



# RAJASTHAN THE GOLDEN DESERT

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Weekly on Art, Culture, Heritage, Hotels & Tourism

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## BUDGET 2024-25

**D**iya Kumari, Dy. Chief Minister and State Finance Minister presented first budget of BJP Govt. of Rajasthan on Wednesday. The silent feature for the tourism industry in the Budget 2024-25 are as below:

- New Tourism Policy
- Constitution of Rajasthan Tourism Development Board
- Rajasthan Tourism Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund (RTICF), Works of more than 5 thousand crore Rs.
- Various works amounting Rs. 200 crore at 20 major tourist places including Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bharatpur, Sawai Madhopur and Pushkar
- Rajasthan Heritage Conservation and Development Authority
- Jaipur Walled City Heritage Development Plan] Works of Rs. 100 crore
- Fossil Park and Open Rocks Museum in Jaisalmer
- jktLFkku e.Mie~ in Jaipur for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) Tourism
- Eco-Tourism Sites—Sambhar Lake, Khinchan Conservation Reserve, Shergarh Sanctuary, Mansa Mata Conservation Reserve and Bassi Sanctuary
- EV based Transport System in Sariska and Ranthambore
- Provision of Rs. 100 crore for Khatushyamji Special Programmes in 600 Temples on various festivals
- Renovation and developmental works in major temples and religious places.
- Monuments of Tribal Heroes in Dungarpur and Banswara, Kalibai Museum in Udaipur
- Shilpgram in Dungarpur
- Digitization of 40 crore Historical Scripts of State Archives—Bikaner
- Enhancement of Terminal Capacity from 50 lac to 70 lac passengers per year of Jaipur International Airport
- New State Terminal in Jaipur International Airport
- Flying training in Kishangarh—Ajmer and Hamirgarh—Bhilwara



## Brilliantly vision from a socio-economic perspective of Tourism and Culture— Shekhawat

● Jaipur, July 10

**U**nion Culture and Tourism Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, congratulated Rajasthan Finance Minister, Diya Kumari, for presenting an all-inclusive development budget. In his response, Shekhawat stated that the first full budget of the Bhan Lal government ensures the fulfillment of dreams for every section of society. He emphasized that the double-engine government will steer Rajasthan onto a new developmental path, making

it a growth engine for the country.

Shekhawat highlighted that the Bhan Lal government's budget leaves no one behind, empowering every class. Special attention has been given to women, farmers, youth, and the poor. The budget promises to empower the youth



with 4 lakh jobs over the next five years. In addition to offering interest-free loans, numerous farmer-friendly announcements were made, demonstrating the BJP government's support for farmers. The initiative to make 15 lakh women financially independent (Lakshmi Didis) aims to empower mothers and sisters. Furthermore, concrete steps have been taken to provide relief from inflation.

Discussing tourism and culture, Shekhawat praised Finance Minister Diya Kumari for presenting (➔Continued on page 7)

## “IR is committed to provide affordable travel”

● New Delhi, July 05

**U**nion Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnav, while addressing the gathering during MoU signing ceremony in Rail Bhavan today reiterated that Indian Railways remains committed to provide affordable rail travel to poor, lower middle and middle class. Railways has planned to manufacture 10,000 non-AC coaches in the next two years, he added.

Ashwini Vaishnav also appealed to 12 Lakh Railway (➔Continued on page 7)

## Reminder request from TAAI to Government

● PR News, New Delhi, July 10

**T**ravel Agent Association of India (TAAI) had conveyed its dissatisfaction to the interim budget presented by Hon. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on 1st February'24. In spite of various representations on concerns of ease of doing business, GST, TCS etc. the travel industry was ignored.



With the new government assuming office at the Centre and Budget 2024 round the corner, TAAI reiterated its earlier request in a detailed communication dated 05th July 2024 to Hon. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon. Tourism & Culture Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Hon. Civil Aviation Minister K. R. Naidu

Their requests included:

1. Infrastructural Focus by the establishment of new airports through private participation. Rapid expansion in rail, road, and waterways (sea and river cruises). Development of high-growth areas like religious circuit, MICE, (➔Continued on page 7)

## Air India's First Narrow-body Aircraft



● PR News, GURUGRAM, July 05

**A**ir India, India's leading global airline, welcomed its first narrowbody aircraft in the new livery early this morning. The Airbus A320 Neo, registered VT-RTN, landed in New Delhi's IGI Airport from the Airbus facility in Toulouse, France, marking a significant milestone in Air India's transformation journey.

The A320 neo (➔Continued on page 7)

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu unveiled and flagged off the Durand Cup, the President's Cup and Shimla Trophy at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, in New Delhi on July 10, 2024.





NATIONAL

**Project PARI aims at stimulating dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the Dynamic Cultural Fabric of the Nation**

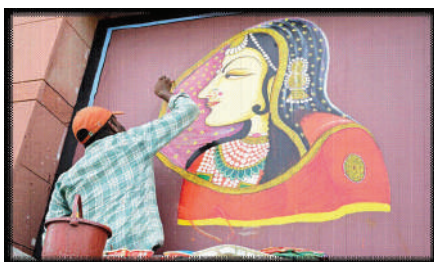
*Ministry of Culture initiates Project PARI for the 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting*



● New Delhi, July 08

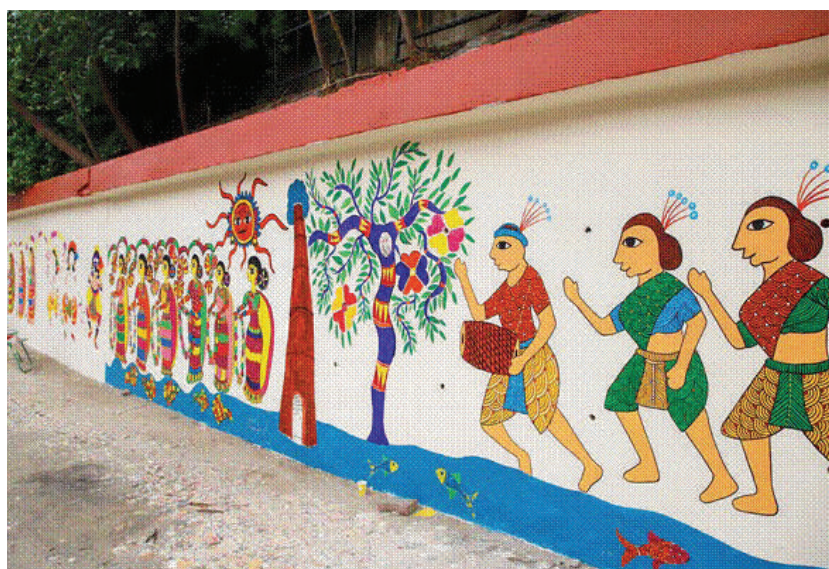
Public art spaces of India are a reflection of our Lok Kala and Lok Sanskriti. When we talk about Public Art, it is very dynamic and is an intersection of past, present, and future. Through it, we can see the amalgamation of different ideas in various art forms like traditional and contemporary. This art form which is freely accessible to the public; attracts not only attention but even thoughts begin to gather as to why this work of art is here, what is its uniqueness, what material it is made up of, and what is the thought of the artist behind this artwork. Making it open to various interesting interpretations. These are the few aspects that make this art very special. It connects the public to the art.

With rapid urbanization, Public Art enhances a sense of distinctiveness and adds aesthetic value to the image of a city. It contributes to the visual quality of the public arena encouraging community pride with a sense of belonging. It uplifts and engages visitors or passers-by's travel experience by leaving an imprint in their minds. The outreach of Public Art is immense and thought-provoking. It acts as a significant factor in giving visual recognition to a specific place. The public art augments and induces meaning to a public space making it an integral part of the culture and society.



The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, on the occasion of the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting, which is being held in New Delhi from 21st-31st July 2024, has initiated Project PARI (Public Art of India). Under it, Lalit Kala Akademi, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, has invited more than 150 visual artists from all over the country. The Project PARI aims to provide a platform to uplift the aesthetic and cultural outlook of Delhi while adding grandeur to the rich historical legacy of our national capital.

Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art seek to bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of artistic heritage (lok kala/lok sanskriti) while incorporating modern themes and techniques. These expressions underscore the intrinsic value that art holds in Indian society, serving as a testament to the nation's enduring (Continued on page 7)



# Bringing Aesthetic Grandeur to Delhi

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**Significance of Project PARI**

The representation of Art in public spaces is particularly significant as it (Continued on page 7)



STATE

# “Hirapura Bus Terminal Set to Commence Operations on August 15th”



Jaipur, July 09

**M**rs. Shreya Guha, Additional Chief Secretary of the Transport and Road Safety Department, and Chairperson of the Rajasthan State Bus Terminal

Development Authority, has authorized the commencement of bus operations from the Hirapura Bus Terminal on Ajmer Road starting August 15, following instructions from Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma. She has instructed officials to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place. Additionally, Mrs. Guha directed Jaipur City Transport Services Limited (JCTL) officials to extend city transport services to Hirapura from various parts of the city.

Mrs. Guha chaired a meeting at the Transport Headquarters on Tuesday with officials from Traffic Police, JCTL, Transport Department, and Roadways to discuss the operations at Hirapura Bus Terminal. She emphasized the importance of implementing the prepared roadmap by all stakeholder departments to facilitate essential infrastructure. Mrs. Guha emphasized that the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) should expedite the development of basic facilities such as ticket counters, shelters, drinking water facilities, and toilets for the convenience of passengers and smooth bus operations.

## Minorities candidates can apply till July 25

Jaipur, July 09

**U**nder the Business/Education Loan Scheme, eligible applicants from minority communities can submit offline applications till 25th July. District Minority Welfare Officer Mr. Abhishek Siddh said that Muslim, Sikh, Jain, Christian, Buddhist or Parsi eligible applicants can avail the benefit of this scheme. Under the business/education loan scheme, applications have been invited till July 25, 2024.

He said that applicants can submit their applications in the office of the Minority Welfare Officer, Government Minority Girls Hostel, Shipra Path, Sector No. 7 Mansarovar. To get complete information related to eligibility and qualification under the vocational/education scheme for persons from minority communities, the office can also be contacted on telephone number 0141-2785723.

# Exploring Modes of Transportation in India: A Guide for Tourists

Abdul Naseer, Editor, Jodhpur

*India, a land of vibrant cultures and diverse landscapes, offers tourists a multitude of transportation options to navigate its bustling cities, serene countryside, and everything in between. Whether you're looking for speed, safety, reliability, or affordability, here's a comprehensive look at the modes of transportation available to make your journey through India memorable and comfortable.*

### 1. Trains:

**Safety & Security:** Indian Railways is one of the largest rail networks globally, offering both comfort and safety. Opt for reputable classes like AC1, AC2, or AC3 tiers for added security.



**Speed:** Trains vary in speed, with express and superfast options available between major cities. Booking in advance ensures faster travel times.

**Reliability:** Generally reliable, though delays can occur. Premium trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi are known for punctuality. The Vande Bharat Express, also known as Train 18, represents India's leap into high-speed, semi-high-speed rail travel. Launched as part of the Make in India initiative, it showcases cutting-edge technology and comfort. The train is designed for speed, boasting aerodynamic features and modern amenities such as onboard Wi-Fi, GPS-based passenger information systems, and comfortable seating. With enhanced safety features and efficient running, the Vande Bharat Express offers a reliable and fast travel option between major cities like Delhi and Varanasi, setting a new standard for train travel in India.

**Economic:** Affordable for long distances, especially if booked well in advance. Offers scenic views and a chance to interact with locals.

### 2. Domestic Flights:

**Safety & Security:** Major airlines adhere to international safety standards. Choose reputed carriers for peace of mind.

**Speed:** Fastest mode for long distances. Flights connect major cities and tourist destinations efficiently.



**Reliability:** Generally reliable, but weather conditions can occasionally affect schedules.

**Economic:** Competitive pricing, especially if booked early or during promotional periods. Domestic terminals are well-connected.

### 3. Buses:

#### Safety & Security:

Options range from government-run to private services. Stick to reputable companies for safety assurance.

**Speed:** Overnight buses offer time-saving travel, but road conditions can affect speed.

**Reliability:** Depends on routes and operators. Volvo and luxury buses provide more comfort and reliability.

**Economic:** Economical for shorter routes and budget travelers. Good connectivity across states.



### 4. Metro & Local Trains:

**Safety & Security:** Metro systems in cities like Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata are safe and well-monitored.

**Speed:** Fast and efficient within city limits, easing traffic congestion.

#### Reliability:

Highly reliable with frequent services during peak hours.

#### Economic:

Cost-effective for daily commute and exploring city attractions.



### 5. Taxis & Ride-Sharing:

**Safety & Security:** Use licensed services or reputable ride-sharing apps for security.

**Speed:** Convenient for short distances and navigating through city traffic.

**Reliability:** Apps like Uber and Ola offer reliable service and upfront pricing.

**Economic:** Affordable for short trips, though traffic conditions can affect fare.

When traveling through India, choosing the right mode of transportation depends on your itinerary, budget, and comfort preferences. From the sprawling train networks connecting the length and breadth of the country to the convenience of domestic flights and local metro systems, each option offers its own unique advantages. By prioritizing safety, speed, reliability, and affordability, you can ensure a seamless and enjoyable journey exploring India's rich tapestry of sights and experiences.

Whether you're admiring the Taj Mahal in Agra, exploring the backwaters of Kerala, or navigating the vibrant streets of Delhi, India's diverse transportation options will help you make the most of your travel adventures.

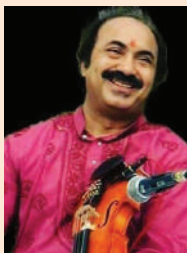


ART & CULTURE

### Jawahar Kala Kendra to Host Fiddle Performance Under 'Madhuram' Series

● Jaipur, July 10

Jawahar Kala Kendra is organizing a fiddle performance under its 'Madhuram' series. Pt. Ravi Shankar Bhatt will showcase his talent on July 11 at 7:00 pm in the Rangayan Auditorium, playing the Panchatantri fiddle, a special creation of the Tailang tradition.



Notably, the late Dhruvpadacharya of Jaipur, Pt. Laxman Bhatt Tailang, was recently awarded the Padma Shri. Following his passing, his son and disciple, Pt. Ravi Bhatt Tailang, also received the Padma Shri. Inspired by his guru, Pt. Ravi Bhatt innovated the Panchatantri fiddle by adding a fifth string to the violin.

This event is part of the July Jhankar series, which features performances in tune with the monsoon season. Recently, the Centre also organized a folk singing presentation by Ramkumar Maluni and his group as part of its series of musical programs.

### Plantation of saplings in Aranya Bhavan

● Jaipur, July 10

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shri Arijit Banerjee and other officials planted saplings at Aranya Bhavan in Jaipur on Thursday as part of the Chief Minister's Tree Plantation Campaign.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HOF) Arijit Banerjee said that in the Chief Minister Tree Plantation Maha Abhiyan, along with the distribution and planting of 7 crore saplings this monsoon, the target is to plant saplings in 80 thousand hectares including 20 city forests and 33 Lavkush gardens. Is placed. Under which tree plantation is being done continuously. He said that about 80 lakh saplings have been distributed from the nurseries of the Forest Department since July 1.



Banerjee said that the aim of the tree planting initiative is to conserve the environment and expand green cover, so that the coming generations can get a clean and healthy environment and the state can become green.

### Artist Pratap Kumar Bhatia to Host Pencil Sketch Exhibition

● Jaipur, July 10

Exhibition by 76-year-old artist Pratap Kumar Bhatia will be held at Jawahar Kala Kendra from July 12 to 14. The exhibition will feature over 150 pencil sketches and will be open from 11 am to 7 pm at the Surekh Gallery.



Pratap Kumar Bhatia, who has no formal artistic training, turned to art and social service later in life. During the COVID-19 lockdown, he channeled his creativity into creating this extensive collection to combat negativity. The exhibition will showcase a variety of subjects including vegetables, animals, birds, wonders of the world, archaeological monuments, and sketches of famous personalities.

In preparation for the exhibition, Bhatia created pencil sketches of the ten Sikh Gurus and presented them at Rajapark Gurudwara, where he offered prayers for the event's success. The exhibition's (Continued on page 4)

# Combines Passion for Art with Public Service

*'Conversation with Art' Painting Exhibition of Former IAS Officer Kiran Soni Gupta*

"I carry watercolors with me on every journey because every country, every city surprises me and encourages me to paint," says Kiran Soni Gupta, a former IAS officer and esteemed artist. Gupta is a renowned name in Rajasthan's art community, having led major cultural institutions such as the

West Zone Cultural Centre, Jawahar Kala Kendra, Sanskrit University, and the Department of Art and Culture. Her dedication has significantly elevated these institutions.

Despite the demanding life of an IAS officer, filled with frequent departmental transfers, Gupta manages to find time for her art. She explains,

"When you are passionate about something, time comes automatically."

142 of his paintings are being displayed in his painting exhibition 'Conversation with Art' going on at Hotel ITC Rajputana, in which environment, climate change and women's lives have been depicted. This exhibition will continue till 30th July.



#### About Kiran Soni Gupta

Kiran Soni Gupta is an artist based in Jaipur, Delhi and Newyork and an officer of the 1985 batch of the Indian Administrative Service from Rajasthan. She was Director of West Zone Cultural Centre under the Ministry of Culture till Jan 2024. She was also Director General of Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur a leading visual and performing arts cultural center in India.

Along with being a development practitioner and policy maker she is also known as a prolific artist, writer, curator sculptor and avid photographer. Kiran has showcased her art at more than forty art institutions of which two dozen were international. Her artworks "NREGA" and "Pooja Times" and 'Shelters' were exhibited at the Louvre, Paris in 2012, 2013 and 2017.

Government of Rajasthan appointed her as Principal Secretary Art and Culture in recognition of her

domain accomplishments. As Director General of Jaipur's leading cultural center she has organized many festivals, workshops, art talk art camps besides initiating the online platform for art learning and establishing international collaborations. She placed JKK on the national and international tourism map.

Kiran conceptualized, curated and organized Jaipur's 1st International Art Festival in March 2013 with 130 artists drawn from across the world. In the 2nd edition of the Art Festival in 2014 she had 240 artists from 24 countries. Recently, she curated an international exhibition at IGNCA celebrating Indian languages that was later exhibited in New Delhi, LBSNAA Mussoorie and

Chandigarh. She has exhibited nationally and internationally- Boston, Chicago, Syracuse, London, Iran, Sri-



anka, Ottawa, Toronto and many places in India. She also exhibited twice in SNBA exhibition at Le Louvre Carusel in Paris.

She was invited to organize the Gita Kala Parv at Kurukshetra in 2016 by (Continued on page 4)



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FEATURE

# Untapped Tourism Potential in Bilara



● Jodhpur, July 10

Bilara holds immense potential for tourism development, boasting numerous forts, citadels, palaces, mansions, ancient chhatris, and significant buildings. Additionally, its religious sites are recognized both nationally and internationally. Despite its rich heritage, Bilara sees few tourists.

Discussions about developing the tourism industry in the district have been ongoing for years, but tangible progress is lacking. Instructions from the District Collector to Tourism Department officials often go unheeded, leaving tourist sites waiting for visitors. A key issue is the absence of tourism department officials stationed in Bilara.

**Key Tourist Sites in Bilara**

Bilara is home to a plethora of tourist attractions, many of which have gained national and international recognition. Highlights include:

- Kalpavriksha of Bilara headquarters
- Historical Aai Mataji Temple
- Harsha Deval
- Banganga
- Raja Bali Temple
- Nathdwara

**Surrounding Bilara, there are numerous ancient, religious, and cultural sites such as:**

- Satiji's Temple in Bala Village
- Mataji's Temple in Padasala Village
- Khejarla Fort in Khejarla Village
- Bhesad Mataji Temple Monument

Developing these sites could generate revenue for the government and provide employment for locals. Many countries have achieved developed status primarily through their tourism industries.

**Historical Significance of Bilara**

Bilara has historical ties to the demon king, King Bali, who is said to have ruled the area and performed a significant yagya in Pichiyak, creating the site known as "Ghee Talai."

Legends tell of God taking three giant steps to measure Bali's kingdom, ultimately sending him to hell. An ancient temple dedicated to King Bali remains in Pichiyak, with the Sargara community continuing to worship it. The site of Banganga, recognized as a pilgrimage site, is where King Bali is believed to have brought water from the under-



world.

Additionally, the fair of Nine Sati, now called the fair of Gangamai, commemorates the sati of King Virochan's nine queens. Bilara also features the Kalpavriksha, sent by God as a reward for King Bali's sacrifice, and

the ancient Harsha Deval temple, built by King Harshvardhan.

**Need for Tourism Department Presence**

Despite its tourism potential, Bilara lacks an operational office for the tourism department. Establishing such an office could help develop tourist circuits in Bilara and surrounding

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villages. Given Bilara's strategic location between Ajmer, Jodhpur, and Pali, tourists visiting these cities could be encouraged to stop in Bilara. The presence of tourism department officials could drive significant progress.

Bilara's historical and cultural heritage offers vast potential for tourism development. While the tourism department office's status remains unclear, establishing it could spearhead efforts to promote Bilara's rich tourist sites and harness its full potential. ●

## MARWARI CUISINE

# The Cultural Significance of Gatte ki Sabzi



**Ingredients and Preparation:** Gatte ki Sabzi comprises two main components: the gatta (besan dumplings) and the gravy. The dumplings are made from a mixture of gram flour, yogurt, and spices, while the gravy is yogurt-based and infused with aromatic spices.

Courtesy by: **KAPIL NARANG**

**Ingredients for Gatta (Dumplings):**

- Gram flour (besan) (1 cup)
- Yogurt (2 tablespoons)
- Oil (1 tablespoon)
- Turmeric powder (1/4 teaspoon)
- Red chili powder (1/4 teaspoon)
- Salt (to taste)
- Water (as needed)

**Ingredients for Gravy:**

- Oil or ghee (2 tablespoons)
- Cumin seeds (1 teaspoon)
- Asafoetida (hing) (a pinch)
- Onion, finely chopped (1 medium), • Ginger-garlic paste (1 teaspoon)
- Yogurt, whisked (1 cup)
- Turmeric powder (1/2 spoon)
- Red chili powder (1 teaspoon)
- Coriander powder (1 table-spoon), • Garam masala (1/2 teaspoon), • Salt (to taste)
- Water (as needed)
- Fresh coriander leaves, chopped (for garnishing)

Gatte ki Sabzi is a cherished dish in the vibrant culinary landscape of Rajasthan, a state in western India known for its rich history, stunning architecture, and colourful culture. This vegetarian delicacy, consisting of gram flour (besan) dumplings cooked in a spiced yogurt-based gravy, is a testament to the resourcefulness and creativity of the people of Rajasthan who have adapted their cooking techniques to thrive in the region's arid climate.

The scarcity of fresh vegetables and fruits in the desert areas of Rajasthan has led to the development of

a cuisine that relies on grains, pulses, and dried vegetables. Gatte ki Sabzi is a prime example of this resourcefulness, as it uses gram flour, a staple ingredient in Indian cuisine, to create a nourishing and flavourful dish that does not depend on the availability of fresh produce.

Gatte ki Sabzi holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Rajasthan, as it is not only enjoyed by locals but also highly sought after by visitors who want to experience the region's unique flavours. The dish is often featured in traditional Rajasthani thalis (platters) and is enjoyed during festive (➔Continued on page 6)

**Preparation:**

1. Prepare the gatta dough by mixing gram flour, yogurt, oil, turmeric powder, red chili powder, and salt in a bowl. Add water gradually, as needed, to form a firm dough. Rest the dough for 10-15 minutes.
2. Divide the dough into equal portions and shape them into cylindrical rolls, about 1/2 inch in diameter. Boil water in a large pot and cook the gatta rolls for about 10 minutes, or until they float to the surface. Remove the gattas from the water, let them cool, and cut them into 1/2-inch pieces. Reserve the cooking water for the gravy.
3. Heat oil or ghee in a pan and add cumin seeds and asafoetida. Once the seeds start to crackle, add the chopped onion and cook until translucent. Stir in the ginger-garlic paste and cook for another 2 minutes.
4. Lower the heat and carefully add the whisked yogurt to the pan, stirring constantly to prevent curdling.
5. Add turmeric powder, red chili powder, coriander powder, garam masala, and salt to the yogurt mixture. (➔Continued on page 6)



INTERNATIONAL



The seating area inside the lounge



Officials from Emirates and JEDCO

## Emirates brings signature dedicated lounge experience to Jeddah

PR News, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, July 10

Emirates has today officially opened the doors to its first ever lounge in the region at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The airline's newest dedicated lounge will accommodate customers flying on its triple daily A380 services.

The AED 20 million (USD\$5.4 million) investment, 900-square-metre lounge located in the airport's newest Terminal 1 will cater to the airline's First and Business class passengers, as well as Emirates Skywards Platinum and Gold members, with the capacity to accommodate over 190 guests at any one time, in a variety of seating options.

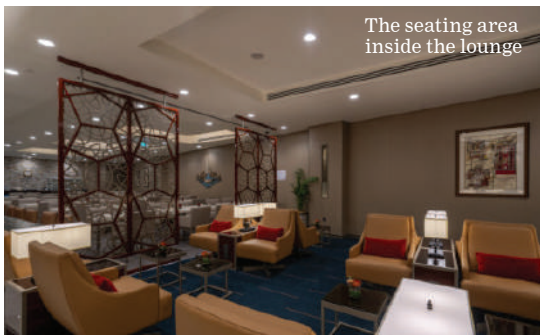
The investment reflects the airline's commitment to progressively growing its presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, supporting aviation goals of Saudi Vision 2030, and its ongoing dedication to ensuring a thoughtful and welcoming Emirates experience on the ground for customers flying from one of Emirates' most important markets globally. This year, Emirates is also celebrating a milestone in its operations to Saudi Arabia, marking 35 years of service to Jeddah.

The official opening of the lounge was attended by His Excellency Nasser Huwaiden Al Ketbi, Consul General of UAE in Jeddah, His Excellency Engr. Raed bin Ibrahim Al-Mudaiheem, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Jeddah Airports Company (JEDCO), Mohammed Mattar, Divisional Senior Vice President Airport Services at Emirates, Eng. Mazen Johar, CEO of JEDCO, Sami Aqil Abdulla, Senior Vice President Airport Services for Outstations and Business Support, Jabr Al-Azeeby, Vice President Commercial Operations for Emirates in Saudi Arabia, and Amer Al Arai, Airport Services Manager for Emirates at King Abdulaziz International Airport.

Mohammed Mattar commented, "Jeddah was our first gateway into the Kingdom 35 years ago, so it's fitting that the King Abdulaziz International Air-

port, a world-class facility is the first airport in the region outside of Dubai to feature an Emirates dedicated lounge. The lounge, comfortably situated at the centre of Terminal 1, is beautifully designed to deliver an industry-leading experience and Emirates' signature hospitality for our customers from the moment they step inside. We thank the airport authorities for their support in helping us open our doors to officially welcome customers and provide them with a memorable travel experience on the ground."

Eng. Mazen Johar said, "The launch of Emirates lounge at King Abdulaziz International Airport reflects the 35-year-long strategic relationship of providing multiple travel options to passengers



The seating area inside the lounge

through the airline's three daily flights. The lounge is a significant addition to the airport's services and supports the comprehensive development efforts at the airport, aimed at providing an enjoyable and seamless travel experience for passengers from all over the world."

The new lounge features a refreshed and sophisticated design, anchored in contemporary elements with regional design influences. The welcoming space offers a variety of seating configurations, including dining, lounging, and quiet spaces for relaxation. Inside the lounge, customers can look forward to a wide range of dining options, luxurious shower facilities, a prayer room, and other amenities.

## Emirates Senior Appointments

PR News, Dubai, UAE, July 05

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Emirates Group Chairman and Chief Executive, today announced senior appointments to support the organisation's growth and strengthen its leadership bench.

This latest list of promotions and senior appointments include 7 UAE nationals, many of whom have grown their careers at the Emirates Group in different roles and continue to play key roles in the organisation's success.



HH Sheikh Ahmed said: "These appointments reflect the expanded scale, breadth, and ambition of our business. I'm heartened that we have been able to fill these roles with internal talent, including UAE nationals. The Emirates Group will continue to invest in being an employer of choice for the best talent in the industry, to deliver world-leading products and services, and reflect Dubai's vision to be number one in everything we do."

### Appointments effective 8 July:

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mr Ali Mubarak Al Soori | Chief Procurement and Facilities Officer           |
| Mr Ahmed Safa           | Head of Engineering and MRO                        |
| Mr Badr Abbas           | Divisional SVP Emirates SkyCargo                   |
| Capt Mark Burtonwood    | Divisional SVP Group Safety and Network Operations |
| Mr Mostafa Karam        | Divisional SVP Customer Affairs and Service Audit  |
| Mr Yousuf Mohammad Ali  | Divisional SVP Group Procurement and Logistics     |
| Mr David Broz           | SVP Aeropolitical and Airline Industry Affairs     |
| Mr Devarajan Srinivasan | SVP Facilities and Asset Management                |
| Mr Mahmood Al Khaja     | SVP Material Management and Repairs                |
| Mr Will Lofberg         | SVP International and Government Affairs           |

### Appointments effective 1 September:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Mr Shahreyar Nawabi | CEO Emirates Flight Catering                                 |
| Mr Mahmood Ameen    | Divisional SVP Engineering Projects and Aircraft Procurement |

## Continue from Page 5

### The Cultural...

occasions and everyday meals alike.

The dish also represents the region's rich cultural heritage, showcasing the culinary artistry and adaptability of Rajasthani cooks who have learned to work with the limited resources available to them.

### Preparation:...

Cook for a few minutes, stirring constantly, until the spices are well incorporated and the mixture thickens slightly. 6. Pour in the reserved gatta cooking water to adjust the consistency of the gravy. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for about 5-7 minutes. 7. Add the cooked gatta pieces to the gravy and let them simmer for another 10 minutes so that they absorb the flavors of the gravy. 8. Garnish the Gatte ki Sabzi with freshly chopped coriander leaves and serve hot. Courtesy by : Narang.kapil

## Continue from Page 4

### Artist Pratap...

opening ceremony will feature Malviya Nagar Assembly MLA Shri Kalicharan Saraf, retired Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court Shri N.K. Jain as the chief guest, and educationist P.D. Singh along with Shri Krishna Rolling Mills Director Shri Vinod Gupta as special guests.

### Combines Passion...

Government of Haryana and Vigyan Prasara Kala Parv at Indian National Science Academy 2017 by Department of Science & Technology. She organized International Women's Art Festival and All India Printmakers Camp in 2020 at Jaipur.

Kiran's paintings on the 'Famine' won her the National Award. She has been honored with 'Indian Iconic Women's Award 2019, 'Literary Excellence Award' at 4th Asiad LitFest, National Gaurav Award 2017 and Fakhre-e-Hind Award 2018, 'Swasti Samman 2013', International Vaish Sammelan Award 2013', 'Unnat Bharat Sewashri Damini Award 2013',

Rajasthan Gaurav Award 2013 " Nari Pratibha Samman "2012," 'Kala Samridhi Award' in 2010, 'Artist of the Year 2009', 'Special Achiever Award 2009' and 'Kala Shiromani Award' 2008. She was also decorated with the 'Global Women Achiever's Award' in 2019.

Her works can be accessed on website www.kiransoniarts.in and on Instagram-kiransoniart. Her book 'Range-e-Jahan' and 'Empower the Woman Enlighten the World' has been launched in 2019. The Times of India has brought out a trilogy of books 'Beyond Strokes', 'Kiran's Art Renderings' and 'Women - God's Finest Creation' based on her artworks themes.

Her exhibition 'A Tryst with Art' was held at Jehangir Art Gallery in April 2022 and 'My Conversations with Nature' was recently held at Civil Services Officer's Institute in Mar 2022. She also showed at India Habitat Centre in the end 2022. She recently was a part of Jury of International Abstract Art Show Zagreb. Two of her artworks have been recently selected by a London Gallery.



Continue from Page 1

**Brilliantly vision...**

a brilliant socio-economic vision for tourism and culture. He noted that tourism provides employment to 20 lakh families in the state. The announcement of a new tourism policy for Rajasthan, the establishment of the Rajasthan Tourism Development Board, and the Rajasthan Heritage Conservation Board are welcome initiatives. An investment of over Rs 5,000 crore in tourism and culture is expected to give a new impetus to the tourism industry in Rajasthan. Announcements for the development of religious places, including the construction of a corridor at Khatu Shyam Ji Temple, akin to the Kashi Vishwanath corridor, have been commendable and are warmly welcomed.

**IR is committed...**

men across the country to work with dedication and keep their morale high. Also, he urged Railway men to work collectively and ensure that peo-

ple's faith on Railways remain steadfast.

**Reminder request...**

wellness and hidden gems such as Lakshadweep.

2. Simplifying Visa Requirements & encouraging visa-free entry for tourists visiting India can significantly enhance foreign tourist arrivals.

3. Reducing Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) Costs to pre-pandemic levels would improve air travel accessibility.

4. Rationalization of GST Rates and GST Credit: hoping for a more favourable GST structure that allows input tax credit for holiday businesses. This could lead to more affordable hotel stays, making accommodations accessible to tourists and encouraging investment in the sector.

5. Strategic Reduction in Income Tax: could catalyse growth in the country's tourism industry.

6. Abolishment of TCS on Outbound Travel : Collection of TCS on outbound travel is a disincentivization for Indian Travel Agents, Tour Operators and travellers

7. Tax Exemption on Leave Travel Allowance (LTA) would encourage domestic travel and boost tourism within the country.

8. Removal of TDS on Automated Bookings would reduce administrative burdens for travel businesses.

9. Simplification of Licensing Requirements - Ease of Business

10. Industry Status for all stakeholders in Travel, Tourism & Hospitality

The Union Budget 2024 holds significant expectations for India's travel and tourism sector. India's travel and tourism sector contributes 5.8% to the GDP and aims for a target of USD 1 trillion by 2047. We hope the budget addresses these priorities!

They are confident that these measures, if implemented, can signifi-

cantly enhance India's travel and tourism industry, benefiting both businesses and travelers.

**Air India's...**

aircraft joining the Air India fleet will feature a three-class configuration: 8 luxurious Business Class seats, 24 Premium Economy seats with extra legroom, and 132 comfortable Economy Class seats. The introduction of Premium Economy cabins on narrow-body aircraft is a first for Air India. This aircraft is expected to enter service in August 2024, operating on domestic short-haul routes. Three A320neo aircraft in three-class configurations with the old Air India livery have already started operating in the domestic network.

From early next year, Air India will start offering enhanced flying experience for its guests operating new, upgraded, and refurbished aircraft – in both the narrowbody and widebody fleet.

Continue from Page 2

**Project PARI...**

commitment to creativity and artistic expression. These artists are working on various sites in the national capital for the beautification of the public spaces for the upcoming event.

**Significance of Project PARI**

The representation of Art in public spaces is particularly significant as it showcases the nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The democratization of art through public installations transforms urban landscapes into accessible galleries, where art transcends the confines of traditional venues such as museums and galleries. By integrating art into streets, parks, and transit hubs, these initiatives ensure that artistic experiences are available to one and all. This inclusive approach fosters a shared cultural identity and enhances social cohesion, inviting citizens to engage with art in their day-to-day life. Project PARI aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation.

**Visual Art Forms showcased**

Traditional art forms as well as sculptures, murals, and installations have been created under this beautification project. More than 150 visual artists from all over the country have come together to create the various wall paintings, murals, sculptures, and installations being prepared under this project. The creative canvas includes but is not limited to artwork inspired by and /or drawn in styles of Phad paintings (Rajasthan), Thangka painting (Sikkim/Ladakh), miniature painting (Himachal Pradesh), Gond art (Madhya Pradesh), Tanjore paintings (Tamil Nadu), Kalamkari (Andhra Pradesh), Alpona art (West Bengal), Cherial painting (Telangana), Pichhwai Painting (Rajasthan), Lanjia Saura (Odisha), Pattachitra (West Bengal), Bani Thani Painting (Rajasthan), Warli (Maharashtra), Pithora Art (Gujarat), Aipan (Uttarakhand), Kerala Murals (Kerala), Alpana art (Tripura) and more.

The proposed sculptures being created for Project PARI include wide-ranging ideas such as paying



tributes to nature, ideas inspired by the Natyashastra, Gandhi ji, toys of India, hospitality, ancient knowledge, Naad or Primeval Soun, Harmony of life, Kalpataru – the divine tree, etc.

Furthermore, in sync with the proposed 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting, some of the artworks and sculptures draw inspiration from World Heritage Sites such as Bimbetka and the 7 natural World Heritage Sites in India find a special place in the proposed artworks.

Women artists have been an integral part of Project PARI and their participation in large numbers is a testimony of Bharat's NARI SHAKTI.

Project PARI stands as a monumental effort to infuse Delhi with the rich and diverse artistic heritage of India, while simultaneously embracing contemporary themes and expressions. As the city prepares to host the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, the initiative not only beautifies public spaces but also democratizes art, making it accessible to all. This cultural renaissance, brought to life by the collaborative efforts of over 150 visual artists, showcases the profound and multifaceted traditions of Indian art. By engaging citizens and fostering a shared cultural identity, the initiative not only enriches the urban landscape but also inspires a deep-

er connection with our heritage.

Come and join the celebrations. Click your selfie with a Project PARI creation and share your pictures on social media with #ProjectPARI.

**Bringing Aesthetic...**

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ALONG

## Pt. Ravi Shankar Bhatt Tailang gave a brilliant presentation of Panch Tantri Bela at JKK

● Jaipur, July 11

In the midst of this pleasant weather, soothing cool winds followed by rain, presentation of Panchatantri fiddle playing that dissolves sweetness in the hearts of the listeners with melodious tunes that drench the beauty of monsoon. This presentation was organized by Jawahar Kala Kendra under Madhuram on Thursday. The audience was mesmerized by listening to the monsoon based tunes.

Pt. Ravi Shankar Bhatt Tailang, son and disciple of Dhruvapadacharya Padmashree Pandit Laxman Bhatt Tailang, started the presentation by playing the self-composed raga Jana Ranjani. This raga was created by Pt. Ravi Shankar Bhatt by combining Raga Kalavati and Shiv Ranjani. It is a combination of the feelings of worship of Saraswati and Gangadhar Shiva. In Jan Ranjani he presented Aalap, Jod and Jhala. Introduced delayed modal and quick three-beat compositions. After this, Bandish in raga Megh Ektaal and Drut Teen Taal won a lot of praise. Pt. Ravi Shankar dedicated and remembered his Guru by playing the bandish 'Garaj Garaj Garajat Ghan' composed by Padmashree Pt. Laxman Bhatt Tailang. The



performance concluded with the playing of 'Barsan Laagi Sawan Bundi Aaja', a popular Dadra tune in Mishra Peelu raga. The special thing was that Kalakar made the performance more interesting by singing in his melodious throat in between. Dinesh Khagi accompanied on the tabla. This program was a part of the July Jhankar series being run by the Center to celebrate monsoon like a festival.

It is noteworthy that recently Dhruvapadacharya of Jaipur Pt. Laxman Bhatt Tailang was awarded Padma Shri. After the demise of Pt. Laxman Bhatt, his son and disciple Pt. Ravi Bhatt Tailang received the Padma Shri. Pt. Ravi Bhatt, inspired by his guru, has created the Panchatantri fiddle by adding the 5th string to the violin. ●

## Tata Group Airlines Complete Harmonisation Of Operating Manuals

### Initiate Crew Training to Action Harmonized Processes Across Four Airlines

● PR News, New Delhi, July 10

Tata Group airlines have concluded the harmonisation of the operating procedures across its key functions, including harmonisation of the supporting manuals across all four carriers, reaching an important milestone in the merger of four airlines into two.

Over the last 18 months, a team of more than 100 members have worked to align on the best practices and adopting common operating procedures. The result of this will be two separate manuals for the full-service carrier and the low-cost carrier.



"This is an important milestone in the merger of the Tata Group airlines and we are grateful for the support received from the Ministry of Civil Aviation in terms of timely clearances for the merger process. We are also grateful to DGCA for their continuous guidance, systematic review and approval of the harmonized operating manuals. DGCA has guided our teams with a safety-first change management approach which is congruent with the safety-first priorities of the TATA Group. The live tracker created by the Flight Standards Directorate of DGCA with a dedicated team for continuous monitoring of the progress of the harmonisation process has been instrumental in achieving the challenging task in a time bound manner," said Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India.

Air India and group companies are initiating the necessary crew training to action the harmonized processes, which will be another step in the direction towards building the new Air India and Air India Express. ●

## Tiger T-58 Found Dead in Ranthambore

● Ranthambore, July 07

The post-mortem of tiger T-58, discovered dead on Sunday in the Phalodi range of Ranthambore National Sanctuary, was conducted on Monday, followed by the last rites.



According to the Forest Department, T-58 was last seen in the Hindwara area of the Phalodi range around 9 am on Sunday. By 3 pm, the tiger was found lying near a pond in the same area. After observing no movement for an extended period, officials approached and confirmed the tiger's death. ●

## No proposal pending for Phool Dol festival of Baran

● Jaipur, July 11

Minister of State for Public Works, Smt. Manju Baghmar said in the State Assembly on Thursday that no proposal is currently under consideration in the department to link the Phool Dol Lokotsav to be organized in Kishanganj town of Baran district with tourism. He assured the House that a report will be sought from the District Tourism Development Committee and appropriate decisions will be taken accordingly.

The Minister of State for Public Works was replying on behalf of the Tourism Minister to the supplementary questions asked by the members in this regard during the Question Hour.

## PM receives warm welcome by Indian community at Vienna, in Austria on July 09, 2024.



## RAJASTHAN THE GOLDEN DESERT

Weekly on Travel, Tourism, Hotel & Heritage of Rajasthan

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