

MEET THE CITY

PUNE - VOL. II / JUNE-JULY 2014

MAYA
MADE OF DREAMS.

TRAVEL
BRAZIL: HOST TO THE WORLD

Art
Fashion
Luxury
Style
Couture
Cuisine
Home
Happenings
Nightlife

NIKE F.C.
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TASTING SOUTH AMERICA'S DELECTABLE CUISINE



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TIMELESS ELEGANCE.

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The Trump Brand comes to India to bring an exquisite residential project. Trump Towers Pune is a statement to modernity. Its 23 storied two towers and single-floor residences offer stunning views of the historical Aga Khan Palace and Joggers' Park. With a transcendent range of amenities, and embroidered with the aesthetics of Indian heritage, Trump Towers Pune offers truly inspired lifestyle.

"Inspired Living is brought to life by the Trump Brand. Created with a curator's wisdom and an artist's taste, Trump Towers Pune is a unique project in the heart of Pune. Built by connoisseurs, for the connoisseurs." *Atul Chordia, Chairman, Panchshil Realty*

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An architectural rendering of two modern skyscrapers, Trump Towers Pune, set against a dramatic twilight sky with soft clouds. The taller building on the left is a slender tower with a glass facade, its interior lights glowing through the windows. The shorter building on the right is a more compact, rectangular tower, also with a glass facade and illuminated interiors. Both buildings are situated on a landscaped podium with greenery and a walkway. In the background, the city skyline of Pune is visible, with various other buildings and a bridge in the distance. The overall mood is sophisticated and urban.

TRUMP[®] TOWERS

PUNE

DEVELOPED BY
PANCHSHIL



Maya literally means "that which is not."

Yet if it looks real and feels real,
do you think it matters if it's real?

This issue, meet MAYA - made of dreams,
a new label that gives fashion
a new form, a new reality.

We also take you on a trip over an 'old peak',
where the golden sunrise is straight out of a dream;
and one of civilization's greatest mysteries,
the Nazca Lines.

There is no bigger arena for dreams than
the football World Cup, a mega event where
dreams are crushed in agony just as much as
cathartic victories. All in the quest of soccer's
biggest redemption, the FIFA World Cup Trophy!

Come June, and the world will tune to Brazil, the
host this year for a football extravaganza.

We decided to assist you in scoring one yourself by
bringing a guide to explore Brazil beyond the goal
posts! Continuing the flavor is our gourmet guide to
South American cuisine by the team at
DoubleTree by Hilton Pune-Chinchwad.

Come, meet the city.

ATUL CHORDIA
Chairman, Panchshil Realty

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MONTBLANC TIMEWALKER CHRONOVOYAGER UTC



A second time zone synchronised with Universal Time Coordinated (UTC) makes this self-winding chronograph the perfect companion for all frequent travellers. Its robust 43-mm-diameter stainless steel case with satin-finished bezel and push-pieces unites elegant design and the traditional art of watchmaking. *This chronograph features a second time zone with day/night indication displayed by 24 hours on the flange, a date display, a central second-hand as well as two additional counters for up to 30 elapsed minutes and maximally 12 elapsed hours. The TimeWalker ChronoVoyager UTC is crafted in the Montblanc Manufacture in Le Locle, Switzerland.* MONTBLANC. A STORY TO TELL.

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Briefing

COVER STORY

MAYA MADE OF DREAMS

A definite destination for
haute couture:
'MAYA – made of dreams'
by Dr Maral Yazarloo.



COLOUR ME CHIC

AARAA
BY AVANTIKA

FASHION



TRAVEL BRAZIL HOST TO THE WORLD



FIFA WORLD CUP SPECIAL PHOTO FEATURE NIKE F.C.



MEET THE CITY



CULINARY CULTURE



Tasting South America's
delectable cuisine
with the team at
Double Tree by Hilton
Pune-Chinchwad



EXOTIC GETAWAY PERU'S OLD TRAILS



READER'S CORNER



RIDDLES IN THE SAND NAZCA LINES OF PERU



WEEKEND GETAWAY DISCOVER DANDELI

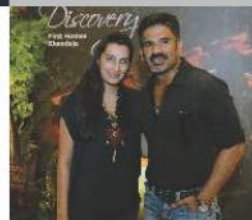


ART BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL



FITNESS DANCE ALL THE WAY

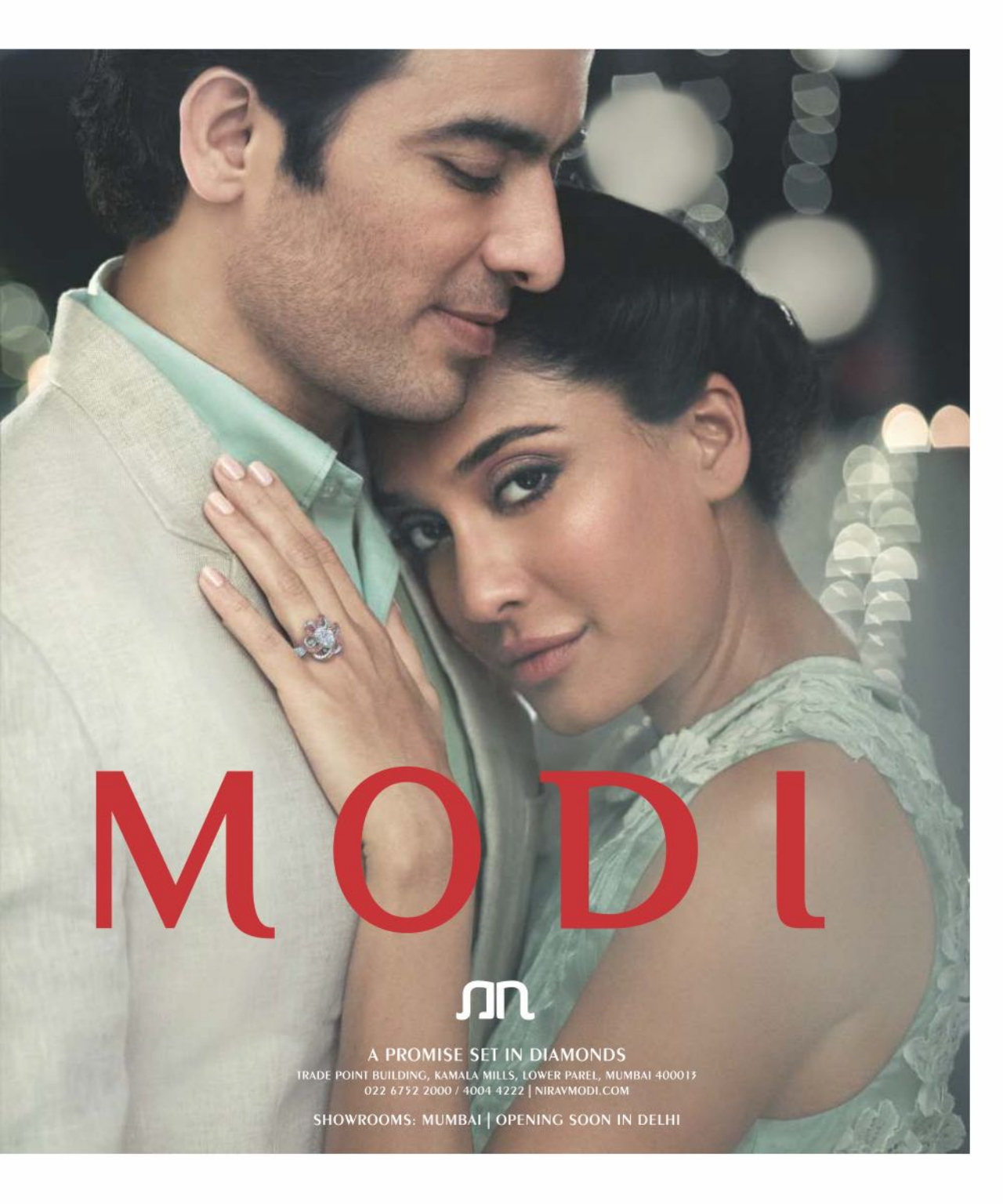
EVENTS





NIRAV

SOLITAIRE COLLECTION
OVAL RIBBON RING



MODI



A PROMISE SET IN DIAMONDS

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RESIDENCES

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by Philippe Starck

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One completely new approach to living.

India's first internationally branded residences; yoopune is
Philippe Starck's first step in India.



Shot on location.



Set amidst a historic 5-acre forest, yoopune is a sensory feast. Bold, creative and classic, yoopune by Starck is the ultimate in design-led lifestyle living.

With 228 units ranging from 5,100 - 6,900 sq. ft., yoopune is an ode to international living. Embrace the yoo way of living.

Welcome to yoopune.

Luxe Features

228 Designer homes, Spa, 5 - acre rainforest, Swimming pool, Kids' Pool, Private cinema, Concierge service by Quintessentially, Cabanas, Salon, Fitness centre, Chess room, Table tennis/Fussball room, Poker/Cards room, Yoga/Fitness room, Games room (Wii), Wine and cigar library, Travel room, Music room, Art gallery, Business room, Creche.



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Project Financed By : Standard Chartered Bank

info@yoopune.com | www.yoopune.com

A full-page photograph of a woman standing in profile, facing right. She has her hair styled in a high, dark bun. She is wearing a black long-sleeved top with intricate gold paisley patterns on the shoulders and a wide, shimmering gold sequined belt. Her skirt is long, flowing, and made of a gold-sequined fabric. She is standing in front of a weathered, textured wall with warm, earthy tones. The ground is paved with dark cobblestones. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the wall and the shimmer of the dress.

माया
marat yazarloo

WOMEN OF DRESS



DREAM. DESIGN. DESIRE.

The city's fashion divas have a definite destination for haute couture as 'MAYA – made of dreams' by Dr Maral Yazarloo opens its doors at JW Marriott Pune.

The brand portrays a perfect blend of contemporary aesthetics and exquisite craftsmanship that will leave you mesmerised.





Every woman wants to look her best, adorn herself in the latest fashions and be classy and stylish. What she needs is a style forward wardrobe; a wardrobe that boasts of having a design from 'MAYA – made of dreams'.

The brand launch in Paris and Rome was received with lots of appreciation as people took notice of the original designs and was followed by the launch of the maiden flagship store in India at JW Marriott Pune.

This will soon be followed by the Mumbai store launch. The brand caters to clients across the globe, especially Europe, New Zealand and Iran. The Pune store launch saw lots of well-known faces grace the occasion.



COVER STORY



Dream.

Dr Maral Yazarloo's MAYA caters to today's woman who believes in being fashion forward while maintaining the culture of yore. The MAYA woman follows her own fashion and style, with a grasp on the culture and story behind it. The brand is about getting in touch with your roots.

The latest MAYA collection and the picturesque backgrounds of the fashion capitals of the world – Paris and Rome, where it was shot, complement each other. Each of the designs speak their own story through the colours, textures and embellishments.

Design.

MAYA has four distinct lines – Fusion, Office, Resort and Fashion Bike Wear. The Fusion line has signature separates that you can team up with each other or with other garments making your own style identity. Adding to modern cuts and silhouettes with Indian colours and embellishments, the garments are all about making a statement!

The Office wear line is all about the smart and elegant getting a MAYA twist. They are true to the classics yet have distinct design that will make you get noticed. The Resort line is a splash of colour for the bright summer days. They have an airy feel are apt for when you hit the beach. The Fashion Bike wear line is an exclusive collection that is all about adding chic comfort to the art of motorcycling.

Desire.

Finding the right balance between the traditional classics and the modern contemporary, MAYA has takers from all around the world because of its fashion forward designs. It offers a breath of fresh air to the city fashion, with its simple cuts, graceful designs and sheer elegance. Each and every ensemble is an amalgamation of distinct separates that can be worn in various permutations and combinations.

From elegant silk gowns to ritzy velvet jackets, fluid dresses to fitted skirts... the MAYA woman gets something for every mood and occasion at the store. Whatever your heart's fashion and style desire, you will find it at MAYA!



PARIS SHOOT 2014



PARIS SHOOT 2014



PARIS SHOOT 2014

COVER STORY



MAYA STORE LAUNCH



The store gives a cosy feel in its warm hues. The gilded carved frames and gold and velvet drapes give the store a touch of Persian royalty. Old wooden cupboards and trunks, elaborate chandelier, Persian rugs and carved wooden partitions tie in with the brand identity of MAYA to keeping in touch with the culture. The minaret shaped mirrors go well with the Persian interiors and the brick wall complements it nicely.



The clothes bar at the centre of the store emulates a roller coaster with the garments placed around for ease of browsing. With clothes, jewellery and accessories on display around the store, one can meander around the store amidst fashion at its stylish best.



Sameer and Elena, Sangeeta and Harindra Singh



Maral Yazarloo with Tincy and Evan



Atul Chordia and Tejas Deshpande



Team Harley Davidson Mumbai



Team Maya



Pooja and Deepak Shah



Aslam Furniturewalla & wife



Team Harley Davidson Pune



Ranjit & Amrita Batra with Durga Das



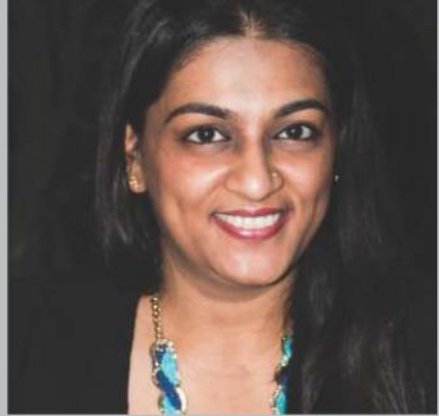
Anaida, Rahul Jashnani with Maral



Praveen Mutha, Manisha Sahu and Ajita Mutha with Maral

COLOUR ME CHIC

Brunch meetings. High tea soirees. One needs just the right kind of accessory to go with the perfect dress. A stunning piece of jewellery can be all it takes to make one stand out at such occasions. Aaraa by Avantika caters to such kind of jewellery needs perfectly.



Avantika Aggarwal, an engineer by education, always had a creative streak. She decided to let it come to the fore when she joined National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad for a post graduate course in design. Here, she got selected for the India International Jewellery Week 2010 (the first ever fashion jewellery week of its kind in India) and made her debut with an avant garde jewellery collection





FASHION

'Aurum'. She had realised her calling, and jewellery design was it. An internship with Amrapali followed, and there has been no looking back since.

'Aaraa' (Arabic for adornment and embellishment) traverses beyond the usual and conventional idea of jewellery and accessories prevalent today, taking the brand to an entirely new level where ethnic and contemporary ideologies are fused and synced together. Launched in 2012, Aaraa is a mode of expression for Avantika and at the same time, a way to bring the art of handcrafted jewellery and also our heritage fused with interplay of ethnic and modern ideas to people.

The latest collection is 'Dash of Chic - the colourful odyssey', a collection of very vibrant hued neckpieces and bracelets made with multicoloured semiprecious gemstones. The collection reflects the onset of the vivid season of Spring Summer. Naturally occurring agates form a major part of the collection. It is a combination of neon colours such as hot pink, tangerine, neo blue, emerald green, clear bright yellow, coral pink, turquoise, violet etc. Pearls and silk

tassels have been used to complete the look. The whole idea was to create a swanky and trendy statement.

Another Aaraa collection in the market is 'Katha... where every piece has a story'. *Katha* is a concise and charming collection of hand-made Rajasthani miniature painting jewellery with a twist! Various kinds of gemstones like aventurine, carnelian, turquoise, natural pearls, corals, onyx, agates etc have been used along with brightly coloured silk tassels.

She has recently collaborated with brand MAYA to display her exclusive designs at the flagship store for Aaraa by Avantika for MAYA. Aaraa by Avantika aims at having a substantial international presence, reflecting the strong confluence of the Indian art, culture and traditions while keeping in mind the needs of a stylish, urbane and individualistic woman of today. Avantika plans a window to the fusion of Indian heritage of handmade art and crafts with her unconventional and contemporary design language.

INSPIRED BY



Architectural Rendition

INSPIRED LIVING BY PANCHSHIL

Inspired Living by Panchshil is a philosophy to transform lives and lifestyles – an elevated way of luxurious living. It carries forward the ethos of brand Panchshil, making design-led living more accessible.

The Panchshil brand equity instills high level of trust and recognition. Inspired Living by Panchshil gives the power and expertise to inspire design and architecture.

Inspired Living by Panchshil is a promise to a lifestyle modern, dynamic, and opulent.



Elite

RESIDENCES
INSPIRED BY
PANCHSHIL

Architectural Rendition



Inspired by Panchshil, Elite Residences is a state-of-art residential development in Baner, Pune. Built to infuse lifestyles with more style and glamour, Elite Residences is designed for a life of prestige and privilege.

Elite Residences offers contemporary urban living in a tranquil setting. With 44 limited edition 4 bedroom apartments and penthouses ranging from 3,800 - 5,700 sq. ft., Elite Residences inspired by Panchshil is an ode to modern living with classic Panchshil design and aesthetics.

Welcome to Inspired Living!

PROJECT BY



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TRAVEL

BRAZIL

HOST TO THE WORLD

IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD
BEYOND SAMBA AND THE GOALPOST.

A COUNTRY FOR ALL!





*The 2014 World Cup begins June 12 2014,
when Brazil plays Croatia in the opening match.*

*As football fans descend upon this kaleidoscope of a country,
here's a guide to mesmerizing host cities of a country which is a
party all by itself!*



URBAN ORGY

A visit to Brazil usually begins in Rio de Janeiro, one of the world's most vibrant urban landscapes, yet the official birthplace of football in Brazil is São Paulo - a Technicolor urban behemoth.

With a gigantic 20 million population, the world's 7th largest city is also called Sampa and *Cidade de Garoa* (city of drizzle) for its whimsical weather. São Paulo is (in)famous for severe traffic congestion, crumbling sidewalks, in-your-face divide between poor and rich, and a smog curtain. Yet, any *paulistano* (a São Paulo citizen) will swear by its architecture, gastronomy, and relentless 24/7 night life!

For a city traveler, São Paulo is inexhaustible: first-rate museums, art-house cinemas, experimental theaters, gourmet restaurants and smart bistros (covering 52 cuisines!), and the loudest and best nightclubs on the continent!



GET READY FOR THE BIGGEST PARTY ON THE PLANET

Must see here include architectural gems like the *Mercado Municipal*, *Theatro Municipal*, *Pinacoteca do Estado* (an important art gallery), and *Edifício Martinelli* - Brazil's first skyscraper!

The *Museu do Futebol* (Football Museum) is devoted to Brazil's greatest passion – football; reliving Brazil's, and football's, rich history.

Like a Greek pantheon, eight-foot tall statues of legends like Ronaldo, Didi, Falcão, Tostão, Garrincha, and the most famous of all, Pelé greet you here. Gigantic screens run clips, interviews, and football's most famous memorable moments! The museum features some 1,500 photos, six hours of clips, and glass cases with hallowed objects like Pelé's yellow jersey when he scored the first goal in the final of the 1970 World Cup in Mexico City.

There are nearly 12,500 restaurants in Sampa. A gourmet bucket list would include *Bráz Pizzari*, hummus and *fatte* at

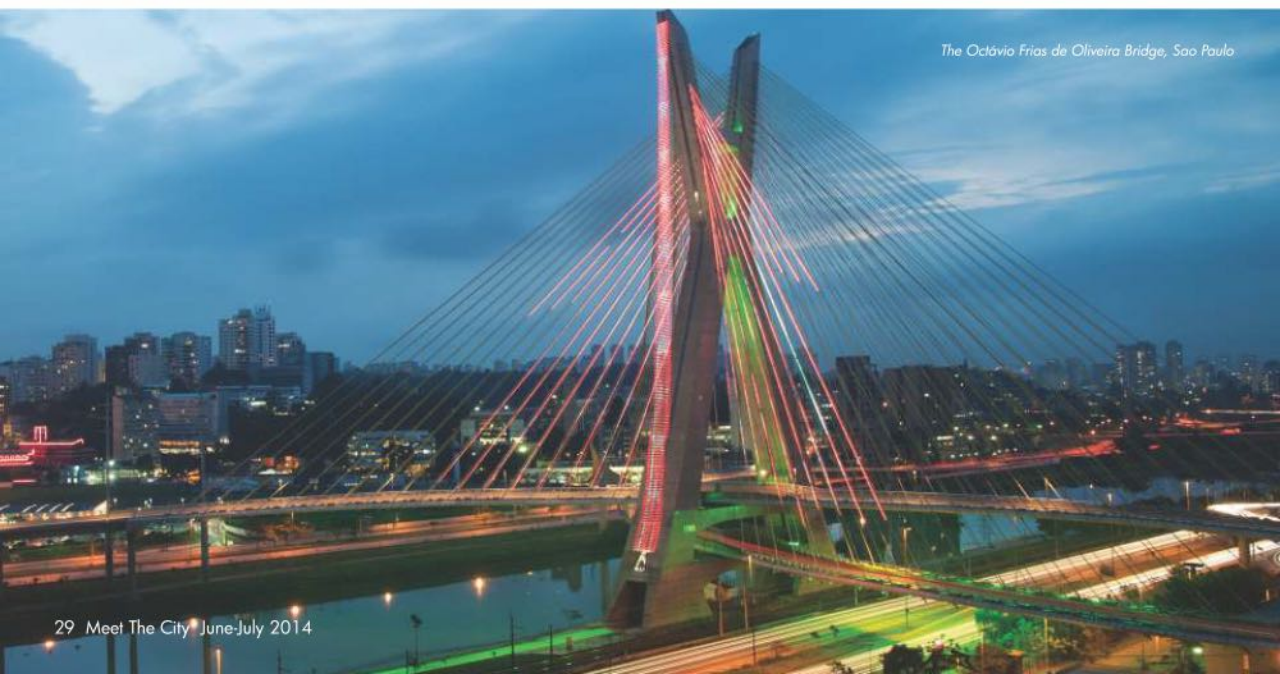
Tenda do Nilo, sushi at Kan, Brazil's national dish - *feijoada* (bean and pork stew) at Feijoada da Lana, and gelato at Bacio di Latte.

São Paulo's 24-hour nightlife ranges from funky, stylish, over-thirty, and even downright dirty! Gritty Centro, bustling Bela Vista and Jardins are nightlife centrals. Upscale nightclubs thrive in Itaim Bibi and neighboring Vila Olímpia. Jazz, soul, R&B and blues addicts can hit the city district of Moema; while live rock and pop is further downtown. São Paulo has nightclubs for days - since many remain open till 8 a.m. The Lapa district hosts electronic circuit parties famous the world over!

Football, or no, São Paulo urban culture is a sensorial orgy served in neon craziness and samba beats of Brazilian wow!

For details, visit: braziltour360.com





The Octávio Frias de Oliveira Bridge, São Paulo



The Arena da Amazônia, Manaus

The 42,377-seater stadium Arena da Amazônia lies in the midst of the largest continuous forest area in the world.

AMAZON ARENA

Manaus (means 'mother of Gods', from the Manaó tribe), is the largest city and capital of Amazonas State. Its stunning 42,377-seater stadium *Arena da Amazônia* lies in the midst of the largest continuous forest area in the world. That's close to 1,610 km of forest in every direction!

On the banks of the River Negro upstream from its confluence with the River Amazon, Manaus is the most popular Amazonian tourist destination, and an important port of ocean vessels deep inside Brazil.

The city which once grew rich on rubber, has some genuinely rewarding sights like its opera house, *Teatro Amazonas*, which opened in 1896 at the height of Manaus' flirtation with rubber production. At its peak, Manaus was responsible for about 90% of world's rubber production! The city has plenty more grand-looking buildings, such as the excellent ethnographic collection at the *Museu do Índio*, and the neoclassical Public Library with its large oil painting honoring the end of slavery in the Amazon.

Two days are enough to see Manaus. The port, with the *Mercado Adolpho Lisboa* being a great place to see local fish and produces. The beach at *Ponta Negra* offers wild stuff to see along with exotic ice-creams as the river flows by.

Manaus is more famous and crowded because of its jungle lodges and excursions into the Amazon. Many river cruises start from Manaus.

A full-day cruise down the River Negro to the 'Meeting of the Waters' is a thrilling ride as Amazonian nature passes by with the slow barge. This is where the Negro's black waters and the Amazon's brown, muddy waters run together for about 5 km. Lunch on floating river restaurants is a norm, and speedboats take you to the more intimate and serpentine creeks of the River Negro. Continue along the Negro to the January Ecological Park, located about 45 minutes by boat from Manaus, to see first-hand the famous Amazon water plant *Victoria regia*.

Word to the wise, while there many tour operators in Manaus, make sure you keep safety, convenience, and knowledge of the guides a top priority before striking a deal.

For details, visit: manaus.info



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Sugar Loaf and Botafogo Beach viewed from Corcovado.



BEACH BEAUTY

What do you do in a city which is a part World Heritage Site? Plenty much if it's Rio de Janeiro; even more if it's Rio's beaches! Beaches are to Rio what cafés are to Paris. The Pope has preached on them, chart-busters have been composed on them, and many of the world's football demigods have honed their skills on these golden sands!

Rio has a beach culture, where rich and poor, young and old, black and white, bronzed and bellied, and everyone else come together to indulge in crashing waves, towering green peaks, and the golden sand.

On Saturdays, it's an exodus as the *carioca* (Rio citizens) move to occupy the beaches. The city's 40 km. long coastline is marked by 12 *postos* (lifeguard stations), each with a diverse beach subculture: like jigsaw pieces making Rio a vibrant beach city.

Copacabana

The crescent, 4 km.-long Copacabana Beach runs east to west between Princesa Isabel Avenue and *posto* 6. The view to the left of Copacabana beach is the towering Sugarloaf Mountain and Fort Duque de Caxias built in 1779.

Host of the 2016 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, this is where Usain Bolt attempted to beat the 150m world record. Copacabana fosters a sports culture: from yoga to surfing, and even boxing. *Frescobol*, is a popular sport - a type of tennis played with wooden bats.

'Slacklining' is yet another increasingly popular sport where people balance on ropes tied between palm trees! Then there's *futevôlei* (volleyball played without hands) on courts near Rua Santa Clara. *Postos* 5 and 6 are a mix of *favela* kids showing off football skills.

Beach vendors navigate through bronzed bodies as *carioca* retirees lounge with melting ice-creams and chess boards and take in the sand, the sea, and the parade of people passing. The Copacabana Fort is another popular spot. Arrive before 11 am here, at the *posto de Pescadores* (fishermen's post), to see fresh catch sold directly off rainbow-colored boars. The fort also houses the Historical Army Museum and its cafe is a great spot for breakfast or lunch while gazing at the sea.

Tip: Never leave Copacabana without tasting the *globo* (air-puffed doughnuts made from manioc flour) and *matte leao*, an iced tea drink poured straight from a keg on the seller's back.

Ipanema

Ipanema is an indigenous word for 'bad, dangerous waters'.

At Ipanema, the strong undertow and often oversized waves come crashing on the shore making swimming a dangerous activity; yet this gem attracts a diverse, young, and often attractive crowd from the world over.

With a tradition of setting benchmarks in beach fashion, Ipanema is the richer and ritzier sibling of the Copacabana. The 2 km.-long white beauty is littered with bronzed *carioca* and high beach fashion. This is also where the 1960s hit song *The Girl from Ipanema* was written by Antônio Carlos Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes.

Surrounded by the eponymous Ipanema district, it is a dazed night time hotspot with enticing outdoor cafes and restaurants, expensive boutiques, and lively bars.

Ipanema Beach is marked by *postos* demarcating subcultures as diverse as the city itself. *Posto* 9, right off *Rua Vinícius de Moraes*, is where Rio's most lithe and tanned bodies tend to migrate. *Rua Farme de Amoedo* with its distinct rainbow flags mark out the popular - *Bolsa de Valores* (Crystal Palace), the gay-friendly zone. *Posto* 8 further up, is mostly the domain of *favela* kids, while *posto* 10 is for sport lovers, with ongoing volleyball, soccer, and *frescobol*.

Each evening, locals crowd onto the sand to watch the sun setting behind the imposing peak of *Dois Irmãos* bringing the Ipanema fantasy to a full circle!

For details, visit: rioguiaoficial.com.br

Rio's Top Landmarks

Tijuca National Park

Hand-planted. Howler monkeys. *Parque Nacional da Tijuca* is the world's largest urban forest in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Hike from here to meet Christ.

Christ the Redeemer

A soapstone and cement Wonder of the World. Entry is free.

Estádio do Maracanã

Playground of the gods like Ronaldo, Pele, Carlos Alberto, and Santos.

Sugarloaf Mountain

The Pão de Açúcar, is the photo booth to capture Rio's skyline, beaches, and a cable car ride worth every penny!

Petrópolis

March to the 'Imperial City' of Brazil, a popular resort town near Rio. Must see: the *Palácio Cristal* and the Summer Palace of Brazil's erstwhile royalty.

Rio de Janeiro Botanical Gardens

5,000 varieties of plants highlighting the rich botanic diversity of Brazil. See large Victorian water lilies and Japanese plants. Visit on weekdays, avoid weekend crowds.

Centro

Buildings, squares, and alleyways comprise Rio's historical center. Elegant walking trips include the *Paço Imperial*, Candelária Church, the Old Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro, and the modern-style Saint Sebastian's Cathedral.

GREEN CENTRAL

The Mato Grosso sun scorches Cuiabá, the smallest of the World Cup host cities and the official geographical center of South America.

Divided into Old Cuiabá and *Varzea Grande* by the River Cuiabá, it is the starting point for excursions to the Pantanal, *Chapada dos Guimarães* and *Bom Jardim*.

Cuiabá is the gateway to Pantanal - the largest freshwater swamp on the planet! This prolific wetland is split between Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil. 80% of the Pantanal is located in central-western Brazil and accessible only from Cuiabá.

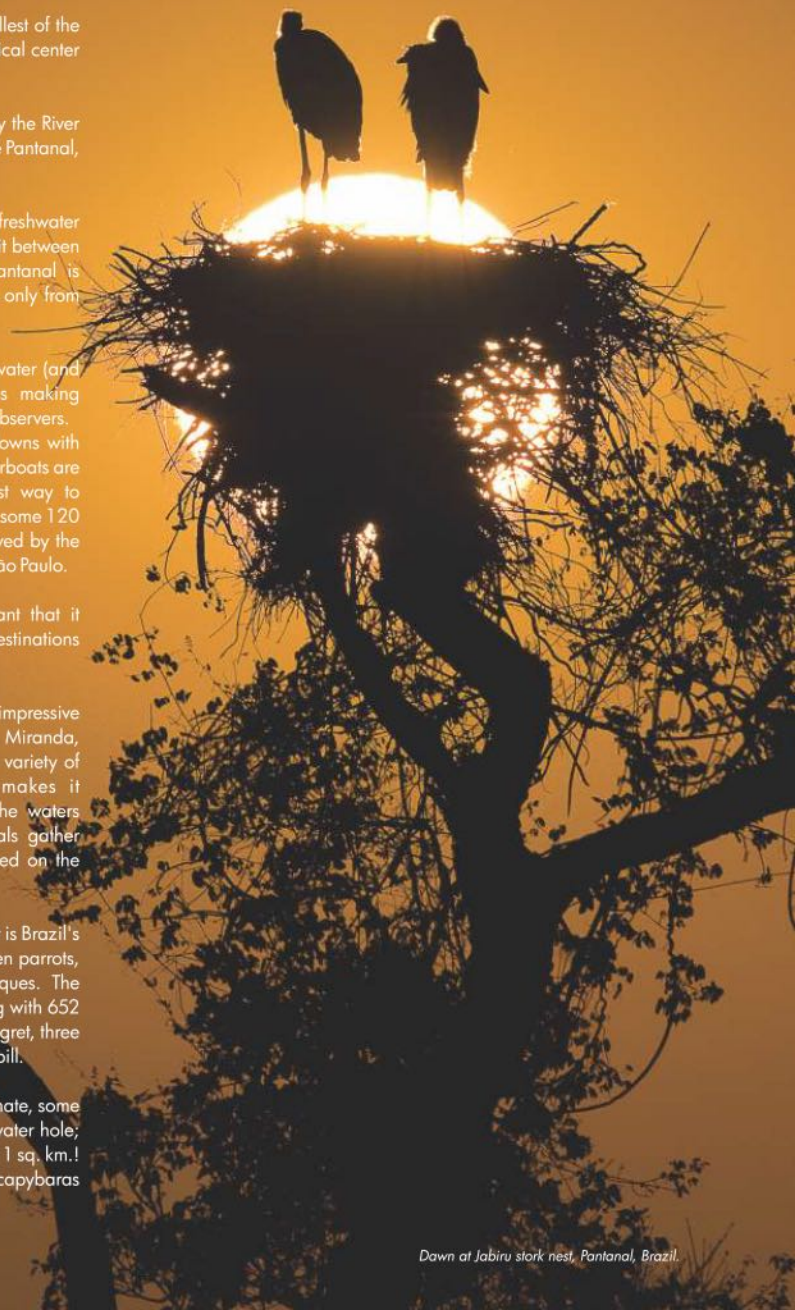
The Pantanal is a flat alluvial basin that drains water (and attracts fauna) from the surrounding plateaus making wildlife spotting easy for even the most casual of observers. The Pantanal by itself has few people and no towns with poor ground transport. Small airplanes and motorboats are often used over the great distances. The best way to approach is along the Transpantaneira Highway, some 120 km. southwest from Cuiabá. The Pantanal is served by the airports of either Cuiabá or Campo Grande via São Paulo.

The expense of visiting the Pantanal has meant that it remains under-populated compared with other destinations in Brazil making it a wildlife hotspot.

Innervated by the great River Paraguay and impressive tributaries like São Lourenço, Cuiabá, Taquari, Miranda, Negro, and Aquidauana, the Pantanal spans a variety of ecological sub-regions. Annual flooding makes it inaccessible for most of the year, yet when the waters recede in June to December, hordes of animals gather around shrinking water bodies to drink and feed on the huge quantities of trapped fish.

The Pantanal is by far the best place for birding. It is Brazil's natural carnival with red and blue macaws, green parrots, ibis, toucans, nightjars, lapwings, and pauragues. The birdsong here is exotic. Bird density is staggering with 652 bird species including ten species of heron and egret, three species of stork, and six species of ibis and spoonbill.

It's hard to imagine the biodiversity here. By estimate, some 20 million black caimans amass around every water hole; that's nearly 150 of Amazon's largest predator in 1 sq. km.! Other distinguished citizens of Pantanal include capybaras (world's largest rodent), pumas and ocelots,



Dawn at Jabiru stork nest, Pantanal, Brazil.



Brazil's common attraction, the Toco Toucan (Ramphastos toco).

giant anteaters, the marsh deer and jaguars. The jaguar is something of a symbol of the Pantanal, although it's tough luck to spot one.

Near Cuiabá, the *Parque Nacional do Pantanal Matogrossense* occupies 1,350 sq. km. and three smaller private nature reserves have been declared as UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Most of the Pantanal, however, is privately owned. The *fazendas* (ranch houses) are homes to the Pantanal cowboys - the *Pantaneiro*. These cowboys can rope a caiman or an anteater as easily herding cattle.

These ranch houses are tourist-friendly, making stay here a very comfortable option. Unsurprisingly, the best way to explore this wetland is on horseback. The Pantanal horse is a new breed of the Andalusian horse that was introduced here by the early settlers. Small and docile, the Pantanal horse with its with strong feet will cross chest-high caiman-infested water like it's a walk in the park!

At the Pantanal, conservation efforts are run together with the ranch owners. This has contributed to sustainable conservation by providing ranchers income or compensation. This encourages coexistence with the wildlife and covers the shortfall created by seasonal flooding of their areas which would otherwise encroach on a fragile ecosystem.

For details, visit: brazilnaturetours.com



A fisherman in Barao de Melgaco, Pantanal Matogrossense.

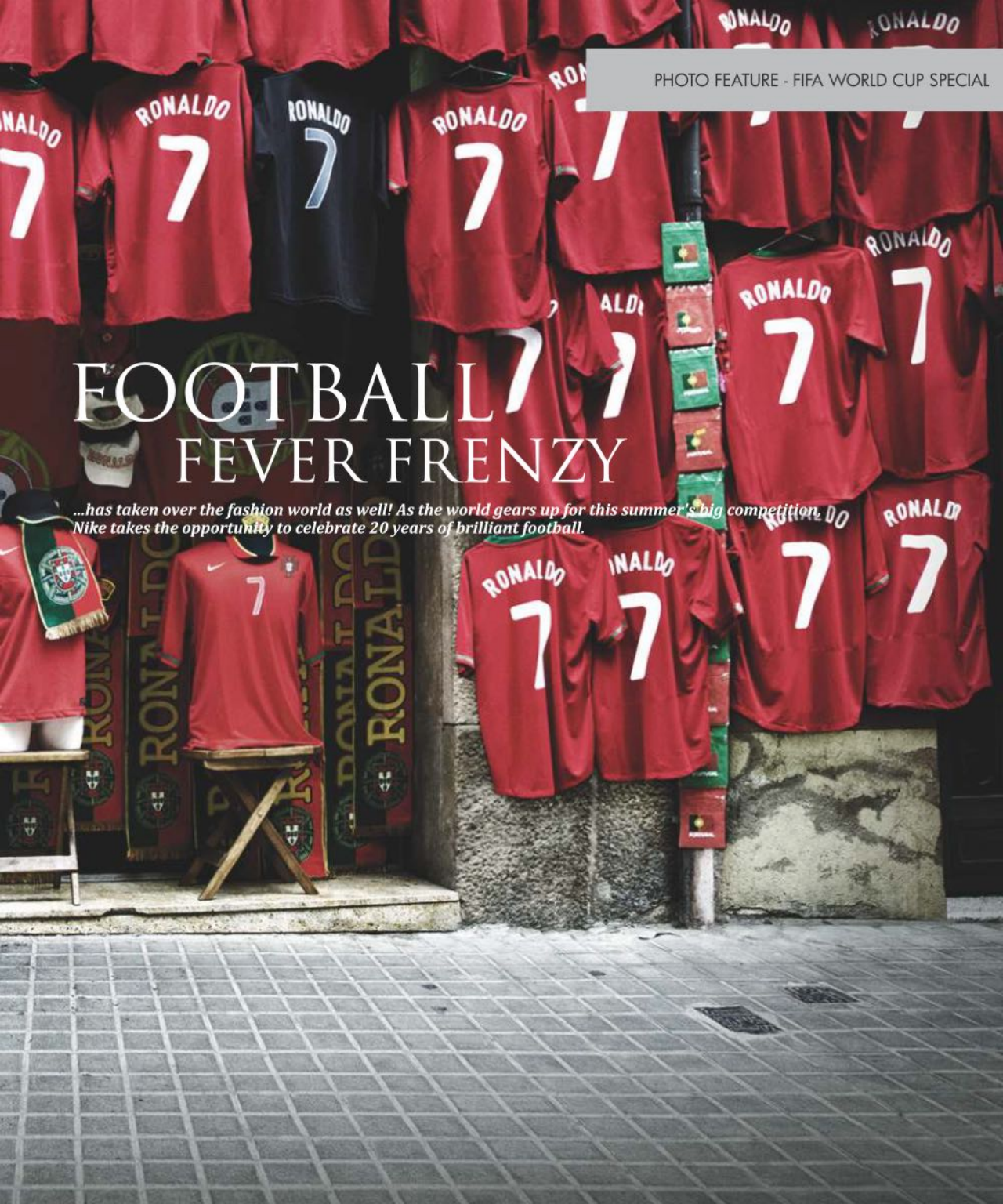
At 191,659 sq. km., the Pantanal is 10 times larger than Florida's Everglades, and offers a wildlife experience unmatched even by the Amazon!



CRISTIANO RONALDO FOR NIKE F.C.

FOOTBALL FEVER FRENZY

...has taken over the fashion world as well! As the world gears up for this summer's big competition, Nike takes the opportunity to celebrate 20 years of brilliant football.





WAYNE ROONEY FOR NIKE F.C.

Extending their "Risk Everything" World Cup campaign, Nike ups the ante with a new line of lifestyle gear.

Nike F.C. is not just a collection of fashion pieces but a badge of honour representing passion, talent, irreverence, and most of all, the willingness to put everything on the line.

A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and long hair tied back, looking off to the side. He is wearing a dark t-shirt with "NIKE F.C." printed on it and a light-colored jacket draped over his shoulder. The background is a blurred architectural scene with arches and windows.

DANI OSVALDO FOR NIKE F.C.

Nike F.C takes forward the belief that 'glory is granted to those who risk everything', which Nike stated way back in 1994.

Since then, players such as Luís Figo, Fabio Cannavaro, and Ronaldo exemplified that style, daring to do whatever it took to bring victory to their teams and nations.

Current players like Neymar Jr., Jack Wilshere, and Dani Osvaldo keep the torch burning through brilliant play, ferocious tenacity, and relentless resilience.



A full-page photograph of Neymar Jr. standing in a locker room. He is wearing the yellow and green Brazil national team kit, including a jersey with the number 10, blue shorts with the number 10, white socks, and green and yellow cleats. He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera. In the background, a large pennant with the number 10 hangs from the ceiling. To the right, several framed jerseys are displayed on the wall, including one with the number 10. The room has a dark, industrial feel with concrete walls and floors.

NEYMAR JR. FOR NIKE F.C.



Some of the gear includes the revamped Nike N98 jacket, which was first worn by Ronaldo, before stepping onto the field for Brazil.

It is now evolved to a better modern look with the Nike F.C. motto - *Sem risco não há vitória* (without risk there is no victory) - inscribed on the crest.

The Nike F.C. Glory Tee is inspired by the legends of Brazil after the epic 1994 championship. Other notable items in the collection that define the look of football include the Nike F.C. Saturday Jacket and the Nike F.C. Tiempo 94.



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CULINARY CULTURE

BOA COZINHA

Culture. Cuisine. Celebration.

Continent of celebrations. Continent of contradictions. Continent of culture. South America has always enjoyed its cultural diversity which easily translates into its cuisine.

The team at Double Tree by Hilton Pune-Chinchwad gives an insight into the delectable fare.



*Chef Manoj Painuly,
Chef de Cuisine Japvir Singh Vohra,
Chef Shintaro Fujisaki*

*Sahdev Mehta
GM of Double Tree by Hilton Pune-Chinchwad*

A place where people like to eat and drink; a place where they celebrate everything every day... Sahdev Mehta, GM of Double Tree by Hilton Pune-Chinchwad explains that South America is all about eating, drinking, and dancing. On his many trips to the continent, he has come across friendly people that make you feel welcome.

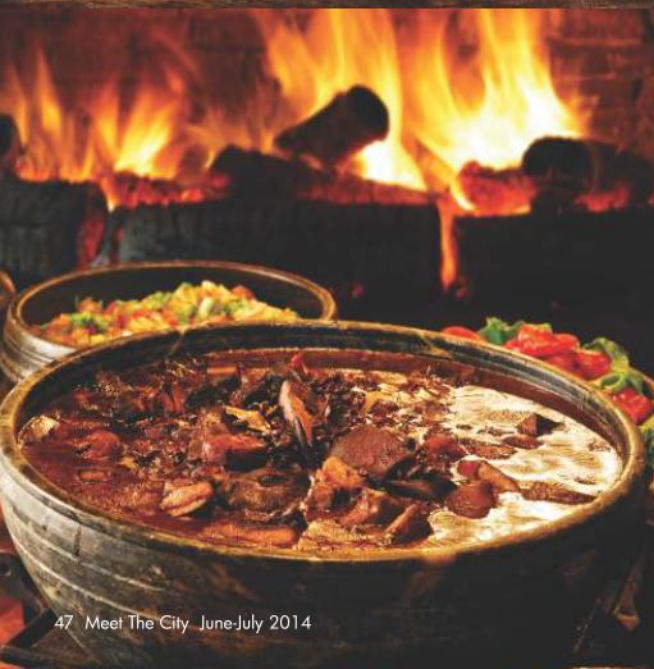
"It's a vast continent with many countries," says Chef de Cuisine Japvir Singh Vohra; and different countries mean different cultures and cuisines. While there is diversity in ingredients and tastes, there are similarities too. The most common ingredients you will find here are potatoes, corn, quinoa, tropical fruits, fresh cheeses, and beans amongst others.



Alfajore



Feijoada



SWEET AND SPICY

Sahdev finds that the continent has quite some similarity to India, due to its comparable climatic conditions. Both cuisines use a lot of fresh foods – especially greens. Though “Indians have a sweeter tooth,” Sahdev points out, “while South Americans use meat and alcohol more liberally.”

One thing to keep in mind though... in South America, there is spicy and then there is spicy. “As Indians, we think we can handle spicy food considering we have a lot of spicy dishes in our cuisine,” Sahdev shares, “while when you ask for a spicy dish here, you should be ready for it to be *realllly* spicy!”

FOOD ACROSS THE WORLD

Pastry Chef Manoj Painuly believes that South American desserts have been greatly inspired by their European counterparts owing to the long years of colonial rule. One major benefit of South American pastry cuisine is that they are easy to make at home. They use a combination of cooking and baking, unlike Indian desserts that are cooked.

Japanese Chef Shintaro Fujisaki believes that the use of fresh food - which is the essence of Japanese cuisine - is what's common between the South American and Japanese cuisines. Tacos, while using different ingredients is very similar to sushi - both are rolled with layers of ingredients inside. Seafood is another common feature as both Japan and South America use it a lot in their cuisine.

When asked what kind of drink and food combinations would be more popular, Japvir rightly puts that it should not be generalised and regional food should be combined with same regional drinks.

FUSING CULTURES

South American food by itself is fusion cuisine. Native American traditional cooking methods and ingredients were adapted and modified, and new ingredients from Europe were mixed in. Asian and African immigrants brought their culinary traditions as well. All of this blended to become the diverse and exciting cuisine that exists today.

Fusion food has to have a harmony of textures and tastes. When it comes to fusion food, desserts of the two places – India and South America – can't be concocted together as they are very different in ingredients and modes of preparation, according to Chef Manoj.

Chef Shintaro says a dish of any fresh fish with onions and tomatoes could be a good Japanese-South American fusion dish. Sahdev believes Popadums with Roasted Chicken and Chilli would be an apt fusion between Indian and South American cuisine.

Vatapá (Bahian Prawns in Coconut Cashew Sauce)

This is a famous Afro-Brazilian dish from the city of Bahia, Brazil. It's a kind of shrimp curry, with a sauce made from onions, coconut milk, peanuts, cashews, and thickened with bread crumbs. Traditional ingredients also include dried shrimp, which give it a much stronger flavour, and palm oil, which gives the dish its beautiful yellow/orange colour.

Ingredients:

2 cups torn pieces of white bread
½ cup coconut milk
¾ cup roasted, salted peanuts
¾ cup roasted, salted cashews
2 cups water or fish stock
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 lime
500 gm of prawns peeled and deveined
1 large onion
1 red chilli pepper, roughly chopped with seeds removed
1 clove garlic
3 tablespoons palm oil, or vegetable oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation:

Soak the bread pieces with the coconut milk for 10 minutes. Place them in the blender (with the coconut milk) and blend until smooth. Set aside. Finely grind the peanuts and cashews in a food processor. Set aside. Bring 2 cups of fish stock or water to boil. Season with salt and pepper, and add the garlic and juice of one lime. Add the prawns and boil until pink, about 5 minutes. Remove the prawns and set aside. Reserve the cooking liquid. In the same food processor, add the onion, chilli pepper and garlic, and process until finely chopped.

Heat the palm oil (or vegetable oil) in a skillet and sauté onion mixture for about 5 minutes, until soft and golden. Add the ground nuts to the skillet and sauté a few minutes more, adding a little oil if necessary, until golden. Add the bread crumb and coconut milk mixture and 1 1/2 cups of the prawn cooking liquid to the skillet. Cook, and stir, until sauce has thickened, about 5 minutes, adding more of the liquid if necessary.

Add prawns to sauce and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve warm, over rice.

Caipirinha

This is Brazil's national cocktail is super refreshing and delicious! It is the country's most common distilled alcoholic beverage. One of the theories behind its origins is that it used to be taken as a medicine for Spanish Flu around 1918.

Ingredients

½ lime, quartered
1 teaspoon white sugar
2½ fluid ounces cachaca
1 cup ice cubes

Preparation:

In a large rocks glass squeeze and drop in 2 eighths of lime. Add sugar, crush and mix with a spoon. Pour in the cachaca and plenty of ice. Stir well and serve.



Vatapá



Refreshing cold Caipirinha with fresh lime slices and ice



Brigadeiro - Brazilian Sweet Temptation

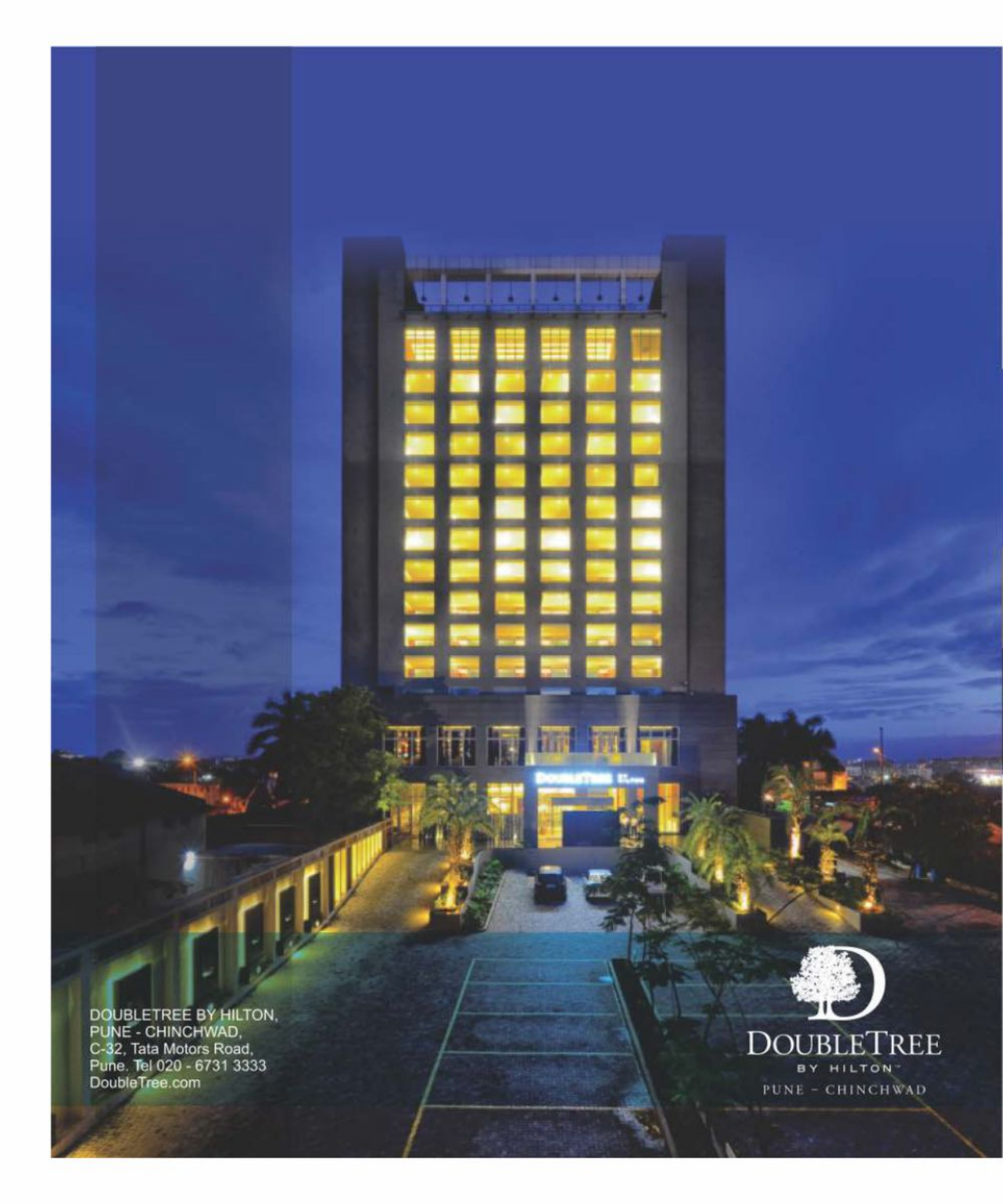
Must Eats!

Chef de Cuisine Japvir Singh Vohra recommends...

- Feijoda (pork and bean stew),
- Pao de Queijo (cheese bun),
- Arepas (corn flatbread),
- Pudim de Pan (sausage and bread pudding usually eaten for breakfast),
- Picada (cured meats),
- Dulce de leite (potato and cinnamon rolls),
- Chicha (maize beer),
- Yuka Mate (pronounced matay/a local tea),
- Hot Chocolate (a substitute for tea and coffee),
- Chapurrato (hot drink made with corn masa and chocolate).

Chef Manoj Painuly recommends...

- Alfajores (caramel sandwich cookies),
- Brazilian Brigadeiros (chocolate truffle balls),
- Passion Fruit Mousse



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Linear

Miyuki

Tarta.

EXOTIC GETAWAY

ANCIENT TRAILS

View of the Lost Incan City of Machu Picchu near Cuzco, Peru.



*Pablo Neruda was here. Che Guevara was here. So was Homer Simpson.
Not to mention, that perhaps extraterrestrial visitors - or aliens,
if you have it - were also here.*

*But just like the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids of Egypt and of course,
the Taj Mahal, Machu Picchu has embedded itself in the collective conscious of
every traveler because of its remoteness, beauty, and mysterious existence.*



*Mysterious city - Machu Picchu
The Incan ruins. Example of polygonal masonry and skill.*

Machu Picchu, the 'old peak', is an icon of ancient human civilization. A 15th-century Inca site, Machu Picchu is a Quechua citadel 7,973 ft. above sea level in the Cuzco Region of Peru, an extraordinary natural location for a structure of this size and grandeur!

We know Machu Picchu was partly residential and partly religious, yet what is unknown is its cosmic arrangement and academic significance. Re-discovered by American historian Hiram Bingham in 1911, Machu Picchu, its architecture, its landscape, and its yet-to-be-revealed mysteries is a sight to behold!

HOW TO REACH?

Various trails lead to Machu Picchu, yet, one of the most popular ways to reach is to hike the Inca Trail - one of the top-voted treks of the world. Stretching almost 82 km., it combines mountain scenery, cloud-forests, subtropical jungles, and of course, the ancient paved roads of the Inca amidst ruins. The nearest railway station is Cuzco from where guided tours are available to the peak.

- Best time to visit: May through September. The Inca Trail is closed February.
- Make your Inca Trail reservations several months in advance
- Always carry warm clothes!
- Take care of altitude sickness, one of the top killjoys of the Inca Trail. Get acclimatized before beginning the trail.

Recommended is the classic 4-day Inca Trail that treks high up into the mountains passing the Inca ruins and arriving at Machu Picchu for sunrise on the 4th day of the trek.

Day 1 is the start from Cuzco. Highlights include crossing the serpentine River Urubamba, the Inca ruins at *Llactapata* (where Bingham and his team first camped on the way to Machu Picchu). A 10-11 km. hike will bring you to the small village of *Wayllabamba* - possibly the first night camp.



Reed boat on floating island of Uros on Lake Titicaca located between Peru and Bolivia.



Paragliding in Miraflores, Lima.



Macaws in clay lick in the Peruvian Amazonian jungle at Madre de Dios.



Cathedral main church of Lima.



Image by : Shutterstock

The ascent in the Andes is the hardest part of **Day 2** of the Incan Trail. The spectacle to behold is inclusive of beautiful mountain scenery, subtropical jungle, and a fascinating collation of Inca stone stairs, ruins and tunnels of *Llullucharoc* (12,589 ft.)

The Andean trail gets terrifying and exciting at the Dead Woman's Pass - the highest and most infamous point on this trail. As the climb ascends to nearly 14,000 ft., the air thins considerably and a climb in the hot sun is only worsened with cold winds swooping down from the mountain tops! The night halt is at the paved *Paqamayu* (largest camp site on the trail) - a steep descent nearly 3,000 ft.! By this time, the trail is complete by mere 11 km. only.

By **Day 3**, acclimatization kicks in, and the real fun of experiencing the Inca Trail begins. Along the basket-shaped ruins of *Runkurakay*, the second mountain pass leads to *Abra de Runkurakay* - an official camp site. Here, gaze upon the clear skies for great views of the Vilcabamba mountain range. A naturally formed tunnel leads to a stunning staircase to *Sayaqmarka*, a well preserved Inca town. The bigger Lake *Chaquicocha*, feeds the smaller one by an underground river. Here, the subtropical forest envelops as deep green trees with colorful orchids grow higher. Lake *Chaquicocha* also offers a lovely view of the *Sayac Marca* ruins where ritual baths and a terrace view point overlook the splendid valley.



Amazonian Jungle
Image by : Sando Vallake Lodge



Sanctuary Lodge in Amazonian Jungle.



A Jaguar in Peruvian Jungle.



Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge



Plaza de Armas in Lima, Peru.



Emperor Tamarin (Saguinus imperator)

On way to *Concha Marca*, the trail merges into the jungle thick with exotic vegetation, such as lichens, hanging moss, bromeliads, and orchids, along with some of the zone's unique bird species.

The final climb of the trail is considerably easier at the third major pass - *Phuyupatamarca* where the spectacular the Urubamba Valley is laid out like a lavish feast for the eyes. From here, you can see the backside of Machu Picchu the peak.

Phuyupatamarca is the "Town above the Clouds". Here, a stone staircase of 2,250 steps nose-dives into the cloud forest with a footpath leading to the fan-shaped *Intipata*, and the other to the extraordinary ruins of *Huñay Huayna*. A rustic campsite and ramshackle hostel offers hot showers, food, and drink. This is the last resting place before the final push to Machu Picchu.

Interestingly, *Huñay Huayna* means "Forever Young", and is attributed to the perpetually flowering crucifix orchids commonly found here.

From *Huñay Huayna*, the goal for Day 4 is the *Inti Punku* (the Sun Gate) and marveling at the magnificent sun rise behind the mountains! Ideally, a 4 am. departure means reaching by daybreak after a 90-minute trek along narrow Inca steps and a 50-step near-vertical climb! There, at the end of this grueling trek is the sight of the orange hues of the sun spreading across and over the green mountains!

WHAT TO SEE?

Take time walking around the site, as there are many places to see and explore.

Temple of the Sun near the summit is famed for its stonework. The temple is the absolute pinnacle of engineering. The Incans used no mortar. Stones were cut precisely and wedged closely without even a sliver!

Machu Picchu sits above two fault lines, and yet it has stood for all these centuries. The secret is in the engineering - the stones 'dance' when a tremor shakes them. They wobble and fall back into place.

The natural setting is as important to the site as the technique used to build them: the site's location and the structural orientation are strongly influenced by the location of nearby holy mountains. An arrow-shaped stone atop the peak of *Huayna Picchu* (the small green peak, shaped like a rhino horn in the background of Machu Picchu) points due south, directly through one of the most holy apus of Inca mythology - the *Intihuatana* Stone, an ornately carved rock sundial.

Other highlights include The Temple of the Condor, the Plaza Principal or Main Square, and the Temple of the Three Windows.

ALTERNATIVELY...

As a World Heritage Site, Machu Picchu is extremely popular and hence extremely crowded in the peak season! Also, getting in to the ruins (the permit fee) and spending here can be a rip-off owing to the steep prices.

Nonetheless, if archeology is still interesting and giving Machu Picchu a miss isn't a problem (which it should be!), then discover the Inca ruins of Inca ruins at *Ollantaytambo* and the excellent *Choquequirao*.

Not paying the expensive fee to enter Machu Picchu? Climb the *Cerro Putukusi* to get fantastic views of the site and the surrounding nature.

For details, visit: incatrailperu.com

Other Things to do in Peru

Islas Uros

Visit unique floating islands at Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. Made of totora reeds, these buoyant islands are intrinsic to the lives of the Uros people. Or a boat trip on Titicaca.

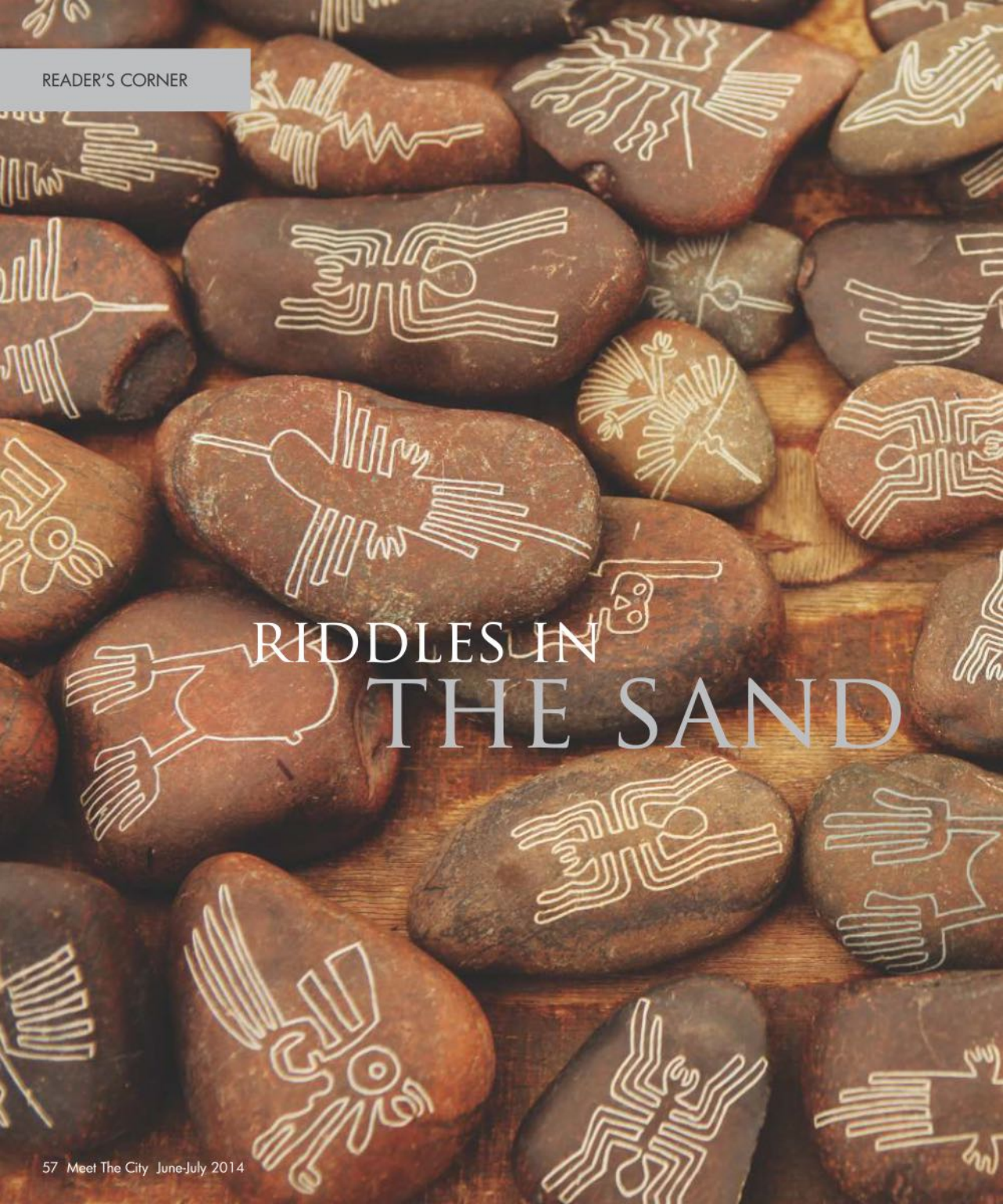
Lima

Perched on the Pacific's "Ring of Fire", Lima has been periodically razed by earthquakes and boasts a World Heritage Site status. See the Plaza Mayor, the tomb of conquistador Francisco Pizarro in a striking Renaissance-baroque cathedral, or head to the National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology and History to trace Peru's pre-Hispanic civilizations. Hunt for Peruvian souvenirs - hand-made pottery, jewelry and colorful alpaca goods along *Avenida La Marina*. Lima's night owls are well catered for with lounge bars, elite clubs like *La Candelaria*, *La Noche* and *De Rompe y Raja*.

Amazonian Lodges

Western Peru is amongst the world's sensory pleasures. With only two ways to live - rainy, and less rainy - the only way to explore this region is on a boat. At times when terra firma is possible, the Amazon puts on display its most dazzling displays - colorful macaws, acrobatic monkeys, hungry caimans, and even pink river dolphins slicing through flooded rivers. For a sensory feast visit the Tahuayo Lodge, the Ceiba Tops Lodge, and the Amazon Refuge Wildlife Conservation Center for hardcore birding and serious jungle immersion.

For details, visit: perujungle.com; amazonrefuge.com



RIDDLES IN THE SAND



On the Pampa desert in Peru, birds fly and whales swim accompanied by an owl-headed figure and thousands of mysterious lines. Ruler straight, these lines defy imagination and challenge the rational. Visible only from the skies, the Nazca Lines are one of mankind's enigmatic mysteries: why create lines you cannot see from ground?

But that isn't true, each and every of these geoglyphs is visible from atop the surrounding foothills and Andean mountains. 400 km. south of the Peruvian capital of Lima, the geoglyphs of Nazca and the pampas of Juana cover about 450 sq. km. of arid, rock-strewn plain of elevated table land of Pampa Colorado.



Comprising over 800 straight lines,
300 geometric figures (geoglyphs) and 70 animal and plant drawings (biomorphs),
the lines form an earthy graffiti of stylized figures and channels.



LINE ART

Comprising over 800 straight lines, 300 geometric figures (geoglyphs), and 70 animal and plant drawings (biomorphs), the lines form an earthy graffiti of stylized figures and channels.

These amazing structures caught the world's attention when Peruvian archaeologist Toribio Mejia Xesspe came across them, on foot, in 1927. By the 1930s as air traffic in the area increased, the lines became better known and eventually attracted a steady stream of tourists.

The Nazca lines is perhaps one of the most enduring - and enigmatic - remnants of the ancient Nazca civilization. The Nazca culture flourished between these plains bound by the Andes and the Pacific Ocean. The lines were etched in the ground somewhere between circa 400-650 AD. Strikingly, many of the motifs from

The lines were made by the simple process of extending a rope between two posts and mapping the distances, angles, and curves. Then, by removing the red stones on the desert surface along the rope, the lines could be constructed.

Piling the dark sun-baked stones from the surface of the desert up on either side of the lines exposed the lighter, powdery gypsum-laden soil below. Over time, the underlying lighter-colored calcium baked in the desert sun. When viewed, the contrast between the white of the layer and desert red made the figures stand out.

FORM & CONSTRUCT

The Nazca lines conquer topography itself: stretching over hills and across the plains in a continuity that is baffling. Not even a single line crosses itself!



Nazca polychrome pottery are reflected as figures on the desert ground thus confirming that the Nazca did have a purpose in designing these lines.

By 750 AD the civilization had collapsed. Climatic shifts such as the El Niño, erosion, and a gradual decline in water supply contributed to the death of this culture. Interestingly, this also gives a clue about the lines.

The Nazca region is extremely dry, windless, and unvarying. One of the driest on Earth, it is this lack of moisture and wind coupled with a constant climate which has helped preserve the lines uncovered and visible even after 2000 years of their origin.

The parched desert and surrounding topography makes an inviting canvas. The method used to make these lines speaks volumes about the advanced knowledge of cartography and survey techniques of the Nazca.

The encompassing geoglyphs form perfect triangles, rows of converging quadrilaterals, irregular trapezoids, and clusters of lines running for several kilometers across the desert!

Not just the geometry, the Nazca lines feature animals and birds in elaborate sizes and constructs. Spirals and flowers in complex whorls accompany a desert aviary - 18 bird figurines comprising of a hummingbird, duckling, seabird, and a condor with a 130m. wingspan!

Animals such as a spider, lizards, orca, and a monkey with five fingers and an upward curled prehensile tail appear. This is amazing considering there are no monkeys endemic to the region! Amazingly, the figures are etched out in single continuous lines.

An intriguing owl-headed person on a hillside adds more mystery to why these figures were actually made...



HIGHER PURPOSE

Archaeologists and anthropologists have studied the ancient Nazca culture to try to determine the purpose of the lines and figures. The owl-headed figurine hints at celestial involvement.

By far, one of the most bizarre, yet seriously studied theories is the Nazca connection to extra-terrestrial visitors: that the straight lines are in fact landing strips for alien spacecraft! That the owl-headed figurine with its goldfish-bowl-shaped head is an astronaut! The lines were made to signal celestial visitors from beyond the stars; and offerings were made to them. Another cosmic hypothesis is that the Nazca created them to be seen by their gods in the sky!

A strong theory is that the Nazca lines were aligned to sky pathways and were meant for ceremonial processions. The Nazca walked upon these lines in large groups in religious communions. These rituals were visible from surrounding hill slopes or mountains by others. It is also speculated the Nazca lines are related to the worship of mountain deities and that the animal and bird figures were symbols of the fertility gods.

STAR BURST

German Maria Reiche, a mathematician and archeologist, is most famous for her research into the enigmatic figures of Nazca. She was the first to make formal surveys of the geoglyphs outside Nazca and the nearby town of Palpa. For half a century, until her death in 1998, Reiche strived to conserve the geoglyphs. She is buried in the arid valley she loved so well. Maria Reiche was instrumental in proposing a very plausible explanation behind the mystery: the astronomical theory. According to this theory, the lines point in the direction of the rising of important stars and planetary events like solstices, thus marking seasons for the Nazca people. Formations like the

Because water was a scarce commodity, the Nazca made the lines to chart irrigation plans tuned to the meteorological agrarian cycles. Years of research and archaeological studies of Nazca ceremonial grounds at Cahuachi and other settlements reveal an extensive network of underground water channels.

An ingenious system of horizontal wells and aquifers tap into the sloping water table as it descends from the Andean foothills. This allowed settlements to bring subterranean water to the surface. These irrigation systems still water the southern valleys!

spider and the monkey could show constellations like Orion and Ursa Major.

This led to the belief that the lines were gigantic astronomical calendars or almanacs and indicated river fertility in the plains mirrored in the magnificent Southern Hemisphere sky. Thus, the Nazca were not just great engineers and surveyors, but also the practitioners of Archaeoastronomy!

A 1968 study by the National Geographic Society concluded that some of the Nazca lines did indeed point to the positions of the Sun, Moon and certain stars two thousand years ago. Yet, this accounts for a mere 30% of the alignment of the hundreds of lines! No data validates a significant match of lines to any important celestial events and objects!

In fact, reflecting on the sheer number and spread of the geoglyphs, it is easy to see that they *all* point to a star in the sky!

DROPS OF LIFE

The mystery, however, begins, and ends, with water. The lines are significant because of their connection to water.

The coastal region of southern Peru and northern Chile is one of the driest places on Earth. In the small, protected basin where the Nazca culture arose, rivers descend from the Andes; most of them dry for a good part of the year.

These fragile ribbons of green offered a fertile hot spot for the emergence of early civilizations such as the Nazca and the Paracas, their predecessors.

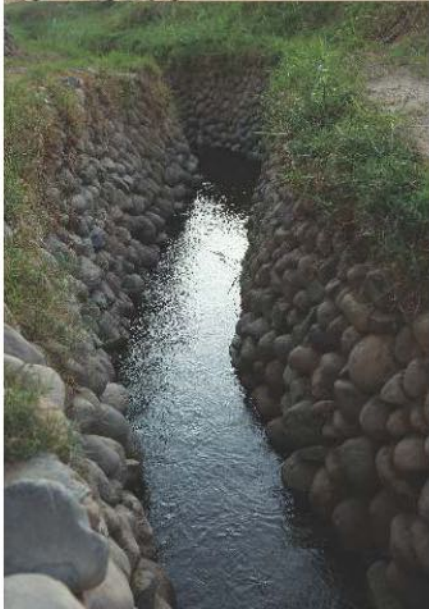
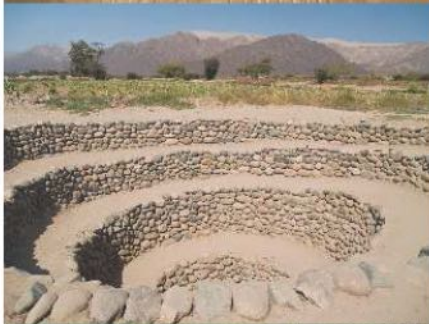
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An ingenious system of horizontal wells and aquifers tap into the sloping water table as it descends from the Andean foothills. This allowed settlements to bring subterranean water to the surface. These irrigation systems still water the southern valleys!

The lines lead to important water channels and sources. This explains more convincingly why the lines transgress mountain features and traverse lengths of the arid land. As the desert started inching forward and rivers dried up, the Nazca population centers progressively moved farther up the valleys. Eventually, the aridity won and wiped out the Nazca culture!

If this theory is indeed true, then the Nazca were probably the most resourceful civilization of all time and were more 'green' than we could imagine.

The legacy of the Nazca lives on in the lines of course. They say that if you walk along the lines, you can feel the thousand year culture alive in the ground beneath you...and when the first rays cast long shadows across the glyphs you can read the Nazca reverence in every stone, every angle of the desert lines.





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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black sleeveless dress, stands in a modern kitchen with dark grey cabinetry. She is holding and reading a magazine with a colorful cover. The kitchen features a dark countertop and a built-in oven. The lighting is soft and even.

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*A panorama of excess revived now and then with birdcall;
the sky a curtain of dark grey.*

*Leaves glistening with morning dew and a tranquil river cutting
across a sea of green.*

Welcome to Dandeli, a 'rain holiday' destination.



DISCOVER

DANDELI



KARNATAKA'S SECOND LARGEST SANCTUARY, THE DANDELI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND ADJOINING ANSHI NATIONAL PARK ARE VAST COVERS OF MOIST-DECIDUOUS FOREST.

In Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka, the Western Ghats and the free-flowing River Kali combine to form undulating streams, sylvan surroundings and trekking tracts making Dandeli a serene and magical nature experience.

From banks to mountain tops, Dandeli is dominated by the River Kali - a breathtaking emerald green serpent. A continuous canopy covers its banks, while the river itself is calm and clean unlike any other. Dandeli is home to endemic species like Malabar Giant Squirrel, Malabar Pied Hornbill, and the Malabar Gray Hornbill; other citizens include the monitor lizard, fishing eagles, and several kinds of kingfishers amongst many others. Monsoon at Dandeli is just the right time for bird watching. Weaverbirds, pied kingfishers, and egrets on skim over the river bank, even as cormorants pose and dive to catch fish.

In the River Kali, crocodiles are camouflaged

brilliantly, and a boat ride downstream along the numerous islets dotting the river will lead to a number of crocodiles basking under the sun.

Fisher folk hover along the banks in beautiful saucer-shaped coracles made of bamboo and buffalo hide. The Kali and its riparian tranquility are integral to the escapade that Dandeli is.

DISCOVER DANDELI

Karnataka's second largest sanctuary, the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining Anshi National Park are vast covers of moist-deciduous forest.

The known habitat of the rare Black Panther, the dense forest cover makes it difficult to spot this majestic beauty. Yet trails mark easy spotting of the spotted deer, Sambar, barking deer, sloth bear, the gaur, wild boars, fox, jackal, pangolin, and even elephants.



Dandeli is known for its pleasant and inviting white water rafting experiences.



Bird lovers here can catch the Great Pied Hornbill, Yellow-footed green Pigeon, Crested Serpent Eagle, Adjutant Storks, Black Baza, and peafowl along with drongos, Minivets, lora, Brahminy kites and many others birds.

The Kavala Caves are located 25 km.; the trail here is through dense virgin forest with a thousand steps to maneuver. These prehistoric limestone caves are revered as the abode of Shiva.

Crawling through narrow, winding tunnels will bring to a naturally formed *lingam*. Trek back while enjoying the awe-inspiring views of the River Kali winding in through the valley below.



Dandeli is said to be named after a local deity. Dandelappa was a humble servant in the service of the Mirashi landlords of this region.

To avoid dishonor to his masters, he rejected the love of a noble Mirashi woman and rejected her proposal. Jilted, the woman wrongly accused Dandelappa of misbehaving with her.

Dandelappa was killed by her brothers, and his remains scattered over this forest region, and the region came to be called Dandeli.



Here, dawns are marked chirping birds and invigorating fresh cool air that lingers with you for the day. Activities here include white water rafting and boating, bird watching and safari, and adventure sports like trekking, rock climbing, rappelling, and camping.

Deep inside the Gundh Range Forest of the Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve is the Syntheri Rock, a 300 ft. tall monolithic granite.

Along this colossal natural structure, runs the Kaneri, a tributary of the Kali, making this multi-faceted rock a bewitching spectacle. Vegetation grows near-perpendicular with numerous crevices in the rock facade serving as nesting places for birds.

Swimming is prohibited in the many cascades and pools formed by the Kaneri here. However, the lush greenery and the sheer enormity of the Syntheri Rock is a soothing experience not to be missed.

One of Karnataka's most beautiful panoramas can be viewed from the Sykes Point from where the bends of the River Kali are unhindered and magical in the vale below. Special permissions are needed to reach the viewing point, and photography is prohibited. Yet as views go, this remains long in the eyes than any picture recorded!



STAY AMIDST NATURE

The best way to experience Dandeli is at the Hornbill River Resort at Ganeshgudi on the banks of the surrounded by the thick forest reserves of Dandeli. It offers tree houses, rock house, tents, cottage, and clustered cottages.

Here, dawns are marked chirping birds and invigorating fresh cool air that lingers with you for the day. Activities here include white water

rafting and boating, bird watching and safari, and adventure sports like trekking, rock climbing, rappelling, and camping.

JUNGLE ADVENTURE

Dandeli is known for its pleasant and inviting white water rafting experience. From October to May, the waters of the Kali and its tributaries offer a spectacular rafting experience.

The adventure-centric on the banks of the River Kali, the Kali River Lodge is another one of Dandeli's finest places to stay. Part of the eco-friendly Jungle Lodges it lies amidst the rich forest reserves of bamboo and deciduous trees.

Activities at the Kali River Lodge include jungle safari, nature trails, bird watching, and adventure sports like rafting, coracle ride, kayaking, canyoning, and a gorgeous moonlight boat ride.

For details, visit: hornbillriverresort.com & kaliriverlodge.com

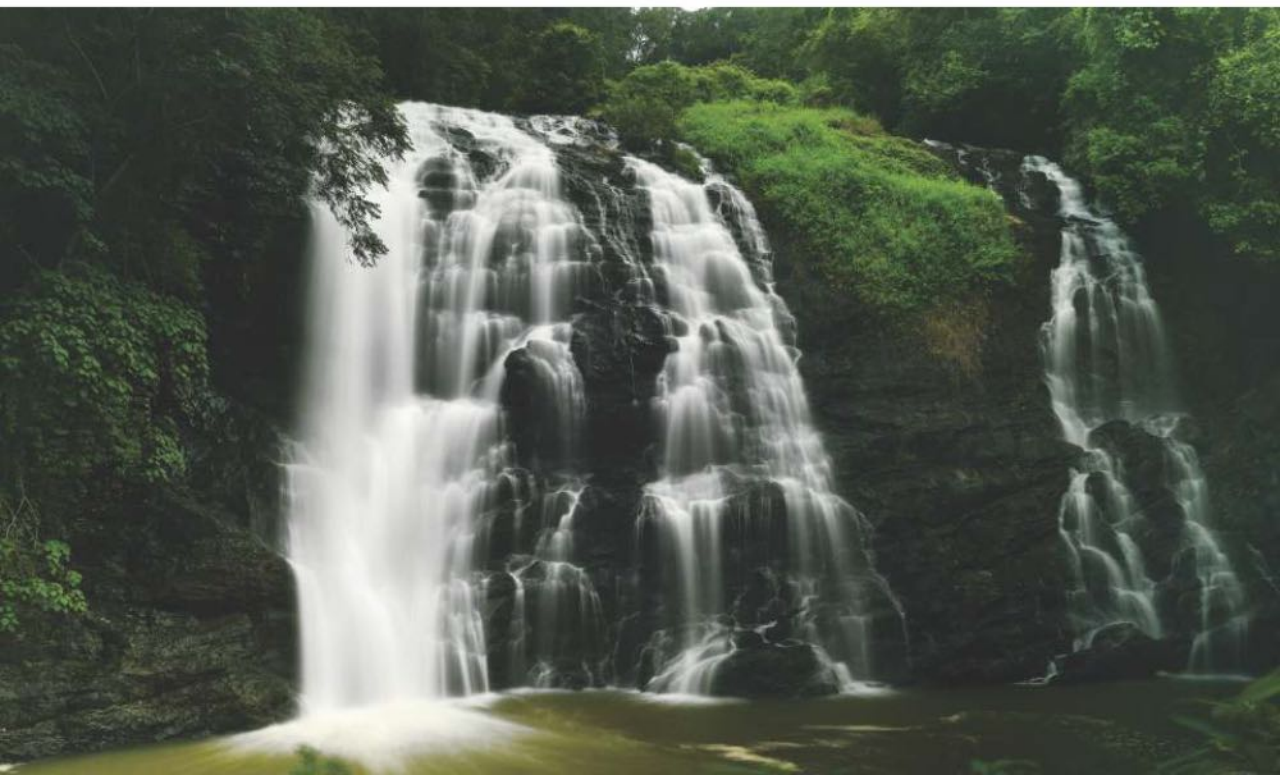
By Road:

From Bengaluru: 480 km.

From Belgaum: 106 km.

By Train:

Nearest railway station is Londa, and further by road to Dandeli.

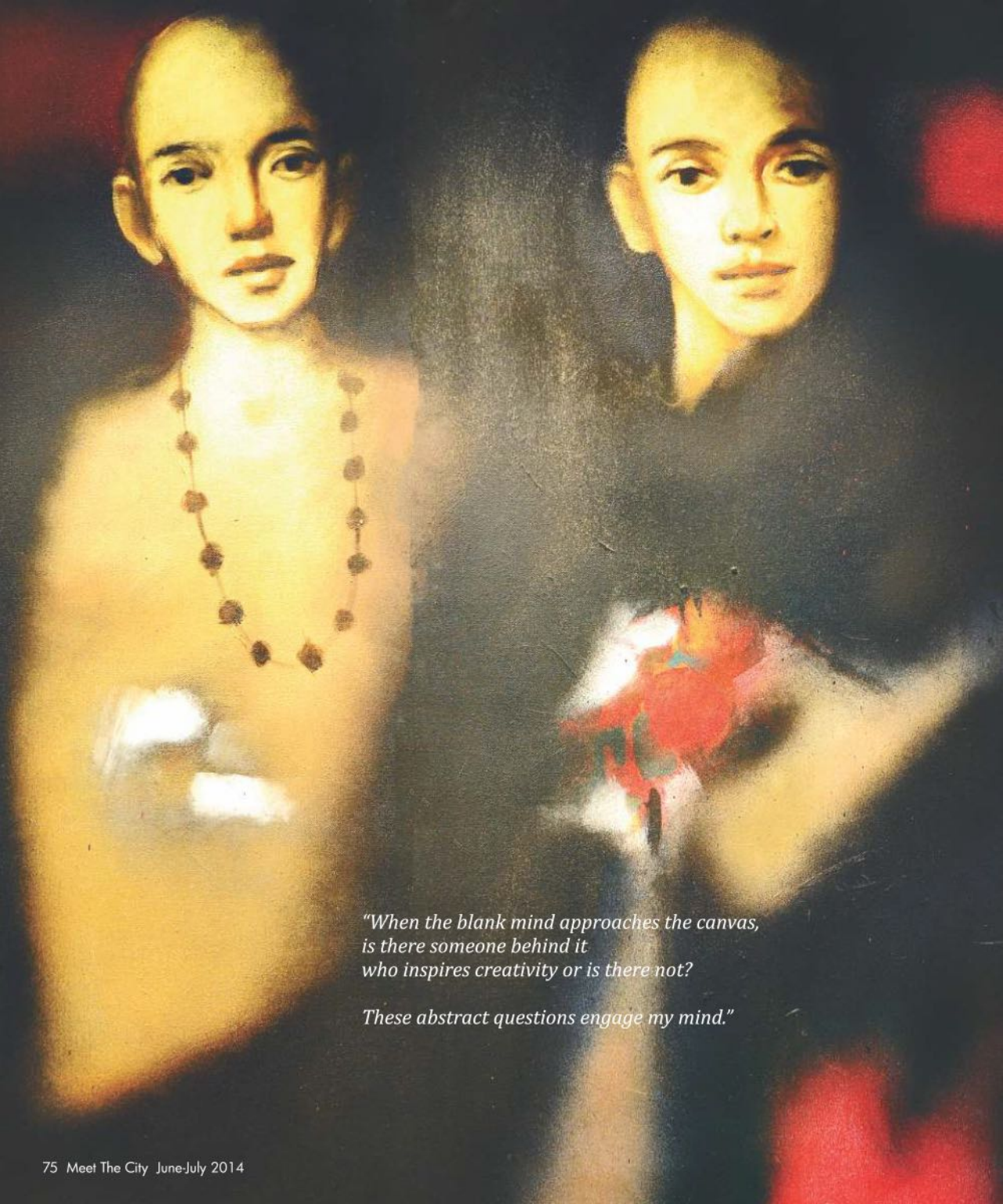




Artist **Subhash Awchat**'s use of the saffron is not a new fad.
His art makes you take notice with its themes and bold colours.

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL





*"When the blank mind approaches the canvas,
is there someone behind it
who inspires creativity or is there not?"*

These abstract questions engage my mind."



*"I'm a human being first, an artist next.
I believe a good human being makes a good artist."
Subhash Awchat*

An alumnus of Abhinav Kala Vidyalaya's batch of 1971, Subhash Awchat has been a part of the art fraternity for more than four decades now. While starting off as a graphic designer, he left the advertising world to take up painting. The years since then have seen many of his artworks exhibited in various art galleries and art shows. Focusing on humans and humanity, his art is figurative and depicts highly original themes in the best story-telling traditions. His idea of the artist is almost Aristotelian: the artist's art reflects the artist himself. Or as Subhash puts it, "I'm a human being first, an artist next. I believe a good human being makes a good artist."

LOVE THY COUNTRY

His art shows his emphasis on Indian-ness. Through themes, colours, and textures, Subhash draws on the rich cultural heritage of India to create images of great beauty. He points out, "I am not influenced by the European trend." Case in point is the *Parampara* series that is based entirely on the glorious past; "The bright orange, the red, and saffron bring our tradition and history to life. I grew up in our ancestral home at Otur near the Sahyadris. In those days, many spiritual seekers would come and stay at our home, including even the *Shankaracharyas*. It is this *parampara* that I am trying to capture in this series."

ध्यासी प्रबंध होआवे



Subhash created a movement back in the 90s by painting 5000 book covers in order to promote visual art.

He also believes that if art is taught well at school level, the art industry will benefit immensely.

His exhibitions garner a lot of interest and enthusiasm in not only the art world and its patrons but also draws in a lot of celebrities.

Like painting and sculpting, writing is also his passion. He has already published four books on different topics. Subhash's writing is an offshoot of his art where he expresses himself through words and not colours. His books, like his canvases, have expression and impression embedded in them. Late actor Smita Patil was his childhood friend, and his books *Madam* and *Studio* are dedicated to her. *Madam* is a collection of short stories and essays, while *Studio* is a collection of memoirs that Subhash wrote over a period of twenty years.

Subhash has also been a part of the national and state award winning Marathi film *22 June 1897* (1979 release). Filmmaker Nandini Hate-Mane has also shot a documentary called *Ek Kriya - Subhash Awchat* which was a part of Smita Patil Documentary & Short Film Festival 2013 and the Nashik International Film Festival 2014.



Since 1979, Awchat has held around 8 major solo shows; one of these featured 60 ink drawings and other 200 paintings! His figurative works have portrayed farmers, police, *warkaris*, curtains, actors, clowns, and *parampara*. Awchat emphasises on the human being in all his works, "All my work, even the sculptures are figurative with human touch."

DIFFERENT STROKES

One of his series of Christ, inspired by the church restorations he witnessed during his stay in Zurich, is an eloquent testimony of his love for the picturesque. Although he experiments with more subdued hues, his love for brilliant colours is the most noticeable feature of his paintings as is evident in the canvases that have railway porters holding centre-stage.

FOR THE LOVE OF ART

Subhash created a movement back in the 90s by painting 5000 book covers in order to promote visual art. He also believes that if art is taught well at school level, the art industry will benefit immensely. His exhibitions garner a lot of interest and enthusiasm not just in the patrons of art world, but also with celebrities.

He is planning to set up a school in Alibaug specially to train children in the ways of art.

Subhash's paintings are near-realist portraits, sensitively juxtaposed with bright patches of freely laid paint and often with Sanskrit calligraphy. That is the essence of Subhash Awchat, a painter who takes up images that you may find ordinary and transforms them into an extraordinary visual treat.



“Money doesn’t bring happiness.”

**I know, that’s why I just went shopping
to get rid of it all.**

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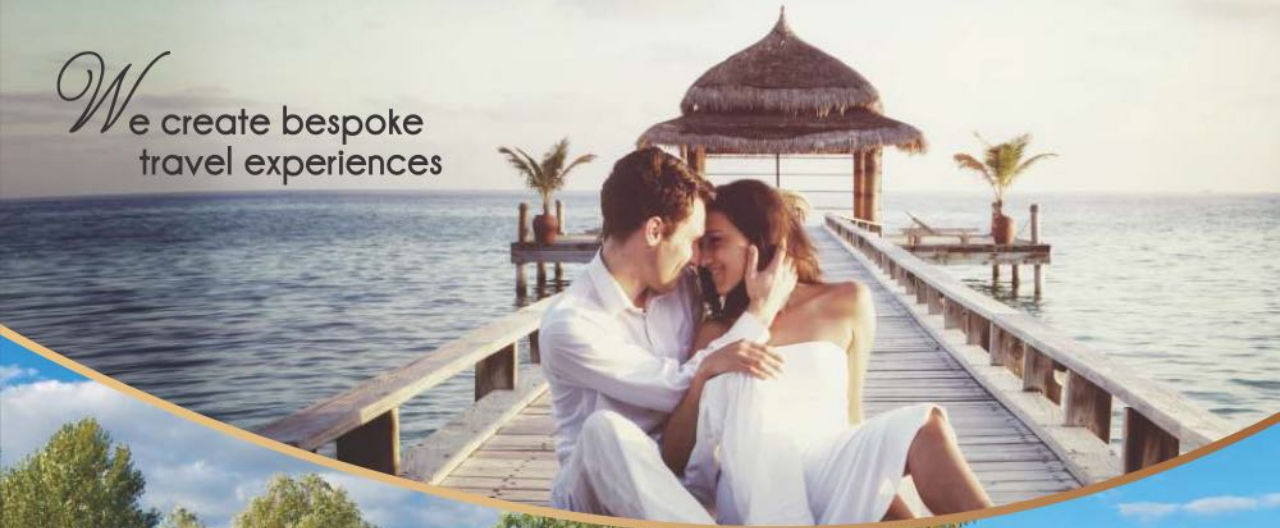
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WHAT THE STORE



THE QUIRKY LITTLE CORNER

Appreciate sparkle, smiling and all things handmade? Get cheery, charming, and varied collection of handmade pretties for a quirk fix to your home and accessories...



It's the age of quirk. It is the biggest trend you'll see in clothes and décor. Different colours, prints, motifs and textures are used to give a twist to dull and regular styles. Home accents of whimsical objects – be it functional or aesthetic – or clothes with whacky prints, quirk is the 'it' fad of today.

The Little Quirkshop in Salunke Vihar is a home and personal accessory store aims at procuring merchandise (within a well-defined genre) which is exclusive yet affordable, from mugs to posters to laptop sleeves. You will find denim bags, Bollywood coasters, hand-painted posters, thematic lampshades amongst much funky stuff that is just waiting to be picked up!

Recently turned a year old, it has grown in leaps and bounds and has found many patrons. From trendy

passport covers to geeky clocks, creativity-inducing doodle diaries to romantic cushion covers, stylish laptop bags to whacky coasters... One can find almost anything one would want, to give that edge to your décor, here.

For owner and founder Ashwini Kanetkar, a visit to the Amazon and Australia (amongst many other travels) inspired her to convert dreams into reality in the form of her own shop. An interior designer by profession, she dived head first into bringing the fun and quirk to homes with the merchandise in the store. Visit the shop to get your fix of quirk.

Visit: The Little Quirkshop, Shop No. 12, 61/2 Cristal Castle, Salunke Vihar, Wanawadi, Pune 411040.

Email: thelittlequirkshop@gmail.com

SHAKE IT UP!

FITNESS

*Want to burn off all that extra fat on the body?
Want to tone up and sculpt the body?
Want to beat the daily routine that is driving us all crazy?
Want to have fun?*

Join one of the world's most popular fitness classes - Zumba.

Zumba, a dance fitness program was created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto 'Beto' Perez during the 1990s. Zumba is a mixture of salsa, samba, tango, belly dancing, Bollywood dancing, Flamenco, soca (an African dance) and many more. It is a fitness workout with dancing as the major theme. According to a survey few years ago, approximately 14 million people take weekly Zumba classes in over 140,000 locations across more than 185 countries.

Zumba sessions are typically about an hour long and are taught by instructors licensed by an organization called Zumba Academy. The exercises include music with fast and slow rhythms, as well as resistance training. There are eight different types of classes for different levels of age and exertion.

Z u m b a
relieves stress and replaces it with fun and positive energy. Energy has power and happiness is contagious. That's why Zumba is so contagious! The music comes from the following dance styles: Cumbia, Salsa, Merengue, Mambo, Flamenco, Cha Cha Cha, Reggaeton, Soca, Samba, Hip hop music, Axé music and Tango. Most of the dance forms mentioned are Latin American in origin.

Zumba, according to Smeeta Shitole, Director Smiths Breathe Fitness, is an exercise in disguise. Smeeta is the first instructor who introduced Zumba in India. She is a licensed instructor of various forms of Zumba like, **Zumba® In The Circuit, Zumba® Toning, Aqua Zumba®**, etc.

"The beauty of Zumba is its high calorie burn. You can burn up to 600 to 1000 calories an hours, depending on whether you dance delicately or work it until you are dripping like you just came out of the pool," she informs, "Studies also show that fat loss is nine times greater with this type of training than moderate but steady forms of exercising."

Zumba is a total body workout. Zumba lets you whittle your waistline, tone your legs and burns, and sculpt your entire physique. "Zumba speeds up your metabolism, flushes out stress hormones from your body, and increases levels of feel-good endorphins," Smeeta adds.

This form of exercise has lot of variation. Like any fitness programme, it needs to be done regular to gets benefits: for upper body, lower body, for your heart (cardiovascular), and mind. But remember to do the warm up and cooling down stretches before and after the workout.

And as this is a predominantly indoor workout, you won't need to worry about the rain god's blessings (or lack thereof)!

Zumba relieves stress and replaces it with fun and positive energy. Energy has power and happiness is contagious.

That's why Zumba is so contagious!



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

*Children, they say, are a gift from God.
Despite this, many are left abandoned and destitute.
Enter Arun Ashray.*

Arun Ashray is a home for abandoned, destitute, and unwanted children. That, however, is a mere technicality. In reality, it is much more. It offers a ray of hope for the children who have been cast aside, by either the circumstances or the society. It not only provides for the basic needs of food, shelter, and medical care, but also lots of love and affection. The objective of this centre will be to reduce the trauma resulting from loss of the biological parents, nurture the child in a homely family environment as an interim arrangement.

Founded by Shailesh and Radhika Dalvie in memory of their son Arun, it is home to new born infants and children up to the age of five years. Since its conception in 2007, Arun Ashray has had 35 children under its care, of which 21 have found a new home with loving families.

Arun Ashray — which is a home and not an orphanage, Radhika clarifies — is quite the opposite. The Dalvies have ensured that each and every child that comes here gets what every other child gets, or ideally should get. It's ensured that these children get a lot of love, care and happiness. Education and well being of the children is a constant endeavour. The Aashray also aims to establish rehabilitation programmes to enable the children to become self reliant, educated so that they can achieve gainful employment. All this will be done through tie-ups with other similar adoption centres, orphanage and NGO's in Pune.

For further details, contact:

Radhika Dalvie
Email: rdalvie_16@hotmail.com
Phone: +91 98228 00507

MARKING THE CHANGE

With the great Indian political showdown having taken place this year, the timing of the book launch was quite apt. John Elliott's *Implosion: India's Tryst With Reality* is India's journey through the obstacles – post independence till date – in various ways leading to different results.

As a political and business correspondent in the subcontinent for more than 20 years, John Elliott comes with an insight into the political and economic scene of the place – one of a person who is not too close to the topic but yet has a considerable understanding about it.

The book leads us through the Gandhi-Nehru years and how they influenced the current scenario. Liberalisation and its impact is put under scrutiny and the modern day unrests over land acquisition, corruption, rape, and other issues are analysed.

The author also tries to discover the secrets of the 'M document' – the blueprint of 1991 reforms. The government's foreign policies and defence forces' issues are also brought to light.

The tumultuous-seeming scenario that is the Indian politics is discussed; and this of course leads to both positive and negative reviews from the various factions. Some have put up some valid points that show the loop holes in the author's arguments.

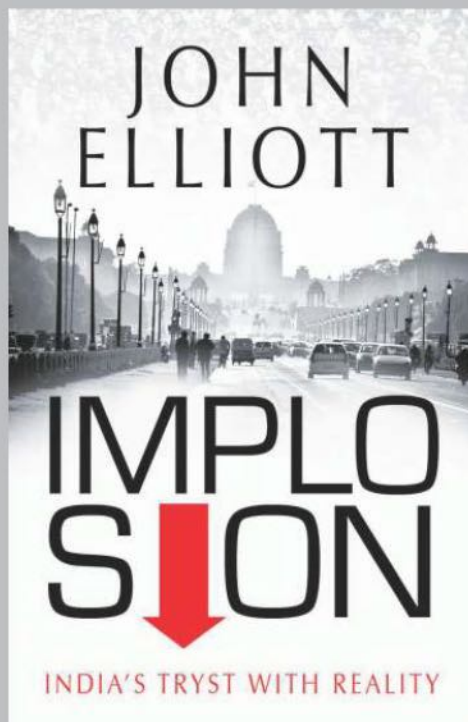
All in all, *Implosion: India's Tryst With Reality* is a good read for those interested in knowing the political and economic situation of the country and how it reached the current phase.

At the center of the issues, the author says, lies a poor attitude towards most problems. The hurry to get things done and a widespread disregard for rules is rotting the Indian society and its politics from within, he contends.

Thorough and piercing in its attempt, John Elliott tries to encapsulate all that makes present day India what it is.

India gained independence from its colonial masters in 1947 and ever since then, its path to a better future has been riddled with obstacles. John Elliott tries to understand how India arrived at such a situation. *Implosion: India's Tryst With Reality* is India's journey through those obstacles in various ways leading to different results.

John Elliott uses his vast experience as a political and business correspondent to examine how corruption now plagues almost every aspect of Indian life.



Author: John Elliott
Publisher: HarperCollins India

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS



Patrons enjoying the art



Shailesh Mehta and Prataprao Pawar

REVERING FEMINITY - ISHANYA ART GALLERY

The Tilting Art Gallery at Ishanya hosted 24 women artists for their 'Celebrating Womanhood' exhibition.

The show was put together by Milind Sathe. Women from across the country showcased their art here.

Ami Patel and Chitra Vaidya from Mumbai, Shola Carletti and Varsha Randiwe from Pune, Kirti Chandak from Puducherry, Bhawana Chaudhary and Vishakha Apte from Bhopal and Milan Sharma from Jammu were few of the many talented ladies.

It was inaugurated by Zarina Screwvala, Managing Trustee of Swades Foundation. It got a great response from the art patrons of the city.



Art at the Tilting Art Gallery



Malaa Treon and Diviya Aggarwal Parul and Shaliesh Mehta



Usha Kakade, Ritu Chabbria, Zarina Screwvala and Parul Mehta



Chef Ajmal, Kunal Vijaykar and Atul Chordia



Sagar Chordia, Chef Ajmal, GM Jatin Khanna, Subhash Sinha and Shribala Chordia

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food is an important aspect of our lives, and when you get some hidden recipes to make it more interesting, it's made all the better! Executive Chef Ajmal Salim of JW Marriott Pune recently launched a book, 'Secret Recipes'. It is a compilation of the most favourite

dishes from each outlet of the hotel. The book was unveiled by Atul Chordia and celebrity food critique Kunal Vijaykar.

The book is available exclusively at Pune Baking Company. Many noted names of the city were seen enjoying lavish spreads of stunning food displays, live music and cocktails



Rasika Wakalkar



Dr. Koppikar and Laleh Bushheri



Kimaya Rachh and friend



Varsha and Atul Chordia with Chef Ajmal



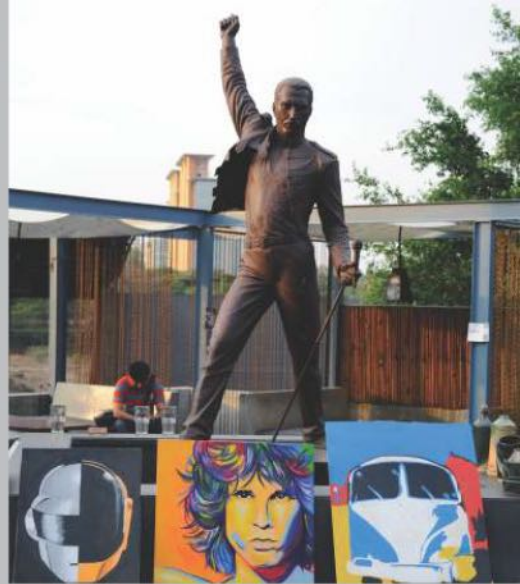
Ajay Chordia and Prakash Chabbria

ART ATTACK

70 artists come together across 10 destinations in the city to be a part of the Art Hop Weekender, which was aimed at bringing out your creative side. Art, fashion, style, street food, gigs, music, flea markets, street fests and after parties... all converged through this one event.

Free workshops were conducted including those on Art exhibitions, DIY fashion workshops, Cuban Salsa, Quilling art, Photography, Italian pizza, cocktail making, belly dance and more. Sen5es and Bistro at Oakwood Premier, Monalisa Kalagram, Cultural Centre, Artsphere, Hard Rock Café, The Westin Pune Koregaon Park and other places played hosts for the various activities.

A unique concept, it made for a busy day for the patrons giving opportunity to indulge their artistic side.



Art at Hard Rock Cafe



Art at Sen5es



Art workshop at Oakwood Premier

Cupcake workshop at The Cultural Centre



Dance Performance at Oakwood Premier



89 Meet The City - June/July 2014

Art at Bistro



Art at The Cultural Centre



Pandit Birju Maharaj



Artists performing Holi Ke Rang



Nandita Kalmadi and Mrunal Pawar



Anil Sanghvi, Parul Mehta, Varsha Chordia, Sabina Sanghvi and Gayatri Devi Patwardhan

NIGHT OF DANCING...

The 13th Edition of Shaniwarwada Dance and Music Festival left the audience enthralled as stalwarts of the dance and music industry performed on stage. Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj – who was felicitated with the Life Time Achievement Award – performed his unique composition 'Holi Ke Rang', a musical dance drama portraying the festival of colours.

Renowned Bharatnatyam Dansesue Shashikala Ravi and troupe presented 'Ganesh vandana' which was followed by 'Srishti', a thematic choreography in Bharatnatyam. The doyen of Kathak, Pt Birju Maharaj was joined by his son Jayakishan Maharaj and dance students from Pune and Mumbai.

It was an evening to remember for the city's dance and music patrons. Koregaon Park and other places played hosts for the various activities. A unique concept, it made for a busy day for the patrons giving opportunity to indulge their artistic side.



Artist performing Holi Ke Rang



Bharatnatyam danseuse Shashikala Ravi with troupe

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS



Bentley showcase



Aston Martin showcase



ALL THAT LUXE

The Indian Luxury Expo was held at JW Marriott Pune recently. It had more than 50 brands under one roof, and played host to a whopping 5000+ luxury enthusiasts – one of their most successful events! From Lamborghini, BMW, Bentley, Audi, Aston Martin, Rolls-Royce, Mercedes Benz to Moto Guzzi, Aprilia, Triumph, and Suzuki, the auto enthusiasts were in for a treat.

Tarta, the patisserie at Double Tree by Hilton Pune-Chinchwad made their patrons happy with mouth watering desserts. Other brands at the expo were More Mischief, Rev Eye, MDF Furnitures, Club Connoisseur Cigars, Andreu World, The Collective, House of Three, Claymon Italica amongst many others. The luxe quotient reached a definite high!





Lamborghini showcase



Team Tarta, Double Tree by Hilton Pune - Chinchwad



Manna and Suneil Shetty



Sejal Firodia with friend



Sabina and Shibani Sanghvi



Vibha Bokey with daughter



Nikhil Shetty, Rajendra Nimbalkar, Atul Chordia, Prateek Chordia and Deepak Shah



Suneil Shetty



Pooja Shah

Nivedita and Badal Saboo

Anand Chordia with wife

Jackie Shroff

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