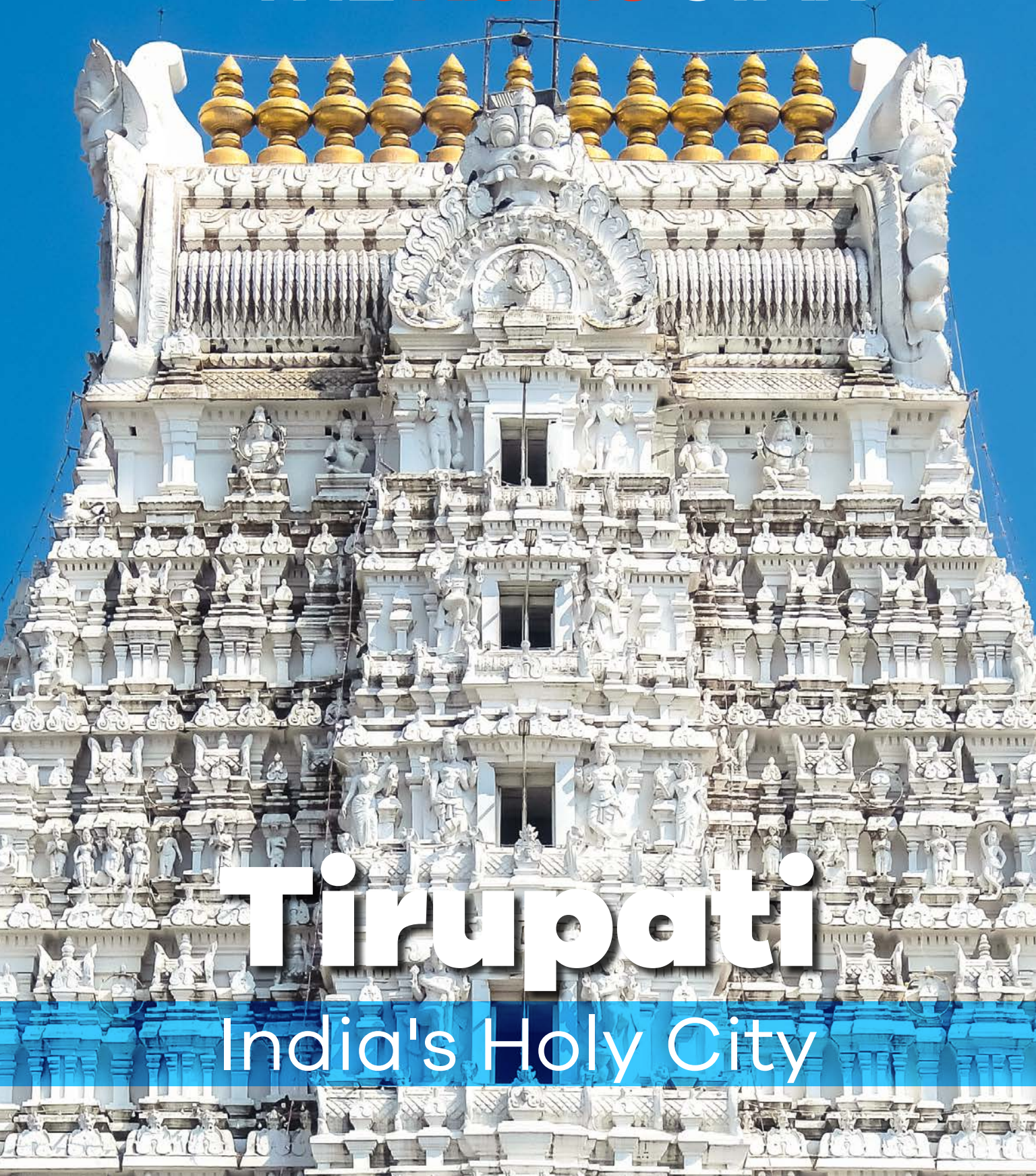


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Dear Readers,

As we enter the month of May, Star Air is thrilled to announce some exciting news that we hope will make your travel experience with us even more enjoyable.

We are delighted to inform you that Star Air will soon be starting a new route to Jaipur from Belagavi, further expanding our reach to Connect Real India. This new addition to our network is a testament to our commitment to providing our passengers with convenient travel options to explore the diverse beauty of India.

We are also excited to announce that our brand new Embraer E175 aircraft is due to take to the skies shortly, starting with the BLR-HYD route from next month. With the arrival of this advanced aircraft, we are taking another significant step towards our goal of providing our passengers with an unmatched travel experience, marked by comfort, convenience, and reliability.

We are confident that with the addition of the Jaipur-Belagavi route and the introduction of our new Embraer E175 aircraft, our passengers will have even more reasons to choose Star Air for their travel needs. Thank you for choosing Star Air as your preferred airline, and we look forward to welcoming you on board soon.

As always, we are grateful to our loyal customers, stakeholders, and well-wishers for their continued support, which has been instrumental in our growth and success. Our team of dedicated professionals work tirelessly to ensure that every aspect of your journey meets the highest standards of safety, comfort and convenience. I would like to thank them for their efforts in taking Star Air to new heights.

At Star Air, our mission is to Connect Real India and offer unparalleled travel experiences to our passengers. We take pride in our commitment to excellence, and with these new developments, we hope to continue delivering on that promise.

As you fly with us, we invite you to explore our inflight magazine, which is filled with articles and features that we believe will be of interest to you. From destination guides to travel tips to interviews with cultural icons, our magazine has something for everyone.★

**Best regards,**

**SANJAY D. GHODAWAT**

Chairman

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Volume 4 ✈ Issue 3



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# TIRUPATI

The Heritage City

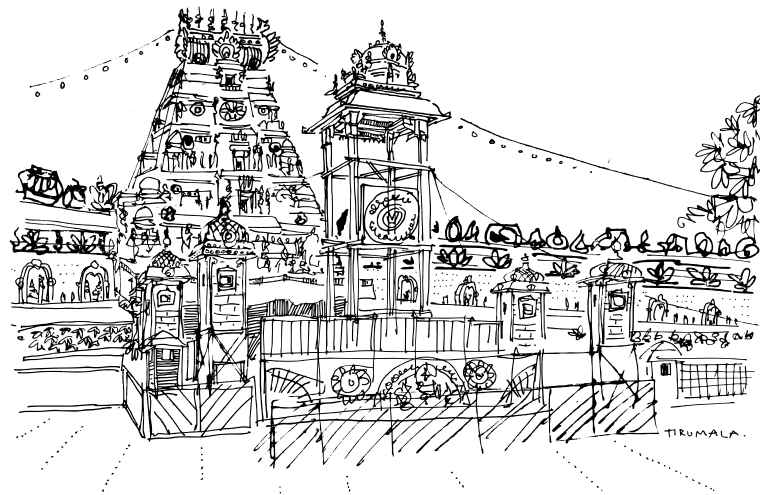


Tirupati, located in Andhra Pradesh, is known far and wide due to the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple. As the city is home to a vast number of temples and shrines in the city, it is known as the 'Best Heritage City' in India. Recently, Tirupati was chosen among others to become a smart city under Smart Cities Mission by the Government of India.

Text by: **SCOTT DSOUZA**

### A LESSON IN HISTORY

In the Bhagavata Purana it is said that Bhudevi asked Garuda to bring his favourite hill to earth so that she and Lord Varahadev could reside together on it. That hill later came to be known as Tirumala comprising of seven heads representing the seven heads of Adishesha and is considered a very holy place even to this day. The temples in Tirupati have various important inscriptions that belong to the Pallava, Chola, Pandya and Saluva dynasties.



### KNOW YOUR CITY

According to ancient history, Lord Ram stayed in Tirupati with Sita and his brother Laxman after returning from Lanka. The city is known for its temples especially the Venkateswara Temple which has many important inscriptions in Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada. The Tirumala Hill of Tirupati is considered a Holy abode of Lord Venkateswara and until 1870, non-Hindus were not allowed to visit the hill.

 Star Air has regular flights to Tirupati from Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kalaburagi, Hubli, Hyderabad, Indore, Belgaum, Bidar, Jodhpur, Jamnagar, Kolhapur, Kishangarh, Chennai, Nagpur and Surat. Log on to <https://www.starair.in> to book a flight to Tirupati.

### TREAT FOR YOUR EYES

**Venkateshvara Temple:** This temple is located in Tirumala and is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. This temple has beautiful architecture and is home to many deities. Devotees who visit this temple sometimes offer to donate their hair as part of their worship.



### Swami Pushkarini

**Lake:** This natural spring freshwater lake is famous as it is said that Lord Vishnu took a long bath with his wife Lakshmi Devi at this place. During the Brahmotsavam festival, devotees take a dip in this lake to cleanse themselves.

### Silathoranam:

Known as an archaeological marvel, this arch is a National Geo-heritage Monument and one of three natural arches to exist in the world. Silathoranam is well-connected by roads and tourists mostly visit it at sunset to admire its beauty.



### TANTALISE YOUR TASTE BUDS

**Tirupati Laddu:** Made from flour, cashew nuts, cardamom, ghee, sugar and raisins. This famous sweet is only prepared in Tirupati and is served by devotees to Lord Venkateshvara at the Tirumala Venkateshvara Temple.



**Andhra Thali:** Includes rice, sambar, a curry dish, pickles, poriyal (a cauliflower stew) and kurma (a coconut milk and vegetable stew). These spicy yet delicious dishes capture the true essence of Andhra Pradesh and are a must-try when in Tirupati.



**Pulihora:** Made with cooked rice, tamarind extract and spices, this dish is usually cooked on special occasions and is presented to deities in temples as part of prayers.





### TRYST WITH NATURE

**Talakona Waterfall:** Situated in the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, the Talakona Waterfall is famous as it is not only the highest waterfall in the state but is also located near the Siddheswara Swamy Temple. Being an ideal location for a trek, the place is always swarming with tourists and devotees alike.



**Sri Venkateswara National Park:** This place is not only a biosphere reserve but also home to various flora and fauna. Being spread over a vast area, the park is ideal for nature lovers looking to spot vascular plant species. The Oriental white-backed vulture which is an endangered bird is found in this national park.



**Deer Park:** The Tirumala Deer Park Reserve is located near the suburbs of Kandaluru city and is famous for the many escapades it offers into nature for the wildlife enthusiasts. Tourists can spot deer in their natural habitat and also interact with them.



### TIME IT RIGHT

The best time to visit Tirupati is from **September to March** as the weather is pleasant and the city is decorated for pilgrims attending the Srivari Brahmotsavam festival.★





# Watch List

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



## GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3

**Synopsis:** Although Quill is still reeling from the loss of Gamora, he assembles his team and embarks on a dangerous mission to save Rocket's life.

**Genre:** Action, Adventure

**Release Date:** 05 May 2023

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER

**Synopsis:** Four best friends and members of a book club, decide to take a vacation and so travel abroad to embark on a cross-country adventure in Italy.

**Genre:** Comedy, Adventure

**Release Date:** 12 May 2023

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## FAST X

**Synopsis:** Dominic Toretto and his family face a new threat as Cipher teams up with Hernan Reyes's son, Dante Reyes to exact her revenge on the group.

**Genre:** Action, Adventure

**Release Date:** 19 May 2023

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## ADHIPURUSH

**Synopsis:** Raghava sets out on a rescue mission with his brother after Lankesh kidnaps his wife Janaki and keeps her hostage in his kingdom.

**Genre:** Mythology, Drama

**Release Date:** 16 June 2023

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## MAIDAAN

**Synopsis:** Syed Abdul Rahim does everything he can to ensure the Indian football team can defeat their opponents and win big at the Olympics.

**Genre:** Drama, Sport

**Release Date:** 23 June 2023

**Playing in:** Cinemas



## NIGHT MANAGER (TV SERIES) (PART 2)

**Synopsis:** An ex-night manager at a prestigious hotel goes undercover into an arms dealer's group to thwart their plans of mass destruction and bring all the culprits to justice.

**Genre:** Action, Adventure

**Release Date:** June 2023

**Streaming on:** Disney Hotstar★



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# Summer of '23

As temperatures hit a new record high, it is easier to let comfort rule your wardrobe picks and push style to the back seat. However, here, are a few easy-breezy summer outfit ideas that you should embrace to ensure you walk into the season with bright and flying colours!

Text by **MUZNA SAYED**

### Corporate Affair

Balancing your personal style while working 9-5 on a hot summer day can be tricky. However, effortless silhouettes, linen and light colours make for an ideal corporate look.



Men are guaranteed to make a statement in a striped or a bold polo T-shirt topped with an easy blazer and low-line sneakers.



Women could opt for something both comfortable and adventurous like a cropped top paired with wide-legged trousers or checkered shirts styled with bespoke blazers.

### Soiree on a Friday Night

While the corporate setting calls for more formal clothing, those after-work soirees are a good excuse to escape the dress code and let loose, as summers are perfect to explore new styles and trends.



Women can don a knee or ankle-length floral sun dress, a maxi-skirt paired with a buttoned-down monochromatic shirt or a basic denim tee for a post-work event.



For a more casual post-work bash, men could pick breezy dress shirts or polo shirts and pair them with chino pants for an outdoorsy feel.



### Day-out with BFFs

If the plan is a lazy day-out with friends or just some ME time—summers are a wonderful season to flaunt your fashion sense.



For the girls, a laser-cut or mesh knee-length dress with off-shoulders in sunny colours or jort shorts teamed up with oversized tees promise ample comfort and a relaxed look.



Men should never undervalue the potential of a basic white T-shirt that aptly complements khaki or linen chino pants. A slinky pullover is the perfect look for those windy, sundowner evenings by the sea.

### Last-minute Romantic Rendezvous

Be it a first date after hours of swiping on dating applications or a last-minute plan with your better half, summers are ideal to showcase your hidden fashionista.



Most models swear by a printed or bold slip dress as it never goes wrong for a romantic rendezvous. A little black dress should also be a wardrobe essential for summer. Pair the two with a flimsy cardigan or a blazer and get yourself the perfect look.



Boyfriends need not lose heart as they too can set temperatures soaring with their off-beat sartorial choices. Slim-fit cotton pants pair well with printed relaxed-fit shirts. Men can also play around with oversized denim pants or floral print half-sleeve shirts to achieve the perfect date-ready look.★

# How Can TRAVELLERS FLY Sustainably?

Flying sustainably is not only good for the environment but also for your wallet. By making a few conscious decisions and small changes in your travel habits, you can reduce your carbon footprint and contribute to a more sustainable aviation industry.

**Shreya Ghodawat, Sustainability Strategist | Founder & CEO, Sustainable Guides**

As a conscious traveller having travelled to 65 countries so far and lived in five, these tips have helped me travel in a sustainable, mindful manner with the least environmental footprint.

## **Pack Light**

One of the easiest ways to fly sustainably is by packing light. The heavier your luggage, the more fuel the airplane will consume, resulting in higher carbon emissions. By packing only your travel essentials, you can help reduce excess fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

## **Avoid Single-use Plastics**

Try to pack eco-friendly products or go completely plastic-free, by using shampoo bars, tooth tabs, deodorant bars, etc. These sustainable products use up less space and are allowed in your hand luggage. Plus, they are much better for the environment. **'Bare Necessities'** has a great range of eco-friendly shampoo bars and soaps that is perfect for a sustainable trip. Avoid single-use plastic cups as this small step can save hundreds of plastic cups from ending up in landfills. All of this goes a long way

in reducing single-use waste that so easily piles up during our trips.

## **Carry Reusable's and Zero Waste Products**

A perfect way to reduce your carbon footprint is by bringing your own water bottle. Although most airlines provide free drinking water on board, instead of using single-use plastic cups, you can refill your own bottle. Other reusable items include cutlery, food containers, etc. If you need to purchase food or drinks on the flight, choose options that come in compostable packaging. Better yet, bring your own snacks in a reusable container. Remember, zero waste travel is all about using what we already have.

## **Stay in Eco-friendly hotels**

When it comes to choosing a place to stay, the most sustainable option is to reserve an eco-friendly hotel that follows the best sustainability practices. Hotels are one of the greatest waste producers in the travel industry. All the housekeeping activities generate large amounts of unused items that could have easily been reused or recycled. If you are eco-conscious and understand the importance of living sustainably,

always strive to choose hotels that follow sustainable, eco-friendly best practices.

Eco-friendly hotels follow practices like using renewable energy resources, using recyclable and refillable shampoos, soaps and organic cleansers. In addition, they avoid single-use waste, practise composting and serve food made with local, organic ingredients.

In recent years due to the rise of sustainable travel, many eco-resorts, eco-friendly hotels and lodges have sprung up across India. There are quite a few worth mentioning in Maharashtra alone. **Malachi** in **Sindhudurg** is an award-winning eco-friendly resort situated along the stunning Konkan coastline in Maharashtra. The charming eco-resort is a rustic refuge that doubles as a farm-stay. The A-framed huts are constructed in such a way as to make the most of the breeze as a natural form of air conditioning, thus conserving energy use.

You should also look for places that give back to the local community and protect local or regional biodiversity. For example, the **Wilderness Resort** in **North Goa** operates a facility for wildlife research and conservation that aims to



educate the surrounding communities and villagers about the wildlife habitats of the Western Ghats, in an effort to protect the natural environment.

You can also opt for home-stays if you want to stay connected with the locals. 'Couch surfing' is not only a fantastic way to make connections with locals, but it's one of the most budget-friendly ways of making sustainable travel, financially sustainable.

### Get Involved with the Local Community

If you are staying in a location for longer than a few days or a week, you can get involved with the local community to better connect with their culture—from teaching a language at a local school or volunteering at a shelter, the possibilities are endless. If you're looking for environmentally friendly ways to travel, aim for volunteer programmes that do not charge, do not take away opportunities from the locals, and are run directly by the local residents. Volunteering for short stints of time in exchange for housing and food is one way to achieve this, especially if you are on a budget.

Here are other ways you can benefit the local community ensuring a more sustainable trip:

- **Eat locally:** Eat where the locals eat and stick to locally sourced food. Support small restaurants, try out open-air markets and let your eyes and nose guide you to food stalls and street vendors.
- **Travel with local transport providers (where safe):** From tuk tuks to tro tros, taking local transport over Uber or taxis is one of the quickest ways to explore and give directly to the drivers.
- **Book local tours:** Booking tours of local areas is an efficient and educational way to get the most out of your sustainable vacation experience if you're limited on time.
- **Buy locally handmade curios:** While we always encourage experiences over trinkets, finding truly unique pieces

#### About the author

Driven by a passion for promoting climate solutions and aspirational ethical living, Shreya Ghodawat is making a difference with her work as a sustainability strategist, writer, speaker and advisor.



made by local artisans is a wonderful way to help the local economy.

#### Offset Emissions

Finally, consider offsetting your carbon emissions on your own. Carbon offsets are a way to balance out your pollution by investing in projects that reduce carbon or other greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. For example, if your flight used 1,000 pounds of carbon, you can offset that by supporting a reforestation project or renewable energy initiative that would capture an equivalent amount of carbon.

Here are a few websites to browse for popular offsetting projects:

- **Gold Standard**
- **Cool Effect**
- **Green-e**

Use these carbon calculators to calculate your trip's carbon footprint:

- **Atmosfair**
- **FlyGreen**
- **CarbonFootprint.com**

Air travel accounts for 2.5% of global carbon emissions. By making these small changes, you can contribute to a more sustainable aviation industry while also enjoying a comfortable and hassle-free travel experience. So next time you fly, remember these eco-friendly travel tips for a safe, sustainable and happy flight!★

# What the Stars Reveal

Find out what the stars reveal for the coming months.



## Aries

(March 21 – April 19)

There will be a few issues in your relationship that you will need to deal with. Your sense of self-worth is probably what makes you feel the happiest. Give yourself the licence to venture into the unknown if you run a business by yourself.



## Taurus

(April 20 – May 20)

You're going to meet a good match soon if you're searching for the yin to your yang. You will be rewarded with financial advantages, which will cause further changes to your way of life. It is crucial to travel and engage in intellectual endeavours.



## Gemini

(May 21 – June 20)

Your companion will show signs of growing in love and paying attention to everything you say. You will notice a significant change in your everyday routine. Avoid romantic ideas, and refrain from comparing your better half to others.



## Cancer

(June 21 – July 22)

In situations like your marriage and relationship, you will run into a few issues. You will discover that your friendship with your colleagues will endure. Numerous chances will present themselves for you to realise important hopes, aspirations and objectives.



## Leo

(July 23 – August 22)

Keep an eye out for interpersonal connections that are more detrimental than beneficial. You will see financial gains and can anticipate sizable earnings. You might come across opportunities and choose to pursue a different career.



## Virgo

(August 23 – September 22)

You can anticipate successful results at work. The response is 'yes' if the thought of returning to your books makes your heart sing. Online dating or finding someone through your social network will bring you good luck.



## Libra

(September 23 – October 22)

Although you will make money, your funds will be depleted by equally draining expenses. Keep an eye out for what your body is telling you. Long-term commitments and strategies for relationship development can be made by couples.



## Scorpio

(October 23 – November 21)

Couples may move in together or even get married, while singles may very soon find a long-term companion. It is time to think about changing careers. Spending strategically will prevent you from significant losses.



## Sagittarius

(November 22 – December 21)

You may align with a soulmate if you are single. Do not hold on to the notion of who you ought to be or how your existence ought to be. Positive news will be shared with you, and your colleagues will compliment you.



## Capricorn

(December 22 – January 19)

Opportunities for jobs will present themselves to you. You are living in one of the most important eras for finding love or a soul partner. You will overspend and suffer a few money setbacks.



## Aquarius

(January 20 – February 18)

Problems could arise as a result of your job and mounting debt. It can be very enlightening to spend time with loved ones. Businessmen may experience slower growth.



## Pisces

(February 19 – March 20)

You will have difficulty advancing professionally. You will be able to create a new route for yourself. Put yourself out there and meet new people if you are unmarried.★

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# 2023 Kodava Hockey Cup

Star Air was proud to be a co-sponsor of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Kodava Hockey Cup which took place in Karnataka from 18<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and was organized by the Appachettolanda family at Napoklu, Kodagu. This tournament is the largest hockey festival in the world, with 336 teams competing for the cup. The event has entered the Limca Book of Records and has been referred to the Guinness Book of World Records for its impressive size and scope.

The Kodava hockey tournament was founded in 1997 by Pandanda Kuttappa, a prominent figure in the Kodava community. The tournament has grown in size and popularity, attracting teams from all over India and even some international teams. The tournament is unique as it is open to men and women of all ages, making it a truly inclusive event.

The 2023 Kodava hockey tournament was inaugurated by Shri Basavaraj Bommai, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, with several esteemed guests in attendance, including Zafar Iqbal, a former Olympian and gold medallist in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, Dhanraj Pillai, former captain of the Indian national hockey team, A B Subbaiah, a former international hockey player, Cheppudira

Poonacha, the former Vice President of Hockey India and David John, former coach of the Indian hockey team. They supported and encouraged the participating players and teams.★



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# Star Air's Second Embraer E175



The Star Air team is felicitating the delivery pilots and engineers of Star Air's second Embraer E175 in the local custom of Karnataka with the Mysore peta (turban) and silk shawl.

Star Air recently added the second Embraer E175 aircraft to its fleet. The airline took delivery of its first E175 in February 2023 registered VT-GSI; the second aircraft arrived in March 2023 and has been registered VT-GSJ. The airline had signed an agreement for four E175 aircraft in 2022, two of which

have now been delivered. Star Air's Embraer E175 is a narrow-body, twin-engine jet airliner that can accommodate 76 passengers in a two-class layout with 12 luxurious business class seats and 64 spacious economy class seats. The aircraft is known for its fuel efficiency, low noise and advanced

technology. With the addition of the second Embraer E175, Star Air now has a total of seven aircraft in its fleet with two more on the way. Star Air's decision to add more Embraer E175s to its fleet is a testament of the airline's commitment to offering its passengers a comfortable, safe and

reliable travel experience. The airline has been expanding its operations in recent years, and the addition of the second Embraer E175 will enable the airline to fly to new destinations and increase its frequency on existing routes. Star Air currently operates flights to 16 destinations across India, including

Mumbai, Tirupati, Bengaluru, Belagavi and Ahmedabad. The airline's focus on regional connectivity has made it a popular choice among travellers looking for quick and convenient travel options to and from smaller cities. With the addition of the second Embraer aircraft, Star Air is poised

for continued growth and success in the Indian aviation industry. The airline's commitment to quality service, operational efficiency and passenger comfort makes it a strong player in the regional airline market, and a key contributor to the development of air travel in India. ★

# Beat the Heat!

While India experiences soaring summertime temperatures, here are some locations you can visit if you want to avoid the heat.

Text by **SCOTT DSOUZA**

A high-altitude desert located in the most northern region of India which is chilly all year round. In addition to enjoying adventure sports like river rafting and trekking, you can explore the breathtaking scenery and visit some of the historic monasteries located here.



Ladakh



Shimla

People usually travel to this colonial-era hill station located in Himachal Pradesh to cool off. You can stroll through the charming alleyways, see some of the historic landmarks and take in the uninterrupted view of the Himalayas.



Darjeeling

This West Bengal hill station is well-known for its tea plantations and panoramic views of the Himalayas. It is the perfect place to avoid the summer heat as the temperatures here are comfortable all year round.



This Tamil Nadu hill station is renowned for its picturesque surroundings, tea gardens and colonial-era buildings. While you are here, you can ride the toy train, tour the nearby hills and forests and visit the beautiful botanical garden located here.



Ooty



Coorg

This Karnataka hill station is well-known for its waterfalls, dense forests, and coffee plantations. You can take advantage of the cool weather and go for walks in the countryside or engage in outdoor adventure activities like river rafting and hiking.



Munnar

This hill station located in the heart of Kerala is renowned for its tea gardens, undulating terrain, and pleasant temperature. The terrain and climate make this place perfect for leisurely walks. There are also numerous wildlife sanctuaries nearby that you can tour and waterfalls you can visit while you are here.★

# Taking Off: A Journey to the Skies

A skilled pilot, an experienced flight instructor and a proud grandfather—Captain Kuldeep Kalra, Director Flight Operations at Star Air, talks about how his curiosity led him to his career.

## How did you become a pilot?

In the year 1982, on my daily commute to college, I often saw gliders flying and despite not knowing much about flying other than that it was an expensive hobby and career—I found that my curiosity got the better of me, and I treated myself to a joy ride on one.

I was hooked immediately and joined the gliding club the very next day and went on to get my glider pilot licence. This club soon began balloon flying so I went to train on those and proudly became the fifth person in all of India to attain a (flying) balloon licence. Logically, my next step was pursuing my Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL), which I did; flying a fixed-wing aircraft—the Pushpak, at the Patiala Flying Club.

As luck would have it, Indian Airlines, which was one of the few avenues for budding CPL holders at the time, came out of a five-year hiring hiatus with a vacancy and this is where my career truly began.

## Tell us about the recruitment process and your initial experience until the time you started flying a commercial jet.

It was a tough selection process. We had three rounds of tests and could be eliminated at any stage. The first round was a written exam.

The second round consisted of psychometric tests which required us to complete 100 questions on mathematics, colours and speed in a span of 10 minutes. The third round was a group discussion round and the finalists then went on to the interview stage. Thankfully, I was able to impress the panellists; enough to secure a job.

My batch was the first batch to be sent directly to a jet aircraft—the Boeing 737. We were sent to the Indian Airlines in-house type-rating facility at Hyderabad where we did a very rigorous eight months of ground and classroom training followed by simulator sessions. The simulators at that time were not as advanced as they are today, as they were 2D simulators. After the simulator, we had to do 10 hours of training on the aircraft doing circuits and landings both day and night, at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport.

This was followed by a day check and a night check on the aircraft. At the time, there were only two Boeing 737 examiners cleared to do these checks in India. One was the Director of Training and the other was the Director of Flight Operations. Out of my batch of 16 trainee first officers, only 13 managed to successfully clear training and checks to move on to flying.



After flying the Boeing 737 for three years, many of my batch mates including me moved to the Airbus A300—again a first in terms of new inductees moving onto a wide body. I flew the A300 for three years and came back to flying the 737 for two more years.

At this time, the aviation industry was opening up to privatization and in 1993 I moved on to Sahara India Airlines as their first pilot, progressing in my career there and becoming the youngest VP of Operations for an airline in the country until the airline's buyout by Jet Airways and rebranding into JetLite. A year later I moved on to Singapore as a Chief Pilot to fly for a private aircraft



operator flying the Boeing 737 BBJ. The company later acquired an Embraer Legacy 650. I was trained on that aircraft also and went on to fly both the airplanes for the company; at times flying both the airplanes on the same day under FAA rules. After spending half a decade with them, I was homesick and yearned to come home. Upon returning to India at the end of 2014, I had to redo my Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL).

I went on to join a corporate house flying the Embraer Legacy 650 for a year and then moved on to Air Costa as the Director of Operations flying the Embraer E170s and E190s, then onto a private charter operator flying the Embraer Legacy again until the COVID-19 wave hit and I found myself working at Star Air as the Director of Flight Operations. Through my years, I have flown about 10 different jet aircraft in worldwide operations despite never being interested in long haul, international flights. To me, flying is actual, daily flying. I much prefer doing four landings in a day to four landings in a month. This is why despite living abroad and working in big airlines, I prefer domestic, smaller airlines that function almost like a family unit.

**What are the challenges you have faced during the course of your career?**

To say I have not experienced many challenges would be a lie. However, the most memorable instance of in-flight failure has to be when I experienced an engine failure at a very critical speed during take roll on a night flight from Kathmandu to Delhi, many years ago. While on the take-off roll, just before the decision

speed (V1), we had a combustion chamber burst. Quickly, we rejected take-off and managed to stop just a couple of feet short of the end of the runway. I distinctly remember getting off the aircraft and seeing the brakes glowing red from overheating. I suspect that had we decided to take-off that night, we would not have made it with just one functioning engine and an aircraft full of passengers. The flight was then cancelled and when we reached the arrival hall in the terminal building, all the passengers were waiting for us and welcomed us by clapping and were thanking us. The sight is still as fresh in my mind as if it were yesterday.

Another incident that comes to mind is when I was flying with a fresh CPL holder, training him to become a co-pilot on 737 classic aircraft. We were travelling from Delhi to Guwahati on a foggy winter morning when we experienced a complete electrical failure. All systems and electronics turned off apart from my two instruments. Unfortunately, due to the fog, all stations that we could divert to were below minimas and we still had an hour and 15 minutes of flying time left before Guwahati. We decided to hand fly the aircraft, without autopilot or any systems to aid us and thankfully we landed at Guwahati without any problems.

I have also experienced about eight instances of engine failure, and many other system failures but because I became an Instructor, Examiner and later Director of Operations and Training quite early in my career, all of these instances became quite routine due to regularly teaching new pilots how to navigate similar

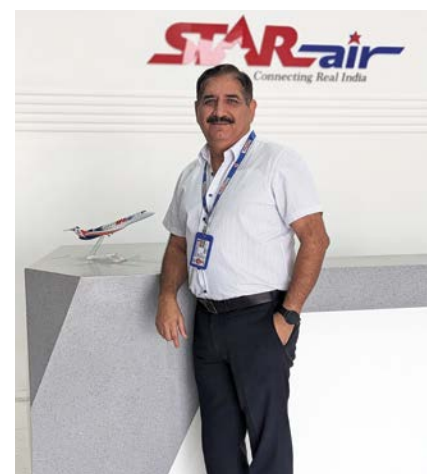
situations in the simulator.

**Tell us about your family.**

We are proud parents of two beautiful and independent girls. My older daughter is married and lives in Delhi with her family while my younger daughter lives and works in the UK. I travel there once a year to see her and she comes home about twice a year. I'm admittedly a very indulgent grandfather to a very naughty three-year-old girl who has me (and the rest of us!) wrapped around her finger. My wife tends to divide her time between Delhi and Bangalore, making trips to the UK every couple of months to see our younger daughter.

**Describe your journey with Star Air.**

Initially, Star Air for me was a short-term solution as I didn't want to be away from Delhi for an extended period of time, but a few months into working with Star Air, I began to like the company. I discovered that the people were nice, and the atmosphere was great—it was like a family. I've always loved smaller companies for this very reason and Star Air turned out to be exactly what I was looking for at the time.★





# Celebrating Our Star Performers



## **SOURABH LAAD**

**Duty Officer, Indore**

- Sourabh Laad is very disciplined and dedicated towards his work and has never shied away from completing his tasks at hand often beyond normal working hours.
- Sourabh is goal-oriented and always makes the best use of all available resources.
- Owing to his vast experience in the industry, Sourabh has a particularly good understanding of customer service and it shows in his work. He has good leadership skills and has taken charge in times of need.

## **RITWIK JOHNSON**

**Sr. Analyst, Revenue Management**

- An aeronautical engineer by profession, Ritwik Johnson is known among his colleagues for being calm, composed and a team player.
- Ritwik has performed well even under immense pressure and has fulfilled his duties with utmost dedication.
- Ritwik's incredible work ethic is an inspiration to his colleagues at Star Air.★





# Network Map





**How do rabbits travel?**

By Hareplane!



**Why can't basketball players go on vacation?**

They'd get called for travelling!



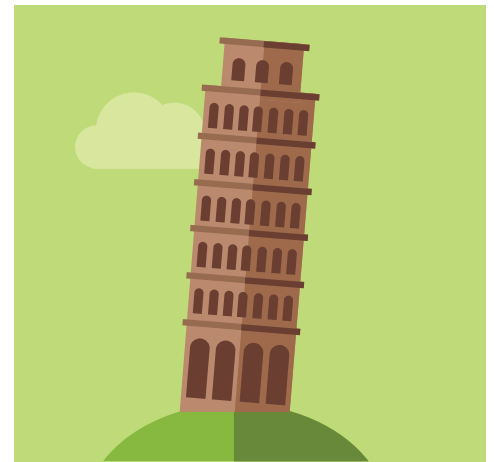
# On A Lighter Note

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



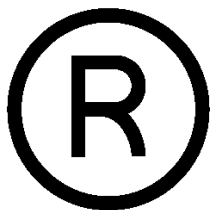
**What's worse than raining cats and dogs on vacation?**

Hailing a taxi.



**Where do pepperonis go on vacation?**

The Leaning Tower of Pizza.



**What can you find in Jupiter, Mercury, Mars, Earth, but not Neptune or Venus?**

The letter 'R'.

**What's grey and has four legs and a trunk?**

A mouse on vacation!





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~ Surprise your taste buds ~

50% LESS OIL THAN  
REGULAR CHIPS



GLUTEN FREE



HIGH NUTRIENT  
CONTENT

VACUUM COOKED | NOT DEEP FRIED

“Now onboard Star Air”

Guess Which Bollywood Movies These Dialogues Are From:



- “Babumoshai, Zindagi Badi Honi Chahiye, Lambi Nahi.”
- “Mere Karan-Arjun Aayenge!”
- “Utha Le Re Baba!”
- “Tumse Na Ho Payega.”
- “Don’t Underestimate the Power of a Common Man.”

Solutions: Anand, Karan Arjun, Hera Pheri, Gangs of Wasseypur, Chennai Express

Sudoku

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

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

Word Search

X	B	L	U	E	S	K	Y	B	C	A	V	P	A
F	B	R	E	E	Z	E	B	Z	C	J	Z	U	S
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O	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	N	R	D	B
W	V	F	A	B	E	S	Y	B	M	I	S	L	U
E	T	G	P	J	T	E	Q	G	B	Q	I	E	N
R	H	I	F	C	K	Z	W	G	R	W	T	S	N
S	B	Q	E	G	A	R	D	E	N	V	T	G	Y
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X	B	L	U	E	S	K	Y	B	C	A	V	P	A
F	B	R	E	E	Z	E	B	Z	C	J	Z	U	S
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S	B	Q	E	G	A	R	D	E	N	V	T	G	Y
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Z	O	F	Q	D	K	R	A	I	N	H	B	H	H
M	C	O	E	S	F	F	E	M	W	F	A	G	M

- INSECTS
- BUTTERFLY
- GROWTH
- BLUE SKY
- FLOWERS
- PUDDLES
- BUNNY
- MEADOW
- SUN
- BREEZE
- BIRDS
- GARDEN
- RAIN
- PICNIC

Word Unscramble

Fhlgti, ensrgaPse, Bgggaea, faeytS,  
ngdBaoir, ntigSea

Solutions: Flight, Passenger, Baggage, Safety, Boarding, Seating



# Mouthwatering Mother's Day Treats!

Showcase your culinary skills and impress your mother with these delicious dishes.

Text by **SCOTT DSOUZA**



## Cherry-Berry Pancakes

### Ingredients

- 350g flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp caster sugar
- 150g buttermilk or plain yogurt
- 325ml milk
- 200g blueberries
- 150g cherries
- 1 tsp corn flour
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 200g mascarpone
- Maple syrup (to serve)

### Method

- Mix the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and sugar into a bowl, add a good pinch of salt and whisk to combine.
- Add the buttermilk or yoghurt and milk to the bowl and whisk into a smooth pancake batter.
- Mix the blueberries, cherries, corn flour, caster sugar and vanilla extract into a pan and stir until the berries are coated in corn flour.
- Add 1 tbsp water, then place over high heat until it becomes syrup but the berries are still holding their shape. Later, set aside to cool.
- Heat oil in a large, heavy frying pan and wipe it around the pan with a piece of kitchen paper, leaving a fine coating of oil on the surface.
- Transfer the pancake batter to a jug. Heat the pan and pour the batter into the pan, making small pancakes, with plenty of space between them.
- Cook each pancake until the underside is golden. When bubbles appear on the surface and the edges, the pancake is ready to be flipped over. They should take roughly two minutes on each side.
- Transfer the pancakes to a baking tray and leave them to cool down.
- Wipe a little more oil around the pan and continue cooking the rest of the batter in this way. You should get 12 pancakes.
- To serve, stack the pancakes with a dollop of mascarpone and fruits between each layer and serve with a generous amount of maple syrup.



## Strawberry Fresh Cream Tart

### Ingredients

- 2 tbsp cooking oil
- 2 tbsp cold whole milk
- 1 tsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 3 tbsp granulated sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 6 tbsp cold unsalted butter, cut into ¼-inch
- cubes
- 1 tsp water

### For the crust:

- 2 tbsp cooking oil
- 2 tbsp cold whole milk
- 1 tsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 3 tbsp granulated sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 6 tbsp cold unsalted butter, cut into ¼-inch

### For the filling:

- 1 tsp unflavoured gelatin
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 vanilla bean
- 1 ¼ cups fresh cream
- 800g strawberries cut into ½ inch pieces
- Confectioner's sugar for dusting

### Method

#### For the crust:

- Whisk the milk, vinegar and oil in a bowl.
- Grind the flour, baking powder, sugar and salt in a mixer to combine; add the butter and mix until it looks like coarse meal; add the milk mixture and mix once or twice, just to moisten the flour.
- Pat the dough onto the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch round tart pan with a removable bottom. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm, at least 30 minutes. Trim the edges, if necessary.
- Preheat the oven to 350 °F. Pierce the dough all over with a fork, place on a baking sheet and bake 15 minutes until golden. Once done, transfer to a rack and let it cool down completely.

#### For the filling:

- Sprinkle the gelatin over the cold water in a bowl and let it soften for five minutes.
- Put the granulated sugar and vanilla bean in a saucepan and rub together with your fingers.
- Whisk in the fresh cream over medium heat to dissolve the sugar. Bring to a boil, then remove from the heat and whisk in the gelatin mixture.
- Transfer to a bowl and set in a larger bowl of ice water; stir with a rubber spatula until thickened.

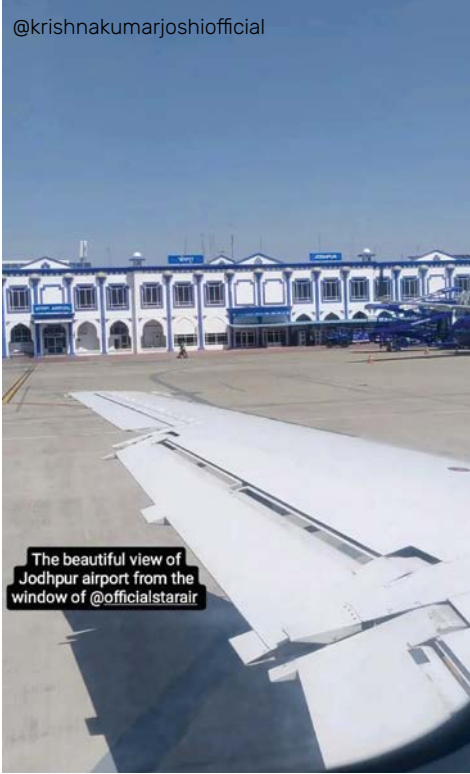
#### Final Step:

- Stir in the remaining ¼ cup light cream and pour into the cooled tart shell to refrigerate for one hour until set.
- Before serving, top the tart with the strawberries and dust it with confectioner's sugar.★

# Shoot-ing for the Stars

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

@krishnakumarjoshiofficial



The beautiful view of Jodhpur airport from the window of @officialstarair

@aviation\_bigbird



@baby\_isha\_patil



@joel\_xav



@maggieeee.29



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@sonaligawli95



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@m.r.s\_official\_sohail\_ahamad\_67



**Dharwad Pedha**

A dessert that was invented in Karnataka, in the city of Dharwad. It is prepared by heating milk and sugar until they become thick and dough-like, adding cardamom for flavour and then shaping the mixture into tiny balls or flattened discs. It is regarded as one of Karnataka's signature sweets and is shipped to various regions of the nation.



# Karnataka's Gastronomic Treasures

Karnataka is a state with a wide variety of mouthwatering foods to tempt your palate. Therefore, be sure to sample some of these well-known meals the next time you are in the region and experience the flavours of this stunning state.

Text by **SCOTT DSOUZA**



**Chiroti**

A well-known dish prepared with refined wheat flour, ghee and sugar syrup that is sweet, crispy and flaky. The flavours of sugar syrup and cardamom give chirotis their sweetness, aromatic texture and crispy taste. It is a popular food during festivals and special occasions and is frequently provided as a dessert.



**Neer Dosa**

A kind of pancake that is the common breakfast in Karnataka. The Kannada word 'Neer' denotes water. It has a thin and supple structure and is made from a batter of rice and water. It is typically served with a veggie curry or coconut chutney and is both wholesome and delicious.

**Ragi Mudde**

A well-known and typical Karnataka dish. It is prepared by cooking finger millet flour (ragi flour) with water to the consistency of thick dough. After that, the dough is formed into tiny spheres and served with a hot curry. It is nourishing and healthy and frequently given to those who are trying to lose weight or battle diabetes.



**Mysore Pak**

A well-known sweet delicacy from Karnataka, especially Mysore. It is a sweet dish prepared with gram flour (besan), ghee and sugar that is rich and decadent. Mysore Pak is a favourite gift during festivals and special events and is frequently given as a dessert.



**Sagu**

Sagu, a popular dish in Karnataka, is starchy and grainy in texture. It is prepared by simmering a variety of veggies in a curry sauce made of coconut milk and spices and it is typically eaten with puri or rava idli. Sagu is the preferred meal during fasting because it is thought to be healthy and pure.



**Bisi Bele Bath**

A traditional rice-based dish from the South Indian state of Karnataka. 'Bisi' means hot, 'bele' means lentils, and 'bath' means rice dish. It is made with rice, lentils and vegetables. Bisi Bele Bath is a popular comfort food in Karnataka and is often served with raita, papad and a sweet dish.



**Haalbai**

A sweet delicacy that is indigenous to the state of Karnataka in southern India. It is prepared with coconut milk, jaggery and rice flour. Haalbai has a soft, fudgy texture and a sweet, nutty taste. It is a common dish provided at festivals and special events. 🌟





BEVERAGE

**Fizzinga**

₹50



**frustAR**  
Fruit Drink

₹50



₹150



Coolberg

₹125



Rider

₹150



Hot Beverages



\* All menu items are subject to availability  
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SNACK FOOD



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TEMPTATIONS

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Salted Almonds

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Caramel Cashewnuts

₹150



Salted Cashewnuts

₹100



Star Air Cookies

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Cup Noodles

LIGHT MEAL

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Rava Upma

₹150



Vegetable Poha

HEAVY MEAL

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Vegetable Biryani

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