



RAJASTHAN THE GOLDEN DESERT

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SPICES ARE BEING PURCHASED EXTENSIVELY

The Rashtriya Sahakar Spice Fair-2024 took place at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur

• Jaipur, May 21

The Rashtriya Sahakar Spice Fair-2024 has captured the hearts of Jaipur's residents, witnessing a surge in spice purchases totaling approximately Rs 30 lakh within just

two days. Held at the Jawahar Kala Kendra from May 19 to May 28, this event has garnered immense popularity among locals, as shared by Mrs. Shilpi Pandey, Managing Director of the Consumer Association.

Residents are



flocking to the fair to procure a variety of whole and ground spices tailored to their culinary needs. The Confed's gift store is particularly bustling with enthusiasts seeking premium-quality red chili, coriander from Ramganj Mandi, Sangli turmeric, cumin, and fennel.

This year's offerings include turmeric from Erode, ground chili from Chennai, sambar masala, Kerala cinnamon, black pepper, cloves, cashew nuts, and banana chips. Anticipating the high demand, additional stock of these products is being (Continued on page 7)

“Yoga for Women Empowerment”



• New Delhi, May 21

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi organised a grand event to commemorate the 10th edition of International Day of Yoga, 2024. The theme of the event on this occasion was ‘Yoga for Women Empowerment’.

Sister BK Shivani, a well-known motivational speaker the Chief Guest of this event, spoke and addressed the entire gathering as she appreciated the role of AIIA in the present era from the perspective of extending its services with respect to Ayurveda and its allied sciences in a systemic way to the society. She told youth of today should understand the importance of perseverance and the significance of Yoga for bringing a change for betterment of humanity. She asserted that a peaceful mind with the practice of yoga should help the individual take an informed decision for welfare of the society. Emphasizing that women empowerment (Continued on page 7)

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Fly Emirates to Dubai this Summer and Unlock Exclusive Offers

• PR News, Dubai, UAE
May 22

Emirates has launched great offers for holidaymakers travelling to Dubai this summer. With an Emirates return ticket, visitors to Dubai can enjoy complimentary access to some of the city's top attractions, ensuring an exciting summer without breaking the bank.

Moreover, all Emirates passengers flying to, through, or back to Dubai can leverage their boarding pass to



access exclusive discounts at a wide range of retail, leisure, and dining establishments, as well as renowned attractions and luxury spas throughout Dubai and the UAE. (Continued on page 7)

“Esteemed Blue Plaque for Cultural Significance”

• Kolkata, May 10

Located in the heart of Kolkata, The Oberoi Grand, known as the Grande Dame of Kolkata, offering luxury, comfort, and convenience in equal measure. The hotel's perfectly preserved neo-classical facade and grand pillared entrance blend time-honoured European and Indian architectural styles, a reflection of the city's rich history as the “Cultural Capital of India”. The Oberoi Grand's large veranda is the perfect place to enjoy elevated views along bustling Chowringhee Road and over the vast, lush Maidan. Its central garden is an oasis of calm where guests can unwind with Oberoi's legendary hospitality.



Steeped in history, The Oberoi Grand (Continued on page 7)

Voters during the 5th Phase of General Elections-2024



A polling official is administering indelible ink to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri B. D. Mishra

EXPLORE INDIA'S SPIRITUAL DESTINATIONS WITH 'SOULFUL ABODES' BY IHCL

• PR News, Mumbai May 16

Renowned for its rich spiritual heritage and diverse sacred sites, India offers travellers journeys that go beyond the ordinary. With its vast network of hotels in over 50 spiritual locations across the country, The Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) introduces Soulful Abodes, offering expeditions that blend mindfulness, cultural immersion and spiritual awareness.

Get a glimpse of centuries-old traditions by the ghats in the holy city of Varanasi, delve into the art of mindfulness in the Yoga capital of the World in Rishikesh, take a pilgrimage to the sacred site in Tirupati, let your spirit soar with the soulful music in Ajmer or be moved by serene monasteries nestled in the picturesque setting of Gangtok. Soulful Abodes across IHCL hotels promises an unparalleled exploration of India's spiritual tapestry.



Use the thoughtfully curated Soulful Kit with location specific travel essentials and imprint the customised Soul Passport, a treasured reminder of the many profound journeys undertaken.

Guests can enjoy special offers on culinary experiences, rejuvenating spa treatments and seamless transfers to spiritual sites when you stay at Taj, Vivanta, SeleQtions and Ginger hotels.

"NEW STANDARD FOR LUXURY LIVING IN SOUTH MUMBAI"

• PR News, Mumbai May 7

Situated at prestigious Nariman Point on Marine Drive with breath-taking views of the Arabian Ocean and the shimmering lights of Queen's Necklace, The Oberoi, Mumbai has long been regarded as one of the city's finest luxury hotels.

Following the recent introduction of 20 Oberoi Residential Suites, guests now have the opportunity to experience unparalleled residential living for extended stays like never before. The Oberoi Residential Suites have a distinctive residential ambiance with contemporary aesthetics. The interiors exude sophistication and tranquillity. A calming palette of smooth greys, rich browns, and deep teal is accentuated by vibrant modern art and artefacts.

Designed by the award winning design firm, Architecture Discipline, The Oberoi Residential Suites come in two variants: Bay View Residential Suites spanning 115 square metres and Luxury Residential Suites covering 87 square metres. Both suite categories include a master bedroom with a large walk-in wardrobe, an ensuite bathroom, and a dressing area.

International Museum Expo starts at Science City

• New Delhi, May 18

The second edition of the International Museum Expo started in Science City, Kolkata today. As a part of the expo, the exhibitions "Oppenheimer's Peaceful Explosion," "Innovative Edifices: The Structures and Vessels of Science Communication," "Narratives Reimagined: Interactive Techscapes in Museum Storytelling," "Brilliance Beyond Borders: Our Triumphs, Trials, and Travails at the Science Nobels," "Echoes of Ingenuity: Reminiscences of the Industrial Evolution," and "Indian Women in Science: Busts and Murals" are on display at the Science City, Kolkata. Apart from these, visitors can also go through the digital panorama film on Durga Puja, Canvas Cyclorama: The Pulse of Indian Artistry," which suggests a continuous panoramic canvas, while "Pulse of Immortal Artistry" implies that the art is alive and has a heartbeat, inviting viewers to experience the timeless spirit of Indian art in a novel way. Apart from these, the mascot of the expo is also on display.

IHCL PARTNERS WITH REACHA AND TATA STRIVE

TO TRAIN 200 YOUTH IN BARAMULLA

• PR News, Mumbai, May 21

Indian Hotels Company (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company, today announced the launch of a center in association with REACHA, a leading non-profit organization, Tata STRIVE and the Indian Army in Boniyar, Baramulla (Aspirational District of Jammu & Kashmir). Un-



der this partnership, the comprehensive program aims to empower the youth and address the growing

demand for a skilled workforce in region.

Mr. Gaurav Pokhariyal, Executive Vice President – Human Resources, IHCL said, "The surge in tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has created a significant demand for skilled workforce in the hospitality sector. We are delighted to take our existing association with REACHA a step further with this project. Driving a positive social impact, the program is in line with IHCL's ESG+ framework of Paathya, provides young individuals with industry-relevant skills, enhancing their employability and contributes to the social and economic development of the region."

The state-of-the-art skill centre at Boniyar is well-equipped to train 200 learners annually. The job-oriented training program focuses on holistic professional development, and to provide market-related hospitality training in 'Bakery' and 'Food and Beverage service' with access to employment opportunities for the youth. In addition to technical skills, the program will equip participants with valuable life skills, empowering them and positively impacting their communities. Post course completion, learners will be given assistance for employment or entrepreneurship.

First-ever focused working group discussions on Antarctic

India to facilitate Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

• New Delhi, May 21

India is set to play a pivotal role in facilitating the first-ever focused discussions on regulating tourism in Antarctica at the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP). The occasion was graced by the presence of Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), today. National Centre

for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa under Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat will organize these meetings in Kochi, Kerala, from May 20 to May 30, 2024. The gathering has over 350 participants from nearly 40 nations.

The ATCM and CEP are high-level global annual meetings conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, a multilateral agreement of 56 Contracting Parties signed in 1959. During these meetings, member countries of the Antarctic Treaty discuss issues pertaining to the science, policy, governance, management, preservation and protection of Antarctica. The CEP was established under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol) in 1991.



UMEED NIKETAN INAUGURATED

• New Delhi, May 18

Mrs. Neeta Chaudhari, President Air Force Family Welfare Association visited Base Repair Depot Air Force Palam on 17 May 24 and inaugurated Umeed Niketan, an advanced Therapy Centre for children with special needs. Mrs. Neeta Chaudhari and other esteemed dignitaries were received by Air Commodore Harsh Bahl, Air Officer Commanding, Depot and Wing Commander (Mrs) Reena Bahl (Retd) President Air Force Family Welfare Association (Local). The Umeed Niketan has been conceived and conceptualized to create a nurturing environment where children with special needs can think, grow and learn to develop life skills through recreational activities tailored to their unique abilities.

IIT Jodhpur Publish Groundbreaking Research on Air Pollution and Health Effects in Northern India

• Jaipur, May 21

Air pollution remains a critical global challenge, with severe health implications for millions of people worldwide. In a significant step towards addressing this issue, researcher from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur has published ground-breaking research in Nature Communications journal, shedding light on the sources and composition of particulate matter (PM) in Northern India that are harmful to human health.



Contrary to the common belief that reducing overall PM mass would alleviate health impacts, this comprehensive study highlights the importance of addressing local inefficient combustion processes - such as biomass and fossil fuel burning, including traffic exhaust in effectively reducing PM-related health exposure and their associated impacts in Northern India - says Dr. Deepika Bhattu, Associate Professor and lead author of the article.

The study addresses three critical scientific questions crucial for consideration of Indian Policymakers in devising data-driven, effective mitigation strategies under the ongoing National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

1. Fine PM (PM2.5) source identification and their absolute contribution, with unprecedented clarity between their local and regional geographical origin.

2. A comprehensive and unequivocal distinction between (↪Continued on page 7)

Air India Partners Medaire To Offer Enhanced In-Flight Healthcare For Passengers

• Gurugram, May 17

Air India, India's leading global airline, has announced its partnership with MedAire, a premier aviation medical support provider, to ensure emergency healthcare services to its passengers and crew on board its flights.

The initiative sets a benchmark in the Indian aviation sector, making Air India the first airline in the country to integrate MedAire's advanced medical assistance across its entire fleet.

MedAire, through its app Medlink, will provide round-the-clock access to a team of on-duty emergency physicians with aviation expertise for consultation in the event of an inflight medical situation.

The medical team will assist in assessing the medical situation and recommend the course of care. With Air India enhancing its nonstop connectivity to long-haul international destinations, this collaboration underscores the airline's commitment towards passenger and crew safety.

Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India said: "The partnership marks a significant milestone in the airline's transformation journey to become a world-class airline offering pleasant, safe, and reliable service. MedAire's expertise in providing medical support services for airlines will meet the requirements of our expanding operations. The initiative extends beyond immediate health benefits, positioning Air India as a leader in customer care and operational excellence."

ACS suddenly reached SMS hospital

• Jaipur, May 23

Additional Chief Secretary of the Medical and Health Department, Mrs. Shubhra Singh suddenly reached Sawai Mansingh Hospital to take stock of the medical management regarding heat stroke. Expressing his displeasure over not making adequate arrangements regarding the heatwave, he directed the hospital administration to immediately make a contingency plan and make all the arrangements within 7 days.



He instructed the Principal of Sawai Mansingh Medical College, Dr. Deepak Maheshwari, and Superintendent Dr. Sushil Bhati to make a contingency plan with immediate effect for the services of urgent nature in the hospital and within two days, coolers, fans, AC, water coolers etc.

Mrs. Singh suddenly reached Sawai Mansingh Hospital at around 1 pm on Thursday afternoon. He visited the emergency unit, medicine ward, Bangar complex, and Charak Bhawan and inspected the medical arrangements there. He expressed his displeasure over the ducting plant being closed in the emergency unit and coolers, fans, ACs etc. not being functional at other places.

Leave of all medical personnel canceled

• Jaipur, May 21

In special circumstances, you will be able to go on leave only after approval from the competent level. Jaipur, May 21: With the onset of heat stroke cases in the state, the Medical and Health Department has rescinded leave for all medical personnel, requiring them to remain stationed at their respective headquarters. Only under exceptional circumstances may employees take leave, subject to approval from higher authorities. Any sanctioned leave must be reported to the Directorate.

CS took a meeting of officials

• Jaipur, May 21

The Chief Secretary of Rajasthan convened a gathering of officials at Bikaner House, emphasizing the need to bolster programs promoting Rajasthani art and culture in the locale. On the 21st of May, Sudhansh Pant, the State Chief Secretary and Chief Resident Commissioner chaired a meeting with heads of various state government offices at Bikaner House in New Delhi. During the session, he directed efforts towards optimizing the assets of the Rajasthan Government in Delhi, notably Bikaner House, advocating for increased cultural activities to showcase the state's rich heritage. Additionally, Pant pushed for the swift completion of ongoing construction projects undertaken by the Rajasthan Government in New Delhi.



• Jaipur, May 21

Additional Chief Secretary for Energy Alok, chaired a comprehensive review of the state's power supply. He directed field engineers to conduct regular visits to grid sub-stations,

meticulously inspecting electricity availability, pollution levels, maintenance, and equipment status at each site. Additionally, he mandated the dispatch of senior officers from headquarters to each zone, facilitating prompt discussions with zone divisional chief engineers to finalize engineers' tour schedules.

During a video conference at Vidyut Bhawan on Tuesday, Alok, along with senior officials from three power distribution companies, the transmission corporation, and the energy development corporation, discussed power supply, recovery, and schemes circle-wise. He stressed the imperative of uninterrupted electricity supply to the public, even resorting to purchasing from the exchange to meet consumer demand. Alok emphasized that electrical engineers must remain stationed at headquarters, seeking permission from higher authorities before leaving. Any issues pertaining to electricity supply at call centers and grid sub-stations should be promptly addressed.

Governor's congratulations and best wishes on Buddha Purnima

• Jaipur, May 22

Governor Kalraj Mishra has conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, which falls on May 23.

Reflecting on the significance of Buddha, Governor Mishra emphasized the essence of awakening. He urged everyone to draw inspiration from the teachings of Lord Buddha, emphasizing the importance of cultivating knowledge, moral integrity, and focus.

Mishra highlighted Lord Buddha's enduring legacy of compassion towards all living beings. He underscored that Buddha Purnima serves as a reminder for us to strive for the betterment of our nation and society through a commitment to human welfare. In his message, the Governor extended his sincere hopes for a meaningful and reflective Buddha Purnima celebration.

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Trees and bird-friendly planted installed

• Jodhpur, May 17

In a collaborative effort led by NCC's First Raj Engineering Regiment, Apex School, Geeta Dham Tinwari, and Beti Ek Muskaan Sansthan, amidst the sweltering heat, tree plantation and the installation of water fountains and chugga pots for birds took place at the Veer Durgadas Rathore memorial site.

Bhagirath Vaishnav, the Secretary of Veer Durgadas Rathore Memorial Committee, emphasized the importance of providing water and food for birds during the (↪Continued on page 7)



Cape Grace Begins A New Chapter Unveiling New Look

• PR News, London, May 13

As of 1st May 2024, after nine months of renovations, Cape Grace, A Fairmont Managed Hotel unveils its design transformation, reopening its doors once again with a new look inspired by South Africa's heritage, culture and artistry. Located on the iconic V&A Waterfront, Cape Town's most treasured hotel has been gracefully redesigned by globally renowned interior and architecture firm, 1508 London who have paid homage to Cape Town's evolution from a bustling trading port to a cosmopolitan hub. Following this grand transformation, Cape Grace will embark on a new chapter as it becomes the inaugural Fairmont Hotel in



South Africa, joining a collection of 90 distinctive properties worldwide.

Under its new guise, the interiors are a curat-

ed celebration of the country's diverse narrative, from its landscapes and languages, vibrant art and fascinating cultures. Handpicked artwork from local artists will be showcased throughout the new hotel and materials chosen for a contemporary, understated look that harmonises with Cape Town and its natural surroundings. With unrivalled views of the city, each of the 112 rooms and suites features large French windows or balconies that look out onto either the Marina or the iconic backdrop of Table Mountain. The stand-out suite will be the two-bedroom Cape Grace Suite with an expansive terrace offering panoramic views of Table Mountain, a stylish lounge and a dining area with a private bar and butler's pantry, perfect for families or entertaining friends who are in town.

Marriott International Celebrates the 2024 J. Willard Marriott Awards

• PR News, BETHESDA, MD, May 16

Marriott International is proud to celebrate the winners of the 2024 J. Willard Marriott Awards of Excellence at the company's annual ceremony, which brought together associates from around the world. Established in 1987 and named after Marriott's founder, the J. Willard Marriott Awards of Excellence honors the company's finest associates who are recognized for their achievements, service mindset, and commitment to excellence.



At the awards ceremony, the 10 individual winners, three Marriott properties and two Marriott Business Councils from around the world, took the stage to share their incredible stories with fellow associates and Marriott leadership. The awards focus in several areas, including honoring outstanding community engagement, workplace inclusion initiatives, exemplifying the company's core values, driving innovation, empowering the future generation of leaders, and creating a TakeCare culture of promoting physical, mental, and financial wellness.

"I am inspired by the incredible stories and exemplary character of this year's Awards of Excellence winners," said Anthony Capuano, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marriott International. "These honorees embody our company values and are a shining example of service excellence. They embolden us all to strive to be the best individuals, community members, and leaders we can be, and I am so proud of their tremendous accomplishments."

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'Pearl of the Gulf'

• PR News, Category May 14

New opening brings modern luxury and Bahrain's first SUSHISAMBA to the Manama seafont

MANAMA, Bahrain - Conrad Hotels & Resorts, Hilton's (NYSE:HLT) global luxury hotel brand, today announced the opening of Conrad Bahrain Financial Harbour, signifying the debut of the brand in Bahrain. Situated in the state-of-the-art SAYACORP Tower, Conrad Bahrain Financial Harbour is in the heart of downtown Manama, just minutes away from key attractions and business venues such as Bahrain Financial Harbour, Bahrain World Trade Centre and The Avenues - Bahrain.



"We are delighted to start welcoming guests to Conrad Bahrain Financial Harbour, our third Hilton property and a first for the Conrad brand in the country. Each room in the hotel is a suite, providing guests with the comforts of home alongside intuitive service and luxurious leisure facilities," said Guy Hutchinson, president, Middle East and Africa, Hilton. "With its prime location and standout dining options, including SUSH-

Radisson Hotel Group's expansion plan continues

Radisson Hotel & Residence Riyadh Olaya Opened

• PR News, Brussels, May 21

Radisson Hotel Group is proud to announce the opening of Radisson Hotel & Residence Riyadh Olaya, the Group's 28th hotel in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its 9th in the vibrant city of Riyadh. This new opening marks a significant milestone as the Group continues its expansion in one of the most dynamic regions of the Middle East aligned with the Kingdom's

Vision 2030 to enhance the country's economic and tourism landscape.

Riyadh, the Kingdom's capital, is a city where history and modernity meet, offering a unique blend of cultural heritage and contemporary development, with a multitude of attractions like the historic Diriyah, Riyadh Boulevard, and the King Abdullah Financial District. Nestled in the northern Al Yasmin suburb, Radisson Hotel & Residence Riyadh Olaya

is a beacon of contemporary urban design, blending neutral colors with coastal accents to create a stylish and elegant atmosphere.

With 201 guest rooms and a variety of amenities, the hotel is ideally suited for both business and leisure travelers seeking a sophisticated stay in one of Riyadh's most prominent neighborhoods. The rooms and apartments showcase a contemporary design with an urban flair, featuring elegant finishes that resonate with the beauty of Riyadh.





Hyatt Centric to Debut in Puerto

• PR News, Chicago, May 20

H Hyatt Hotels Corporation in collaboration with Interlink and Vivo Beach Club today announced plans for the first Hyatt Centric branded hotel in Puerto Rico. Hyatt Centric San Juan Isla Verde will be located in the buzzy Isla Verde neighborhood, one block away from Isla Verde Beach and walking distance to restaurants, shopping, historical landmarks and nightlife. The hotel is currently undergoing an ambitious \$25 million dollar enhancement project to renovate all guestrooms, suites and public spaces, which will be inspired by Puerto Rico’s enchanted landscape, embracing a fusion of the island’s captivating land and sea elements.

“We’re excited to work with Interlink and Vivo Beach Club to bring the Hyatt Centric lifestyle brand to Puerto Rico and expand Hyatt’s brand presence in a thriving market” said Camilo Bolacos, senior vice president of development, Latin America & the Caribbean, Hyatt. “Hyatt Centric San Juan Isla Verde will be situated in the heart of the Isla Verde neighborhood, allowing guests to truly experience the locale but also discover other nearby beaches and at-tractions that spark curiosity and connection.”

Once open, Hyatt Centric San Juan Isla Verde will offer 223 guestrooms in a prime location less than one block away from the award-winning Isla Verde Beach. The hotel will be home to a communal space acting as the social center of the hotel activated by a signature restaurant & bar, an open-air beer garden, and a coffee shop boasting local flare. The hotel will also offer a modern fitness center, over 16,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, a resort-style pool deck surrounded by tropical landscape, and a locally inspired restaurant and pool bar.

Emirates and Avianca launch reciprocal codeshare partnership via European gateways

• PR News, Dubai, May 22

E mirates, the worlds’ largest international airline, and Avianca, one of the largest Latin-American carriers, have launched a new codeshare partnership. The new partnership allows Emirates and Avianca customers to enjoy seamless connectivity on select routes.



Emirates customers flying from Emirates’ network via Madrid, Barcelona or London Heathrow, can fly direct to three points in Colombia and enjoy seamless connectivity, in addition to other travel benefits that introduce more convenience. Codeshare flights include Madrid to Bogotá, Medellin or Cali; Barcelona to Bogotá; and London Heathrow to Bogotá.

Tickets can be booked immediately on emirates.com, avianca.com, the Emirates and Avianca Apps, contact centres or via both online and offline travel agents, with codeshare flights starting from 4 June.

Avianca will place its code on routes operated by Emirates, between Barcelona, Madrid or London Heathrow and Dubai. The Colombian carrier’s customers will fly on Emirates-operated widebody aircraft while enjoying premium dining, lie-flat seats in premium cabins in addition to an abundance of content on Emirates’ award-winning inflight entertainment system, featuring more than 6,500 channels of movies, shows, music and more, including in Spanish.

Tribute Portfolio Debuts in the UAE

• PR News, Dubai, May 14

T ribute Portfolio – part of Marriott Bonvoy’s growing collection of characterful, independent hotels - welcomes its first hotel in the Middle East with the launch of The First Collection at Jumeirah Village Circle, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel in Dubai. Offering the ultimate urban escape within the emerging Jumeriah Village Circle (JVC) neighbourhood, the hotel marries the bustling energy of city life with the tranquil allure of a beach retreat.

The First Collection at Jumeirah Village Circle captures the essence of Dubai’s contemporary pulse and provides easy access to key landmarks and attractions including world-class sports venues and golf courses such as The Els Club and Jumeriah Golf Estates, which hosts the DP World Tour Championship.

We are thrilled to introduce The First Collection at Jumeirah Village Circle as part of Marriott Bonvoy’s Tribute Portfolio...



“Hilton was founded on the belief that hospitality is a powerful force for good. Hilton and the Hilton Global Foundation are harnessing the transformative power of hospitality by driving meaningful impact in the communities where we live, work, and travel.”

Katherine Lugar
EVP, Corporate Affairs and President, Hilton Global Foundation



Hilton and the Hilton Global Foundation Announce Notable Year of Progress

TOWARDS 2030 TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE GOALS

• PR News, May 14

Hilton, a leading hospitality company, and the Hilton Global Foundation, Hilton’s philanthropic arm, announced today the latest progress towards their shared goal of creating a better world for travel with the release of the 2023 Hilton Global Foundation Impact Report and the 2023 Hilton Travel with Purpose Report.

Hilton’s Travel with Purpose Re-

port outlines the hospitality leader’s progress towards its Travel with Purpose environmental, social and governance



(ESG) strategy to drive responsible travel globally. Travel with Purpose outlines Hilton’s 2030 energy, water and waste reduction targets as well as community engagement and governance goals. Through carbon reduction targets validated by the Science Based Targets initiative and social impact targets aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development goals, Hilton is working to reduce its emissions and create engines of opportunity while operating with accountability, integrity and transparency.

SSAI ALERTS FRUIT TRADERS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH PROHIBITION OF CALCIUM CARBIDE IN FRUIT RIPENING

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has alerted traders'/fruits handlers/Food Business Operators (FBOs) operating ripening chambers to strictly ensure compliance with the prohibition on calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits, particularly during the mango season. FSSAI is also advising Food Safety Departments of States /UTs to remain vigilant and take serious action and deal stringently against person(s) indulging in such unlawful practices as per the provisions of FSS Act, 2006 and Rules/Regulations made thereunder.

Calcium carbide, commonly used for rip-

ening fruits like mangoes, releases acetylene gas which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus. These substances, also known as 'Masala', can cause serious health issues such as dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting and skin ulcers, etc. Additionally, acetylene gas is equally hazardous to those handling it. There are chances that calcium carbide may come in direct contact with fruits during application and leave residues of arsenic and phosphorus on fruits.

Due to these dangers, the use of calcium carbide for ripening fruits has been banned under Regulation 2.3.5 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regula-



tions, 2011. This regulation explicitly states, "No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas."



Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Celebrates Int. Women in Maritime Day

• New Delhi, May 18

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) celebrated the International Day for Women in Maritime, today in New Delhi, honouring the vital contributions of women seafarers. This year's theme, "Safe Horizons: Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety," underscores the importance of safety and security of women in the maritime sector.

During the celebration, 27 women seafarers from various marine institutes pursuing different degrees in maritime field and some professionals from the field were recognized for their dedication and significant contributions to the maritime industry. These women exemplify the strength and resilience required to thrive in a traditionally male-dominated field, and their achievements are paving the way for future generations of women in maritime.

Secretary T K Ramachandran said "On this International Day for Women in Maritime, we honor the invaluable contributions of women in the mari-

time sector. Their dedication and expertise are crucial as we navigate towards a more sustainable and equitable future. We must continue to break down barriers and create opportunities for women in this industry. Together, we can achieve a balanced, diverse, and prosperous maritime community."

He said "This year's theme, Safe Horizons: Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety," emphasizes the significant impact women have on maritime safety. It highlights the critical importance of security within the industry and acknowledges the essential role women play in ensuring safe operations and protecting lives at sea."

The celebration highlighted the importance of gender equality as a key pillar for a sustainable future, as recognized in Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda. MoPSW is committed to supporting and empowering women in maritime through various initiatives and partnerships, including collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other industry stakeholders.

Bharat Parv celebration takes centerstage at Cannes Film Festival

• New Delhi, May 17

The 77th Cannes Film Festival, the grandest celebration of cinema, kicked off two days ago with a ten-day extravaganza where content and glamour converge.

Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Sanjay Jaju hosted first ever Bharat Parva, an evening to celebrate the rich culture, cuisine and handicrafts of India along with Indian cinema at the French Riviera at ongoing Cannes Film Festival.

The event organised by NFDC in association with FICCI under the aegis of the Ministry



of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, was a resounding success, with Cannes delegates fully immersed in the

evening's exceptional performances and the delightful array of fusion cuisine.

Posters for the 55th edition of IFFI and the save the date poster of the inaugural edition of World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) the Global Entertainment and Media Summit, planned on the sidelines of the 55th IFFI at Goa, were unveiled by Shri. Jaju at the event.

Vistara Becomes The First Indian Airline To Offer Formula 1® Content On

Its Inflight Entertainment Systems

Enhances IFE content with addition of HBO®'s content library

Gurugram, 16 May 2024: Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of the Tata group and Singapore Airlines, has enhanced its inflight entertainment (IFE) offerings with the addition of thrilling Formula 1® content and shows from HBO®. This makes Vistara the first Indian carrier to offer Formula 1® content on its IFE systems across its fleet and underscores its commitment to delivering an exceptional onboard experience to its customers.

The Formula 1® content lineup includes captivating documentary series like "Legends of F1," spotlighting iconic figures in motorsport, and titles, such as "Vettel: More Than a Cham-



panion," that celebrate the passion and values of Formula 1® racing. The curated selection of HBO® programming

includes over 108 hours of content, featuring more than 100 TV shows across various genres. Customers will now be able to immerse themselves in popular series such as "The Last of Us," "The White Lotus," "Succession," "Big Little Lies," and "Barry," catering to diverse entertainment preferences.

Furthermore, Vistara has also introduced immersive 3D anamorphic video, presenting a virtual tour of Vistara World, the airline's cutting edge IFE seat back and streaming system that customers can access on their personal handheld devices.

Talking about the new entertain-

ment offerings, Mr. Deepak Rajawat, Chief Commercial Officer, Vistara, said, "Vistara's inflight entertainment being ranked among the world's top 20 at the World Airline Awards 2023 by Skytrax is a testament to the fact that we are continuously looking for ways to enhance the inflight experience of our customers. We take pride in offering exclusive and high-quality entertainment options tailored for diverse customer preferences worldwide. We are confident that our customers will delightedly welcome this enhancement as they fly India's most loved airline."

New & Renewable Energy Secretary addresses World Hydrogen Summit 2024

BHALLA ADDRESSED THE WORLD HYDROGEN SUMMIT

• New Delhi, May 16

Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, Bhupinder Singh Bhalla addressed the World Hydrogen Summit 2024 in Rotterdam, Netherlands on May 15, 2024, highlighting India's strategic vision and capabilities in the domain of renewable energy and green hydrogen production.

The Secretary underscored the comprehensive nature of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, comprising components such as pilot projects, research and development (R&D) initiatives, and skill development programs. "This holistic approach



reflects the government's commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and capacity-building across the hydrogen value chain. Moreover, the Mission's focus on piloting projects and advancing R&D underscores India's commitment to nurturing a vibrant ecosystem for green hydrogen technologies, fostering the emergence of cutting-edge solutions and best practices." The New & Renewable Energy Secretary reiterated India's

position as a global leader in renewable energy affordability, emphasizing the nation's low cost of renewable energy. "With competitive pricing, India presents an attractive landscape for domestic and international investments in renewable energy projects, aligning with the nation's commitment to transitioning towards sustainable energy sources." The Secretary highlighted India's integrated grid infrastructure as a key enabler for the seamless integration of renewable energy sources into the national energy mix. He told the Summit audience that this integrated grid not only enhances grid stability and reliability but also enables the strategic placement of renewable energy plants.

NHAI Organises Workshop on Implementation of Insurance Surety Bonds

• New Delhi, May 15

NHAI organised a workshop in New Delhi on implementation of Insurance Surety Bonds (ISB) for NHAI contracts. The objective of this workshop was to review the progress made in implementation of Insurance Surety Bonds and encourage participation from the stakeholders for wider adoption of the instrument. The workshop was addressed by Rajendra Kumar, Member (Finance) NHAI; A. K. Singh, CGM (Finance) NHAI; N. B. Sathe, Advisor, NHAI; and Smt. Mandakini Balodhi, Director, Department of Financial Services. The workshop was attended by representatives from various Central Government Ministries & Departments, Insurance Companies, Highway Operators Association of India (HOAI) and National Highways Builders Federation (NHBF).

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Spices are being...

sourced from Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Moreover, there is a notable interest in Punjab's ready-to-eat products.

Anil Kumar, General Manager of the Consumer Association, revealed an array of offerings, including dry vegetables from Nagaur like Kair, Sangri, Kumti, Kachari, and Tinda, as well as local cumin, betel fenugreek, green fenugreek, yellow fenugreek, and roasted flaxseed. Various committees are contributing to the fair, such as the Palsana (Sikar) committee providing onions, ghat ki guni, dhani, bhungra, and ground spices, while Abu Road's stall garners attention for its fennel.

Additionally, the Jodhpur Cooperative Consumer Store is offering Agmark spices like Rabori, Ker, Sangri, Kumthia, and Pachkoota, while the Udaipur Store is providing cold drinks and dry fruits. The fair isn't just about spices; it also features cultural programs, free parking, and a food court, catering to the diverse interests of its visitors.

Yoga for Women...

is vital for holistic development of all. She added that any development has to be continuous process just like in a hospital, the infrastructure, the faculties and their human resource development play a pivot role for its growth.

In her inaugural speech talking about the importance of the infrastructure of the institute, AIIA Director Prof. (Dr.) Tanuja Nesari, appealed to everyone to celebrate this Yoga Day for women's empowerment, for guidance and to strengthen our minds, spirits, and souls, to unite within ourselves, and to unite with the outside world by following Ayurveda's way of living. She underlined that Ayurveda and yoga are two sides of the same coin. In this perspective she observed that Ayurveda is the physical aspect of yoga, and yoga is the spiritual aspect of Ayurveda. She urged everyone not only to teach but also to practice both yoga and Ayurveda.

Ms. Bhavna Saxena, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of AYUSH lauded the varied performances during the occasion including by students of

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, which comprised the lively performance of Yoga Fusion Programme, as she observed that woman empowerment is a holistic concept which includes economic as well as spiritual empowerment.

As part of the International Day of Yoga celebrations, AIIA launched a booklet on Therapeutic Yoga, a 5-day Common Yoga Protocol which will be performed at various Iconic Places in Delhi by AIIA Scholars, Ayur-Yoga Promotion at international borders in collaboration with ITBP Officials and Ayush institutions in North East India, Health camp and distribution of health kits, Yoga awareness at old age homes & hospital block of AIIA.

Fly Emirates to...

From thrilling adventures to irresistible shopping experiences, there's something for every traveller to enjoy.

Travellers based outside of the UAE who are travelling to Dubai, can get access to The View at The Palm, AYA Universe, Dubai Parks & Resorts and Wild Wadi Waterpark. This fantastic offer runs from 22 May 2024 to 11 June 2024 and valid for travel between 25 May 2024 to 31 August 2024.

Esteemed Blue Plaque...

has witnessed pivotal moments in Kolkata's history, from British rule to Indian independence. The forthcoming ceremony, in which INTACH will present the blue plaque to The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata, marks a significant milestone in celebrating the hotel's enduring historic and cultural significance.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), a non-profit charitable organisation and its vision to conserve India's natural and cultural heritage. The introduction of the blue plaque aims to commemorate significant landmarks across the city. The Oberoi Grand is one of the fifty esteemed recipients to receive the highly coveted Blue Plaque as a cultural icon whose rich heritage and legacy has withstood the test of time.

Fondly referred to as the

"Grande Dame of Chowringhee," The Oberoi Grand boasts a rich history dating back to the 1800s when it served as the residence of a British Colonel before being transformed into a boarding house by Mrs. Annie Monk of Ireland. In 1914, Mr. Aratoon Stephen acquired the property, along with the adjacent Theatre Royal and Calcutta Club, envisioning it as The Grand Hotel, Kolkata – a magnificent architectural masterpiece featuring five hundred rooms and modern amenities, including electricity, a novelty for the city at the time.

Continue from Page 3...

Trees and bird...

current heatwave. He mentioned that the tree plantation and installation of water sources for birds were undertaken jointly by various social organizations in Jodhpur and the NCC.

Colonel B.S. Choudhary, the Commanding Officer of the 1st Raj Engineering Regiment of NCC, underscored the significance of trees during the event.

Secretary Bhagirath Vaishnav conducted a tour of the memorial site for the visitors and extended gratitude to the guests. The event saw the presence of dignitaries such as Managing Trustee of Geeta Dham, Shri Prakash Purohit, President of Beti Ek Muskaan Nayi Soch Sanstha, Sneha Bhandari, and other esteemed citizens. The employees of Veer Durgadas Rathod Smriti Samiti provided valuable assistance in the tree plantation and other activities.

IIT Jodhpur Publish...

directly emitted PM and those formed in the atmosphere. This is the first time such a distinction is clearly made over a large spatial and temporal scale.

3. Determination of the harmfulness of PM by correlating its oxidative potential with local and regional sources within the study region.

Leveraging the power of advanced aerosol mass spectrometry techniques and data analytics, the study was conducted at five Indo-Gangetic Plain sites, both within

and outside Delhi and found that although uniformly high PM concentrations are present across the region, the chemical composition varies considerably as the local emission sources and formation processes dominate the PM pollution. Within Delhi, ammonium chloride, and organic aerosols originating directly from traffic exhaust, residential heating, and the oxidation products of fossil fuels emissions produced in the atmosphere dominate PM pollution.

In contrast, outside Delhi, ammonium sulphate and ammonium nitrate, as well as secondary organic aerosols from biomass burning vapors, are the dominant contributors. However, regardless of location, the study highlighted that organic aerosols from incomplete combustion of biomass and fossil fuels, including traffic emissions, are the key contributors to the PM oxidative potential, which drives PM-associated health effects in this region.

Comparing the oxidative potential of Indian PM2.5 with countries across the Asia-Pacific and European regions reveals alarming findings. Indian PM's oxidative potential surpasses that of Chinese and European cities by up to fivefold, marking it as one of the highest observed globally.

Addressing India's air pollution crisis requires collaboration among local communities and stakeholders as well as societal changes especially in densely populated urban areas like Delhi, Dr. Deepika Bhattu emphasizes. Moving forward, concerted sustainable efforts are needed that promote cleaner energy sources, improve combustion efficiency and reduce emissions from transportation mainly from outdated, overloaded and inefficient vehicles fleet and remove unauthorized jugaad vehicles.

Our study provides valuable insights for evidence-based policies and interventions aimed at safeguarding public health and the environment for future generations. Prioritizing mitigation strategies based on the most significant health impacts, particularly targeting local inefficient combustion processes, is essential in Northern India.

Twenty people from Singapore Airlines flight in intensive care: Hospital

• PR News, Bangkok, May 23

According to the news published in Al-Jazeera, Twenty people who were on board a Singapore Airlines flight that hit severe turbulence and diverted to Bangkok for an emergency landing on Tuesday remain in intensive care, a hospital official says.

"The number of patients in ICU remain the same," Adinun Kittiratanapaibool, director of Bangkok's Samitvej Srinakarin Hospital told reporters on Thursday, referring to the medical facility's intensive care unit.

"The meaning of those in ICU are those that need close attention," he said, adding that currently there were no life-threatening cases. Of the 40 people on the flight still under treatment, 22 patients have



spinal cord injuries and six have brain and skull injuries, he said.

The oldest patient at the hospital is 83 years old and the youngest, a two-year-old child who suffered a concussion, he added. Adinun had said 41 people were still under treatment but later said one person had been discharged. Ten British, nine Australian, seven Malaysian and four Philippine citizens were among the 41 people, according to a presentation made by Adinun.

He did not provide any breakdown of numbers of passengers and crew under treatment.



Elevate your dining experience with tea pairing by Dilmah Tea & Emirates

• PR News, Dubai, May 20

Celebrating International Tea Day on 21 May, Emirates and their esteemed tea partner of three decades- Dilmah, share expert insights into the art of food and tea pairing onboard, in Emirates Lounges across the world, and at home.

Tea pairing is a sensory experience that explores the dynamic between the aromas and flavours found in both tea varieties and food. A well-matched tea can balance and even accentuate the culinary flavours of a dish or can be used to create an interesting contrast on the palate. Emirates serves a selection of 12 gourmet tea blends, brewing more than 33 million cups of tea onboard each year and offering plenty of opportunities to experiment with tea and food pairing.

Emirates invites customers to elevate their inflight experience by pairing a delicious tea with their meals or try a tempting Emirates & Dilmah recipe at home, served with a complementary tea or tea-infused cocktail to impress guests.

Dilmah's Breakfast Tea is a single region Ceylon tea, grown at 4000-feet above sea level. Its flavour profile is bright, brisk and full bodied with a rich, natural taste. It pairs ideally with cheese and egg dishes, like Emirates inflight breakfasts' of scrambled eggs with chick-

Campaign against adulteration

More than 12 thousand liters of edible oil seized

• Jaipur, May 21

A continuous campaign is being run against adulteration in the state. On Tuesday, under the direction of Food Safety and Drug Control Commissioner Iqbal Khan, action was taken against an edible oil businessman in the Muhana Mandi area. During the action, 6683 liters of edible oil were seized at Muhana Mandi and 6 thousand liters of edible oil was seized at the Niwai factory. Additional Commissioner Pankaj Ojha said that information was received about the arrival of Ranthambore brand mustard edible oil from Niwai in the Tonk district in Muhana Anaj Mandi, Jaipur. When Reiki was conducted, the goods were found unloading in Muhana Mandi. Under the Food Security Act 2006, oil samples were taken and 6683 liters of oil was seized on suspicion of being non-standard edible oil.



Ojha said that a few days ago also samples of this edible oil were taken, in which the oil was found to be of sub-standard quality. The edible oil caught here today has been seized due to the suspicion of it being substandard and samples have been sent for testing. Food safety officers Rajesh Nagar, Deepak Sindhi, Ramesh Yadav, Awadhesh Gupta, and Nand Kishore Kumawat were present during the action.

Results of "My Memorial Search" poster competition announced

• Jodhpur, May 16

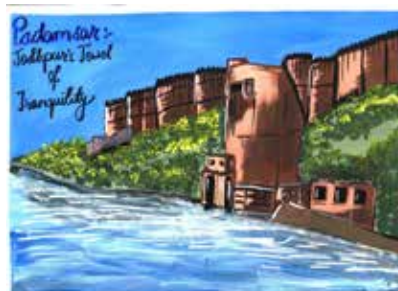
Winners of the "My Memorial Search" poster competition have been announced, marking a significant milestone in the endeavor to foster cultural education among students. Ritika from Delhi Public School and Alina Shaikh from Rajmata School have emerged as the regional champions in Jodhpur.

This initiative, jointly organized by the Heritage Education and Communication Department and the Jodhpur Chapter of the Indian Cultural Fund 'IN-

TAC', aims to instill a sense of curiosity and appreciation for heritage, history, architecture, and culture among students ranging from classes 7 to 9. By nurturing their understanding, the program

endeavors to cultivate them as ambassadors of our nation's rich cultural legacy.

Dr. Mahendra Singh Tanwar, the convener of INTACH Jodhpur Chapter, disclosed that the "Meri Smarak Khoj" poster competition, encompassing painting and essay categories, was conducted on January 30, 2024, at 'Sursagar Mahal'. Numerous schools from Jodhpur participated in this event, showcasing their artistic talents. Ritika's depiction of Panchkunda Chhatris and Alina Shaikh's portrayal of the ancient water source 'Padmasar (Paradise of Jodhpur)' earned them recognition as the regional winners.



IHCL UNVEILS NEW TAJ WEBSITE TO ENHANCE GUEST EXPERIENCE

• Mumbai, May 14

Indian Hotels Company (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company, today announced the unveiling of its new Taj website. Designed with the signature 'Taj' touch, the all-new www.tajhotels.com introduces a digital experience that resonates with the brand's vision and enhances the guests' booking journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Parveen Chander, Executive Vice President - Sales & Marketing, IHCL said, "IHCL's iconic brand Taj has defined the hospitality landscape for over a century, pioneering destinations, offering innovative experiences while setting new benchmarks of excellence. The rich tonality of the new website is reflective of this ethos elevating the user experience with its immersive and intuitive design. This digital transformation will bring alive the seamless Taj experience at every stage of the booking journey."



RAJASTHAN THE GOLDEN DESERT

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