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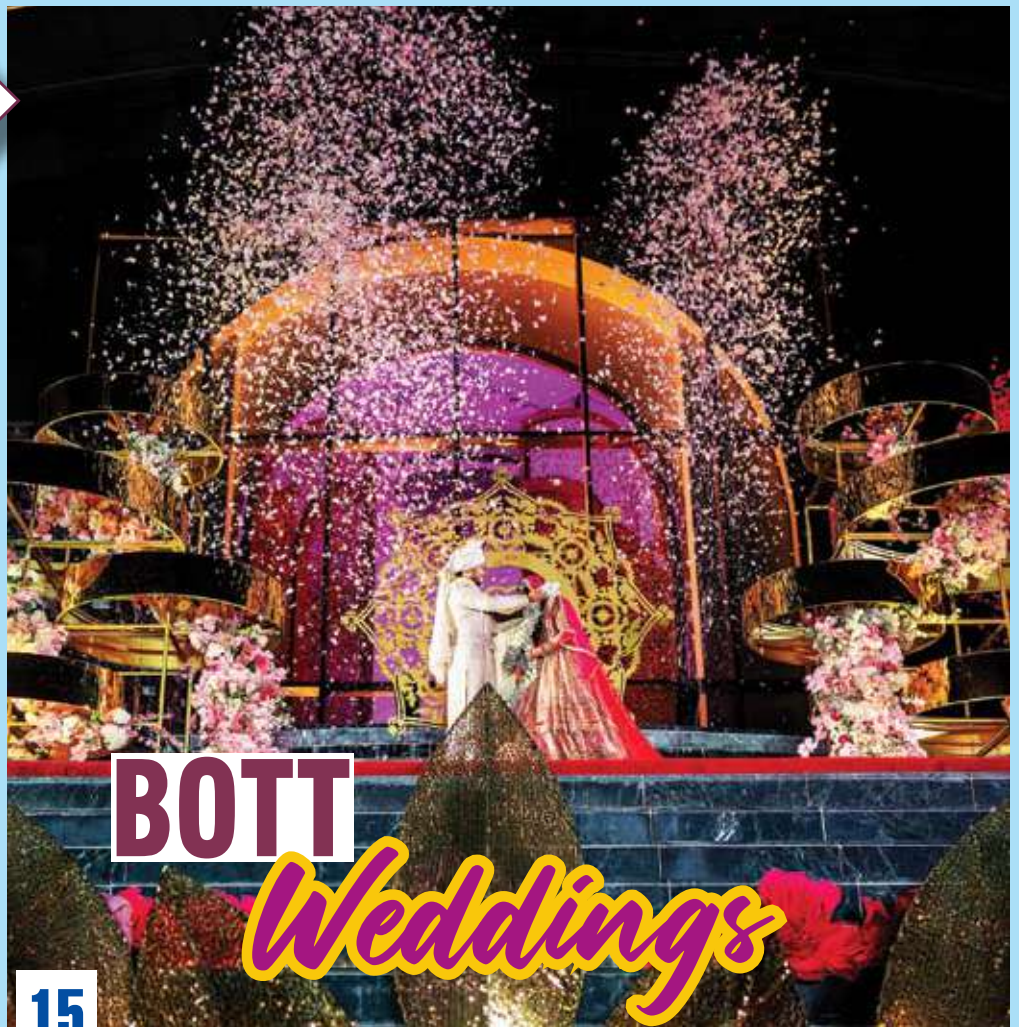
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This special issue is dedicated to the grandeur and charm of Indian weddings, celebrated with unmatched fervour and splendour. We are thrilled to feature exclusive interviews with eight of India's leading wedding planners. Our cover story takes you on a vibrant journey through some of India's most sought-after wedding destinations. For those dreaming of a destination wedding abroad, we have curated a list of the leading international locales that are becoming the preferred choices for lavish Indian weddings.

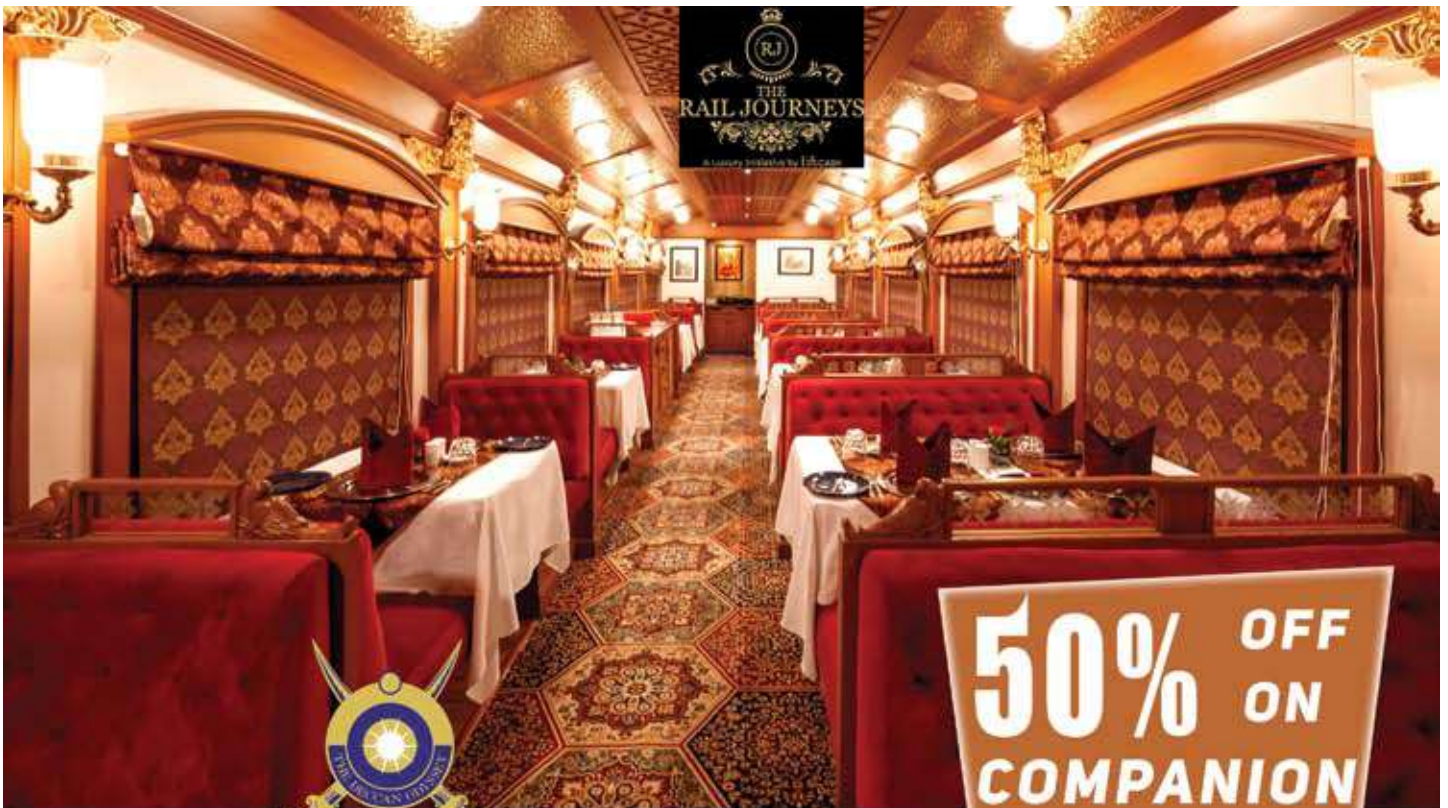
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From the

*Editor's  
Desk*

Dear Readers,

**W**elcome to the August edition of BOTT India, where we delve into the mesmerizing world of weddings! This special issue is dedicated to the grandeur and charm of Indian weddings, celebrated with unmatched fervour and splendour.

We are thrilled to feature exclusive interviews with eight of India's leading wedding planners. These experts share invaluable insights into the evolving preferences and expectations of couples when it comes to selecting hotels and venues. Their expertise sheds light on the latest trends, ensuring that your special day is nothing short of perfection.

Our cover story takes you on a vibrant journey through some of India's most sought-after wedding destinations. From the bustling streets of Mumbai to the regal palaces of Rajasthan and the serene beaches of Goa, we highlight the unique appeal each location offers, making every wedding a truly memorable affair.

For those dreaming of a destination wedding abroad, we have curated a list of the leading international locales that are becoming the preferred choices for lavish Indian weddings. Discover the opulence of Thailand, the cultural richness of Turkiye, the luxury of Qatar, and the idyllic beauty of Mauritius and Seychelles. We also showcase some of the most unique and ultra-luxurious hotels perfect for hosting your grand celebration.

In addition to our wedding features, this issue presents a general mix of event coverage and insightful interviews, keeping you updated on the latest happenings in the travel and events industry.

We hope this edition inspires you and provides all the information you need to plan an unforgettable wedding.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**  
Editor, BOTT India  
priyanka@bottindia.com

# EXPLORE TAIWAN

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交通部觀光署  
Tourism Administration, MOTC

## Sartha Global appointed India Rep for Louisiana Office of Tourism

The Louisiana Office of Tourism, the official travel authority for the state of Louisiana in the USA, has appointed Sartha Global Marketing LLP as its representative office in India. Sartha has been assigned to develop and implement comprehensive travel trade and public relations programs to inspire Indian travellers, enhancing their interest in exploring Louisiana.



## 'The Boutique Collection' by Outbound Marketing appointed India Rep for Clinique La Prairie

'The Boutique Collection' by Outbound Marketing is pleased to announce its appointment as the Indian representative for Clinique La Prairie, located in the stunning Swiss Alps. Clinique La Prairie offers Health & Longevity programs based on a unique holistic approach. This partnership marks a significant milestone in Clinique La Prairie's expansion into India market.

## Neptune Hotels partners with Ace Connect to expand presence in Indian market

Neptune Hotels has partnered with Ace Connect as their dedicated sales and marketing wing in the Indian market. Ace Connect, with its deep understanding of the Indian travel industry and a proven track record in tourism consulting, will spearhead Neptune Hotels' marketing and sales campaigns in India while inviting Indian travel enthusiasts to explore its luxurious accommodations.



## Auxilia Networks announces partnership with Big Bus Tours

Indian tourism consultancy firm Auxilia Networks has been appointed as exclusive India representative for the iconic global hop-on hop-off bus tour brand, Big Bus Tours Group. Auxilia will promote the Big Bus portfolio of open-top sightseeing bus tours in over 25 of the world's most popular cities across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific.

## ITC Hotels announces opening of Welcomhotel Belagavi, Karnataka

ITC Hotels announced the opening of its 25th property under the distinguished Brand Welcomhotel. Spanning an expanse of over 5 acres and conveniently located near the airport, this new property features 116 well-appointed rooms, each with step-out balconies offering serene views of the surrounding landscape. The hotel caters to both leisure and MICE travellers.



## Wyndham Garden Hotel Gwalior set to open in 2025

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts has partnered with The Adityaz Hotels to open a world-class Wyndham Garden Hotel at Airport Road in Gwalior. The new hotel will have about 90 rooms along with All Day Dining & Bar Lounge, Meeting Rooms, Banquet Halls, Lawns, Business Centre, Fitness Centre, Swimming Pool. The hotel is expected to open in 2025.



## Maldivian goes live on Amadeus GDS and joins BSP India

Maldivian has announced a significant advancement in its distribution network through a strategic partnership with Amadeus Global Distribution System (Amadeus GDS). Effective July 25, 2024, Maldivian has joined IATA's Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP) in the Indian market, alongside Amadeus GDS. Sales for all IATA-accredited BSP travel agents will be opened from August 14, 2024.



## Thailand announces extension of Visa and longer stays

Thailand has announced new visa measures including 60-day visa exemption and Visa on Arrival (VOA) schemes, Destination Thailand Visa (DTV), and student visas, which takes effect from 15 July 2024. Thailand will grant visa exemption for nationals of 93 countries and territories including India. Thus, visa exemption for Indians has been extended beyond November 2024 till further notice.

## Air India Express adds Agartala to its network

Air India Express announces the expansion of its network to Tripura, introducing daily direct flights connecting Agartala to Guwahati/Delhi and Kolkata. The operations on these routes will commence on September 1, 2024 and the flights are now open for booking on the airline's mobile app and website, [airindiaexpress.com](http://airindiaexpress.com) and other major booking channels.



## Vistara to offer complimentary Wi-Fi onboard international flights

Vistara now offers 20 minutes of complimentary Wi-Fi internet connectivity onboard international flights, operated using its Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and Airbus A321neo aircraft, across all the three cabins. This service allows customers to receive one-time passwords via email, facilitating the purchase of extended in-flight Wi-Fi services during the active session.

## Saudia ranks first worldwide in On-time Departure & Arrival performance

Saudia has topped the list of global airlines for on-time performance, according to a report by the independent aviation tracking site Cirium for June 2024. The report indicates that Saudia achieved an on-time arrival rate of 88.22% and an on-time departure rate of 88.73%, operating 16,133 flights across its network of over 100 destinations on four continents.



## IndiGo enhances connectivity from Hyderabad and Ahmedabad

IndiGo has announced 10 daily direct flights to increase domestic connectivity from Hyderabad and Ahmedabad in September 2024. There are now daily direct flights between Hyderabad and Hirasar, from Sep 16. Hyderabad-Udaipur from Sep 1; Hyderabad-Jodhpur from Sep 3 and additional frequencies on Ahmedabad-Amritsar from Sep 16; Ahmedabad-Bhubaneswar from Sep 17.

# MP Tourism & IATO

## gearing up for a grand Annual Convention in Bhopal

Recently, a curtain-raiser event was held in New Delhi on July 24, 2024 to highlight the initiatives of the 39<sup>th</sup> IATO (Indian Association of Tour Operators) Annual Convention, which is scheduled to take place from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. With the participation of 1000 delegates including stakeholders, TA-TOs and other dignitaries in this convention from all over the country, the expectation is a surge in the number of domestic and foreign tourists arriving in Madhya Pradesh, it will surely help local tourism and allied activities of the state.

### BOTT DESK



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr Mohan Yadav will inaugurate the IATO Annual Convention on August 30, 2024 at Taj Lakefront as told by Principal Secretary Culture and Tourism and Managing Director Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla during the event at The Lalit, New Delhi. The theme of the convention is 'Resurgent India Inbound.'

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and many state tourism departments will participate in the convention. Rajendra Shukla Deputy Chief Minister and Jagdish Devda, Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Dharmendra Bhav Singh Lodhi Minister of State (Independent Charge) Culture, Tourism, Religious Trust and Endowment Madhya Pradesh will mark the event with their auspicious presence. Madhya Pradesh is home to 12 national parks,

25 sanctuaries, 7 tiger reserves, and 14 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (11 tentative and 3 permanent sites). The aim is to further boost awareness of current tourist attractions & curate new experiences and unexplored destinations through channel partners in international markets through the IATO convention.

Principal Secretary Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla said Madhya Pradesh is all set to host the 39th IATO Convention in Bhopal and highlight the state's tourism offerings. Madhya Pradesh is an offbeat multispecialty destination of first choice for many travellers. 112.1 million tourists visited the state in 2023, up from 34.1 million in 2022. Deep spiritual and religious tourism experiences are also increasingly popular in Madhya Pradesh. IATO will be a platform to discover the state's hidden gems and develop new

tour itineraries, particularly focusing on spiritual and heritage destinations.

Run for Responsible Tourism on September 1, 2024.

Additional Managing Director Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board Ms Bidisha Mukherjee said that Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board is planning 10 post-convention FAM tours during the IATO convention to showcase and promote vivid facets of the state by providing first-hand experience for TA-TOs. Heritage walks and IATO Run for Responsible Tourism around Bhopal to bring offbeat destinations to the limelight. The Managing Director MPSTDC Ilayaraja T, President IATO Rajiv Mehra, Vice President IATO Ravi Gosain, and Chairman IATO Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh Chapter Mahendra Pratap Singh, and other delegates also attended the curtain raiser. ■

# IndiGo celebrates 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary with new Business Class and IndiGo stretch launch

*IndiGo's 18th anniversary was recently celebrated at the iconic Bharat Mandapam, ITPO Delhi, with an audience comprising dignitaries across the travel community, partners, investors, the financial community, and IndiGo's leadership. IndiGo celebrated its 18th anniversary by making a series of groundbreaking announcements to enhance customer experience and expand its domestic and international footprint.*

**Pallavi Sharma**

On the occasion, IndiGo announced the launch of its much-awaited loyalty program, 'IndiGo BluChip,' designed to reward its loyal customers with BluChips on IndiGo flights. Complementing these advancements, IndiGo has revamped its website and mobile application to deliver a seamless and user-friendly interface.

In a move to elevate the comfort and functionality of its A321neo business cabins, IndiGo has partnered with RECARO Aircraft Seating to equip its upcoming aircraft with the award-winning R5 seats. These seats, known for their advanced comfort and ergonomic design, feature a 38-inch pitch and lightweight construction. Additionally, the A321neo aircraft will feature RECARO R2 seats in economy class.

A total of 45 shipsets have been ordered, with each A321neo aircraft featuring 12 business class seats and 208 economy class seats. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in Q4 2024, with all business class installations expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Mr. Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo, remarked, "IndiGo is embarking on an additional new path of its incredible growth story by introducing this year a tailor-made business product on the nation's busiest and business routes. We are always proud



to work with world-class, long-standing partners to deliver a product that really stands out. For our business product, the seat choice for RECARO's seat is a great fit to deliver our customers such a new experience of business travel in India matching the needs of evolving India and our customers."

IndiGo also unveiled details of IndiGo Stretch, a tailor-made business product designed for India's busiest and business routes. With a coupe-style, 2-seat wide bay, IndiGo Stretch promises a relaxed and comfortable journey. The seats, which have a spacious pitch of 38 inches and a width of 21.3 inches, are equipped with a six-way adjustable headrest, 5-inch deep recline, electronic device holder, 60-watt USB-Type C power supply, and a three-pin universal power outlet. ■

# ICPB opens West Bengal Chapter under PPP module with West Bengal Govt



The India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB) and West Bengal Tourism organized a fam trip to Kolkata from July 25-27, 2024, to highlight MICE tourism opportunities. The event featured venue tours, interactive sessions, and the launch of ICPB's Kolkata chapter, fostering collaboration between industry stakeholders and government officials.

The delegation comprised 18 ICPB members, including Amaresh Tiwari, Vice Chairman of ICPB, Chander Mansharamani, Honorary Secretary of ICPB, and Saurabh Bhargava, Treasurer of ICPB, along with other senior members and industry stakeholders. This three-day tour focused on covering all dimensions of MICE tourism in Kolkata.

Upon their arrival in Kolkata, the delegation received a warm welcome from West Bengal Tourism before heading to Eco Park in New Town. Eco Park, one of the greenest open spaces in Kolkata, spans an area of 194 hectares (480 acres) and includes a 42-hectare (100 acres) water body with an island. The park, ideated by Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee and developed by the West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO), features many attractions.

The second day of the trip was dedicated to exploring some of the finest MICE venues in Bengal, such as Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium, Alipore and Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan.

The final day was marked by an engaging interactive session organised by West Bengal Tourism. Senior officials from West Bengal Tourism, HIDCO, and ICPB delegates participated in one-on-one interactions, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration between industry stakeholders in MICE tourism and government officials. The event concluded with a significant milestone: the signing of an MoU between ICPB and West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (WBTDCL) and the launch of the Kolkata chapter of ICPB. This new chapter will serve as a vital connector between the state and the association, leading to a more seamless business environment. ■

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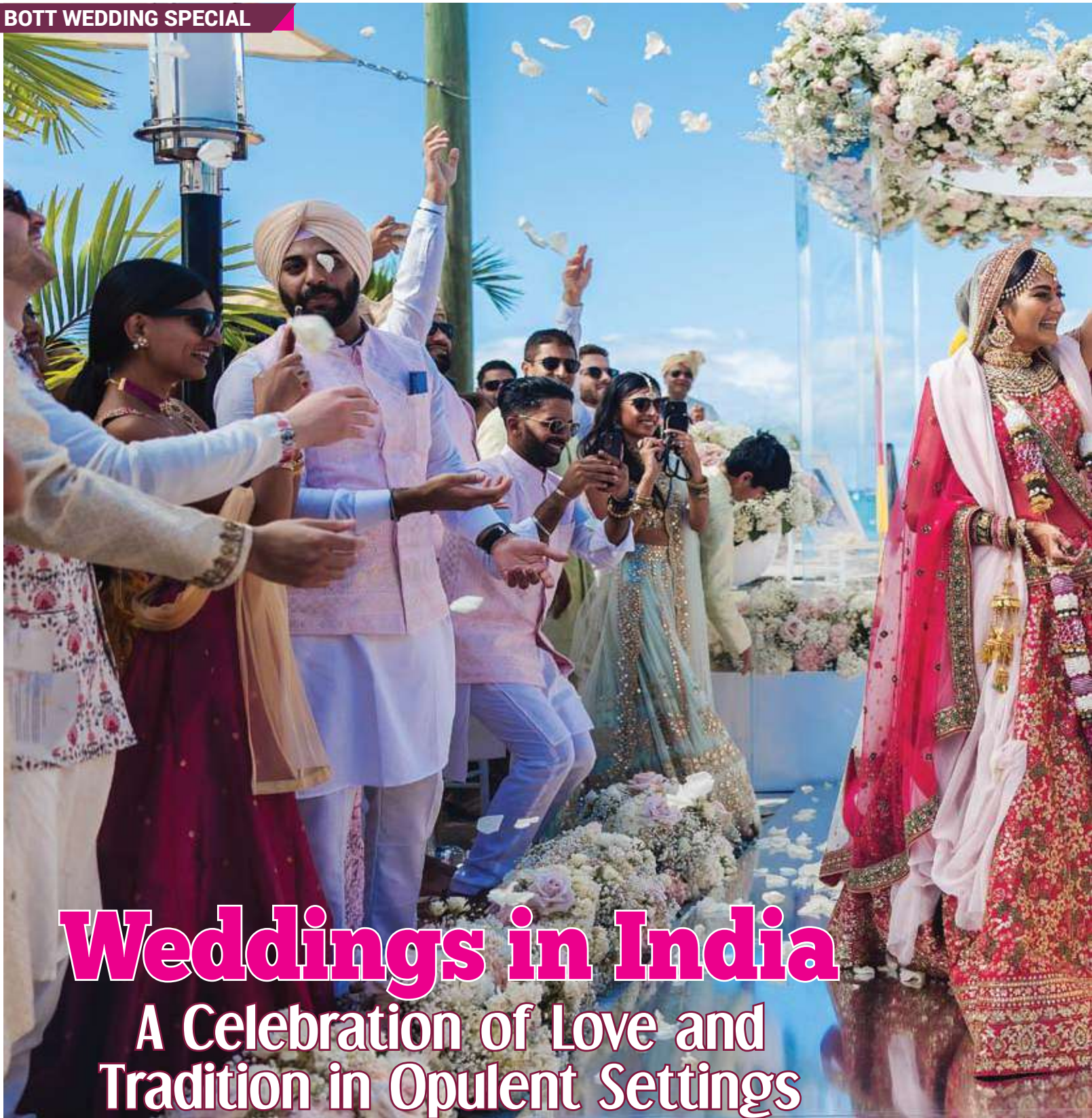
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## *Weddings*



**Chetan Vohra**

Guest Editor, BOTT  
Weddings Special Issue



# Weddings in India

## A Celebration of Love and Tradition in Opulent Settings

*India, a land of diverse cultures, stunning landscapes, and rich traditions, offers an array of mesmerising locations perfect for celebrating weddings. From the regal palaces of Rajasthan to the serene backwaters of Kerala, each destination provides a unique and unforgettable backdrop for the most special day of your life. Here's a glimpse into five of the most popular cities for weddings in India, each offering its own charm and splendour.*

**Compiled by Priyanka Saxena Ray, Shreya Shimpi, Anjali Pokhriyal, Pallavi Sharma**

**D**elhi, India's capital territory, is a vast metropolis that offers the best of everything—history, monuments, hotels, food, shopping, and some of the finest wedding venues in the country. Whether you envision a grand celebration in a five-star ballroom or an intimate gathering in a sprawling garden, Delhi has it all. This vibrant city is not only a shopper's paradise but also a dream destination for couples looking to tie the knot in an urban setting. From luxurious



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venues to expert wedding planners, Delhi provides an array of options to make your wedding truly unforgettable.

## Why Choose Delhi for Your Wedding

Delhi caters to all wedding preferences, whether you desire a cozy, intimate celebration or a lavish, extravagant affair. The city is brimming with professional wedding planners and

agencies that offer customized packages to suit your budget and preferences. Delhi's diverse venues and experienced event organizers ensure your wedding day is seamless and memorable.

Moreover, Delhi offers a plethora of picturesque locations for wedding photos, from bustling streets and serene gardens to vibrant markets and historic monuments. A destination wedding in Delhi also allows you and your guests to indulge in the city's sumptuous cuisine,

adding a delectable touch to your celebrations.

## Top Wedding Venues in Delhi

### The Umrao, New Delhi

The Umrao is a regal venue spread over six acres along the highway, offering a variety of banquet options and luxurious rooms for guest accommodation.



Pic Courtesy: White Frog Productions



Pic Courtesy: White Frog Productions

### The Leela Palace, Chanakyapuri

Located in a prime city spot, The Leela Palace boasts magnificent architecture and offers banquets covering over 21,000 square feet, as well as an outdoor lawn for those preferring an open-air wedding.

### Hyatt Regency

Known as one of Delhi's top luxury hotels, Hyatt Regency can accommodate over 2000 guests in its Regency Ballroom, Oval Room, and Living Rooms, making it an excellent choice for both wedding and pre-wedding functions.

### Tivoli Garden Resort

Situated on the lively Chhatarpur road, Tivoli Garden Resort offers grand spaces and top-notch amenities, with multi-purpose halls and an open lawn to host large gatherings.

### ITC Maurya, New Delhi

Inspired by the Mughal dynasty, ITC Maurya combines traditional architecture with modern amenities, offering spacious ballrooms, banquet halls, and an outdoor lawn in the diplomatic area of Central Delhi.

### Taj Palace

Taj Palace is renowned for hosting state-of-the-art weddings, offering a variety of venues with ballrooms that can accommodate between 40 to over

1000 guests, ensuring an option for every type of wedding.

### Le Meridien, New Delhi

Le Meridien reinterprets the traditional hotel lobby into a social hub, offering over 20,200 square feet of event space that includes six meeting rooms, two ballrooms, and a boardroom for unique wedding settings.

### JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity

With 511 stylish accommodations and an event space that can host between 700 to 1400 people, JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity is ideal for large celebrations, featuring the Grand Crystal Ballroom and attentive staff to ensure a flawless event.

### Other Notable Venues

Other esteemed wedding venues in Delhi includes Eros Hotel New Delhi Nehru Place, The ITC Hotel New Delhi, Roseate House Aerocity, Jaypee Vasant Continental, Sheraton Saket, Welcomhotel Dwarka, The LaLiT New Delhi, Novotel Aerocity, and The Claridges New Delhi.

### City of Dreams – Mumbai

Mumbai, often referred to as the 'City of Dreams', offers a picturesque coastline overlooking the Arabian Sea, rich culture, delectable food, unparalleled

hospitality, excellent service, and superb connectivity. This vibrant city provides an idyllic backdrop, making any wedding truly memorable. Here is a list of the best wedding destinations in Mumbai, catering to all budget ranges. With beachfront properties, seven-star hotels, spacious lawns, and elegant banquet halls, Mumbai offers something for every budget, making it one of the most sought-after wedding destinations. Some popular venues are –

### Jio World Convention Centre

Located in the heart of Mumbai at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), the Jio World Convention Centre is one of the finest wedding destinations in India. It features two convention halls, one ballroom, and twenty-five meeting rooms and suites. Known for its incredible culinary experiences, commitment to sustainability, strategic connectivity, and ample parking facilities with over 5000 spaces, the centre seamlessly blends state-of-the-art technology with spectacular design. The Grand Ballroom, a venue for high-profile weddings, is perfect for bespoke celebrations, with award-winning chefs and experienced staff ensuring a memorable event.

### The Taj Mahal Palace, Colaba

Overlooking the Gateway of India and the Arabian Sea, the Taj Mahal





Palace epitomizes luxury and excellence. Catering to illustrious guests, royalty, and dignitaries, this luxurious haven is among the most exotic wedding destinations in Mumbai. Sophisticated venues include the pillar-less Crystal Room, the exquisite Ballroom, the rooftop Rendezvous, and the Golden Room for intimate weddings.

### Hotel Sahara Star

Located next to the Mumbai Domestic Airport, Hotel Sahara Star offers luxury and opulence for your dream wedding. The Sahara Sapphire, Mumbai's largest pillar-less event hall, can accommodate 2500 guests. With various small and large halls available, this iconic venue features remarkable design, sumptuous food, and extraordinary service, making it one of Mumbai's most sought-after wedding destinations.

### ITC Grand Central

Celebrating old-world Victorian charm, ITC Grand Central in Parel offers diverse indoor and outdoor venues for a picture-perfect wedding. The stunning pillar-less ballroom can accommodate up to 450 guests, providing breathtaking city views, award-winning cuisine, and luxurious accommodations.

### The Westin Mumbai Powai Lake

Overlooking the tranquil Powai Lake, The Westin Mumbai Powai Lake is a five-

star property ideal for grand weddings. With multiple indoor and outdoor venues accommodating up to 1050 guests, the iconic Gauri Point offers an exquisite backdrop of the lake and Mumbai's verdant landscape.

### Other Luxurious Properties

Other luxurious wedding venues in Mumbai include The St. Regis (Lower Parel), Trident (Nariman Point and BKC), JW Marriott (Juhu), The Oberoi, The Leela, and Taj Lands End. Mid-range options include Hotel Novotel, The Resort, Sea Princess, and Courtyard by Marriott. The Retreat Hotel and Convention Centre in Madh Island, away from the city's hustle and bustle, is a magnificent venue for destination and beach weddings, with indoor and outdoor spaces accommodating up to 700 guests.

### Offbeat Destinations

For offbeat wedding destinations near Mumbai, consider Shangrila Resort and Water Park and Suraj Water Park in Thane. Gorai Beach offers the Pixy Sea Resort and Dinu Beach Resort, mesmerizing beachfront properties perfect for a unique wedding experience.

## Rajasthan: Fairytale Weddings

Rajasthan, the land of dunes, has a significant mark on the world map.

Known for its majestic forts, golden sand dunes, picturesque sunsets, and warm hospitality, Rajasthan also has a unique identity as the land of royal weddings. Celebrities like Katy Perry and Russell Brand, and Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chaddha, have chosen Rajasthan for their nuptials, highlighting its allure. The top wedding destinations in Rajasthan include the city of lakes, Udaipur; the blue city, Jodhpur; and the pink city, Jaipur.

### Jaipur: The Pink City

#### Venue: Rambagh Palace

Jaipur, also known as the Pink City, boasts some of the most popular and sought-after palaces and hotels. One standout venue is the Rambagh Palace.

Often called "The Jewel of Jaipur," Rambagh Palace adds a regal touch to sacred ceremonies, creating an atmosphere of elegance and beauty that remains etched in the memories of guests and families. Once the residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur until 1957, the palace is now managed by the Taj Group of Hotels. Spanning 47 acres near the city market and airport, Rambagh Palace features 45 rooms and 33 suites with stunning views. The palace offers multiple indoor venues for luxury weddings, accommodating anywhere from 100 to 300 guests, each space more beautiful than the last.



### Jodhpur: The Blue City

#### Venue: Umaid Bhawan Palace

Jodhpur, formerly known as Marwar and once the capital of the Rajput rulers, retains its rich history and traditions. Known as the “Blue City,” Jodhpur offers vibrant and extravagant wedding venues. One landmark that stands out is the exquisite Umaid Bhawan Palace.

The choice of Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas for their wedding, Umaid Bhawan Palace exudes old-world charm. As the sixth-largest private residence in the world, it is located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, and is divided into sections. Owned by Gaj Singh, the grandson of Maharaja Umaid Singh, who built the palace, it primarily serves as the residence of the former Jodhpur royal family. One section is managed by Taj Hotels, while another part has been converted into a museum. Recently awarded the title of “World’s Best Hotel” in the Traveller’s Choice Awards by TripAdvisor, Umaid Bhawan Palace is spread over 26 acres, including 15 acres of gardens. It features a Durbar Hall, private meeting hall, banquet hall, throne chamber, private dining halls, library, ballroom, indoor swimming pool and spa, and more. The palace offers four indoor and six outdoor venues for a

magical ceremony, making it ideal for a fairytale wedding.

### Udaipur: The City of Lakes

#### Venue: Jagmandir Island

Udaipur, known as the “City of Lakes,” is one of the most romantic places to tie the knot. Famous for its authentic settings and destination weddings, it captivates guests with its stunning beauty, picturesque sights, magnificent palaces, grand old forts, and cultural castles, all surrounded by serene lakes.

Situated on Lake Pichola, Jagmandir Island, also known as the Jag Island Palace, appears to float on the water, offering a breathtaking view. Often called the “Lake Garden Palace,” it attracts visitors to its majestic halls and is considered the most romantic wedding destination in India.

### Goa: The Ultimate Destination for Beach Weddings

When one thinks of a beach wedding, Goa naturally comes to mind. This vibrant coastal state, renowned for its picturesque beaches and tranquil ambiance, has become a sought-after destination for couples seeking a romantic and unforgettable wedding

experience. With the soothing sound of waves and the beauty of the Arabian Sea as a backdrop, Goa’s hotels and resorts offer a blend of romance and serenity that’s hard to find elsewhere.

Goa has long been a top choice for tourists, and recently, it has gained prominence as a premier destination for beach weddings in India. Both North and South Goa offer stunning venues for such celebrations.

In South Goa, popular wedding beaches include Cavellissim, Varca, Benaulim, Utorda, Majorda, Velsao, Colva, Rajbag, Arossim, and Fatrade. Each location provides a unique and picturesque setting for wedding ceremonies.

North Goa is equally appealing, with popular wedding venues on beaches like Bambolim, Bainguinim, Miramar, Ashwem, and Candolim. These beaches are known for their natural beauty and vibrant atmosphere, making them ideal for memorable weddings.

For those seeking the perfect venue, the resorts on Utorda Beach in South Goa are a dream destination. These resorts offer exquisite settings and top-notch services, ensuring a memorable wedding experience. For a bespoke and luxurious wedding, Alila Diwa on Gonsua Beach stands out as a perfect choice. ■

*Le* MERIDIEN

WEDDING  
AT YOUR  
BELOVED  
VENUE



With ageless weddings curated by us let your celebration be the beginning of a legacy of romance for generations to remember. For details contact our wedding planner: [dsokhi@lemeridien-newdelhi.com](mailto:dsokhi@lemeridien-newdelhi.com)

**LE MERIDIEN  
NEW DELHI**

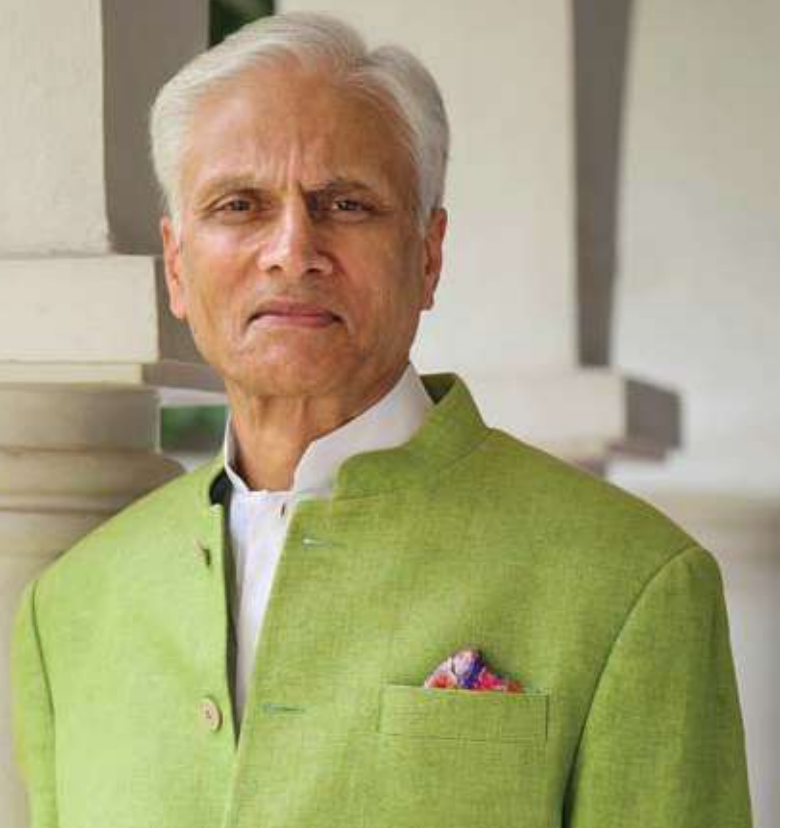
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DESTINATION UNLOCKED

# Sarovar Hotels

## providing unparalleled wedding experiences

*Weddings are a pivotal revenue driver for Sarovar Hotels, constituting approximately 40% of the total F&B revenue. This contribution varies based on location and venue size, with significant traction seen in our hotels located in 2nd and 3rd tier cities, where residential weddings are prevalent. Beyond direct revenue, weddings also stimulate ancillary streams such as guest room bookings, salon, spa services, dining, and other on-site activities. **Ajay Bakaya**, Managing Director, Sarovar Hotels and Director, Louvre Hotels India shares more...*



**Priyanka Saxena Ray**

### What distinguishes Sarovar Hotels in terms of hosting Weddings? Could you outline any special offerings or services provided to Wedding Planners?

Sarovar Hotels distinguishes itself through a commitment to providing unparalleled wedding experiences, tailored to meet diverse preferences and expectations. Our innovative Wedding Studios concept exemplifies this commitment, offering end-to-end event management from engagement ceremonies to farewells, allowing hosts to participate fully in their celebrations. We provide bespoke wedding packages that cater to individual themes, decor styles and culinary preferences, leveraging our exclusive venues such as beachfronts, gardens, and ballrooms. Our dedicated team of wedding consultants ensures seamless execution by coordinating with trusted vendors and offering personalised solutions within budget constraints. This comprehensive approach, coupled with signature dining experiences curated

by our expert chefs, ensures each wedding at Sarovar Hotels is unique and memorable.

### Can you highlight a few emerging trends observed in Destination Weddings over the past year?

Over the past year, several emerging trends have shaped the landscape of Destination Weddings. There is a noticeable shift towards intimate and micro weddings, characterized by smaller guest lists and personalized experiences that foster meaningful connections. Sustainability has also become a prominent consideration, with couples opting for eco-friendly practices such as organic catering, sustainable decor choices and effective waste management solutions. Technology integration has enhanced guest interaction and event management, with features like AI-driven virtual venue tours, live streaming of ceremonies and creative digital invitations. Additionally, multi-day celebrations spanning pre-wedding to post-wedding events have

gained popularity, showcasing the versatility of our venues and enhancing overall guest satisfaction.

### How does Sarovar Hotels prioritize sustainability when organising destination weddings?

At Sarovar Hotels, sustainability is at the forefront of our operations, especially when organizing destination weddings. We have implemented various eco-friendly initiatives to minimize environmental impact, starting with our culinary practices where chefs prepare food in small batches to ensure freshness and reduce food waste. Our commitment extends to sourcing locally and organically for catering needs, supporting local communities and reducing our carbon footprint. We have eliminated single-use plastics across our properties and promote the use of reusable materials for decor. Energy-efficient lighting and other sustainable practices are standard across our venues to conserve resources effectively. ■



## DISCOVER DREAM WEDDINGS *with a Honeymoon on us\* offer*

**With 25 years of timeless elegance, we understand how important your big day is. Let us host your special moments while you immerse in an unforgettable experience surrounded by love and laughter.**

**Whether it's a wedding or social event, our offer is tailored to make your celebration truly memorable.**

**Experience a free honeymoon night at any Radisson Hotel worldwide as our gift to the happy couple!**



Scan for Virtual Tour

# Crafting Unforgettable Weddings at Ananta Hotels and Resorts

*In the ever-evolving landscape of the hospitality industry, Ananta Hotels and Resorts has carved a niche for itself as a premier destination for luxury weddings. Gagan Katyal, Commercial Head - Ananta Hotels & Resorts is a key figure behind the brand's success, shares insights into the significance of the wedding market for Ananta, the unique services they offer, and their future expansion plans. He also delves into the sustainable practices the hotels incorporate and the emerging trends in the industry that excite him the most.*

Priyanka Saxena Ray



Gagan Katyal,  
Commercial Head - Ananta Hotels & Resorts

## How important is the wedding market for your hotel?

The wedding market is immensely important for Ananta Hotels. Destination weddings account for more than 60% of our revenue. Our resorts are specifically designed to cater to the needs of destination weddings, making them a central focus of our business model.

## What unique services or amenities do you offer to cater to this market?

We offer multiple venues, customized culinary experiences,

and large, spacious rooms and suites. Additionally, we have an in-house team dedicated to facilitating weddings. This ensures that every aspect of the wedding is meticulously planned and executed to perfection.

## What strategies do you implement to compete with other venues in the wedding market, and how do you ensure your hotel stands out as the preferred choice for planners and couples?

For us, every wedding is unique. We work closely with the family as their extended family, providing a seamless experience for wedding planners. Our personal relationships with clients and home-like flexibility distinguish us from others. This bond we create with our clients ensures that they remember and cherish their experience with us forever.

## What are your brand's expansion plans in the near future, and how do you envision these new developments enhancing the overall guest experience?

We have multiple projects in the pipeline to offer exotic, unique locations for destination weddings. Ajabgarh, Jaisalmer, and Karjat are three large projects we are currently developing. The freshness and novelty of these venues will significantly enhance the guest experience, providing them with new and exciting options for their special day.

## How is your hotel incorporating sustainable practices into its operations?

We prioritise a green and clean environment. Our initiatives include the low usage of air conditioning, using organic products, and supporting the local community by offering jobs. These efforts help us reduce our environmental impact while maintaining our high standards of service.

## What emerging trends in the hospitality industry are you most excited about?

An emerging trend we are excited about is utilizing nature as a décor element. This trend aligns perfectly with our resorts, as we have an abundance of natural beauty to incorporate into our wedding setups. By embracing this trend, we can offer a unique and enchanting experience to our guests. ■



# BRIDES OF MAYFAIR

Celebrate your special day at Mayfair Spring Valley, Guwahati, nestled in the enchanting landscapes of North East India. Enjoy luxurious accommodations and exclusive venues amidst exotic wildlife, providing an unforgettable backdrop for your wedding. Experience the perfect blend of elegance and natural beauty that will make your wedding truly memorable.



138 Rooms



60000 Sq.ft Outdoor  
Banqueting Space



11850 Sq.ft Indoor  
Banqueting Space



Private Villas, Suites  
& Experiences

Airport  
60 Mins

Pobitara Sanctuary  
30 Mins

Kamakhya Mandir  
60 Mins

Shillong  
90 Mins



# The wedding segment has been a key

*Memorable memories are best created when you go beyond the typical – a philosophy that is judiciously followed at all WelcomHeritage hotels. This holds true for their weddings segment too. They encourage immersive activities and excursions based on the destination, adding an unforgettable layer to the celebration. This could involve local experiences or even more meaningful community-based activities that promote sustainable tourism. **Abinash Manghani**, Chief Executive Officer, WelcomHeritage Hotels, shares more...*

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**

## **How important is the Weddings Segment for your Hotel Chain? What percentage of your total business revenue comes from Weddings?**

The wedding segment has been a key driver of growth for WelcomHeritage, with its contribution to total revenue rising from 2% in 2023-2024 to 15-17% in 2024-2025. Exclusive buyouts and customization, increased Food & Beverage revenue, and income from allied services highlight the significance of the wedding segment for our portfolio.

Weddings is a vital area for operational and marketing focus and future expansion for the brand.

## **What makes your hospitality brand special when it comes to hosting Weddings? What special deliverables do you offer to Wedding Planners that makes it easier and more convenient for them to host weddings at your property?**

Our properties stand out in hosting weddings by offering exclusive buyouts, customizable options, and a variety of boutique venues ideal for intimate gatherings, aligning perfectly with the rising trend in the wedding industry.

With our diverse portfolio of stunning resorts, majestic palaces and forts, charming havelis and nature immersed retreats offering a variety of 'perfect backdrops', we provide the ideal settings for all kinds of fairy-tale weddings. Whether the



# driver of growth for WelcomHeritage

couple is looking for a regal affair or a dreamy ceremony amidst nature or even an adventurous jungle celebration. Further, all our locations are tucked away in tranquil settings to offer seclusion while remaining easily accessible to guests and vendors.

Our commitment extends beyond providing remarkable venues to offering exceptional service, a hallmark of WelcomHeritage. We understand the importance of individuality and therefore prioritize customization and personalisation – our teams take the time to understand the couples' or the families' needs and preferences to customise every detail.

*Our commitment extends beyond providing remarkable venues to offering exceptional service, a hallmark of WelcomHeritage. We understand the importance of individuality and therefore prioritize customization and personalisation.*

We craft bespoke, all-inclusive packages tailored to specific requirements and budget constraints. These packages encompass lavish accommodation, gourmet catering, bespoke décor, and other essential elements of the wedding celebration. These packages are designed with flexibility in mind, offering cost-conscious couples a variety of options to create a dream wedding that fits their budget.

Execution excellence is our forte. Our seasoned teams specialize in flawlessly bringing every aspect of the wedding vision to life, ensuring a seamless and magical event for all involved.

Lastly, memorable memories are best created when you go beyond the typical – a philosophy we follow at all WelcomHeritage hotels. This holds true for weddings too. We encourage immersive activities and excursions based on the destination, adding an unforgettable layer to the celebration. This could involve local

experiences or even more meaningful community-based activities that promote sustainable tourism.

## **Can you name a couple of evolving trends that you have witnessed in Destination Weddings in the last year?**

While Intimate weddings and unique venues that offer a special character or story remain popular, there is also a renewed focus on incorporating cultural elements into the wedding. Couples are seeking authentic details that reflect the local heritage of their chosen destination. This shift towards celebrating local traditions aligns seamlessly with

WelcomHeritage's longstanding ethos of spotlighting destinations and their unique cultural tapestries.

This emerging trend is seeing couples wanting to extend their wedding celebrations beyond the ceremony itself to add to their wedding narrative. They are increasingly drawn to integrating immersive elements into their celebrations, along with curated activities and excursions that offer a genuine taste of the destination to both themselves and their guests. There is a noticeable movement in the cuisine preference as well - from the desi and popular international dishes to those that are more well-balanced, wellness-inspired, innovative and local.

Eco-consciousness is at the forefront now, with couples increasingly opting for sustainable practices during their weddings. Our teams at the properties cater to many such requests from couples who fully embrace this trend, opting for locally sourced food, eco-

friendly decor, and minimizing waste throughout the wedding experience.

## **How do you keep the sustainability quotient relevant while hosting destination weddings at your properties?**

- Minimizing our environmental impact has been a critical part of our agenda and operations, even when hosting destination weddings. Besides following good practices at across WelcomHeritage properties, we try to reduce our carbon footprint and promote sustainability by:
- Using fresh, locally sourced ingredients in our wedding menus. This reduces our also supports local farmers and offers guests a taste of the region.
- Working with the couple and vendors to incorporate eco-friendly decor options. This could involve using recycled materials, locally sourced flowers, and minimizing single-use plastics.
- Encouraging and favouring options that promote responsible tourism when curating activities and excursions for wedding guests. This may include supporting local artisans, participating in conservation efforts, or exploring the destination through eco-friendly means like bicycles or nature walks.

## **Is there any more information that you would like to share with us?**

The trend of intimate destination weddings in India is expanding beyond conventional wedding venues, reaching the mid and upper-mid-segment hotel markets. And WelcomHeritage is at the forefront of catering to this growing demand by offering a diverse portfolio of destinations, flexible customization options, and exceptional experiences for our guests. We believe that every couple deserves a dream wedding, regardless of budget, and we strive to make that dream a reality. ■

# Make Memorable Memories with Weddingline

*Weddingline is amongst the leading Wedding Management and Consulting Companies in India. The man behind it, Chetan Vohra, Managing Director at Weddingline, Chairman, FICCI Wedding Tourism Council and Secretary General – HMCI shares more...*



Chetan Vohra



PTaufiq Photography

to help with the demands of what a social event needs. For example, a cold room for flowers is what no hotel has. Also, the need of ceremonies and the cultural influences they yield should be taken into consideration.

## About the Company

Founded in 2009 as a sub-brand of Line Communications, Weddingline emerged with a vision to revolutionize the fragmented wedding industry. Officially launched as its own entity in 2012, Weddingline, under the guidance of Chetan Vohra, has become a premier name in wedding management. With over 1,000 celebrations to its credit, the company has built a reputation for handling high-profile events for celebrities, business families, and corporate leaders.

## Existing Challenges & How Hoteliers can Help

Everyone in the hospitality sector today wants a pie of the Big Fat Indian Wedding. That's because it comes with multiple events and sub events and rooms and f&b - all of which is a huge revenue spinner. But more often than not - hotels are selling space - either in the form of rooms or banquet halls that are adaptive. The approach has to be more accommodating - because the wedding clients today are more demanding. I feel hotels need to improve their back end operating and areas

## Weddings in India vs. Weddings Abroad

Internationally, there is a huge demand amongst hoteliers and tourism boards for Indian Weddings. They have seen the potential they carry not just in terms of direct revenue, but indirect benefits like employment and fringe spending such as sightseeing and shopping. Hence, they tend to roll out huge benefits to attract clients. But India is not really a cheap destination. If you compare the per head basis of a wedding in Udaipur or Goa, it more often than not compares to or is more expensive than a wedding across several destinations. Why then will the end customer not want to expose a destination outside of India.

## Sustainability in Destination Weddings

Sadly, we are all more particular about sustainability at a destination wedding than back home in India. This often is because of the local laws and bylaws that are very strict about disbursement of garbage and of material wastage post the events having taken place. Material and labour both are very expensive and hence everything needs to be reused to make it pocket friendly. That ensures minimal wastage and is a big add on to sustainability. ■



## Your Magical Moment. Our True Privilege.

Eros Hotel New Delhi Nehru Place promises that your wedding will transcend a mere ceremony. We offer the ideal setting to turn your dream wedding into reality. Our dedicated team members collaborate with you every step of the way, creating an emotional connection that will be cherished as a beautiful memory. This premier wedding destination caters to your every need, providing various services, including spacious venue options, personalized decor themes, engaging entertainment, comprehensive wedding assistance, exclusive bridal packages, pre-wedding shoots, and more.

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NEW DELHI, NEHRU PLACE

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# Creating Unforgettable Wedding Experiences with Plush Weddings

*Plush Weddings, founded in 2012 by Ruchika Arora Bansal, specializes in creating unforgettable wedding experiences. With over 200 weddings hosted, the company is renowned for its meticulous attention to detail and commitment to excellence.*



Ruchika Arora Bansal



PTaufiq Photography

## About the Company

Founded in 2012 by Ruchika Arora Bansal, Plush Weddings is driven by a passion for crafting memorable wedding experiences. Over the years, we have had the honour of hosting over 200 weddings, each uniquely tailored to fulfil the couple's vision. Our commitment to excellence and meticulous attention to detail has established us as a trusted name in the wedding decor industry, renowned for transforming venues into enchanting spaces.

## Existing Challenges & How Hoteliers Can Help

Indian wedding planning presents unique challenges, particularly when involving a hotel. These include managing extensive guest lists, coordinating with multiple vendors, and ensuring adherence to religious and cultural traditions. The Indian hospitality sector can alleviate these challenges by hiring professional wedding coordinators, offering personalized wedding packages, and ensuring robust vendor management systems to streamline logistics.

## Weddings in India vs. Weddings Abroad

There are notable distinctions between hosting weddings in India and abroad. Indian weddings often require extensive preparation and coordination due to larger guest lists and more intricate ceremonies. Destination weddings abroad, although typically smaller, necessitate meticulous logistical planning for travel and accommodation. Both markets are experiencing growth, with destination weddings gaining popularity for their unique and intimate settings.

## Sustainability in Destination Weddings

At Plush Weddings, we emphasize sustainability by planning weddings using environmentally friendly practices. This includes selecting recyclable or biodegradable decor, minimizing waste through thoughtful design, and using locally sourced materials. We also encourage clients to choose venues with sustainability programs to ensure their special day has the least environmental impact.

Every couple that partners with Plush Weddings is guaranteed a spectacular and unforgettable experience. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to ensure every detail, from decor to overall ambiance, is flawless. We strive to exceed our clients' expectations with every wedding we design, believing in making dreams come true. ■



## Your preferred destination for business events & celebrations in Kerala!

Crowne Plaza Kochi, nestled by the banks of Vembanad lake, is an upscale premium property and an ideal location for your corporate and social events.

With a contemporary design, combined with unmatched hospitality, we offer convenience and accessibility making us the preferred choice for both business and leisure travellers.

### Highlights

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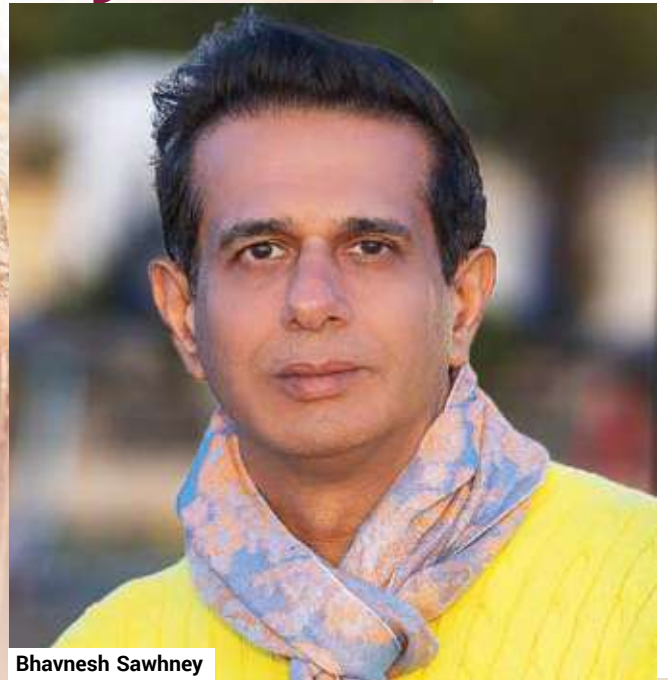
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# FB Celebrations Crafting Luxury Events

*Bhavnesb Sawhney, co-founder of FB Celebrations, has been curating unforgettable luxury events since launching his wedding business in 2013. With extensive experience and interactions with international celebrities, he brings a unique aesthetic and meticulous attention to detail to every event.*



Bhavnesb Sawhney

## About the Company

Driven by Bhavnesb's creativity and visionary approach, FB Celebrations seamlessly blends tradition with innovation. The company has orchestrated over 150 weddings and events for celebrities like Sonam Kapoor, Nidhi Dutta, Shriya Saran, and Shilpa Shetty. These events have made a lasting impact in locations such as Switzerland, the Maldives, Italy, London, Dubai, and more, setting a high standard in the global events industry.

## Existing Challenges & How Hoteliers Can Help

Large-scale events can be challenging, particularly when dealing with inconsistent infrastructure. Issues such as poor parking facilities and difficult access to venues not designed for large weddings can complicate planning. Investing in better infrastructure, such as expanding parking and ensuring easy venue access, is crucial.

Hotels' exclusive vendor agreements limit wedding planners' choices, including caterers, florists, and audiovisual companies. Expanding their list of preferred vendors and allowing external vendors, provided they meet quality criteria, would enhance the wedding planning experience. By opening up options beyond the hotel's internal network, planners can bring in specialists who offer more specialized services or better align with the couple's specific vision.

Limited menu options that do not cater to diverse dietary preferences and cultural requirements can be another significant issue. Hotels should offer customizable catering packages that include a wide range of cuisines, including local

and international selections, and accommodate specific dietary needs, such as vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options.

## Weddings in India vs. Weddings Abroad

Many couples choose to wed in India to honor its rich cultural traditions, seeking an authentic experience. The country offers diverse options catering to various budgets, from palatial luxury hotels to more affordable venues. The blend of traditional and contemporary elements in Indian weddings provides a distinctive charm and warmth that many couples and their families cherish.

While some might assume weddings abroad offer better infrastructure or cost savings, this is not always the case. International weddings can be more challenging in terms of costs and logistics. However, for those seeking a different experience, destinations abroad can be considered for pre- and post-wedding celebrations.

## Sustainability in Destination Weddings

- Select venues that emphasize sustainability.
- Reduce carbon footprint.
- Use biodegradable or reusable decor items, avoid single-use plastics, and opt for local and seasonal flowers to reduce environmental impact.
- Opt for locally sourced and organic food options, serve meals family-style to reduce waste, and donate leftover food to local charities.
- Hire local vendors, artisans, and staff to stimulate the local economy and ensure fair wages and working conditions. ■

# WEDDINGS IN ROYAL SPLENDOR

Celebrate your enchanting nuptials in royal splendor at Radisson Blu Udaipur Palace Resort & Spa. Begin your journey to a magical destination wedding at our opulent haven, where every detail is thoughtfully curated to create an unforgettable experience.



## **RAJ MAHAL**

Our Raj Mahal venue embodies opulence and majesty, inspired by the grandeur of India's royal palaces. The name evokes regal charm, ornate decor, and a rich historical ambiance.

## **FATEHSAGAR BALLROOM**

The Fatehsagar Ballroom is an elegant venue perfect for meetings and events, combining modern design with luxurious amenities.

## **ARAWALI LAWN**

Set amidst the Aravalli Hills, the Arawali Lawn offers a stunning backdrop for a destination wedding, blending natural beauty with regal charm.

# Cherish timeless memories with Momentum Experiences & Events

*For 16 years, Momentum Experiences & Events has specialized in designing destination weddings and milestone social events. With a creative and dedicated team, they've crafted memorable experiences at exotic locations worldwide, delivering over 250 weddings and earning a reputation for excellence in large-scale event planning. Aarti Mattoo, Founder, Momentum Experiences & Events shares more...*



Aarti Mattoo

## About the Company

Momentum Experiences & Events has been curating designer destination weddings and milestone social events for 16 years. We have orchestrated weddings at exotic locations like Bali, Mauritius, Muscat, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai, Goa, Chennai, and various tier-2 cities. Large-scale weddings are our forte, with guest lists reaching up to 1,200 attendees for destination ceremonies and 25,000 for receptions, including VVIPs, HNIs, and political families. Our strength lies in our design and creativity. To date, we have delivered over 250 weddings, primarily for Gujarati and Marwari communities.

## Existing Challenges & How Hoteliers Can Help

The wedding business hype has led to inconsistent pricing from venues and hotels, varying from client to client and planner to planner, causing mistrust among clients. Streamlining pricing practices would foster fair practices and build respect for planners and the hospitality industry. Additionally, basic utilities and drinking water should be readily available for all workforce members at venues, as this is a basic human right. Venue availability for setup has also become a significant challenge. Clients often don't realize the implications of



booking a venue without adequate setup time, leading to chaotic operations, poor finishing, and potential accidents. Hoteliers need to educate clients about these consequences to prevent such issues.

## Weddings in India vs. Weddings Abroad

While more weddings occur within India, many are not part of the organized sector. Professionally planned weddings tend to be on a larger scale, but there is no definitive budget classification between domestic and international weddings. Both can be equally economical or lavish in their experience curation. At Momentum, we've hosted more extravagant four-night weddings in Rajasthan compared to two-night affairs in Thailand.

## Sustainability

Sustainability depends largely on the family's or couple's mindset. Most of our clients at Momentum seek extravagant celebrations with elements flown in from around the world. However, we strive to outsource locally whenever possible and add a global touch professionally. Occasionally, we design based on the destination, aligning with the client's taste and preferences. Though we don't always have complete freedom, we aim to incorporate sustainable practices wherever feasible. ■



# Behind the Scenes with 'The Wedding Connections'

*With a rich background in modelling, IT, film direction, and radio jockeying, Amit Hooda discovered his creative passion in event planning. This led to the founding of 'The Wedding Connections' in 2009. In 15 years, he has crafted over 500 experiential weddings across the globe, blending tradition with innovation.*



Amit Hooda

## About the Company

With a diverse background spanning modelling, IT at NIIT, customer service in telecom, film direction in London, and radio jockeying at 93.5FM, I have embraced life in all its forms. My journey took a transformative turn when I discovered my creative side while executing an event for 93.5FM. This moment of inspiration led to the birth of 'The Wedding Connections' in 2009. With over 15 years in the industry, I have planned, managed, designed, and executed more than 500 weddings across Turkey, Italy, Jordan, Bahrain, Dubai, Thailand, Azerbaijan and India, all with a focus on creating experiential weddings.

## Existing Challenges & How Hoteliers can Help

Planning a wedding in India, especially in a hotel, presents unique challenges. Indian weddings are highly customised, requiring meticulous attention to detail to honour clients' emotions, traditions, and customs. Many hotels struggle to accommodate such specific requests.

Capacity management is a significant issue. It's often said that it takes a village to plan, manage, and execute a big fat Indian wedding. The hospitality sector should hire specially trained wedding hoteliers who understand and manage wedding groups efficiently. This would enhance the quality of services, ensuring smoother check-in and check-out processes. Moreover, hotels with limited venues and resources

should avoid scheduling back-to-back weddings, as this can compromise the guest experience and create management challenges for wedding planners.

## Weddings in India vs. Weddings Abroad

Comparisons between hosting weddings in India and abroad can be made across various factors: costs, venue varieties, destination aesthetics, vendor management, resource availability, event scale, and logistics. The demand for each segment varies based on individual preferences, budget, and desired wedding experience.

In recent years, the desire for novelty and innovation has introduced many international wedding destinations. However, weddings in India hold more cultural and traditional significance. The traditional essence in destination weddings abroad is often limited, which is why domestic demand for weddings in India remains strong.

## Sustainability in Destination Weddings

At The Wedding Connections, we use recyclable materials like bamboo, organic fabrics, potted plants, and reusable decor such as wooden structures. We also focus on controlling food waste and minimizing paper usage. We actively collaborate with vendors who share our eco-friendly approach, ensuring that sustainability remains at the forefront of our wedding planning and design processes. ■

# WBI Weddings

## Crafting exquisite Indian weddings worldwide



Rishi Khandelwal

*Since 2006, WBI Weddings has been the whisper of magic that transforms dreams into dazzling realities. They believe they are more than just wedding planners – they are storytellers, weaving love, laughter, and cultural tapestry into celebrations that echo through time. WBI Weddings is a testament to the power of love and collaboration. Rishi Khandelwal, Founder, WBI Weddings, shares more...*

### About the Company

Since entering the industry in 2004, I have leveraged my extensive travel experience to become a strategic leader focused on business communications, operational management, and product and process design. My expertise includes offering a plethora of services across India and showcasing exceptional talent in organizing large-scale events. As an extrovert and a proficient networker, I thrive on making professional acquaintances and building valuable connections.

### Planning a Wedding in India: Challenges and How Hoteliers Can Help

Planning a wedding in India has always been a personal affair, but today's weddings demand a professional touch and detailed family discussions due to evolving concepts.

While Indian hotels meet structural requirements, their on-ground flexibility and approach need improvement from the initial query stage to event delivery. Organizing a wedding is a deeply personal event for each guest, so ensuring its grand success is crucial.

### Weddings in India vs. Weddings Abroad

When discussing destination and venue options for weddings in India versus abroad, international locations can seem fascinating. However, not everyone can opt for an overseas destination due to factors like cost and the age demographics of family members. The scale of a wedding depends on the number of guests and the budget, which often influences the decision between a domestic or international venue.

### Sustainability in Destination Weddings

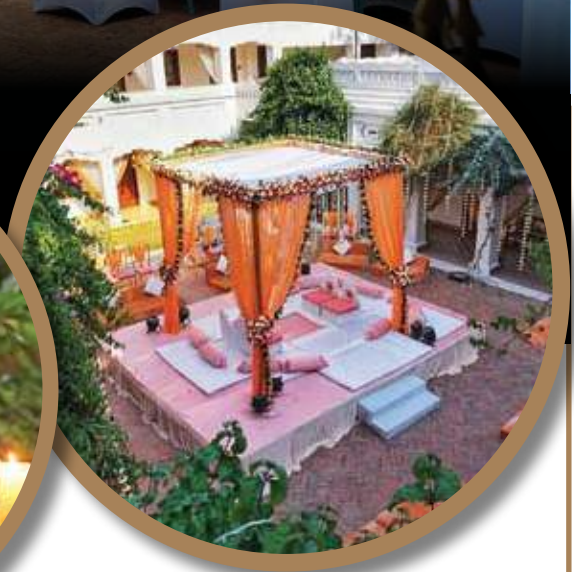
The sustainability quotient is highly relevant, and we believe in implementing a "leave no trace" policy. We encourage guests and hotels to reduce waste by using reusable items like water bottles and selecting Indian brands for venue-related needs. The wedding industry is poised for significant growth in the coming decade, which will generate substantial revenue while promoting sustainable practices.

In summary, the wedding industry in India is evolving with new challenges and opportunities. By addressing these challenges and emphasizing sustainability, we can ensure memorable and successful events that cater to modern expectations and values. ■



# Bandhan Weddings

## Crafted Nuptials by Saraca Hotels & Resorts



is executed flawlessly, blending heritage with modern luxury.

**S**araca Hotels & Resorts offers a curated experience for intimate and luxurious weddings at its exclusive properties in Lucknow, Jim Corbett, and Goa. Each destination within the “Saraca Collection” provides a distinctive ambiance—from Nawabi luxury in Lucknow to the verdant Himalayan views in Jim Corbett, and the tropical beach setting in Goa. These unique experiences reflect Saraca’s commitment to delivering exceptional, immersive guest experiences.

### **Saraca Hotel, Lucknow: A Heritage of Elegance**

The Saraca Hotel, Lucknow, known as the “White Jewel,” is a 1936 heritage building that epitomizes regal charm and luxury. Ideally located in the heart of Lucknow, this venue is celebrated for its opulent architecture and lush gardens, making it perfect for both serene and grand celebrations. The hotel’s Nawabi elegance is highlighted through intricate floral arrangements and traditional decor, offering a timeless backdrop for creating unforgettable memories.

Guests can indulge in the culinary splendour of Awadhi cuisine, with the hotel’s expert culinary team crafting a rich array of dishes, from succulent kebabs to fragrant biryanis. With customizable wedding packages, luxurious accommodations, and state-of-the-art facilities, Saraca Hotel ensures every detail of your special day

### **Saraca Resort & Spa, Corbett: Where Wilderness meets Wedding Elegance**

Awarded “Iconic Luxury Resort – Jim Corbett 2024” by The Times of India, Saraca Resort & Spa is a picturesque six-hour drive from Delhi NCR. This resort offers a unique blend of luxury and nature, providing a breathtaking setting for a memorable wedding celebration. Situated beside the renowned Corbett Tiger Reserve, it combines opulence with the wild, creating an enchanting backdrop for your special day.

The resort features a range of luxurious rooms and suites with captivating views of gardens, forests, and mountains. The “private jungle sanctuary” offers comprehensive wedding services amidst the verdant scenery of the jungle and the foothills of the Himalayas. Customizable wedding packages include gastronomic delights of authentic Kumaoni, Indian, and global cuisines, along with dreamy décor settings. The resort’s dedicated team ensures a seamless and luxurious experience from start to finish.

Saraca Hotels & Resorts invites you to celebrate life’s most cherished moments in unparalleled luxury and comfort, whether amidst the heritage charm of Lucknow or the untamed beauty of Jim Corbett and Goa.

For more information  
Website: [www.saracahotels.com](http://www.saracahotels.com)  
Contact: 9990990233, 7081000343

# Le Florence Weddings Crafting Memorable Celebrations

*Le Florence Weddings, founded by Vikramjeet Sharma in 2019, has rapidly gained global recognition for its exceptional wedding planning services. With over 200 successful events, the company emphasizes flexibility, sustainable practices, and a balanced approach to blending traditional opulence with modern eco-consciousness.*



Vikramjeet Sharma

## About the Company

Vikramjeet Sharma, born and raised in Delhi, embarked on his journey into event management at the age of 21 in 2008. His creative entrepreneurial spirit led to the founding of Le Florence Weddings in 2019. This wedding planning company now plans, curates, and executes weddings globally. In a short span, Vikramjeet has elevated Le Florence to global prominence and aims to diversify and expand further in the coming years. To date, the company has successfully organized over 200 weddings and events.

## Existing Challenges & How Hoteliers Can Help

Weddings are a celebration, and a flexible, adaptable approach is essential. The pricing structure should be more streamlined. While a handful of properties in India excel in hospitality and warmth, many need to adopt a more accommodating stance. When couples and their families book hotels at premium prices, they expect flexibility in terms of menus, venue options, and music restrictions, among other aspects. By understanding these expectations, hotels can enhance the wedding experience and meet their clients' needs more effectively.

## Weddings in India vs. Weddings Abroad

The recent initiatives by the Government of India have



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encouraged more clients to host their weddings domestically. However, there remains a segment that prefers international weddings due to factors like ease of obtaining visas, better hotel pricing, and the prestige of a global wedding. Currently, the ratio stands at approximately 70-30, with 70% of weddings being hosted in India and 30% abroad. Despite domestic advantages, the allure of international destinations continues to attract a significant portion of couples.

## Sustainability in Destination Weddings

There are several ways to make weddings more sustainable:

- Choosing eco-friendly properties that rely primarily on renewable energy.
- Using group transportation instead of individual cars to reduce emissions.
- Incorporating sustainable, biodegradable decor elements such as terracotta props, jute fabric, and local flowers.
- Providing recycling bins at event venues.
- Ensuring leftover food is not wasted but donated to NGOs or local charities.

The landscape of weddings in India is undergoing a transformation. We are fortunate to be at the forefront of this change. As new venue options emerge, couples and families are increasingly aware of the need to balance the opulence of traditional Indian weddings with sustainability. This shift reflects a broader understanding of the importance of integrating eco-friendly practices into grand celebrations. ■





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# Shreem Events

## Mastering the Art of Indian Weddings



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Devanshi Patel

*The mammoth Indian wedding industry demands expertise and meticulous attention to detail to flourish. The wedding planner, as the captain of the ship, brings different elements together to create a successful experience. Mumbai-based planner Devanshi Patel, Founder of Shreem Events, is a master at this craft.*

### About the Company

The name 'Shreem' is derived from Sanskrit, meaning abundance. Shreem Events has executed about 450 events in exotic locations such as Dubai, Cannes, and Monaco for prestigious families and HNI clients, including the wedding of Hardik Pandya and Nataša Stanković in Udaipur. A successful event hinges on the right entertainment, and Shreem Events excels in this area by offering entertainment tailored to the event's theme and vibe. They collaborate with top talents like Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Lisa Mishra, Sandy Sax, Benny Dayal, Guru Randhawa, and many others, both in India and worldwide.

### Existing Challenges & How Hoteliers Can Help

Managing various vendors, from florists to caterers, can be cumbersome without a streamlined communication system. Obtaining necessary permits and dealing with local regulations is another time-consuming and complex hurdle. Ensuring seamless logistics, particularly in remote locations, often poses a challenge.

To address these challenges, we recommend the hospitality industry:

- Provide dedicated wedding coordinators who can act as a single point of contact.
- Establish a comprehensive network of vetted vendors to simplify the planning process.
- Offer more flexible and customizable wedding packages to cater to diverse client needs.
- Implement and promote eco-friendly practices to attract clients conscious about sustainability.

### Weddings in India vs. Weddings Abroad

Indian weddings are traditionally grand affairs with extensive guest lists, making domestic weddings highly popular. Our country offers a rich tapestry of cultural elements that can be woven into wedding ceremonies, making them unique and memorable. Compared to many international destinations, India can be more cost-effective due to lower labour and material costs.

Destination weddings abroad offer an exclusive and often more intimate experience. International destinations often have well-established systems for destination weddings, reducing planning hassles. However, these weddings tend to be more expensive due to travel and accommodation costs. While there is a growing trend towards destination weddings abroad, the majority of demand remains within India due to cultural preferences and logistical convenience.

### Sustainability in Destination Weddings

To maintain sustainability while hosting destination weddings, we focus on:

- Using locally sourced flowers, food, and materials to reduce carbon footprints.
- Implementing robust waste management practices, including composting and recycling.
- Opting for reusable and biodegradable decor items.

By integrating these practices, we aim to create unforgettable events that are both luxurious and environmentally responsible. ■

# A LEGACY OF LOVE

*Avsar*

BY ANANTA

At Ananta, we understand that a wedding is more than just a ceremony, it's a celebration of love and a continuation of heritage. We are devoted to creating enchanting weddings that seamlessly integrate the timeless elegance of nature's backdrop with the rich, vibrant tapestry of Indian cultural traditions.

Each wedding at Ananta is meticulously crafted as a unique testament to the couple's love story. From the initial planning stages to the final farewell, our team ensures that every element of your wedding is infused with personalized touches that reflect your individual journey and dreams.



Udaipur | Pushkar | Gir | Ranthambore | Ajabgarh\* | Jaisalmer\*

Ananta Hotels & Resorts

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Coming Soon



# A Dream Wedding Celebration in Amazing Thailand!

**A**mazing Thailand is very well known as A Dream Wedding Destination and has always been one of the most popular destinations for the grand Indian wedding and other celebrations such as milestone birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, and bachelor & bachelorette parties.

The choice for a wedding in Thailand ranges from pristine beaches of Khao Lak, Koh Samui, Phuket, Krabi, Pattaya, Rayong and Hua Hin, to lush green mountains of Chiang Mai and Khao Yai or a city and riverside wedding in Bangkok that has world class hotels and convention centers. Over 400 Indian couples tied the knot in Thailand every year, with average number of guests ranging from approximately





## Thailand is a popular choice for Indian weddings because of:

- Proximity to India
- Visa exemption,
- Warm Thai Hospitality
- Beautiful locales
- Value for money destination
- World Class Hotels
- Variety of Cuisines from in house chef to catering services or even brings your own chef!
- Modern excellence combined with traditional details
- Serves all the wedding needs with top most standards.

200 to 500.

Thailand can fulfill every need of an Indian Wedding from the customs, the space needed, lavish set up, expansive decor, dancers, celebrity entertainers, floral arrangements, ice sculptures and culinary experience (Indian/ vegetarian/ Jain food or bring your own chef) to arranging horses, elephants, henna artists,



makeup artists as well as priests (Punditjis). Guests attending the wedding, can also opt to stay back in Thailand to discover the unique offerings, such as sightseeing in Bangkok, Health, Beauty, Spa and Wellness activities, shopping, theme parks and lots more.

In efforts to promote Thailand as an Environmental Friendly Wedding Destination for Indian. TAT New Delhi

office had initiated a project named “The Celebrations with Care” in Thailand. This project aims to raise awareness and encourage Indian wedding group to celebrate their memorable moments with good deed of environmental support and also to leverage image of Thailand to be a sustainable tourism destination. ■

Picture Courtesy: [WeddingSutra Favorite @infinite\\_memories09](#) |



# Türkiye

## The address for Dream Destination Weddings



Offering spectacular nature, a rich culinary tradition and a diverse range of excellent hotels and resorts, Türkiye is a prominent destination for glamorous weddings. Recently selected as the “Favourite Destination” by the world’s leading luxury wedding organisers, Türkiye stands out in the market thanks to the many privileges available in the country, including a number of highly regarded event and organisation companies with multilingual personnel. Let’s get to know Türkiye’s most beautiful wedding destinations more closely...

### Istanbul

An extraordinary city uniquely located at the junction of Asia and Europe, İstanbul is a key hub in one of the world’s largest transport networks, easily accessible for family and friends wherever they live. It is a city of culture housing immortal monuments such as the Hagia Sophia, Basilica Cistern and Topkapı Palace. The jewel of İstanbul, however, is the Bosphorus, often described as a river of sapphires adorning the city. The shores of the majestic Bosphorus are home to a number of acclaimed hotels and sophisticated event venues, which add to the city’s appeal as a wedding destination.

### Bodrum

Featuring prestigious marinas hosting the world’s most popular brands, exclusive hotels offering luxury services, and fine Turkish and international dining, Bodrum – Türkiye’s premium holiday destination – presents a highly desirable setting for weddings. Easily accessible via Istanbul as well as via direct flights from many parts of the world, Bodrum is drenched in gorgeous light and colours.

### Antalya

Antalya is a destination that can be visited all year round; especially noteworthy in terms of timing of your wedding to ensure that all your loved ones can attend. Antalya, with its luxury hotels, seaside venues and ancient cities, is almost custom designed for wedding celebrations.

### Cappadocia

Cappadocia is not only one of the most beautiful places in Türkiye, but also on earth. The region’s otherworldly landscape and picturesque fairy chimneys offer a perfect setting for an extraordinary wedding. ■

# Experience Royal Elegance at Jumeirah Gulf of Bahrain Resort & Spa

*Refresh your senses at the tranquil retreat set on the south-west coast of Bahrain*



**B**egin your journey of regal celebration at Jumeirah Gulf of Bahrain Resort & Spa, where we redefine luxury and elegance while we plan your dream wedding. Our Royal Elegance wedding package is carefully tailored to provide an unforgettable experience for all, ensuring every detail is curated to perfection, leaving you and your guests with cherished memories.

Jumeirah Gulf of Bahrain Resort and Spa stands as a pillar of luxury and sophistication, offering a brand-new wedding destination like no other. With a commitment to excellence and a passion for creating extraordinary experiences, we invite you to join us on this enchanting journey and celebrate your love in the most captivating setting imaginable.

Our wedding approach aims to craft remarkable experiences that surpass couples' expectations and leave enduring impressions on guests. The devoted team listens to

couples' desires, translating them into personalised weddings. With diverse indoor and outdoor venues, we accommodate various styles and sizes. Our luxury transcends spaces, encompassing outstanding service and meticulous attention to detail. Experience menu samplings, custom wedding cakes, and lavish buffet spreads, adding culinary enchantment to your special day.

Whether it's an intimate dinner or a grand banquet or even a cocktail reception for up to 400 attendees, we cater to weddings of all sizes. Luxurious lodging options await you and your guests.

Contact us today to begin planning a majestic wedding at Jumeirah Gulf of Bahrain Resort & Spa, where every moment is crafted with care and every detail designed to exceed your expectations. Experience the epitome of elegance and romance, and allow us to weave the magic that will linger in your hearts forever.



# Seychelles

## Raising a Toast in Paradise

**P**icture this—warm ocean breeze, swaying palm trees, that first sip of your bubbly as you toast to your special occasion—it is as close to paradise as you can imagine. Whether you are hosting your hen party, renewing your vows, celebrating a milestone anniversary for the two of you, or a gathering with a few, Seychelles lends the perfect frame for your celebrations.

### Dreamy Backdrops

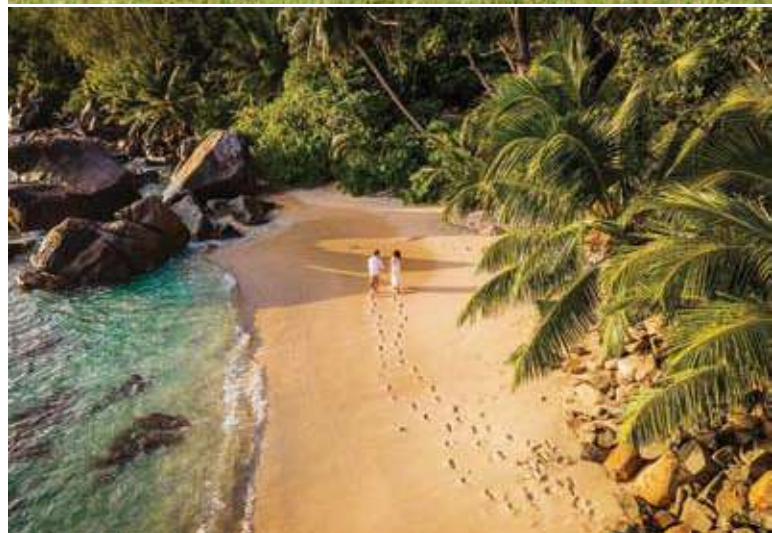
Home to one of the most photographed beaches in the world, the country promises a backdrop straight out of your Pinterest! For intimate ceremonies on powder-sand beaches, imagine a flowing canopy with fragrant flowers that adds to the island aesthetics, where you are serenaded by the gentle lapping of waves. Those on the lookout for a more festive gathering, consider one of the many luxurious resorts, perfect for crafting unforgettable memories

### Local Experiences

Full of discoveries and inspiration, the Seychelles is made up of over 100 islands surrounded by the warm, turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean. From rum tasting with the crew at the iconic Takamaka Rum Distillery on Mahé, to glass-bottom kayaking with your girls on the crystal-clear waters of Anse Source D'Argent, this enchanting island nation offers a playground for those looking to have some fun in the sun.

### Accessibility

Heading to Seychelles with your friends and family is incredibly convenient, especially since it's a direct 4-and-a-half-hour flight away from India (Mumbai). The country is visa-free for travellers, so instead of worrying about visas, you only need to apply for a Travel Authorization Letter. ■





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# Qatar

## Love blooms in the Dunes

A charming crossroad of Middle Eastern heritage and futuristic architecture, Qatar showcases the perfect blend of cultural richness and indulgent experiences, making it an ideal setting for couples looking for a wedding destination that transcends the ordinary. From chic venues to grand palatial resorts, from views of the dramatic skyline to the extended coastline, from tantalising menus to heart-warming hospitality and more, Qatar lends an unforgettable backdrop for your special moment.

### Wedding Venue Variety

Whether you picture yourself exchanging vows in Doha's largest ballroom with natural light and views of the Arabian Gulf at St Regis or to the sound of waves at the private white sand beach at Marsa Malaz Kempinski, the possibilities are endless. While the Hilton Salwa Beach Resort offers picturesque outdoor spaces – think sundowner parties as you catch the striking sunset against the lighthouse overlooking the marina, the Four Seasons' VIP service and attention to detail pave the way for cherished memories. If your idea of a perfect wedding includes the sun, sand and the sea, the Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha wows with a private beach for open-air vows, complemented by family-friendly escapades with its kid-friendly pools and kids club. The iconic Fairmont Doha redefines the art of celebrations with its grand ballrooms and event spaces. The Rosewood Doha is another exciting addition which is set to open its doors later this year.

### Venues to match your One-of-a-kind Love

For couples on the lookout for a truly dreamy celebration, Qatar unveils a treasure trove of unique venues beyond traditional ballrooms. Immerse in the nation's heritage



at the architecturally stunning National Museum of Qatar for an unforgettable pre-wedding lunch soiree. Fancy chic sophistication? The Barahat Msheireb piazza, the Middle East's largest open-air covered square with the region's biggest retractable roof, offers an awe-inspiring backdrop for a stylish cocktail evening under the stars. Those drawn to an enchanting desert vibe for your sangeet night or mehendi party - need to venture no further than Al Majles Resort.

With an average flight time of just 4 hours from India, Qatar emerges as a sanctuary of convenience that stands out as one of the perks of hosting your destination wedding here. Besides the proximity from India and the ease of travel, Qatar Tourism also offers further assistance in the form of a pre-approved Haya Visa. So, your wedding guests and crew can take advantage of this Haya visa and eliminate potential hassles while allowing them to focus solely on this joyous occasion. ■



# Mayfair Group

## unveils exciting Partner Program amidst expanding Luxury Portfolio

**M**ayfair Hotels & Resorts, a name synonymous with luxury and excellence, has announced an ambitious Partner Program aimed at expanding its footprint across India and neighbouring countries. This initiative marks a significant step in the brand's evolution, positioning itself as a key player in the hospitality industry.

Founded in 1982 by Mr. Dilip Ray, the Mayfair Group has grown from a single property to a portfolio of 18 luxury offerings spread across some of the most sought-after destinations in India. From the serene beaches of Goa to the picturesque landscapes of Darjeeling, Mayfair properties are known for their unique charm, impeccable service, and attention to detail.

Currently, Mayfair Elixir, the management arm of the group, operates three resort properties in Goa, Guwahati, and Purnea, with a luxury boutique offering in Alibag, just a short ride from Mumbai. The group is actively seeking to expand further, targeting not only culturally rich locations across India but also neighbouring regions including Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. This expansion reflects Mayfair's commitment to bringing its signature luxury

experience to a broader audience.

At the helm of this expansion is Mr. Bjorn DeNiese, who leads Mayfair Elixir. With nearly two decades of experience with Mayfair, Mr. DeNiese brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table. His leadership is expected to drive the brand's growth while ensuring that the essence of Mayfair's luxury remains intact.

Adding further strength to the team is Mr. Dhananjay Kumar, who has recently joined Mayfair as Vice President (Operations). Mr. Kumar was most recently the General Manager of the Trident Agra and has previously headed operations for The Serai, a boutique luxury resort chain with locations in South India and Africa. His extensive experience in the hospitality industry is anticipated to play a crucial role in the group's operational excellence, as it scales new heights.

The Mayfair Partner Program is a golden opportunity for those looking to associate with a brand that has not only a rich legacy but also a forward-thinking approach. As Mayfair continues to grow and evolve, it remains steadfast in its mission to deliver luxury experiences that are both timeless and contemporary.

For more details on the Partner Program and how to get involved, visit – [Mayfair Partner Program]  
(<https://www.mayfairhotels.com/partner-program.html>)

# Mauritius

## The Perfect Paradise for Your Dream Wedding



**M**auritius is a secluded haven in the Indian Ocean that embodies the essence of romance, making it an ideal destination for weddings. The island's warm and welcoming atmosphere is matched only by its exceptional hospitality, where every guest is treated like family. From the moment you arrive, you'll be enveloped in a sense of warmth and generosity, ensuring that your special day is nothing short of unforgettable.

The island's luxurious hotels and resorts offer world-class amenities and services tailored specifically for weddings. Imagine exchanging vows on a pristine beach, surrounded by

crystal-clear waters and lush greenery, with every detail meticulously taken care of by a dedicated team of experts. From intimate gatherings to grand celebrations, Mauritius' hotels offer flexible and customizable options to suit every couple's unique vision.

Mauritius is a paradise for couples looking for an unforgettable wedding experience. Its picturesque mountain formations and crystal-clear lagoons offer a perfect setting for exchanging vows at sites like Belle Mare and La Morne Brabant. Couples can also enjoy a romantic sunset cruise around the island, offering breathtaking views of the coastline. For a unique photoshoot, head to the Seven

Coloured Earths of Chamarel, with its vibrant, multi-coloured landscape, or the stunning waterfalls of Alexandra Falls.

An underrated activity for couples in Mauritius is Helicopter riding. The tour offers a breathtaking view of the island country from an entirely new angle, making the moments memorable. It also offers a chance to witness the enigmatic sight of Underwater Waterfalls just off the Southwest coast of Mauritius. Similarly, submarine and scuba scooter rides offer a distinct glance of the enchanting marine ecosystem teeming with corals, colourful fish, sea turtles, as well as majestic creatures like dolphins and whales. ■



# Experience a Royal Fairytale Wedding at Hotel Narain Niwas Palace, Jaipur”

A wedding is one of life’s most memorable events, deserving meticulous planning to create lifelong memories. For an unforgettable royal destination wedding in Jaipur, Hotel Narain Niwas Palace offers the perfect venue. This architectural masterpiece epitomizes the opulence of Rajput rulers and features spacious lawns, elegant decor, and a grand welcome.

Guests receive royal treatment with a procession of elephants, camels, and horses, alongside local performers and musicians, creating a fairy tale experience. Alternatively, intimate weddings with a DJ and cocktails can also be arranged.

From venue selection to the Vidai ceremony, Narain Niwas Palace ensures a memorable event, with guests full of appreciation. Whether you choose a custom theme or a royal theme arranged by the palace, Narain Niwas Palace stands out as a premier heritage hotel and wedding venue in Rajasthan. ■



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# Experience Wedding Bliss at these plush Hotels & Resorts

*Imagine celebrating your grand Indian wedding amidst the opulence of the world's most luxurious hotels and resorts. Hosting such a momentous occasion at premier global destinations offers unparalleled elegance and sophistication, combining traditional grandeur with modern luxury. These prestigious venues provide breathtaking backdrops, exceptional service, and bespoke experiences, ensuring every aspect of the wedding reflects the magnificence of Indian traditions. From palatial settings in historic castles to tropical paradises and serene mountain retreats, these international locations offer a perfect blend of cultural richness and contemporary indulgence, making your wedding truly unforgettable. Here's a look at the few off-beat luxury resorts for hosting the ideal Indian wedding.*

Compiled by Priyanka Saxena Ray

## Phulay Bay, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, Thailand

Phulay Bay, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, offers an array of exquisite wedding experiences tailored to every couple's unique vision. Imagine celebrating your wedding amidst surrounded thousands of flickering candles or the breathtaking landscape of Krabi, where sweeping views of the Arabian Sea and limestone mountains set the perfect tone for an unforgettable occasion. Whether you are planning a grand celebration for over

100 guests or an intimate ceremony for just two, resort's dedicated wedding planner assists in creating meaningful memories.

From the serene beach to traditional Thai settings, each option promises a memorable and enchanting celebration. One can choose from beach, Thai monk, candlelight, Thai pavilion, or intimate weddings.

Phulay Bay's signature wedding promises an exclusive and luxurious experience with arrangements including resort buyout for two days and three

nights, roundtrip luxury transfers for all guests, a non-religious blessing ceremony, a wedding celebration, elegant decorations, bouquet and corsage for the bride and groom, a toasting bottle of champagne at our Sunset Beach Bar Chomtawan, a 3-tier wedding cake, specialised floral decorations, classical background music, full-day photography and cinematography service, a wedding reception dinner with a beverage package of choice, an after-party open bar, live music from a trio band, and body massage treatments for all guests.



## JW Marriott Mauritius Resort

Steeped in beauty and tranquillity, JW Marriott Mauritius Resort, located in the southwest of Mauritius, is set against the dramatic backdrop of the majestic Le Morne Brabant, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Resort draws couples into a world of timeless luxury, crafting dream wedding celebrations and handling all the logistics.

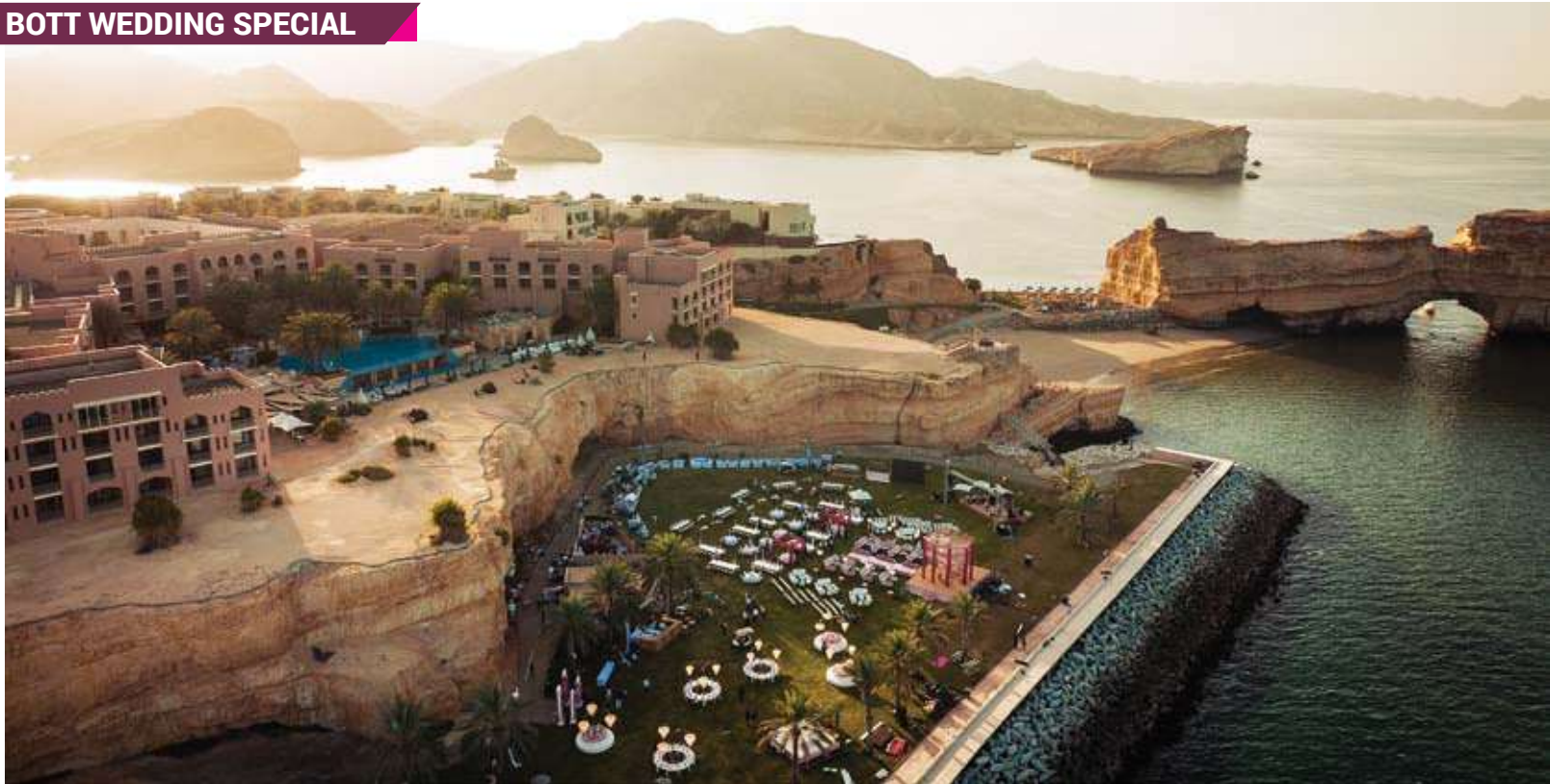
The resort offers three distinct venues for couples to host their dream wedding. Le Morne beach, with its powder-soft white sands, gentle waves, and swaying palm trees, provides a stunning backdrop for beach ceremonies. Surrounded by verdant greenery and a tranquil pond, the serene gardens next to the Asian Floating Market offer a lush, tropical idyl, perfect for exchanging vows. The resort's elegantly crafted jetty offers a picturesque stage for a waterfront "I do" complete with indigo ocean views and starry nights.

## Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island

Surrounded by the pristine shores of Ras Al Khaimah, Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island emerges as a dream destination for Indian couples seeking a luxurious yet intimate wedding experience.

In line with the increasing popularity of intimate weddings, the resort's 530 sqm pillar-less ballroom, bathed in natural light, is ideal for those close-knit celebrations. The Ula Summer Wedding Package is designed for ultimate exclusivity, to get hitched right on the beach, with the sea breeze as your witness.

The foodies will have the best time since the culinary team at Mövenpick craft gastronomic experiences. From sumptuous buffets to delicate canapés, every bite is a celebration of flavours. To add that sweet touch to your special day, the team is equipped to provide multi-tiered wedding cakes and also offers the iconic Mövenpick ice cream.



## Shangri-La Muscat

Oman is fast becoming the go-to destination for luxury Indian weddings, with Shangri-La Muscat standing as a jewel. Here, Indian weddings bloom into unforgettable experiences, with the magnificent Hajar mountains poised as majestic backdrop and the Gulf of Oman shining like a sapphire canopy.

The sprawling 124-hectare property is coupled with unspoiled beaches and views that will make your wedding photograph look unreal. The Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Ballroom, capable of accommodating up to 850 guests, is an ideal venue for that big fat Indian wedding. For those seeking a beachy vibe, the resort offers the option of a beachfront mandap along its private 500-metre coastline. If grand entries were part of your wedding mood board, Shangri-La Muscat has got you covered.

## The Anam Cam Ranh, Vietnam

The Anam Can Ranh is a Vietnamese paradise where grand Indian wedding meets tropical elegance. With the growing popularity of Vietnam as a travel destination for Indians, this hidden gem is one of the top choices for destination weddings.

With its colonial-inspired architecture, brilliant Indochine design, and lush gardens, The Anam, nestled along the pristine coastline of Cam Ranh, offers a dreamy backdrop that will make any wedding album look like a glossy magazine.

The Anam offers a variety of venues, from intimate beachfront settings to elegant ballrooms, capable of accommodating both small gatherings and larger ceremonies. Its experienced staff, well-versed in the intricacies of Indian weddings, ensures that every detail is executed with precision and care.

Complementing the resort's luxurious offerings is the recently inaugurated, multi-functional convention centre—Axi Plaza, a venue that amplifies the possibilities for grand Indian weddings. Envision a vibrant sangeet in Axi Plaza's 1,197 sqm halls, followed by a serene beachfront ceremony at The Anam Cam Ranh. ■



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# Exploring Jordan's Tourism Vision 2025

*In a recent visit to India, Dr. Abed Al Razzaq Arabiyat, Managing Director of the Jordan Tourism Board, shared insights into Jordan's ambitious tourism plans for 2025. He highlighted the Kingdom's evolving tourism landscape and what Indian travellers can expect. During his visit, Dr. Arabiyat engaged in productive discussions with Indian authorities, tourism stakeholders, and industry leaders to forge strategic collaborations and cultural exchanges.*

**Anjali Pokhriyal**

## Could you start by giving us a snapshot of what makes Jordan such a unique travel destination?

Jordan is truly a gem in the Middle East, offering a rich tapestry of history, culture, and natural beauty. From the ancient city of Petra, one of the New 7 Wonders of the World, to the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea, Jordan provides a diverse range of experiences. Our desert landscapes in Wadi Rum, coastal retreats in Aqaba, and vibrant city life in Amman all contribute to a unique and memorable visit. The variety of attractions makes Jordan an ideal destination for all kinds of travellers, whether they're seeking adventure, relaxation, or cultural enrichment.

## Jordan is known for its historical and cultural significance. Can you tell us more about some of the key sites and experiences that Indian travellers should not miss?

Absolutely. Petra is a must-visit for anyone interested in history or architecture. Carved into red sandstone cliffs, this ancient city reflects the artistry and ingenuity of the Nabateans. The Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth, is renowned for its mineral-rich waters and therapeutic properties, offering a unique opportunity to float effortlessly while surrounded by stunning landscapes. Additionally, Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon, provides a surreal backdrop for activities like camel trekking, hot air ballooning, and stargazing. Aqaba, on the Red Sea, is perfect for diving and snorkelling enthusiasts. Each of these sites offers a distinct experience that caters to different interests.

## What is Jordan's Vision 2025, and how does it aim to enhance the tourism experience for visitors?

Jordan's Vision 2025 is our strategic plan to position Jordan as a premier global destination. It focuses on five key pillars:

- MICE Tourism:** Jordan's blend of modern infrastructure and historical charm makes it an ideal location for international events.
- Destination Weddings:** Iconic sites like Petra and the landscapes of Wadi Rum offer breathtaking backdrops for luxury weddings.
- Luxury Tourism:** Jordan boasts exotic properties and high-quality service that reflect our commitment to hospitality.
- Adventure Tourism:** From desert safaris in Wadi Rum to diving in the Red Sea, Jordan offers a plethora of thrilling experiences.
- Film Tourism:** Our dramatic landscapes have served as the backdrop for numerous films, adding an extra layer of allure for movie enthusiasts. ■



# Zimbabwe

## Keen on strengthening tourism ties with India

*Zimbabwe and India share very strong ties. The relationship is built on historical connections, dating back to the 15th century Munhumutapa Empire. The Great Zimbabwe was a part of the Indian Ocean trade network which connected Africa, Asia and Middle East with Goa as a trading hub. These ancient civilizations gave birth to a strong connection between Zimbabwe and India. The newly appointed Ambassador of Zimbabwe to India Her Excellency Ambassador **Stella Nkomo** shares her thoughts in an exclusive chat with **BOTT**.*

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**

### Key strategies for promoting Zimbabwe in India

Our key strategies to promote Zimbabwe as a prime destination for Indian tourists include forging strategic partnerships with the travel trade to create attractive packages tailored to Indian preferences. Personalized engagement will allow us to share the true Zimbabwean story, build relationships and inspire travel to our country. Ease of travel through improving connectivity and enhancing travel infrastructure will make Zimbabwe easily accessible to Indian visitors. In today's digital age where information is a click away, we want to leverage on the power of digital marketing to create awareness and make Zimbabwe visible. Connecting with India's travel industry through trade shows and cultural events, celebrating Zimbabwean festivals and fostering a deeper understanding and connection between our nations and have more Indian travellers to experience Zimbabwe's warm hospitality.



### Unique attractions in Zimbabwe?

The Victoria Falls deserves a spot on every traveller's bucket list, a true marvel of nature that everyone should witness at least once in their lifetime. Zimbabwe is wildlife country with 25% of the country's landmass is set aside for wildlife. Authentic safari and guiding experiences will make the Indian traveller come out entertained and educated knowing more about the environment and their value within an ecosystem. Zimbabwe's cultural heritage

attractions offer a rich and diverse experience including ancient civilizations at Great Zimbabwe, spiritual significance at Matobo hills, and vibrant culture through the warmth of the Zimbabwean people.

### Roadmap for increasing tourism between our two countries

We are excited to host our annual travel show in Zimbabwe, Sanganai / Hlanganani World Tourism Expo from 12 to 14 September 2024, and we have extended a special invitation to the Indian travel trade to join us for a familiarization tour and experience Zimbabwe firsthand, this is a fantastic opportunity to network and do business with Zimbabwean tour operators and travel suppliers. Collaboration with Indian travel companies is ongoing to develop exclusive Zimbabwe tour packages and promotions. We are here to share valuable market intelligence and insights that will help the Indian travel trade better understand Zimbabwe tourism product, consumer preferences and market trends. Facilitation of B2B meetings and networking opportunities between the two nations is ongoing, a series of webinars as well as roadshows are on the cards. ■



# Maldives Tourism

## Unveiling strategic roadmap to boost Tourism from India

*The Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/ Visit Maldives) has collaborated with the Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO) and the National Hotels and Guesthouses Association of Maldives (NHGAM) to host the “Welcome India” roadshow series in India. Joining forces with 24 industry partners, MMPRC aims to strengthen the bonds between the Maldives and the Indian travel market. In an exclusive interview, Ibrahim Shiuree, CEO and Managing Director of MMPRC, discusses the performance of Maldives tourism this year, with a focus on arrivals from India, and the strategies being implemented to boost these numbers.*

### Anjali Pokhriyal

from India, where we had a very good dialogue. This shows our keen interest in working with the Indian government. We received positive feedback and discussed diversifying our tourism offerings

beyond traditional markets, including film tourism, education tourism, and health tourism. The minister was very supportive, and we look forward to exploring these new avenues.”

### Promotional Strategies

We are focusing on roadshows and familiarization (fam) trips in various Indian cities, including tier 2 and tier 3 cities, which we believe have significant potential. Additionally, we are planning new campaigns and other promotional activities to attract more tourists from India.

### New markets

Interestingly, Poland has emerged as a top 10 market for the Maldives for the

first time. Bangladesh has also shown remarkable growth, with numbers increasing from 3,000-4,000 in the past few years to 22,000. We are conducting roadshows in Bangladesh to further boost these numbers.

### Steps to boost tourists from India

We are taking several steps, including meetings with key stakeholders, expanding our tourism offerings, and enhancing our marketing efforts. With the positive response from the Indian government and our continuous engagement with the travel trade, we are confident that we can regain the top spot for the Indian market.

With the collaborative efforts of MMPRC, MATATO, NHGAM, and the robust Indian travel trade, the Maldives is set to strengthen its position as a premier travel destination for Indian tourists. The strategic initiatives and campaigns being rolled out hold the promise of not only reviving but also surpassing previous tourism milestones. ■

### Arrivals to Maldives in 2024

We’ve achieved some significant milestones this year. In February, we recorded the highest number of arrivals with 10,213 visitors, which was two to three weeks ahead of our projections. However, there has been a dip in arrivals from the Indian market, likely due to competition from other destinations and the off-season. We are confident that our ongoing marketing efforts and roadshows will help uplift these numbers.”

### Working with the Indian travel trade to rebuild tourism

We recently had a productive meeting with the Minister of Culture



# Travelbullz and Scoot host exclusive Networking Dinners in Chennai and Coimbatore

**T**ravelBullz recently partnered with Scoot to host exclusive networking dinners for travel agents from Chennai and Coimbatore. This collaborative initiative aimed to strengthen partnerships and foster greater collaboration within the travel industry in South India.

The events provided a unique platform for travel agents to interact directly with officials from both TravelBullz and Scoot, emphasizing the strategic importance of Chennai and Coimbatore as key markets to engage and expand their reach in the region.

Kanwer Deep Singh, Founder and President of TravelBullz, expressed his enthusiasm for the event, stating, "We are delighted to partner with Scoot in organizing this initiative. These events not only facilitated valuable networking opportunities but also allowed us to showcase TravelBullz's expertise in delivering exceptional travel experiences across Southeast Asia."

The evenings featured interactive networking sessions, insightful presentations and discussions on upcoming travel trends in the region and exclusive offerings from both the companies. ■



# FICCI 3<sup>rd</sup> Outbound Tourism Summit concludes successfully

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Outbound Tourism Summit was held on July 31, 2024 to a packed house and invigorating sessions. The event, divided into three sessions, witnessed many industry stalwarts step forward and share their thoughts on the immense growth and potential of Outbound Tourism in India, while addressing the challenges that exist, latest trends and way forward. Here's a look at what the stalwarts discussed –*

Priyanka Saxena Ray



Setting up the tone and context of the Summit, Ankush Nijhawan, Chairman, FICCI Outbound Tourism Committee & Co-Founder, TBO.com & MD, Nijhawan Group kick-started the event by stating that Outbound Tourism from India, which is currently on a high, will continue to scale up in times to come. “Outbound tourism from India is rapidly evolving into a significant revenue and employment generator. As more Indians travel abroad, we witness a surge in economic activities that benefit both the home country and the destinations visited. The growth in this sector not only boosts foreign exchange earnings but also creates a plethora of job opportunities within the tourism ecosystem. India’s strategic

role as a key stakeholder in outbound tourism underscores our commitment to fostering global connections and economic development.”

The release of the FICCI-Nangia Knowledge Paper “Navigating Horizons: The Rise and Future of Indian Outbound Tourism” was the highlight of the event as the paper stated that Indian Outbound Tourism is likely to reach USD 55388.41 million by 2024.

The address by Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI & CMD, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group also highlighted the immense underlying potential of the Outbound Tourism in India and how it indirectly contributes to also bringing in Inbound traffic as ‘empty planes won’t fly to international destinations.’

This was followed by addresses by Seitenov Darkhan, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of Kazakhstan to India; Priyanga Wickramasinghe, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, Amb. Mary M. Mutuku, Deputy High Commissioner of Kenya to India and vote of Thanks by Manab Majumdar, Senior Advisor, FICCI.

The first Panel Discussion of the Summit was titled – How Outbound Tourism is playing a crucial role as a Key Growth Driver and Contributor in the growth of Indian Tourism Industry.

This panel discussion explored the multifaceted ways in which outbound tourism from India is contributing to the nation’s economy and Job creation. Moderated by Disha Shah, Director &



COO, ICE Group India, the Panellists included Sudhir Patil, Founder & Chairperson, Veena World; Guldeep Sahni, Managing Director, Weldon Tours & Travels; Anup Taneja, Senior Director, Global Sales, India & Subcontinent, Marriott Hotels; Amit Sudhakar, CFO, BLS International and Prasanna Subramaniam, Chief Technology Officer, Fly91.

Up next was the Panel Discussion focussed on what the Outbound Indian Traveller Wants, which saw representatives from leading Country Tourism Boards come together and discuss a strategy to attract more Indian Tourists and meet their evolving demands. The Panellists included Tsiory Andriamparariavo Randrianarivony, Counsellor, Embassy of Madagascar to India; Ketevan Lagvilava, Head of Consular Section, Embassy of Georgia to India; Ahmad Johanif Mohd. Ali, Director, Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board; Kean Bon Lim, Area Director - India, South Asia & Africa, Singapore Tourism Board and Gaurav Chauhan, Wedding Planner & Owner, GC Events.

The third and final post lunch session talked about the 'Emerging Trends in Outbound Tourism from India' and discussed the dynamic shifts reshaping the travel landscape for Indian globetrotters. Industry leaders delved on how increasing disposable incomes, digital advancements, and evolving consumer preferences are driving a surge in outbound travel.

Moderated by Gurjit Singh Ahuja, Consulting Editor, Travel Trade Journal, the panellists included Sandeep Dwivedi, Managing Director - India & Subcontinent (Travel Seller), Amadeus; Saurabh Chakraborty, Founder & CEO, Travelbuddy.com; Pran Sathiadasan, Vice President, Commercial Operations (Indian Subcontinent), Flydubai.com; Srijit Nair, General Manager- India, Middle East & Africa, Rail Europe; Birendra Singh, Area Manager, Indian Sub-Continent, Booking.com and Saurabh Bhargava, Associate Vice President, National Sales, North India - IHCL (Taj Hotels).

The 4<sup>th</sup> FICCI Outbound Tourism Summit will take place on July 16, 2025. ■

# ONYX Hospitality hosts Roadshows in India to boost Market Engagement

ONYX Hospitality Group recently hosted a significant roadshow event in India from July 22 - 26, 2024, covering four major cities – Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Chennai with the aim of engaging with India's rapidly expanding and dynamic tourism sector. India is ranked among ONYX's top five global markets and stands out as the third largest market opting for ONYX Hospitality for both business and leisure stays this year.

Anjali Pokhriyal



2028. Upcoming openings include Amari Colombo in Sri Lanka and Amari Vientiane in Laos, both set for Q4 2024, along with Amari The Tide Bang Saen in Thailand, which will debut in 2025, offering a tranquil seaside retreat."

When asked about the vision for Corporate and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) movements, he stated, "Expanding its presence in the corporate sector, ONYX Hospitality Group is strategically focusing on the corporate and MICE segments. Consequently, this year's roadshow will be held in Chennai and

ONYX's brands, particularly Amari Hotels, are top choices for Indian guests, followed by OZO, Oriental Residence, and Shama. The upcoming roadshow will spotlight all the major properties of ONYX Hospitality in Thailand, highlighting their appeal to the Indian market.

Bharath Satyavolu, Vice President, Commercial, ONYX Hospitality Group, shared his insights with BOTT India on the role the Indian market plays in uplifting Thailand's tourism industry: "The Indian market is a top priority for ONYX Hospitality Group, ranking among our top five globally. Our recent roadshow in India underscores our commitment to engaging with Indian travellers, who increasingly seek unique and memorable experiences. By connecting directly with this dynamic market, we aim to showcase our diverse brand portfolio and gain insights to better meet the needs of

*ONYX is positioning itself as the leading medium-sized hospitality management company in Southeast Asia, with ambitions to manage over 50 properties by 2025 across Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Laos, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.*

both corporate and leisure travellers. We are dedicated to providing unforgettable experiences that make Indian guests feel at home, encouraging their loyalty and return."

Discussing the expansion plans for ONYX Hospitality over the next five years, he added, "ONYX is positioning itself as the leading medium-sized hospitality management company in Southeast Asia, with ambitions to manage over 50 properties by 2025 across Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Laos, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The company plans to expand to 70 locations by

Bangalore, allowing ONYX Hospitality Group to connect with key partners and address the direct demands of these market players and stakeholders. We are anticipating an increase in the number of conferences in the coming years."

Lastly, highlighting their sustainability initiatives he said, "Our sustainability efforts are organized into three main categories: environmental, social, and community engagement. We are proud to be the first hospitality group in Asia to partner with UNESCO on cultural sustainability." ■

## GUIDE TO INDIAN RESTAURANTS IN TAIWAN

When you think of Taiwan, you might envision its vibrant night markets, lush landscapes, and rich cultural heritage. But did you know that Taiwan is also home to an impressive array of Indian restaurants?

From Michelin-starred establishments to hidden gems, Taiwan's Indian culinary scene offers a diverse and delectable experience.

### TAJ INDIAN RESTAURANT



Located in the heart of Da'an District, Taj Indian Restaurant is a haven for Mughlai cuisine enthusiasts. This Michelin-recognized restaurant blends rich spices and authentic recipes, delivering an unforgettable dining experience. From succulent kebabs to creamy kormas, every dish at the Taj is a testament to India's culinary heritage.

**Address:** 1, Lane 48, Section 4, Civic Boulevard, Da'an District, Taipei, 106, Taiwan

### ALI BABA'S INDIAN KITCHEN



For those seeking a cozy yet vibrant atmosphere, Ali Baba's Indian Kitchen in Zhongshan District is a must-visit. Specializing in both Indian and Mughlai cuisines, this restaurant offers a delightful array of dishes. Their biryanis are a crowd favorite, perfectly paired with rich curries and freshly baked naan.

**Address:** 104, Taiwan, Taipei City, Zhongshan District, Section 2, Nanjing E Rd, 2nd Floor, No. 56

### DELHI X PRESS AUTHENTIC



Situated in Zhongzheng District, it is a Michelin-starred gem that brings the flavors of Delhi to Taipei. Known for its vibrant decor and authentic dishes, this restaurant is perfect for those looking to indulge in a true Indian feast. Don't miss their signature tandoori dishes, bursting with smoky flavors and spices.

**Address:** 100, Taiwan, Taipei City, Zhongzheng District, Beiping W Rd, 2nd Floor, No. 3

### MAHARAJA INDIAN RESTAURANT



Down south in Kaohsiung City, this one offers a fusion of Indian and Asian cuisines. Located in Zuoying District, this restaurant is renowned for its welcoming ambience and extensive menu. Whether you're in the mood for a hearty curry or a light vegetarian dish, Maharaja caters to every palate.

**Address:** No. 392, Mingcheng 2nd Rd, Zuoying District, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan 813

### POOJA'S INDIAN RESTAURANT



Pooja's Indian Restaurant, in the Yancheng District of Kaohsiung City, is a hidden gem for Indian food lovers. Known for its authentic flavors and friendly service, this restaurant offers a wide range of dishes from different regions of India. From spicy vindaloos to savory samosas, it ensures a delightful dining experience.

**Address:** No. 72, Qixian 3rd Rd, Yancheng District, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan 803

### RAWAT INDIAN KITCHEN



For a unique fusion experience, visit Rawat Indian Kitchen in Lingya District. This eclectic restaurant combines Chinese, Indian, Asian, and Taiwanese flavors, creating a diverse and exciting menu. Whether you're in the mood for traditional Indian dishes or adventurous fusion creations, Rawat Indian Kitchen has something for everyone.

**Address:** No. 50, Singuang Rd, Lingya District, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan 802



# SanSara at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore

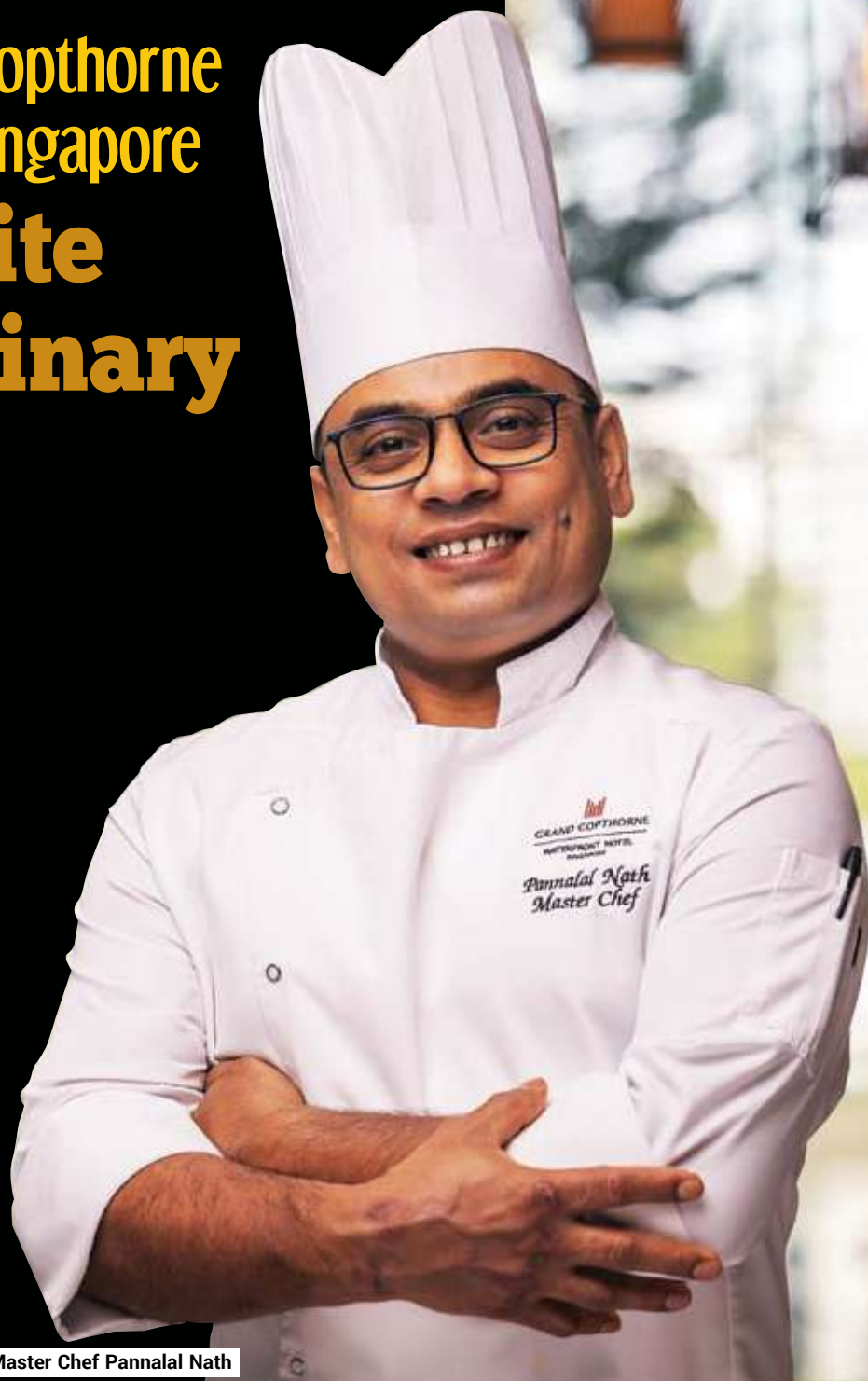
## An exquisite Indian Culinary Journey

In the vibrant cityscape of Singapore, where diverse cultures blend seamlessly, SanSara stands as a beacon of Indian culinary excellence. Located in the luxurious Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, this restaurant offers an unforgettable gastronomic experience that caters to both local patrons and international travellers.

SanSara takes pride in its ability to marry traditional Indian flavours with contemporary culinary techniques. The restaurant's interior reflects this blend, featuring a sophisticated design that incorporates elements of Indian heritage, such as intricate wood carvings and vibrant textiles, alongside modern, elegant furnishings.

Since its inception, SanSara has captivated diners with its authentic Northern Indian cuisine, curated by Masterchef Chef Pannalal Nath. The restaurant offers a sophisticated dining experience characterized by rich flavours, impeccable service, and a warm ambiance that reflects the essence of Indian hospitality.

Under the stewardship of Chef Pannalal Nath, boasting over 25 years of culinary expertise and specializing in Awadhi cuisine, SanSara blends traditional recipes with modern culinary techniques. Chef Nath's culinary journey through India's rich gastronomic traditions uniquely positions SanSara as a destination for discerning palates in Singapore. The menu at SanSara is a testament to India's rich culinary heritage. The dishes range from the spicy and aromatic flavours of North India to the subtle and delicate tastes of the South.



Master Chef Pannalal Nath





SanSara is committed to using only the freshest ingredients, sourced from local markets and trusted suppliers. The chefs meticulously select spices and herbs to ensure authenticity in every dish. This dedication to quality is evident in every bite, making the dining experience truly exceptional.

This authentic Indian restaurant is proud of its recent achievement of securing the #1 spot on TripAdvisor among Indian restaurants in Singapore. This prestigious recognition underscores SanSara's commitment to delivering exceptional dining experiences that resonate with both locals and international visitors alike. Achieving this milestone within just one year of opening highlights SanSara's rapid ascent and popularity within the local dining scene.

SanSara, meaning 'to flow' in Sanskrit, is an authentic North Indian restaurant located on the Robertson Quay riverfront. Opened in October 2023, SanSara is led by Master Chef Pannalal Nath who celebrates the rich traditions and diverse cuisines of North India, served alongside a modern list of cocktails and wines. The intimate restaurant is located on level 1 of Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore. ■





Tarot Card Reading is the art and science which helps understand the present status and the future course. It helps to apply course correction, if required. Tarot Card can be used for shaping Career, Health, Finance, Business, Relationship, Marriage, Match-making, etc. **Ms. Richa Srivastava, a renowned Tarot Card Reader** conducts exclusive Tarot reading under the banner - Tathaastu. Here are her predictions for August 2024.



**March 21 – April 20**

You will make significant progress on both professional and personal fronts. You will be happy and joyous, growing by leaps and bounds. However, be cautious about your health. You will have numerous opportunities to innovate and gain immense popularity.



**July 23 – August 21**

Hardship is our greatest teacher, so don't let disappointment settle in your heart. Extract the life lesson and move forward with new hope. Avoid making crucial financial decisions and take good care of your health.



**November 23 – December 22**

Having an efficient work ethic and a keen eye for detail can help you rise in the professional ranks and earn recognition from your peers. Avoid investments or deals that promise to be risk-free. Weigh your options carefully before committing. Take good care of your health.



**April 21 – May 21**

Your job will bring you success. Spend quality time with family. This month, stay vigilant and focused at work to maintain high-quality output. Avoid arguments with loved ones, practice yoga and meditation, and steer clear of overthinking.



**August 22 – September 23**

You are going to receive some form of education or training in your career field that will lead you to a new level. Learning is essential and will guide you onto this new path. Couples can plan for relaxation and better bonding.



**December 23 – January 20**

Be cautious about your health and make careful decisions on the professional front. Avoid risky investments and conflicts with anyone. Take time off to spend with family and include yoga and meditation in your daily routine.



**May 22 – June 21**

This month you will need to be vigilant and not lose focus at work, as this might affect your work quality. You will surely achieve the peak of your true potential by channeling your entire energies constructively. Avoid arguments with your loved ones. Do yoga and meditation.



**September 24 – October 23**

Get out of your enchanted bubble and start utilizing your skills. Work hard to achieve your goals, even when the odds are stacked against you. To maintain peace and harmony at home, communicate openly and confidently with everyone in your family.



**January 21 – February 19**

It would be best to look on the bright side of things. You may have to take on additional responsibilities on the professional front. Avoid investing in risky ventures. Inculcate healthy habits in your daily routine.



**June 22 – July 22**

You are brimming with ideas and eager to set them into motion, but it's time to focus. Refocus, recalibrate, and then deliver on your priorities. Mood swings could affect your family life. Avoid investments or deals that promise to be risk-free.



**October 24 – November 22**

There could be times when you find it difficult to communicate with your family. Try to express your feelings. Misunderstandings at the workplace might hurt you. Your professional endeavours require thorough research and planning. Take good care of your health.



**February 20 – March 20**

There will be warmth, love, and excitement in your relationships. You are getting closer to a breakthrough in your career and have a clear vision of the future. Your work will get noticed. It's a good time for investment.



# UTEN

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## UTEN MAY 2024 OFFLINE CONCLUDED EVENTS



Coordelia Cruise Training and Presentation for UTEN with Guidelines Travels on 04th May 2024



UTEN - Dubai and Abu Dhabi Educational Study Fam (Recce) Trip covering Arabian Travel Mart from 05th May to 12th May 2024 Hosted By Tickat.Com



UTEN - FOREX Guidelines Training and Knowledge Presentation Session by Transcorp Enterprises on 24th May 2024



UTEN - ZARA'S Resort Study Fam Trip for 01, N 02 Days Hosted By ZARA'S Resort and Supported By Travel Dhamaka from 31st May to 01st June 2024



MISTY MEADOWS RESORTS LONAVALA & 7APPLE RESORTS LONAVALA PROPERTY SHOW ROUND ON 31ST MAY 2024 & 1ST JUNE 2024



UTEN with BRAND it Offline Destination Bhutan Training and Presentation by My Bhutan on 30th May 2024



## UTEN MAY 2024 ONLINE CONCLUDED EVENTS

- Destination Sri Lanka Training and Presentation by Walker's Tours supported By Sri Lanka Tourism on 17th May 2024.
- UTEN - Destination Madhya Pradesh Online Training and Presentation by MP Tours and Supported By Madhya Pradesh Tourism on 21st May 2024.
- UTEN - Azerbaijan Tourism Destination Training and Presentation Hosted by Alison Travel & Supported By Azerbaijan Tourism on 23rd May 2024.
- UTEN - Yas Island, Abu Dhabi Online Destination Training and Presentation by Destination Partner Yas Island, Abu Dhabi on 28th May 2024.
- UTEN - Selina Resort Presentation & Knowledge Session by BRANDit on 29 May 2024.

Media Partner **BOTT** BRANDIT ONLINE TRAVEL NETWORKING [BOTTINDIA.COM](http://BOTTINDIA.COM)

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✉ [utentravelnetworking@gmail.com](mailto:utentravelnetworking@gmail.com)



### DEX group

DEX Group has announced the appointment of **Varun Mohiindra** as the new Vice President of Sales. With over 25 years of extensive experience in the aviation and travel industries, His distinguished career includes significant contributions to prominent airlines and travel service providers. Varun's proven expertise spans Business Development, Sales & Distribution, Commercial Planning, Pricing & Revenue Management, and Strategic Partnerships.



### Air France-KLM

Air France-KLM has announced the appointment of **Stefan Gumuseli** as the new General Manager for the India-Middle East establishment. He will be responsible for further strengthening the overall presence of Air France-KLM in the region, focusing on enhancing customer proximity, upholding the commitment towards sustainability and keeping the organization as an attractive place to work.



### Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport

Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport has promoted **Ashwini Kumar Goela** to the esteemed position of Vice President – Operations and Area General Manager Delhi NCR. As he steps into his new role

as Vice President – Operations, the veteran will continue to apply his expertise and innovative mindset to elevate Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport to even greater heights. His leadership will be pivotal in steering the hotel towards new milestones.



### Hyatt Regency Delhi

Hyatt Regency Delhi has announced the appointment of **Daniel Dolatre** as the new General Manager. With over thirty years of extensive experience, Mr. Dolatre will be at the helm of the hotel's operations, overseeing both strategic and tactical growth initiatives.

He will focus on elevating guest experiences and setting new benchmarks for hospitality standards.



### Sofitel Mumbai BKC

Sofitel Mumbai BKC, welcome **Jasvir Belwal** as the hotel's new Director of Operations. In his new role as Director of Operations at Sofitel Mumbai BKC, Jasvir will leverage his 19+ years of experience at some of the country's finest luxury, business, and leisure hotels to achieve

significant results in employee and guest satisfaction, guest room profitability, and operations and facility management. His key areas of expertise include budgeting, forecasting, and Rev Max processes.



### The Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore

The Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore has announced the appointment of **Reuben Kataria** as its new General Manager. Kataria joins the prestigious hotel with a distinguished career in luxury hospitality,

marked by a steadfast commitment to excellence and a passion for creating unforgettable guest experiences. His approach to hospitality aligns seamlessly with the legendary service standards of The Ritz-Carlton, emphasizing a sense of community and an environment where every guest feels cherished.



### Stone Wood Hotels & Resorts

Stone Wood Hotels & Resorts has announced the appointment of **Abhijit Dey** as the new Vice President. With over 25 years of extensive experience in the hospitality industry, Dey brings a

wealth of knowledge in hotel operations, product development, brand management, and sales empowerment. His expertise will be invaluable as Stone Wood Hotels & Resorts aims to enhance operational efficiencies and drive brand growth.



### Grand Mercure Bengaluru Gopalan Mall

**Ram Shetty** joins Grand Mercure Gopalan Mall as the General Manager. In his new role, Ram will oversee the complete operations and management of the hotel ensuring

the highest levels of guest engagement, and profitability by continuing to build on the positioning and reputation of Grand Mercure Bengaluru Gopalan Mall. In his previous role, Ram managed Sheraton Hyderabad.

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Over **138 Million**  
Biometric Enrolments

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Employees

**153**  
Nationalities



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