



RAJASTHAN THE GOLDEN DESERT

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DIYA KUMARI NAMED WOMAN TOURISM MINISTER OF THE YEAR



• Jaipur, June 24

State Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Diya Kumari will be honored with the Woman Tourism Minister of the Year, India award at ITB Berlin, Germany. Rajasthan will also receive the Patwa International Travel Award for Destination of the Year Royal Experiences at the same event.

Under Diya Kumari's leadership, the Tourism Department aims to make Rajasthan a global tourism hub. The

department is actively branding Rajasthan tourism at various international forums. The state government is committed to promoting the tourism industry, aligning

Rajasthan will also receive the Patwa International Travel Award

with the Central Government's vision, and has developed a detailed action plan for this purpose.

Rajasthan's efforts have been

recognized by the Pacific Area Travel Writers Organization (PATWA), selecting it for the Destination of the Year Royal Experiences honor for 2024. The Tourism Department participates annually in ITB Berlin Germany Mart, showcasing Rajasthan's tourism products. Last year's participation led to significant interest from European tour operators, who intend to send more tourists to Rajasthan.

In 2023, the number of foreign tourists visiting Rajasthan increased by 328.52% compared to 2022. The total number of tourists, both domestic and international, (↪Continued on page 4)

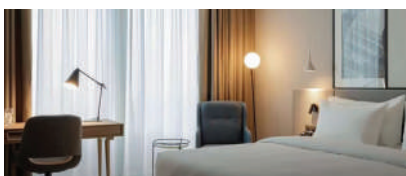
Radisson Hotel Group adds 10 New Hotels to its pipeline in South Asia



• PR News, Brussels / New Delhi, June 26

Radisson Hotel Group is delighted to announce the signing of 10 new hotels in just four days. These signings are across brands, including Radisson Blu, Radisson, Radisson Individuals, and its brand extension Radisson Individuals Retreats. The Group also entered five new markets and will be the first to open internationally branded hotels in Jawai (Rajasthan), Sagar (Madhya Pradesh), Yavatmal (Maharashtra), Ooty (Tamil Nadu) and Calicut (Kerala).

In a pioneering move, the Group signed Radisson Blu Hotel, Nathdwara Stadium Rajasthan, featuring 234 luxurious rooms. This innovative



hotel is India's first Cricket Stadium Hotel, with 75% of its rooms offering exclusive views of the main cricket field, providing an unparalleled experience for sports and leisure enthusiasts.

There are two signings under its Radisson brand - Radisson Sagar and Radisson Mohali as the brand

continues to be the fastest-growing upscale brand in the Group's portfolio both globally and in India. Additionally, as part of its strategic growth in Southern India, the Group has signed Park Inn & Suites by Radisson, Calicut.

Elie Younes, Executive Vice President and Global Chief Development Officer at Radisson Hotel Group said "The rapid expansion of our portfolio in South Asia reflects the trust of our partners, the delivery of our systems and the relevance of our brands. India is one of the key growth markets for us worldwide and we look forward to continuing our growth journey with our existing and new partners."

Radisson Individuals Retreats brand extension, known for its experiential hospitality, has also expanded into Jawai and Ooty with the signing of Aaramgarh Jawai Resort and Spa, a member of Radisson Individuals Retreats and Nilgiris Ooty Resort, a member of Radisson Individuals Retreats. Aaramgarh Jawai Resort and Spa offer wildlife experiences in India's only Leopard Sanctuary, while Nilgiris Ooty Resort provides breathtaking views of the Nilgiris Mountains.

The signings also include three conversions under the Radisson Individuals brand in Yavatmal, Udaipur and (↪Continued on page 4)

"Star Alliance World's Best Airline Alliance"

• PR News, Gurugram, June 25

Star Alliance has been honoured with the title of World's Best Airline Alliance once again at this year's prestigious Skytrax World Airline Awards. The Alliance's newly launched Paris Charles de Gaulle airport lounge has also won the World's Best Airline Alliance (↪Continued on page 7)



Pushkar's appearance will improve

• Jaipur, June 20

Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat provided his feedback after reviewing a presentation on the Pushkar Corridor development in Ajmer district on Thursday. Rawat directed the Ajmer Development Authority (ADA) to clear encroachments from villages and allocate land for government departments, hospitals, and schools.

Under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Minister Rawat attended the initial presentation of the proposed plan for Tirtharaj Pushkar's development. The presentation was conducted by officials from Ajmer Development Authority, District Collector Dr. Bharti Dixit, Commissioner Nitya K., and Pushkar Municipality Chairman Kamal Pathak. Rawat and the District Collector emphasized that the development plan should accommodate (↪Continued on page 7)

Gajendra Singh leads International Day of Yoga at Qutub Minar, New Delhi



• New Delhi, June 20

Gajendra Singh Sekhawat, Minister of Tourism & Culture participated at mass Yoga Session at Sun Dial Lawns, Qutub Minar Complex, New Delhi today on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga. The event was organized by Ministry of Tourism. The theme for IDY this year is "Yoga for Self and Society / योग - स्वयं और समाज के लिए".

Gajendra Singh Sekhawat, addressed (↪Continued on page 7)

KASHMIRIS CELEBRATE 10TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA



Prime Minister expressed his gratitude for being present in Jammu & Kashmir, the land of Yog and Sadhna. He stated that the atmosphere, energy, and experience from Yoga could be felt in Jammu & Kashmir



• New Delhi, June 21

Negotiating valiantly the odds of weather, thousands of spirited Kashmiris, motivated by the energising words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, celebrated the 10th International Day of Yoga, on the rain drenched ground of Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar today. Applauding the spirit of Kashmiris, Prime Minister emphasised, “I also saw scores of girls covering themselves with the Yoga mat and they remained on the ground. This undaunted spirit of theirs and the love for Yoga is quite appreciable.”

Prime Minister expressed his gratitude for being present in Jammu & Kashmir, the land of Yog and Sadhna. He stated that the atmosphere, energy, and experience from Yoga could be felt in Jammu & Kashmir today. “Participation of 50-60 thousand people of Jammu and Kashmir with Yoga today on this occasion is a remarkable feat in itself,” he said. The PM reminded that the theme for this year, “Yoga for Self and Society,” highlights the significant contribution of Yoga in enhancing personal wellness and fostering social cohesion. He conveyed his best wishes on the International Day of Yoga to all citizens and those practising Yoga worldwide. PM took part in the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) session, emphasising the significance of yoga in fostering physical, mental, and spiritual growth.

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of International Yoga Day, Prime Minister highlighted that a remarkable 177 countries supported India’s proposal in the UN. He also mentioned notable achievements in previous International Day of Yoga events, such as 35,000 individuals practising yoga on Kartavya Path (earlier known as Rajpath in Delhi) in 2015, and over 130 countries participating in the yoga event led by the Prime Minister at the UN Headquarters last year. Additionally, he expressed his delight that more than 100 institutes in India and 10 major foreign institutes have been recognized by the Yoga Certifica-

tion Board established by the Ministry of Ayush.

The celebration led by the Prime Minister was also attended by Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Union Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge) and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav, along with other dignitaries. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for selecting Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Srinagar, as the venue for the 10th International Yoga Day main event. He mentioned that this event has brought a new perspective to the development journey of the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor commended PM’s efforts in promoting Yoga on an international level, stating that Yoga embodies the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. He emphasised the significance of this year’s theme, highlighting the importance of individuals protecting and supporting each other. He quoted ‘Puman Pumansam Paripatu Vishwatah’ and ‘Vyashem Devahitam Yadayu’ to stress the importance of charity and unity among humanity. Referring to Maharishi Patanjali’s teachings, he emphasised on the unity of body and mind in Yoga practice. He concluded by acknowledging the global impact of PM’s vision of ‘One Earth One Health’ and expressed his appreciation for the Prime Minister’s efforts in restoring the ancient glory of Jammu and Kashmir over the past decade.

In his welcome address, Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav extended his congratulations to the citizens on International Yoga Day and expressed his delight in addressing the Yoga enthusiasts in Srinagar. “The Yoga Yatra, initiated in 2015 under the leadership of the Prime Minister, has been progressing with ever increasing enthusiasm without any interruptions,” he observed. He said that the theme for this year, “Yoga for Self and Society,” effectively showcases the transformative influence of Yoga. Yoga serves as a unifying force across all segments of society, injecting vitality into the community. Not only does Yoga contribute to our physical, men-

tal, and spiritual well-being, but also it fosters unity and welfare within society. Furthermore, Yoga aids in boosting our confidence and morale. The Minister expressed his joy regarding

PM himself clicked selfie with Kashmiri Yoga Enthusiasts



After finishing his address, the PM straightaway went off the stage to meet the rain drenched Yoga enthused Kashmiris. Block after block, he interacted with young boys and girls and cheered them up, taking selfies himself, chatting with them — thus making their day!

The event at SKICC began with a mixed mood of weather and human spirit today. Moments before the start of the programme, rain poured down on SKICC ground, trying to dampen the spirits of the Yoga enthusiasts of Srinagar. The crowd declined to move away and stuck to its ground. The Yoga mats were used as head cover and the long green stretches of floor mats were used as mass-umbrellas.

the new initiatives launched on Yoga Day 2024, labelling it as a distinctive global occasion. He encouraged everyone to incorporate yoga into their daily routines, emphasising the importance of integrating yoga into our lives for personal and societal benefits.

The entire nation celebrated this year’s ceremony with immense joy and enthusiasm. This year, the International Day of Yoga (IDY) is hosting various events, including the “Yoga for Space” initiative, which is being supported by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). The program, which focuses on the practice of Common Yoga Protocol (CYP), was conducted simultaneously at all ISRO centres and units. Additionally, the team involved in the Gaganyaan project actively took part in the program.

Various embassies and Indian missions around the world also celebrated IDY, highlighting the extensive reach of yoga.

The CCRYN, under the Ministry of Ayush, in collaboration with PGIMER, Chandigarh, has been recognized by the Asia Book of Records for involving the highest number of healthcare professionals performing Common Yoga Protocol in IDY 2024.

The Ministry of Ayush in Delhi has collaborated with NDMC, ASI, and DDA to organise large-scale yoga events. In order to engage a wider audience, the Ministry of Ayush has introduced various competitions and activities, such as the “Yoga with Family” Video Contest in partnership with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on the MyGov and MyBharat platforms. This contest aims to inspire families worldwide to demonstrate the joy of yoga and strengthen familial bonds. Submissions for this contest must be made by June 30, 2024.

Participants in the #YogaWithFamily Video Contest have the opportunity to win exciting prizes while promoting the message of health and unity through yoga. Notable hashtags for the event include #InternationalDayofYoga2024, #YogaForSelfAndSociety, #YogaWithFamily, and #IDY2024. Individuals from all corners of the globe are encouraged to utilise these hashtags and join in this global celebration of yoga.



Deputy Chief Minister's courtesy call on the Governor

Jaipur: Ms. Diya Kumari, the Deputy Chief Minister of the state, paid a courtesy visit to Governor Kalraj Mishra at Raj Bhavan on Thursday the 27th June, marking her respectful interaction with Governor Mishra.

Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary Committee Orders Demolition of Kanha Hotels Property for Illegal Land Occupation

• Jaipur, June 26

The eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) monitoring committee of the Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary has instructed the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) to demolish a property owned by Kanha Hotels and Spa Private Ltd, managed by Taj Amer, for illegally occupying land within the Nahargarh ESZ.

According to a news published in TOI, this directive follows the decision of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) standing committee, which refused to grant wildlife clearance to the hotel project during a meeting on February 22, 2024. Although the hotel building was constructed several years ago, it only began operations in 2023.

According to the minutes of the meeting dated June 24, "The Chairman discussed the compliance of the decision of the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife held on 22.02.2024 with the members of the Monitoring Committee. It was unanimously decided that the compliance of the said decision would (↻Continued on page 7)



GST taxpayers can now pay tax using UPI, debit cards, or credit cards

• Jaipur, June 26

GST taxpayers in Rajasthan can now make payments through UPI, debit cards, or credit cards. Dr. Ravi Kumar Surpur, Chief Commissioner of the Commercial Taxes Department, announced that this decision aims to enhance payment options and streamline the process for GST taxpayers. This new facility follows the integration of the State Treasury with the GST portal, extending a payment option previously available to VAT taxpayers to GST taxpayers as well. ●



The villages affected by the Barmer-Jaisalmer Highway will be connected-ACS

• Jaipur, June 26

The Barmer Lignite Mining Company, a state government joint venture, has allocated Rs 96 crore to connect villages affected by the Barmer-Jaisalmer Highway. This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Sandeep Verma, Additional Chief Secretary of the Public Works Department, held on Wednesday.

Sandeep Verma emphasized that residents of the Jalipa Kapurdi area have been adversely affected by inadequate connectivity due to the Barmer-Jaisalmer National Highway. He announced plans for constructing alternative and connecting roads to ensure better access to highways and improved road facilities for the local community.

Anandi, Secretary of Mines and Chairperson of BLMCL, highlighted that during the 68th Board of Directors meeting in March, a decision was made to develop an action plan for connecting affected villages to a link road. The plan allocates Rs 27 crore for a new road and Rs 69 crore for connecting roads to link villages such as Rohili, Lakheta, and Chakdholak to Jalipa via the National Highway, totaling Rs 96 crore.

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Anandi further specified that the Public Works Department will oversee the road construction project, funded entirely by BLMCL. This initiative aims to significantly enhance road connectivity for approximately 5,000 villagers in the area. Anandi noted that BLMCL mines lignite from Kapurdi-Jalipa mines to fuel power generation, contributing to regional development efforts under corporate social responsibility. ●



Chief Minister made a courtesy visit to Union Ministers

• Jaipur, June 26

Chief Minister Bhan Lal Sharma held a meeting with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav in New Delhi on Wednesday. The discussions focused extensively on various railway projects, enhancing connectivity, and improving rail infrastructure within the state. During the meeting, the Chief Minister expressed appreciation

for the expansion of railway stations, construction of road over bridges (ROBs) and road under bridges (RUBs), doubling of railway lines, and overall development of railway infrastructure. He also emphasized the need to expedite the progress of these projects.

Additionally, Chief Minister Sharma met with Union Minister Bhopendra Yadav, who oversees Environment, Forest,

and Climate Change, in New Delhi. They delved into state-specific environmental and climate change issues, with Chief Minister Sharma highlighting the state government's initiatives aimed at environmental conservation and enhancement. He conveyed gratitude to Yadav for the central government's support in these efforts. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama was also present during this interaction. ●

Summer Solstice event organized at Jantar Mantar

• Jaipur, June 21

The Summer Sankranti program was held at Jantar Mantar in Jaipur on Friday, organized by the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Archeology and Museums. Special experts educated domestic and foreign tourists, as well as the general public, about the 17th-century instruments at Jantar Mantar and explained the summer solstice, the principle of the longest day and shortest night on June 21.

In the presence of V. Shrawan Kumar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, experts provided insights into the summer solstice and its (↻Continued on page 7)



Former Royals of Udaipur and Baroda inaugurated the GLOBAL EXHIBITION AT MAHARAJA FATESINGH MUSEUM IN VADODARA



• Udaipur, June 25

An international exhibition titled 'Picturing Place: Painted and Printed Maps at the Udaipur Court' was inaugurated by the former Royal Families of Udaipur and Baroda at the Maharaja Fatesingh Museum in Vadodara on 22nd June 2024.

Rajmata Shubhanginiraje Gaekwad of Baroda, Maharaj Samarjitsinh Gaekwad of Baroda, and Maharaj Kumar Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar of Udaipur inaugurated the exhibition, a collaboration between The City Palace Museum, Udaipur and the Maharaja Fatesingh Museum Trust, Vadodara. This exhibition is made possible with support from Getty through its Paper Project initiative.

On display for the public from 23rd June to 31st August 2024, 'Picturing Place: Painted and Printed Maps at the Udaipur Court' exhibition showcases rare maps, paintings, and photographs from the Royal collection of Mewar. This collection has never been exhibited outside Udaipur.

For the first time, visitors to Maharaja Fatesingh Museum in

Vadodara will witness this unique collection depicting the grandeur of Udaipur's City Palace and its enchanting landscapes. Through maps, paintings, and photographs commissioned by the Maharanas of Mewar over the last 300 years, different facets of city of Udaipur and the Mewar region will be experienced.

"Maharaja Fatesingh Museum and the Gaekwad family are indeed honoured to be hosting this important exhibition that gives us an insight into the history and administration of Mewar, one of India's most glorious, valorous patriotic and ancient royal dynasties. We thank the Mewar royal family, the MMCF and Getty for making these invaluable archives accessible to my city of Vadodara and look forward to many more such collaborations between our museums," said H H Maharani Radhikaraje Gaekwad of Baroda.

"I heartily congratulate the curatorial and research teams of our Museum, Maharaja Fatesingh Museum and the Getty," said Dr Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, Trustee of Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, "for curating this landmark exhibition for audiences in Vadodara. This

• Rare maps, paintings, photographs to be displayed till 31st August 2024

• Collaboration of The City Palace Museum, Udaipur and Maharaja Fatesingh Museum

collaborative effort will go a long way in sharing the living heritage of our land with young and global audiences. We look forward to creating more opportunities to share our history, our legacies through exhibitions and events at our Museums."

'Picturing Place: Painted and Printed Maps at the Udaipur Court' presents a wide spectrum of artefacts highlighting the history of Mewar, political dynamics in the colonial era, and the iconic architecture of Udaipur. "The maps played a significant role in

administration, revenue collection, and military planning. Besides the practical applications, the maps also highlight the linkages of Udaipur with the world," said Dr Shaikha Mishra, the exhibition curator.

In 2021, the Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation (MMCF), Udaipur, was awarded a prestigious grant part of the Paper Project from Getty to showcase a rare and never-before-seen collection of maps and cartographic documents. The first exhibition was inaugurated in Udaipur in July 2023, and now, as part of the grant's requirements, the collection is traveling to Vadodara.

Through informative displays, the exhibition highlights the cultural significance of maps, photographs, and paintings, emphasizing their role in governance, exploration, and cultural expression. It shows how maps were used to navigate, document, and interpret the world, reflecting the intellectual and artistic endeavors of Udaipur's court.

To enrich visitor experience, an audio-visual display will provide glimpses of present-day Udaipur city, showcasing its picturesque lakes and various landmarks. ●

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DIYA KUMARI...

reached over 180 million. Principal Government Secretary Smt. Gayatri Rathod highlighted that Rajasthan tourism is being intensively branded worldwide, with successful events like the Great Indian Travel Bazaar and Wed in India Expo contributing to its growing popularity. ●

RADISSON HOTEL...

Gwalior. Jasraj Place Yavatmal, a member of Radisson Individuals, will be the first internationally branded and organized hotel in Yavatmal. Parallel Hotel Udaipur, a member of Radisson Individuals will be a design-led hotel in Udaipur where each guest room floor will feature a unique design theme. Hotel Gwalior Regency, a member of Radisson Individuals will be the brand's third hotel in Gwalior, further cementing its presence with the 12th hotel in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Radisson Hotel Group continues to command a leading presence in the Indian market and is one of the country's largest international hotel operators with over 180 hotels in operation and development. It continues to be the largest hotel operator in a tier-1 market like Delhi NCR and at the same time, more than 50% of its portfolio is in tier-2 and 3 markets. With hotels dotted across 70+ locations in India, there is a Radisson Hotel Group hotel in every 4 hours of drivable distance across the length and breadth of the country operating under brands, including Radisson Collection, Radisson Blu, Radisson, Radisson RED, Park Inn by Radisson, Park Plaza, Park Inn & Suites by Radisson, Country Inn & Suites by Radisson and Radisson Individuals and its extension Radisson Individuals Retreats. ●



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Qatar Airways Celebrates Day of the Seafarer

at the Dedicated Mariner Lounge at Hamad International Airport

Underscoring Qatar Airways' continued commitment to supporting the global maritime community, the airline's marine partners also took part in the celebration, including Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Group, and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings.



The national carrier of the State of Qatar marked the day with inflight announcements extending gratitude to all seafarers and provided special souvenirs distributed at the Mariner Lounge which featured exclusive catering for the event. The airline also offset carbon emissions for all seafarers flying with Qatar Airways on the day. Additionally, to mark this momentous occasion, Seafarers were able to benefit from 25% savings at Qatar Duty Free on selected items of food & confectionary and other special products.

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer, Thierry Antinori, said: "We are delighted to welcome our marine partners, Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Group, and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, to this year's Day of the Seafarer celebration. Today's event is a gesture of our appreciation and

support for the esteemed maritime community and their invaluable contribution to keep global trade in motion."

Qatar Duty Free Senior Vice President, Mr. Thabet Musleh, added, "Qatar Duty Free is truly proud to join forces with Qatar Airways Group to support the maritime industry and celebrate this significant occasion.

We recognise and value the impact of the seafarer community and are committed to demonstrating our appreciation by providing exclusive Qatar Duty Free offers at our core duty free shop."

Carnival Cruise Line Vice President of Crew and Travel Operations, Richard Brearley, said: "The dedicated work of seafarers keeps the world moving forward, and we are proud to commemorate this special recognition of this vital work alongside our partners who demonstrate appreciation for seafar-

ers today and every day. Qatar Airways plays an important role in connecting seafarers with their loved ones, and we are deeply grateful for the sense of comfort and care fostered on this journey."

Royal Caribbean Group Associate Vice President CAM Operations, David Rouse, said: "We recognise and celebrate our crew every day; however, the Day of the Seafarer is a particularly special day for Royal Caribbean Group. We, along with the global community, celebrate our 80k+ talented seafarers around the world whose work has a profound impact in the lives of many."

He continued, "this is why it's important to have a reliable airline partner like Qatar Airways. They share our commitment to the well-being of seafarers by opening their one-of-a-kind Mariner Lounge at Hamad International Airport in Doha. The Mariner Lounge offers a safe place to relax and connect with families, making a real difference in the crew's journey, to our ships and private destinations, and returning home safely."

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. Vice President Air Services, Kenneth Suarez, said: "We are grateful to Qatar Airways for celebrating Day of the Seafarer annually and including their partners this year to help celebrate! Qatar Airways continues to invest in Seafarer welfare and is the top airline partner for our valued crew members. They not only have the most direct network and comfortable onboard product but also provide our crew members with a top of the line experience at Hamad International Airport with the one of a kind Mariner Lounge. Whether the crew are traveling to our ships or returning home, we know that Qatar Airways will take care of them every step of the way."

Hyatt Expands in the Big Easy with Two New Orleans Hotels

Maison Mütier and The Barnett plan to join the World of Hyatt loyalty program this year, offering guests and members more stay options and access to the city's distinct culture

• PR News, Chicago, June 25

Hyatt Hotels Corporation today announced the expansion of Hyatt's brand presence in New Orleans with Maison Mütier (formerly Maison de la Luz) and The Barnett (formerly Ace Hotel New Orleans), which have joined the Hyatt portfolio as affiliated hotels. The hotels are expected to join Hyatt's Independent Collection of brands and participate in the World of Hyatt loyalty program this year. The two properties are owned by The Domain Companies and managed by HRI Hospitality.

Hyatt's Independent Collection brands offer one-of-a-kind properties that are all singular in their brands and experiences – from storied hotels and vibrant neighborhood locales to immersive retreats. Each independently branded property enriches the modern traveler's experience in unique and exciting ways.

"Hyatt's growth continues to be fueled by the leisure and lifestyle segment, and this brand expansion in the New Orleans market underscores Hyatt's commitment to growing with intent in destinations that matter most to Hyatt guests and World of Hyatt members," said Mike Waddell, se-

nior vice president of global franchise operations, Hyatt. "Maison Mütier and The Barnett highlight New Orleans' vibrant culture, and we're excited to expand our brand presence in this world-renowned city with these two remarkable hotels that are purposefully crafted to be a place of discovery and joy through food and beverage, art, music and beyond."

Situated on Carondelet Street, just one block from New Orleans' famed Lafayette Square, these two properties will soon bring unique guest experiences, stylish accommodations and bold food and beverage programming to Hyatt's Independent Collection of brands, which offers enriching and authentic stays for today's traveler.





“Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is a great icon of our country and has been a source of inspiration for all of us for centuries”

Said by Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

• New Delhi, June 22

The Union Minister of Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, today viewed the exhibition of 115 oil paintings of Shivaji Maharaj organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and the National Gallery of

Modern Art (NGMA). This exhibition was organized to mark the 350th anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji’s coronation. Over the past 15 days, many art lovers, especially the youth, have visited the exhibition. During his visit Minister of Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is a

great icon of our country and has been a source of inspiration for all of us for centuries. This historical exhibition, based on his life, allows us to learn and understand a lot about his life.” The Culture Minister also mentioned that this collection is a priceless heritage of the Nation.

It is noteworthy that

these paintings were created by Shrikant Choughule and his son Gautam Choughule under the guidance of Padma Vibhushan Babasaheb Purandare. Recently, the collector of these paintings, Deepak Gore, inspired by the Prime Minister’s vision, has handed over this collection to IGNCA as a heritage asset.

The Ministry of Culture is planning to create a permanent gallery and take this exhibition to other locations across the country. The Member Secretary of IGNCA, Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, and the Director General of NGMA, Sanjeev Kumar Gautam, were also present with the Minister of Culture. 🌐

Radisson Hotel Group bolsters African presence with 7 additional hotels and over 1,200 new rooms

• PR News, Brussels / Windhoek, June 25

Radisson Hotel Group is delighted to announce the addition of seven new hotels, adding over 1,200 hotel rooms to its African portfolio and its debut in Tanzania within the first half of 2024. With those additions, the Group’s footprint in Africa has grown to nearly 100 hotels in operation and development, placing the Group well on track to reach its goal of 150 hotels within the next five years.

Tanzania has been identified as a key market in the Group’s proactive expansion strategy, making its debut in the country with two hotel signings. This addition enhances the Group’s diverse African portfolio, spanning across 30 countries, further establishing it as the hotel company with the largest market presence in Africa.

In Nigeria, Radisson Hotel Group continues to hold a leading position with a portfolio of 13 hotels in operation and under development, including five new hotels signed in 2023. The new signing of the Radisson RED Hotel Abuja has further bolstered the Group’s presence in the city, bringing the total number of hotels under development in Abuja to four.

In Morocco, the Group has pursued the same efforts with a clear transformation plan, growing its presence from 1 hotel in 2020 to over 9 hotels in operation and 4 hotels in development today. Casablanca represents a strategic hub among multiple continents and the new signing of Radisson Blu Hotel &

“The seven new hotels align with our expansion strategy, demonstrating significant growth in key African markets

Apartments Casablanca Finance City and Radisson RED Hotel Casablanca Finance City solidifies the Group’s ambitions to reach over 25 hotels by 2030 across the country.

Elie Younes, Executive Vice President and Global Chief Development Officer at Radisson Hotel Group, said, “The seven new hotels align with our expansion strategy, demonstrating significant growth in key African markets such as Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia and Ethiopia as well as our highly anticipated debut in Tanzania. These hotels also highlight our conversion strategy and our commitment to diversifying our portfolio by introducing new brands and cementing our presence in these important markets.” 🌐



Qatar Airways Celebrates the Resumption of Services to Italy

• PR News, Brussels / Windhoek, June 25

Doha, Qatar – marks the resumption of Qatar Airways’ services to Venice with non-stop daily flights between Hamad International Airport (DOH), recently voted ‘World’s Best Airport’ by Skytrax, and Venice Marco Polo (VCE) Airport.

To celebrate this latest network expansion, a ceremony was held at the departure gate for passengers at Hamad International Airport (DOH).

Qatar Airways’ flights to Venice comes as part of the airline’s 2024 network expansion, which bolsters the airline’s existing Milan and Rome services. The new schedule ensures that passengers can easily travel to these iconic cities and experience the best of Italy.

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer, Mr. Thierry Antinori, said: “As we enter the summer season, we are excited to resume our daily service to Venice.” 🌐

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Star Alliance...

Lounge title in its first year. Star Alliance CEO Theo Panagiotoulis received the awards at a ceremony held at the iconic Fairmont Windsor Park, UK.

Celebrating the occasion, Mr Panagiotoulis said: "We are humbled to learn that millions of customers voted and made us the best yet again. Not only does this acknowledge the effort we dedicate to making customer journeys seamless, but it also motivates us further to achieve more."

Mr Panagiotoulis also congratulated thousands of member airline employees across the network and continued: "The commitment and effort of every employee at Star Alliance and member airlines throughout a promising 2023 have culminated in this award. I proudly accept this honour on their behalf and commend them for their dedication. I encourage them to keep aiming for excellence this year and in the future."

Star Alliance, the world's first and largest airline alliance, represents a globally recognised brand committed to providing a seamless experience for its collective customer base. Dedicated to delivering a smoother journey, Star Alliance and its member airlines offer

the widest network in the sky, along with benefits such as loyalty reciprocation, efficient baggage tracking, exclusive lounge access, and expedited gold track security clearance, among other perks.

The Star Alliance lounge at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport opened its doors in October 2023 and quickly became a favourite among frequent flyers. This expansive 1,300 square meter facility is conveniently located in Terminal 1, offering exceptional runway views, a beautifully designed welcome bar, and an immersive wine section for an authentic French experience.

Pushkar's appearance...

everyone's needs and concerns.

In the first phase of the Pushkar Corridor development, Ajmer Development Authority has outlined a plan costing Rs 275 crore. This includes refurbishing ghats around Pushkar Sarovar, improving the lake and pathways, and enhancing temple infrastructure.

The ghats will undergo renovation with the removal of existing tin sheds, replaced by concrete roofs and stairs to facilitate easier circumambulation for devotees.

Safety measures, such as a protective ring wall along the stairs near the lake, are proposed to ensure safety for bathers. Additionally, plans include beautifying the Ram Setu at one corner of the lake.

Other proposed developments highlighted in the presentation encompass decorative lighting, entrance gate refurbishments, signage, lake water retention measures, feeder enhancements, multi-level parking, pathways, road improvements, landscaping, desilting ponds, and upgrading temples like the Brahma and Varaha temples. QR codes for all idols, green walls, entry plazas, and other amenities are also part of the proposal.

District Collector and ADA President Dr. Bharti Dixit announced the formation of a cultural committee for input on temple developments in Pushkar. The committee's suggestions will be integrated into the corridor development plan to ensure minimal disruption to residents. Proposals for additional developments related to Pushkar will be formulated and submitted to the state government, including the construction of public toilets in various locations.

Gajendra Singh...

participants and media regarding the importance of Yoga in day to day life of individual and society as whole.

Smt. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary (Tourism), and other senior officials of the Ministry of Tourism were also present during the event. The event was organized successfully in a grand manner in coordination with various agencies.

Gopal Rishi, Yoga Expert and his team demonstrated practical session of Yoga and about different aspects and significance of Yoga.

On this occasion, stakeholders from the travel trade and tourism industry, students from Yuva Tourism Clubs, specially abled children and officials from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and locals participated in Yoga Session.

In addition, the Yoga Sessions were also organized at various prominent tourist destinations in the Northern Region viz. Agra, Varanasi and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Jaipur & Jodhpur in Rajasthan, Chamkaup Sahib in Punjab, Forest Research Institute & Doon Sanskriti School (Tribal) at Dehradun in Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. ●

Continue from Page 2

Nahargarh Wildlife...

be carried out by the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA). A decision was made to have the JDA take action to remove/demolish the new construction (hotel) built by Kanha Hotels and Spa Pvt Ltd in the ESZ. A copy of the decision will be sent to JDA, Jaipur for compliance by the NBWL."

Deputy Conservator of Forest Jagdish Gupta confirmed, "After the

standing committee decided not to grant clearance to the project, the ESZ committee decided to ask JDA to raze the building."

In response, the area director (operations) of Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL), Rajasthan, a Tata Group company, stated, "We have not received any notification regarding the decision yet. Taj Amer has obtained all necessary approvals from relevant government authorities."

Green activist Rajendra Tiwari,

who raised the issue, emphasized that according to the ESZ notification, no new commercial hotels and resorts can be permitted within one kilometre of the boundary of the protected area up to the extent of the ESZ, except for small temporary structures for eco-tourism activities.

source: TOI

Summer Solstice...

scientific significance as part of the Astro Night Sky Tourism program.

Subject experts Preeti Vaishnav and Govind Dadhich delivered a presentation on the summer solstice at the Jantar Mantar Convention Center.

Kailash Mishra, Deputy Director of the Regional Science Center and Science Park, explained that the altitude of the Sun was measured using the Shashtash Yantra and Dakshinavarti Yantra when the Sun was at its peak height. Jantar Mantar Superintendent Mrs. Pratibha Yadav also participated in the event. ●

Emirates Group and AGDA Graduate First Commercial Ambassador Leadership Programme Batch

• PR News, Dubai, June 20

The Emirates Group and the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) held a graduation ceremony at the Group's Headquarters on 14th June for a cohort of 32 Emirati outstation managers, from the airline, who participated in the bespoke Commercial Ambassador Leadership Programme, led by Emirates' Training & Development team. The graduation ceremony was attended by Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer; Nabil Sultan, Emirates' Executive Vice President, Passenger Sales and Country Management; Oliver Grohmann, Emirates' Executive Vice President Human Resources, Amira Al Falasi, Emirates' Vice President Training & Development and Dr. Mohammed Al Dhaheri, Deputy Director General of Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy. A number of senior executives and managers from the airline and the Academy were also present.

Adnan Kazim commented: "Today's graduation ceremony demonstrates our commitment to strengthening our UAE cadre of country managers who have skilfully honed their international relations, leadership, negotiation and diplomatic knowledge over the course of the last year. I'm proud to see 32 capable Emirati managers celebrate the culmination of all their efforts developed in partnership with

the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) to represent the UAE and Emirates with distinction across our network."

Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Dhaheri stated: "We are immensely proud to congratulate the grad-



uates of the Commercial Ambassador Leadership Programme. This milestone reflects the successful collaboration between the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy and Emirates Group. By equipping these talented managers with essential diplomatic and leadership skills, we are preparing them to be exemplary representatives of both Emirates and the UAE on the global stage. Their achievements under-

score our shared vision of fostering a generation of leaders who will drive the UAE's strategic objectives and strengthen our nation's international presence."

The Commercial Ambassador Leadership Programme ran in two phases. Phase one, hosted in 2023 over five days, provided participants with curated training in International Protocol and Etiquette, Global Trends & Issues, Negotiation & Influencing, UAE Economics and Commercial Diplomacy, Media Handling, and Communication and Intercultural Awareness. These training sessions aimed to equip Emirati managers stationed around the world with the necessary skills to represent the Emirates brand, while building and managing relations with local stakeholders and government bodies, as well as the wider aviation ecosystem, including airports and trade partners in various markets.

Phase one received an 88% satisfaction rate for its relevance, training materials and content from the participants of the first cohort. Phase two of the programme, hosted in 2024 over three days, provided country managers with intensive, practical training in Media Skills and Etiquette Practices. The objective of these training sessions was to further build confidence and provide managers with a deeper understanding of how the media works, while also enhancing their communication skills and ability to formulate key messages in line with Emirates' commercial and brand objectives. ●



Deputy Chief Minister meets Union Railway Minister

• Jaipur, June 21

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Smt. Diya Kumari met with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Saturday to congratulate him on his new role.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister expressed her gratitude for the commencement of the Badi Sadri Neemuch Broad Gauge Rail Project and the completion of the railway track electrification. They also held a detailed discussion on the Marwar Mavli Rail Line Project.

Monsoon Update

• Jaipur, June 27

The monsoon has progressed into additional areas of southern and eastern Rajasthan, including the capital Jaipur. Over the last 24 hours, widespread rain and thundershowers were observed across eastern Rajasthan and some parts of western Rajasthan. Significant rainfall, ranging from heavy to very heavy, was recorded in districts such as Dholpur, Beawar, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Tonk, Jaipur, and Kota, with Dholpur receiving the highest rainfall at 131 mm. Conditions remain favorable for the monsoon to advance further into more parts of the state over the next three to four days. ☀

Electricity irregularities

“Franchisee M.O.U. will reconsider”

• Jaipur, June 27

Assembly Speaker Shri Vasudev Devnani has expressed strong displeasure over electricity irregularities in Ajmer city. He told the Tata Power officials that if the situation does not improve within seven days, the state government will withdraw the franchise MoU. Tata Power answers the calls of the common people and provides solutions. Shri Devnani also directed the District Collector and Ajmer Discom to take strict action. Under his instructions, Discom has also given notice to Tata Power and sought its reply.

On Thursday, the people of Ajmer city met Assembly Speaker Shri Vasudev Devnani regarding electricity related problems. Taking cognizance of this, Mr. Devnani immediately called Tata Power officials and expressed his displeasure. He said that Tata Power was given the franchise to improve the power system of the city. But for a long time, the common people are angry with the working style and irregularities of Tata Power. Problems of power cuts and disappearances are coming to the fore. Tata Power should improve its working style or be ready to take action.



Swearing in ceremony of Rajasthan Secretariat

• Jaipur, June 27

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma said that the Secretariat is the main center of feelings, desires and expectations of the people of Rajasthan. The officers and employees here play an important role in successfully implementing the public welfare schemes, policies, programs and decisions of the state government. He said that everyone should work with team spirit to take Rajasthan forward. Officers and employees should discharge their responsibilities with the spirit of helping and bringing a smile on the face of the person sitting at the last mile in the state.

Sharma was addressing the swearing-in ceremony of Rajasthan Secretariat Employees Union at the Government Secretariat on Thursday. ☀

“Youth should do yoga for healthy life”

• Jaipur, June 21

The first International Yoga Day of Kotputli-Behror district and the tenth International Yoga Day of the country were celebrated on Friday at the Government Sardar Higher Secondary School in Kotputli-Behror district. The event was graced by the chief guest, Minister in-charge Vijay Singh, Minister of State for Revenue, Sainik Welfare, and Colonization.

Minister Vijay Singh inaugurated the program by offering flowers to Mother Saraswati and lighting the lamp. He led the practice of yoga with the public, demonstrating various asanas and emphasizing the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life. He inspired attendees to make yoga a regular practice for their well-being.

Vijay Singh extended his best wishes to everyone for Yoga Day, wishing good health for all. He expressed gratitude to the Hon-



orable Prime Minister and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma for appointing him as the Minister in charge of the district. Singh assured that he would work tirelessly with all MLAs to achieve the Prime Minister’s goal of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas” and set new standards of development for the district. He highlighted the recent formation of the Kotputli-Behror district and announced plans for a meeting with MLAs and local representatives to address various district issues and present important matters to the

state government for resolution. Singh also encouraged the youth to incorporate yoga into their daily lives for personal health and nation-building.

District Collector Mrs. Kalpana Aggarwal emphasized the importance of yoga in daily routines, advising people to take time in the morning for yoga to benefit both mind and body. She noted that regular yoga practice can prevent many serious diseases. Over 1,500 people participated in the yoga practice on this occasion.



RAJASTHAN THE GOLDEN DESERT

Weekly on Travel, Tourism, Hotel & Heritage of Rajasthan

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