, Ghodawat Aviation acquired five of these aircraft to launch India's first regional airline under the brand STAR AIR.

STAR AIR, born with a mission to connect the often-





overlooked tier 2 and tier 3 cities of India, became an integral part of the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN). By focusing on "Connecting Real India," STAR AIR made air travel more affordable and accessible to people in underserved regions, bridging gaps between urban centres and rural areas. This initiative fostered regional connectivity and strengthened local economies, offering citizens in smaller towns a chance to experience the convenience of modern air travel.

The airline's early journey wasn't without challenges. Transitioning from being a Non-Scheduled Operator to a commercial airline required meticulous planning and compliance with stringent regulations. However, STAR AIR's leadership team, headed by CEO Capt. Simran Singh Tiwana, expertly navigated these hurdles. They built a strong foundation based on regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and customer trust.

The choice of Embraer aircraft, in particular, proved to be a game changer, enabling the airline to offer frequent, reliable services on routes larger airlines often ignored.

As STAR AIR expanded its route network, it adapted quickly to the market's changing dynamics. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the airline demonstrated resilience by pivoting to offer charter services, diversifying revenue streams, and maintaining operations during a period of uncertainty. This adaptability helped secure STAR AIR's position as a reliable player in India's aviation sector.

Innovation and operational efficiency remained at the core of STAR AIR's strategy. By expanding its fleet with the more advanced Embraer 175 LR, the airline accessed airports with shorter runways, increasing its ability to serve even more remote destinations.

**“During the COVID-19 pandemic, the airline demonstrated resilience by pivoting to offer charter services.”**





## In the Spotlight

STAR AIR's forward-thinking approach didn't stop at fleet expansion. The airline invested heavily in employee training and development, creating a motivated workforce committed to the airline's long-term success.

The chairman's passion for aviation extended beyond commercial operations; he also explored flying microlight aircraft and powered hang gliders, completing over 200 flying hours safely. His dedication to the skies reflected the same determination he showed in business, inspiring those around him to embrace leadership and perseverance. This passion for flying became a guiding principle for the company, emphasizing the importance of innovation and risk-taking.

Ghodawat Aviation's broader vision included creating comprehensive aviation training programs to prepare the next generation of aviation professionals. This commitment to continuous learning extended to mentoring aeronautical engineering students and offering hands-on experience through airport visits and On-Job Training (OJT). The company's aviation division, led by experienced professionals, aimed to foster innovation while maintaining the highest standards of safety and service.



**“STAR AIR's forward-thinking approach didn't stop at fleet expansion. The airline invested heavily in employee training and development, creating a motivated workforce committed to the airline's long-term success.”**

Today, STAR AIR continues to chart new courses with ambitious plans to grow its fleet to 50 aircraft and expand its network to over 100 destinations within the next decade. The airline's focus on regional connectivity remains unwavering, with future goals that include international operations and further expansion into the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) sector. By embracing sustainability and technological advancements, STAR AIR is poised to leave a lasting impact on India's aviation landscape.

From a single helicopter to a thriving regional airline, Ghodawat Aviation's journey reflects the Sanjay Ghodawat Group's relentless pursuit of excellence. With an eye towards the future, the company is committed to connecting more people, fostering innovation, and improving the lives of the communities it serves, both in India and beyond.★





# Star Air Celebrates Dussehra Across Its Airports







**INDIA'S NO.1  
NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER**



**THE PERFECT PARTY DRINK**

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# Celebrating Our Star Performers



## VAIBHAV GURAV

### Sr. Customer Service Executive - Belagavi Airport

- Vaibhav Gurav has been with Star Air for five years and is known for his honesty, dedication, and punctuality in completing tasks.
- Vaibhav maintains a spotless record with no complaints and handles customers calmly and politely.
- Vaibhav has built a strong rapport with internal and external agencies, aiding Star Air's administrative and operational needs.
- Vaibhav effectively manages customer situations during IROP, making him a valuable asset to the Belagavi station.

## NAWAZ SHARIFF

### Technical Officer - Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization

- Nawaz Shariff joined Star Air as a Junior Technical Officer in the Technical Records Department in January 2023. He quickly demonstrated exceptional skill and commitment to excellence.
- Nawaz's impressive performance led to a promotion to Technical Officer in the Planning Department, where he now manages aircraft maintenance planning and ensures regulatory compliance.
- Nawaz actively participates in inter-departmental initiatives, showcasing a collaborative approach that aligns with Star Air's organizational objectives.
- Nawaz is a key member of Star Air's team, and the company looks forward to his continued growth and contributions in the future.★





# A Winter Wonderland

## IN THE HIMALAYAS

As the air turns crisp and the landscape transform into snow-covered paradises, the Himalayas emerge as a winter wonderland, offering travellers an enchanting experience in the heart of nature. The mighty ranges of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir beckon those seeking adventure, tranquillity, and the magic of winter.

### 1. Manali: A Snow-Lover's Dream

**Manali**, one of India's most beloved hill stations, becomes a winter wonderland as snow blankets its pine forests and mountain vistas. Nestled in the heart of Himachal Pradesh, this charming town offers a blend of adventure, relaxation, and breathtaking scenery. Manali's winter appeal lies in its balance between thrilling snow activities and the tranquil beauty of snow-covered landscapes.

**Highlights:** Solang Valley, located just a short drive from Manali, is the ultimate destination for snow sports enthusiasts. Skiing and snowboarding down its pristine slopes is a must-do activity, while those seeking an adrenaline rush can try paragliding or snowmobiling. For a more relaxed experience, a walk through Old Manali's quaint streets lined with wooden houses, offering views of snow-capped peaks, is ideal for soaking in the winter charm.

**Don't Miss:** A trip to **Rohtang Pass**, if weather permits, is a highlight for any traveller to Manali. The pass offers mesmerizing panoramic views of the Pir Panjal range, with thick snow carpeting the landscape. Witnessing a sunset here, where the golden hues reflect off the snow, creates a picture-perfect winter memory.



### 2. Shimla: Colonial Charm in the Snow

**Shimla**, the capital of Himachal Pradesh, is a town steeped in history and charm. During the winter, its colonial architecture, bustling streets, and surrounding hills come alive under a fresh layer of snow. Shimla's mix of natural beauty and historical significance makes it a top winter destination for those looking to combine cultural exploration with scenic beauty.

**Highlights:** The town's famous **Mall Road** becomes a hive of activity during winter, with locals and tourists alike strolling past snow-covered rooftops and enjoying local treats. Shimla also boasts the only open-air ice skating rink in India, which comes alive in December, offering a unique opportunity for winter sports. For those wanting to explore the town's history, Shimla's colonial buildings, including **Christ Church** and the **Viceregal Lodge**, take on an added charm when dusted with snow.

**Don't Miss:** A ride on the **Kalka-Shimla toy train** during December is a must. This UNESCO World Heritage Site winds through tunnels, forests, and valleys, offering an unforgettable journey through snow-clad landscapes. The train ride, with its stunning views of snow-laden pine trees and mountain peaks, provides a unique glimpse into Shimla's winter magic.





### 3. Gulmarg: Kashmir's Winter Paradise

For those dreaming of a quintessential snowy retreat, **Gulmarg** in Jammu & Kashmir offers an unmatched winter experience. Famous for its stunning landscapes and world-class skiing, this alpine resort town is ideal for those looking to dive into winter sports or simply revel in the snow-covered beauty of the Himalayas. Gulmarg's serene, snow-blanketed valleys make it one of the most picturesque winter destinations in India.

**Highlights:** Known as one of Asia's premier ski resorts, Gulmarg attracts adventurers from all over the world. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned skier, the town's well-groomed slopes offer an exhilarating experience. The **Gulmarg Gondola**, one of the highest cable cars in the world, takes you to breathtaking heights, offering panoramic views of the snow-draped landscape. Off the slopes, visitors can explore the snowy meadows on snowshoe treks or simply relax in cozy mountain lodges.

**Don't Miss:** A cup of traditional **Kahwa tea** in the middle of a snowy day is an experience that shouldn't be missed. For a more immersive winter experience, stay at a **heritage hotel**, where the warmth of wood fires and the rustic charm of old-world interiors provide a perfect contrast to the icy chill outside.



### 5. Mussoorie: The Queen of the Hills in White

Perched in Uttarakhand, **Mussoorie** is known as the "Queen of the Hills," and it lives up to its title, especially during winter. The town, with its colonial heritage and scenic views, transforms into a snow-kissed paradise, making it a perfect retreat for those looking for a blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. Winter in Mussoorie is all about quiet walks, cozy cafes, and breathtaking views of the snow-clad Himalayas.

**Highlights:** Mussoorie's famous **Camel's Back Road** is a favorite for winter walks, offering stunning views of snow-covered pine trees and distant peaks. Visitors can also explore **Landour**, a quaint cantonment area, where colonial architecture, small cafes, and serene surroundings make for a perfect winter escape. The views from **Gun Hill**, the second-highest point in Mussoorie, are particularly enchanting, with a panorama of the snow-covered Doon Valley below.

**Don't Miss:** A visit to **Kempty Falls** in winter offers a unique sight. The usually gushing waterfall takes on a frozen beauty, surrounded by snow. While the area is much quieter in winter, its frozen form offers a serene and less crowded experience of one of Mussoorie's top attractions.★



### 4. Auli: The Skiing Capital of India

**Auli**, tucked away in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, is known as India's premier skiing destination. With its well-groomed slopes, stunning views of the surrounding Himalayan peaks, and cold, crisp air, Auli is perfect for winter sports lovers and those looking to enjoy the serenity of snow-covered mountains. This hidden gem offers not just skiing but also unparalleled vistas of iconic mountains like Nanda Devi.

**Highlights:** Auli is best known for its skiing facilities, which cater to beginners and experts alike. The town's well-maintained slopes are surrounded by dense oak and deodar forests, adding to its scenic charm. **Auli Cable Car**, one of the longest in Asia, offers visitors a ride above the snow-covered valley, providing awe-inspiring views of the peaks. Even non-skiers can enjoy Auli's winter beauty by taking leisurely walks or treks through the forested trails.

**Don't Miss:** The view from the **Auli Ropeway** is one of the most spectacular experiences in the region. The cable car ride provides a bird's-eye view of the snowy expanse, with the majestic Nanda Devi peak dominating the skyline. Make sure to capture the sight of the sun setting over the Himalayas, as it paints the snow in shades of orange and pink.







# On A Lighter Note

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



**Why don't planes ever get lost?**

Because even the sky has a GPS!



**Why do planes always stay on schedule?**

They wing it!



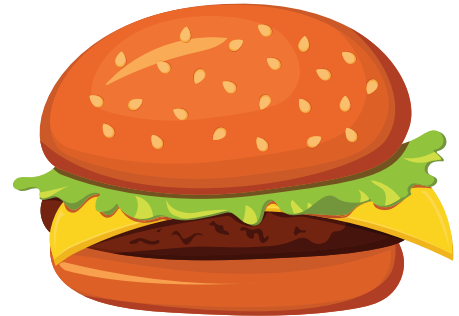
**Why did the airplane bring a backpack on vacation?**

Because it wanted to carry-on having fun!



**Why are flight attendants so good at poker?**

Because they know when to fold and when to hold!



**Why don't they serve fast food on airplanes?**

Because you wouldn't want to get a plane cheeseburger.



**Why did the airplane break up with the helicopter?**

It felt like the relationship was just too turbulent.



# Connecting Real India



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



# Flavours of Festivity

## Christmas Yule Log

### Ingredients

- **For the cake:**
  - o ¾ cup all-purpose flour
  - o ½ cup cocoa powder
  - o 1 teaspoon baking powder
  - o 4 large eggs
  - o ¾ cup sugar
  - o 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - o Pinch of salt
  - o Powdered sugar for dusting
- **For the filling and frosting:**
  - o 1 ½ cups heavy whipping cream
  - o ¼ cup powdered sugar
  - o 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - o ½ cup chocolate chips, melted

### Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Line a jelly roll pan (10x15 inches) with parchment paper and lightly grease it.
2. In a bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt.
3. Beat the eggs and sugar in another bowl until thick and pale. Add vanilla extract. Gently fold in the dry ingredients.
4. Pour the batter onto the prepared pan and spread evenly. Bake for 10-12 minutes.
5. Turn the cake onto a clean kitchen towel dusted with powdered sugar. Roll the cake up with the towel and let it cool completely.
6. For the filling, beat heavy cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla until stiff peaks form. Unroll the cooled cake, spread the cream, and roll it back up.
7. For frosting, mix melted chocolate with whipped cream and spread it over the rolled cake. Use a fork to create a log-like texture. Dust with powdered sugar and serve.



## Gingerbread Cookies

### Ingredients:

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup molasses
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 tablespoon milk (plant-based works too)
- Icing and sprinkles for decorating

### Preparation:

1. In a bowl, whisk together flour, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and salt.
2. In another bowl, cream the butter and brown sugar until fluffy. Add molasses and milk, and mix until combined.
3. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture and form a dough.
4. Wrap the dough in a plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour.
5. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Roll out the dough to ¼-inch thickness and cut out shapes using cookie cutters.
6. Place the cookies on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake for 8-10 minutes.
7. Once cooled, decorate with icing and sprinkles.★





# Spices, Tradition, and Taste

## A CULINARY JOURNEY ACROSS REGIONS

India's vast and diverse culinary landscape offers an incredible variety of dishes, each reflecting the unique culture, climate, and traditions of its diverse regions. From the streets of the bustling cities to the rural kitchens of the countryside, Indian vegetarian cuisine is a rich tapestry of flavours, spices, and textures.

Text by **SCOTT DSOUZA**

### Dal Baati Churma:

A traditional Rajasthani dish, **Dal Baati Churma** is a combination of three elements: **dal** (spiced lentils), **baati** (baked wheat dumplings), and **churma** (a sweet, crumbly dessert). The baati is dipped in ghee and eaten with the hearty dal, while churma adds a sweet finish to the meal. This rustic dish, deeply connected to Rajasthan's desert heritage, is rich, filling, and packed with flavour.



### Aloo Posto:

A simple yet flavourful dish from Bengal, **Aloo Posto** is made from potatoes cooked in a poppy seed paste. The creamy texture of the poppy seeds combined with green chilies and mustard oil gives this dish its distinct flavour. Served with rice, this comforting and mildly spiced dish is a favourite in Bengali households and is known for its unique texture and taste.



### Sarson Ka Saag and Makki Ki Roti:

While the northern state of Punjab is known for its rich, hearty dishes, the vegetarian favourite is **Sarson Ka Saag** and **Makki Ki Roti**. **Sarson ka saag** is a thick, green curry made from mustard leaves, spinach, and other leafy greens, spiced and slow-cooked to perfection. It's traditionally paired with **makki ki roti**, a flatbread made from cornmeal, and served with a dollop of butter or ghee. This dish is especially popular during winter months and is a celebration of seasonal produce.



### Masala Dosa:

**Masala Dosa** is a crispy, golden-brown rice and lentil crepe filled with a spiced potato mixture, served with tangy sambar and coconut chutney. This South Indian classic is a breakfast favourite but can be enjoyed at any time of the day. The dosa's thin, crunchy texture perfectly complements the flavourful filling, making it a beloved dish across India and beyond.



### Bisi Bele Bath :

A traditional dish from Karnataka, **Bisi Bele Bath** is a one-pot meal made from rice, lentils, and vegetables, cooked together with a flavourful spice mix. The name literally means "hot lentil rice," and it's a perfect example of comfort food, often served with ghee, papad, or raita. The blend of tangy, spicy, and slightly sweet flavours makes this dish a favorite in South Indian homes.



### Pani Puri :

A celebrated street food snack across India, **Pani Puri** consists of crispy, hollow puris filled with spicy, tangy tamarind water and mashed potatoes or chickpeas. Also known as **golgappa** or **puchka** in different regions, each bite of pani puri is an explosion of flavours. This snack is often enjoyed at roadside stalls, where it's served fresh and customized to taste.



### Pav Bhaji :

Hailing from the streets of Mumbai, **Pav Bhaji** is a hearty vegetable mash cooked with tomatoes, peas, potatoes, and a special blend of spices, served with buttered pav (bread roll). The spiced, buttery bhaji (vegetable curry) is bursting with flavours and is often topped with onions, coriander, and a squeeze of lemon. This iconic street food has gained popularity across India and is now a household favourite for dinner or a quick snack.



### Vangi Bath :

**Vangi Bath** is a flavourful rice dish made with brinjal (eggplant), spices, and tamarind. This Karnataka specialty combines cooked rice with a special masala blend and sautéed eggplant, resulting in a tangy and spicy rice dish. Often garnished with peanuts or coconut, Vangi Bath is a popular lunch option, typically enjoyed with yogurt or raita. ★







1. Which 2023 movie stars Shah Rukh Khan as a vigilante who fights against corruption, and features him in a double role?
2. In *Pathaan* (2023), Shah Rukh Khan stars as an Indian spy. Which actress plays the role of a Pakistani agent opposite him?
3. Which biographical sports drama released in 2023 is based on the life of cricketer Mithali Raj, with Taapsee Pannu in the lead role?
4. *Satyaprem Ki Katha* (2023) stars Kartik Aaryan and which popular Bollywood actress in the lead roles?
5. The 2023 film *Bholaa*, an action-packed remake of a Tamil hit, stars which actor in the lead role and is also directed by him?

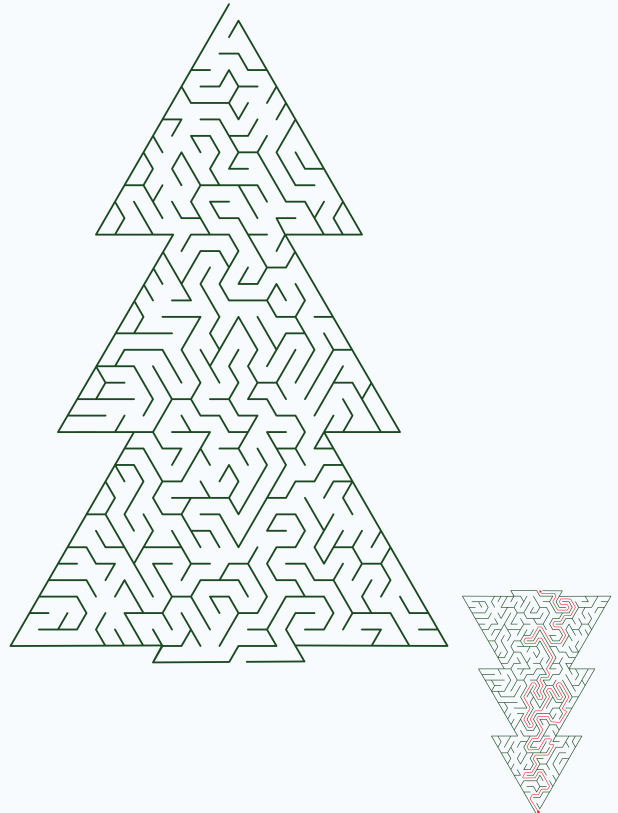
**Solutions:** 1. Jawan, 2. Deepika Padukone, 3. Shabbaash Mithu, 4. Kiara Advani, 5. Ajay Devgn

### Sudoku

			6	7	2		8	5
	2	7	5			3	9	6
		8						
	5	9	1	6		2	3	
						9		8
3		6		9		1	5	
	3						7	
1		4		5	7	6	2	3
6			3	2				1

6	7	5	3	2	9	8	4	1
1	9	4	8	5	7	6	2	3
8	3	2	4	1	6	5	7	9
3	8	6	2	9	4	1	5	7
2	4	1	7	3	5	9	6	8
7	5	9	1	6	8	2	3	4
5	6	8	9	4	3	7	1	2
4	2	7	5	8	1	3	9	6
9	1	3	6	7	2	4	8	5

### Christmas Tree Maze



### Word Unscramble

tnmaOre, ktigonSc,  
erdeniRe, tlisMeoet, sloCra

**Solutions:** Ornament, Stocking, Reindeer, Mistletoe, Carols





Made with 100%  
real fruits & veggies

NO  
PALM  
OIL



~ Honestly Delicious ~

50% LESS FAT THAN  
REGULAR CHIPS



GLUTEN FREE



HIGH NUTRIENT  
CONTENT

VACUUM COOKED | NOT DEEP FRIED

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## BEVERAGE

₹120



₹150



₹120



Paper Boat

₹200



Coolberg

₹100



Hot Beverages

## SNACK FOOD



Mr Makhana /  
TBH Spiced Okra /  
TBH Golden Sweet Potato

₹200

## TEMPTATIONS

₹150



Salted Almonds

₹150



Caramel Cashewnuts

₹150



Salted Cashewnuts

₹100



Star Air Cookies

₹150



Pepper Cashewnuts

₹150



Power Crunch  
Muesli

₹300



Cup Noodles

## LIGHT MEAL

₹200



Rava Upma

₹200



Vegetable Poha

## HEAVY MEAL

₹300



Vegetable Biryani /  
Bisibele Bhat

\* All menu items are subject to availability  
[www.starair.in](http://www.starair.in)





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**Pleasant Experience**

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