

PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

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A high-end monthly magazine

*Happy
Diwali*

**Travel Superlative
Diwali Destinations**

**Seminyak:
The Cosmopolitan Side of Bali**



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Tall, Grand & *Awesome*

So where to go this time? Maybe to a place where cell phone network doesn't affect peace of mind, or to a place where the nature is at its best! On a second thought, let's go to the place where it feels like a proud Indian. But let's not forget about the social media appealingness of the destination. Yes, a purposeful visit with lots of amazing photographs is the place to be.

If this sounds like you, we have got you covered. With an evocative article on India's brand-new pride possession, Praveg's Tourism One takes you to the Statue of Unity - world's tallest statue, which towers Narmada Dam in the picturesque backdrop of the mighty River Narmada and appealing surroundings.

If indulging in vivid culture is on the list, we present a list of vibrant destinations to celebrate Diwali this year with great fervor. Worship Lord Krishna in Goa or see the Tihar celebrations in the Valley of Kathmandu, explore the different spectrum of the Festival of Lights.

Read on!



PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

November 2018

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Share with us some enthusiastic inputs like photographs, essays or anything related to tourism.

Have some suggestions for us?

Go ahead and send us your ideas, valuable opinions or topics you would like to see more coverage on.

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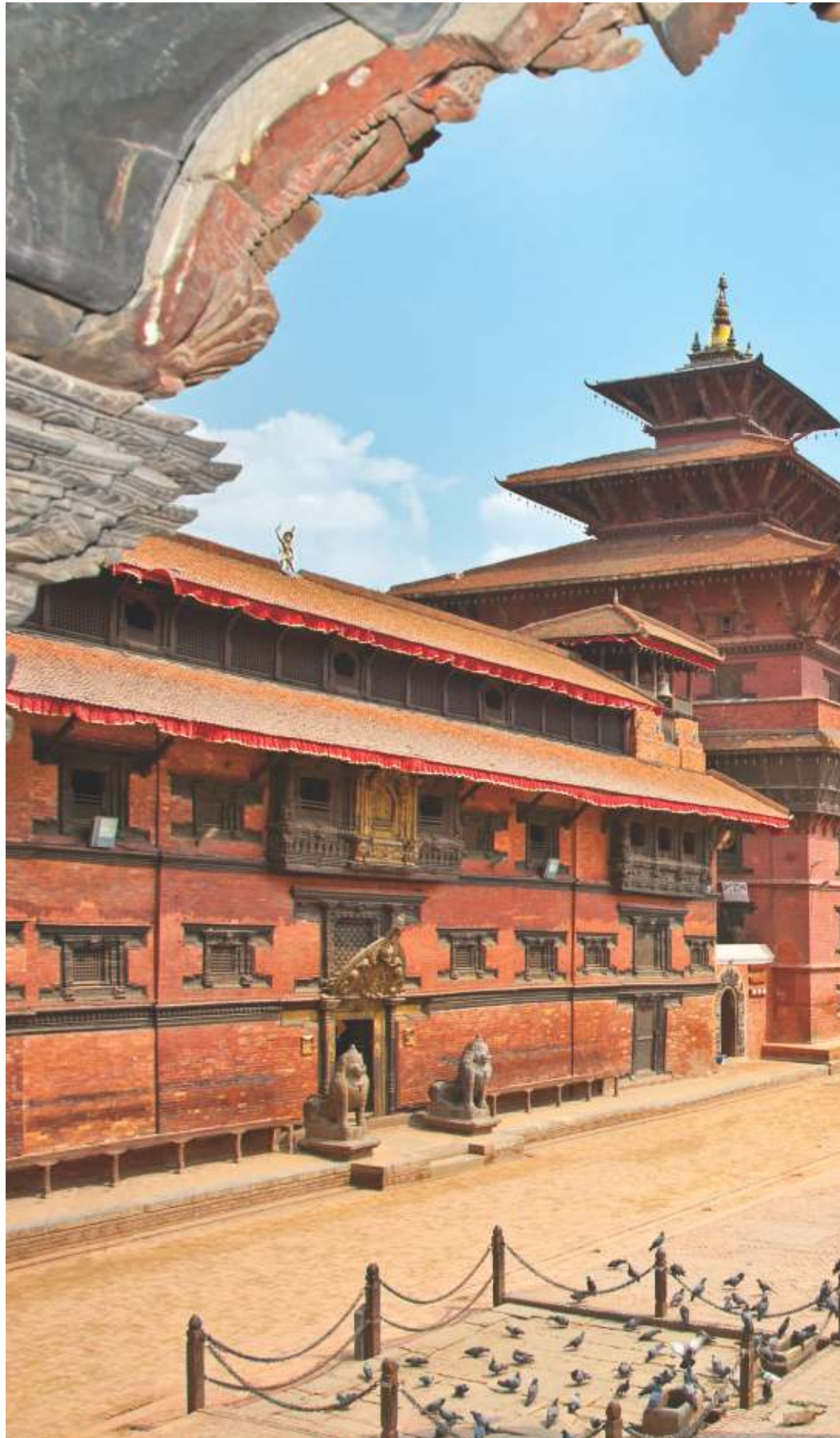
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Travel Superlative

“

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
who's the tallest of them all?
If this was asked a few months ago,
the answer would have been - the
502ft-high Spring Buddha Temple
in China. But now, with the
unveiling of 597ft (182 metres)
Statue of Unity on 31st October,
2018 by Hon'ble Prime Minister,
the answer has changed.*

”



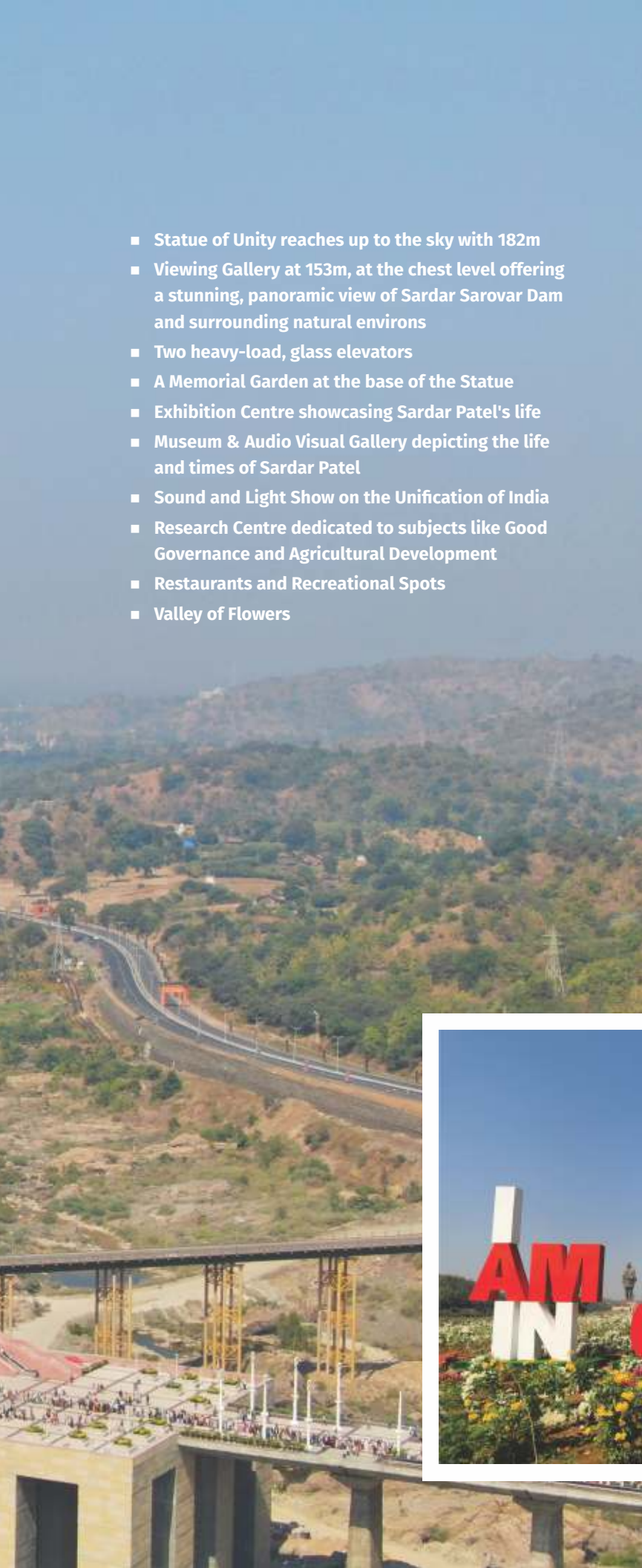
- Statue of Unity reaches up to the sky with 182m
- Viewing Gallery at 153m, at the chest level offering a stunning, panoramic view of Sardar Sarovar Dam and surrounding natural environs
- Two heavy-load, glass elevators
- A Memorial Garden at the base of the Statue
- Exhibition Centre showcasing Sardar Patel's life
- Museum & Audio Visual Gallery depicting the life and times of Sardar Patel
- Sound and Light Show on the Unification of India
- Research Centre dedicated to subjects like Good Governance and Agricultural Development
- Restaurants and Recreational Spots
- Valley of Flowers

If you're a traveller whose bucket list comprises mostly the superlative destinations, we suggest you to add the Statue of Unity to the list, which has made into the book of world records. Nearly twice the height of the Statue of Liberty, the Sardar Patel Statue is nine times bigger than the Angel of the North.

The colossal bronze-cladded Statue stands tall in Rajpipla, Gujarat in the walking pose towering the Narmada Dam. This inspiring memorial site, with a number of edutainment components, is located between the Vindhyachal and Satpuda Ranges rising weir Narmada River, impounded by Garudeshwar, the Sardar Sarovar Dam and the town of Kevadia. The Statue symbolizes the ideology of Sardar Vallalabh Patel, whose iron-will made him referred to be as the Ironman of India. This tallest, grandest and giant Statue is a tribute to Sardar Patel, the man behind the unification of India who was the reason we can call ourselves Indians.

The Statue complex has several attractions like the Museum, Audio-Visual Gallery, Sound and Light Show, Exhibition Centre, Earth Wall, Valley of Flowers among others. Two lifts that go up to the Viewing Gallery at the Statue's chest level yield an awe-inspiring panoramic view of the statue site.

Besides the statue, there are interesting excursions around the site.





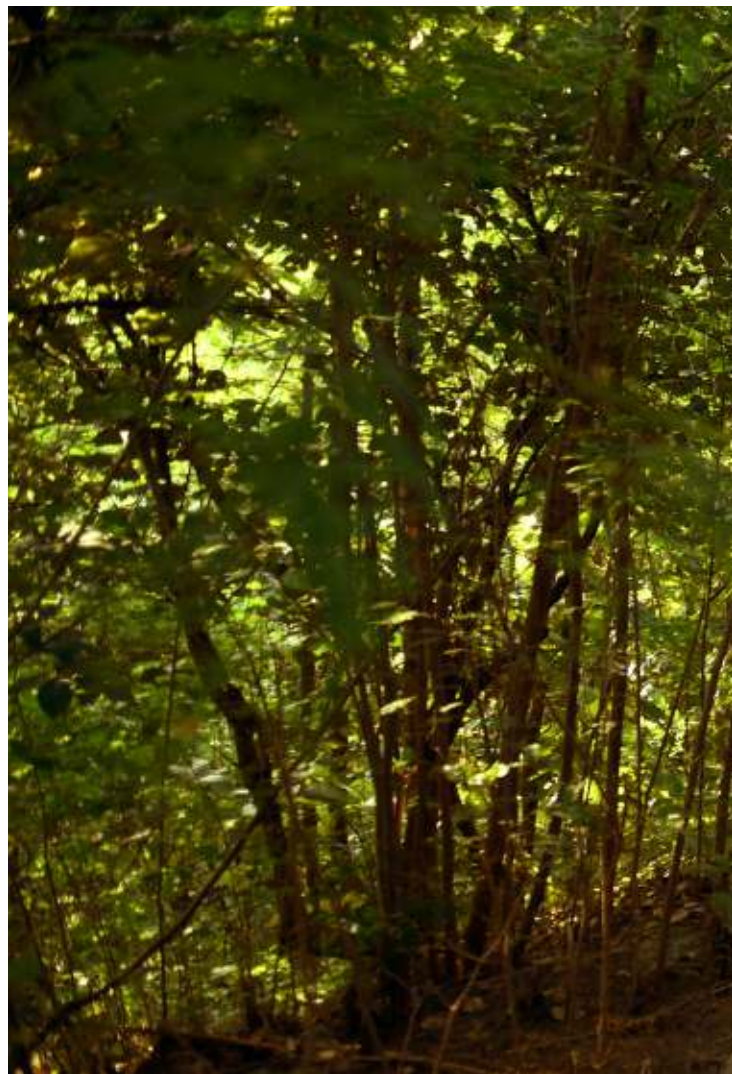
Sardar Sarovar Dam

Providing a stunning backdrop to this wonder of the world is another marvel of engineering, the world's 2nd largest dam - Sardar Sarovar Dam and its surrounding landscape. It is filled with natural riches like rolling hills and meadows, winding roads, tranquil lakes, water cascades and thick forest areas. There have been numerous sightings of animals native to the region like leopards, sloth bears, crocodiles, etc.

For the benefit of those visiting the dam, the Sardar Sarovar Nigam Limited has developed facilities like tarmac road running around the dam connecting good viewpoints, drinking water, eateries, toilets, lights, view points, banks on rock filled dykes, and locals trained as guides to show people around the dam. The road offers a scenic and pleasant drive starting from the river-view point on an elevation with a panoramic view of the Narmada and driving down to viewpoints facing the cascading waters of the dam, the dykes, the streams, the canals emanating from the dam and the lakes created around the dam-site.

Kevadiya

Kevadiya at the Sardar Sarovar Dam site has in a short time become a tourist attraction visited by a large number of people including weekenders and day-trippers from Vadodara, Ahmedabad and other cities of Gujarat.





The Palaces of Rajpipla

Thanks to its illustrious past as a princely state, Rajpipla even today has many stately buildings and palaces.

The Vadia Palace of Rajpipla is predominantly Indo-Saracenic with a huge dome, flanked by smaller domes, an umbrella dome and turrets. The massive porticoes at front, rear and side entrances are supported by cusped arches. Arches run the length of the front-elevation and to the rear intricate lattice-work on stone sheltered the princesses from prying eyes.

The Vijay Palace was built largely in European style. It has a classical colonnaded semi-circular portico as the entrance, Corinthian pillars, Gothic arches, European domes and views of the river at the rear.

The Natvar Niwas is another palace property in Rajpipla, which is becoming popular for film shoots. The highlight of the Natvar Niwas is the stunning drawing room with a marble fountain and Krishna Lila murals.



Holy Places

Shoolpaneshwar Mahadev Temple is located at a distance of 13 km from the Sardar Sarovar Dam. It is told that the original ancient Shoolpaneshwar Mahadev Temple, which was located on the Narmada River, got completely submerged. Hence, the Shivlinga from the original temple has been reestablished at this new temple.

Chanod, at the confluence of the Narmada with the Orsang and the legendary holy river called Saraswati, is at about 50km from Sardar Sarovar Dam. This is an importance place for ancestral worship rituals. Some of the temples are fine examples of medieval architecture and have interesting murals depicting scenes from epics.



About 17km east of Rajpipla, Garudeshwar is a sacred place associated with Lord Dattatreya temple, the ashram of Paramahansa Parivrajakacharya Sree Vasudevanand Saraswati Swami Maharaj and the Samadhi Mandir on the banks of Narmada River.

Further south, Shuklatirth is a place of pilgrimage by the Narmada near Bharuch. In November, this is the site for a huge Kartik Poonam fair. From here, you can continue to Kabirmadhi from where boats can bring you to the island with the sacred grove of Kabirvad. The highlight of the area is the banyan tree that some Kabir followers believe sprouted from a Datoon (twig used as a toothbrush).

Eco-tourism

Narmada district also has one of the finest stands of semi-evergreen, deciduous and bamboo forests in Gujarat. The forests of the 607.71 sq. km. Shoolpaneshwar Sanctuary are ecologically important as the watershed for reservoirs and for conserving the soil and water of the slopes. The sanctuary is the habitat of Sloth Bear, Leopard, the Chowsingha (the world's only Four-horned Antelope), Barking Deer, Spotted Deer and smaller mammals like Rhesus Monkey, Porcupine, Civet and Pangolin. It is an important breeding area of Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable Hawk Eagle and other birds of prey. The grey hornbill, barbets, green pigeon and other birds can be seen eating figs and berries in the trees of this sanctuary and it is one of the best sites in Gujarat for sighting Alexandrine parakeet, racket-tailed drongo and red jungle fowl. Flycatchers, treepies, tits and other birds are easily seen. Flying Squirrel has been reported from the sanctuary but this species is hard to spot as it is largely nocturnal, except when gliding through the canopies with its underparts outstretched, an ability that gives it the name. It is also the home of



reptiles like the endangered Indian Rock Python. The rich and varied flora includes about 575 species of flowering shrubs. There are many scenic places here like the Naina Ghat Waterfall, Dhumkal and Piplod that are known for their bear population and birdlife, Mathavali Falls, scenic Panjiri Ghat near Dediapada, Sagai, and the riverside

sites. The forest department has rest-houses at or near most of these sites, and watchtowers have been created for good views.

Do not miss seeing the Shoolpaneshwar Falls, one of Gujarat's most spectacular waterfalls.

A number of tribal groups like the Vasava Bhils inhabit the forests.

Where to Stay

If visiting the statue and surrounding sites make the pulse race, staying back to sample the beauty of its natural environs is sure to soothe the nerves. The best way to experience Statue of Unity and surrounding attractions is an array of exquisite tents nestling in the valleys - Tent City Narmada.

Set up along the picturesque Panchmuli lake near the Statue of Unity, Tent City Narmada is located amidst the rolling Satpura and Vindhya hills and surrounded by meadows, water cascades, thick forest areas and abundant wildlife.

Beautifully placed beneath the shadow of the Statue of Unity amid the picturesque backdrop of Sardar Sarovar Dam and surrounding natural environs, the Luxurious Nature Resort is a perfect

getaway for the urban travellers for close-to-nature experience, away from the fast-paced city life, in the middle of rolling hills, lakes, wooded areas and pollution-free air.

The Tent Nestlings at Tent City Narmada are luxurious and well-appointed, where five-star food complements the five-star accommodation. There is a choice of packages, starting from quick 1-day getaways to lazy 2-day escapes from the city. For weekends, bunched holidays, occasions, educational trips or corporate outings, Tent City Narmada is the perfect nature retreat.

The Resort has three exciting accommodation options to suit requirements of all types of tourists - Luxury Tents, Deluxe Tents and Standard Tents, well-equipped with modern amenities. 10



Key Attractions

- Accommodation in Premium AC/Non-AC Tent
- Priority Pass to visit Statue of Unity
- Visit to Statue of Unity and Sardar Sarovar Dam
- Sightseeing Tour to historic Shoolpaneshwar Temple and Majestic Rajvant Palace
- Crocodile spotting at Sardar Sarovar Dam
- Shopping and cultural delight
- Selfie Point for perfect photos with Statue of Unity
- Delicious regional, Indian and continental cuisines by Courtyard by Marriott
- Hiking tour to explore ecotourism site

For booking-related enquiries, please call on +91 97 97 94 94 94, 96247 99166 or mail on booking@TentCityNarmada.com, sales@TentCityNarmada.com



DIWALI DESTINATIONS



Diwali and Dev Diwali are spectacularly celebrated in different parts of India. A look at some places to enjoy the festivities:

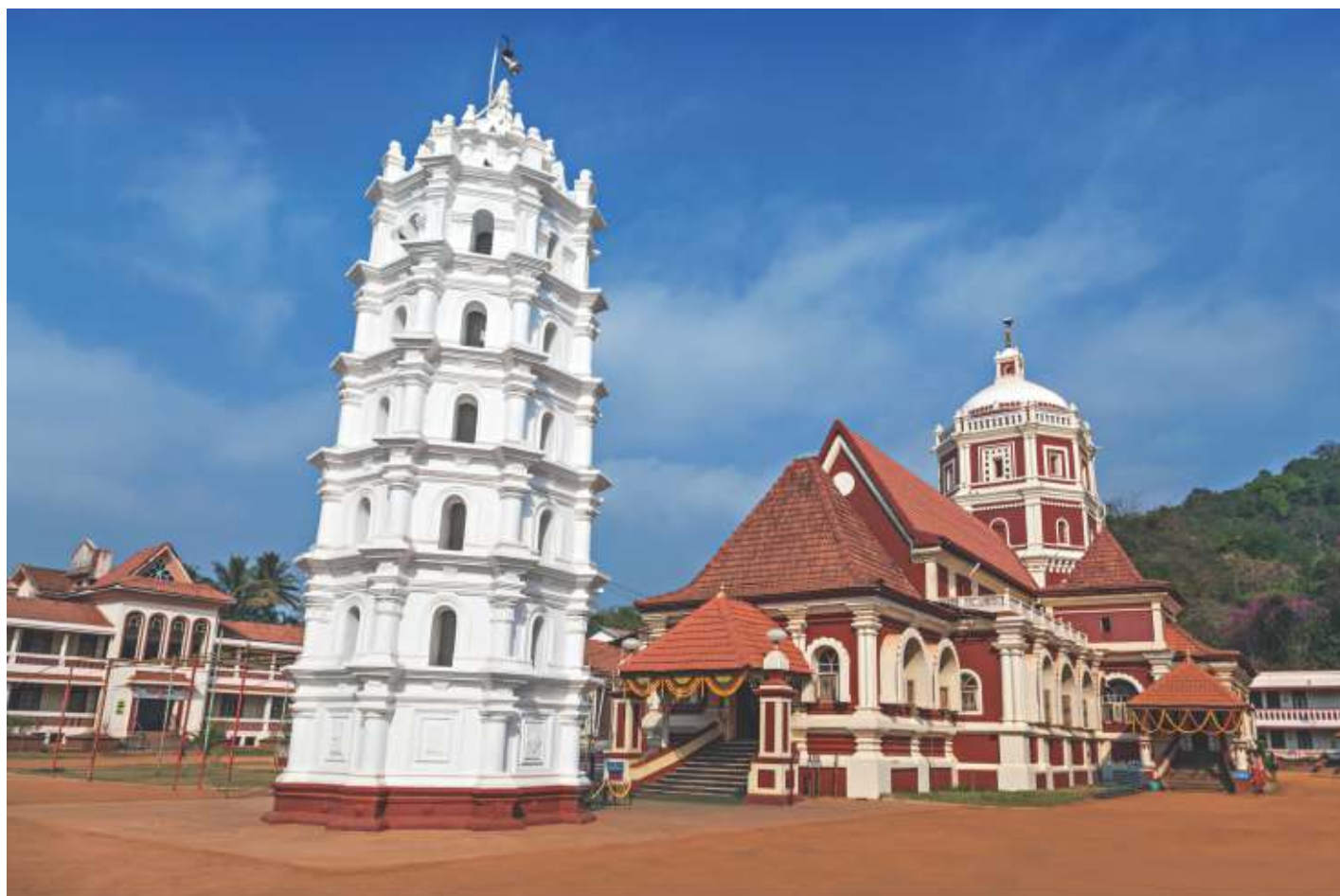
Worship Lord Krishna in Goa

Goa is deservedly one of India's top holiday destinations, thanks to its combination of beaches, heritage and lush green hills.

It became a refuge for Hindus from the coastal areas where the Portuguese

Catholics held sway. The temples built or revamped during the 18th century are distinctive in their blend of Indian and European architecture, occasionally incorporating Indo-Islamic styles in their domes and arches. Noteworthy features of the temples are the Tulsi Vrindavan, an urn or shrine containing a basil plant, multi-tiered towers with niches for oil

lamps called deepmals, a bathing tank, an assembly hall called the mandapa and the sanctum usually with silver screen partitions. One of the major temple destinations is Marcel Village with many temples, including the Devki Krishna Temple, unique because here Lord Krishna is worshipped alongside mother Devaki as Devakikrishna.





When visiting this temple-covered area, you can see the celebrations of Narak Chaturdashi commemorating the victory of Lord Krishna against Narakasura - the son of Mother Earth who brought all the kingdoms on earth under his control. Next, he turned his eyes towards heaven making the King of Gods, Indra flee. He stole the earrings of Aditi, the heavenly mother goddess, and usurped some of her territory, while also kidnapping 16,000 women.

As promised to Mother Earth, Narakasura was allowed to enjoy a long reign. At last, Vishnu was born as Krishna. Satyabhama approached Lord

Krishna for permission to wage a war against Narakasura. As promised to the Devas and Aditi, Krishna attacked the great fortress of Narakasura, riding his eagle mount with wife Satyabhama. Lord Krishna also killed Mura, Narakasura's general. Thus Krishna is called 'Murāri' (the killer of Mura). Lord Krishna beheaded Narakasura with his Sudarshana Chakra. Before Narakasura's death, he requested a boon from his earth mother, Satyabhama, that everyone should celebrate his death with colorful light.

Travelling along the Konkan coast from Mumbai to Goa, you can see

houses with rangolis painted on the floor in front and lanterns called kandils lit at night.

Rituals for this day include breaking a bitter fruit, which symbolizes the defeat of Narakasura. In the Hindu localities of Goa, you can see processions and paper-made effigies of Narakasura. The effigies are filled with crackers and inflammable substance. After the effigies are burnt, firecrackers are burst and people return home to take a scented oil bath.



GETTING THERE

Marcel is about 32km from Dabolim Airport, Goa



WHERE TO STAY

Marcel is about 17km from Panaji, which has a good choice of hotels like Vivanta by Taj and Welcomheritage Panjim Inn. Some of the spice plantations near Ponda also offer accommodations.



See the Tihar Celebrations in the Valley of Kathmandu

Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, has many attractions – spectacular views of Mount Everest, superb mountain trails, picturesque residential areas, monuments rich in history and artistic achievements at the Durbar Squares, the Buddhist stupas of Swayambhu and Baudhanath and the Hindu temples of Pashupati and Changu Narayan. Kathmandu is specially decked up for Tihar, the Nepali version of Diwali. During this 5-day-long Hindu festival, Kathmandu is illuminated with diyas lit inside and outside the houses and fireworks.

On the first day called Kaag Tihar, people worship the crow as messenger of Yamraja, asking for luck for their houses. On the second day called Naraka Chaturdashi or Kukur Tihar, you can see dogs bearing garlands on their necks and tika on their foreheads, indulging in food offered to them. The third day called Gai Tihar is when cows are worshipped. You can see spruced up houses decked with garlands. Laxmi Puja is held everywhere on this day. The fourth day is dedicated to Govardhan Puja and the fifth is Bhai Tikka in honour of the brothers.

Traditional songs are a feature of Tihar. Bhailo is generally sung by girls, while Deusi is sung by boys. You can see

them singing when going from house to house. They get sweets, delicious foods and money, and in return, they give their blessings to the householders. Deusi also provides a cultural entertainment by a group comprising performers who play a lead role, form the chorus and participate as dancers.

The Newar Buddhists of Kathmandu, though followers of Vajrayana Buddhism, celebrate Diwali by offering prayers to Lakshmi over the five days of Tihar or Deepawali.



GETTING THERE

Kathmandu is an international airport of Nepal

WHERE TO STAY

Kantipur Temple House is a tastefully decorated boutique hotel close to temples, where Tihar and Deepawali are celebrated.





Feast in Amritsar

The picturesque city of Amritsar is one of the top destinations of India because of its spectacular Golden Temple, the historical Jalianwala Bagh and other sites like Ram Bagh, Baba Atal Tower, the impressive building of Khalsa College, the majestic Town Hall and the Durga Temple. The ceremony at Wagah Border is another reason for visiting Amritsar. It also makes an ideal base to explore the ashrams of Beas and the bird-rich Harike Lake.

Diwali in Amritsar is celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs - Guru Amar Das listed Diwali and Vaisakhi as festivals for Sikhs. In fact Punjabis say, "Dal Roti Ghar di, Diwali Amritsar di". This is also the day of Bandi Chhor Divas celebrating Guru Hargobind's release from prison by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir who freed 52 other kings with him. You can see Nagar Keertan, which is a colourful street procession, a fireworks display and Shri Harmandir Sahib with the Golden Temple and the rest of the whole complex illuminated with thousands of shimmering lights. You can enjoy the continuous kirtan singing and special musicians performing at the Golden Temple complex, and attend Akhand Paath (a continuous reading of Guru Granth Sahib).



GETTING THERE

You can get to Amritsar by flight or train

WHERE TO STAY

Ranjit's Svaasa is a classy heritage hotel of Amritsar. There are many star hotels here like Hyatt, Radisson Blu, Ramada, Country Inn and Suites, Holiday Inn, Parks Inn, Clarks in, Golden Tulip and Ritz Plaza.

Join the Jain Pilgrimage to Pawapuri

Diwali marks the anniversary of Nirvana (final release) or liberation of Mahavira's soul, the 24th and last Jain Tirthankara of present cosmic age. Mahavira attained Moksha (liberation) on this day at Pawapuri on 15th October, 527 BCE on Chaturdashi of Kartika, as confirmed by Tilyapannatti of Yativarsabha, at the dawn of the amavasya. According to the Śvētāmbara text Kalpasutra, many gods were present there, illuminating the darkness. The following night was pitch-black without the light of the gods or the moon.

Pawapuri is therefore a good place to see the Diwali celebrations. This town centres around a lake with the Jal Mandir or Apapuri, a highly revered temple set on an island. A stone bridge leads over the lotus-covered lake to the island where you can visit the white marble chariot-shaped temple where the footprint of Mahavira is worshipped. Another shrine marks the site where Lord Mahavira gave his last sermon.

At Pawapuri, this is a festival of lights symbolic of knowledge or removal of ignorance. Devotees sing and chant hymns and mantras from Jain religious texts in praise of the Tirthankar and congregate for a prayer and recite verses from the Uttaradhyayan Sutra, which contain the last teachings of Mahavira.



GETTING THERE

Pawapuri is about 101km from Patna Airport



WHERE TO STAY

Pawapuri has simple guesthouses. The nearest major star-rated hotel is Indo-Hokke at Rajgir.



See the Fireworks at Marine Drive in Mumbai

South Mumbai is one of the most appealing places to celebrate Diwali. The prime residential areas like Churchgate, Peddar Road, Nepean Sea Road, Altamont Road, Carmichael Road, Breach Candy, Walkeshwar Road, the Hanging Gardens, Kemps Corner, Cuffe Parade and Malabar Hill comprise not only some of the world's most expensive residential areas, but also some of India's most cosmopolitan areas. Here, you can see Diwali celebrations of various communities like the Gujaratis, Marwaris, Sindhis, Punjabis, Maharashtrians, etc. On the night of Diwali, prayers are offered to Goddess Lakshmi to welcome her into their cleaned homes and bring prosperity and happiness for the coming year. Vaishnava families recite Hindu legends where the

main characters may include Rama, Krishna, Vamana or one of the avatars of Vishnu, the divine husband of Lakshmi. At dusk, lamps placed earlier in the inside and outside of the home are lit up to welcome Lakshmi. Many of the buildings are festooned with lights.

At dusk, walk along Marine Drive, the seafront boulevard, from Nariman Point to the Babulnath Temple, admiring the art deco buildings festooned with lights on one side and the Queen's Necklace of lights along the 'C'-shaped six-lane road running along the Bay. From this road, you can get a spectacular view of fireworks.



GETTING THERE

From Mumbai Airport it is a drive of about 22km to Marine Drive

WHERE TO STAY

The Oberoi is an iconic hotel at scenic Nariman Point with a superb view of the Queen's Necklace. The Trident, Ambassador, Intercontinental Marine Drive, Hotel Marine Plaza are other hotels view.



Go to Varanasi for Dev Deepawali

Dev Deepavali celebrated in Varanasi falls on the full moon of the Hindu month of Kartika. The steps of all the ghats on the riverfront of the Ganges River, from Ravidas Ghat at the southern end to Rajghat, are lit with more than a million earthen lamps (diyas) in honour of Ganges and its presiding goddess. Sight of a million lamps (both floating and fixed) lighting the ghats and river in vivid colors have often been described by visitors and tourists as a breathtaking sight. On the night of the festival, thousands of devotees from the holy city of Varanasi, surrounding villages and across the country gather in the evening on the ghats of the Ganges to watch the aarti. View of a million lamps lighting the ghats and river in vivid colors have often been described by visitors and tourists as breathtaking. On the night of the festival, thousands of devotees gather in the evening on the ghats of the Ganges to watch the aarti.



GETTING THERE

Varanasi has an airport and a railway station



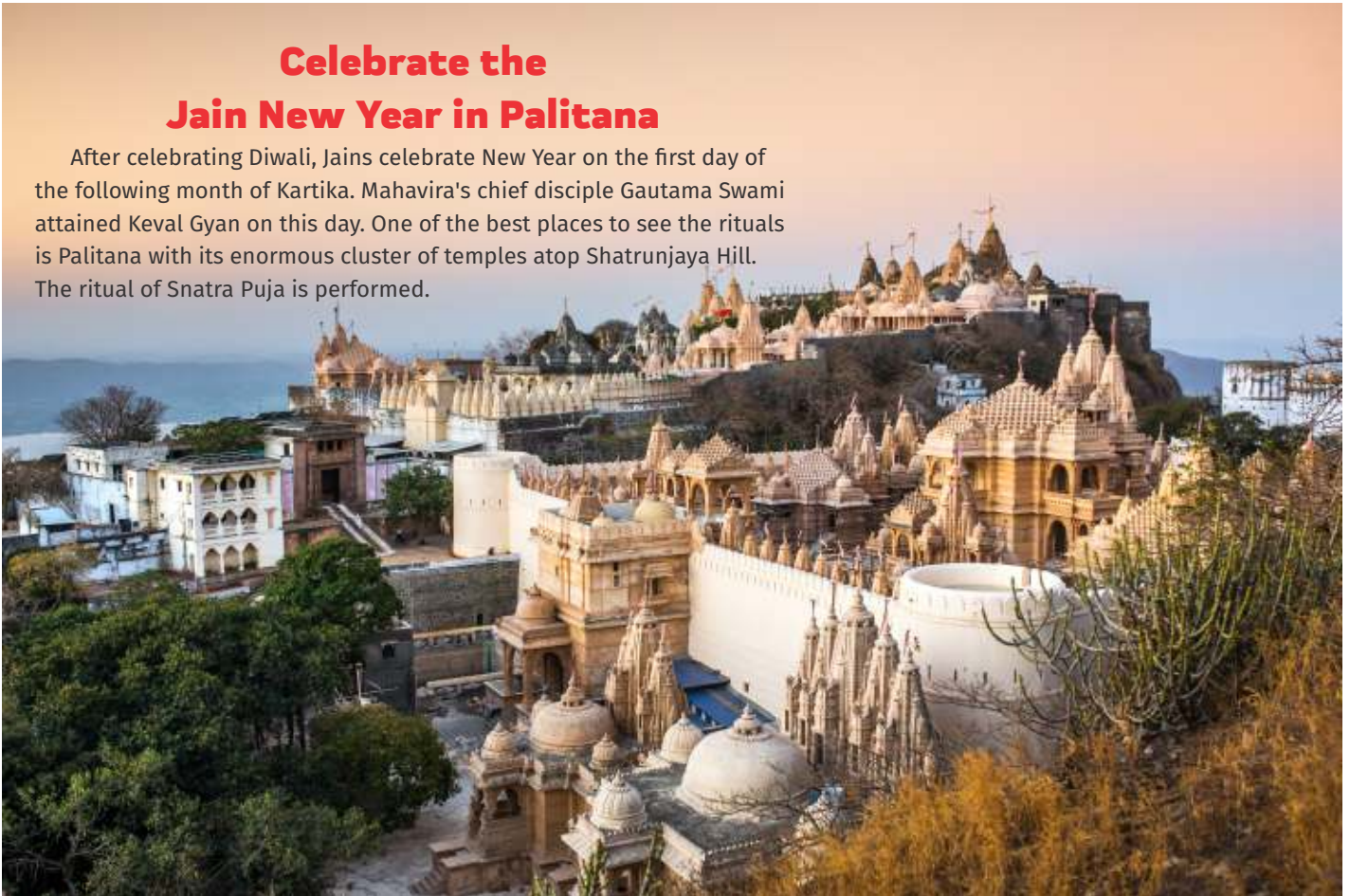
WHERE TO STAY

The Gateway Hotel Ganges View, Palace on Ganges and Hotel Ganges View are among the good places to stay.



Celebrate the Jain New Year in Palitana

After celebrating Diwali, Jains celebrate New Year on the first day of the following month of Kartika. Mahavira's chief disciple Gautama Swami attained Keval Gyan on this day. One of the best places to see the rituals is Palitana with its enormous cluster of temples atop Shatrunjaya Hill. The ritual of Snatra Puja is performed.



GETTING THERE

Palitana is about 55km from Bhavnagar airport

WHERE TO STAY

Sumeru Toran is located in Palitana town. Vijay Vilas at Adpur Palitana is a heritage hotel.



See The Lights of Jaipur

The pink city of Jaipur is one of the most beautiful places during Diwali. The many grand buildings of Jaipur are bedecked with lights and decorations, and the firework displays are impressive.



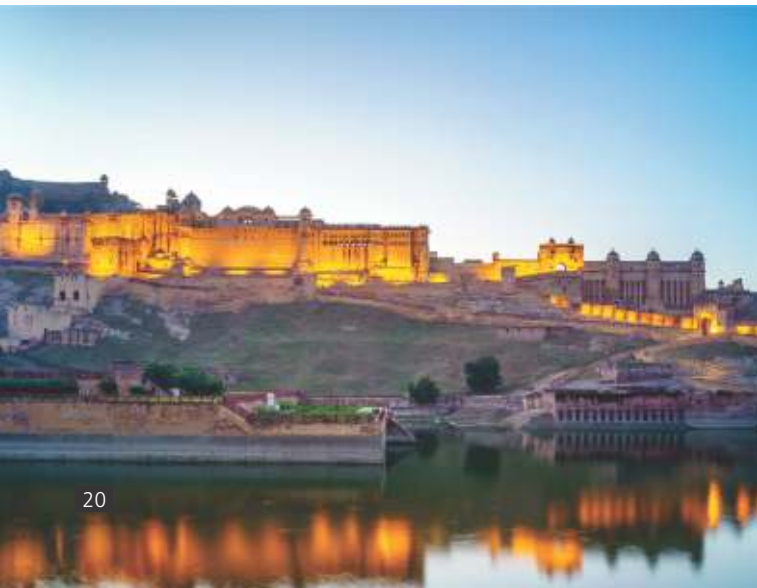
GETTING THERE

Jaipur has an airport and a railway station



WHERE TO STAY

Jaipur is famous for its palace hotels.



Worship Kali in Kolkata

Kolkata is one of the finest places to celebrate Diwali with Kali Puja. In the city of Kali are many spectacular Kali temples. In the Kalighat Temple in Kolkata, Kali is worshipped as Lakshmi on this day so as to reflect an essence of Vaishnava Haldars on Kali worship. Goddess Lakshmi is worshipped in her three forms, Maha Lakshmi, Maha Kali and Maha Saraswati on this day. Another famous temple dedicated to Kali in Kolkata is Dakshineswar Kali Temple. The famous Kali devotee Ramakrishna was a priest at this temple.

Throughout the city you can see pandals that house images of Kali, Shiva - the

consort of Kali, Ramakrishna and Bamakhepa - two famous Bengali Kali devotees along with scenes from mythology of Kali and her various forms along with Mahavidyas, which is a group of ten Tantric goddesses headed by Kali. People visit these pandals throughout the night. Kali Puja is also the time for magic shows and theatre. Fireworks are a feature of this celebration.



GETTING THERE

Fly or take a train to Kolkata



WHERE TO STAY

Kolkata has a wide choice of star-rated hotels



Diwali In Kandy

Sri Lanka is a symbolic place to celebrate Diwali as this is where Sita was held captive. One of the most convenient places to visit during Diwali in Sri Lanka is Kandy, where you can see the lighting of lamps and distribution of misiri, figurines of sugar crystals. 🍬



GETTING THERE

Kandy is about 105km from Colombo



WHERE TO STAY

Kandy has many good places to stay



Words by ANIL MULCHANDANI Pics by DINESH SHUKLA

Incredible India

A Jewel *in the Sky*



I stood near the horse sheds at Ghangaria village and looked up sorely at the mountain before me. The passage leading to Shri Hemkunt Sahib looked incredibly formidable and daunting. The winding pathway, zigzagged across the mountain, disappeared into the clouds. It was a 6km-



long steep uphill trek to the Gurudwara, which was situated at 4329 meters above sea level, through a narrow precipitous trail.

The previous day, I had trekked a grueling 4km to the Valley of Flowers from Ghangaria. And the day before, we had trekked from Pulna to Ghangaria, a distance of 9 km. Though a helicopter ride was available to Ghangaria, I had chosen to trek.

There were many other trekkers with me. Majority of them were headed for Ghangaria and then to Shri Hemkunt Sahib. There were people, representing different age groups, all responding to the call of the Holy. As I walked towards Ghangaria, I overtook a Sikh couple who looked to be well into their seventies. They were walking at a sauntering pace. I wondered if they would ever reach the destination they had set in their mind. But several hours later after I had reached Ghangaria, I saw them there, looking none the worse for the grueling trek that they had just completed.

On another occasion, I encountered several young people, including a

teenage girl walking barefoot. All they had was a simple bamboo stick. I was walking along with them in an expensive trekking boots and with a telescopic walking stick to boot.

On the way my friend spotted a monk sitting on the side of the path. The monk had fallen and injured himself, not seriously. He was one of the many monks that you often see when you pass these regions - saffron robed, hair covered with dust and matted hair, barefoot and a bundle of clothes slung on his back. Apart from giving them a cursory glance, I never thought about them much other than mildly wondering why would anyone want to renounce worldly luxuries and willingly embrace a life of hardship and penury?

My friend offered him some money, by way of some succor. But the monk politely and firmly refused to accept the financial offering, explaining that somebody had already given him some money and he had no requirement for more! Both my friend and I were stunned at his refusal to accept more money. How could anyone transcend the



lust for money, however small? Wasn't that craving a basic instinct in every human being? How could he not want a little bit of saving for tomorrow? I envied his disdain for money, and admired his ostensible attitude, 'I have enough for today. Tomorrow is another day.'

Next day, as I stood at the base of the mountain looking up at the path leading to Hemkunt Sahib, I decided to hire a pony. It would be a pleasant and comfortable ride to the top, I thought. Comfortable it was but hardly pleasant. My little pony had a distinct tendency to sidle to the edge of the path. Often I would find myself staring down into the abyss, as the mountain dropped away hundreds of feet, before the boy shepherding my pony, would hurriedly urge it back. I asked him why his pony kept veering off. To my horror he replied that she had a tendency to fall asleep on the go!

After two hours of arduous ride on the pony, I finally arrived at the Gurudwara. From afar, the temple looked like a polished piece of jewel, perched serenely on the edge of the lake. After the cold and grueling climb to the top, we were greeted by the unique Sikh hospitality of Langaar. The munificence of the Sikh community comes to the fore. My aches and pain and breathlessness are forgotten as I luxuriated in their Chawal, Kadi, Pakoras and Kichadi. The tea that is ever kept on boil is the most amazing welcome drink one could possibly have in that cold windswept mountain top.

Hemkunt Sahib was built on the edge of the calm aquamarine waters of the lake. The Lokpal, as the lake is called, was fed by the glacial waters from the seven towering mountains that stood sentinel along the side of the water body. The waters from this lake flow

down to the Valley of Flowers, where it merges with the Pushpawati stream.

According to the holy Granth Sahib, the tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Govind Singh, in one of his earlier births, mediated on the banks of Hemkunt Lake. It was Guru Govind Singh who gave the necessary impetus to this religion. He introduced the basic tenets of Sikhism and the mandatory five articles or five Ks to be worn by the Sikhs at all times.

Though the Lake was known to the local villagers of Uttarakhand, it was Sohan Singh, a retired Granthi from the Indian army, who went in search of this lake that was surrounded by seven hills. He had based his search on his study of ancient texts. He discovered this lake sometime in 1934 and was convinced that this was the place where Guru Govind Singh had meditated.


The construction of the Gurudwara in

the present form was started sometime in the 1960s. It completed its present pentagonal structure of an inverted lotus sometime in 1993 and the Guru Granth was installed in 1994. It was the culmination of a long and arduous attempt to construct one of the highest Gurudwaras in India.

The lake stretched placidly before me. I rested on the steps of the lake and looked around. Many were basking in

the warmth of the afternoon sun. The weather was glorious. A few were taking a dip in the lake completely oblivious to the icy depths. A gentle breeze blew across the lake rippling its surface. As I looked across the dappled stretch of water, the Gurudwara stood stark against the blue sky. A huge white cloud hung benignly over the shrine.

I could hear the afternoon prayers were coming to a close. Soon the

devotees would stream out from the shrine and begin their descent to Ghangaria and home. For many, it would be fulfillment of a long cherished dream. A pilgrimage that would be discussed with friends and relatives over tea and social events, of their transcendental experience at a remote Himalayan mountain top, beside a tranquil lake guarded by the seven hills - a place that could aptly be described as a Jewel in the sky. 





An Architectural Trail in NORTH GUJARAT

Whenever you plan to give yourself a hilly break at Mount Abu, just remember that the journey from Ahmedabad to Mount Abu has some worth-visiting attractions. The road from Ahmedabad to Mount Abu through the plains of North Gujarat offers an opportunity to explore many architectural masterpieces built during the reign of the Solanki dynasty that ushered a golden period for architecture in Gujarat in the 11th and 12th centuries. They built some of India's finest Hindu temples like the Sun Temple at Modhera. A distinctive feature of this period was the creation of water-retaining structures like the kunds (stepped tanks), vavs (step-wells) and talaos (lakes) to tap the limited water resources of Gujarat. The step-wells are like underground palaces with beautiful sculpture and carved balconies string-coursing the staircases leading to the water level.



MODHERA

The Sun Temple at Modhera was built in 1026AD by Raja Bhimdev Solanki. The temple has survived Islamic incursions and earthquakes to remain largely intact except for the loss of the idol of the Sun God and the damaged shikhara tower. The sun temple is positioned so that at the equinoxes, the rising sun strikes the images in the sanctuary, which would once have had a jewelled idol. The temple is superbly proportioned with an impressive stepped tank, with 108 small shrines along the steps, dominating the forecourt. Behind the tank is the 52-pillared portico with friezes depicting scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The exterior and interior walls are covered with extraordinarily detailed carvings of deities, mythical beings and erotic scenes. Typical of sun temples, twelve adityas set into niches in the wall portray the transformations of the sun in each month of the year.

VADNAGAR

Vadnagar has 4500 hundred years of history trapped in the pottery fragments, textiles, ornaments and tools left behind by the agricultural communities that had settled here. You may touch the traces of the 12th century, wedged between the interlocking stones of the step embankments around the lake or carved in the torans left behind by the Solanki dynasty. The Buddhist Monastery, which got surfaced within the fortified area of Vadnagar, had two votive stupas and open central courtyard around which initially nine cells were constructed. This arrangement of cells around the central courtyard makes a pattern like Swastika.





PATAN

The old walled town of Anhilwara Patan was the capital of Gujarat during the reign of the Solanki Rajputs. Near the walls is Rani Ki Vav, which is one of India's greatest step-wells. Built by Solanki queen Udaimati in 1050, the step-well was extensively and sympathetically restored during the 1980s. Built in the 11th century, the well presents an impressive spectacle with the 7-storey stairway running down from the top to the water level with covered platforms at different levels. The walls

along the flights of steps going down have superbly crafted stone sculpture of the Vishnu Avatars and Goddess Durga, while solar discs are carved on the columns of the platform. Though Rani-ki-Vav is extravagantly carved throughout, some of its finest carving lines the well shaft, dominated by sculptures of Vishnu and his various avatars or incarnations. The chambers around the shaft were probably used by the queens to enjoy the cool air wafting off the water on the warm days of Gujarat.

Near the step-well is Sahasralinga

Talav, an artificial lake surrounded by carved Shiva shrines but now only a few pillars of the Shiva temples that surrounded it still stand. Patan is also known for its superbly carved Jain temples like the beautiful Pancheshwar Parshwanath Temple.

The Vaishnav, Jain and Muslim mercantile families, producer of the double ikat textiles called Patola and the mixed fabric called Mashru, prospered from trade out of Patan. The Mashru was sought-after for men's clothing in Turkey and the Middle East,



The weavers of the Patola belong to the Salvi Community. The Patola workshops are modest - the shuttle looms have bamboo poles to hold the warp beams, a wooden sword or beater to hold the threads, quills or porcupine quill-like iron needles, a vessel for dyeing and winders. The textile is created by the double ikat method, which involves selectively dyeing the warp and weft threads. The silk threads are tied with cotton thread, and then dipped in colours so that only the open threads may absorb the dye. The coloured areas are tied and covered with resist, so that when immersed again in a dye bath, only the untied areas get the second colour. The process is repeated depending upon the pattern and number of colours desired on the final fabric. More than two or two-and-half months are spent just on colouring the warp and weft threads, both of which carry the pattern. After the warp threads are laid out on the loom, and the weft thread is fastened, two weavers may be needed to work simultaneously on the slant loom. Great precision is needed to ensure the interlacing of the warp and weft threads as the pattern carried by both the lengthwise warp thread and the weft thread that run horizontally on the loom.

The traditional patterns of Patola depend on the patron community. The Bohra women wear Patolas with floral and geometric patterns. A Patola saree with figures of dancing women, elephants or parrots is traditionally presented to pregnant women during the Shrimant, the baby shower ritual held during the seventh month of pregnancy. It is a prestigious dress for brides and bridal trousseaus of many Jain communities. The red Patola is worn during weddings as a stole or a saree. Typically, elephants, birds like parrots and human figures are popular motifs. Sarees can fetch Rs.1.5 lakh and could go up to Rs.10 lakh, depending on the intricacy of the design. Patola today holds a geographical indication for Patan.



because it was woven so that the silk yarns were on the outer side, while the cotton yarns were worn close to the body - Muslim men were prohibited by a hadith from wearing silk on their bodies. The Patolas were exported to Indonesia and other Asian countries, where double ikat silks have high spiritual significance even today. The preferred patterns of sarongs and other robes exported to Indonesia were geometric, often with tiger and elephant motifs, and were worn by royalty in the 17th and 18th centuries.





subtly concealed joineries. The highlight of most houses is the beautifully covered balcony called 'jharokha', with a window seat to look out at comings and goings on the streets. The Bohravads or Mohallas show superb alignment of the facades, so that no projections are out of place and the height of neighbouring buildings are identical. Inside are teakwood furniture, painted ceilings, floral motifs in plaster, fine woodwork, a profusion of glass and mirrors, delicate trellises and partition screens, rich carpets and rugs and patterned tiles.



SIDHPUR

Sidhpur was another important Solanki town. Here, Raja Siddhraj built the impressive Rudramalaya Temple, which was once a 3-storey complex with a forest of pillars and subsidiary shrines. Today only the tall gates and ruins remain to tell of its glory.

Sidhpur continues to be an important pilgrimage. Since Sidhpur is where Lord Parshuram is said to have performed matru shraddha, the rites paying homage to his mother, at this site the Bindu Sarovar by tradition has remained the place for such ritual.

The architectural highlight of Sidhpur is its Bohravads, which is full of exquisitely caved mansions. In medieval times, around the 13th to 15th century, the Dawoodi Bohras migrated from Yemen where they were facing religious persecution to Gujarat. Sidhpur's Hassanpura is one of the oldest Bohra settlements in India. The Dawoodi Bohras fanned out to different lands in the 19th century. They have attractive houses with extravagant brackets and capitals, graceful balconies and delicate wooden grills along the edges of the tin roofs. Some of the houses show strong influences of the European Renaissance period with three-part facades, each part with a tall door or window, ornate pilasters and gabled roofs that are like European pediments. The facades have intricate wooden columns and beams, with



PALANPUR

Palanpur was a princely state of India, with the Nawab of Palanpur having a hereditary salute of 13-guns. The city saw much modernization during the reign of Zobdat al-Molk Shir Mohammad Khan from 1910 - 1918 and his son Zobdat al-Molk Taley Mohammad Khan, from 1918 to 1948. The Zoravar Palace, which is now a court, has exquisite murals, carved wooden staircases and other artworks. Many palatial buildings and ruined tombs stand testimony to the days of the Nawabs.



WHERE TO STAY

Toran Gujarat Bhavan :

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Howrah



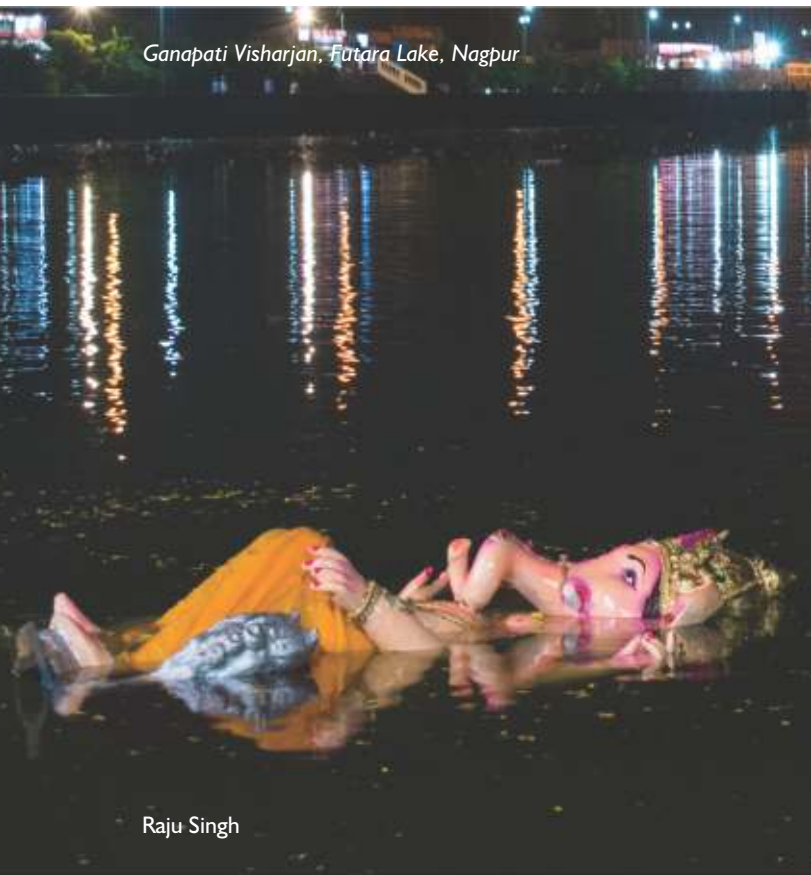
Biswajit Jana

Paschim Medinipur



Kaushik Paul

Ganapati Visharjan, Futara Lake, Nagpur



Raju Singh



Sahil Sidharthan K

Thira Mahotsavam, Kerala

Ganesh Visarjan, New Delhi



Manish Jaisi



Kaushik Das

Behala Sonar Durga Bari

LensMagic
The Photography Club

COMMENT & WIN



Basanta Utsav, Cooch Behar

Souvik Basu

Far Far away

Seminyak:

The Cosmopolitan Side of Bali

If you are expecting just beaches and beauty in Bali, then we are glad to prove you wrong because that's just the tip of the iceberg that you get to see in Bali. Ahead of you lies the tropical haven, which is natural and

cosmopolitan as well. One moment, you are lost somewhere in the serenity of white sand beaches and then within few moments, Bali will change its colour and you will feel like you're in a freaky party

destination. There are beaches and bars, there is culture and cafes, there is peace and party, there are beautiful rice fields and happening nightlife. The blend of the all of it makes Bali such a hotspot travel destination. It's like having the best of both worlds. Who doesn't like that?



And if you're looking forward to a cosmopolitan vibe of Bali, we have Seminyak as the top destination. Located in the south of Bali, Seminyak is a beach resort destination of Bali. This is where you would find an array of luxurious beach resorts, villas and hotels with the breathtaking sea views. It is the amazing side of Bali where you get to see the high-end shopping malls, fine dine restaurants, opulent bars and beach clubs that will give you the right amount of luxurious experience. It won't be wrong to call Seminyak the most stylish and happening part of Bali. And, since the currency of Indonesia is so cheap, it comes at no hefty price.

Things to do in Seminyak

BEST BEACH RESORTS AND VILLAS

If you are planning to stay in the luxurious beach resort or villa in Bali, it goes without saying that you would find the best options in Seminyak. It has some of the highest rated accommodations in Bali. And you would enjoy the undisturbed views of the infinite blue Indian Ocean and white sand beaches from your room. The services are impeccable as well. There are infinity pools, private pools and in-house restaurants. All in all, it promises a great stay in Bali.

SUGGESTED PLACES TO STAY:

The Haven, The Seminyak Beach Resort & Spa, Amadea Resorts & Villas, Dash Hotel





NIGHTCLUBS AND PARTIES

If you want to explore the effervescent nightlife of Bali, there shouldn't be anything on your mind but Seminyak. It has tons of lavish bars and clubs of Bali. Most of the bars in Bali have both beach-front and indoor seating. While the indoor setting is lavishly decorated and gives you an exquisite experience, outdoor settings are best suited for a dinner date, a peaceful meet or a laidback time. You can have both the experiences uncompromised. Talking about the food and booze, you will find delicious delicacies of Bali and the exquisite cuisine of the world. They don't lack behind when it comes to music. You will see the finest international DJ's and artists performing at the nightclubs of Seminyak. Ambience, music, beach, booze, the place has it all.

SUGGESTED PLACES TO GO:

Ku De Ta, Mirror Lounge & Club, OPIVM

SERENE BEACHES

Seminyak is a home to some of the best beaches in Bali. The beaches here are much more peaceful and less crowded than Kuta and Legian. The day is generally quiet at the beach and you can enjoy sunbathing and picnic by the shore. Watch Seminyak change its colours as the sun sets down. The beaches in Seminyak are lit up after the sunset, filled with cultural programmes, loud music, beach parties and what not. The parties go till wee hours so you have all the night by yourself, which you can spend hopping from beaches to beaches and clubs to clubs.

SUGGESTED PLACES TO GO:

Seminyak Beach, Echo Beach, Double Six Beach



SHOPPING SPREE IN SEMINYAK

Seminyak is known for its unique shopping experience. It has high-end markets, which include malls, boutiques and lavish stores. On the other hand, you have street shopping experience that goes unbeatable here. The Seminyak Square is the best place to go for shopping and dining together. The Seminyak Village is no unheard name, when it comes to the expensive shopping experience. The Village has been developed into a high-end beach resort with multiple shopping destinations. You can also go for Bali boutiques and famous brands such as Biasa Bali and Blue Glue. Seminyak also has flea markets selling handicrafts, artifacts, jewellery, clothes and much more.



SECRET GETAWAY FROM SEMINYAK-CANGGU

Ever since Kuta became too crowded, travellers soon started looking for a new place to chill. That's when Canggu was discovered, which is now known as the hippie's haven. Canggu is located 10 km away from Seminyak and has completely different cosmopolitan vibes. It has beautiful resorts, casual cafes and hippie culture. You can take a cab or simply enjoy a self-drive to this place, which offers peace and serenity.



THE ARTISTIC SIDE

If you are a fan of art, then Seminyak won't let you down. There are a number of art galleries mushrooming in the streets of Seminyak. You will get to see the Bali artists and their masterpieces. Head to stores like Nyaman Fallery, which has contemporary art pieces by local artisans and Indonesian artists. You can also visit Kody & Ko, which is known for its home decor and art pieces. Drifter Surf Shop is another highlight of the Seminyak market.



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Beyond nightclubs, beaches, resorts and shopping, Seminyak has other unique places that are worth a visit. The 3D museum is one of the most popular destinations. It is loved by both kids and adults. The museum is painted with 3D drawings all over and is a delight to watch. Take the Totem Tea Room Escape Challenge and escape room as you solve mysteries to free yourself from the trap. Clearly, there is no end to activities that you can enjoy in Seminyak. 📍

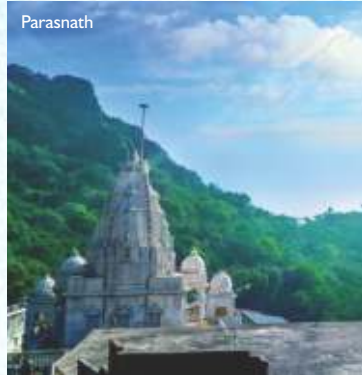


Jharkhand Tourism

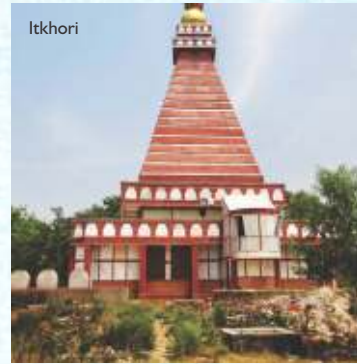
Nature's hidden jewel



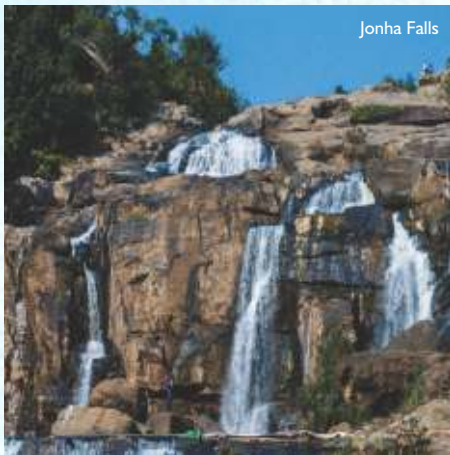
Belta National Park



Parasnath



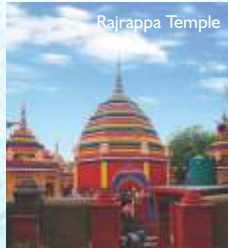
Itkhori



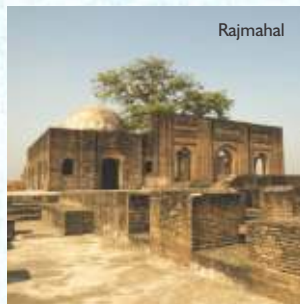
Jonha Falls



Mauli Temples



Rajrappa Temple



Rajmahal



Patratu Valley



Chandil Dam



Netarhat



EMBRACE **Nature** / CREATE **Memories** / TUG-IN **Souvenirs**

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THE EXCITEMENT OF SCIENCE DISCOVERY

Celebrated every 10th November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the important role of science in society. We look at some exciting science museums in India.

Get Hands-on in Kolkata

The Science City of Kolkata is one of India's finest science theme parks with a superb physics garden surrounded by buildings that create a futuristic skyline. The Digital Panorama claims to be the world's first and depicts the

important milestones during the last 6 million years of human evolution. The show starts with a static panoramic image, showcasing important events of human evolution. This is followed by a 12-minute dynamic film with voice-over in 3 languages on human evolution, projected on a giant cylindrical screen with the help of eight powerful digital

projectors that contain actual shoot from South Africa and India merged with photorealistic computer generated 3D images. "Science on a Sphere" has a room-sized spherical projection system that displays planetary data onto a 1.80m diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe, illustrating Earth's dynamic processes and associated science. Animated images of Earth's land, oceans and atmosphere can be simulated on the sphere to explain what are otherwise complex processes, in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating. This system is expected to provide a platform for better understanding of complex environmental





processes. Take a slow moving car ride that visits 56 robotic animal models divided into seven sections to showcase the milestone events of evolution of life and representative life forms of respective eras. Tour the halls to explore landmarks in science, take short science fiction simulator rides in the time machine and visit the butterfly garden. Children will enjoy the outdoors section with physical science exhibits, rides and musical fountains.

Travel from here to Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), which is among the oldest science and tech museums in India. On the request of Bidhan Chandra Roy, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal and physician who was impressed to see Deutsches Museum of Munich, GD Birla donated his residential house to the nation. The 3-storied Victorian style architectural building houses the museums with departments like Biotechnology, Electricity, Fascinating Physics, Life Science, Mathematics, Metals, Mock-up Coal Mine, Motive Power, Popular Science, Television and Transport. There is a special gallery for children. Enjoyable and educational shows include 3D film show 'Lost World', a coal mine show, science shows on magic & miracle, surprising chemical reactions, super

cool bodies, fun science and fire-y-tale, etc. Another gift from the Birlas to Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, the Birla Planetarium is designed like a Buddhist stupa. It is the largest planetarium in Asia and the second largest planetarium in the world. Visit the astronomy gallery to see paintings and celestial models, the astronomical observatory, more than 100 astronomical projects dealing with various facts of astronomy, astrophysics, space science, myths concerning stars and planets and a show operated by an optical-mechanical planetarium projector by Zeiss called "Starball", which presents the most realistic star field in the dome with superimposed images of constellation outlines, space objects like nebula and galaxies, planets and moons. Nearby are Kolkata's iconic buildings like Victoria Memorial and St. Paul's Cathedral, the impressive buildings of BBD Bagh, the Nehru Children's Museum and the extensive Indian Museum.

Don't forget that Kolkata is well-known for scientists like Satyendra Nath Bose and Jagdish Chandra Bose, among many others. Start by visiting the J. C. Bose Museum in the Bose Institute. The spacious entrance hall to the Institute served as a platform to disseminate remarkable discoveries, often accompa-

nied by a live demonstration. Aldous Huxley, who visited Bose Institute in 1926, wrote, "all the experiments in full blast the heart beats of plants, plants being drugged and recording their symptoms automatically in a graph the great experimenter himself was our guide." The museum exhibits instruments, photographs, letters, documents and memorabilia from the life of Jagdish Chandra Bose.

Learn about Human Anatomy at Manipal

Located near the beaches and temples of Udupi, Manipal is a university town with over 25000 students. Dr. SS Godbole, the first Anatomy Professor of Manipal's Kasturba Medical College, had a passion for preservation. His techniques of careful dissection, processing and mounting of anatomical specimens are followed even today. Thanks to him, one of the top attractions for visitors is the Manipal Museum of Anatomy and Pathology, or MAP, a sprawling building diagonally opposite the main education building. It opened in 1954 with over 650 specimens from the professor's own collection. Billed as one of the largest anatomy museums in Asia, the museum boasts of over 3,000 specimens and samples of things anatomical, including the skulls of an elephant and a whale, and the long skeleton of a King Cobra. The sprawling Anatomy section houses well-preserved specimens of the human body from head to toe, and everything in between. A section on comparative anatomy houses the skeletons of various other animals and carefully crafted models and charts augment the entire experience. The Pathology Museum, which displays diseased body parts and organs, has a popular section on lifestyle-related diseases and their impact on the human body. Work has also begun on a digital or virtual museum.

Take Kids for a Tech Trip to Bangalore

Bangalore is India's hi-tech city – from aviation to information technology, from the Indian Institute of Science to countless colleges of science and engineering, travelling around Bangalore is a discovery of India's technological progress.



Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore

If you are travelling with children, don't miss the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, where they will learn the fundamentals of machines through interactive exhibits that show the pulley system, gears, different ways of transferring motion, reducing effort by levers, inclined planes, screws and the application of these simple machines in daily life. The Fun Science Gallery introduces visitors to the science of sound, optics, fluids, math and perception. The Electro Technic Gallery contains interactive electrical exhibits, which work on the basic principles of electricity, electronics and communication. The BEL Hall of Electronics has exhibits on the basic principles of electronics and information technology. The Science for Children Gallery engages

children in activities that help them to enjoy science. There is a giant piano over which they can dance to play music and a pin-wall helps the children make impressions of their body parts. Also worth seeing are the engines hall, space section, biotechnology gallery and a model of the Wright Brother's flyer that revolutionized flight.

For more on planes, HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum displays

the growth of aviation since 1940. See the aircrafts outside and the models of aero engines inside. Get into the flight motion simulator to experience flying fighter jets and commercial aircrafts. The prized exhibit is the ATC Radar parched with L-Band Surveillance Radar having a range of 200 nautical miles, which rotates at speed of 3-4 RPM, with the frequency of 1250-1350 MHZ and Meteorological Radar.

Join The Crowds at Delhi's National Science Museum

With demonstrations and practical experiments, the National Science

Centre draws an exceptional number of students to learn about science. This is perhaps India's most visited science museum. Visitors are given an orientation talk at the reception and amphitheatre about the sciences. The museum covers various themes like energy, history and heritage of science and technology, human biology, prehistoric life, nuclear power, information technology and emerging technologies. The Fun Science Gallery has a number of interactive hands-on exhibits.

Water - The Elixir of Life is one of the newest additions to the museum with an entry through a virtual pond of water leading to galleries that explain the importance of water conservation.

Children will enjoy the magic tap, which apparently gushes forth water suspended in space without any inlet, a harp, where merely moving ones' hands create music and a suitcase, which curiously resists being twisted about its handle.

Get Extraordinary Insights into Science and Engineering at Coimbatore

Did you think of the flexible pivoting heads of the electric razor as an engineering marvel? How magicians make a body disappear so only the head is visible? All these are exhibited in G. D. Naidu Museum Industrial Exhibition, which has an excellent collection of automobile, industrial and mechanical exhibits. This museum has works by Gopaldaswamy Doraiswamy Naidu or GD Naidu, an Indian inventor and engineer who is also referred to as the Edison of India and developed India's first indigenous motor in 1937 along with D. Balasundaram Naidu. It was the motor's success that resulted in the founding of Textool by Balasundaram

and, later on, Lakshmi Machine Works (LMW). Naidu's 'Rasant' razor incorporated a small motor operated by dry cells called Heilbronn. Among his other inventions were super-thin shaving blades, a distance adjuster for film cameras, a fruit juice extractor, a tamper-proof vote-recording machine and a kerosene-run fan. He researched and identified new varieties in Cotton, Maize and Papaya.

G.D. Naidu's passion for automobiles is encased at the GeDee Car Museum in the same premises. The exhibits include cars like a 1925 Hispano Suiza, a 1938 DKW, 1937 Hansa, 1939 Hanomag, 1957 Goggomobil and a 1949 Mercedes-Benz 170 S from the collection of GD Naidu and his son who is the founder of the museum, vans of Fordson and Thames, which were used as ice cream vehicles and carrier vans, cartoon strips showing the Ambassador and much more. The museum details much interesting information about landmarks in automotive history such as how Tutankhamun used the wheel in ancient Egypt, steam engines and electric cars that were in vogue in Victorian England, the Benz Patent-Motorwagen invented

by Karl Benz who in 1885, Henry Ford who manufactured the first automobile on moving assembly lines in 1908 with completely interchangeable parts, which became the Ford Model T, the Volkswagen Beetle that was designed by Ferdinand Porsche on a brief to make a people's car built and presented to Hitler in 1938, Citroen 2 CV, the first cheapest car that could travel on rural roads and Sir Alec Issigonis, the father of the Mini, created in response to petrol shortages. A pride of the collection is the Rolls Royce that was used by GD Naidu at the Gedee Technical Training Institute to introduce students to detail in automobile engineering.

Take a Science Museum Tour in Mumbai's Worli Area

Mumbai's Nehru Science Center (NSC) is perhaps the largest interactive science museum in India. Start by exploring the science park with varieties of plants, trees and shrubs, and see more than 500 hands-on and interactive

science exhibits on energy, sound, kinematics, mechanics, transport, etc. installed in the park. Inside the main building, which is worth seeing for its architecture, you can see several permanent science exhibitions on various themes. Don't miss seeing the new Machined to Think Gallery that showcases emerging technologies expected to be part of the fourth Industrial Revolution.

Don't miss a show at the Nehru Planetarium, commissioned on 3rd March 1977, with the objective of fostering scientific temper through the means of edutainment.

Learn About Marine Biodiversity in Cochin

If you want to know more about marine wildlife, the National Marine Biodiversity Museum of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Ernakulam is a must visit. The collections cover six holotype specimens, 878 finfish species, 136 crustaceans, 217 molluscs, 44 echinoderms, 162 corals, 12 sponges, 20 ascidians, 82 seaweeds and 8 sea grasses besides a dolphin and three Antarctic birds.

Learn about Dinosaurs in Hyderabad

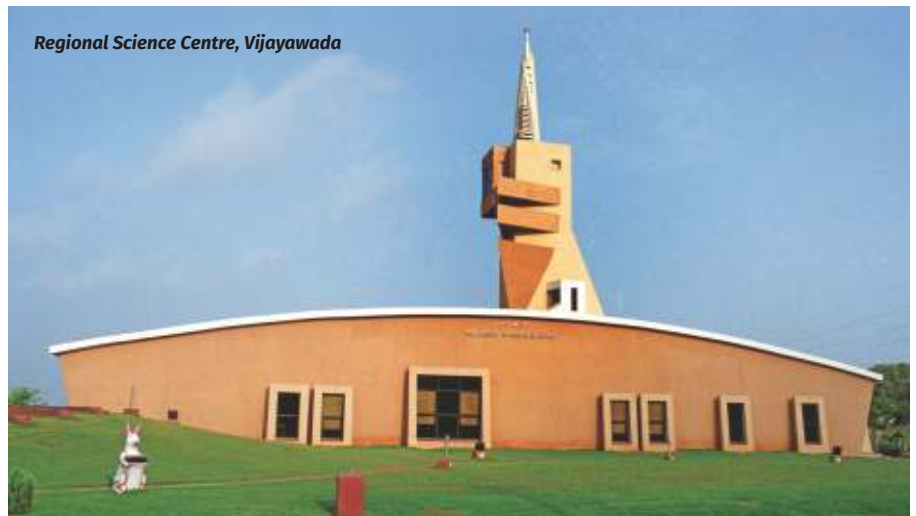
B. M. Birla Science Museum comprises a planetarium, museum, science center and an art gallery. A special highlight here is the Dinosaurium with a 160-million-year-old mounted *Kotasaurus yamanpalliensis*, excavated at Adilabad district, dinosaur eggs from Gujarat, a fossilized sea snail excavated from Trichy in Tamil Nadu, the thigh bone and leg bones of a Sauropod dinosaur, fish fossils from Adilabad and other prehistoric finds.

Magic tricks demystified at G.D.Naidu Museum & Industrial Exhibition in Coimbatore



Explore Science in Ahmedabad

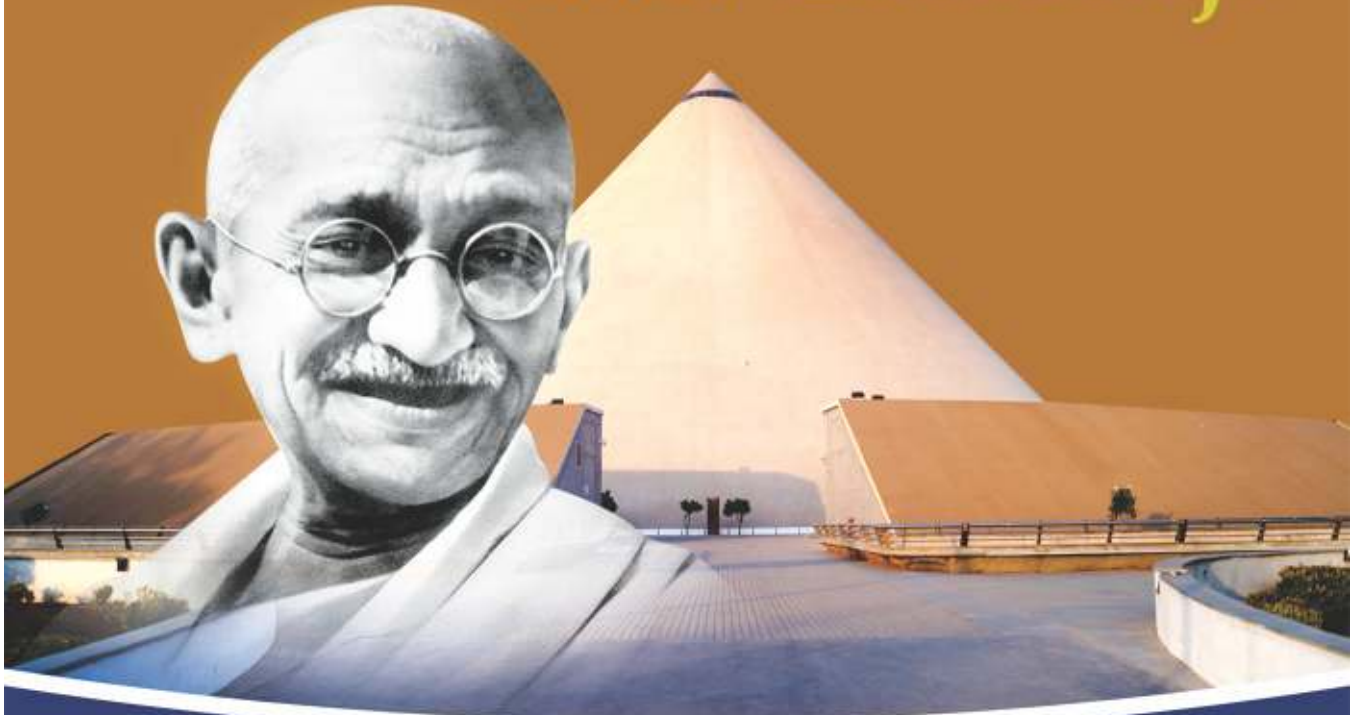
One of the great science theme parks of western India, Gujarat Science City is an enjoyable and educational experience for families. It has IMAX 3D Theatre, a Planet Earth Pavilion, a Hall of Space, an Energy Education Park, an Electrodrome with lots of information about electricity and its uses, a Life Science Park and Hall of Science with interactive exhibits. Take a thrill ride in the simulator and see a show on the Science City LED Screen. You could also check on details about events at the Amphitheatre. If you are here in the evening, don't miss the musical fountains. 📸



Regional Science Centres

- The Regional Science Centre in Bhopal is among the best science museums of Central India
- Kerala Science and Technology Museum in Thiruvananthapuram has galleries for electrical, electronics, mechanical, automobile, bio-medical engineering, popular science and solar energy besides astronomy events
- The Regional Science Centre in Vijayawada has a splendid location at Bhavanikonda facing the Krishna River
- Vadodara has a collection of fine museums and art galleries located in its Kamati Bagh, a park also known as Sayaji Bagh. While the city museum is exceptional in its architecture and exhibits, it is also worth visiting the 1878 colonial building that houses the Baroda Health Museum, comprising health exhibits related to body functions, diet and health sustainers. It is known for its life-size model of a toddler fitted with a working-mechanism to show body and eye movements.
- Srikrishna Science Centre in Patna has galleries that teach different science topics: the Fun Science Gallery covers physics and math with 50 hands-on exhibits; the Mirrors and Images Gallery; the 3D Show; the Evolution Gallery with 60 interactive exhibits that explain the origin of the universe and its life-forms, including man; Science Park with 40 exhibits where children can play; Jurassic Park with moving dinosaurs; and exhibits on oceans and Indian scientists.

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about **Gandhiji**'



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Decoding Hassan



Surrounded by the pristine Western Ghats, Hassan hides in a cloud of glorious past and is yet ignored for the more attractive Chikmagalur. The town, named after Hasanamba Temple was once nicknamed as poor man's Ooty, a status lost with the changing climatic conditions across Karnataka. In the past, Hassan used to be the seat of Hoysala Empire. In their peak, they ruled from Halebidu and later Beluru. Hassan has also been the centre of two important dynasties and was ruled by Vijayanagar Kingdom, Adilshahis of Bijapur and Mughal Empire in the later periods. Most of the historical attractions of Hassan date back to the period of Hoysalas, while the Jain community too had a significant impact in the later period. For a traveller, Hassan presents a number of surprises. From lovely temples to submerged church, a lot is left to decode here.



The massive gopuram at Channakeshava Temple, Beluru

Channakeshava Temple, Beluru

An hour away from Hassan, Channakeshava Temple of Beluru has been an important deity for both Hoysalas and Vijayanagar Kingdom. Beluru or Belur was the second capital of Hoysala Empire. The prime attraction here is the gorgeous and splendid Channakeshava temple complex.

Considered an architecture marvel, Channakeshava Temple was constructed



during the period of King Vishnuvardhana. The star-shaped temple complex is built on a raised platform. The use of black granites often presents the illusion of metal. The outer walls of temples have a series of 650 elephants in charging pose, and none two of them look alike. The interiors of temple have smooth granite pillars, which can be seen during the darkness too.

Belur Temple complex takes your time if you are an admirer of architecture. From here, you can travel to your next destination, Halebidu.

Halebidu

Halebidu literally translates to, Hale (Old) and Beedu (House). Halebidu was the first capital of Hoysalas and it is believed that they

used this region to experiment with their craftsmanship. The unique series of temples are scattered in a huge complex known as Halebidu Archaeological Park. Originally known as Dwara Samudra, Halebidu has several Hoysala style temples and Jain Basadis. The primary attraction is the temple of their

prime deity, Hoysaleswara Temple.

The exteriors of Halebidu temples are known for detailed works and figures of dancers and animals. A granite statue of Nandi sits facing the temple of Shiva. The whole temple complex is surrounded by a beautiful garden, which elevates the beauty of the area.



Halebidu temple complex is spread in a massive area with multiple temples showing the finest craftsmanship from Hoysala Kingdom



Shravanabelagola

At some point in history, Hassan was also the dwelling grounds of the Jain leaders. The name Shravanabelagola is derived from Shravana and biliya Kola (white pond). The biliya kola (white pond) tank is in the middle of the town -

Belagola, and can be seen on the way to the temple of Bahubali (not the one from the movies).

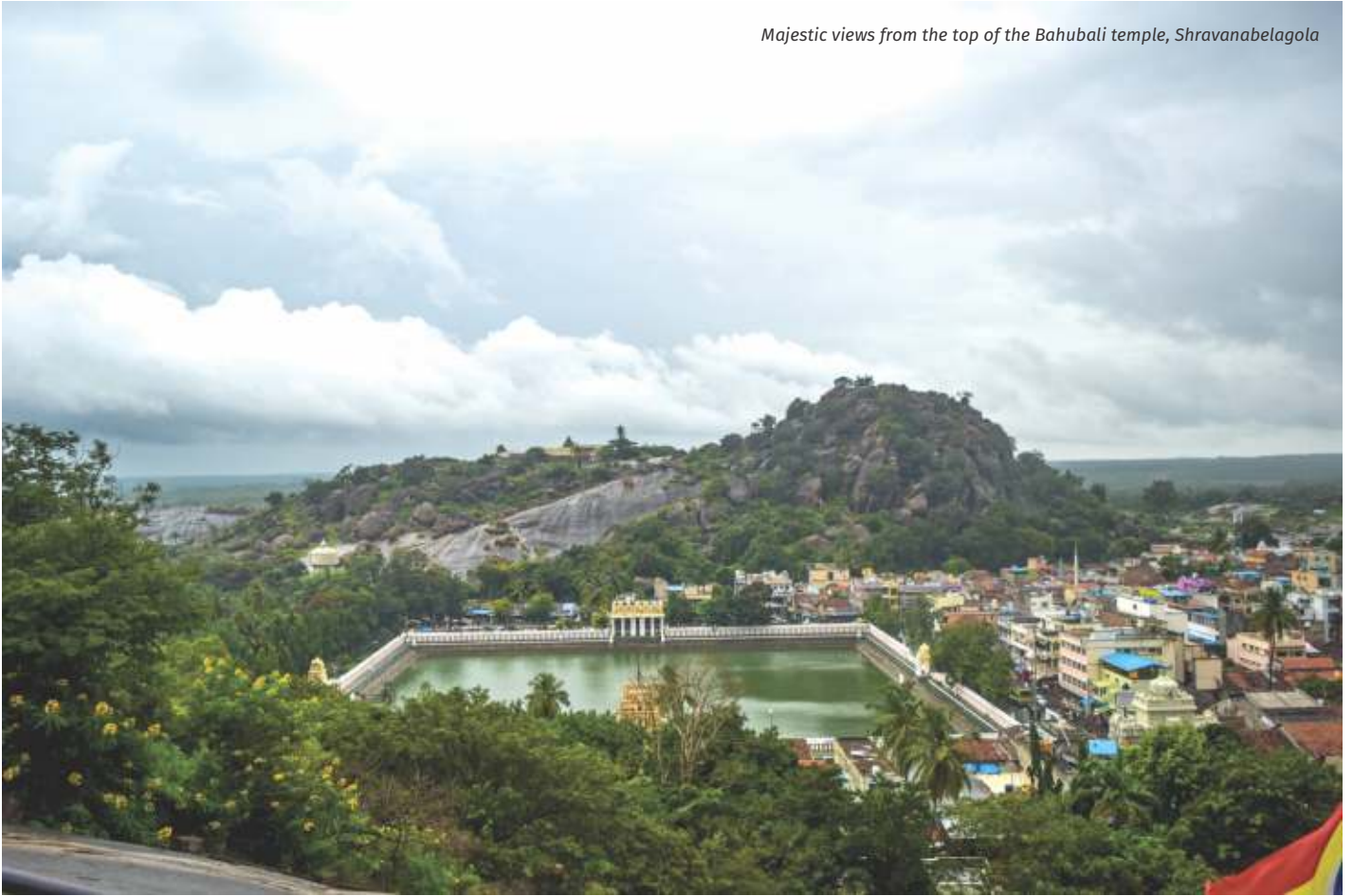
The 58ft-high statue of Gomateshwara Bahubali is the main attraction of Shravanabelagola. It is an

important pilgrimage destination of the followers of the Jain Sect. Located on top of a hill, one needs to climb several stairs in order to visit the main temple. The views from the top of the hill are extremely beautiful.



The massive Gomateshwara Temple is a marvel of Jain religion and is 58 feet in height.

Majestic views from the top of the Bahubali temple, Shravanabelagola



Flight of stairs leading to the temple of Lord Gomateshwara Bahubali



Ramanathapura

Known as Dakshin Kashi or the Banaras of the South, Ramanathapura is known for five ancient temples located on the bank of River Cauvery. The ghat area also has statues of Nandi in the middle of the river and one can reach them by climbing small rocks. On summer mornings, the Ramanathapura Ghat becomes an attractive place for bird watching and fish feeding.



Ramanathapura Temples

The scenic Cauvery River on banks of which Ramanathapura temples are located



Shettihalli Church

An old crumbling church located at a distance of 3 hours from Hassan, Shettihalli Church or Rosary Church is one-of-its-kinds Gothic Masterpiece. Rosary Church is literally frozen in time, standing on the banks of Hemavati River. It is believed that along with mortar and bricks, a mixture of jaggery and eggs were used to build the Rosary Church.

The scenic placement of this church brings many photographers here. The church submerges in the water during the monsoon and one can only see the top during that season.

A trip to Hassan can be combined with Chikmagalur or lesser known Sakleshpur. 📍

**Hassan is accessible by train and road from Bangalore.
A weekend trip is enough to explore the best of Hassan.**



The lost Holy Rosary Church of Shettihalli is a favourite destination of photographers

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Royal RAJKOT

The history of Rajkot is fascinating. Lying in the very heart of Gujarat, Rajkot was a princely state of the Jadeja Rajputs who moved their capital from their lake-side fortress at Sardhar, 26 km outside the present-day city center, to this city.



Watson Museum

The city gained importance under the British who made it the center of their rule over the innumerable princely states and jagirdars of Saurashtra and endowed it with institutions like Connaught Hall, Masonic Hall, Lang Library, Watson Museum, The Rajkumar College and many schools.

One of the main attractions of Rajkot is the Watson Museum. This museum occupies a typical colonial building erected by Colonel Watson, the British political agent for Saurashtra from 1886 to 1893. Entering the museum, you can see the Darbar Hall, created like the old halls of audiences with portraits and crests of the princes of Kathiawad with captions in English and vernacular language, a huge chandelier, silver caskets, boxes and princely artefacts. The museum was founded by Colonel Watson in 1888 with his own personal collections, an outstanding exhibition of rocks and minerals by Robert Bruscourt, art and artifacts donated by various princes of Saurashtra and historic exhibits collected by the curators. The directorate of museums has since extended the museum into an interesting one. There is a good-sized sculpture gallery with a splendid collection of statues salvaged from ruined architectural monuments in Gujarat-carved columns from the 8th-13th century Ghumli citadel near Porbandar, 7th century Gupta sculpture from Mangrol, sculpture of Sun God from Sidhpur, Lord Shiva from the fort



Darbarhall at Watson Museum

citadel of Jhinnuwada, a black marble sculpture of Lord Vishnu reclining on Shesh Naag, Kala Bhairav, Indrani and Maheshwari of the 12th century. One of the standout exhibits is a grandiose 1899 AD Victoria Memorial by Alfred Gilbert who created Eros in Piccadilly Circus. The portrait gallery has British officers, the Governor of Bombay, the Nawab Saheb of Junagadh, HRH Duke of Clarence and Avondale. In the cabinets, we saw copies of classical sculpture, exhibits of the Harappan Civilisation and pre-historic and proto-historic finds. Among the outstanding exhibits are fine bronzes of Gujarat, rare copper inscriptions, cloth manuscripts, 15th and 16th century Jain manuscripts and colourful medieval book covers, 18th century Mughal, Pahadi and Rajasthani miniatures and princely objects in ceramics, silver, ivory, porcelain, glass. Upstairs, the gallery is dedicated mainly to handicrafts like the double-ikat Patola silk sarees of Gujarat, Varanasi silks, Bengali sarees and Bandhini tie-and-dye, silver betel boxes, wood carvings and musical instruments. You can see cut-outs of famous Kathiawadi poets



Victorian Memorial

સંભાળના દરિયેલ અને પિરામેલી સર્કલના
વખતે ઓલ્ટેડ પ્રિન્સાઈ અને ૧૮૦૦ માં આ
ભાગે ૩૩૦૦૦ નાં ખર્ચે તૈયાર કરી છે.

સાથેજ પ્રિન્સીપાલ
QUEEN VICTORIA
૧૮૩૭-૧૯૦૦
૧૮૫૭-૧૯૦૦

THIS STATUE IS DONE BY REPUTED
VICTORIAN SCULPTOR ALFRED GILBERT
IN 1899 AT A COST OF £ 2,500. HE
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Mohandas Gandhi Vidhyalaya

and dioramas of the Mehr, Rabari, Ahir, Satwara, Wagher and Charan communities offering an insight into the lifestyles of these traditional people of Saurashtra. Besides the museum is the impressive Lang Library, which is also a colonial structure. These are set in pretty Jubilee Gardens.

Another impressive British period building is the Alfred High School, renamed Mohandas Gandhi High School because Mahatma Gandhi studied here. Founded on 17th October, 1853, opened as Rajkot High School in January, 1875 and named Alfred High School in 1907, this is one of the oldest school buildings in India. Much of it was endowed by the Nawab of Junagadh. Gandhiji studied here in 1887 at age 18 and it is now a museum. Many years later, Gandhiji returned to Rajkot and founded the

Rashtriya Shala on February 21, 1921 as a school based on his philosophy about education. It also now houses a centre for handlooms and handicrafts.

The old city of Rajkot has an impressive fort-like palace called Darbargadh, Gujarati havelis with the typical wooden balconies or jarokhas with intricate carvings, perfectly-proportioned pavilions and brackets and old houses with huge wooden gates, intricately carved shutters and stained-glass windows. The markets here are full of silver shops and you could see silversmiths at work. In this old part of the city, you can see 'Kaba Gandhi No Delo'. According to the autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi, he was about 7 when his father left Porbandar for Rajkot to become a member of the influential Rajasthanik Court.

Gandhiji went to primary school in 1876 at Rajkot and was betrothed to Kasturba, daughter of a merchant from the city, Gokuldas soon after that. He studied at Alfred High School from 1881 and was married to Kasturba two years later. His studies continued after his marriage. He wrote, "I always enjoyed the affection of my teachers. Certificates of progress and character used to be sent to the parents every year. I never had a bad certificate. In fact, I even won prizes after I passed out of the second standard".

This house has a very informative display of documents, letters to and from Gandhiji, his school mark sheets and photographs from the Mahatma's life besides a few belongings. Mahatma Gandhi, in his autobiography, wrote that when in Rajkot, he read about a play



Kaba Gandhi no Delo

about Shravana's devotion to his parents, a story which touched him deeply. A performance that moved him was Harishchandra, a play about a king who followed the path of truth despite the implications. He wrote, "In Rajkot, however, I got an early grounding in tolerance for all branches of Hinduism and sister religions. For my father and mother would visit the Haveli as also Shiva's and Rama's temples, and would take or send us youngsters there. Jain monks also would pay frequent visits to my father and would even go out of their way to accept food from us – Non-Jains." He also mentions his father's Muslim and Parsi friends who would talk to him about their faiths, inculcating a tolerance for all religions.

One of the modern attractions of Rajkot is the Rotary Dolls Museum, which introduces visitors to the culture and traditions of the world using dolls as a medium. The museum represents



Mahatma Gandhi Gallery

1600 dolls from over 102 countries across the globe with information about each place of origin.

Rajkot is also an important centre for cricket. Amar Singh, Ladha Ramji, Vinoo Mankad, Salim Durani, Karsan Ghavri, Dilip Doshi, Cheteshwar Pujara are some cricketers associated with Rajkot. Schools like RKC and Virani were known for encouraging cricketers. Yajurvindra Singh who holds the world record for 5 catches in an innings, and 7 in a test match, played for RKC while Ghavri played for Virani High School during the same period. Today, Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, also known as the Khandheri Cricket Stadium, is a state-of-the-art cricket stadium that has hosted international 1-day matches, and is famous for using solar power.

For nature lovers, Rajkot is worth visiting for its dams and lakes. Flocks of pelicans, ducks and other birds can be seen at the water bodies. [10](#)

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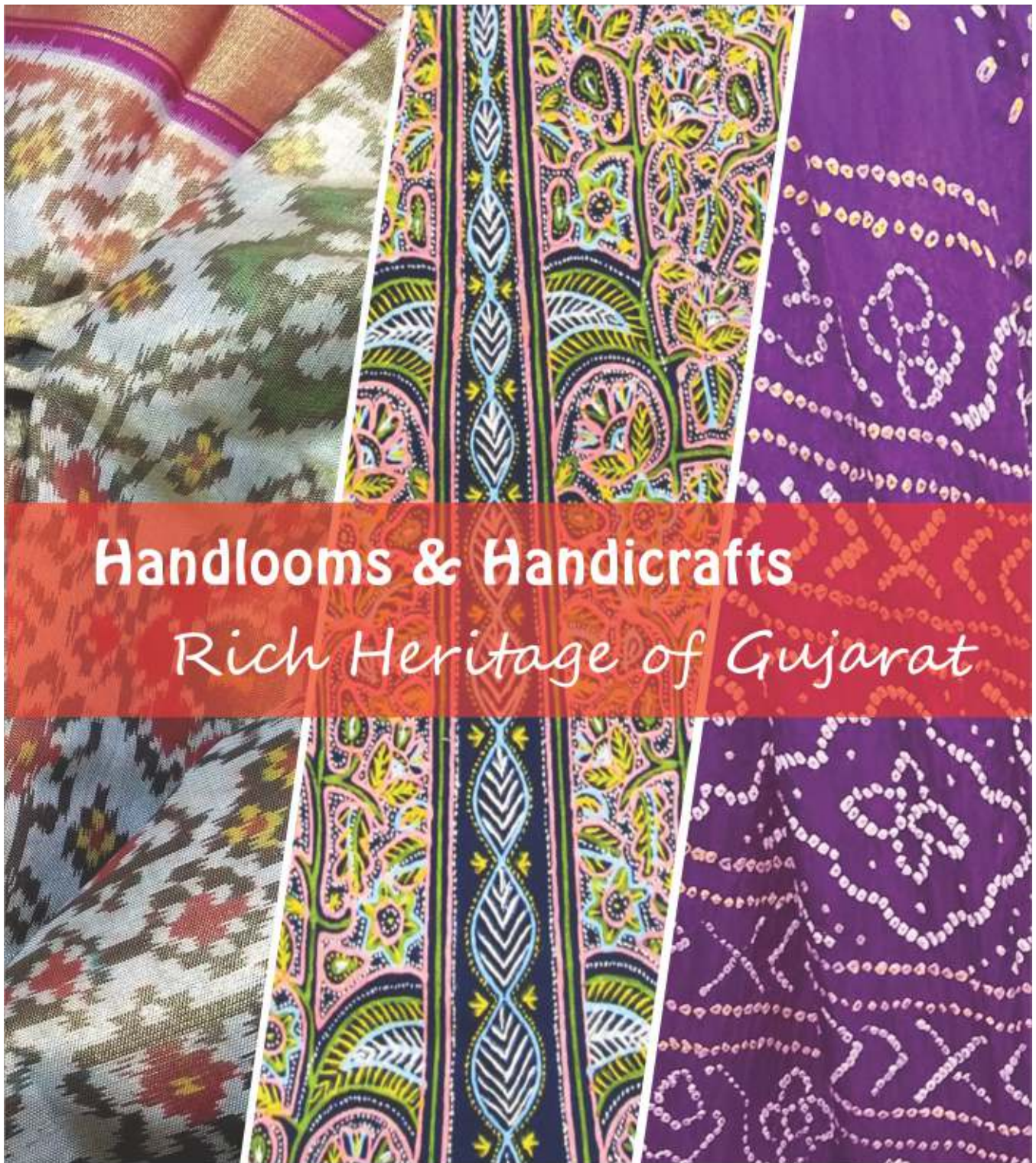
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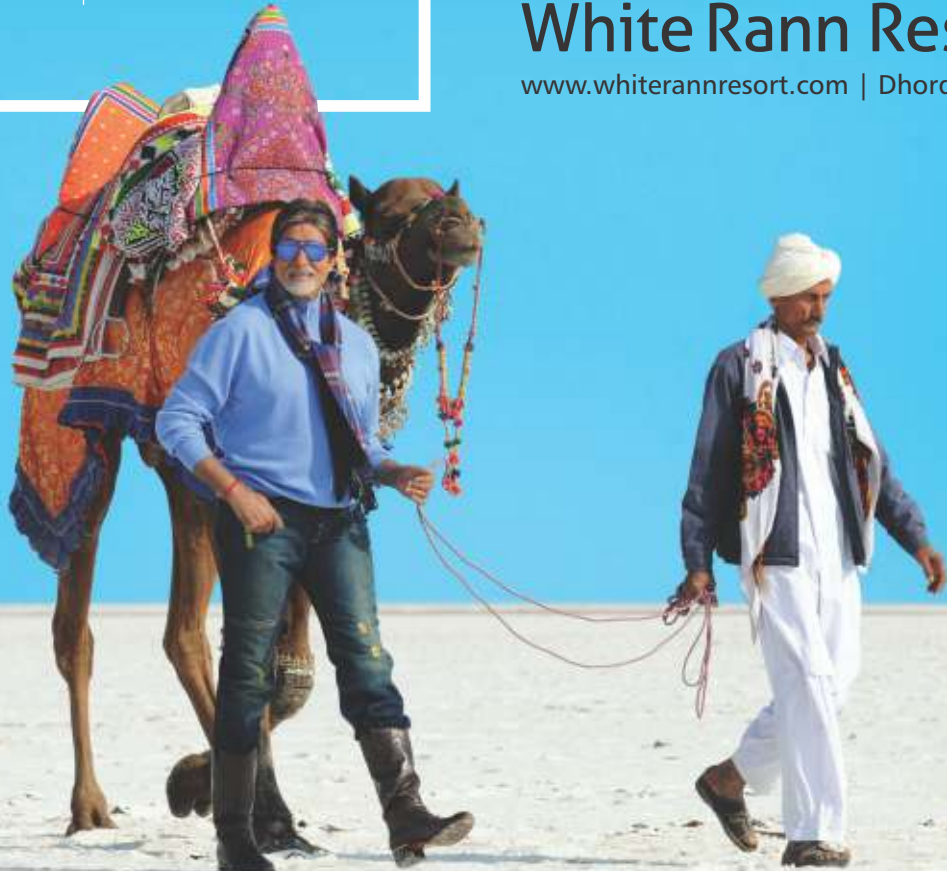
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